

# REDISCOVER OUR PARKS

PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION MASTERPLAN

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A twenty year vision







PARKS DEPARTMENT: DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### Rediscover Our Parks the City of Windsor's Parks and Outdoor Recreation

**Master Plan**; A living document that guides the direction of the park system and its operational management for the next twenty years. This document reviews and analyzes the existing park system and will outline opportunities and constraints, strengths and deficiencies to move forward with a vision, strategies, goals and objectives to ensure and preserve a healthy parks and open space system for the future.

Windsor is currently in a transitional stage of its parks evolution, and although the plan's direction is for a twenty year period, it will be necessary to conduct regular reviews on an as needed basis to assess progress and make amendments to the plan where adjustments may be necessary based on current information.

As part of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan process the Parks Department has undertaken a number of studies to update the background data including; a preliminary park inventory, preliminary amenity inventory, benchmarking, playground audit, and initial public consultation.

Public parks offer outdoor quality of life options for Windsor residents by providing both active and passive recreation opportunities, as well as access to natural settings. City parks, open spaces and recreational trails offer a variety of opportunities for people to gather, formally or informally; to socialize; play; learn; or just relax in an outdoor environment.

City parks and open spaces contribute to the well-being of both physical and psychological health of the people that use and live near them. They strengthen communities both physically and economically, by making neighbourhoods more attractive places to "live, work and play". The benefits are without limits. Whether formally developed or left natural, parkland offers park users venues for recreational and cultural activities. Aside from the ecological health that 'Green Infrastructure' offers, in the form of parkland, it also facilitates improved quality of life in various forms.

Rediscover Our Parks is a parks and outdoor recreation master plan that provides benefits and opportunities which effectively aligns with the themed goals of proposed City of Windsor 20 Year Strategic Vision including:

- Local economic development
- City image & brand
- Strengthened innovative strategies to support neighbourhoods and districts, and
- Responsible, balanced fiscal and services choices

The unique history and distinctive development and redevelopment patterns of Windsor, frame an interesting challenge for the community in expanding and maximizing the value of parks, recreation facilities and open spaces necessitates flexibility in the park spaces, to serve the needs of current residents without jeopardizing the ability of new residents to help shape the community as well.

Vision; "To provide a robust parks and recreation experience for all to enjoy"

"Rediscover Our Parks" espouses the City of Windsor's Strategic Plan which states; "A healthy and sustainable environment represents a balance between human activities and natural features and functions. In order to attain this balance, Council will enhance the quality of Windsor's natural environment and manage development in a manner that recognizes the environment as the basis of a safe, caring and diverse community and a vibrant economy". Through a 20 year vision with regular review to monitor its progress and accomplishments in achieving this vision for the provision of a robust Parks and Recreation services in the City.

- To make parks accessible, enjoyable and useful to bring people back into our parks
- To Promote our city as a great place to live, work and play
- To be environmentally and fiscally responsible in our stewardship and management of our parks and natural resources
- To Promote Healthy active living for all
- To align with the City's Strategic Vision and Official Plan by updating what is important to our park and outdoor recreation users

The scope of the Parks Master Plan addresses the present and potential demographics as modeled by both local and national perspectives.

While Rediscover Our Parks recognizes gaps or issues that need to be addressed to ensure an acceptable level of service is provided to the community, it also identifies potential opportunities for immediate implementation within a five year program. The master plan makes recommendations as strategic directions for action and future studies; to be detailed with the specifics in order to meet the priorities of Council and the citizens of Windsor.

It is important that the city remains competitive and reflects a community that offers sustainability of these elements in an efficient yet vibrant manner, to ensure a positive experience for the residents and visitors. This study addresses and makes recommendation on emerging methods and procedures that can be put into practice, as well as identify those area where further investigation is necessary to ensure a healthy and robustly diverse landscape of parks and recreation services.

To fulfill the objectives outlined in the Mission of the Parks Master Plan, it was necessary to conduct a high level of consultation practices in variety of delivery programs in order to capture the widest possible audience, to retrieve the greatest input within the time period allotted.

MISSION: "To sustainably develop and maintain parkland and recreational activities with our natural and cultural resources; fostering economic growth within the city, while cultivating a quality of life for diverse, healthy, active and livable neighbourhoods."

#### BACKGROUND

Rediscover Our Parks takes into account the existing political, physical and social fabric of the community to help provide background for strategic direction to formulate an action plan. Described in this section are the geographic, social and economic factors that are impacting the community, as well as the physical characteristics embodied by both the built and natural environments.

To maintain a strong relationship with the surrounding communities including the City of Detroit, it is essential that the City of Windsor include, and reinforce connectivity from a natural and recreational perspective.

The Official Plan recommends a balanced active transportation system that includes all traditional forms of transportation, as well as alternate development patterns to include and emphasize; pedestrian, cycling, and other forms active transportation to improve environments.

One major goal of the City's transportation objectives it ensure that any new development or infrastructure alterations near or within significant natural areas, especially those with identified or potential 'species at risk', designated Provincially Significant Wetlands; and the protection of areas of natural heritage features. The development of the Herb Grey Parkway has set precedence for the protection of the natural significant lands in the city, impacting the potential growth of the parkland inventory with preservation of natural forest prairies and wetland habitats; greatly expanding the profile of the City's natural heritage.

In 2002 the Essex Region Conservation Authority identified that the natural resources of Essex County were reduced to 3% of all wetlands and 5% of all forested areas; the lowest percentage of any region in all of Ontario. Through combined efforts of ERCA, the City of Windsor and other municipalities in Essex County, the total percentage of forest cover in the county increased to 8.5% in 2012. ERCA's goal is to achieve a 12% cover for the Region.

The City of Windsor's parks and trails system is closely tied to the historical growth and development of the city. At the time of Incorporation of the City of Windsor in 1854, the establishment of city parks was becoming a predominant pressure to reduce the

negative impact of industrial towns and provide 'elegant' open green space in new North American cities. This movement came to be called the Garden Cities Movement. Early maps of the City of Windsor from this time demonstrate that a notion of developing Windsor as a Garden City was evident with the proposal for two core area parks. The first official public park in the City established in 1906, with a 5.3 acres parcel of undeveloped land just south of the core area.

During the 1920's and 1930's many of the city's most prominent parks were established including, Jackson Park, Mic Mac Park, and Memorial Park. During this time period a proposal was made to link the Border Cities of Windsor, Walkerville, Ford City, Sandwich and Ojibway, with a green belt to provide an environmental green corridor for the area's citizens. Though never fully realized, elements of that plan still exist today and constitute the basis for some of the recommendations found in this master plan.

While the 1950's to 1970's saw great plans for the Notarization of Ojibway, Little River Corridor and parkland along the Detroit Riverfront, much of the implementation did not occur until the Council adopted the Culture and Recreation Master Plan in 1989, which has been the principle document guiding parkland development in the City of Windsor. Since then the city's park system has grown to 209 parks with just under 2,400 acres (960 ha) of which 1,061 acres (430ha) are in natural landscape settings, providing opportunities for both active and passive recreation.

Rediscover Our Parks is an update to this document focusing on current and potential parkland and outdoor recreational opportunities to expand the overall experience for citizens.

#### PARKLAND SUPPLY

As of 2015 the City of Windsor's open space system consists of 209 parks and natural areas, 2 golf courses, 1 cemetery, 2 Provincial Nature Reserves. The standard for parkland supply in the Official Plan is 4.05 ha/1000 persons; well above the World Health Organization's standard of green space for a healthy city (1.5 ha/1000 persons) and the Canadian National Standard of 2.79 ha/1000 persons.

The current Parkland supply city-wide is identified as 4.65 ha/1000 persons, demonstrating a healthy city. However, the parkland is not distributed equally in all City Wards or Planning Districts. Due to larger tracks natural heritage lands the overall number is slightly skewed. Many of the older mature Planning Districts have deficiencies in their Parkland Supply which fall below the National Standard and three of them, City Centre, Walkerville and Fontainbleu fall close to or below the standard established by World health Organization. The recommendations in this master plan identify the need and opportunities to increase public parkland to help provide access to open green space in the Planning Districts with deficiencies.

Regionally, very little of the cultural and natural heritage value has been lost due to a respect for the achievements that the city has made in this area, over the Legacy of the Parks System. The City currently has approximately 655 hectares of natural and naturalized parkland within the greenway system inclusive of municipally and provincially owned public open space, with roughly 90% being indigenous environments. These parks are primarily located in the far eastern and far western ends of the city, with a scattering of smaller vestiges of natural forest being preserved throughout the south central areas of the City.

Windsor has an award winning waterfront, providing a variety of recreational activity associated with the river, as well as habitat for many fish and aquatic birds. In cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and ERCA, the City has been able to provide water access in the form of marina, rocky beaches and natural habitats where appropriate. Development along this section of the riverfront is governed by The Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP); a living document with established design principles and guidelines as standards to direct the future development of parkland, open space, built environments, as well as pedestrian and cycling circulation throughout this ribbon of parks.

The <u>Official Plan</u> classifies public open space in two categories; Community / Regional Parks and Neighbourhood Parks. While distribution across the city is adequate, providing green space within 0.8km of all residences, there is a **deficit** of **22.22ha** in neighbourhood parkland and a **surplus** of **144.38ha** in community/regional parkland. For the most part,

any neighbourhood and community/regional park deficiencies identified are a result of parks being undersized for the population that they serve. The undersized parks make the provision of space for a variety of activities difficult to accommodate. Gaps and deficiencies of neighbourhood and community/ regional park land can be addressed through the consolidation or acquisitions of open space lands as opportunities arise.

The two park classification system found in the Official Plan also display several weakness in delivering equitable recreational opportunities to the citizens of Windsor and visitors to the community:

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Current OP designation creates a very broad array of park types in this classification resulting in confused priorities with respect to level of service.
- Breadth of diversity does not facilitate equity in level of service between park types.
- Deficit of parks in 7 of 10 wards due to uneven distribution.
- Demand of organized sports fields is maintenance intensive.
- Operating costs require prioritization of services leaving some parks underserviced resulting in a negative perception by users.
- Many do not have trees or means of shade.
- Low annual budget for the volume of parks.
- Life cycle costing is not reflected in preservation of amenities found in many regional parks.

In an effort to provide better and more efficient level of service Rediscover Our Parks makes the following recommendation for reclassification of parks in the Official Plan:

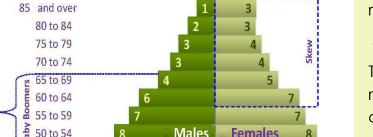
- Neighbourhood
- Community
- Regional
- Natural
- Recreationways

Within these broader classifications, sub-classifications will be necessary to further define level of service

#### TRENDS & NEEDS

In the 2015 Regional Economic Outlook, it has been identified that the economic recovery of this region has and will be very slow, but steady; especially in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Moderate economic growth in the region is foreseen in residential forecasts for both housing starts and property values, due to the highly favorable retirement prospects for people from the other areas of Canada, primarily the GTA". Many of the City of Windsor's parks and recreation facilities are utilized by the abutting municipalities. Therefore with each five year review of the Parks Master Plan, updated census information will be taken into consideration for moving the various phases of the 20 year plan forward.

The 2011 census for Windsor demonstrates a predominantly mature community. Both the average and median age of the city is listed at 40.2 years and the dominant age group is 45-49. years. With diminishing numbers in the younger Gen Xers and Millennials, combined with people living longer, in twenty years there is the potential of the Windsor population pyramid becoming more evenly distributed across all age groups. From a Parks and recreation perspective, this becomes a formidable challenge as there is no dominant age group to consider.



Therefore, it will be important to address this broad diversity in the ages when considering any proposed development in parks or recreation and culture programming.

The primary demographic trend in Canadian urban areas that will impact recreation is the fact that many cities are aging in population. The desire to "age in place" is more common than in previous years and people are trending towards staying at home and seeking recreation in their familiar surroundings. As a result the proportion of seniors to children is seeing a decline in children in many communities.

Recreation is embracing a broader definition given the diversity of North Americans today. Embracing this philosophy, the Province of Ontario has recognized that;

"... recreation and parks improve physical and mental health, reduce health care costs, provide positive lifestyle choices for youth at risk contribute to independent living among older adults and develop improved self-image." iii

Windsor offers a rich variety of parks and year-round leisure activities, from passive parks, to sports venues and iconic places along the Riverfront to stroll and watch passing lake vessels, or view the Detroit skyline. With the Provincial Legislation of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2006 (AODA), Windsor Parks Department has been actively complying to ensure that the open spaces in the Parks System provide the necessary amenities and access to ensure inclusivity of both persons with disabilities and age related deficiencies. In the various public consultations held by the Parks Department the need to focus on an aging yet very diverse population were evident.

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Generic goals for the Strategic Directions are as follows:

- TO PROMOTE THE RICH LEGACY OF THE CITY PARKS THROUGH MARKETING OF PARKS AND PROGRAMMING OF SPECIAL EVENTS, AND TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS THAT HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH OUR PARKS SYSTEM FOR ALL TO REDISCOVER.
- TO CONTINUE WITH ON-GOING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 1989 CULTURE AND RECREATION MASTER. PLAN
- TO PROVIDE BETTER MARKETING OF PARKS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC.
- TO CONTINUE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROVIDE RECREATION AND PARKLAND BASED ON THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, BY MAINTAINING REGULAR INTERACTION BETWEEN PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE COMMUNITY.

Nine Guiding Principles provided direction for the second consultation process, in which questions were constructed to determine how the Parks Department would address those Principles in detailed analysis of the parks and recreational services.





# ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1: To recognize and respond to the needs of a diverse population of citizens, making parks that are accessible for all people, all ages and those with special needs.

| 1.01 | Place added focus on the construction of any park amenity or recreational paths within City Parks to comply with "PART IV.1 DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES STANDARDS (ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005." |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.02 | Implement playground replacement strategy as per Council direction <b>B40- 2015</b> based on the "Playground Audit".                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1.03 | Establish pilot sites for non-traditional natural play elements and environments to establish uniqueness and to align with emerging trends.                                                                                                                                               |
| 1.04 | Review current and proposed splash pad locations and criteria for development throughout the city to ensure adequate coverage.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1.05 | Work with neighbourhood communities including area youth and seniors to determine their specific interests in recreation activities, play, exercise and programming for designing park amenities at the inception of any park redevelopment plan.                                         |
| 1.06 | Collaborate with all <i>School Boards</i> to determine where efforts and resources can be aligned to provide recreation facilities in both parks and school grounds to accommodate the needs of the community.                                                                            |
| 1,07 | Incorporate outdoor exercise fitness stations along multi-use trails in parks where appropriate to maintain healthy activity for all.                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1.08 | Focus on recreational activities and facilities for the aging population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|      | Adopt the " <u>Age-friendly Windsor Action Plan</u> " recommendations into the parks standards including:                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1.09 | a) Establish Wi-Fi hot spots in parks where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
|      | b) Promote age-friendly design in parks to ensure that pedestrian access is safe and universal.                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |
|      | c) Provide pathways into parks for seniors and those with mobility issues to access.                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |
|      | d) Review and identify current park washroom locations and their existing infrastructure to determine where washroom facilities need to be upgraded and new facilities located for future development (i.e.: Within Regional or Community Parks).             |  |  |
|      | e) To identify locations for wheel chair charging stations.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |
| 1.10 | To protect and enhance access to floral displays at Coventry Gardens, Dieppe Park and Jackson Park as our premier floriculture and horticultural display parks.                                                                                               |  |  |
| 1.11 | Prepare a <u>'Redevelopment Plan'</u> in collaboration with the City's Accessibilities Officer to assess the condition and compliance of municipal park pathways, trails as well as beach and riverfront access from an <u>AODA</u> perspective in all parks. |  |  |
| 1.12 | Collaborate with <i>Transportation Planning</i> to review the "B.U.M.P." To provide recreational pathways and trails that promote continued linkages across the city and connections with surrounding municipalities.                                         |  |  |
| 1.13 | Continue the Community Living Mentorship Partnership program to provide opportunities for meaningful work experience for persons with disabilities.                                                                                                           |  |  |
| 1.14 | Provide ongoing consultation with immigrant communities to determine their needs.                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |
| 1.15 | Provide First Nations' consultation on any natural lands and naturalization processes or display garden commemorating heritage of indigenous peoples of the area as required by the "Provincial Policy Statement 2014".                                       |  |  |



## COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2: Building parks and recreational solutions through open and transparent communication for the whole community.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

| 2.01 | As continuous community involvement plays a key role in the longevity of parks, encourage the establishment of "Adopt-a-Park" partnerships with community organizations and groups to assist in the sustainability of parks.                                                                                             |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.02 | Encourage and facilitate support for volunteer efforts in park stewardship and outdoor recreation activities such as; park restoration and renewal opportunities.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2.03 | Encourage the establishment of partnerships with private and community organizations as sponsors including:  - Agencies  - Boards  - Committees, and  - Friends Groups  to help promote parks and trails, as destinations, through sponsorship of park development, park stewardships and outdoor recreation activities. |
| 2.04 | Establish partnerships with the organized sports community to assist the City of Windsor in providing the best sports opportunities available in the region.                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2.05 | Maintain the "Recreation Activity Guide" and use multiple types of communication and social media to promote recreational opportunities in parks and outdoor recreation areas.                                                                                                                                           |
| 2.06 | Work with Communications Department to provide better marketing of parks through various media formats to engage the public.                                                                                                                                                                                             |



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3: To create a complete parks system that responds to the environmental well-being of our communities, as well as providing recreational experiences that promote healthy active living.

| 3.01 | Recreational activities for active healthy living should focus on self-guided opportunities through the promotion of fitness stations and park design.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| 3.02 | Work with the Windsor/Essex Community Garden Collective and other interested partners to provide opportunities for community gardens where there is demand at selected sites within the city as per the "Community Gardens Policy" in order to:  a) Promote sustainability through urban agricultural projects, b) Education of sustainable gardening practices c) Establish demonstration gardens and other forms of urban agriculture. |
| 3.03 | Provide equal opportunity access to natural areas and experience of wildlife throughout the city based on the "AODA".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.04 | Access to drinking water be provided in select, highly active Community and Regional Open Spaces within the Parks Greenway System.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.05 | Determine shade targets through Forestry and Environmental Services as a follow-up to the Shade Audit for all parks in the Parks Greenway System as well as rights-of-ways in order to provide healthy shaded access throughout the city and help offset the impact of climate change.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.06 | Prepare redevelopment plans for Sandpoint Beach to accommodate the needs of the community and establish it as a "Blue Flag Beach".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #4: To create and maintain parks and recreational opportunities in an environmentally responsible manner, to ensure their longevity for future generations.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

|                                                     | 4.01 | Protect and promote existing natural areas and provide connections where available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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|                                                     | 4.02 | Promote naturalization where warranted to create buffers and connections to natural areas in consultation with the community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                     | 4.03 | Identify and review parks or portions of parks for naturalization and establish appropriate management strategies with public consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                     | 4.04 | Collaborate with ERCA to provide performance and management strategies for all natural parks and naturalized areas including:  a) Fish habitat along riverfront lands b) Watershed management areas c)Prairies d) Woodlots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Recreation Ma                                       | 4.05 | Create a performance and management plan to determine high priority natural park such as:  - Peche Island  - Spring Garden ANSI  - Ojibway Nature Complex  - The Airport Swamp Woodlots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| CITY OF WILLIASOFF LAIRS & RECIECTION MASTELL FIGHT | 4.06 | Prepare standards for the establishment of urban wildlife habitat to; a) Accommodate expansion of the natural areas to help facilitate better management of species at risk, habitat for urban wildlife and opportunity for nature related recreation for people. b) Establish a protocol for succession control in managed natural and naturalized areas to deter the establishment of exotic and aggressive naturally invasive species. c) Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing vegetation, using native plants where possible, especially for restoration of disturbed areas, and naturalization projects. |

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| 4.07 | Identify drainage issues in the Parks Greenway System and areas where flooding is an issue for residents to determine if strategies promoted by the "Environmental Master Plan" (such as Low-Impact-Design and green infrastructure) can be used to accommodate storm water to help mitigate flooding.                                                                                                                            |  |  |
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| 4.08 | Protect the quality of life for future generations; establish an " <u>Urban Forestry Management Plan"</u> for the Parks Greenway System and public right-ofways by conducting a full tree inventory of all city-owned trees and return to the industry standard through maintenance and funding to ensure that our urban forest remains sustainable.                                                                              |  |  |
| 4.09 | Naturalize underutilized parks (in whole or part) or those with poor drainage to enhance biodiversity while addressing level of service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |
| 4.11 | Establish a <u>'Policy for 'No Mow' Areas'</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |
| 4.12 | Work with other civic departments to revise <u>"Parking Lot By-Law"</u> to allow 'Low-Impact-Design' in parks to reduce storm water impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |
| 4.13 | Revisit the "Official Plan" with the Planning Department to offer green infrastructure bonuses for parkland development in subdivisions (especially in Sandwich South Planning District).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |  |
| 4.14 | Continue active involvement with the <i>Planning Department</i> in the development of the <u>"Sandwich South Secondary Plan"</u> to ensure that Parks and Recreational spaces are established to promote physical connectivity for pedestrian and active transportation through an ecologically diverse <i>'Biodiversity Gateway'</i> by extending Little River Corridor to the Herb Grey Parkway and the Ojibway Nature Complex. |  |  |
| 4.15 | That The City of Windsor coordinate a stewardship project with ERCA in order to secure Priority Natural Significant Lands such as Ojibway Shores, Sandwich South Planning District and any other opportunities where natural features exist to improve the natural heritage system in the City.                                                                                                                                   |  |  |
| 4.16 | Apply under criteria ix and x of the nomination process of <i>UNESCO</i> to establish the Ojibway Nature Complex of parks as a <u>'UNESCO Heritage Site'</u> , through the assistance of the Friends of Ojibway Prairie and <i>ERCA</i> , based on the universal natural significance of the properties.                                                                                                                          |  |  |



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #5: To provide different types of parks and recreational experiences distributed evenly throughout the city.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

| 5.01 | Adopt the re-classification of parks as outlined in this master plan and update the "City of Windsor's Official Plan".                                                                                                                                           |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5.02 | Update the <u>"Official Plan"</u> in collaboration with the Planning Department to make certain that any new infrastructure, utilities and services abutting parkland is coordinated through the <i>Parks Department</i> to ensure appropriate service to parks. |
| 5.03 | Update the <u>"Zoning By-Law 8600"</u> in collaboration with the Planning and Building Departments to align with the proposed re-classifications.                                                                                                                |
| 5.04 | Prepare a 'Manual of Park Design Standards' for:  - Each classification and sub-classification  - Standard design details (eg. amenities, pathways, plant materials and field layouts)  - Specifications, and  - Compliance with "AODA"                          |
| 5.05 | Identify the key parks that would serve as community hubs.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #6: Parks and trails shall continue to play an important role in the city parks system, ensuring that the linkages to and from parks, as well as between parks remain accessible and serve the greater Windsor community.

| 6.01 | Identify, prioritize and establish new trails to improve connectivity throughout the city.                                                                                                                      |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.02 | Collaborate with <i>Transportation Planning</i> to update the <u>"B.U.M.P."</u> to promote trail connections for neighbourhoods.                                                                                |
| 6.03 | To review opportunities to provide cyclists with safe routes through or adjacent to parkland instead of along major traffic routes.                                                                             |
| 6.04 | Review and discuss options with the railways on routes which may be abandoned in the future to provide opportunities for recreational multi use-trails and commuter cyclists.                                   |
| 6.05 | Strengthen all north-south connections to the Detroit River.                                                                                                                                                    |
| 6.06 | Work with and establish partnerships to obtain formal access for the development of recreational trails where appropriate on non-city owned lands, e.g., Devonwood, utility corridors and private land parcels. |
| 6.07 | Include environmental considerations in the planning of major new trails through natural areas, and design trails to minimize environmental impacts.                                                            |
| 6.08 | Develop trail heads and staging areas with the appropriate amenities for users including; way finding and interpretation.                                                                                       |
| 6.09 | Amend the <u>"Adopt-a-Park Policy"</u> to include an 'Adopt-a-Trail' Program.                                                                                                                                   |
| 6.10 | Prepare and "Adopt-a-Trail" management plan that builds upon methods used in other jurisdictions' best practice models.                                                                                         |
| 6.11 | Update design standards on well used trails through areas with high environmental values to keep people on trails and to protect the resources.                                                                 |





STRATEGIC DIRECTION #7: Parks facilities and recreational programming in the city shall provide safe, clean, and attractive environments for all users.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

| 7.01 | Work with the <i>Police Services</i> to communicate and implement " <u>CPTED"</u> principles in parks to increase levels of safety while addressing a balance between aesthetic and environmental considerations. |
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| 7.02 | Establish a <u>'Policy for Park and Trail Lighting'</u> .                                                                                                                                                         |
| 7.03 | Establish a 'Policy for Emergency Call Buttons' within parks and along trails.                                                                                                                                    |
| 7.04 | Develop a <u>'Parkland Encroachment Policy and Procedure'</u> to enforce and educate the public regarding encroachment into city parks and open space.                                                            |



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #8: To successfully develop, maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities in a balanced cost effective manner.

| 8.01 | Review and update the 2012 park disposition list.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8.02 | That in areas of deficient park open pace a strategy be developed to identify and acquire property suitable for the parkland.                                                                                                                                  |
| 8.03 | Investigate opportunity to acquire lands from school boards, railways or other underutilized sites in the city for parks purposes as they become available to offset areas which demonstrate a deficiency in parkland.                                         |
| 8.04 | Actively explore alternative funding mechanisms such as sponsorships from businesses, individual donors, partnerships, grants and gifting can be made directly for parkland purposes                                                                           |
| 8.05 | Encourage donation (i.e. bequeathing, estate settlements, in-trusts) of land for parks purposes based on the "Donation Policy (M20-2013)".                                                                                                                     |
| 8.06 | That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments undertake a "Sports Needs Analysis" in conjunction with community and sports facilities users looking at consolidation opportunities more immediately for the east end of Windsor and ultimately city wide. |
| 8.07 | Review and develop designated areas in parks for skateboarding facilities throughout the city.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8.08 | Review and develop designated areas in parks for spray pads throughout the city.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8.09 | Review and develop a sport court strategy for the whole city to determine appropriate locations.                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8.10 | Review and develop an outdoor swimming facilities strategy to ensure adequate access for all users.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 8.11 | Adopt a policy with Asset Management that establishes level of service for the maintenance and operation of parks.                                                                                                                                             |

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| 8.12 | Establish a <u>'Management Plan'</u> for each city park and open space.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8.13 | Develop <u>'Park Design Standards'</u> , and adoption of policies to improve and reduce maintenance costs, while achieving an aesthetically pleasing environment for each park type.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 8.14 | Standardize park maintenance and level of service, as well as lifecycle costing by formalizing Parks Operations inspection and management standards as "C.I.T.E." based on:  - Classification and location of the park – setting, ranging from very natural to urban.  - Infrastructure – type, age, condition, replacement cycle.  - Type and amount of use – numbers of people, demographics served, times of highest use.  - Environmental characteristics – sensitivity of vegetation and wildlife, amount of shade from trees provided. |
| 8.15 | Review the current <i>City Forestry</i> 's <i>Tree Nursery</i> and determine its needs and identify an appropriate location in order for forestry to maintain an acceptable level of service and a reliable source for Carolinian tree species as well as boulevard trees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8.16 | Establish and adopt an ongoing GIS referenced AutoCAD based data inventory in collaboration with Asset Management and Geomatics of all park assets including the purchase of computerized digital systems and equipment as needed to capture assets within the park system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 8.17 | Establish a labelling protocol for interpretation and communication of the horticultural and biodiversity of the plant material found in select premier natural and horticultural parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8.18 | Review the <u>"Parks Bylaw"</u> for updates on a five-year basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



STRATEGIC DIRECTION #9: To provide vibrant and memorable community spaces which foster a positive and unique sense of place.

| 9.01 | Establish Neighbourhood Parks and a stronger community focus by providing opportunities for social gathering and a sense of pride in the community.                                                                                                                                               |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.02 | Park design to be in character with the type of park, its location and setting and operational management practices.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9.03 | Establish a <u>'Policy and Procedures for Public Consultation'</u> when soliciting any development in parks.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9.04 | That park development include areas of open turf where appropriate, to facilitate unorganized sport play.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9.05 | Review outdoor picnic facilities to ensure appropriate distribution throughout the city.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9.06 | Undertake a ' <u>Feasibility Study'</u> in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Sports Organizations to determine the needs for: a) artificial sports fields b) sports dome                                                                                                                       |
| 9.07 | Implement the restoration, rehabilitation and conservation proposals for Willistead Park, of:  a) the Parks Gates and Perimeter fencing. b) the South Parterre Garden. c) the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fountain. d) an Urban Arboreatum. in a phased approach as per the park concept plan. |

|      | Amalgamate Parks Forestry and Horticultural Operations to centralize parks services at Jackson Park to:                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | a) Relocate of the City's Greenhouses from Lanspeary Park to Jackson Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|      | b) Create a true 'Botanic Garden'.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9.08 | c) Investigate and develop a <i>Display Greenhouse</i> for year-round demonstration and horticultural programs.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7.00 | d) Investigate the potential collaboration with Schools Boards and the Community Garden Collective for horticultural training at the facility.                                                                                                                                                                    |
|      | e) Formalize an 'Urban Arboretum'.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|      | f) Provide year-round interest with activity through a 'Festive Winter Lights Display' and an outdoor 'Skating Rink'.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|      | g) Update the <u>"Jackson Park Master Plan"</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9.09 | Work collaboratively with Local Organizations such as horticulturalist and artist groups to help promote, educate and enhance the public's experience when visiting parks. (for example: guided tours, workshops and interpretation)                                                                              |
| 9.10 | Protect and increase access to and along the Riverfront Parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9.11 | Identify popular marine-based recreation areas within city parks and establish 'Marine-based Recreation Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community to provide access for non-motorized water-based activities, e.g., boating, paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming, walking, sitting, and picnicking. |
| 9.12 | Identify popular fishing areas along Riverfront Parks and establish<br>'Recreational Fishing Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community.                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9.13 | Ensure that the phased development projects are carried out as per the "Central Riverfront Implementation Plan 2001" taking into consideration the "2014 Public Consultation Update Report".                                                                                                                      |
| 9.14 | Work with Recreation and Culture for the management of sculptures found along the riverfront, as per the "Maintenance Management Manual".                                                                                                                                                                         |

| 9.15 | Undertake a study to replace the 'Charlie Brookes Memorial Peace Fountain' at Reaume Park for redevelopment options in consultation with the community.                                           |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.16 | Identify the impacts of special events on our parks and work in collaboration with Special Events Coordinators to determine appropriate locations.                                                |
| 9.17 | Investigate the addition of park infrastructure that would support special events as potential revenue generators. (examples: special displays at a botanic garden, or long-term event in a park) |
| 9.18 | Create a <u>'Policy on Weddings in Parks'</u> in collaboration with Recreation and Culture including specified locations and fees.                                                                |
| 9.19 | Determine locations within Community Open Spaces and Regional Open Spaces to establish dog parks.                                                                                                 |
| 9.20 | Evaluate the environmental impacts of dogs in parks and work with stakeholders to establish <u>'Policies and Procedures for Off-Leash Dog Parks'</u> .                                            |
| 9.21 | Create a 'Dog Park Information Package' downloadable form the City's website.                                                                                                                     |

#### **ACTION PLAN**

**REDISCOVER OUR PARKS** is a higher level document identifying the needs and recommendations for consideration in both Parks Capital and Parks Operational Budgets for the next 20 years. While the recommendations contained within are for the higher level, they provide direction for a Supplemental Action Plan to be completed for Capital and Operating Budget considerations.

That Action Plan will detail each recommendation with internal departmental staff requirements, external agencies who may be involved in the implementation, priorities for consideration

Following review and endorsement by the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee, on July 4, 2016, Windsor City Council through Council Resolution Number CR440/2016 ETPS 392unanimously approved without revision, *REDISCOVER OUR PARKS*, as the Official Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan. As this is a twenty-year plan, the Action Plan will establish timeframe and order of magnitude cost estimates for completion of individual recommendations, to assist with future Operational and Capital Budgetary considerations.

#### NOTES

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ontario Chamber of Commerce: Regional Economic Outlook: Windsor-Sarnia, 2015. pg 1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ibid. pg 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Parks and Recreation Ontario; Recreation and Parks: Essential for Quality of Life, 2008; pg 4.



Rediscover Our Parks

2015-2035



Ontario Chamber of Commerce: Regional Economic Outlook: Windsor-Sarnia, 2015. pg 1

iii Parks and Recreation Ontario; Recreation and Parks: Essential for Quality of Life, 2008; pg 4.



# REDISCOVER OUR PARKS

PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION MASTERPLAN



A twenty year vision

2015 to 2035





#### PREFACE

The development of a Parks Master Plan is an onerous task which includes public and administrative consultation, identifying trends, strengths and weakness and lays the foundation for the direction of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Departments, presumably for the next 20 years.

This Parks Master Plan was prepared completely in - house over the course of the past two years and represents hundreds of hours of work, research and consultation. It is intended to be a dynamic document that has room to evolve however, it has strong focus on identifying and highlighting the current park system today, and how we continue to expand and improve and ultimately sustain the parks system in the City through the next two decades, simply Rediscover Our Parks.

The previous 1989 Parks Master Plan is referenced several times throughout this document and it is important to note that the vast majority of recommendations and goals of the previous plan have been realized and came to fruition. The acquisition of contiguous parkland and development of Windsor's riverfront parks, the acquisition and protection of the Spring Garden ANSI, the consolidation of soccer play at Ford Test Track and the amalgamation of the Little River Corridor Park network to highlight a few accomplishments.

Not unlike the 20 Year Strategic Vision the information gathered from the consultation process shaped direction by which nine Guiding Principals were established. Accessibility & Inclusivity, Communication & Partnership, Health & Wellness, Sustainability, Park Diversity, Connectivity, Safety, Efficiency and Experience are the backbone of this plan.

In the course of preparing this Master Plan several interesting factors came to light like the renewal of parks as community gathering places and their importance to entire demographics like new Canadians, the elderly and those physically challenged. The popularity of community gardening and the growing role parks play in food security and public participation. There is an overwhelming consideration for trails and connectivity over all other expectations, wants and needs from both active and passive recreation enthusiasts.

The popularity and expressed need to access botanically rich parks like the riverfront and Jackson Park was nearly surpassed by the need to access natural areas and again trail networks that connected residents to nature and ultimately to connected natural areas.

This plan also in detail defines and categorizes the type of parks in our network as a tool to provide an expectation of physical amenities, level of service and management strategies for each classification. This lends itself to the distribution of parks and parks space as it relates to population density and resident proximity throughout the City and where there is surplus, adequate or deficient parkland. With the recognition of communities deficient in parkland, previous direction of Council with respect to the disposition of surplus parkland (Council Directive CR130-2012), has been held for inclusion into this plan as it relates to recommendations for acquisition of parkland as a potential funding strategy.

The Parks Master Plan is a document which outlines and qualifies goals, objectives and recommendations and does not specifically outline budget at this point. Prior to allocating value and budget it is first necessary to advance the recommendations in principal. With the adoption of the plan it is the goal of the Parks Department to develop a Strategic Action Plan defining cost, budget and timelines. It is expected that this would be completed by June 2016.

By Phil Roberts
Executive Director of Parks

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This Master Plan Report has been prepared with the assistance of technical input and planning advice provided by several departments at the Corporation of the City of Windsor, Public Agencies and Organizations as well comments and ideas contributed by the citizens of Windsor.



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- Windsor Rugby Football
- Windsor Soccer Club
- Windsor Senior Recreational Soccer
- Windsor Ultimate Frisbee
- Greater Windsor Lacrosse
- Windsor Lawn Bowling
- Cavaliers Cricket Club
- Walker Homesites Athletics
- Bernie Soulliere Baseball
- Riverside Minor Baseball
- Forest Glade Baseball
- Windsor Athletic Association
- Windsor Mixed Slopitch
- Bendo Blazer Hockey

Windsor Wildcats Girls Fastball

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## INTRODUCTION



#### REDISCOVER OUR PARKS THE CITY OF WINDSOR'S PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION MASTER PLAN; A living document that guides the

direction of the park system and its operational management for the next twenty years. This document will review and analyzes the existing park system and will outline opportunities and constraints, strengths and deficiencies to move forward with a vision, strategies, goals and objectives to ensure and preserve a healthy parks and open space system for the future.

The <u>City of Windsor Culture and Recreation Master Plan</u> was first adopted by Council in April of 1989, and has been the document providing vision and guidance to parks development and the operation of parks, recreation and culture for its citizens. The City of Windsor's park system has grown extensively over the years and we have achieved many of the goals and recommendations outlined in the 1989 plan (see Appendix 'A' for recommendations being carried forward. In 2010 Council recommended the development of a separate Culture Master Plan to complement the existing plans. After a public consultation process, as well as benchmarking exercise of other Ontario communities, Council adopted a separate <u>Municipal Culture Master Plan</u> to provide guidance with respect to investment in the human and financial resources in support of the community's arts, culture and heritage sectors. While there is some overlap in the two master plans, especially where it related to cultural features in parks, the breadth of parks includes aspects which provide opportunities for people to enjoy and discover for recreational enjoyment, healthy wellbeing, and experience.

Windsor is currently in a transitional stage of its parks evolution, and although the plan's direction is for a twenty year period, it will be necessary to conduct regular reviews on an as needed basis to assess progress and make amendments to the plan where adjustments may be necessary based on current information.

As part of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan process the Parks Department has undertaken a number of studies to update the background data including; a preliminary park inventory, preliminary amenity inventory, benchmarking, playground audit, and initial public consultation.



#### THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Public parks offer outdoor quality of life options for Windsor residents by providing both active and passive recreation opportunities, as well as access to natural settings. City parks, open spaces and recreational trails offer a variety of opportunities for people to gather, formally or informally; to socialize; play; learn; or just relax in an outdoor environment.

Parks and open spaces in the City of Windsor vary in size, activity, nature and character. Conventional philosophy is that they provide either passive or active recreation opportunities in a traditional park-like setting. Windsor, like many other cities, has open space in the urban core that is not considered 'traditional parkland' in the sense that there is not wide open areas of green space and trees but instead offer more of a civic space in the form of a plaza and or pocket parks where people come to gather.

#### TYPES OF PARKS

#### TRADITIONAL PASSIVE PARKS

The generally established perception of parks is passive in nature, with open fields of green lawn, occasionally shaded with trees for refuge from the sun, meandering pathways and benches to relax, or a shelter to offer picnicking for larger family gatherings. Passive parks and open spaces are open to the public and seldom scheduled for events. Examples of passive recreation that may occur in this environment are; sitting, picnicking,

photography of wildlife; ornamental displays of plants, jogging; walking, or leisure (not commuter) cycling and community gardening. Playgrounds and off-leash dog facilities may be located in passive open spaces as well.

# facilities may be located in passive open spaces as well. ACTIVE RECREATIONAL PARKS With a focus on sports-oriented facilities, active

recreational parks cater to the organized sports groups and organizations in the city. These parks may include community and recreation centres offering a variety of recreational activities such as arenas, baseball diamonds, soccer complexes, sports courts, tennis courts and specialized sport fields, swimming pools, splash pads and active recreational trails. As these facilities attract large volumes of families, players and spectators, they require ancillary services of vehicular parking for cars and buses, transit access, cyclist accommodations in addition to

general pedestrian accessibility. On a smaller scale, multi-use linear trails serve active recreational purposes at the community level by linking people with parks, and parks to other parks through, cycling, jogging as well as casual pedestrian strolling.



Natural areas are those which have for the most part retained their natural state while naturalized areas have been rehabilitated to an environment that provides habitat through wetlands, tall grass prairie, forest, or riverbank floodplain. Environmentally



sensitive, they offer restricted public access to provide ecological conservation in an effort to preserve; natural drainage, identified species at risk, and opportunity for passive recreation through natural observation (i.e. bird watching, photography, landscape painting etc.). Due to their significance, they often appeal to users from beyond the city limits. Windsor has several natural parks and preserving these natural resources is a key component in the city's parks system.

#### **URBAN PARKS & PARKETTES**

These parks are primarily within the downtown core. More often, they are open spaces that traditionally accommodate larger volumes of pedestrian activity for festivals and civic purposes. Urban plazas tend to be hard surface areas of high quality paving, with landscape and architectural elements acting as civic landmarks. These spaces are highly accessible for pedestrian mobility and occasional service/events

vehicular access. Though primarily hard surface plazas, it is common for temporary or portable planters with vegetation or seasonal displays to be introduced to provide greater visual interest.

Located in predominantly commercial areas, parkettes act as a social refuge amidst the dense urban fabric of the city where space is limited for residents, local businesses and their patrons. Parkettes are smaller scale parks that cater to passive park needs in the form of urban plazas with benches, possible games tables, trees, and occasionally where landmarks or monuments may be located.

#### TYPES OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

While recreation in general is the engagement of physical, social intellectual, creative or spiritual activity, it is primarily done to enhance personal well-being. Recreation can be engaged in solely for the enjoyment and amusement, or pleasure of by an individual or in groups participating in the activity. Outdoor recreation can take several forms, however, it essentially has two main purposes; to provide beneficial activity and pleasurable appreciation for the participant(s).

#### **PASSIVE RECREATION**

Passive recreation is generally self-generated and leisurely. It offers constructive, restorative and pleasurable human benefit without significant impact on the environment in which it is occurring. Passive recreation areas can be defined as outdoor recreation space that is generally minimally developed, providing health and well-being of the public and preservation of wildlife for the pursuit of hobbies.

Examples of passive recreation include: walking, jogging, leisure cycling on trails, fishing, canoeing or kayaking on the Detroit River or in a wetland, taking a lunch to an open-picnic area, taking pictures of nature/floral displays/ family picnics, wildlife or bird watching, or sitting on a park bench or a blanket on the riverfront while reading or socializing with friends or family, painting outdoors, or kite-flying.

#### SELF-DIRECTED RECREATION

Often recreation is self-directed, or guided by an individual, for personal gain such meditation activities including Tai Chi, Yoga or walking a labyrinth, or painting landscapes in a park. Play is also freely chosen and self-directed mental or physical activity that is undertaken for enjoyment and that is separate in some way from "real" life. I Many self-directed recreations types can be either passive or active in nature. Where active recreation is often associated with organized sports or events, the activity associated with it such as running, kicking a ball, or even cycling, can also be for passive meditative purposes.

#### **ACTIVE RECREATION**

Active recreation is generally any recreation activity that requires significant infrastructure or structured organization for the purpose of participation by several people. Due to the intensity of the activity or volumes of people involved, active recreation is generally centrally administered, scheduled or programmed and usually involves a registration or entry fee . Active recreation can have considerable environmental impact on the recreational area or the natural environment due to the number of people engaged in the activity and generally requires specialized parkland development to facilitate the activity or event.

Examples of active outdoor recreation include; organized or adventure sports such as baseball, cricket, soccer, rugby, ultimate volleyball; tournaments and cross-country track meets and organized runs, tennis and basketball, lawn bowling, dog parks, golfing, marina activity, swimming, skating, skateboarding, performances in a park, festivals, and other events such as weddings, and family picnics at a park shelter, playgrounds, splash pads, commuter cycling, running, the use of motorized vehicles..

Many recreational activities are organized, typically by public institutions, voluntary group-work agencies, private groups supported by membership fees, and commercial enterprises.







#### BENEFITS OF PARKS AND OPEN GREEN SPACE

City parks and open spaces contribute to the well-being of both physical and psychological health of the people that use and live near them. They strengthen communities both physically and economically, by making neighbourhoods more attractive places to "live, work and play". The health of the entire City environmentally is largely contingent upon the amount of natural resources, natural areas, green space, tree cover and wetlands provided, and more importantly how well we promote and take care of these precious recourses for future generations. **Environment** Stewardship of these finite resources is increasingly more significant by the day in a world where fresh water resources are limited. Global warming and the resulting rapid climate change are causing natural resources to disappear. Parks have so many environmental benefits that they must be looked upon as an integral part of the

health and wellbeing of a city's infrastructure. The benefits are without limits. Whether formally developed or left natural, parkland offers park users venues for recreational and cultural activities. Aside from the ecological health that 'Green Infrastructure' offers, in the form of parkland, it also facilitates improved quality of life in various forms.

Collectively landscaped areas, including private and public properties, contribute to the overall green infrastructure of the city. Green infrastructure not only consists of public open spaces and parkland, such as the urban forests, street or boulevard trees, playgrounds, sports fields, and other parkland types, but it also includes privately owned natural and landscaped areas as well. In a public opinion survey from 2009 conducted by Parks and Recreation Ontario, it was found that 98% of Ontarian believe that recreation and parks are essential services that benefit their entire community. Several studies conducted throughout North America demonstrate that the increase in urban vegetation can counteract the effects of climate change through adaptation of methods to improve air and water quality by removal of airborne pollutants and other particulates. It can also assist in the making of healthier environments that encourage people to participate in outdoor activities whether through passive or active

> recreation. This leads to social interaction among people which builds stronger and healthier communities. As communities grow they establish a cohesive culture among the people who use parks and recreation facilities within the area. This fosters stewardship of the natural environment and helps create a sense-of-place within the greater civic collection of communities.

> > The National Benefits Hub is an online collection of evidence-based research, identifying four classification areas supported by parks and recreation. The areas include:

- Heath,
- Social,
- Economic, and
- Environmental

Although Rediscover Our Parks

focuses on the built environment, it is appropriate to classify outdoor recreational activity in itself as a benefit. Given the rich heritage associated with Windsor's parks and the diverse demographics of the city, this master plan also recognizes cultural benefits that are afforded by parks.

Community

Recreation

Health

**Economics** 

- ✓ Protects habitat for vulnerable at risk species
- ✓ Protects riparian and wetland communities
- ✓ Reduces effects of climate change through mitigation of urban heat island effect, through greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestering
- ✓ Improves air and water quality through pollution reduction and natural water flow management
- ✓ Encourages education through awareness of nature through participation in conservation efforts
- ✓ Provides opportunities to reconnect with and educate through the natural heritage of the region

#### SOCIAL - COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- ✓ Encourages inclusion and access for all people
- ✓ Encourages community stewardship thorough volunteerism, which fosters leadership in the community and individuals
- ✓ Positively impacts youth development
- ✓ Provides venue for community events and family gatherings
- ✓ Promotes outdoor life skills development
- ✓ Provides a place for socialization to promote strong communities through recreational programming, events, volunteers, and promotes civic pride
- ✓ Contributes to safe communities

#### **HEALTH & PERSONAL BENEFITS**

- ✓ Sustains strong family relations and fosters healthy communities
- ✓ Reduces Health risks such as; heart disease, hypertension, colon cancer and diabetes
- ✓ Improves personal, physical, psychological and mental health
- ✓ Contributes to stress management
- ✓ Reduces reliance on social services
- ✓ Reduces medical costs
- ✓ Provides place for personal escape and reconnection with nature within the city, fostering psychological and spiritual health
- ✓ Reduces aggressive tendencies

#### **CULTURAL BENEFITS**

- ✓ Provides opportunities for the preservation of culturally significant resources
- ✓ Provides opportunities to express the area's cultural diversity
- ✓ Provides opportunities to develop multipurpose cultural initiatives (i.e. community centres that service different groups)
- ✓ Promotes cultural identity of community and neighbourhoods

#### **RECREATIONAL BENEFITS**

- ✓ Promotes strong social interaction between people
- ✓ Promotes motor skills
- ✓ Provides venue for active and passive recreational activities
- ✓ Provides venue for organized sports and healthy personal competition
- ✓ Provides venue for swimming and other water-related sports activity

#### **ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

Economic benefits are at the heart of all parks development, operations and public service practices. Though value-based benefits are tangible and measurable, many of the benefits that are environmental in nature or pertain to the quality of life are intagible and difficult to measure.

- ✓ Increase revenue for businesses
- ✓ Provide more attractive places to live
- ✓ Perform as a major marketing tools for a city's desirability

**ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS** 

**CULTURAL BENEFITS** 

SOCIAL -COMMUNITY BENEFITS RECREATIONAL **BENEFITS** 

**HEALTH BENEFITS** 

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS** 

INRODUCTION:

and Open Green Space

#### PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN AND OTHER CIVIC DOCUMENTS

Rediscover Our Parks is a document that will help shape our city into a livable city. Many other documents exist in collaboration with this document to provide direction for the city's parks system.

#### 20 YEAR STRATEGIC VISION

Rediscover Our Parks is a parks and outdoor recreation master plan that provides benefits and opportunities which effectively aligns with the themed goals of proposed City of Windsor 20 Year Strategic Vision including:

- Local economic development
- City image & brand
- Strengthened innovative strategies to support neighbourhoods and districts, and
- Responsible, balanced fiscal and services choices

#### LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Healthy parks and recreation facilities in a community are economically one of the major marketing tools for a city's desirability. The outward appearance and health of our parks system and outdoor recreational experiences that our city parks provide is essentially the "welcoming face of our city". Recent studies have shown that businesses, enhanced with trees and well designed landscaping are attractive to visitors. When established trees are present on developed properties, the assessed values show a dramatic increased of up to 15% in comparison to a similar property with no significant soft-landscaping. Pre-established parkland helps to attract prospective developers for both commercial and housing development opportunities.

The Trust for Public Land outlines the "Benefits of Parks" , in terms of economic worth for both tangible and intangible benefits as follows:

- ✓ Supports economic sustainability by promoting property values
- ✓ Promotes tourism by providing venues and attractions
- ✓ Protects natural areas through eco-tourism opportunities
- ✓ Impacts local business economy through destination setting; thus encouraging local spending by visitors to parks and recreational facilities
- ✓ Contributes to job creation through enhanced competitiveness for business relocation near parkland for employees during lunches and breaks
- ✓ Supports and protects local Recreational Industry through occasional bookings and large scale events
- ✓ Promotes new business starts-ups; and economic growth in close proximity to parks and recreation venues
- ✓ Promotes residential development near parkland which contributes to improved tax base

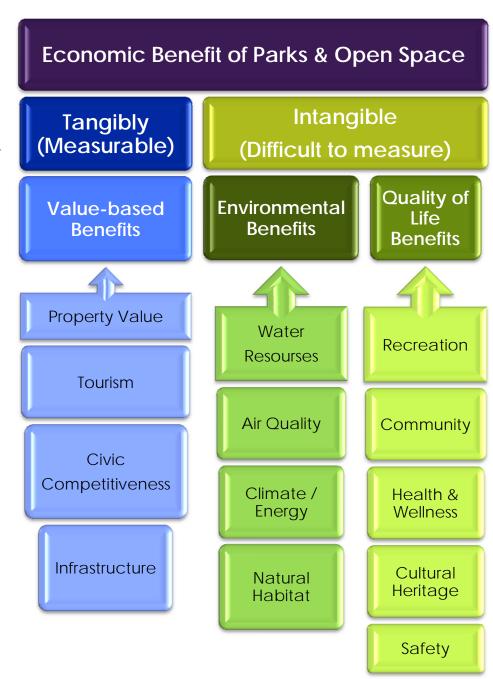


Figure i-1: Economic Benefits of Parks and open spaces (source: Trust for Public Lands)



#### CITY IMAGE & BRAND

"To change our future, we need to change our attitude about our city, our partners and our prospects" vi

Windsor's Parks System has much to offer including parks and green spaces with natural significance, a riverfront that offers many means of access and activities, as well as major sports complexes that provide tourism potential to capitalize on our strength as a healthy and vibrant community.

It is important to preserve and protect all our parks, open space, natural heritage and natural resources in the city, as they are finite resources that cannot be easily replaced. They alone are integral elements in providing and improving the quality of life for residents, as well as establish a sense of place of which to be proud. The consciousness of global climate change and trends toward environmental stewardship with appropriate natural/green infrastructure, and open space management through parkland development, is paramount in demonstrating that Windsor is on the cutting edge of understanding these issues and our goal is to strengthen the parks system to bring people back into parks, and foster Windsor as an *outstanding place to live*, work, and visit.

Acquisition of riverfront properties in the mid- to late 1900's for the purpose of parkland development was an innovative idea that inspired many other cities across Canada to do the same. However, the need for innovation hasn't stopped and contemporary ideas reflect the current diversity of our citizens needs to be incorporated in that vision to help foster a change in the perception of community. As the southern-most city in Canada, sharing a border with the United States via the Detroit River, the riverfront parklands have contributed to a desire from Detroit visitors to experience Canada through our riverfront parks. Similarly the opportunities for outdoor sports events at many of the City's outdoor facilities, places Windsor at an advantage. The moderate climate with respect to the rest of Canada, results in a longer than average outdoor recreation season, which creates a greater demand for park use by all ages. That demand includes activities related to the riverfront parks, water-based activities, trails, sports fields, outdoor events (concerts, theatre festivals etc.) as well as a general appreciation of the natural and man-made environments within the city and the surrounding area.

### STRENGTHEN THE CITY WITH INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES AND SAFE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Parks provide the public with immediate opportunities for society to enjoy the great outdoors in an economical manner. Enhancing our public spaces through parkland development improvements provides civic investment in ensuring that residents can maintain an enjoyable quality of life. Improving parkland adds to the opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation, ensuring citizens can pursue a healthy lifestyle.

City Parks embrace the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design also know as (CPTED principles) for all parkland developed in the City. Ensuring public safety is paramount. Studies show that development of safe and quality neighbourhoods include the opportunity for residents to access public green space and parkland amenities in order to promote healthy lifestyles. Playgrounds in neighbourhood parks are maintained to the most current Playground standards and guidelines including (CSA/IPEMA/AODA/ASTM etc.) to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the public are being met.

Public Parkland and Open space provides equal opportunity for many types of programs to assist various user groups of all abilities to engage in healthy outdoor activities. Current demographics for Windsor indicate changes in the immigrant and low income populations where many are unable to engage in organized recreational activities due to costs. Preliminary interviews and surveys undertaken as part of this master plan have included special interest groups such as new residents groups through workshops in order to address these issues and provide for the needs of a changing and diverse population.

Preservation and rehabilitation of heritage landscapes such as Ojibway Park Complex and Willistead, is fundamental to the natural and cultural heritage of the City of Windsor. Similarly, the incorporation of appropriate and well placed public art installations helps to promote the artistic value, of the City as well as supporting local artists by showcasing their works.



Figure i-3: Ojibway Nature Centre





#### RESPONSIBLE BALANCED FISCAL SERVICE CHOICES

The master plan aims to improve the financial health of the corporation by capitalizing on those service areas that are functioning efficiently, addressing and recommending action to improve areas that are not optimal, to provide cost saving measures through reduction of redundancy, and promote partnerships whenever such opportunities arise. Engaging the public through consultation at various stages of the process provides a sense of ownership and helps to identify and strengthen rapport with the citizens of Windsor.

The fundamental purpose of REDISCOVER OUR PARKS is to guide the development and preservation of our parks system in order to preserve, enhance and protect our natural environments and urban green spaces for future generations to enjoy. New Parkland development and park redevelopment will aim to enhance our parks in an environmentally efficient, attractive and responsible manner.

Climate change will direct a strong focus on green infrastructure improvements to mitigate storm water through natural management processes and reduce the burden on the current storm water infrastructure. Integration of bicycling facilities in parkland and multi-use trails helps to enhance mobility in alternative ways to better serves, the economic and social needs of all citizens through active transportation.

Figure i-4: Seniors admiring the horticultural display in the Queen Elizabeth II Sunken Gardens at Jackson Park

## CITY OF WINDSOR OFFICAL PLAN

The *Official Plan* is a policy document adopted by Council under the provisions of the *Ontario Planning Act*, providing guidance for the physical development of the municipality over a 20-year period while taking into consideration important social, economic and environmental matters and goals as follows:

- Where new development can locate
- How existing and future neighbourhoods will be strengthened
- How Windsor's environment will be enhanced
- What municipal services, such as roads, water mains, sewers and parks, will be provided
- When, where and in what order Windsor will grow

Chapter 5 of the *Official Plan* relates to the environment and lists the policies with respect to environmental quality for:

- A Greenway System
- Natural Heritage Lands Protection
- Environmental Policy Areas
- Candidate Natural Heritage Sites
- Urban Forestry
- Atmospheric Air and Water Quality

"A healthy and sustainable environment represents a balance between human activities and natural features and functions. In order to attain this balance, Council will enhance the quality of Windsor's natural environment and manage development in a manner that recognizes the environment as the basis of a safe, caring and diverse community and a vibrant economy."

"The Greenway System is based on the belief that the quality of life within Windsor will be enhanced by the establishment of a linked and continuous network of "green" land uses. This planned network of natural environment and recreational elements will provide a means to establish Windsor as a healthy and liveable city."

Policies for Open Space are found in Chapter 6: Land Use, where Public Open Space is defined as those lands under the ownership and jurisdiction of the Municipality, Province or Federal Government as well as those governed by the Essex Region Conservation Authority. The *Official Plan* set out standards for development, accessibility, scale, and distribution ratio per capita, as well as standards for the conservation and protection of Natural Heritage Lands and how they relate to the community for recreational uses and connection to the Greenway System. (See APPENDIX 'A')

## PLANNING DISTRICTS

The City of Windsor's Official Plan recognizes that the City of Windsor is an amalgamation of several smaller communities and neighbourhoods, known as Planning Districts that have been settled at various stages of the area's growth since the original French settlement of 1749. Current census data is tabulated by these districts and demonstrate the best demographic breakdown for the urban area.

Currently, there are 20 Planning Districts recognized by the Official Plan, along with 32 Special Policy areas which may or may not have significant residential populations however all have a parks component, whether urban or natural in character. The current Official Plan also focuses on complete neighbourhoods as the building blocks for the Urban Structure Plan; in which the Planning Districts play a significant role. By definition neighbourhoods are stable, low-to-medium-density residential areas and are comprised of local streets, parks, open spaces, schools, minor institutions and neighbourhood and convenience scale retail services. Detailed information of each of the Planning districts can be found in APPENDIX 'B'.

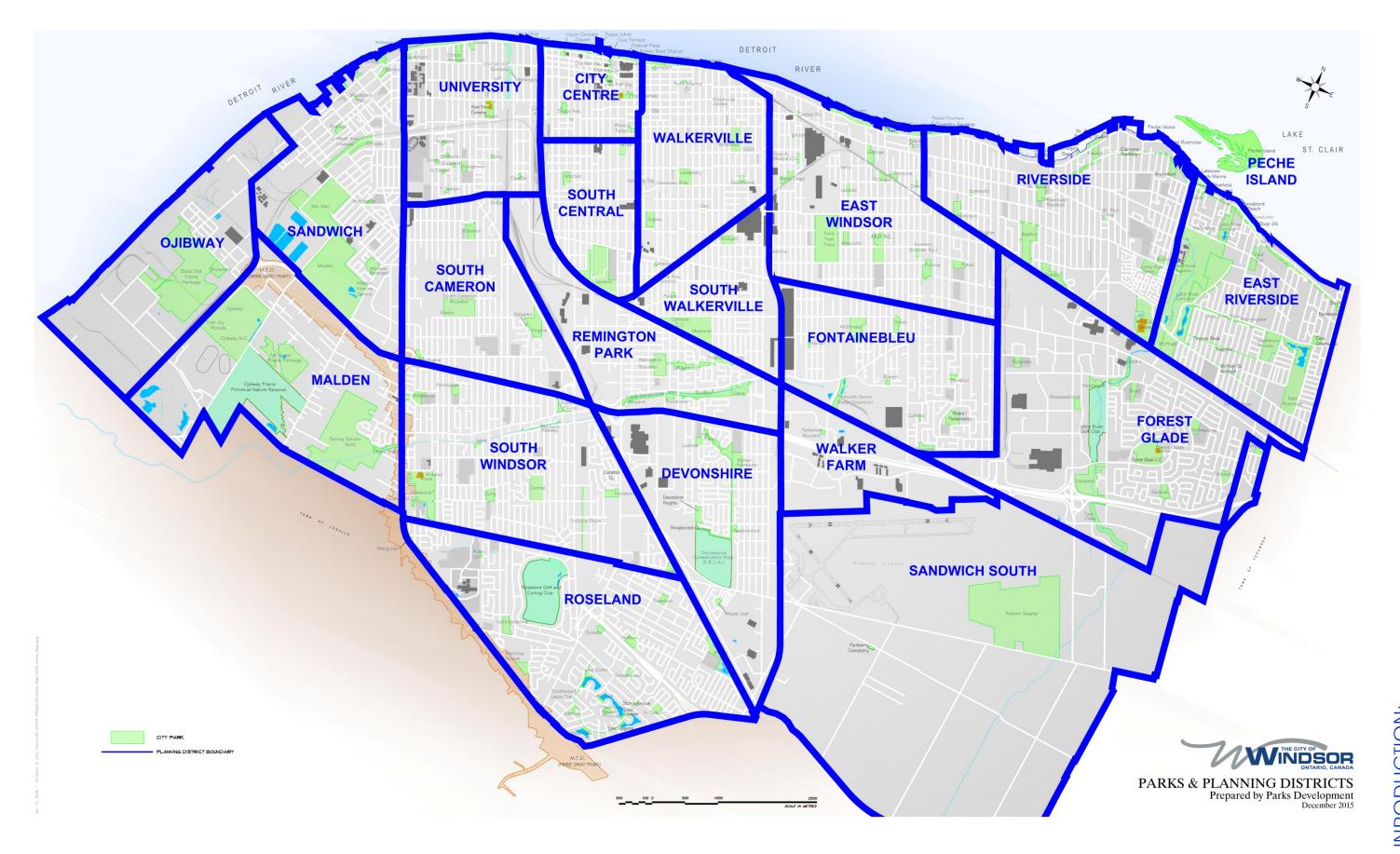


Figure i-5: Planning Districts Map

## WARDS

The general population of Windsor is not familiar with the Planning District layout. Unlike Planning Districts, Wards do not respect physical barriers, such highways, natural landscapes, railway lines water courses, to name a few. As a result, planning by wards can often lead to disconnected neighbourhood goals. Though not fully aligned there are roughly 2 Planning Districts per each of the 10 wards.



**Ward 1:** Ojibway, Malden, the southern half of South Windsor and western half of Roseland.

Ward 2: Sandwich and University.

Ward 3: City Centre and South central

Ward 4: Walkerville and South Walkerville

**Ward 5:** Most of East Windsor, Fountainbleu and Walker Farms

Ward 6: Riverside

Ward 7: East Riverside and the eastern half

of Forest Glade

**Ward 8:** Western half of Forest Glade and eastern halves of East Windsor and Fountainbleu

Ward 9: Devonshire, the eastern halves of South Windsor and Roseland as well as Sandwich South (which is for the most part sparse populated as much of the land is either agricultural or undeveloped)

**Ward 10:** South Cameron, Remington Park and the northern half of South Windsor.

Figure i-6: City Ward Map (left)

Figure i-7: Central Riverfront Lands east of the Downtown (right)

Electoral Wards are the most accessible way to consult with the City's residents.

The Parks Master Plan process met with residents through ward meetings.

During the consultation process, residents were provided with maps showing the location of parks, natural areas and schools in their specific Ward. Additional mapping demonstrated the classification of the parks in their Ward. (See Appendix 'C').

## OTHER RELATED STUDIES

In collaboration with other Civic Administration Departments as well as public agencies and private consultants, City Council has endorsed many relevant documents that help provide direction and support to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan. The following reports and documents have contributed to the development of this Plan:

## PLANNING & ECONOMICS

- Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP) (2000)
- Bicycle Use Master Plan (BUMP) (2001)
- Glengarry Marentette Waterfront Village CIP (2003)
- Little River Acres CIP (2005)
- City Centre West CIP (2006)
- Riverside Drive Vista Improvement Project (2006)
- Ford Powerhouse CIP (2007)
- Detroit River International Crossing Study (2008)
- Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy CIP (2010)
- Economic Revitalization CIP (2011)
- Olde Sandwich Town CIP (2012)

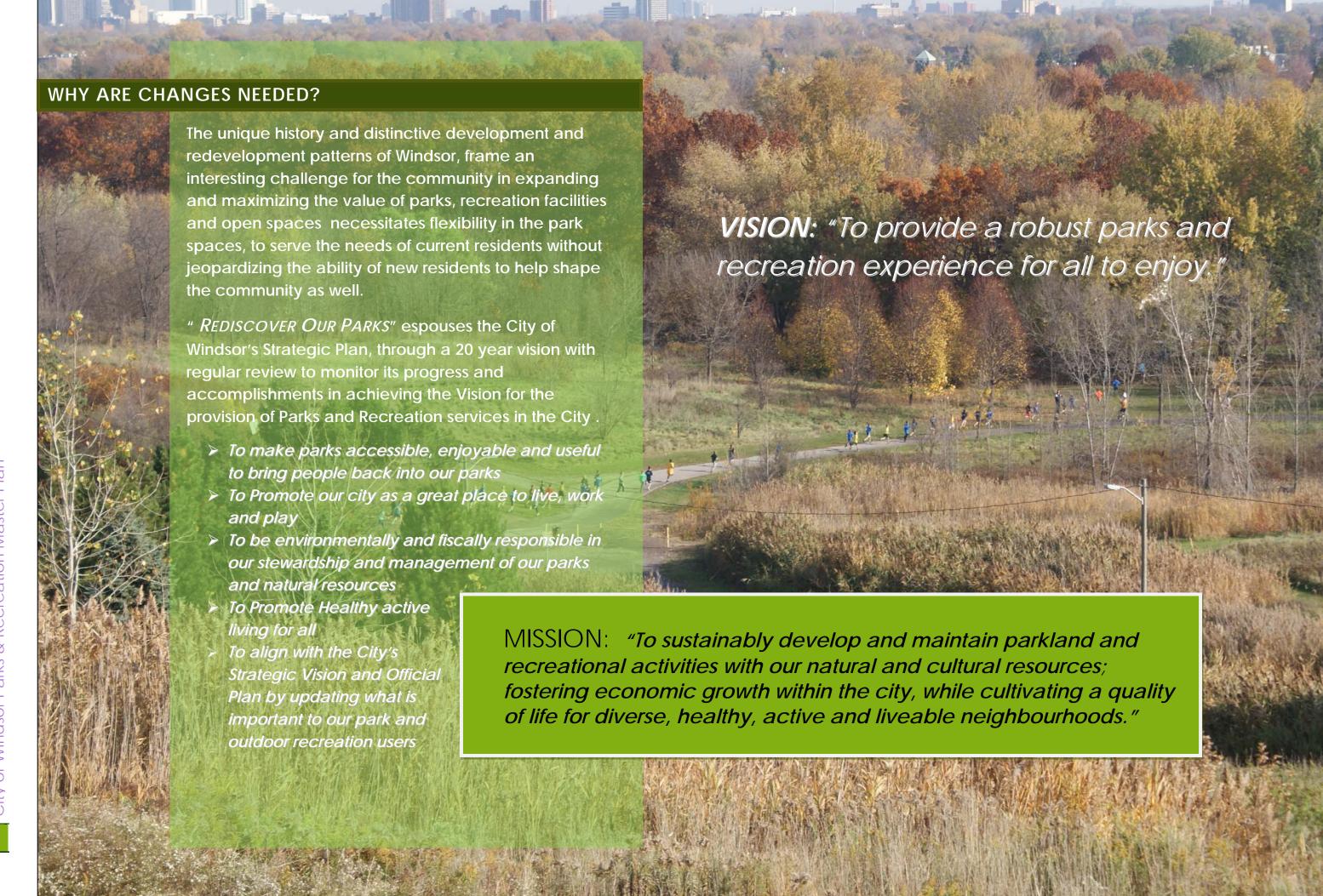
#### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

- Ojibway Park and Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (1976)
- Ojibway Prairie Resource Stewardship Plan., Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (1997)
- Candidate Natural Heritage Site Biological Inventory (CNHS) (1992 updated 2007)
- Ontario Endangered Species Act (2007)
- Environmental Master Plan (2007)
- Detroit River Shoreline Assessment (2012)
- Adapting to extreme heat Special projects completed in partnership with Health Canada (2012 2014)
- Climate Change Adaptation Study (2012)
- The Urban Heat Island Effect in Windsor, ON: An Assessment of Vulnerability and Mitigation Strategies (2012)
- Improving Thermal Comfort in Windsor, ON; Assessing Urban Parks and Playgrounds (2013)
- Designing City of Windsor Parks to Improve Thermal Comfort in Summer (2014)
- Community Gardens Policy (2014)
- DRIC Environmental Assessment Report (2008)

#### SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)
- City of Windsor Accessibility Standards (F.A.D.S.) (2006)
- Enhancing the Welcoming Capacity of Windsor Essex (2014)
- Age friendly Windsor Action Plan (2014-2017)
- Municipal Cultural Master Plan (2014)
- Play Equipment Safety Audit (2013-2014)

(see Appendix 'D' for a synopsis of selected related studies)



## SCOPE OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

The current parks system and recreational programming in the City of Windsor is relatively competent in meeting the current demands of its citizens and users. As with any complex system of parks there is always a need to ensure future generations are adequately supported with parkland and recreational opportunities that suit their changing needs. The population of the City of Windsor appears to be relatively unchanged since 1971; however, constant adjustment within the population's demographic has an effect on the types and

levels of service that Parks along with Recreation and Culture will need to provide the community. The scope of the Parks Master Plan addresses the present and potential demographics as modeled by both local and

national perspectives.

While *REDISCOVER OUR PARKS* recognizes gaps or issues that need to be addressed to ensure an acceptable level of service is provided to the community, it also identifies potential opportunities for immediate implementation within a five year program. The master plan makes recommendations as strategic directions for action and future studies; to be detailed with the specifics in order to meet the priorities of Council and the citizens of Windsor. It will also identify potential opportunities for funding with upper levels of government infrastructure programs and potential private sector partnerships along with community participation for an Action Plan.

"Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character and expression are the result of the cumulative actions and interactions of natural and/or human factors. These areas may be urban, rural or natural, local or regional, common or exceptional, and they may reflect a diversity of culture or historic values."

(Canadian Landscape Charter)

As the overall climate of the City of Windsor's economy, demographics and environment, is in a transitional stage. It is important that the city remains competitive and reflects a community that offers sustainability of these elements in an efficient yet vibrant manner, to ensure a positive experience for the residents and visitors. This study addresses and makes recommendation on emerging methods and procedures that can be put into practice, as well as identify those area where further investigation is necessary to ensure a healthy and robustly diverse landscape of parks and recreation services.

## PROCESS FOR THE MASTER PLAN

To fulfill the objectives outlined in the Mission of the Parks Master Plan, it was necessary to conduct a high level of consultation practices in variety of delivery programs in order to capture the widest possible audience, to retrieve the greatest input within the time period allotted

The Parks Master Plan process commenced in 2013 through 2104 with public consultation (i.e. individual Ward meetings, online surveys, stakeholder meeting with organized sports, public interest groups for new immigrants, etc.) to update the direction of parks into the next 20 years. REDISCOVER OUR PARKS will be instrumental in setting the direction for the development and maintenance of the park system for the next 20 years. As a civic document that will guide current operations and recreational practice in the city as well as future parkland development and partnerships through the next 20 years, the process for approval had many components which needed to be addressed.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**



As the Parks master plan will be directly affecting the recreational needs of the greater community, public involvement in various forms was deemed a high necessity to ensure that their voices were heard and needs are being met.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS AND ONLINE SURVEYS

Consultations were conducted in a open forum manner through the City in late 2013 and early 2014 at various locations in each of the Wards. At those meetings feedback surveys were distributed to determine the level of satisfaction with the current parks in their neighbourhoods. During that period and for 6 months following, residents were also able to complete the survey on line.

After compilation and analysis of the results from this initial public consultation, a second public information session was held at Devonshire Mall on the weekend of June 13 and 14, 2015 to review the findings of the ward level consultations with the public, and to present the direction that Parks and Recreation Master Plan was heading. Again, feedback surveys were distributed as well as a new on-line survey that included aspects of recreational programming. The on-line survey closed on August 31, 2015, two months later than intended, due an overwhelming interest by the community and support from the local media for participation.

## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

During the course of the public consultation process, parks staff engaged various civic committees and Parks operational staff, in an official forum. The primary purposes the Stakeholder meetings were:

- To inform of the findings from the previous consultations.
- To demonstrate an analysis of what direction those findings are leading the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process.
- To receive detailed input for further Master Plan Development.
- To ensure inclusivity in the recommendations.

Participants were encouraged to complete a questionnaire after the presentation in order to gather information in structured and measurable format. Those stakeholder committees were:

- Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Windsor Diversity Committee
- Windsor Essex Environmental Committee
- Age-friendly Windsor
- Windsor Essex County Health Unit
- Essex Region Conservation Authority

#### **FOCUS GROUPS**

Several groups were consulted for input into the process, content or direction of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Various organized sports organizations who rent facilities from the city were a primary stakeholder group. In a focussed meeting on June 19, 2014 at the WFCU Centre, the current condition of the recreational facilities and the desires of these organizations were discussed. Sports organizations in attendance included, All levels of Baseball, Soccer, Ultimate Disc Sports, Outdoor Basketball, Cricket, Football and Rugby, Lawn Bowling and Lacrosse.

A primary stakeholder group was that of the various organized sports organizations who rent facilities from the city. In a focussed meeting on June 19, 2014 at the WFCU Centre, the current condition of the recreational facilities and the desires of these organizations was discussed. Sports organizations in attendance included, All levels of Baseball, Soccer, Ultimate Disc Sports, Outdoor Basketball, Cricket, Football and Rugby, Lawn Bowling and Lacrosse.

In the summer of 2014, the Parks department was approached by the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership to assist in gathering input from the new Immigrant populations of the region as part of their "Enhancing the Welcoming Capacity of Windsor Essex". With assistance from Mary-Ellen Bernard of Social Policy and Planning, surveys were disseminated in the four major language populations (Arabic, French, Spanish (Latino) and Traditional Chinese), currently immigrating to the area. On December 9, 2014, Parks staff conducted a Public Information Session for members of the immigrant community to summarize those findings and facilitate additional information on how the parks system and recreation programming will better serve their individual communities.

Parks staff invited several institutional organizations to meet in order to discuss opportunities for input and potential cooperation in providing parkland and recreational activity awareness throughout the city. Those groups included:

- Greater Essex County District School Board
- Windsor Essex Catholic School Board
- Conseil scolaire catholique Providence
- The University of Windsor
- St Clair College

## PROCESS TIMELINE

Phase

- Public Consultation at Ward meetings.
  - o Sept 2013 April 2014
- City-wide on-line Park Usage survey #1.
  - o December 2013 Jan 2015
- \* Analysis of findings (review completed
  - o surveys, other city reports for structure,
  - o supporting city documents).
  - o January 2015 April 2015
  - Stakeholder and Focus Group Consultations.
    - o Summer 2014 August 2015

- Public Consultation #2- Devonshire Mall.
   June 13 & 14
  - City-wide on-line Master Plan survey #2.
  - > June 12, 2015 August 31, 2015
  - Analysis of findings (review completed surveys, other city reports as precedence).
    - June 2015 September 2015

2

**Phase** 

- Master Plan Report Development Committee reviews.
  - > June 2015 December 2015

- ❖ Draft Master Plan tabled with
- Standing Committee (posted on website for public review and comment)
  - o December, 2015
- Analysis of findings (review completed
  - o surveys and revise report).
  - o January, 2016

**Phase** 

- Draft Approval to be sent to Council.
  - o January, 2015
- Final Draft for Production.
  - o February, 2016

## REDISCOVER OUR PARKS WORKING GROUP

The Parks Master Plan has been compiled with the collaborated efforts of individuals from various departments within the civic administration. The committee met in the summer of 2015 as a group and on an individual basis depending on their specific interests.

On various occasions, Parks operational staff and other Departments' staff were also consulted through a variety of delivery and information gathering processes to determine specific issues, opportunities and areas of concern which may need to be addresses in the Master Plan.

## END NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The Value of Play I: The Definition of Play Gives Insights, by Peter Gray, published on Nov 8, 2008 in Freedom to Play

iii Michigan State University Extension, Urban Forestry #07269501, "Benefits of Urban Trees"

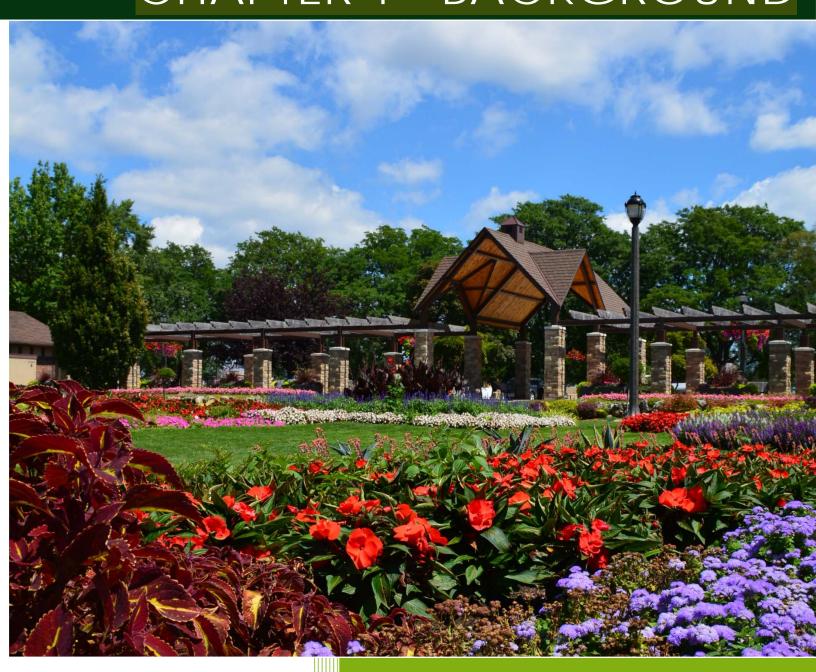
Nowak, David J., "Benefits of Community Trees", (Brooklyn Trees, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report, in review)

vi City of Windsor 2015 Strategic Vision.

<sup>§</sup> See The National Benefits Hub, an online collection of evidence-based research supporting the benefits statements for recreation. http://benefitshub.ca.

v P. Sherer, 2006 "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space", The Trust for Public Land San Francisco CA

## CHAPTER 1 - BACKGROUND



for strategic direction to formulate an action plan. Described in this section are the geographic, social and economic factors that are impacting the community, as well as the physical characteristics embodied by both the built and natural environments.

## **GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES**

countries.

The City of Windsor is Canada's southern-most metropolitan municipality. Lying at the extreme western end of Southern Ontario, the city's primary transportation connections to the rest of Ontario and Canada is Highway 401.

The City of Windsor lies within Essex County which is comprised of eight individual municipalities. Along the southeastern edge of Windsor is the Town of Tecumseh with a population of just over 23,000 and a land area of approximately 95 sq km (36.5 sq mi.). The west half of the city shares its southern boundary with the Town of LaSalle with a population slightly under 29,000 people and an area covering just over 65 sq km (25 sq mi).

The northern and western boundaries of the city are shared with the Detroit River; which acts as a physical international border with the United States of America and the City of Detroit, Michigan.

This area was inhabited by First Nations People prior to the arrival of the French who established an agricultural colony on the south banks of the Detroit River in 1749 to support the military and fur trading post at Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit. Cultural and economic relations between the two cities have played an important role in Windsor's development.

From the settlement of the area through to the current circumstances (both physically and economically), the interrelationship between both sides of the Detroit River has played an integral part in the development of the urban environments of the two cities. Due to its strategic position as a military and trading post; then with the establishment of railways in the late 1860's on both sides of the Detroit River, along with the industrialization of the area through the advent of the automobile industry, the Detroit Metropolitan Area, including Windsor, emerged as one of North America's most significant urban areas. The growth of the Detroit-Windsor Metropolitan Area trended until the late 1950's and early 1960's when the U.S. Interstate Highway system grew, connecting all of the fifty United States. In Canada, the construction of the Highway 401 which connected Windsor to the rest of Canada through the Toronto Metropolitan Area had similar impacts on the area. Over time this connection resulted in the Detroit-Windsor border crossings as the most significant international land crossing between Canada and the United States, and remains of high importance to trade between the two

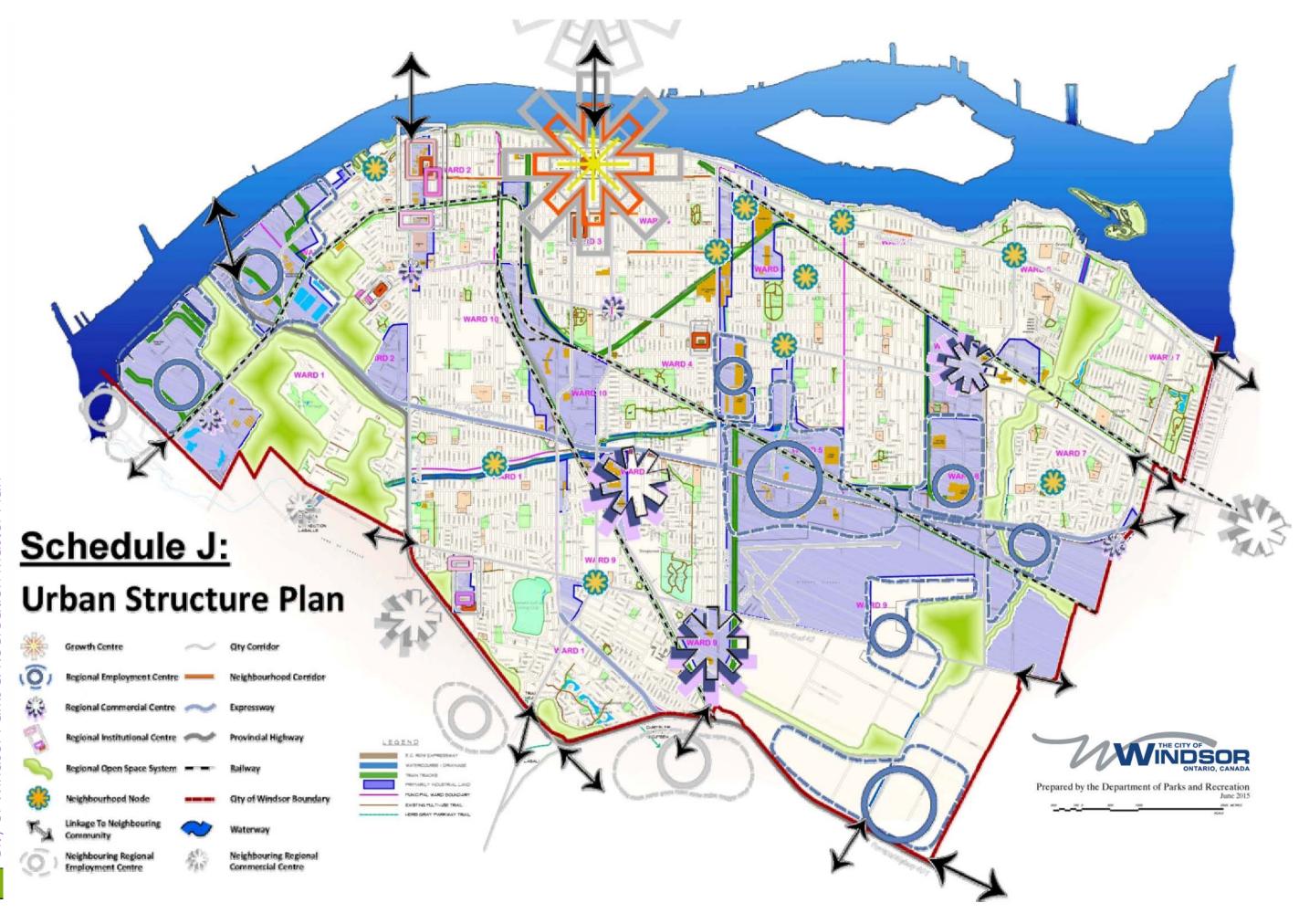
TOWN OF **TECUMSEH** TOWN OF ESSEX TOWN OF **MUNICIPALITY OF** KINGSVILLE LEAMINGTON Figure 1-1: Windsor In Relationship to Essex **County Municipalities** 

To maintain a strong relationship with the surrounding communities including the City of Detroit, it is essential that the City of Windsor include, and reinforce connectivity from a natural and recreational perspective.

CHAPTER

BACKGROUND

Geographic Boundaries



## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The City of Windsor's parks and trails system is closely tied to the historical growth and development of the city. The importance of parkland dates back to the 1900's with the first established park in the urban core at southeast corner of what is now Erie Street East and McDougall, currently named after the Mayor that ushered in its establishment; Colonel Ernest Samuel Wigle. Since then, the City's parks and trails system has expanded considerably, providing opportunities for both active and passive recreation.

This section describes the physical characteristics, including both the built and natural environments, found throughout the City of Windsor and discusses the relevance to parks and recreation programming.

## THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment includes constructed systems or structures such as homes, businesses, factories and public buildings, roads and utilities. Windsor serves as the major business/economic centre, cultural, entertainment and recreation centre for the Greater Windsor-Essex County Region.

## LAND USE

The Official Plan outlines the various land use designations in order to manage development in a sustainable manner to achieve a balance within its built environment, social and economic considerations. The Official Plans goal from a land use perspective is to promote "a compact urban" and direct "compatible development" within new and existing neighbourhoods.

The current Official Plan has twelve land use designations.

Residential Industrial

Business Park Commercial Centre
Commercial Corridor Major Institutional
Open Space Natural Heritage
Mixed Use Waterfront Residential

Waterfront Recreation Waterfront Port

In total the City of Windsor covers 144.75 square kilometres. The primary land use is residential occupying roughly 48% (including waterfront residential and some Mixed Use residential) of the total area.

"A healthy and livable city is one in which people can enjoy a vibrant economy and a sustainable healthy environment in safe, caring and diverse neighbourhoods."

Employment Lands consist of Industrial & Business Parks, Waterfront Port, and Airport Lands occupy the next largest area at approximately 22%. Commercial (Including Mixed Use & both commercial designations) is 7.7%, while Institutional and the Downtown Core are each 2% of the land area. Green Districts which include publicly owned Open Space & Natural Heritage designations, as well some Private Recreation constitutes roughly 10.1% of the total land area. The remaining 8.2% is future development lands in the Sandwich South Planning District, which are currently under secondary plan review.

The Urban Structure Plan (See Figure 1-2) demonstrates how the current employment lands are concentrated around the major transportation arteries. Along with the Natural Heritage Green Districts and the major transportation infrastructure, these three items create a mosaic of separate and distinct communities. Recreational parkland acts as a centralized focus for each of these communities, while the smaller parks serve individual neighbourhoods.

Figure 1-2: Urban Structure Plan of the City's Official Plan overlaid with major physical barriers that create physical Planning Districts (left)

## TRANSPORTATION

The historic and current strategic location of Windsor in relationship to Detroit, Michigan as a trade link between Canada and United States is reinforced by road network that stretches north-south from the Detroit River. The Urban Structure Plan of the City's Official Plan overlaid with major physical barriers that create physical Planning Districts (left) illustrates the transportation infrastructure and how it impacts the structure of the city.

Chapter 7 of the City's Official Plan details guidelines to the infrastructure in order to provide "a safe, healthy and efficient living environment"; including accommodation of transportation infrastructure that is sustainable, accessible, balanced between multimodal forms of transportation, cost effective and responsive to the anticipated growth of the City.

One major goal of the City's transportation objectives it ensure that any new development or infrastructure alterations near or within significant natural areas, especially those with identified or potential 'species at risk', designated Provincially Significant Wetlands; area of natural heritage features, are protected. Currently, the development of the Herb Grey Parkway has set precedence for the protection of the natural significant lands in the western end of the city. Its development has impacted the potential growth of the parkland inventory with preservation of natural forest and prairies in the area, as well as wetland habitats; greatly expanding the profile of the City's natural heritage.

#### SCENIC DRIVES

Currently, Riverside Drive and Sandwich Street (west of Huron Church) form the city's only continuous Scenic Drive. It is the original river route road from the time of European settlement, still used today, running east and west along the south bank of the Detroit River connecting a chain of riverfront parks, while offering many spectacular vistas towards the downtown Detroit Skyline.

Riverside Drive and any new Scenic Drives are to provide Connection of the eastern and western ends of the city, as well abutting municipalities of LaSalle, Tecumseh, and Lakeshore where appropriate.

Figure 1-3: Ganatchio trail along Riverside Drive acts as a pedestrian and bicycle path and a gateway from the eastern end of the city to the Town of Tecumseh

#### **GATEWAYS**

Several of the Official Plan's objectives recognize the importance of the City of Windsor as a Gateway between United States and Canada. Whether by road network, air or rail, the first image that the city presents is an important aspect to convey in a positive manner. The location and quality of the recreational open spaces provide by the city can plays an integral role in achieving the following Official Plan objectives:

- To uphold and advance Windsor's role as Canada's foremost international gateway.
- To ensure accessible and viable port facilities.
- To facilitate safe recreational boating from Windsor on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair.
- To support an expanded role for the Windsor Airport in the provision of facilities, infrastructure and operational capabilities.

#### **ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PATTERNS**

Section 7.2.2.6 of the Official Plan recommends a balanced transportation system that includes all traditional forms of transportation infrastructure including, vehicular, multimodal freight transport, air and rail. As well promotion of sustainable transportation infrastructure through alternate development patterns to include and emphasize; pedestrian, cycling, and other forms active transportation to improve street environments, especially at the neighborhood and community scale environments.



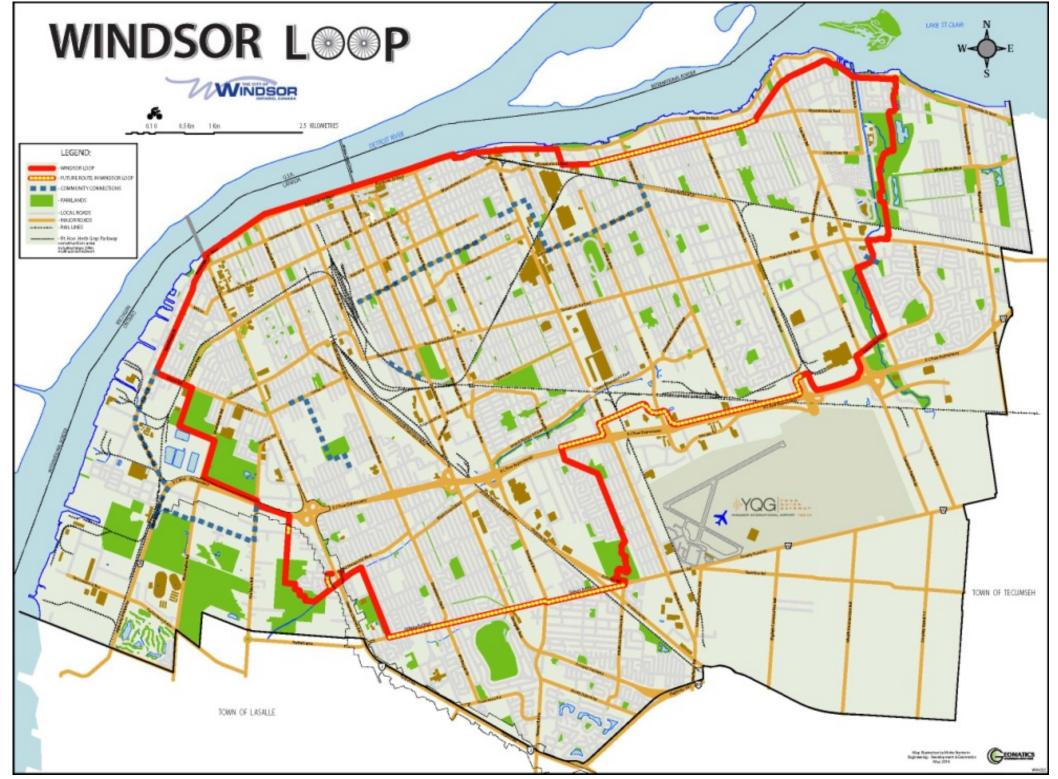


Figure 1-4: The Windsor Loop

## B.U.M.P. AND THE WINDSOR LOOP

In a response to transportation goals of the Official Plan, planning objective 7.2.1.13 reads:

"To establish and maintain a city-wide walking and cycling network".

Along with the direction for an increased emphasis on active transportation, The City of Windsor's Transportation Department retained Marshall Macklin Monaghan Limited, to prepare the Bicycle Use Master Plan (B.U.M.P.) as a 20-year guide to the city's "commitment to develop a visible and connected cycling network that is easily accessible, safe and actively used by all types of cyclist."

B.U.M.P. provides one direction along guidelines to achieving the Official Plan's Recreationways objectives, while integrating the existing transportation network infrastructure as alternate routes until more off-road multi-use trail parkland can be developed. The major goal of the B.U.M.P. is to establish 'The Windsor Loop'.

The Windsor Loop is a 42.5 km (26.4 miles) circular loop that connects the city around its perimeter, joining city neighbourhoods and providing access to the Trans Canada Trail. A majority of the Loop is in place with the exception of a few key segments.

In addition to completing the remaining 12.4 km (7.7 miles) gaps in the Windsor Loop, funding is allocated to construct 17.8 km (11.1 miles) of planned cycling facilities to connect currently low-serviced neighbourhoods.

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

## NATURAL AREAS

Windsor and Essex County are located in one of the most diverse forest regions of Ontario. Referred to as the Deciduous Forest Region of Ontario, and more specifically as the Carolinian Forest, today less than 5% of the original forest remains as a result of agricultural and urban development.

Many of the plant and animal species found here are unique to this area with respect to the rest of Ontario and Canada. The primary tree species of the Deciduous Forest are oak, basswood (linden), maple, and members of the nut family including hickory, butternut and walnut. Also found within this region, and especially within Windsor and Essex County, is the Eastern Tall Grass Prairie which has its unique variety of plants.

## CAROLINIAN FOREST AND OAK SAVANNAH

Found more extensively in the north-eastern portion of the United States, the Carolinian Forest stretches into the Essex County and further into the remainder of Southern Ontario as far as the Greater Toronto Area. As the City of Windsor lies further south the diversity of plants characteristic of this forest is far greater than what is found in the northern limits in Ontario. The Carolinian Forest is noted for plant species as hickories, tulip tree, cucumber tree, pawpaw, red mulberry, Kentucky coffee tree, sassafras, black and pin oak, eastern dogwood, hop trees, and Eastern redbud. Conifers are few and more typical of the northern limits in Ontario and mountainous areas of the Appalachians in the United States. In the Windsor and Essex County area only two conifers are found; Eastern Red Cedar and White Pine, but are quite rare due to our southern limit and heavy clay soil type. A predominance of oak trees in the Ojibway Complex along with the tallgrass prairie constitutes that the indigenous forest type is more that of an Oak Savannah. Further east is Devonwoods Conservation Area which lies under the the Essex Region Conservation Authority's control, which is more traditionally characteristic of a Carolinian Forest.

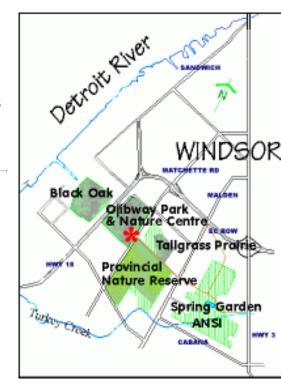


Figure 1-5: Components of the Ojibway
Nature Complex

"... much of the original natural resources of the Essex region have either been totally destroyed or have become extremely degraded as a direct or indirect result of clearing and drainage for timber, agriculture, and urban development."

#### EASTERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

The City of Windsor hosts one of the largest remaining vestiges of what was once the typical grasslands found in the Deciduous Forest Region of Ontario.

A detailed listing of the native plant species found in this area is available from the Ojibway Nature Centre's website ( www.ojibway.ca )

## **VEGETATION AND TREE COVER**

Though the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) has been maintaining records of the natural environments including tree cover in the Essex Region since their inception in 1973, they have empirical data from other sources dating back to 1958. In an initial study completed by ERCA 2002, it was identified that the natural resources of Essex County were reduced to 3% of all wetlands and 5% of all forested areas. "The remaining small, isolated remnants of natural habitats constitute the lowest percentage of any region in all of Ontario."1

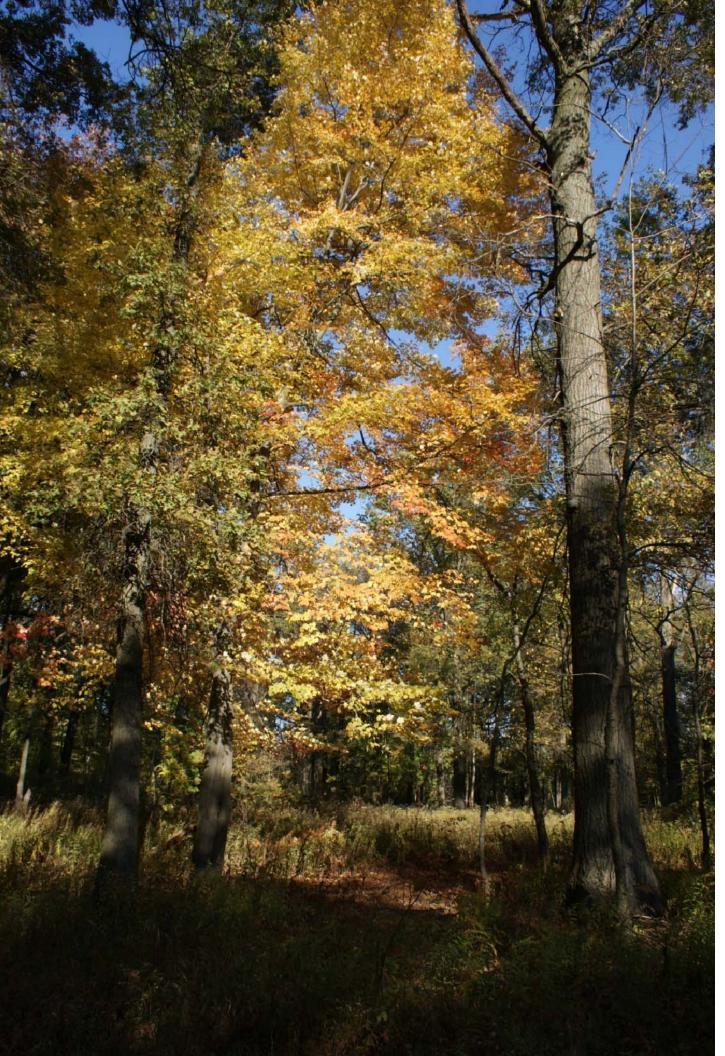
Through combined efforts of ERCA, the City of Windsor and other municipalities in Essex County, 1,600 hectares of natural lands have been acquired for preservation in addition to 3,600 hectares that have been rehabilitated through naturalization by planting over 5.85 million trees; increasing the total percentage of forest cover in the county to 8.5% in 2012. ERCA's goal is to achieve a 12% cover for the Region.

1975 3.4% forest cover (calculated for the ERCA watershed)

1981 2.6% forest cover (calculated for Essex County)

1992 3.7% forest cover (calculated for the ERCA watershed)

2002 7.5% natural areas cover (calculated for the ERCA watershed and includes 5.0% forest, 2.5% wetland, 0.05% prairie and 0.01% alvar)



## ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

ERCA has worked with the City and both the Provincial and Federal Governments to help mitigate the losses, though various programs and reforestation techniques. The recent work with the Province and development of the Herb Gray Parkway has seen several biological ecosystems restored through naturalization of the lands impacted by the development of the highway and bridge plaza.

As well ERCA has cooperated with the Ojibway Nature Centre and several other volunteer organizations in the city to help reforest the City parks, especially along the Little River Corridor and the E.C.Row Expressway.

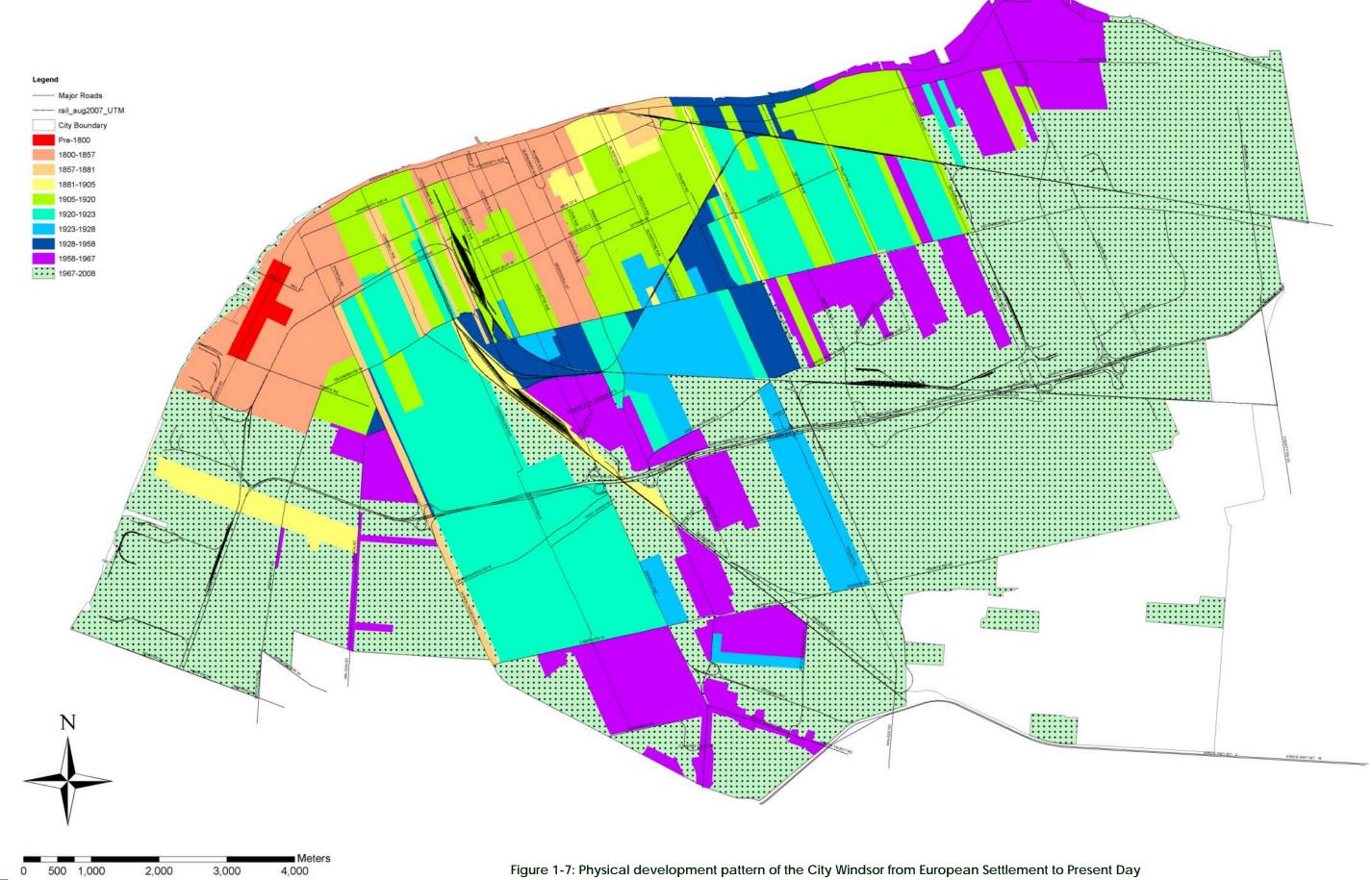
#### **CNHS**

In 1992 the City of Windsor and ERCA initiated a review process through the Official Plan that included documentation of the environmentally significant areas of the city. The *Candidate Natural Heritage Site Biological Inventory* was to assists City Administration and Council with determining land use designation and developing special policy to reduce any impact or loss of significant natural heritage features and biological communities.

Under Section 3 of the Provincial Planning Act, a Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) was established in 2005 which read; "provincial plans and municipal official plans provide a framework for comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning and supports and integrates the principles of strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and economic growth, for the long term." This was supported by the City of Windsor Official Plan under the Environmental Section supports the CNHS through the City of Windsor Greenway System.

In 2007, the document was updated to include the lands the new Sandwich South Planning District<sup>2</sup> based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Significant wetlands
- Habitat of threatened and endangered species
- Significant woodlands
- Significant wildlife habitat
- Significant valleylands
- Ecological function
- Diversity
- Significant species
- Significant Communities
- Condition



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Settled in 1749 by French colonists who later established a French parish in 1762, Windsor is the oldest European agricultural settlement in Canada west of Montreal. While other eastern Canadian cities are older they were primarily established as fur trading and military posts. Those roots are reflected in its corporate Coat of Arms, which hangs in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The motto, "The River and the Land Sustain Us" reminds us of the foundation of our city's well being and the need to care for the environment (See Appendix 'E').

In 1854 Windsor was connected by the Great Western Railway (est. 1853) to Niagara, operating as the first Canadian railway line. Establishment of the railway along the city's waterfront reinforced the city's relationship with Detroit through rail barge transfer until 1980's when the riverfront railway lines were abandoned for other modes of transportation of goods. With the abandonment of the railway lines along the Windsor waterfront, the city embraced the opportunity to provide public open space along the former railway properties and developed them in to a 73 acres (30ha) ribbon of riverfront parks. Today those parks are regarded as one of the primary outdoor open spaces

of the city.

At the time of Incorporation of the City of Windsor in 1854, the establishment of city parks was becoming a predominant pressure to reduce the negative impact of industrial towns and provide 'elegant' open green space in new North American cities.<sup>3</sup> This movement came to be called the Garden Cities Movement. Early maps of the City of Windsor from this time demonstrate that a notion of developing Windsor as a Garden City was evident. Two core area parks were proposed. One park centred along Victoria Avenue between Park Street and London Street (now University Ave. West). The second was set aside centered on Windsor Street immediately south of London Street. Neither park was ever formally established. The second space had been purchased in 1840 and was initially used as a military barracks, then later used as a refugee camp associated with the "Underground Railroad", eventually being re-designated as parkland in 1859 where it held a school, barracks once again and finally in 1904 becoming a park with its continued use as City Hall Square.

The first official public park in the City established in 1906, rests on a 5.3 acres parcel of undeveloped land just south of the core area of that time and bears the name Colonel Ernest Samuel Wigle, a two-term mayor. Wigle Park cultivated urban development southward from the river. Though having gone through some redevelopment, Wigle Park continues to offer outdoor recreation for downtown residences.

Since then the city's park system has grown to 209 parks with just under 2,400 acres (960 ha) of which 1,061 acres (430ha) are in natural landscape settings.



Figure 1-8: Proposed layout of City of Windsor downtown circa 1900 showing proposed parks and street patterns

## LEGACY OF THE WINDSOR PARKS SYSTEM

The City of Windsor has maintained and updated A History of Windsor's Parks since 1996 4. Last updated in 2009 by the Parks and Recreation staff, it documents each of the parks in the City's system including the date it was officially designated, how it was acquired and special historical relevance of the park or open space.

#### 1854-1923

Industrialization brought on by the railway and automobile manufacturing in the area, saw the first swell of population in the area. Shortly after its incorporation the Town of Windsor had a population of 4,253 people. By the time General Motors established its factory in 1920, the population had risen to 38,591 people. As in other industrialized cities the need for parks was stimulated by the health concerns being created by the urban environment. With Wigle Park's establishment in 1906 as the city's first park, the movement was slow, however not an after sight. Many early maps of the area identified dedicated parkland. In a 1923 Map of the Border Cities of Windsor, Walkerville, Ford City, Sandwich and Ojibway, proposed town planning clearly depicted parkland in the form of town squares and parks, tree-lined street car lines along London Street (now University) and Bedford Street (now Sandwich),

Wyandotte Street (east of Ouellette), Walker Road and Howard Avenue as well as Sandwich Street (now Riverside Drive) from Wellington Street to Strabane Street. Park line river courses were also identified, connecting Little River Corridor (then part of the Town of Riverside) and Turkey Creek (part of the Town of Ojibway) as a green belt along Grand Marais Road through the proposed Town of Ojibway which was to be developed with the Canadian Steel Corporation. This was all part of the "City Beautiful Movement" stemming out of the works of Frederick Law Olmstead in the United States and Frederick Todd in Canada, both landscape architects who promoted the need for public green space with open greens, tree and shrub clusters, shelters, ornamental plantings, and long winding paths for family gatherings. Town planners used these principles which bolstered the popularity of cities by stressing the economic benefits of parks to prospective developers.

During this period, the Border Cities saw 14 new parks established including the first of the riverfront parks at Heppenstal Park (now Assumption Park) in 1915 and Lanspeary Park in 1917. Later in 1921, the Willistead property was transferred by the Walker family to the Town of Walkerville, to remain as public land. In 1923, the former Windsor Barracks Square was officially named Windsor Civic Square.

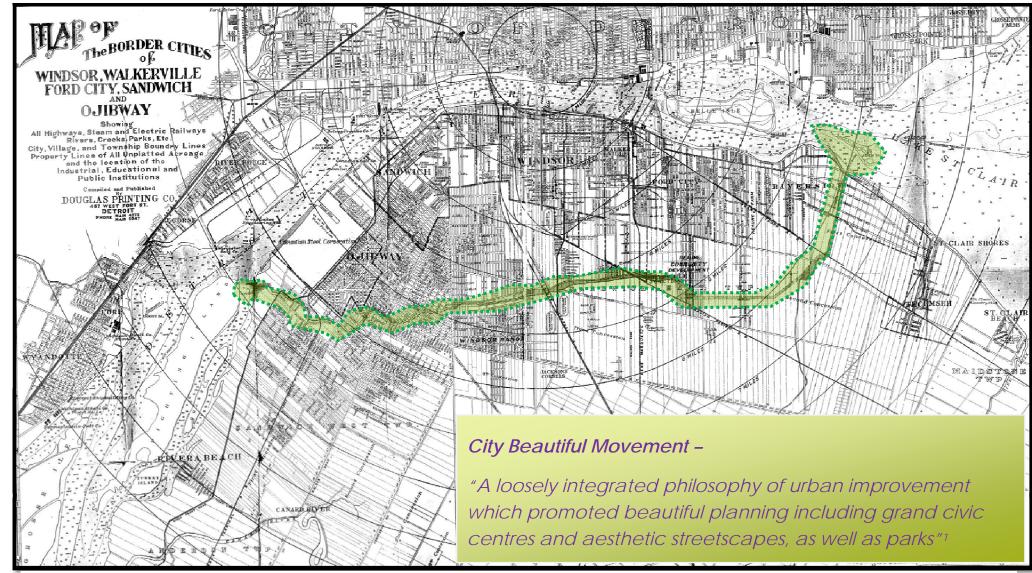


Figure 1-9: Map of the Border Cities of Windsor, Walkerville, Ford City, Sandwich and Ojibway circa 1923. Enhanced to illustrate the proposed recreation linkage of Little River and Turkey Creek along the Grand Marais drainage channel.

#### 1924-1930

By 1924 the, interstate highways in the United States were being established and priority to privately owned automobiles was becoming more evident. By the end of the decade, both the Ambassador Bridge (1929) and the Detroit Windsor Tunnel (1930) had opened, allowing free movement of automobiles between the two countries.

With Chrysler Canada establishing a plant in Windsor in 1925, so too came many workers who require additional parkland. The 1931 census identified the Windsor population as almost doubling in 10 years to 63,108 people. Both Ford City and east Windsor became cities officially with the influx of people. The City Beautiful Movement was still alive and in 1928 Hamilton had adopted its scheme which saw Canadian Steel Corporation abandon its prospects for the Town of Ojibway leaving the lands which they amassed undeveloped. Whether it was the loss of the steel plant to Hamilton or a realization that the need for more large scale parkland was necessary, seven parks were established, including many of those still regarded highly today.



Figure 1-10: World-famous golf architect Donald Ross' original plan for Roseland, on Windsor's south side drawn by his chief draftsman in Pinehurst, North Carolina, Walter Irving Johnson

#### MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park, 1925 started as a natural park with a donation from the Essex Real Estate Board, who later constructed the stone pillar archway that adorns the park today. In 1927 establishment of a drain secured the preservation of the Memorial Park forest. In 1939 the final 20 acres of land were acquired and the sports recreation component of the park was established through the Optimist club. Further private donations by the Optimist Club and a private family saw the realization of some of the parks major features.

#### ROSELAND GOLF AND CURLING CLUB

Established as a private country club in 1926, Roseland Park Country Club was designed by Donald Rose, a prominent golf course designer of the time. It established a central greenspace for the affluent community which surrounded the facility. In 1979 it was turned over to the City of Windsor.

#### MIC MAC PARK

Originally named Prince Road Park, the park was one of the first three parks founded in the Towne of Sandwich. Initially established in 1928, the park was to rival anything that the City of Windsor had to offer at the time including; baseball diamonds, public tennis courts, wooded areas, and a wading pool (in 1929). The current name was established as result of the efforts of twenty WWI veterans who began sponsoring youth sports teams. In subsequent years MicMac Park has expanded with assistance of the MicMac Club to its current premier sports complex (primarily baseball and soccer).

Plan

Late in 1928, Mayor Cecil Jackson presented the idea of purchasing the former Windsor Jockey Club to establish a prestigious public park including sunken gardens, baseball diamonds, Lawn Bowling and fairgrounds. During deliberations by Council, North America unexpectedly experienced the crash of the stock market in October 1929 which ushered in the Great Depression that characterized the next decade. Determined to see the park established, Mayor Jackson was ultimately successful and thus the park bears his name.

Through federally assisted funding, in 1930 construction was started in the sunken gardens which now bear the name of the longest reigning monarch in the British Commonwealth (Queen Elizabeth II). The original Norman-style entrance gates were erected at the corner of Ouellette Avenue and Tecumseh Road. At this time the South African War Memorial honouring those who fought in the Boer War was moved to the park from its original location at the downtown post office. This eventually became the impetus for many of the other monuments and commemorative sculptures that currently exist in the park today including the iconic Copernican Monument donated in 1954 by the Polish-Canadian congress.

Shortly after the Second World War, a band shell was constructed on the west side of the park in combination with the former Jockey Club Grandstand. A devastating fire in 1957 destroyed both features. Though reconstructed in 1959 on the other side of the park, only the grandstand is in use through a lease with the Windsor Essex County Board of Education. Many requests have been made to revitalize the bandstand.

Many other improvements have been made to the park over the years primarily through sponsorships, including the Lancaster Bomber and Rose Garden which since been replaced with two Spitfire airplanes and a more manageable annual bedding plant display, Soroptimists Garden, Pergola (replaced in 2013), basketball court, Rugby and Soccer fields, a cricket pitch and tennis courts.

## 1930-1950

Aside from the Great Depression this period was dominated by Dust Bowls in the Prairie Provinces and World War II. As a result very little park development took place. As the depression waned, factories offered work, which saw more people move to the bigger industrialized centres such as Windsor and Detroit. In 1935, the Border Cities amalgamated into the City of Windsor, which saw Ford Street Park (now Coventry Gardens and Reaume Park), Alexander Park (aka. East Windsor Bathing Beach) and Willistead Park, added to the cities inventory. With efforts to establish Jackson Park as the city's premier park very few parks were developed, however eight neighborhood parks were established in the 1940's.

Figure 1-11: Aerial photo of Jackson Park (c. 1945)



## 1950-1970

By 1951 with Amalgamation and when those serving in the war had returned and started families, the City of Windsor's population had escalated to over 120,000. During the next twenty years the City of Windsor boomed in development and population, due to the relationship with the Detroit automobile industry. By 1971, the city of Windsor's population had reached 209,000. Since then the population has stayed relatively the same. In all 57 Parks were developed in association with new neighbourhoods, community centres, and school grounds.

#### OJIBWAY PARK AND OJIBWAY PRAIRIE PROVINCIAL PARK COMPLEX

In 1966, the Towns of Ojibway and Riverside were annexed and became part of City of Windsor, as well as parts of the Townships of Sandwich East, Sandwich South, and Sandwich West. In that action, the undeveloped lands of the Canadian Steel Corporation fell in to the cities inventory. As no development had ever occurred, the lands remained in a pristine natural condition. In 1973, with the efforts of the Province and the Essex Region Conservation Authority, Ojibway Park and the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve were established formally as natural parks of significant natural heritage to the region.



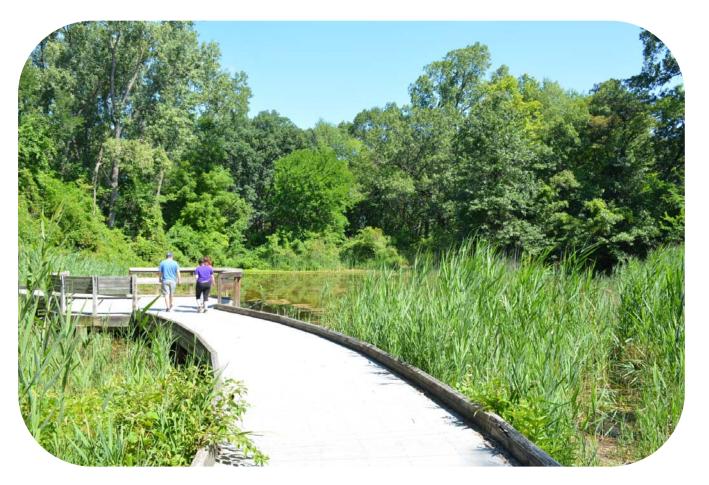


Figure 1-12: Ojibway Parks Boardwalk

## DIEPPE AND RIVERFRONT PARKS

It is also during this time period that the initial efforts to acquire all lands north of Riverside Drive as future parkland began. As a result, by 1970 the City had acquired and established all the parks along the Detroit River from the Ambassador Bridge to the foot of Ouellette Avenue in the downtown with exception to the Caron Street docks and a hotel at the foot of Janette Avenue. Though primarily passive in nature, they offered the residents of the city an opportunity to access the waterfront for a variety of recreational purposes, including strolling, ship watching and fishing. Dieppe Gardens (est. 1959) showcased annual display gardens and historically significant monument.

Figure 1-13: Tall ship docked at Dieppe Park – photo by Cathy Masterson

## 1970-1990

Though the population fell by nearly 8.5% to just over 191,000, this period found the greatest number of new parks being established in the City of Windsor. In all 72 additional parks, trails and open spaces were established; partly due to Ontario legislation that required parkland dedication in association with all development especially where lower income family housing was being developed. During this period, the provincial government offered developers incentives through financial assistance to provide parkland associated with any lower income or senior-oriented housing. In 1990, under Section 51.1 (Parkland) of the Ontario Planning Act, it was legislated that all development would convey parkland to municipalities for public recreational purposes.<sup>5</sup> As well as these incentive supported opportunities, the City of Windsor experienced significant commercial and light industrial development which afforded the city with an ability to improve lands for parks and recreational purposes, especially in new neighbourhoods in the eastern half of the city.

At this time in the western half of the City, there were very few housing starts which saw less need for additional parkland, however several improvements were made to the existing infrastructure that provide legacy, including:

- Erection of Father Ronald Cullen (1972) and Bernie Soulierre (1987) Baseball Stadiums in MicMac Park
- Designation of Natural heritage significance of Ojibway Nature Complex (1973)
- Mackenzie Hall Park Improvements (1982)
- •Black Oak Heritage Park added to the Ojibway Nature Complex (1989)

## REAUME PARK AND COVENTRY GARDENS

Though much of the land was acquired in 1935 with the Amalgamation of the Border Cities, it wasn't until 1975 that the City purchased a parcel of land from the Glengarda Ursuline Convent and underwater lots from the Windsor Harbour Commission that saw much improvement in the park. In a desire to encourage the expansion of riverfront parkland into the residential areas along the Detroit River the park was developed through community participation including donations of plant material from local residents and businesses. The key attraction of the park is the Charlie Brooks Memorial Peace Fountain which was partially financed through public subscription, matching Provincial Lottery funds, labour, industrial and business donations, as well as a contribution from the Town of Granby, Quebec, a twin city to Windsor.

Today the park still features the floating fountain, trees and horticultural displays as well a newly erected monument commemorating the War in Afghanistan. Like many of the parks along the river and those that have a horticultural component, the residents of the city identify this as one of their favourite parks.

The early success of the park along with the impetus from the western end riverfront parks, spawned interest in acquisition of riverfront parkland along Riverside Drive East. During the 1970's and 1980's many of the eastern waterfront parks as well as the Lakeview Marina and Sandpoint "the Beach" Park were acquired and developed as access points to the water for the community.

Figure 1-14: Coventry Garden Terraces in Reaume Park



#### FOREST GLADE PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

With the production of the mini-van at the Chysler plant in the eastern end of the City, one of the last suburban neighbourhoods in the City of Windsor is that of Forest Glade. Forest Glade Optimist Park, built in 1974, is a 30-acre park that serves this community and was built as a centre to attract residents. It is still a highly desired community park in the city. The park offers a variety of year-round recreation options for people of all ages including an arena, community centre and library, baseball diamonds and a skateboard park.

#### GANATCHIO TRAIL - CLAIRVIEW BIKEWAY

Associated with the acquisition of parkland along the waterfront, the city between 1979 and 1983, acquired the 8 kilometre Ganatchio Trail and Clairview Bikeway, which constitutes the first multi-use trail in the city. Funded primarily by the City of Windsor and Windsor St. Clair Rotary Club, with additional funding in 2004 by Saturn of Windsor, as well subsequent funding from other private and public foundations, the park bears the local First Nations word for Lake St. Clair. The trail parallels Riverside Drive in the eastern end of the City from the Town of Tecumseh to just west of Kiwanis Park near St Rose Beach. In 1995 the trail was widened through National Infrastructure funding to better serve a wider group of users including joggers, roller-bladers, and cyclists.

## LITTLE RIVER CORRIDOR

In 1966 with the annexation of the Town of Riverside, Little River Corridor Park became part of the city's park inventory. This park had been identified in the 1923 Border Cities Map as an integral part of a green belt to surround the City of Windsor. Establishment of the Ganatchio Trails brought public attention to the unsightliness of this relatively neglected water channel. Initial efforts in the 1980's and 1990's were to clean up the river as a North American wide social awareness of the value of these parkland parcels was made prominent. Organizations, such as Habitat 2000 and the Environmental Youth Corp, who saw the need to address environmental sustainability as a key to future generations in the next millennium, eagerly participated in clean-ups. Currently the park is testament to the efforts of community participation with city staff and private funding organizations, with 200 acres of vegetative naturalized parkland, trails and amenities for public use.

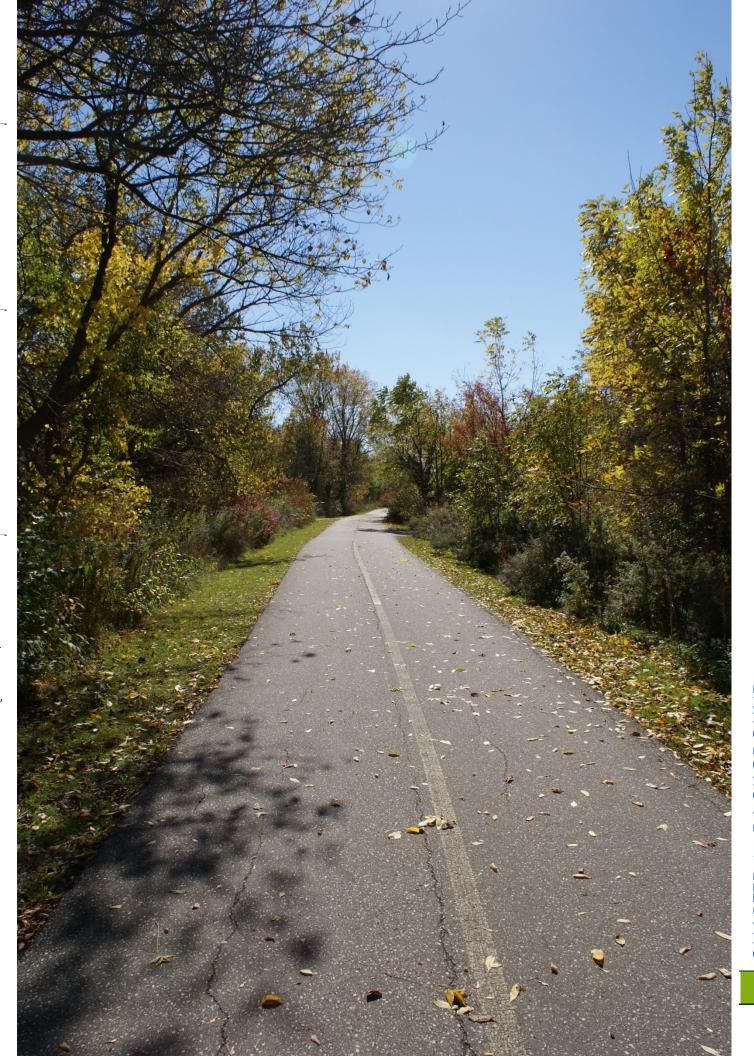


Figure 1-15: Little River Corridor Trail.

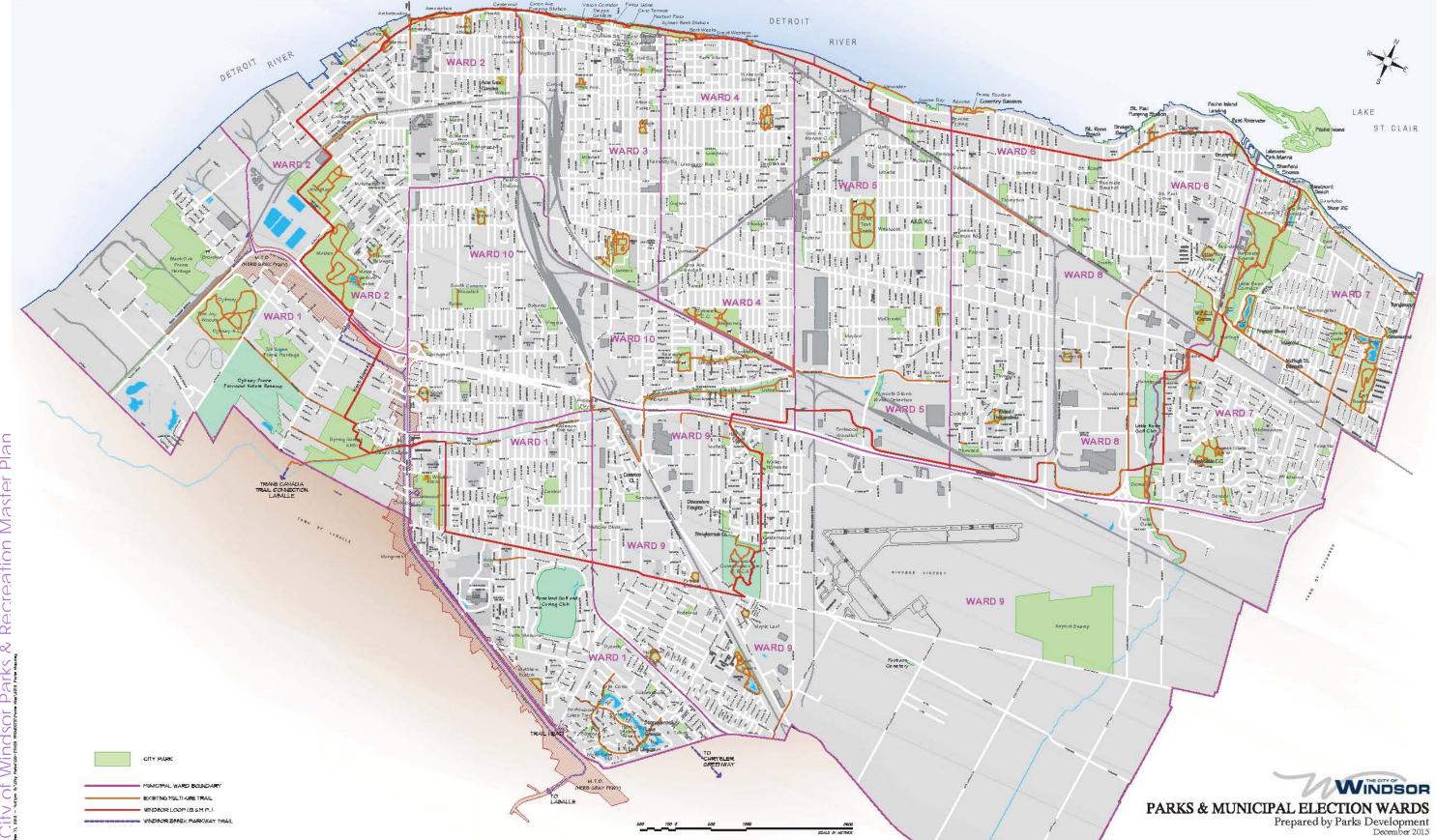


Figure 1-16: Current Parks Greenway System

#### 1990-PRESENT

Following the Culture and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Windsor had a framework by which to expand the parks and recreation system. Major accomplishments included the development of 54 new parks, establishment of playgrounds in all neighbourhood parks, formalization of the bicycle and multi-use trail system through B.U.M.P., a major recreation complex at WFCU Centre, and Aquatic Centre in the downtown, establishment and increase to the Natural Heritage Sites, parkland development along the downtown waterfront, and an ongoing effort to work with the community and other agencies to ensure that the park system grows appropriately. Planning guidelines with respect to park land development were also added to the Official Plan in order to address areas of deficiencies, acquire land through planning and development applications, and determine the type and design of parks as they were implemented.

## FORD TEST TRACK

Though leased since 1979 from the Ford Motor Company, the property was acquired by the City in a land exchange with the Ford Motor Corporation in 1994. The site has evolved into the city's premier soccer complex. A site Master Plan has been developed for Ford Test Track including future field expansion, more community related passive park amenities at the south end of the property, as well as formal repurposing of the automobile test track.

## NATURALIZATION - MALDEN RECREATION PARK & EAST RIVERSIDE (BLUE HERON LAKE) PARK

Formerly the city's west end landfill facility, Malden Park has evolved into a regional recreation facility with winding scenic trails through wooded areas and over several hills, and along storm water management ponds. Through a National Infrastructure Program in 1994, the property was redeveloped as a naturalized area, complementing the Ojibway complex which lies south of the site. A key feature of the property are the large landfill hills which have been formally transformed into toboggan facilities and hiking and cross-country skiing trails, making the park one of the city's primary winter recreational facilities.

Similarly, in 1996 the eastern landfill site was transformed by Council Resolution to include a naturalization of the site with trails, toboggan facilities, and a large storm water management pond, know as Blue Heron Lake.



Figure 1-17: Aerial Photo of Ford Test Track Park showing soccer fields



Figure 1-18: Malden Park Visitor Centre

## CENTRAL RIVERFRONT LANDS (C.R.I.P.)

In 1981, C.N. Railway announced that it would be terminating its operations along the downtown riverfront land in Windsor, making a 13.35 hectare parcel of waterfront property available for the City of Windsor for parkland development. In 1990 after much public consultation, several concept plans, and negotiation with the Federal Government and C.N. Railway, the lands were transferred to the City through a land exchange. Many recommendations in the 1989 Culture & Recreation Master Plan were focused on the acquisition of the C.N. and C.P. Riverfront Lands.

The following parks were developed along these lands shortly after the city's acquisition to provide residents with much needed green space in the downtown core.

- 1994 Bert weeks Memorial Gardens
- 1995 CNR Lands
- 1995 Caron Street Parkette
- 1995 Festival Plaza
- 1997 Windsor Sculpture Park

In September of 2000, the City adopted the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP) which outlined a 25 year plan. As part of the overall concept for the C.N. Riverfront Lands development and success, ideas of a physical link to connect the riverfront with the Civic Campus were proposed



Figure 1-19: Bert Weeks Memorial Fountain in the Central Riverfront Lands



Figure 1-20: Aerial view of Peche Island Nature Preserve

## PECHE ISLAND

Peche Island is a culturally and naturally significant island at the source of the Detroit River where it meets Lake St Clair. It was once owned and partially developed by the Hiram Walker family before becoming a Provincial Park in 1974. Home to a rich biodiversity of fauna and flora, the City of Windsor acquired this Natural Heritage site in 1999 when the Province proposed to divest its interests in it. Though no parkland development has occurred on the property, it is operated as a natural refuge for indigenous species.

#### SPRING GARDEN ANSI

In conjunction with the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources, the City of Windsor in 2000, rezoned this area immediately east of the Ojibway Nature Complex. Though much of the land is privately owned, the city has been acquiring properties in order to preserve the rich natural environment, and diverse species of plants and animals that exist in this area; some that are exclusive and unique to this area in Ontario, and the rest of Canada. Presently the city owns 137 of the 289 acres of land. The city's acquisition of these properties has influenced, and has been positively impacted by the development of the Herb Gray Parkway project, which will expand the natural heritage value of the area with naturalized landscaped bridges over the highway.

## CITY OF WINDSOR CULTURE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (1989)

In 1989, Council adopted the City of Windsor Culture and Recreation Master Plan prepared by Laventhol & Horwath. The document proposed 138 recommendations including a strong focus on parkland improvements to the Riverfront and Downtown, and programming for seniors and persons with disabilities. The study made 138 recommendations, of which 120 had an impact on Parks and Recreation; the other 18 were culturally based.

- > 60 Recommendations have been completed in their entirety to date.
- > 39 Recommendations adopted as guidelines or have on-going implications with respect to development and operation practices.
- > 17 Recommendations require further input as they have impact with other agencies external to the City.
- > 4 Recommendations no longer have relevance to City supplied parks and recreation.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Including the previously mentioned parks that were completed from 1990 to 2015 as a result of the master plan, several major accomplishments were made with respect to parks and recreational facilities from 1989 to 2015.

- ✓ 54 new parks were developed on 800 acres of acquired parkland (primarily neighborhood) in all planning districts.
- ✓ All neighborhood parks have been equipped with a children's playground.
- ✓ 16 Accessible playgrounds were installed in community and regional parks.
- ✓ The 10 recommendations for Criteria Prioritization have become standard practice in park development throughout the city.
- ✓ 3 NEW Recreation complex completed including: Lanspeary Outdoor Rink, the WFCU Centre and South Windsor Recreation Complex.
- ✓ NEW Aquatic Facility constructed downtown.
- ✓ Sports fields and Stadiums improved for extended use including: Mic Mac Baseball Complex, Ford Test Track, Riverside Baseball.
- ✓ Indoor and Outdoor track facilities in cooperation with the University of Windsor.
- ✓ Parkside Premier Tennis Facilities established at Jackson Park and lighted facilities at Central and Forest Glade Parks.
- ✓ Establishment of a Seniors Advisory Council (Age-Friendly Windsor).
- ✓ Establishment of a Youth Advisory Council.
- ✓ Establishment of a Bicycle Technical Committee and implementation of the B.U.M.P.
- ✓ Increased public awareness of natural heritage sites through nature trails and completion of the Ojibway Nature Centre in 2010.
- ✓ Added 5 NEW Picnic shelters in most active Community and Regional Parks.
- ✓ Acquisition of C.N.R. Lands.
- ✓ Acquisition of Little River Valley Lands.
- ✓ Riverfront Development on CNR Lands including implementation of the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan as guideline for development.
- ✓ Establishment of Willistead Manor and Park, as well as Mackenzie Hall as Cultural Heritage Sites.
- ✓ Consolidation of major sports facilities into Regional Parks.
- ✓ Defined Public Open Space through the City of Windsor Official Plan including: Hierarchy of parks, open space standards for development and definition for deficiencies.
- ✓ Provided recommendations for parkland deficiencies.
- ✓ Establishment of a Parkland Reserve Account through parkland development contributions as outlined in the Official Plan.

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE THE 1989 PLAN

Though the 1989 Culture and Recreation Master Plan has had many successful accomplishments as per the recommendations, several events have occurred that preclude the process from a simple update; necessitating a revision that focuses on Parks and Outdoor Recreation only.

## MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

- As part of a reorganization of Essex County, approximately 23 square kilometres (8.9 sq mi) of the Town of Tecumseh, known as Sandwich South, was transferred to the City of Windsor in 2003. Currently, it is sparsely populated as farmland, and when acquired it increased the city's population to 216,000; however, the prospective development of this area holds a great potential for parkland and the need for recreational services.
- In 2004, the Federal Government along with the Province of Ontario, announced the proposal to build a new international crossing between Windsor and Detroit; expanding Highway 401 into the west end of the city near the significantly sensitive lands of Spring Garden ANSI and the Ojibway Nature Complex. Through the negotiations of the Mayor and Council with other levels of government, the proposal included an expansion of the public open green space in the city, through a series of elevated landscape bridges and multi-use trails. Though these facilities will remain under Provincial and Federal jurisdiction, these connections will impact the recreational infrastructure of the City Parks and Open Spaces.

## **ECONOMIC CHANGES**

• Though the population of the City of Windsor expanded slightly due to the acquisition of Sandwich South Lands, several negative factors occurred that resulted in an economic downturn in 2006, as well as a reduction in population recorded in the 2011 census. : Though other parts of the country saw increased production as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (1994), Windsor saw much of the automotive industry and associated manufacturing sector leave the area, causing many people to look for work elsewhere in the country. Already weakened by the displacement caused by NAFTA, the global Automotive Industry Crisis of 2008-2010 saw more economic downturns in the local automotive industry. As result, in 2010 General Motors officially closed all of its operations in Windsor. This left Windsor's Chamber of Commerce, and the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation looking at different employment strategies for the area to make the city competitive in the global market.

#### **END NOTES**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ERCA, 2002; Essex Region Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guidelines and Priorities, pg 1x

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lands annexed from the Town of Tecumseh in 2003

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> P. Goode; M. Lancaster: *The Oxford Companion to Gardens* New York: Oxford University Press, 1986, pg 209

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> originally named "The First Ninety Years: The Growth of Windsor's Parks", 1996

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, Part 51.1 Parkland





# CHAPTER 2 – PARKLAND SUPPLY



The use and access of open space by the public is influenced by the supply, distribution and quality of open space. As of 2015 the City of Windsor's open space system consists of 209 parks and natural areas, 2 golf courses, 1 cemetery, 2 Provincial Nature Reserves, Devonwoods Conservation Area which is owned and operated by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, as well as one large parcel on the airport lands of natural heritage significance that has yet to be classified, and the newly established parkland associated with the Rt. Honourable Herb Grey Parkway. All totaled the City has an area of

1,447.73 ha (3,577.42 acres) of publicly accessible land. (See Appendix 'F').

While addressing the relationship between public health and available green space in urban environments, The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that a minimum of nine square metres of green space per person (0.9 ha/1000 persons), with an optimal amount between 10 and 15 metres square per person (1.5 ha/1000persons) is the minimum standard for a healthy city. An assessment of the city's parkland and outdoor open space is important to determine if there is sufficient parkland to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the community.



Figure 2-1: Distribution of Current Parkland Supply

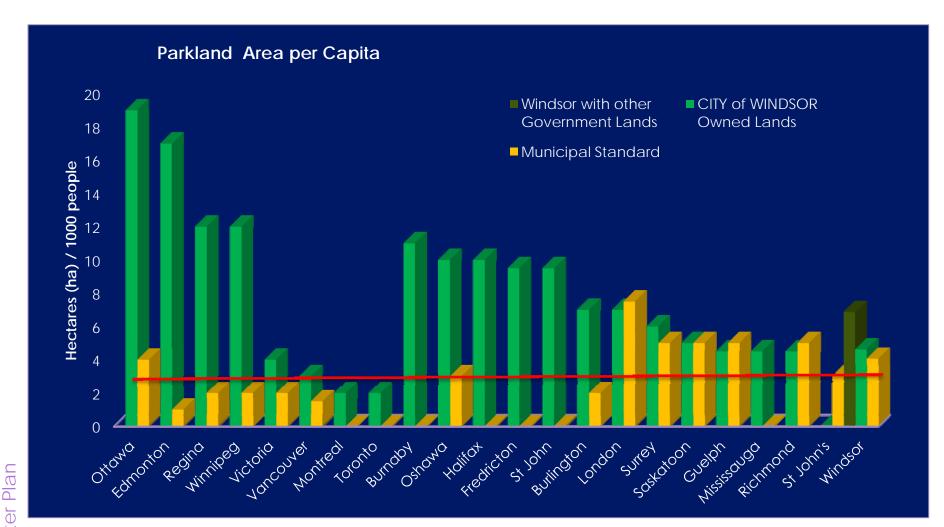
## PARKS & OPEN SPACE SUPPLY

The City of Windsor's population has remained relatively stable near the 200,000 mark since the mid-1960s. This figure is important in that the City's Official Plan recommends parkland supply based on population (See Appendix 'A'). The current standard in the Official Plan is 4.05 ha/1000 persons; well above the WHO standard (see Figure 2). At the time of the original Culture and Recreation Master Plan (1989) there was a deficiency in parkland supply throughout the city. The most recent census data identifies that the City of Windsor has met and exceeded the Official Plan requirements.

Evergreen Canada<sup>ii</sup> reviewed the municipal standards and actual area of parkland available for residents in several urban centres but did not include Windsor. demonstrates How Windsor fairs in comparison to those Canadian cities identified in that study is demonstrated in Figure 2-2.

| YEAR                              | POPULATION | PARKLAND | TOTAL<br>PARKS | AREA/<br>1000 Pop. |
|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1989                              | 200,000    | 680.08   | 160            | 3.40 ha            |
| 1997                              | 199,044    | 773.29   | 169            | 3.89 ha            |
| 2010                              | 216,000    | 933.82   | 206            | 4.32 ha            |
| 2015                              |            | 976.22   | 209            | 4.62 ha            |
| with other<br>Government<br>Lands | 210,891    | 1446.71  | 217            | 6.86 ha            |

Table2-1: Parkland Supply from 1989 to 2015



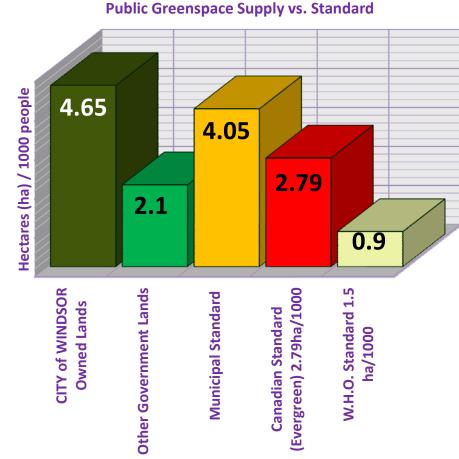


Figure 2-2: Green Space Provision and Standards in Canadian Urban Municipalities

Figure 2-3: Detail of Public Greenspace in the City of Windsor as compared to the Canadian and World Health Organization Standards

City-wide, Windsor appears to have an ample supply of parkland, placing it between Victoria B.C. (the capital of British Columbia); and Richmond, B.C., well known for their parkland supply. However, many of the other cities evaluated include non-city owned public parkland (i.e. Provincial and Federal). By adding the non-city owned parkland (shown in olive green) the City of Windsor's parkland supply more closely matches that of London and Burlington, Ontario as well as Surrey B.C., whose population density more closely matches that of Windsor.

Parkland supply ratio directed by the Official Plan, prescribes Neighbourhood Parks to be distributed at a ratio of not less than 0.8 hectares per 1000 Windsor residents, while Community and Regional parks at 3.25 hectares per 1000 Windsor residents.

When combined, the two park classifications provide for a city-wide open space ratio of 4.05ha per 1000 population. Presently, Windsor exceeds this ratio across the City (5.29ha) however, at the ward and Planning District level it was determined that publicly accessible parkland is not evenly distributed throughout the city. (see Figures 4 and 5)

# **DISTRIBUTION**

In general the distribution of open space in the City of Windsor is good, and efforts should be made to expand or acquire additional open space for neighbourhood and community parks in the core of the city, or other areas where increased density is contemplated. With the exception of the City Centre in Ward 3, the predominant housing type in the city is single family detached homes. As the latest census demonstrates, Windsor population is becoming increasingly aged with 27% over the age of 55yrs. Some areas of the City are well over 1/3 in this age demographic.

At the Ward level, the older areas of the City exhibit the greatest deficiency. The greatest amount of parkland is found in Wards 1 and 9, where significant tracts of natural forest and parkland have been preserved in efforts by the City, ERCA and the Province. (see Appendix 'G' for a complete breakdown of parkland by Ward)

Though Ward level deficiencies are obvious, they represent more electoral boundaries than physical communities. When looking at parkland supply at the Planning Districts level, it is evident that there are concentrated areas of deficiencies in each of the deficient Wards. (See Figures 2.4 & 2.5). Districts of greatest concern are City Centre (in Ward 3), Walkerville (in Ward 4), and Fontainebleu (straddling Wards 5 & 8). There is very little opportunity to expand parkland physically in these districts due the current infrastructure of the urban environment. Opportunities which may arise in these areas should be sought; while any development that may compound areas with a current parkland deficit needs to be diverted.

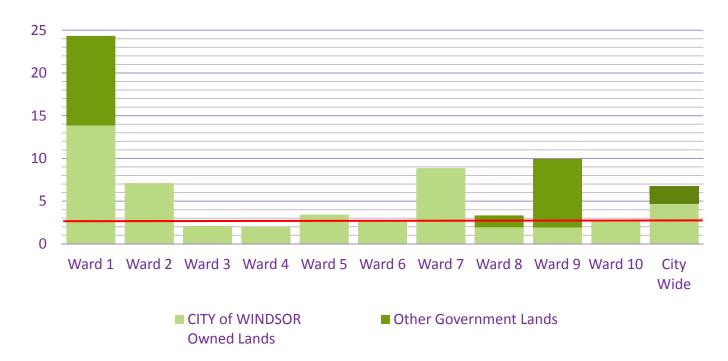


Figure 2-4: Parkland Supply Ratio by Wards

The other five districts also have public parkland and open space not owned by the City. These districts are; University (Ward 2 and partly Ward 3), South Cameron (Ward 10), South Windsor, Roseland (both straddling Wards 1 & 9), and Devonshire (completely in Ward 9),. The risk is that those parcels of parkland can be removed from public access or eliminated entirely, which would leave those districts in a deficient state. (see Appendix 'H' for a complete breakdown of parkland by Planning District)

## Parkland Hectares per 1000 people - By District

Windsor with Provincial & Federal Lands
Actual Ha/1000
Municipal Standard 4.05 ha/1000
Canadian Standard (Evergreen) 2.79ha/1000
W.H.O. Standard 1.5 ha/1000

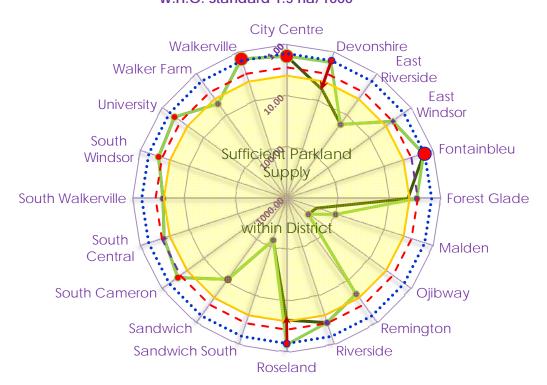


Figure 2-5: Parkland Supply by Planning District

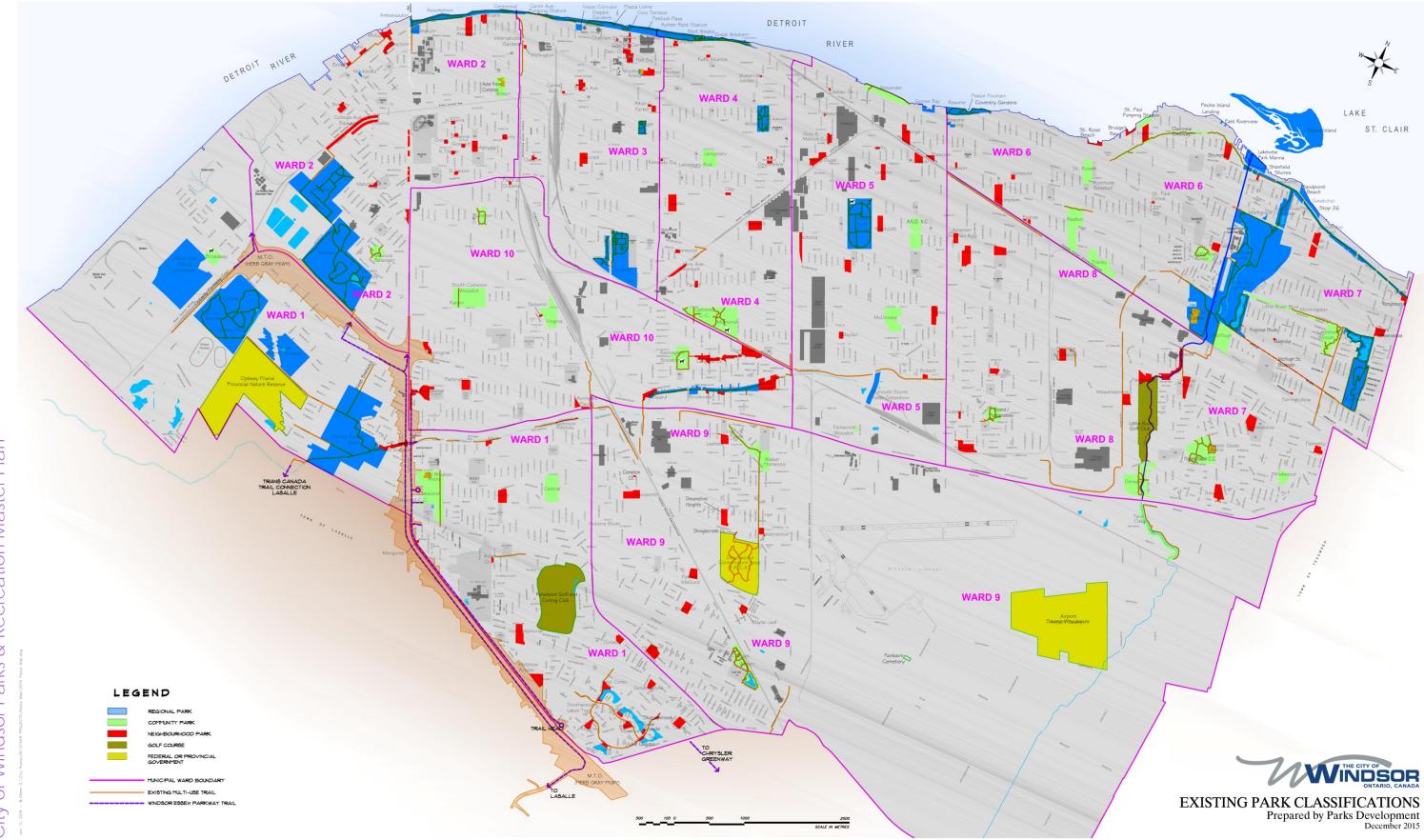


Figure 2-6: Existing Parks Classification

# **CURRENT PARKS CLASSIFICATION**

Parkland classification is defined by the City of Windsor's Official Plan; Section 6.7: Open Space. Open space in the parks system is defined in two categories:

- Public Open Space that which is owned by the Municipality, the federal or provincial governments or the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and
- <u>Private Open Space</u> that which is owned by persons other than the Municipality, federal governments or the Essex Region Conservation Authority. Access to private open space is at the discretion of the owner.

The <u>Official Plan</u> classifies public open space in two categories; Community / Regional Parks and Neighbourhood Parks.

Open space is well distributed across the city with most residents within 0.8 km of a park. (see Figure 2-10). The plan identifies minor gaps in residential areas and the balance of the gaps are located in commercial or industrial/manufacturing lands. We have a **deficit** of **22.22ha** in neighbourhood parkland and a **surplus** of **144.38ha** in community/regional parkland. The combined total of neighbourhood and community/regional parkland provides for an overall surplus in the open space system of **976.22ha**, not including other government lands.

The neighbourhood and community/regional park deficiencies identified in Tables 2 and 3 are a result of parks being undersized for the population that they serve. Park size is especially an issue in Wards 2, 3 and 4 as these parks are located in older, higher density neighbourhoods that did not have the benefit of the existing parkland dedication standards when development occurred. The undersized parks make the provision of space for activities such as, sports fields, trails and unstructured open space difficult to accommodate. Gaps and deficiencies of neighbourhood and community/ regional park land can be addressed through the consolidation or acquisitions of open space lands as opportunities arise.

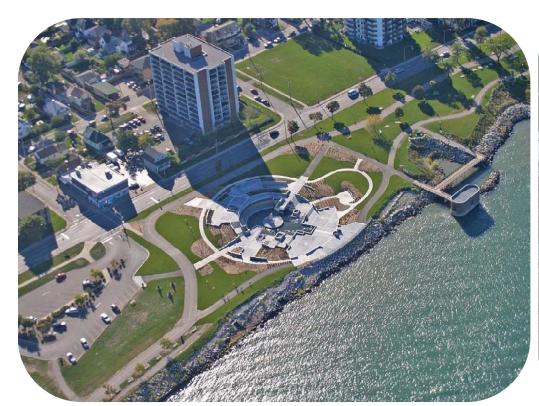


Figure 2-7: Bert Weeks Memorial Fountain



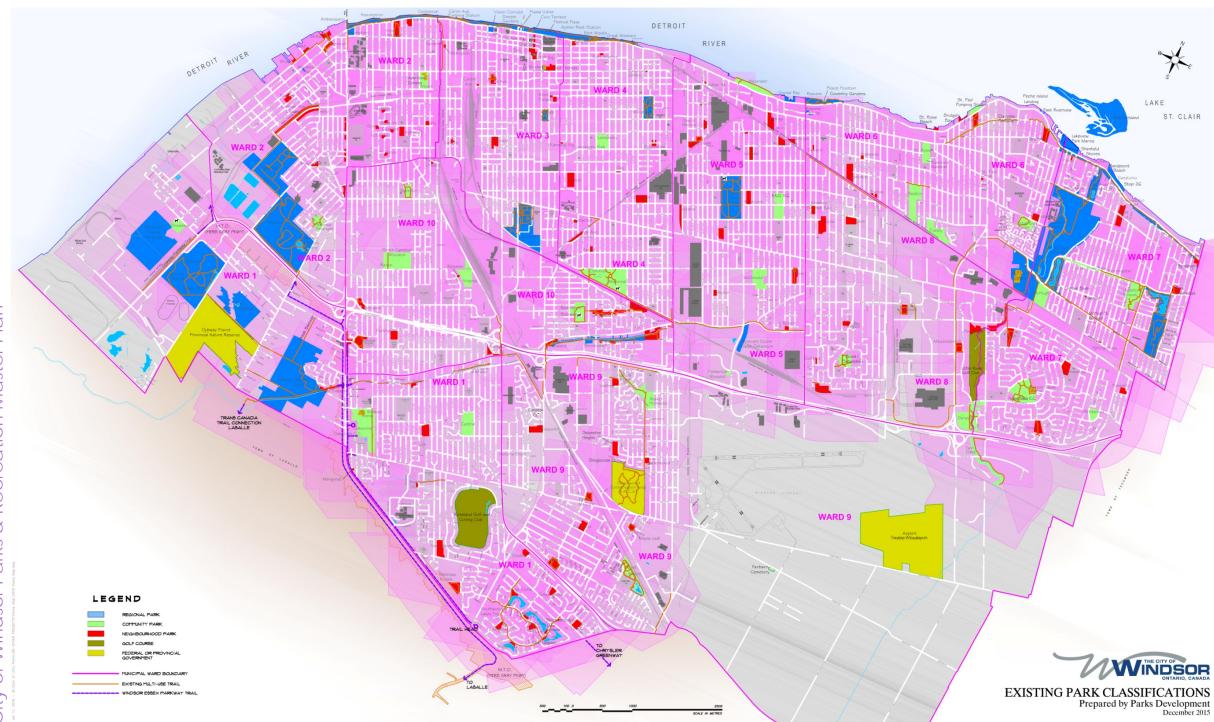
Figure 2-9: Windsor Sculpture



Figure 2-8: Horticultural Display along E.C. Row Expressway

## WALKING DISTANCE

Based on the long held standard of 0.8km (1/2 mile) distance for people to walk comfortably to parks, the distribution of parks within the City of Windsor appears to be adequate and adopted into the City's Official Plan. However recent studies have taken into consideration the aging population of many North American cities, as well as the growing suburban development. These studies have found that those demographics are only willing to walk half of that original distance in lower density areas. One study also indicates that neighbourhood parks serve approximately 1,500 people adequately. that study also concludes that both quarter-mile and half-mile distance goals are valid but within different



demographics. Within denser urban population areas, it is impractical to provide a single park for every 1,500 persons. Urban dwellers tend to be more transit oriented and less reliant on vehicles, opting to walk greater distances. It is here where the half-mile (0.8 km) distance rule more appropriately applies.

In the future, it may be necessary to determine whether current walking distances are adequate for the demographics that may present themselves. Until then the 0.8km walking distance is acceptable.

Figure 2-10: Catchment area of Windsor parks at a 0.8km (1/2 mile) walking distance

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS**

As per the Official Plan, Neighbourhood Parks are designed for the recreation and leisure activities of residents within a defined service radius of Windsor. These are local parks that serve their local residences within a comfortable walking distance, and usually focus on passive recreation activities with open spaces of grass, trees for shade, and may include pathways, small playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, and possibly a single sports field (either baseball or soccer) which is used primarily for casual use and not generally rented out for organized sports games or tournaments.

#### **ANALYSIS**

There are 142 neighbourhood parks throughout the City of Windsor which constitute the largest class of parks in the parks system, however given the average size of such parks is between 0.6 to 1.2 hectares (1.48 to 2.97 acres) they actually are the smallest class by area. The city currently has an overall deficit of neighbourhood parks in 7 of the 10 Wards (see Table 2) by Ward.

| NEIGHBORHOOD<br>PARKS | No of<br>Parks | Population<br>2011 | Parkland Required<br>in Hectares<br>(0.8 ha/1000 people) | Total<br>Provided<br>In Hectares | Deficit (-)<br>(in<br>Hectares) | Surplus (+)<br>(in<br>Hectares) |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| WARD 1                | 19             | 22,071             | 17.65                                                    | 16.48                            | -1.17                           |                                 |
| WARD 2                | 21             | 20,066             | 16.05                                                    | 19.11                            |                                 | 3.06                            |
| WARD 3                | 15             | 21,419             | 17.14                                                    | 11.48                            | -5.66                           |                                 |
| WARD 4                | 11             | 24,126             | 19.30                                                    | 8.43                             | -10.87                          |                                 |
| WARD 5                | 17             | 18,407             | 14.73                                                    | 17.20                            |                                 | 2.47                            |
| WARD 6                | 13             | 23,305             | 18.64                                                    | 12.26                            | -6.38                           |                                 |
| WARD 7                | 13             | 23,058             | 18.45                                                    | 13.24                            | -5.21                           |                                 |
| WARD 8                | 11             | 18,780             | 15.02                                                    | 19.51                            |                                 | 4.49                            |
| WARD 9                | 10             | 19,945             | 15.96                                                    | 14.48                            | -1.48                           |                                 |
| WARD 10               | 11             | 19,698             | 15.76                                                    | 14.29                            | -1.47                           |                                 |
| TOTALS                | 141            | 210,875            | 168.70                                                   | 146.48                           | -22.22                          | Deficit                         |

Table 2-2: Neighbourhood Parks Supply

## STRFNGTHS

- Currently serve the entire city by catchment area (see Figure 2-10)
- Generally maintained to a satisfactory level.

## **WEAKNESSES**

- Several parks are too small to provide more than green space.
- Many do not have trees or means of shade.
- Deficit of parks in 7 of 10 Wards.
- Current operations resources have found reduction in level of service such as grass cutting, or programmed activity.
- Those planned in the 1970's focused on quantity and not quality of the space resulting in many underutilized parks.
- Many are not accessible, or lack activity for seniors.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Communities are focusing on green space to provide leisure activity.
- Neighbourhood organization groups to champion them and become involved.
- Community Garden Collective.
- Naturalization due to a better understanding of the benefits and needs.
- Low Impact Design.
- Parks can provide a focus for the neighbourhood through programming and design.

## **PRESSURES**

- Vandalism
- Poor image created by the media focusing on negative and not the positive.
- West Nile Virus.
- AODA Legislation requires all municipal parks to be accessible.
- Liability due to perceived lack maintenance or neglect.
- "Not In My Back Yard" vs. "Yes In My Back Yard" attitudes towards change.
- Climate change.

# COMMUNITY / REGIONAL PARKS

As per the Official Plan, <u>Community and Regional Parks</u> are designed for the recreation and leisure activities of all Windsor residents and/or a broader regional population.

Community Parks are larger scale parks ranging from 2 to 6 hectares (4.94 to 14.83 acres) serving a greater catchment area and still offer the base recreational services of a Neighbourhood Park, but with a broader range of amenities including such items as splash pads, picnic shelters, accessible playgrounds, and organized sports fields to mention a few. Such parks may also include a small arena, pool, a community centre or library as an anchor facility. There are instances in the city where community parks can be associated more closely with a school to provide a joint cooperative use.

Regional Parks generally attract users from all across the city and often attract users from outside the city boundaries, or even beyond Essex County. Like Community Parks they provide the base services of a Neighbourhood Park. Since the volume of users is potentially greater, the level of services is also greater. They have a significant draw which can also foster commercial opportunities (such as; carnivals, festivals, art shows, or special events). Regional parks provide recreational services with of a

| COMMUNITY/<br>REGIONAL PARKS | No of<br>Parks | Population<br>2011 | Parkland Required<br>in Hectares<br>(3.25 ha/1000<br>people) | Total<br>Provided<br>In Hectares | Deficit (-)<br>(in Hectares) | Surplus (+)<br>(in Hectares) |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WARD 1                       | 9              | 22,071             | 71.73                                                        | 234.49                           |                              | 162.76                       |
| WARD 2                       | 6              | 20,066             | 65.21                                                        | 123.50                           |                              | 58.29                        |
| WARD 3                       | 7              | 21,419             | 69.61                                                        | 33.52                            | -36.09                       |                              |
| WARD 4                       | 6              | 24,126             | 78.41                                                        | 40.65                            | -37.76                       |                              |
| WARD 5                       | 5              | 18,407             | 59.82                                                        | 44.71                            | -15.11                       |                              |
| WARD 6                       | 8              | 23,305             | 75.74                                                        | 52.82                            | -22.92                       |                              |
| WARD 7                       | 13             | 23,058             | 74.94                                                        | 216.13                           |                              | 141.19                       |
| WARD 8                       | 2              | 18,780             | 61.04                                                        | 16.90                            | -44.14                       |                              |
| WARD 9                       | 5              | 19,945             | 64.82                                                        | 24.92                            | -39.90                       |                              |
| WARD 10                      | 6              | 19,698             | 64.02                                                        | 42.08                            | -21.94                       |                              |
| TOTALS                       | 67             | 210,875            | 685.34                                                       | 829.72                           | Surplus                      | 144.38                       |

Table 2-3: Community/Regional Supply by Ward

more organized sports focus; a large arena complex that may provide indoor facilities, an example being the WFCU Centre.

Regional Parks also vary in scale and activities, as do the amenities they encompass. Examples of these amenities may include tourist attractions (such as the floral display gardens in Queen Elizabeth II Gardens, Dieppe Gardens and Coventry Gardens), natural woodlot and prairie of the Ojibway Complex, the ribbon of parks along the Riverfront or the significant heritage aspects of Willistead Park.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The city currently displays a surplus of Community/Regional parks due to the large tracts of protected natural land in the extreme east (Ward 7) and west (Wards 1&2). Seven of the ten City Wards show acute deficiencies of 25% to 74% of that which is required by the Official Plan (see Table 3).

- City is currently well served.
- Surplus lands are a result of cooperative efforts with the Province and ERCA to preserve natural heritage sites (Ojibway Complex and Little River Corridor).
- Diverse type of parks and activities provided through the city.
- Focus on Accessible playgrounds in Community and Regional parks.
- Focus on showcase parks (Riverfront, Jackson, Willistead) as floral display areas with skilled horticultural staff.
- Larger parks provide greater diversity in activity and ability to provide organized sports.
- Greater potential for engaging more of the public in same location...
- High approval rating by users.

WEAKNESSES

- Current OP designation creates a very broad array of park types in this classification resulting in confused priorities with respect to level of service.
- Breadth of diversity does not facilitate equity in level of service between park types.
- Deficit of parks in 7 of 10 wards due to uneven distribution.
- Demand of organized sports fields is maintenance intensive.
- Operating costs require prioritization of services leaving some parks underserviced resulting in a negative perception by users.
- Many do not have trees or means of shade.
- Low annual budget for the volume of parks.
- Life cycle costing is not reflected in preservation of amenities found in many regional parks.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Community support for these spaces is positive.
- Potential highly visible Legacy projects to entice private investment through partnerships.
- Naturalization in cooperation with ERCA.
- Other municipalities taking some of the organized sports burden away allowing for concentrated efforts on those areas which the community has responded as desirable (i.e. passive recreation types).
- Community Garden Collective.

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**PRESSURES** 

- Vandalism.
- Poor image created by the media focusing on negative and not the positive.
- West Nile Virus.
- AODA Legislation requires all municipal parks to be accessible.
- Liability due to perceived lack maintenance or neglect.
- "Not In My Back Yard" vs. "Yes In My Back Yard" attitudes towards change.
- Climate change.
- Competition from neighbouring municipalities to provide similar park venues.
- Aging population.

There are several avenues to consider when restructuring the current parks classification structure. Having only 2 classifications has lead to some ambiguity in what constitutes different levels of service operationally. It is therefore important to consider a reclassification that is based on:

- o Size
- o Use patterns
- o Demand
- o Natural resources of the park

The following reclassification of parks is recommended:

- Neighbourhood
- Community
- Regional
- Natural
- Recreationways

Within these broader classifications, sub-classifications will be necessary to further define level of service. (see Appendix 'I' for a complete list of parks by current classification)

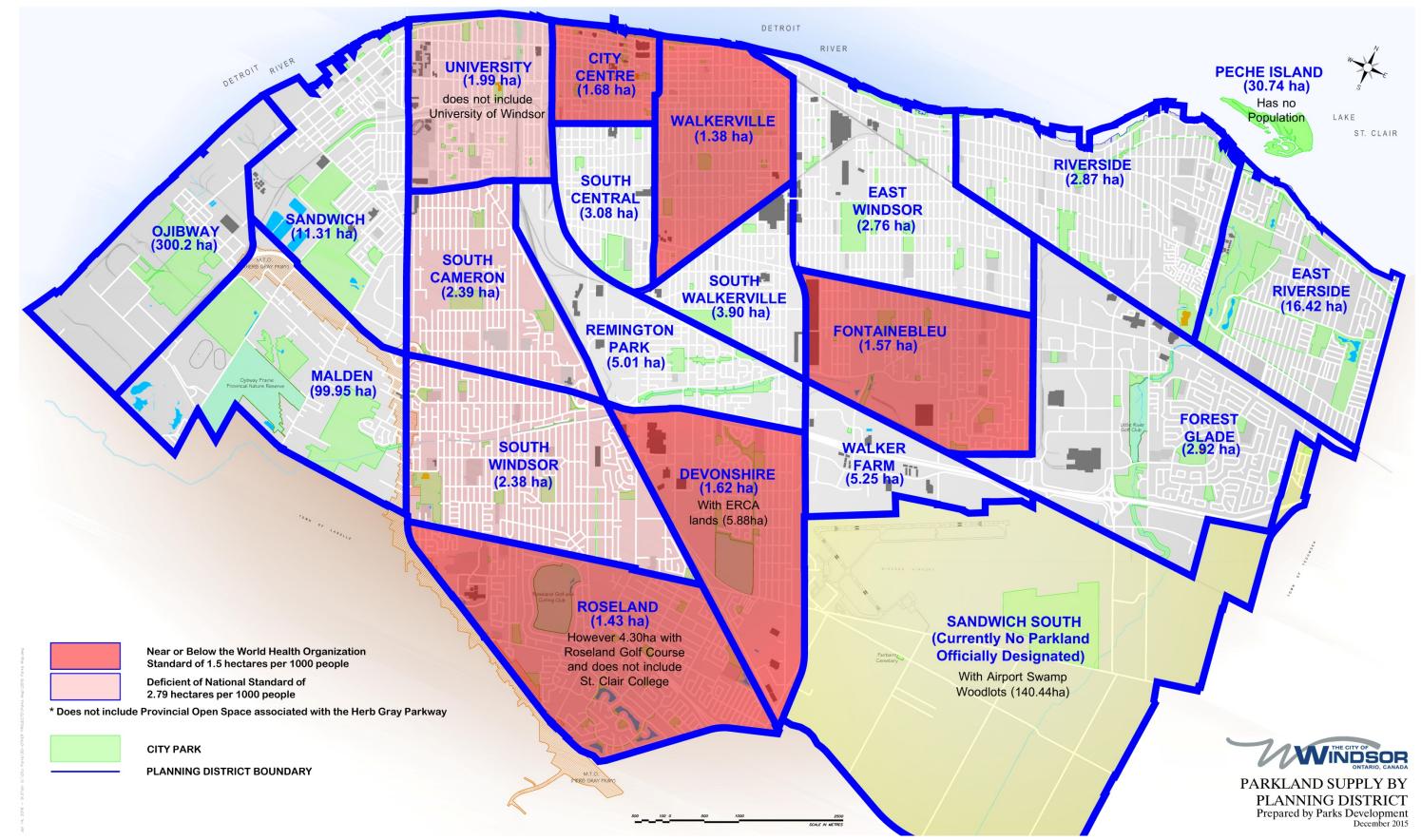


Figure 2-11: Parkland Supply by Planning District

Windsor has long valued its parks and recreational facilities. As a result, very little of the cultural and natural heritage value has been lost due to a respect for the achievements that the city has made in this area, over the Legacy of the Parks System. Many of the memorials and features remain in their original state or have been rehabilitated to ensure their survival. When achievable, the natural heritage areas have been absorbed into the city's parks system and preserved through bylaw, provincial and federal legislation, cooperation with partnerships and other government agencies, and by identifying policy and buffers to ensure resources are maintained.

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES**

There are several sites listed on the City of Windsor Cultural Map to assist people in finding various monuments, sites and heritage resources. With funding support from the Government of Ontario's *Creative Communities Prosperity Fund*, the City of Windsor has completed a Cultural Mapping Project.

- Phase 1 of the project gathered and analyzed data from City records and community input to create a working inventory of cultural assets and resources.
- Phase 2 of the project gave that data to the City of Windsor's Geomatics Division to develop a real interactive cultural map and working applications for use by those living in, working in, or visiting our community.

The City of Windsor's Culture Map not only shows you the physical location of our cultural assets and resources, but it also includes full contact information and links to websites. The map has been designed to be fully accessible and includes the most up-to-date information provided at the time of the research phase including:

- Heritage Sites
- Historical Plaques
- Park Monuments
- Murals
- Sculptures
- Heritage Areas, and
- Heritage Conservation Districts

- MicMac Park Gates
- Realtor Park Gates
- Blue Heron Lake Bridge
- Lanspeary Park Gates
- Little River Corridor Bridge
- Optimist Memorial Park Gates
- Ford test Track Gates
- Jackson Park Entry Gtaes



- Alexander Park
- Mackenzie Hall
- Devonshire Court Park
- Herb Gray Natural Reserve
- Shaughnessy Cohen Woods
- Malden Park



- Civic Esplanade Tower of Freedom
- Lakeview Marina Pelee Passage Lighthouse
- C.N.R.Park Spirit of Windsor
- Lanspeary Park Band Shelter
- Mill Street Heritage Park -Windmill

ARTIFACTS & STRUCTURES



- Derwent Park
- Drouillard Park
- Mackenzie Hall
- Mill Street Heritage Park
- Sandpoint Beach
- Matthew Rodzik Park
- Windsor Sculpture Park
- Bert Weeks Memorial Gardens



- Willistead Park
- Assumption, Ambassador
   & Centennial Riverfront
   Parks
- City Hall Square
- Dieppe Gardens
- Jackson Park
- Coventry Gardens / Reaume Park

COLLECTIONS



# NATURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

The City currently has approximately 655 hectares of natural and naturalized parkland within the greenway system inclusive of municipally and provincially owned public open space, with roughly 90% being indigenous environments. These parks are primarily located in the far eastern and far western ends of the city, with a scattering of smaller vestiges of natural forest being preserved throughout the south central areas of the City.

The largest collection of natural parkland in Windsor is located in the western end of the city, collectively known as the Ojibway Nature Complex consisting of the following sites:

- Black Oak Heritage & Broadway Park
- Tom Joy Woods & Ojibway Nature Park
- Tall Grass Prairie Heritage Park
- Spring Garden ANSI & Seven Sisters Park
- Oakwood Nature Reserve
- Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve (Provincially owned)
- St Clair Prairie E.S.A. (Provincially owned)

At the eastern end of the city is the Little River Corridor which along provides a natural nucleus for several parks and trails including:

- Sandpoint Beach
- Ganatchio Trail
- Lakeshore Woods Park
- East Riverside Park and Blue Heron Lake
- East End Park
- Little River Acres Park
- WFCU & McHugh Parkland
- Bush, Teedie and Hawthorne Parks
- Little River Golf Club
- Derwent Park, and
- Twin Oaks Park



Figure 2-12: Kayaking at Peche Island

Once developed, the Sandwich South Lands can provide a further extension of this natural corridor to the Airport Swamp Woodlots

Also in the east end of the city at the confluence of Lake St Clair and the Detroit River is Peche Island. Though once a Provincial Park, the island was purchased by the City of Windsor in 1999 in order to preserve this natural heritage site. Today the island boasts it biodiversity of vegetation types and wildlife habitats; many of which are unique to the island within the Essex County Region.

Throughout the city are several isolated patches of natural forest contributing to the natural heritage of the City's Greenway System. These include:

- Udine Park near Fogular Furlan Recreation Complex
- Dynasty Park
- South Cameron Woodlot
- Optimist Memorial
- Kenilworth Park
- Herb Grey Nature Reserve
- Parkwood Woodlot
- Tranby Park
- Lakeshore Woods & East Riverside /Blue Heron Park

## WATER RESOURCES

Situated immediately adjacent to one of North America's busiest waterways, Windsor has in the past seen a very active water-based recreational resource. Since the tightening the international border between Canada and United States in the aftermath of the 911 attacks, the small water craft resource in the area has been greatly affected.

Global trade has impacted the Great Lakes shipping industry through improved alternate methods of shipping goods between countries. Many older Windsorites recall the days when watching boats along the Detroit River was a favourite past-time. Today the sporadic ship or sailing vessel is more of a novelty, than norm. However, as found in many other cities which have a developed waterfront there is still a desire for people to access the water, either to capture a view of the Detroit Skyline, walk along the riverfront paths, or

even sit on the rocky breakwater to catch a splash of waves.

## **RIVERFRONT LANDS**

Windsor has an award winning waterfront, providing a variety of recreational activity associated with the river, as well as habitat for many fish and aquatic birds. Though much of the shoreline along the Detroit River has been hard edged<sup>iii</sup>, there are several locations where there are opportunities for direct access along the River. In cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and ERCA, the City has been able to provide water access in the form of marina, rocky beaches and natural habitats where appropriate. Development along this section of the riverfront is governed by The Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP); a living document with established design principles and guidelines as standards to direct the future development of parkland, open space, built environments, as well as pedestrian and cycling circulation throughout this ribbon of parks.

# WETLANDS

The term *wetland* means lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, and lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. The presence of abundant water causes the formation of hydric soils and favours the dominance of water tolerant plants.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry identifies the most valuable wetlands as Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) and provincially significant coastal wetlands in the City of Windsor. Significant wetlands are delineated in accordance with the Ontario Wetlands Evaluation System – a science-based ranking system. As per Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), two areas within City of Windsor boundaries have been found to contain provincially significant wetlands: the Ojibway Wetland Complex and the Windsor Airport Swamps.

Additionally, a part of the Detroit Marsh Wetland Complex lies within Windsor. This complex has been identified as a provincially significant coastal wetland (PSCW) since 1985, and stretches south along the Detroit River shore and into the Town of LaSalle.

No development is permitted within provincially significant wetlands. In instances where a development proposal is within adjacent lands to a provincially significant wetland, the City will require that the development proponent complete an Environmental Evaluation Report in accordance with the requirements of the City of Windsor Official Plan.

Areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs) describe areas of land and water containing natural landscape or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study, or education. ANSIs are not designated by municipalities. ANSIs lands are now incorporated in the PSW areas; therefore, no development is permitted within ANSIs.

#### VALLEY LANDS

Valleylands term refers to a natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year. There are three valleylands in the Windsor area: Detroit River, Little River, and Turkey Creek.

## WATER SHED MANAGEMENT

Turkey Creek and Little River are the two major tributaries of the Detroit River within the City of Windsor. Turkey Creek starts just east of Central Avenue picking up irban stormwater runoff through Windsor before eventually discharging into the Detroit River in LaSalle. Little River originates in the area of Sandwich South, picking up runoff from agricultural lands then urban runoff before discharging into the Detroit River east of Lauzon Road. There are other opportunities for ERCA's involvement with City Parkland including potential preservation and storm water management priorities.

The City of Windsor Parks Department has integrated several wet and dry storm water management areas in parks to provide reduction in the sewage surcharge on the built infrastructure. These Low-Impact-Design facilities provide various forms of recreation and natural habitat.

To provide such stewardship, ERCA supports the concept of a 'Green Belt' of natural and naturalized areas to link the two Natural Park anchors of Ojibway Nature Complex in the west and Peche Island/Little River Corridor in the east. The major barrier to this concept is the current parkland classification of the city which defines traditional park settings, geared towards active sports recreation and the development of leisure park activities with no emphasis on the natural. The Official Plan does discuss Natural Heritage Sites, however it falls short of specific classification due to much of the potential natural lands listed in the CNHS Inventory lie on private land holds.

### LITTLE RIVER

Little River Watershed covers a land area of 6490ha with 140 ha supporting natural heritage areas on the east side of the city. The river itself empties into the Detroit River opposite Peche Island near Lake St. Clair. The River watershed is managed through collaborated efforts of the City of Windsor, ERCA and a community lead volunteer organization referred to as *Lil' REG (Little River Enhancement Group)* who has participated in 120 cleanups, planted over 25,000 trees and helped in the development of nature trails and bridges that provide access for passive recreation and nature observation along the corridor. Nature lovers have spotted muskrats, turtles, eagles, owls and other wildlife in the greenway.

#### TURKEY CREEK

Turkey Creek Watershed covers a land area of 6112ha with 725 ha supporting natural heritage areas including the Ojibway Nature Complex, Devenwood Conservation Area and most of the natural areas in the Town of LaSalle. Connected to Turkey Creek are several floodways including the Grand Marais Floodway and the Wolfe Drain which channel water from the southern end of the city.

Recent development associated with the RT. Honourable Herb Gray Parkway, will see much of the stormwater associated with these two tributaries diverted and filtered through stormwater retention ponds prior to entering the natural water system of Turkey Creek.

# SANDPOINT BEACH

Lying on the south shore of Lake St Clair, Sandpoint Beach is a 2 hectare property at the eastern end of the city just north of Riverside Drive. Together with Stop 26 and Ganatchio Park, (often considered one park since they are linked) these three beach sites provided local residents with the only sand beach in the City of Windsor. During the summer the spot is an active playground for sun-worshippers and those just wanting to engage in water activity from swimming, to wind surfing, canoeing and kayaking

The Recreation and Culture Department has been assessing sports facilities throughout the city for both outdoor and indoor programming. A full Sports Need Analysis is needed in order to properly assess the service delivery of outdoor programming and potential partnerships with sports and leisure recreation organizations.

## CITY OF WINDSOR RECREATION INVENTORY

# **POOLS**

## **LOCATIONS:**

- Windsor International Aquatic & Training Centre
- Adie Knox Herman Recreation & Customer Care Complex
- Adventure Bay Family Water Park
- Windsor Water World
- Atkinson Pool
- Central Pool
- Riverside memorial
- Remington Pool
- Lanspeary Pool
- Gino & Liz Marcus
- WFCU ( to open in 2016)

## **SPLASHPADS**

## **LOCATIONS:**

- AKO
- Central
- MicMac
- Remington
- Drouillard Garry Dugal
- Captain Wilson
- Fred Thomas
- Riversdie memorial
- Jackson Under construction

# SKATING FACILITIES HOCKEY ARENAS

### **LOCATIONS:**

- Charles Clark Square
- Forest Glade Arena
- Lanspeary Lions Rink
- WFCU Centre
- South Windsor Recreation Complex
- Adie Knox

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

## LOCATIONS:

- Adie Knox Herman Recreation & Customer Care Complex
- Constable John Atkinson Memorial Community Centre
- Forest Glade Community & Customer Care Centre
- Gino & Liz Marcus Community & Customer Care Complex
- Oakwood Community Centre
- Optimist Community & Customer Care Centre
- South Windsor Recreation & Customer Care Complex
- Remington-Booster
- WFCU
- Waterworld
- Aquatic Centre

## OTHER FACILITIES

#### LOCATIONS:

- Lakeview Park Marina
- Malden Park Visitors Centre
- Ojibway Nature Centre
- Windsor's Community Museum
- Mackenzie Hall
- Willistead Manor & Park

CHAPTER 2 - PARKLAND SUPPLY Outdoor Recreation facilities

The City Parks Department offers a wide array of recreational activities for all citizens to enjoy. While many of the ball diamonds, fields and sports courts are relatively new, there are just as many that have long served their community and are in need of revitalization or reassessment of their appropriateness which is where a sports needs study will be valuable. (See Strategic Directions)

During its establishment, the Town of Lakeshore made an observation that can readily apply to the recreational need that the City of Windsor is experiencing,

"Municipalities are coming under increasing expectations to being able to deliver a wider range of leisure opportunities, many of them involving increasingly sophisticated facilities, integrated services delivery approaches and growing long term capital, operating and financial / sustainability requirements. Society has moved to a point where there is a growing array of leisure activities that people want to be involved with, many of them involving smaller clusters / segments of individuals within the community and beyond. Also, many activities / services are subdividing into groups that want high performance experiences or individuals who just wish to try something out or have a more limited experience. In the middle, are expectations or a hobbyist or regular participant at a recreation level of interest ..."

(The Town of Lakeshore COMMUNITY SERVICES MASTER PLAN)



It is therefore important to consider the need for recreational diversity, and develop a strategy for parkland development moving forward, in order for people to use and *Rediscover Our Parks*.

| TOTAL  | Recreation Type               |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 74     | Baseball Diamond              |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8      | Basebal Stadium               |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6      | Basketball Court              |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1      | Bike Trails                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4      | Beach                         |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10     | Concessions                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2      | Cricket Pitch                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6      | Docking Facilities            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3      | Football /Rugby Field         |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8      | Ice Rink (indoors)            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3      | Ice Rink (outdoors)           |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4      | Lawn Bowling Green            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1      | Marina                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11     | Picnic Area                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6      | Picnic Shelter                |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2      | Skatepark                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1      | Skiing - Cross Country Trails |  |  |  |  |  |
| 41     | Soccer Field                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9<br>7 | Soccer Stadium                |  |  |  |  |  |
|        | Splash Pad                    |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13     | Swimming Pool                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 38     | Tennis Court                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2<br>1 | Therapeutic Pool              |  |  |  |  |  |
|        | Track (running)               |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4      | Ultimate Disc Sports          |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14     | Walking Trail                 |  |  |  |  |  |

Figure 2-15: City of Windsor Outdoor Recreational Supply

## **NEIGHBOURING MUNICIPALITIES RECREATIONAL AMENITIES**

Windsor's ability to provide outdoor recreational programming in an efficient and sustainable manner is directly impacted in the inventory of parks openspace and recreational facilities provided by the neighbouring municipalities. Though it is often seen as competition it is also an ability to assess the total resources offered by the entire region to offset any saturation that may be happening in a particular sport, or outdoor recreational service. While it is important to note these provisions, it must also be well assessed to provide appropriate recreational and cultural amenities in outdoor open spaces in our parks system. The chart below summarizes the inventory of recreational amenities in the various municipalities in Essex County.

#### TOWN OF LASALLE

In 2014, The Town of LaSalle completed its Parks & Recreation Master Plan, <u>"Connect to an Active Lifestyle"</u> as an update to their previous Culture and Recreation Master Plan completed in 1995. As a working document for the next 10 to 15 years, the report outlines the recreational needs and effectiveness of the current park system in the town with respect to parks, open space, trails and recreational facilities.

The LaSalle inventory of Parks and recreation facilities includes 28 Parks (excluding Vollmer Culture & Recreation Complex) covering over 40 hectares of parkland.

In addition to the individual neighbourhood parks, the Vollmer Culture & Recreation Complex recreational facilities include:

Future expansion to the south of property to increase the number of sports fields.

In the master Plan Update, trails in the town will be connected to create the "LaSalle Greenway" focusing on three key components:

- Core Natural Heritage Sites
- Natural Corridors, and
- Linkages

#### **TECUMSEH**

The Town of Tecumseh lies immediately east of the City of Windsor and has 41 Parks with 200 hectares of parkland available to its residents.

#### TOWN OF LAKESHORE

The Town of the Lakeshore is the largest municipality in Essex County by land mass, situated roughly 5 km east of the City of Windsor along the southern shore of Lake St Clair. It consists of 22 public parks, beaches, and lakeside parkettes, including the Altas Tube Centre. It includes 6 conservation areas designated by ERCA that total just over 100 hectares with trails, forests, wetland and beaches for a wide variety of passive nature-oriented recreational activities, 8 with waterfront access.

The Altas Tube Centre is roughly a 16, 000 square metre indoor recreation complex hosting, 3 ice pads, library, and gymnasium. A second phase to this facility is currently under construction including a large aquatic complex, a 5km outdoor walking trail, splash pad, soccer fields, and multi-use outdoor courts.

| Amenity            | Total in abutting<br>Municipalities | Town of Tecumseh | Town of LaSalle | Town of Lakeshore | Town of Ameherstb | Leamington | Essex | Harrow | McGregor | Colchester | Essex County<br>Total              |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------|--------|----------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Amphitheate        | 2                                   |                  | 1               | 1                 | F                 |            |       |        | <_       | _          | 2                                  |
| Baseball           | 42                                  | 17               | 13              | 12                | 22                | 3          | 6     | 8      | 6        |            | 2<br>87                            |
| Basketball Court   | 19                                  | 11               | 5               | 3                 | 3                 | 5          | 2     |        |          |            | 29                                 |
| Beach              | 1                                   |                  |                 | 1                 | 10.500            | 2          |       | 2      |          |            | 29<br>5<br>9<br>1<br>2<br>5<br>1   |
| Beach Parkettes    | 9                                   |                  |                 | 9                 |                   |            |       |        |          |            | 9                                  |
| Bocce ball         | 0                                   |                  |                 |                   |                   | 1          |       |        |          |            | 1                                  |
| Cricket Pitch      | 1                                   |                  |                 | 1                 |                   |            |       |        |          |            | 1                                  |
| Dog Park           | 1                                   |                  |                 | 1                 |                   | 1          |       |        |          |            | 2                                  |
| Drinking Water     | 5                                   |                  | 5               |                   |                   |            |       |        |          |            | 5                                  |
| Exercise Equipment | 1                                   |                  |                 | 1                 |                   |            |       |        |          |            | 1                                  |
| Food Concessions   | 8                                   | 5                | 3               |                   | 1                 | 1          |       |        | 1        |            | 11                                 |
| Football           | 1                                   |                  | 1               |                   | 3                 |            |       |        |          |            | 4<br>17<br>5<br>37<br>19           |
| Marina / Boat Ramp | 11                                  | 8                | 2               | 1                 | 3                 | 1          |       | 2      |          |            | 17                                 |
| Pickleball Court   | 4                                   | 3                |                 | 1                 | 1                 |            |       |        |          |            | 5                                  |
| Picnic Area        | 31                                  | 19               | 8               | 4                 | 3                 | 1          | 2     |        |          |            | 37                                 |
| Picnic Shelter     | 7                                   |                  | 5               | 2                 | 2                 | 3          | 2     | 3      | 2        |            | 19                                 |
| Playground         | 60                                  | 23               | 21              | 16                | 4                 | 15         | 8     | 3      | 2        | 1          | 92                                 |
| Recreation Complex | 2                                   |                  | 1               | 1                 | 1                 | 1          | 1     | 1      |          |            | 6                                  |
| Running Track      | 3                                   |                  | 2               | 1                 | 2                 |            |       | 1      |          |            | 6                                  |
| Skateboard Park    | 3                                   | 1                | 1               | 1                 | 2                 |            | 1     | 1      |          |            | 7                                  |
| Soccer             | 55                                  | 19               | 32              | 4                 | 30                |            | 5     | 6      | 3        |            | 99                                 |
| Splash Pad         | 2                                   |                  |                 | 2                 | 1                 | 1          |       | 1      |          | 1          | 5                                  |
| Swimming           | 4                                   |                  | 2               | 2                 | 1                 |            | 1     |        |          |            | 6                                  |
| Tennis Courts      | 17                                  | 9                | 5               | 3                 | 14                |            |       | 3      | 2        |            | 92<br>6<br>7<br>99<br>5<br>6<br>36 |
| Toboggan Hill      | 1                                   |                  |                 | 1                 |                   |            |       |        |          |            | 1                                  |
| Volleyball         | 6                                   |                  | 3               | 3                 | 4                 | 1          |       |        |          |            | 11                                 |
| Walking Trails     | 17                                  |                  | 8               | 9                 | 6                 | 14         | 2     | 1      |          |            | 40                                 |
| Washrooms          | 17                                  | 7                | 6               | 4                 | 3                 | 2          | 1     | 2      | 2        | 1          | 27                                 |

Figure 2-17: Recreation supply for all Essex County Municipalities outside of Windsor

# OTHER AGENCY OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Within the City of Windsor are several public open spaces not under the City Parks jurisdiction. These are primarily lands held in trust by Provincial and Federal Government agencies, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and the various school boards. These green spaces provide many opportunities for the public to engage in outdoor recreational activity and need to be considered when assessing needs and opportunities for people to *Rediscover Our Parks*.

## CITY OF WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVENTORY

The Windsor school systems, including Public, Catholic and both French School Boards contain outdoor space that is used by the public at the discretion of the various school boards. The estimated total of additional open space provided by elementary and secondary schools (including buildings) is **193.96ha** (479.3 acres) The inclusion of the University of Windsor and St. Clair College increases the area to 251.33ha.(621.05 acres).

## PRIVATE AND NONPROFIT RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

There are several privately run recreational services in the city including Little River and Roseland golf courses; though the property is City owned they operate under license as private clubs. As well many of the ethnic communities operate private sports clubs especially for soccer including:

- Croatian Centre
- •Fogular Furlan
- Central Athletic Park
- •Teutonia Club

Many non-profit agencies including YMCA and YWCA of Windsor offer recreational facilities, however these are predominantly indoor in nature.

## **FEDERAL**



Figure 2-18: Ojibway Shores outlined in red abutting Black Oak Prairie Heritage Park (photo courtesy of Windsor Port Authority)

The Government of Canada through the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) holds title to several parcels of land along the Windsor riverfront stretching from the LaSalle through the Town of Tecumseh to the Town of Lakeshore. The WPA also hold the water lot portion of all properties along their jurisdiction. To do any work along the Detroit River or Lake St Clair, will require approval from the WPA.

### OJIBWAY SHORES

Within the lands held by the WPA, is a 12.9 hectare parcel of land immediately north of the Ojibway Prairie Complex and Black Oak Heritage Park. While currently available from the WPA and Federal Government as a 60 year lease for the purpose of industrial development, the land is a significant natural resource that if left in its current condition could be a valuable addition to the biodiversity of the Ojibway Prairie Complex.

# **PROVINCE**

#### RT. HONOURABLE HERB GRAY PARKWAY

As part of the international gateway project to facilitate traffic between Canada and the United States, the 106 hectares (264 acres) of parkland associated with the Parkway has been designed to accommodate and support the natural heritage resources established by the Ojibway Prairie Complex. Though the parkland is not part of the civic inventory of parks and recreational trails, once established they will provide an extension to the natural corridors found in the southern and western end of the City as well as expand multi-use trails and bikeways by several kilometres.

#### ONTARIO PRAIRIE PROVINCIAL NATURE PRESERVE

The Ontario Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, is owned by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and constitutes a significant component to the Ojibway Prairie Complex which also includes the four City owned natural areas of Ojibway Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, Black Oak Prairie Heritage Park, and Spring Garden Natural Area. It is one of Ontario's largest (109.9 hectares) and most important prairie-savanna sites. Combined, the five natural areas total 334 hectares of indigenous parkland that is accessible to the public, hosting more than 700 flowering plants, some of which are found nowhere else in Ontario. Interesting and rare wildlife include the Massasauga rattlesnake, yellow-breasted chat, Butler's garter snake and over 80 species of butterflies.

## **ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

#### REGIONAL APPROACH WITH ERCA

Section 20 of the Conservation Authorities Act, provides Conservation Authorities with the mandate to establish and undertake, in areas over which they have jurisdiction, programs designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. In 1983, based on this mandate of renewable resource conservation, ERCA developed policies and operational objectives which relate to the conservation and restoration of habitat. As policy ERCA's mandate is "to.. take its own initiative to carry out a program for fish and wildlife enhancement which will result in increased abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife habitat and native species..."iv.

## **Operational Objectives include:**

- > To protect Environmentally Significant Areas.
- ➤ To Manage and increase forest resources for environmental, recreational, commercial and ameliorative purposes.
- > To improve fish and wildlife resources.

## **Strategic Plan Initiatives include:**

- ➤ Enhance Biodiversity Through Restoration and Treeplanting.
- ➤ Develop projects to create or restore wetlands in appropriate regional settings.
- Collaborate with community organizations and residents to increase tree planting in available areas.

# DEVONWOOD CONSERVATION AREA (ERCA)

Though many Candidate Natural Heritage Sites have been identified, the 36.9 hectare Devonwood Conservation Area is currently the only property in Windsor totally under the jurisdiction of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA). Eight species of oak can be found on the property, along with Eastern Screech Owls, Long Eared Owls and Little Brown Bats. Though not part of the City's inventory of parks, Devonwood is the only truly indigenous Carolinian Forest found in the City of Windsor offering, 4.5 kilometres of trails that are open to the public and provide visitors with an opportunity to engage in this natural heritage resource.

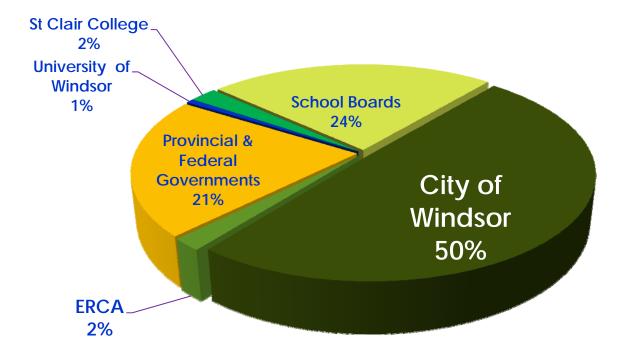
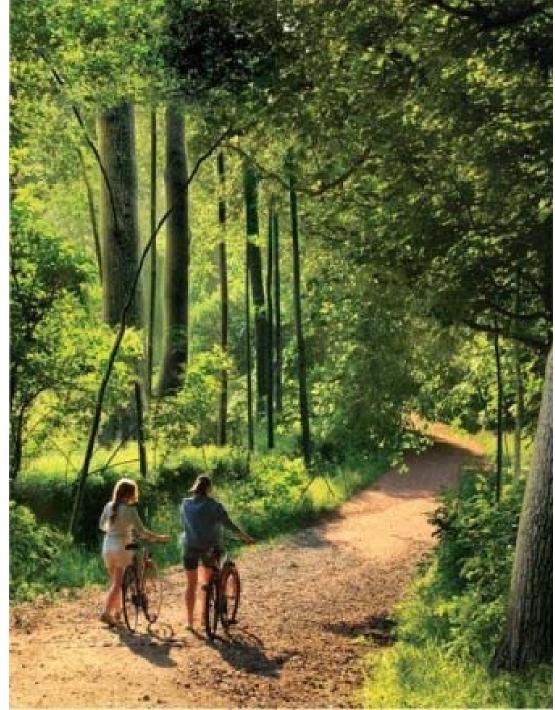


Figure 2-19: Parkland Open Space distribution by area (above)





## **ENDNOTES**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> <u>City of Windsor Official Plan</u> - Section 6.7 Open Space

ii <u>Green Space Acquisition and Stewardship in Canada's Urban Municipalities</u> - Evergreen Canada, 2004; p8.

iii Essex Region conservation Authority, 2012. Detroit River Shoreline Assessment. 55 pages + Appendices iv ERCA, 1983







CHAPTER 3 – TRENDS & NEEDS





# ECONOMY OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

Unlike other Canadian Cities whose economic outlook is more dependent on the larger Metropolitan area of Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary, Windsor's economy is strongly linked to the economic health of the Detroit Metropolitan Area. Until recently, much of the economy had focused on the automotive industry and the spin-off manufacturing sector. The recent economic downturn of 2008-2009 which saw the automobile manufacturers facing bankruptcy protection in the United States caused a devastating decline in the economy of Detroit. With the decline in Detroit, the supporting manufacturing operations in Windsor also suffered, leaving Windsor with a higher unemployment rate than the rest of the region.

#### POTENTIAL GROWTH / DECLINE / TRANSITION

Windsor is identified by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce as part of the Windsor-Sarnia Economic Region. In the 2015 Regional Economic Outlook<sup>i</sup>, it has been identified that the economic recovery of this region has and will be very slow, but steady; especially in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). The report recognizes contributing macro-factors as; the depreciated Canadian dollar, faster U.S. economic growth, and lower oil prices. In the Windsor CMA these factors bode well, especially with the proposed International crossing of the Gordie Howe Bridge, which is anticipated to improve and expand the commercial transportation-warehousing and cargo logistics network in the region, as well as modestly impact the local manufacturing infrastructure.

Another area where it is anticipated that improvement will be experienced is in the regions agricultural/horticultural production sector. The area sits on some of the best farmland in the country. Many climate change models demonstrate the Windsor-Essex area as benefitting from a slight increase in temperatures and longer growing seasons. These two factors, combined with well established greenhouse industry for vegetables and flower production, as well as commercial wineries, promotes the opportunity for increased farming and export operations in a region.

Moderate economic growth in the region is foreseen in residential forecasts for both housing starts and property values, due to the highly favorable retirement prospects for people from the other areas of Canada, primarily the GTA<sup>ii</sup>. The aging demographic will force a slowdown in labour force growth, resulting in a decline in the unemployment rate. Though much of the Windsor-Sarnia Region will experience a decline in the population growth, the report suggests that the Windsor CMA's population will actually rise 0.7% in 2016 and maintain an annual population growth of 0.1%. By comparing the various models forecast in the report (see Appendix XX), it is expected that the population of Windsor CMA will remain relatively unchanged (between 0 to 8,800 people) over the next 20 years. Both the Town of LaSalle and the Town of Lakeshore Official Plans are projecting significant increases in their populations during this period.



# SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

Understanding the demographics and socio-economic composition within each planning area contributes to assessing park needs, along with the recreation and cultural needs of the communities within the city. The total population of Essex County in 2006 was 393,402 and decreased to 388,782 according to the 2011 census data. The City of Windsor's population comprises 54.2% of the county's population with 210,891 in the 2011 census; a density of 1,441.3 persons per square kilometer. The census shows a small population decrease of 2.6% since 2006, however much of that population has remained in the Windsor Census Metropolitan Area, namely the Town of LaSalle and Town of Lakeshore, which displayed increases in population for 3.6% and 3.9% respectively. Many of the City of Windsor's parks and recreation facilities are utilized by the abutting municipalities. Therefore with each five year review of the Parks Master Plan, updated census information will be taken into consideration for moving the various phases of the 20 year plan forward.

## NATIONAL TRENDS

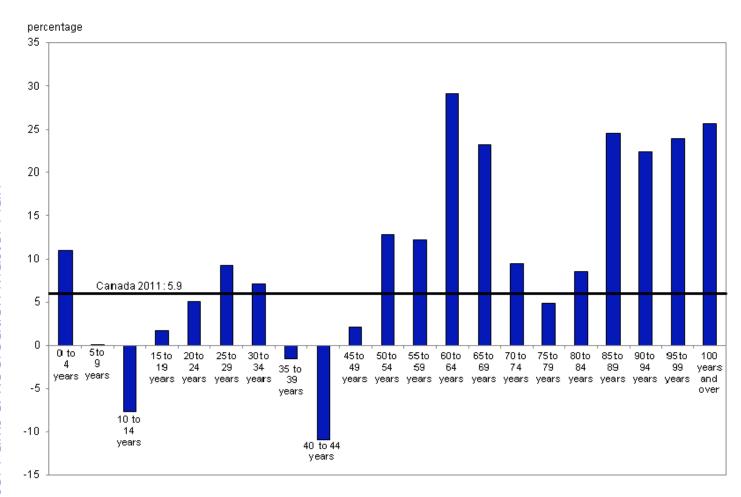


Figure 3-1: National demographic trend by age from 2006 to 2011 Census Data

Between the last two censuses (2006 to 2011) it was identified that the rate of growth in the senior population of Canada is growing. Seniors, aged 65 and over, constitute a record high 14.8% of the overall Canadian population; a 14.1% increase in the last five years. Conversely, the rate of growth in children 14 years and under has only grown 0.5%. However, children aged 4 years and under saw the highest growth rate for this age group since the 1946 to 1964 'Baby Boomer' generation. Though this holds some hope for a future increase in population of younger children, it is too early to tell. In the past 90 years the population has fluctuated especially within recession and depression years, which saw a sudden drop in the number of younger children. Those living in that time period were not afforded with the types of medical services which are offered today. As a result the number of centenarians in Canada rose 25.7% in the last 5 years, the second most rapidly growing age group after the first wave 'Baby boomers' who are now in the 60-64 age group represented in Figure 3-1.

In 2011, census data showed for the first time that there were more people aged 55 to 64, typically the age group where people leave the labour force, than aged 15 to 24, typically the age group where people enter it. Further analysis demonstrates that these national demographic trends are typical for both the Province and the Windsor CMA.

The analysis of the census cites that seven of the 10 municipalities with the highest proportion of seniors were in British Columbia. This could possibly be due warmer climate that coastal B.C. cities offer. With climate change and the potential of rising temperatures in Southern Ontario, there is a potential that the Windsor-Essex region could experience an even greater influx of people in their retirement years moving here from other regions of the country.

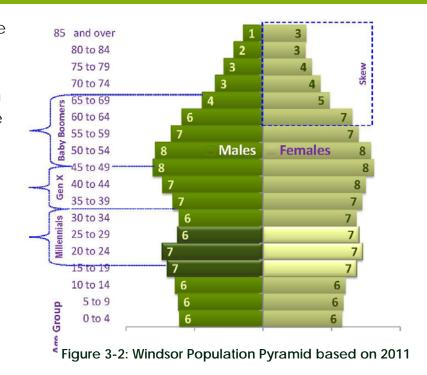
# WINDSOR CMA TRENDS

The 2011 census pyramid for Windsor demonstrates a predominantly mature community. Both the average and median age of the city is listed at 40.2 years and the dominant age group is 45-49 years. Combined with diminishing numbers in the younger Gen X and Millennial generation, the city is poised to see less of the traditional healthy pyramid with a large number of children below 15 years of age and a small number of older persons in their retirement years. This type of desired population pyramid was last seen in the city between 1961 and 1966. By the 1971 census the narrowing of the younger age group bands had started with a slight bulge occurring in 1986 when the Baby Boomers were starting to raise families (also known as the 'Echo' generation). Should the trend continue and as people are living longer, in twenty years there is the potential of the Windsor population pyramid becoming more evenly distributed across all age groups.

From a Parks and recreation perspective, this becomes a formidable challenge as there is no dominant age group to consider. Therefore, it will be important to address this broad diversity in the ages when considering any proposed development in parks or recreation and culture programming.

| District          | Population | Dominant<br>Age group | Percentage<br>under 15<br>years | Percentage<br>over 55<br>years | Official<br>Language<br>Mother Tongue | Person density<br>per sq km |  |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| City Centre       | 9,852      | 50 - 54 yrs           | 13%                             | 33%                            | 55%                                   | 4692.59                     |  |
| Walkerville       | 17,909     | 45-49 yrs             | 17%                             | 24%                            | 69%                                   | 3556.49                     |  |
| South Central     | 9,052      | 45-49 yrs             | 15%                             | 25%                            | 73%                                   | 2936.93                     |  |
| Riverside         | 22,675     | 50-54 yrs             | 13%                             | 37%                            | 80%                                   | 2874.07                     |  |
| East Windsor      | 20,294     | 45-49 yrs             | 17%                             | 27%                            | 84%                                   | 2492.94                     |  |
| University        | 11,755     | 20-24 yrs             | 13%                             | 25%                            | 71%                                   | 2315.02                     |  |
| South Windsor     | 16,749     | 45-49 yrs             | 18%                             | 32%                            | 70%                                   | 1978.17                     |  |
| Fontainbleu       | 11,673     | 45-49 yrs             | 16%                             | 33%                            | 74%                                   | 1922                        |  |
| Roseland          | 18,740     | 40 - 44 yrs           | 20%                             | 26%                            | 61%                                   | 1869.41                     |  |
| South Cameron     | 9,770      | 10 -14yrs             | 23%                             | 21%                            | 46%                                   | 1858.44                     |  |
| South Walkerville | 6,217      | 50-54 yrs             | 15%                             | 32%                            | 85%                                   | 1631.24                     |  |
| Sandwich          | 10,590     | 20-24 yrs             | 18%                             | 23%                            | 71%                                   | 1565.34                     |  |
| East Riverside    | 10,655     | 35-39 yrs             | 18%                             | 30%                            | 67%                                   | 1546.98                     |  |
| Forest Glade      | 18,080     | 55-59 yrs             | 18%                             | 27%                            | 66%                                   | 1510.84                     |  |
| Devonshire        | 8,721      | 40 - 44 yrs           | 29%                             | 21%                            | 71%                                   | 1126.93                     |  |
| Remington         | 5,550      | 45-49 yrs             | 17%                             | 29%                            | 66%                                   | 1031.45                     |  |
| Malden            | 1,582      | 45-49 yrs             | 14%                             | 31%                            | 69%                                   | 192.19                      |  |
| Walker Farm       | 80         | 40 - 44 yrs           | 14%                             | 35%                            | 90%                                   | 37.61                       |  |
| Sandwich South    | 877        | 50-54 yrs             | 14%                             | 34%                            | 75%                                   | 34.3                        |  |
| Ojibway           | 164        | 20-24 yrs             | 11%                             | 32%                            | 73%                                   | 25.56                       |  |
| City WIDE         | 210,891    | 45-49 yrs             | 18%                             | 27%                            | 71%                                   | 1441.3                      |  |

Table 3-1:Relevant Demographic from 2011 Census Data for Windsor by Planning District



Statistical demographic information in Table 3-1 demonstrates that the city-wide demographics are relatively universal through all planning districts, with a few exceptions. There are five districts where the dominant age is bordering on the traditional retirement age. Both City Centre and Riverside have well established seniors' apartment complexes, mostly along Riverside Drive. The other three districts are predominantly single-family residential. Therefore there is an obvious need to address the recreational needs of seniors in these areas.

Districts in the western half of the city are where the dominant age is younger than 25 years. This could likely be attributed to the presence of both the main Campuses of the University of Windsor and St Clair College. South Cameron has the lowest dominant age group in the city and one of the highest percentages of children less than 15 years of age. Notably it is also the district with highest percentage of people whose mother tongue is not one of the two official languages of Canada; implying an area of interest to immigrating families to set up residence.

# RECREATIONAL TRENDS

Recreation is embracing a broader definition given the diversity of North Americans today. Windsor offers a rich variety of parks and year-round leisure activities, from passive parks, to sports venues and iconic places along the Riverfront to stroll and watch passing lake vessels, or view the Detroit skyline. A recent survey in the United States, conducted by Sasaki and Associates, identified that people's fondest memorable experiences are associated with outdoor places, either on streets or in public parks. Similar to responses seen from both public opinion surveys for the Parks Master Plan, when present, waterfront areas constitute the primary favourite open place. iii Similarly, outdoor public areas where community-focused events and attractions are encouraged were second. The study also found that 40 percent of city dwellers supported greater investment in larger parks with both "passive and adventurous activities". (see Appendix 'J')

The National Recreation and Parks Association is the leading non-profit organization in the United States with membership from around the globe. The NRPA is dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation. In their 2015 Field report several trends were identified as key ensuring a sustainable and successful parks and recreational program in municipalities. Those trends are as follows:

"TREND 1: PROGRAMS ARE KEY TO GREAT PARK ATTENDANCE. ... When there are programs in parks attendance is stronger...

TREND 2: THE PERCEIVED VALUE OF DISTRIBUTED SERVICES RESULTS IN AGENCY FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS. ..., when a single department carries out all the park and recreation responsibilities, operations are most effective. ...

TREND 3: AGENCIES ARE PIONEERING NEW FUNDING METHODS.... Getting creative to maximize this demand and bolster your revenue can be critical. In fact, during the recession those agencies and special districts that invested in revenue-producing facilities fared better than others. ...

TREND 4: INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT HARDER FOR PUBLIC DOLLARS.... discuss park needs and how you provide innovative solutions to the infrastructure challenge.

TREND 5: WALKABLE CITIES DRAW MILLENNIALS, FUELING A SUBURBAN EXODUS. ... The Millennials are here and ... are drawn to walkable environments with cultural amenities. "

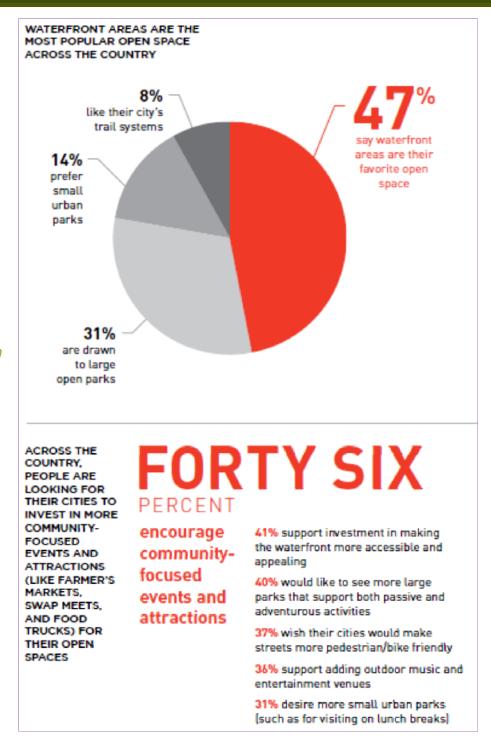


Figure 3-3: Sasaki Study on Recreational Trends

# NATIONAL TRENDS

A recent Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Study to establish a Framework for Recreation nation-wide is entitled <u>Pathways to Wellbeingiv</u>. In the document, it was clearly defined that "Recreation has the potential to address challenges and troubling issues such as obesity, decreased contact with nature, and inequities that limit recreation opportunities for some population groups." The vision of the framework is three-fold, focusing on the well being of the individual, the community as a whole, as well as the environment in which recreation happens, whether natural or manmade.

The Framework presents an opportunity to return to traditional paths and forge new ones that will ensure recreation's continued relevance and leadership in the journey to wellbeing by emphasizing five primary goals for successful recreational programming in Canadian municipalities, including:

#### A RENEWED DEFINITION OF RECREATION

"Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

- ACTIVE LIVING: FOSTERED THROUGH PHYSICAL RECREATION
- INCLUSION AND ACCESS: FOR POPULATIONS THAT FACE CONSTRAINTS IN PARTICIPATING IN RECREATION
- CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE: IDENTIFYING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS: BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SOCIALLY THAT ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION TO BUILD STRONG, CARING COMMUNITIES
- RECREATION CAPACITY: BASED ON GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FIELD RECREATION

These goals are broad and serve as direction for the establishment of guiding principles for this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

<u>Pathways to Well Being</u> also identified challenges and opportunities related to four areas that will have impact on recreational trends in Canada; demographic changes, health, economic inequities, and social connectedness.

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES**

The primary demographic trend in Canadian urban areas that will impact recreation is the fact that many cities are aging in population. The desire to "age in place" is more common than in previous years and people are trending towards staying at home and seeking recreation in their familiar surroundings. As a result the proportion of seniors to children is seeing a decline in children in many communities.

Secondly, as Canada has evolved into a country of choice for people emigrating from their home countries, Canadian cities are seeing a greater diversity in culture. Also, the aboriginal populations of Canada are showing a faster growth in young people. This offers a potential for a rich diversity in people with different recreational ideals. Cities have an opportunity become more diverse with cultural identities, yet will need to respond to the unique challenges of inclusivity and diversity in recreational programming.

Statistics indicate that 80% of Canadians live in cities<sup>vi</sup>, leaving then isolated from nature in many cases. While urbanization offers opportunities related to density, it challenges cities with the ability to provide recreational open space where people can experience a high quality of life, both socially and environmentally.

#### **HEALTH CHALLENGES**

Modern life, climate change and urban living have precipitated some negative trends in health that can be partially addressed with both passive and active recreational opportunities, including:

- Risk behaviours such as sedentary living, and risk factors for disease such as obesity
- Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease
- Mental health concerns such as depression and youth suicide.

### **ECONOMIC INEQUITIES**

According to employment Canada, from 1995 to 2011 Canadians are 40.9% poorer due to a reduction in after tax income. Vii This especially affects lower income earning families, visible minorities (who emigrate from poorer economic countries) and youth. Recreational expenses are seen as a luxury item over standard cost-of-living expenses.

#### SOCIAL CHALLENGES

Rapid changes associated with increasing inequities, persistent unemployment, rapid development, the use of social media instead of face-to-face interaction, and the loss of traditional supports have compounded feelings of isolation for many people, and has negatively affected civic involvement, social connectedness, community engagement and social cohesion.

Aside from the challenges there are many economic reasons identified in the framework for encouraging investment in recreation as seen in Figure 3.

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH INACTIVITY

Though not mentioned in the study, the issue with children and youth inactivity is reaching unprecedented levels nation-wide. "Screen time," television, video games and the internet has dramatically increased. Children are pursuing less active forms of recreation that will likely be continued throughout the course of their lives.

Consultation including children can determine what types of facilities, programs and activities will encourage them to get out and play. Providing safe, convenient, family-oriented recreation can encourage outdoor play.



Labour income, jobs created by Canada's parks (2009)22

Amount spent by cyclists using



average Canadian household



Amount Canadians spent on nature- Total health care costs of based recreational activities (2012)25 physical inactivity in Canada



recreational fishing contributed









# PROVINCIAL TRENDS

In a 2008 document prepared by Parks and Recreation Ontario, with the support of the Provincial Government, the use and benefits of local government involvement in providing parks and recreation services was measured. The study illustrates local governments' role in providing social and community development through recreation and parks services, and how they can benefit the community at large.

"Research has shown that recreation and parks improve physical and mental health, reduce health care costs, provide positive lifestyle choices for youth at risk contribute to independent living among older adults and develop improved self-image." viii

The study concurs with both National and North American trends that childhood obesity is a growing concern, and Ontario residents are looking to resolve this through active outdoor recreation.

The study was conducted through phone surveys of 1058 people, covering an equal number of men and women, and a broad cross-section of locations in the province, as well as socio-economic status. The results were compared with the previous study on same subject completed in 1996. In summary the following observations were made by the report:

#### 1. Leisure is highly treasured by Ontario residents and has surpassed work in importance

o While this is important, the report also concluded that people find it more difficult to find time to participate in leisure activities, even though they recognize that overall health and happiness benefits.

#### 2. Parks provide the immediate and most opportunities to achieve the benefits of recreation

- o Parks are readily available and within close walking distance, making them more likely to be used.
- o Parks provide more personal recreational benefits such as; places for children to play, personal exercise, relaxation, and access to nature.

## 3. Recreation services for public participation is increasing

o Parks and recreation activities provide social benefit; including building community spirit, emotional health, and quality of life.

## 4. Ontario residents depend on local government provided recreation

- o In comparison to other forms of public and privately sponsored recreation, local government recreation was closely equal to personal recreation with family and friends
- o Recreation in parks use is equally spread across all ages and significantly important until late in life.
- o Most Ontario residents (67%) are willing to pay more taxes for upgraded public recreation services.

## 5. Community benefits immensely from public recreation in parks

- o Recreation and parks boosts social cohesiveness and quality of life, health and wellbeing, and fosters healthy children.
- o A vast majority (98%) of people believe parks and recreation services are essential services provided by municipalities, and
- o Losing a public park or recreational facility would have a significant negative impact, including a reduction in; quality of life, emotional well-being, community cohesiveness and opportunities for physical activity, entertainment and children-oriented fun.
- o Recreation is an antidote to crime and vandalism.
- o Recreation contributes to environmental awareness and stewardship.

# **Recreation and Parks Rights of Ontarians**

#### Every citizen in Ontario has the right and freedom to:

#### Participation

Participate in safe, affordable and quality recreation programs that are in harmony with the diversity of the community.

#### Active Living

Be physically active through participation in both organized and informal sport and recreation activities.

#### Access to Nature and the Outdoors

Experience nature and access open spaces within their communities.

#### Enriching Experiences

Experience the arts, cultural, heritage, sport and recreation activities in their communities.

#### • A Welcoming and Inclusive Community

Be included in activities that build strong communities, engaged citizens and a healthy family life.

#### Engagement

Be engaged in the planning of recreation and parks in their communities and to participate in volunteer activities.

The report cites two areas of concern that can be considered important in the City of Windsor. These areas include traditional people at risk; those living below the poverty line and those living with disabilities. The Province has recognized the *Recreation and Parks Right for all Ontarians*. Everyone in Ontario has a right to quality, accessible, and inclusive recreation and parks services in their communities – services that are essential for the health of Ontarians, the quality of life in our communities, and the sustainability of our environment. Recreation and parks can help us to overcome the significant challenges facing our communities today, including physical inactivity and the rising cost of health care, a rise in youth violence, and the protection of our environment.

### **FADS**

In 2006, The City of Windsor adopted the Facility Accessibility Design Standard (FADS) prepared by Designable Environments through the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee, as a policy to comply with the Provincial Legislation. FADS provide guidelines for the development of both interior and exterior barrier-free environments. Any development within city parks has been completed within those guidelines, especially with respect to universal design for parking lots, pathways and trails, bench and picnic table design placement and space allotment, shelters, washrooms and playgrounds.

# LOCAL TRENDS

Windsor's recreational outlook is strongly parallel to the observations outlined in the global, national and provincial trends. With an aging population, active adult programs (e.g. Zumba, Tai Chi, Yoga, Cross-training) are the largest growing area of recreation. There are increasing requests to use Parks for these programs. Many adults benefit from nature or outdoor connections such as walking through parks whether they are in a natural setting, along the riverfront or through the gardens at Jackson Park or Coventry Gardens. As adults are more health conscious, there are more demands for active programs, with a focus on overall well-being (e.g. Restorative Yoga, Healthy Back). With the baby-boomer population retiring, there are more active seniors who are demanding an increase in alternative activities such as Pickleball (both Indoor and Outdoor).

There is still a desire to learn within the aging population as well as the new-comers to the city. This calls for more interest in both "educational" leisure activities, as well as more "cultural" leisure activities for all ages. (e.g. "Learn to ...." programs, music lessons, community gardening and nature strolls, etc).

Traditional sports are still strong, along with a growing demand for a diversification of sports including:

- Cricket,
- Disc Sports (Ultimate football/ Disc golf).
- Swimming continues in an upward trend for all ages
  - o Aqua fitness,
  - o length swims
  - o swim lessons

Recreation is experiencing an increased demand for quality programming (i.e. High 5 training and certification for leaders of children's programs). While there had been a dip in attendance at City day camp programs when a number of free programs were offered by other groups, there has recently been a strong return to the city programs, with parents more focused on safety and quality.

Both Recreation Attendants and the Parks Master Plan Survey identified an increase in requests for drop-in children's programming in Parks. It indicated high participation in free programs that level the playing field (e.g. after school programs, sponsored recreational swims, outdoor facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, play features, splash pads). When the activity is free for all users, it encourages a broad mix of users participating together regardless of income level and ability.

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultations were conducted in an open forum manner throughout the City in late 2013 and early 2014 at various locations in each of the Wards. At those meetings feedback surveys were distributed to determine the level of satisfaction with the current parks in their neighbourhoods. During that period and for 6 months following, residents were also able to complete the survey on line. (see Appendix 'K') for a detailed results) Through the assistance of the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, surveys were also completed by the new immigrant community to allow for their involvement in the public consultation process, since many use a language other than English as their primary way of communication. (see Appendix 'L' for a detailed results)

After compilation and analysis of the results from this initial public consultation a second public information session was held at Devonshire Mall on the weekend of June 13 and 14, 2015 to review the findings of the Ward level consultations with the public, and to present the direction that Parks Master Plan was heading. Again, feedback surveys were distributed as well as a new on-line survey that included aspects of recreational programming. The on-line survey closed on August 31, 2015, two months later than intended, due an overwhelming interest by the community and support from the local media for participation. (see Appendix 'M' for a detailed results) Key observations of each of the public surveys are summarized below.

# WARD LEVEL OPEN HOUSES

Participants were asked to complete a survey after viewing the boards and speaking with staff. Results at the Ward level open houses were similar to the Provincial survey of 2008, with some area specific issues and items being addressed. To assess a direction for the Master Plan, participants were asked to provide input on how the parks system could be improved upon. Though most responded that maintenance was the key issue, it is important to note that a focus on improvement for personal recreation and family-oriented activity would be beneficial. The summarized results of that survey are as follows:

## WARD LEVEL OPEN HOUSES KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- In general people use parks as a group or as a family outing.
- 90.9% responded that they feel safe when visiting parks and recreation facilities.
- While the majority feel parks are well maintained and clean, it is the highest priority for go forward objectives.
- A majority of users visit parks as part of their daily exercise and fitness routine.
- Play areas and children's activities are of primary importance.
- The amenities, uses and programming in parks are to be diverse and equitable.
- When asked about the physical accessibility of parks and recreational facilities, the response was consistent with 63.4% finding parks accessible and convenient and 69.6% finding recreational facilities accessible and convenient.
- Multi-Use Trails for Walking and Jogging by far seem to be the most important amenity that Windsorites use and want more of.
- One comment made by several respondents on how to improve parks and recreation facilities was to improve bus service to and from City Parks and Recreation Facilities.

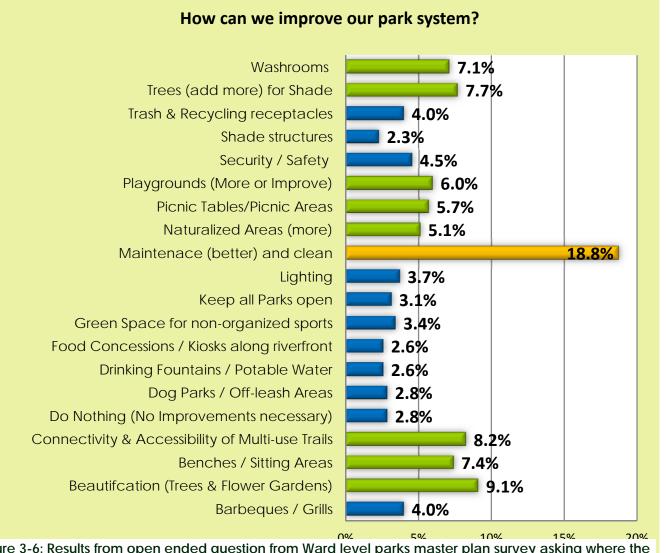


Figure 3-6: Results from open ended question from Ward level parks master plan survey asking where the Parks system can be improved?

## WINDSOR ESSEX LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Recognizing that one of the largest growing populations in the City of Windsor is that of the multi-cultural community, new immigrants from various cultures were surveyed on their use patterns of parks recreational services, through the assistance of the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership. The new immigrant populations were provided with a copy of the Original On-line Survey as an English language lesson. As a follow-up to the surveys, a workshop was also conducted at the main branch of the Windsor Public Library on December 9, 2014. Presentation boards were translated into the 4 main immigrant languages (Arabic, French, Spanish and Traditional Chinese) to identify the process and purpose of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. In all, 124 surveys were completed with an additional 15 surveys received from the Unemployment Help Centre who were assisting this demographic.

The submissions included postal codes to determine the general area where participants lived. Though all but one Ward (10) were represented, the majority (63%) were from Ward 8, where there is a significant lower income housing development. It is understandable, as many new immigrants arrive with very little means and look for accommodation where they can be assisted. When looking at the top five favoured parks, this is evident. The results are somewhat skewed as Meadowbrook Park only appears as a favourite in this population. This is a result of a large number of respondents from Ward 8, and possibly from the geared-to-income housing in the Meadowbrook area. As mentioned the low economic means likely trends the community to use the facilities, which are more local. Of the 21 parks mentioned as favourites, 63% were located within the ward where the respondents lived.

#### **KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

- The results indicate that the strong family-oriented recreational activity of parks and recreation facilities are seen as socializing venues. Of the 21 parks mention as favourites, 63% were located within the ward where the respondent lived. ix
- On the issues of safety, cleanliness, maintenance, and accessibility, participants in this demographic population responded with an overwhelming positive rating.
- The most important parks and recreational amenity was walking and multi-use trails (46.8%). Playgrounds (22.3%) and Basketball Courts (11.5%) placed a distant second and third place respectively.
- While no recreational activity stood out in this population, the top 4 tended towards individual activity with a social component to them (Swimming, Children's Play Activity, and Walking or Jogging). The only item in the top 4 that was a team-oriented activity was soccer.
- In suggestions to improve the current park system, participants in this demographic were fairly consistent with the general population, citing both maintenance and beautification as the top two items, along with picnic areas, washrooms, playgrounds and benches in the top six items.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Review and develop an outdoor swimming facilities strategy to ensure adequate access for all users.
- Review outdoor picnic facilities to ensure appropriate distribution throughout the city.
- To protect and enhance access to floral displays at Coventry Gardens, Dieppe Park and Jackson Park as our premier floriculture and horticultural display parks.

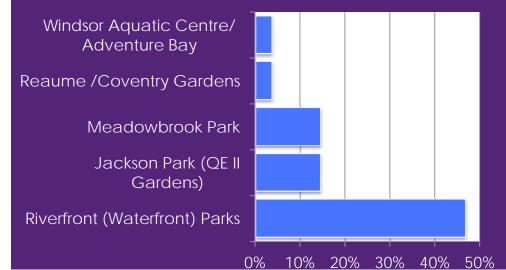


Figure 3-7: Top 5 Parks favoured by the multicultural community

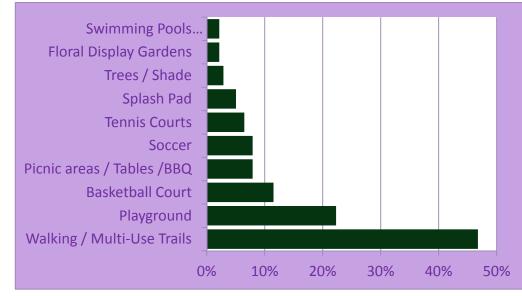


Figure 3-8: Top Amenities favoured by the multicultural community

# SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As a follow-up to the initial Master Plan Survey, a second public consultation was conducted at Devonshire Mall on June 13 and 14. This public venue was used in order to capture a wide audience from around the entire city. At this public consultation, poster boards were presented explaining the master plan process, the timeline for delivery, why the master plan was important as well as results and observations from the first series of open houses.

While the first open houses were conducted to assess the wants and desires of the public, the second public consultation was conducted to provide results and observations from the Ward level open houses and focus on direction for the master plan. Information was made available both at the Mall and on-line for the public to review. In total 332 completed surveys were received.

- 21 On site at Devonshire Mall
- 43 Mailed in after the public information session
- 32 Returned through the Ojibway Nature Centre
- 236 On-line through Survey Monkey

In order to establish an approval rating on the current delivery system of our parks, respondent were asked to rate their satisfaction with their nearest park. In general people are satisfied, however the largest number of responses were "somewhat" satisfied at 38%. Almost an equal amount expressed some level of dissatisfaction (36%). This indicates that there is room for

improvement in the majority of the parks and facilities.

Thinking only of outdoor public parks, how important to you is variety and uniqueness of our Parks?

I would like to visit the same kind of park all the time

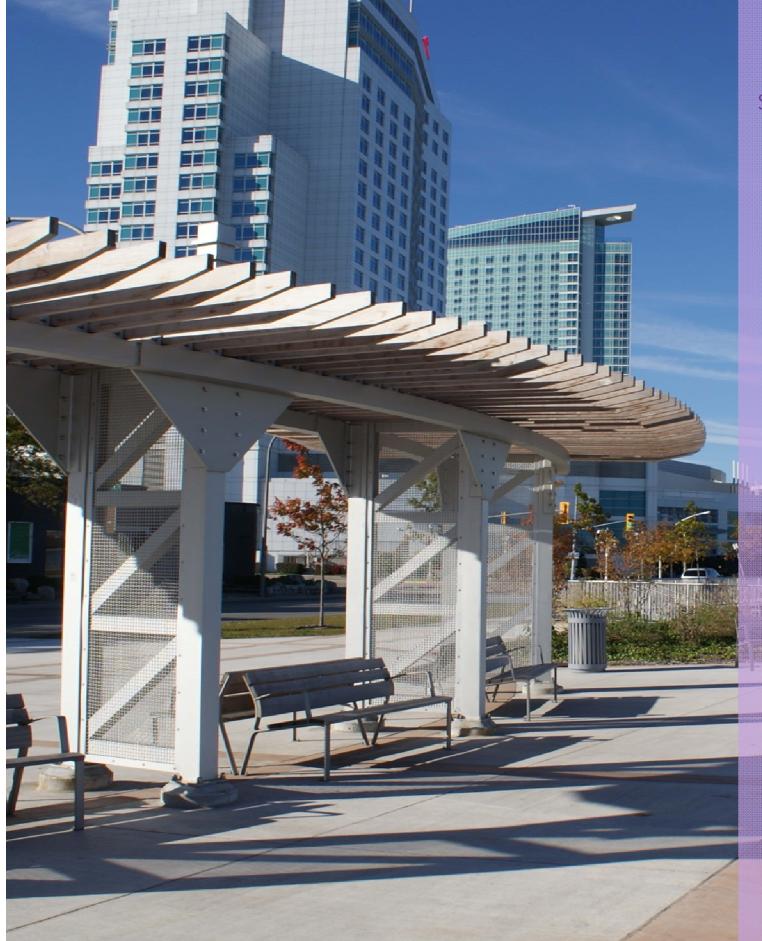
I would like parks to have a variety of things to do

I would like more variety in our parks so they offer different experiences depending on where they are located in the city

Figure 3-9: Importance of parks

To determine the area where the dissatisfaction was coming from, respondents were also asked about barriers to use of the park closest to the respondents. 59% indicated that there were no barriers that prevent them from using the park more often. Of those that responded that there was an issue, five basic items were suggested, with an opportunity for the respondents to provide other areas that might be creating a barrier to their enjoyment of the park. Of the five suggested comments, *Lack of Amenities was selected the highest by 57% of respondents. Lack of Trails, Lack of Shade and park does not offer what the respondents needed* were all equally selected by approximately 1 in every 3 people.

Of the detailed issues provided by respondents, a lack of accessible picnic tables was the greatest issue at 14%. 6% to 8% of those that responded to this question, suggested that the lack of, or the condition of sports courts, dog parks, play equipment, and washrooms, as well site specific drainage issues were creating barriers to use.



### SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Incorporation of multi-use trails, pathways, benches and shade trees would provide the best resources for inclusion of children, youth, seniors and persons with disabilities.
- > Trails were again seen as very important however, the current condition of trails and connectivity between parks by trails was seen as lacking acceptable conditions.
- While three of every four respondents said they felt safe in city parks, there was generally a disclaimer that recommended some improvement of safety features.
- Parks and outdoor recreation provide benefit to personal well-being and can be achieved through:
  - Shelters for picnics, gatherings and outdoor concert
  - Multi-use trails and interconnectivity between parks for bicycles and pedestrian.
  - Access to drinkable water.
  - Trees for shade and better air quality.
  - Internal pathways in parks.
  - Community gardening.
  - Exercise equipment or programmed exercise activity.
- Unique experience and for parks to provide a variety of things to do when visiting them was highlighted.
- Positive experience is directly related to accessibility, inclusivity and health/recreational well-being.
- Diverse amenities options to be provided in their parks.
- Consolidation of services to create stronger, more diverse recreation opportunities at the community scale.
- Some level of naturalization such as 'No Mow' areas in parks to attract urban wildlife, and make parks more efficient and sustainable for future generations.
- Partnerships, volunteerism, and adopt-a-park programs such as "Friends of a Park", were seen as beneficial opportunities for efficiency, sustainability, and marketing of parks.
- While social media is becoming more acceptable forms of communicating parks and recreation activities, the desire for traditional methods such as the Parks and Recreation Activity guide is rated equally as important as a method of communication, especially with the elderly.
- > Top priorities for the next 10 years were:
  - Naturalization and protection of natural areas.
  - Interconnection of parks and recreation spaces through bike and multiuse trails.
  - Re-establishing Neighbourhood parks as the primary focus to the community.

Figure 3-10: Observation deck along Central Riverfront Lands

AdieKnoxPool

ReaumePark

WFCU

Respondents in both the initial and secondary surveys were asked to identify their favourite park or recreation facility in the city. As many of the Ward level open houses were conducted in the winter of 2013-2014, the secondary survey which was conducted in the summer of 2015 asked the same question to ensure that the results reflected an accurate response.

The Riverfront Parks were listed as the most favoured parks. This correlates with the Sasaki observations on American cities with accessible waterfronts. (see Appendix 'M'). The second survey was conducted during the summer months, and Ojibway Nature Complex (including Spring Garden ANSI, and Black Oak Heritage Forest) tied with the Riverfront as the highest park preferred by respondents. As the results from the first and the second survey collectively represent both winter and summer use, as well as a specific emerging population, the popularity information has been merged. The Word Cloud in Figure 3-11 represents the total results of the favourite parks in the city from the combined surveys.

Combined, the city's Riverfront Parks are by far the most appreciated and favoured by citizens throughout the year. Jackson Park, and Ojibway Nature Complex represent the two polar opposites in parks; one being a formally planted floral garden and the other is a natural park. Both have a passive recreational character in common and are rated roughly equally. The next dominant park is Willistead which is well known and offers year-round activity for passive recreation. Meadowbrook, Optimist Memorial, Adie Knox Pool, Reaume Park, Coventry Gardens, Malden Park and WFCU make up the next group by popularity. This group of parks and facilities are located throughout the city and are key regional or community sites that offer the entire City some form of recreational activity. A focus on these parks may be necessary to ensure that their popularity is maintained and their merits be considered for other parks within parks system.

#### **KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

- 1) Riverfront and Jackson Park are the City's most valued Park assets
- 2) Parks within close proximity (walking distance) are favoured by residents
- 3) Parks with special amenities are preferred by residents

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt the re-classification of parks as outlined in this master plan and update the "City of Windsor's Official Plan"
- Establish a 'Management Plan' for each city park and open space
- Identify the key parks that would serve as community hubs.
- Identify and review parks or portions of parks for naturalization and establish appropriate management strategies with public consultation.
- Establish a 'Policy for 'No Mow' Areas'.
- As continuous community involvement plays a key role in the longevity of parks, encourage the establishment of "Adopt-a-Park" partnerships with community organizations and groups to assist in the sustainability of parks.



## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Several meetings were held with stakeholder and special interest groups to collect individual demographic populations' opinions on direction for the parks and recreation master plan. The purpose of the Stakeholder & Public Information Consultations was to:

- √ To inform of the findings from the previous consultations.
- ✓ To demonstrate an analysis of what direction those findings are leading the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process.
- ✓ To receive detailed input for further Master Plan Development.
- ✓ To ensure inclusivity in the recommendations.

In each situation, a PowerPoint presentation was provided demonstrating the current situation of the parks system as well as initial observations from the first Ward level surveys. Participants at each stakeholder meeting were asked the following questions:

- 1. What do you value most in Parks & Recreation?
- 2. What city park or facility best suits the particular needs of your community? And Why?
- 3. What can the City Parks Department do to make your population feel more welcome in Parks and Recreational Facilities?

A feedback survey was distributed at each meeting to gather more detailed comments that would help participants to *Rediscover Our Parks.* (see Appendix 'N' for a detailed results)

### **ORGANIZED SPORTS**

Organized sports groups were invited to attend a special public meeting which focused on their needs and desires related to the current parks and facilities in the City of Windsor. The meeting was held at the Collavino Hall at the WFCU Centre in the evening of June 19, 2014. Nineteen different organizations attended, providing information on scheduling, quality of the amenities offered by the city, opportunities, constraints and needs.

- •The majority of Sports Organizations that use the Recreational Sports Fields in Windsor have either kept equal (33.3%) or increased enrolment (61.1%).
- •Sports Organizations are moderately satisfied with the allocations of the fields for practices and games. Each organization was helpful by expressing areas for improvement and methods to achieve them. Most sports organizations utilize the fields at the same peak times from May to Mid-September.
- •Nearly all of the organizations identify that the availability of washroom facilities near the fields is the most important amenity that parks can offer, followed by parking, and quality of the fields. (i.e. drainage, irrigation, and turf quality)
- •The greatest innovative suggestion to encourage youth involvement was for the City to develop a Youth Sports Village in partnership with the various organizations that would house numerous sports under one roof, or Multi-use Facility. This was further qualified by organization preferring centralized fields (i.e. Mic Mac baseball and Ford Test Track soccer) rather than scattered throughout neighbourhood parks.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Undertake a 'Feasibility Study' in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Sports Organizations to determine the needs for:
  - a) artificial sports fields
  - b) sports dome
- That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments undertake a "Sports Needs Analysis" in conjunction
  - with community and sports facilities users looking at consolidation opportunities more immediately for the east end of Windsor and ultimately city wide.
- Establish partnerships with the organized sports community to assist the City of Windsor in providing the best sports opportunities available in the region.



Figure 3-12: Jackson Park Lawn Bowling Greens



Figure 3- 13: MicMac Park Baseball Diamonds

## WINDSOR ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On July 8, 2015, Parks staff met with the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee. The committee members were cognisant of the fact that the city complies with the AODA standards established by Provincial Legislation, but provided specific requests to be included.

The primary focus for members is access. Of particular note was access to the waterfront resources especially the sandy areas (Sandpoint Beach). In follow-up discussions with the Windsor Essex Community Health Unit (WECHU) the Blue Flag Beach program was identified as a potential to address this objective.

Further, clear definition of paths and functions is of importance, especially for those with visual deficiency impairments. The main concern to be addressed is the manner in which the riverfront edge is temporarily disrupted due to events and fishing activity. Strong delineation between the surfaces and activities was emphasized, as well as reducing the potential for other users to create obstacles. (i.e. moving picnic tables into the pedestrian right-of-way)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Prepare a 'Redevelopment Plan' in collaboration with the City's Accessibilities Officer to assess the condition and compliance of municipal park pathways, trails as well as beach and riverfront access from an AODA perspective in all parks.
- Identify popular fishing areas along Riverfront Parks and establish 'Recreational Fishing Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community.
- Prepare redevelopment plans for Sandpoint Beach to accommodate the needs of the community and establish it as a "Blue Flag Beach".

## CITY OF WINDSOR DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

On June 23, 2015, Parks staff met with the Windsor Diversity Committee. Several ideas were suggested by the committee of which the following were identified as most prominent.

- Place in which to unwind, meditate; that is clean, peaceful and well maintained.
- Shelter, washrooms, safety.
- Cycling and walking paths/trails.
- Heritage, historical.
- Place to meet people.
- Picnic areas.
- Important to have a fair and equitable distribution of parks throughout the City.
- Area for "pole walking".
- Accessible amenities.
- Drinking fountains.

Individual committee members did express the notion of specialty gardens with both cultural and heritage value associated with them. In follow-up meetings, committee representatives from both the First Nations and Chinese communities provided request for placement of gardens that represent their cultures (medicine wheel and Chinese garden respectively).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Create a true 'Botanic Garden'
- Provide First Nations' consultation on any natural lands and naturalization processes or display garden commemorating heritage of indigenous peoples of the area as required by the "Provincial Policy Statement 2014".x









# WINDSOR ESSEX COMMUNITY HEALTH UNIT

Parks staff met with representatives on two separate occasions to review issues in environmental heath and opportunities for access to healthy recreational activities that could be addressed through the master plan. Many of the issues and opportunities have been discussed in the Benefits of Parks and Recreation section found in the Introduction.

The two main issues that were discuss were access to recreation in order to provide health and well being of individuals and issues of environmental related-health.

Suggestions included the Blue Dot Movement by David Suzuki (see Appendix 'O') and the Blue Flag Beach Campaign (see Appendix 'P).



Figure 3-14: Community Garden at Drouillard Road

## WINDSOR/ESSEX COMMUNITY GARDEN COLLECTIVE

In 2014, the City established a Community Garden Policy with The Collective and mapped potential sites through-out the City (see Figure 3-15) based on potential need, water supply, and parking facilities. Outside of the downtown there are two main areas with great demand.

On October 16, 2015 City staff met with members of the Windsor/Essex Community Garden Collective (The Collective) which is a network of community gardens and urban agriculture projects located throughout Windsor and Essex County. The Collective currently operate 21 community gardens in the County, ten of which are in the City of Windsor on municipally owned parks and vacant lots.

Within the 10 City owned parcels, The Collective currently supports 350 families and 25 youth with their gardening needs by providing this horticultural-based recreation form. Immediately there is a need to expand in the City Centre Planning District with 36 more plots at Wigle Park and 25-50 garden plots being proposed at Mitchell Park.

#### **KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

- Primary need is in the urban centre as many of those users are of cultural ethno backgrounds that traditionally farm in their places of origin; for seniors, or those who have little expendable income gardening provides a relatively inexpensive social and recreational opportunity.
- Two sites to be considered are in the west end. Previous attempts in the west end
  have been met with difficulty as there had been very little focus on organization, thus
  resulting in failed attempts.
- One new site at Roseville Gardens Park to support abutting schools, and a desire by 100+ families in the neighbouring housing complexes.
- There is currently little to no demand east of the Little River Corridor and south of the E.C.Row Expressway.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

 Work with the Windsor/Essex Community Garden Collective and other interested partners to provide opportunities for community gardens where there is demand at selected sites within the city as per the "Community Gardens Policy".

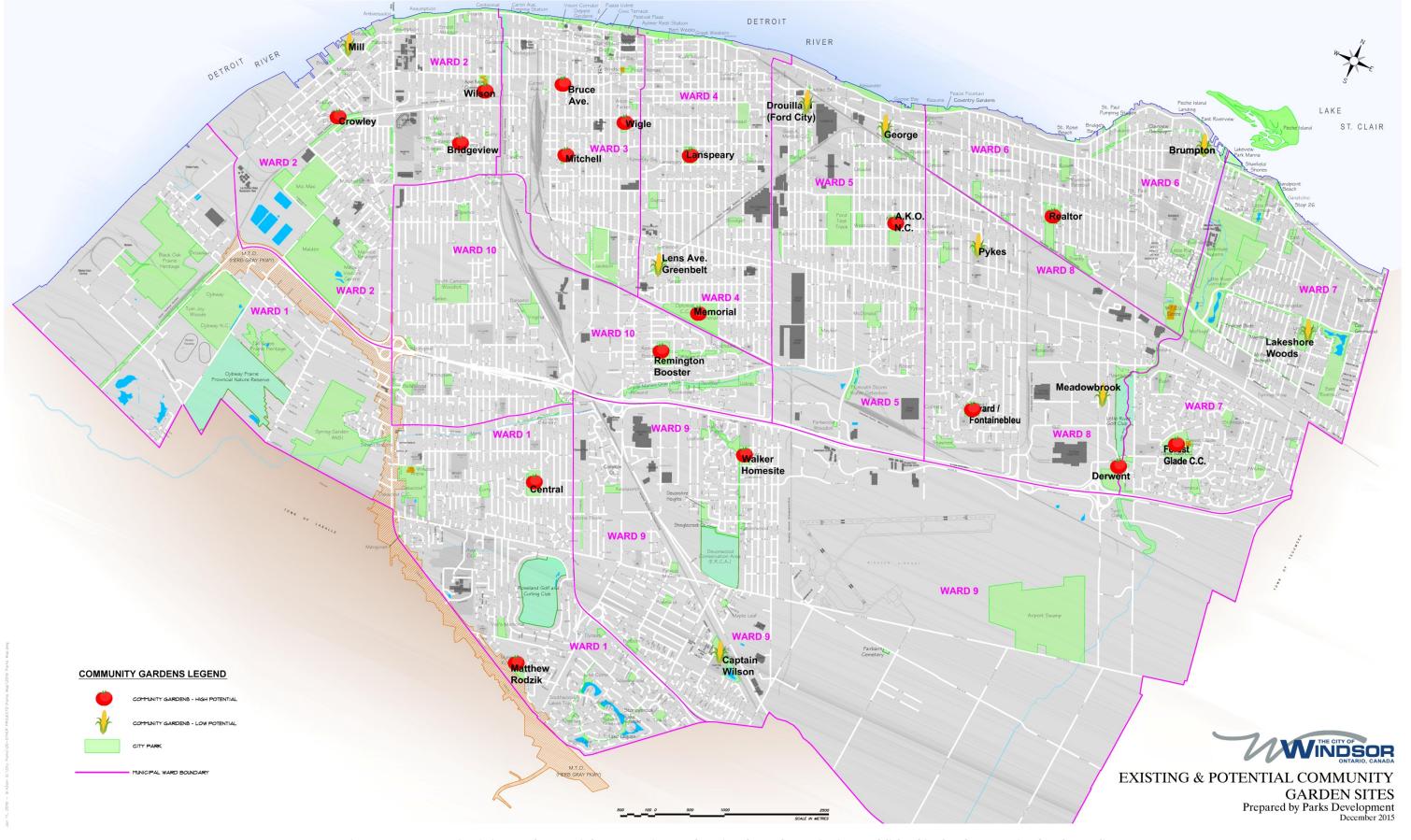


Figure 3-15: Map of existing and potential community garden sites based on criteria established in the Community Garden Policy

### WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

On July 30, 2015, Parks staff met with the Windsor Essex County Environmental Committee. The committee members stressed the needs for recognition and implementation of environmental sustainability in parks with an emphasis on the biodiversity of the types of parkland that is offered in the City. As one of the driving forces of the committee, ERCA followed up with individual comments and suggestions after the formal meeting.

### **ERCA**

On October 16, 2015, Parks Department met with members of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) to discuss opportunities for ERCA and the City to work together to help improve the Natural Heritage System within the city. The vision of *Rediscover Our Parks* and ERCA's mandate were seen as compatible in the sense that the two are essentially methods to stewardship of the environment. Following a series of surveys and public input, ERCA established its own Strategic Plan 2011-2016 which focuses on:



- Connect
- Engage
- Collaborate
- Discover

In summary it was determined that parks essentially have two functions in the City. The first is to provide recreational opportunities for the public. The second function is to provide livable urban environments by helping to filter out pollution, reduce storm water runoff through natural systems, reduce heat island effects caused by hard surfaces especially asphalt, and to help moderate the impact of climate change through shade in summer months.

Many parks in the City's Greenway System of Parks have lost their use and need to be repurposed. Some of those may provide opportunity to provide a better connection with the residents and nature, through Low Impact Design (L.I.D.) which allow parks to become green infrastructure, reducing the burden of storm water on the sewer system. L.I.D. also helps to reduce the risk of flooding by holding water until the civic storm systems have been purged of any heavy rain events. Green Infrastructure is a growing trend in cities as a stewardship method to counteract climate change and the increased frequency of heavy storms.





- > Collaborate with ERCA to provide performance and management strategies for all natural parks and naturalized areas including:
  - o a) Fish habitat along riverfront lands
  - o b) Watershed management areas
  - o c)Prairies
  - o d) Woodlots
- To identify drainage issues in the city parks system and areas where flooding is an issue for residents to determine if low impact design and green infrastructure strategies can be used to accommodate storm water and help mitigate flooding.
- > Revisit the "Official Plan" with the Planning Department to offer green infrastructure bonuses for parkland development in subdivisions (especially in Sandwich South Planning District).
- Work with other civic departments to revise "Parking Lot By-Law" to allow 'Low-Impact-Design' in parks to reduce storm water impacts.
- > That The City of Windsor coordinate a stewardship project with ERCA in order to secure Priority Natural Significant Lands such as Ojibway Shores, Sandwich South Planning District and any other opportunities where natural features exist to improve the natural heritage system in the City.

### INTERNAL STAFF

In order to address the efficiency of the parks and outdoor recreation provided, it was important to consult with front line staff that engages the public on a regular basis. Parks operation staff was asked three main questions:

- 1. What are the biggest issues today?
- 2. What do feel is the greatest Impact over the next 10 20 years?
- 3. What Resources are needed? (i.e. Human, \$, Equipment, etc...)
- 4. What feedback is your staff in the field receiving from users?

### PARKS OPERATIONS

Many of the issues that were presented dealt with parks operations staff not having the human resources to maintain all the parks, especially sports fields, with the current expected level of service. Drainage issues, especially in the sports fields of older parks have become a dominant issue. The area has over the last few years experienced extreme weather events including; heavy snow storms, rain and heavy winds. These are all issues identified as related to climate change. While no empirical data is available as to what the final change will be, it is understandable that the current resources are insufficient to manage the existing situation of parks and sports fields.

Over the next 10 to 20 years, parks operations staff cited several issues as playing a fundamental role in the ability to provide an acceptable level of service to the community for recreational purposes.

- Changing demographics of the community including aging population, changing trends of sports and recreation, and an uncertainty of any real increase in population.
- Physical limitations of existing parks including aging infrastructure, inability to expand due to current development.
- Future demands with respect to Level of Service including, impact from the parkway upon completion, other departmental projects with impacts on parks operational staff, and future legislation with respect to parks operations.
- Environmental and health issues including chemical vs. natural pest control, invasive species, and climate change especially with severe weather events.
- **Economic issues** related to parks development and operations including, source of materials, risk prevention and mitigation, insurance, increasing material costs and expenses for specialized labour and training of existing staff, especially in the fields of forestry and horticulture to comply with future legislation.

- Establish and adopt an ongoing GIS referenced AutoCAD based data inventory in collaboration with Asset Management and Geomatics of all park assets including the purchase of computerized digital systems and equipment as needed to capture assets within the park system.
- > Update the "Official Plan" to make certain that any new infrastructure, utilities and services abutting parkland is coordinated through the Parks Department to ensure appropriate service to parks.
- > Continue the Community Living Mentorship Partnership program to provide opportunities for meaningful work experience for persons with disabilities..
- > Adopt a policy with Asset Management that establishes level of service for the maintenance and operation of parks.

### OJIBWAY NATURE CENTRE

The Ojibway Nature Staff provide services for all the indigenous forests and prairies as well as naturalized areas of the city. Included in this service is interpretation, management of natural areas and consultation on the issue of species of risk, endangered species research and management, as well as permitting processes of invasive species control along with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The primary area with the Nature Centre's control is that of the Ojibway Nature Complex. Much of the success comes from the assistance of Friends of Ojibway Prairie, ERCA and other volunteers. While the site managed by the centre is of natural significance to the city it is also recognized as one of the most significant and biologically diverse areas in Canada.

### **KEY OBSERVATIONS**

- •Species at Risk is the main focus of the staff at the centre. Climate change and reduced habitats threaten the biodiversity that is characteristic of Windsor and Essex County.
- Work load is an issue as the Centre is operating with a reduced staff of 3 people.
- Constant pressure from development to expand into the natural areas, as well as impacts from abutting development on natural areas. This is partly due to inappropriate or non-updated Zoning in areas that are maintained as natural habitats.

- Prepare standards for the establishment of urban wildlife habitat to; a) Accommodate expansion of the natural areas to help facilitate better management of species at risk, habitat for urban wildlife and opportunity for nature related recreation for people.
- b) Establish a protocol for succession control in managed natural and naturalized areas to deter the establishment of exotic and aggressive naturally invasive species.
- c) Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing vegetation, using native plants where possible, especially for restoration of disturbed areas, and naturalization projects.
- Apply under criteria ix and x of the nomination process of UNESCO to establish the Ojibway Nature Complex of parks as a UNESCO Heritage Site, through the assistance of the Friends of Ojibway Prairie and ERCA, based on the universal natural significance of the properties.





### PARKS FORESTRY

With a back log of tree maintenance of over 15 months, tree care in our parks definitely takes a back seat to the care of trees along the right of way. This is because there is a perceived notion that there is a greater risk with trees along right of ways than trees located in parks. Trees located along right of ways are surrounded with an abundance of targets such as parked cars, driveways, homes, sidewalks, pedestrians etc. While most legal claims are related to personal property damage from falling trees along rights-of-ways, it should not be misconstrued that there is not a similar risk in parks due to older and weakened trees. The tolerance and neglect of trees in parks is often greater because the trees are situated in open grassy areas. However, we know from the public surveys that users enjoy the trees and people are generally attracted to trees in parks for shade, picnics etc.

### **KEY OBSERVATIONS**

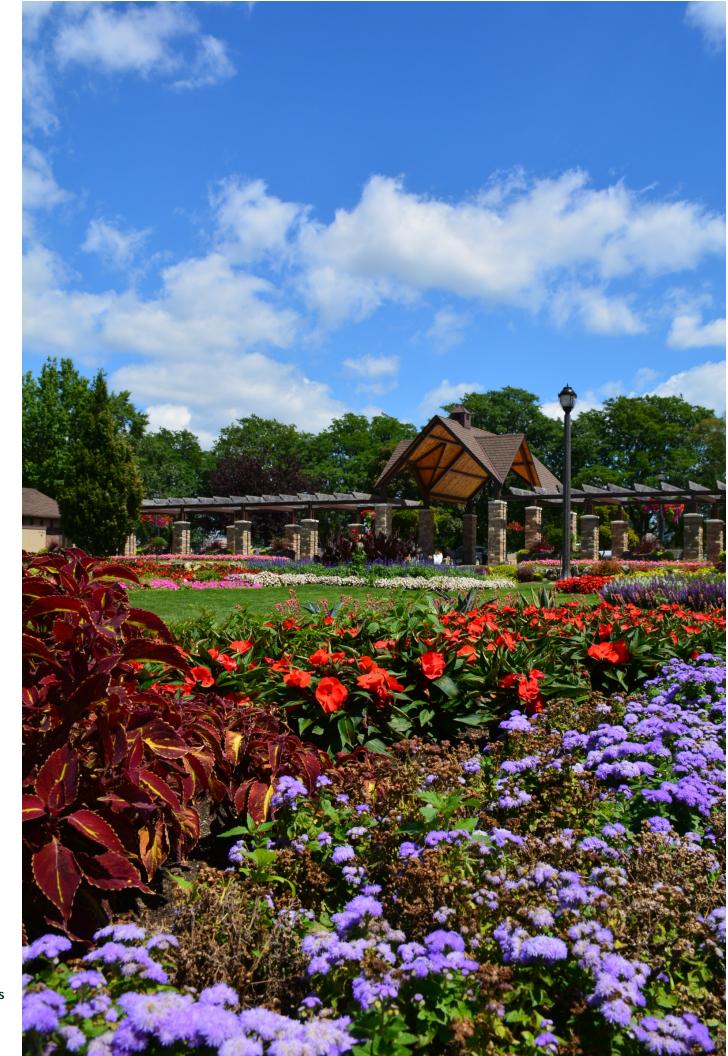
Aside from the aging tree population in the city there were several other items identified by the Forestry Staff which will have impact to parks over the next 10 to 20 years including:

- Loss of shade canopy in parks due to pathogen loss such as the Emerald Ash Beetle (EAB). Due the extremely rapid progression of the beetle through the urban forest, partly caused by the over-abundance of ash trees in the city, it was impossible to implement a reforestation program to replace the trees lost.
- Limited financial resources constrain the ability of forestry to provide adequate maintenance of trees after they are planted. This results in the use of a limited palette of trees which could result in another loss comparable to the EAB infestation due to a lack of diversity.
- Climate Change, even moderate, will impact the urban forest by reduced planting windows due to extreme climate conditions. As Windsor is on the cusp of two plant hardiness zones (6 & 7) it is likely that the plant species which do well today may not be able survive in warmer climates. Other species may need to be considered for the future.
- Lack of suitable trees in the local industry causes availability issues and
  magnifies the issue of reduced diversity. The potential loss of the City's Tree
  Nursery due to the expansion of the east end pollution control plant will have
  further negative impacts on this available supply of trees for forestry services in
  parks and roads.
- **Natural area programming** strives for locally grown and indigenous plant species. While these species are appropriate for parks, they often do not survive the harsher urban environments (i.e. Street trees, plazas, salt sprays, arid environments etc.). Protection of the natural forests is environmentally

Figure 3-17: City Forestry Operations

- important and use of exotics in street tree application can create competition for indigenous trees, however exotics have a place. Careful management and routine maintenance of these trees can curtail their invasiveness into more natural areas.
- Current and Pending Legislation requires that staff are appropriately trained and certification is updated. Accessing qualified staff can be a challenge as many tend to look for work where the economic outlook is more stable. Risk however does not share that desire. Having knowledgeable staff and resources along with an appropriate planting and maintenance program will help to mitigate any risks.
- Achieving shade ratios by implementing protocols for parks planting programs will also help to mitigate risk as environmental health risks becomes more prevalent an issue. The Windsor/Essex Health Unit has conducted heat island and shade studies in both city parks and school playgrounds and assessed that lack of shade in public spaces creates a risk for people with respect to certain forms of cancer. Shade from trees provides a refuge for park users to limit exposure to the sun.

- Protect the quality of life for future generations; establish an "Urban Forestry Management Plan" for the Parks Greenway System and public right-of-ways by conducting a full tree inventory of all city-owned trees and return to the industry standard through maintenance and funding to ensure that our urban forest remains sustainable.
- Determine shade targets through Forestry and Environmental Services as a follow-up to the Shade Audit for all parks in the Parks Greenway System as well as rights-of-ways in order to provide healthy shaded access throughout the city and help offset the impact of climate change.
- ➤ Review the current City Forestry's Tree Nursery and determine its needs and identify an appropriate location in order for forestry to maintain an acceptable level of service and a reliable source for Carolinian tree species as well as boulevard trees.



### HORTICULTURE - BOTANIC GARDENS

As stewards of the premier parks within the city, and as a follow-up to the survey results from public consultations (especially the new immigrant community) management staff from Horticulture Division provided consultation with the parks staff to identify any issues to be addressed and observations for better service to community.

**Key Observations** 

Interpretation of plants is lacking. Horticultural staff feel that the city is lacking in a true botanical garden which would provide interpretation of the biodiversity of plants that are grown in the City of Windsor. While the premier parks are pleasant to look at they lack interpretive signage and information for the public to learn about the plants being planted, often leading to staff expending time explaining and demonstrating the how plants grow. This public service is important however it does impact the amount of time that staff can tend to their daily horticultural chores.

**Demographics** of the users in the premier horticultural parks is primarily elderly who need to be provided with rest areas to sit on a more routine basis. While some of the premier parks have ample seating, it is often located away from trails, in the sun, or not where people will get the best view of the horticultural exhibits. Similarly, this demographic requires access to washroom facilities more often; however there is a lack of accessible washroom facilities in many of the premier horticultural parks.

**Vandalism** whether intentional or a result of the misuse of the facilities (especially along the Riverfront parks) has become the primary area for maintenance by horticultural staff. Most of the vandalism associated with skateboarders has been noted to happen in the winter months when there is less activity in the parks and less for user to see and experience.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amalgamate Parks Forestry and Horticultural Operations to centralize parks services at Jackson Park to:
  - a) Relocate of the City's Greenhouses from Lanspeary Park to Jackson Park.
  - b) Investigate and develope a Display Greenhouse for year-round demonstration and horticultural programs.
- Establish a labeling protocol for interpretation and communication of the horticultural and biodiversity of the plant material found in select premier natural and horticultural parks.

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

On several occasions the parks staff met with staff from the Planning Department on opportunities that relate to parks and the master plan process. The Planning Department is governed by the Official Plan and the Planning Act. As previously mentioned the Official Plan has been under a review process and will be updated by the Parks Master Plan. Consultation with the Planning Department demonstrated support for preliminary proposals of re-classification of parks to help assist with improved levels of service to the community. The planning department has been working with the Province on establishing policy for natural resources of wetlands. With the development of the Herb Gray Parkway, it was established that in the western half of the city, there are several areas where wetland conservation is a key issue. Parks, through the Ojibway Nature Centre and the City Naturalist, can provide an integrated approach to conservation of these lands and preserve this natural heritage area.

- > Update the "Official Plan" to make certain that any new infrastructure, utilities and services abutting parkland is coordinated through the Parks Department to ensure appropriate service to parks.
- > Continue active involvement with the Planning Department in the development of the "Sandwich South Secondary Plan".
- > To protect and promote existing natural areas and provide connections where available.
- > To promote naturalization where warranted to create buffers and connections to natural areas in consultation with the community.

INCLUSIVITY te and respond to the needs of a diverse of citizens, making parks that are accessible citizens, making parks that are accessi all ages and those with special needs. 60 **ACCESSIBILITY** To recognize are population of c for all people, c

00

COMMUNICATION

Building parks and recreational solutions through open and transparent communication for the whole community.







# HEALTH & WELLNESS To create a complete parks system that responds to the environmental well-being of our communities, as well as providing recreational experiences that promote healthy

## SUSTAINABILITY



tally responsible manner generations.

To create and maintain parks and recreational



The information gathered from the initial consultations developed direction by which the following Guiding Principles were established.





Parks and trails shall continue to play an important role in

from parks, and serve t







enhance parks cost effective

maintain and in a balanced

To successfully develop, and recreation facilities i

manner.



To provide vibrant and memorable community spaces that foster a positive and unique sense of place.

### SAFETY sity parks system, ensuring that the linkages to and parks, as well as between parks remain accessible serve the greater Windsor community.

recreational programming in the city clean and attractive environments for Parks facilities and recreational shall provide safe, clean and at all users.

C Ä FFICE

### **EXPERIENCE**

These Nine Guiding Principles provided direction for the second consultation process, in which questions were constructed to determine how the Parks Department would address those Principles in detailed analysis of the parks and recreational services. They also, provided a focus on the recommendations found in the strategic directions to *Rediscover Our Parks*.

### Figure 3-19: Guiding Principles

To provide different types of parks and recreational experiences distributed evenly throughout the city.

### **END NOTES**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ontario Chamber of Commerce: Regional Economic Outlook: Windsor-Sarnia, 2015. pg 1

ii Ibid. pg 6.

Sasaki; The State of the City Experience; Sasaki outlines the results of a survey of 1,000 people who both live and work in one of six dynamic US cities—Boston, Chicago, New York, Austin, San Francisco, and Washington DC.; pp 6-7.

iv A Framework for Recreation 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing, January 2015

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>v</sup> Ibid. pg 7.

vi Statistics Canada, 2011 census data. www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo62a-eng.htm. Accessed August 2014.

vii Employment and Social Development Canada. Calculations based on Statistics Canada. Table 202-0703 - Market, total and after-tax income, by economic family type and after-tax income quintiles, 2011 constant dollars, annual, CANSIM (database). In Indicators of Well-Being in Canada. <a href="https://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.isp?iid=22">www.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.isp?iid=22</a>. Accessed September 2014.

viii Parks and Recreation Ontario; Recreation and Parks: Essential for Quality of Life, 2008; pg 4.

ix When looking at the top five favoured parks the local needs are evident. The results of the survey were somewhat skewed as Meadowbrook Park only appears as a favourite in this population. This is a result of a large number of respondents from Ward 8, and possibly from the geared-to-income housing in the Meadowbrook area. As mentioned the low economic means likely trends the community to use the facilities which are more local.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>x</sup> Ontario, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, *Provincial Policy Statement*. 2014. (Toronto: Queens Printer for Ontario, 2014. (Council No 107/2014). (Section 1.2.2.: Planning authorities are encouraged to coordinate planning matters with Aboriginal communities)), pg12.







### CHAPTER 4 – STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS





The parks and outdoor recreation master plan for the City of Windsor recognizes that the current infrastructure of parks and open spaces are valuable resources to be expanded upon. Their cultural and natural value has much to offer the citizens of Windsor and visitors alike. While opportunities to expand may become evident in the next 20 years, the priority of this master plan is to emphasize and enhance the current parkland supply, to make it better for people experience the city's open spaces and *REDISCOVER OUR PARKS*.

In this chapter, the main focus of the plan is defined through the guiding principles and the strategic directions that drive those principals.

### GOALS

Goals are established to provide guidance on directions that will be taken to meet needs of the community. The goals are more specific than the guiding principles and are highlighted under each of the sections in Strategic Directions. While some recommendations have been cited earlier in this master plan, more specific recommendations pertaining to each of the guiding principles and their specific goal are made in this chapter. Generic goals for the Strategic Directions are as follows:

- TO PROMOTE THE RICH LEGACY OF THE CITY PARKS THROUGH MARKETING OF PARKS AND PROGRAMMING OF SPECIAL EVENTS, AND TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS THAT HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH OUR PARKS SYSTEM FOR ALL TO REDISCOVER.
- TO CONTINUE WITH ON-GOING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 1989 CULTURE AND RECREATION MASTER. PLAN
- TO PROVIDE BETTER MARKETING OF PARKS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC.
- TO CONTINUE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROVIDE RECREATION AND PARKLAND BASED ON THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, BY MAINTAINING REGULAR INTERACTION BETWEEN PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE COMMUNITY.

### ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1: To recognize and respond to the needs of a diverse population of citizens, making parks that are accessible for all people, all ages and those with special needs.

While this master plan promotes the need to encourage people to *Rediscover Our Parks*, it does not neglect its primary purpose to provide recreational open space and activity for children, youth<sup>i</sup>, seniors<sup>ii</sup>, and special populations<sup>iii</sup>. Focus groups in the public consultation process targeted these populations. While it was established that, in general, there is diversity and recreational programming throughout the current greenway system, it was also determined that there were deficiencies in providing recreational choices for specific populations. Realizing that there is always room for improvement, open-ended questions asked how to improve the parks, and make them more "user-friendly" for four targeted populations; Children, Youth, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

With AODA and FADS guidelines, the City has been responsible to ensure that parks and recreation facilities are accessible and allows inclusion for all, whether to play, relax, walk or experience the natural settings that our parks offer. One of the challenges in improving accessibility is determining where to focus resources.

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goaliv



### **RECOMMENDATION:**

➤ Place added focus on the construction of any park amenity or recreational paths within City Parks to comply with "PART IV.1 DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES STANDARDS (ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005."



Figure 4-1: People walking along the riverfront trail

### **CHILDREN**

Activity for children focuses around the play experience. Traditional park development practice for the provision of playgrounds, especially water play such as splash pads are still regarded as the most popular methods to provide recreation. Innovation or natural play, as well as access to natural areas and wildlife are emerging as desired types of recreation for children. This can be attributed to a growing concern for the environment as it has been a contemporary issue in the media.

### **PLAYGROUNDS**

Since 1989, the overall number of parks with playgrounds in the system has increased to a total of 146. Generally, the size of the playground is related to the size and role of the park. As a best practice, the Parks Department installs play equipment to the suit the classification, size and number of children in the area. The City of Windsor Parks Department adopted the CSA standard in 1990 for the installation, maintenance and inspection of children's playgrounds. The AODA ACT passed in 2005 impacts the development of children's play spaces in terms of accessibility, public consultation and the built environment. Starting in January of 2016 all newly constructed and redeveloped play spaces must comply with the standard. In order to comply with this legislation, since 2012 Council has provided capital funding for the installation of accessible playgrounds across the city with a goal to provide 2 units per Ward (or 1 per Planning District) for a total of 20 units. Currently there are 14 accessible playgrounds units with 6 additional units to be constructed by the end of 2017.

In 2013 a Playground Audit was completed. Due to life cycling the report recommends that 76 playgrounds will need to be replaced over the next 6 years. The report identifies that the current capital budget cannot maintain such an aggressive replacement schedule and therefore makes recommendations for replacement of 53 units over 10 years.

Rubber surfacing is the preferred surface for playgrounds in the AODA, however engineered wood fibre is also a consideration where appropriate. A lifecycle program for parks of different use intensity will be necessary to ensure that playgrounds meet the CSA and AODA guidelines throughout the course of their use. Parks in higher use areas will likely be more prone to wear than those in less active areas.

As an alternative, natural areas are a recent trend and are being installed in some municipalities. Even though the features are sourced and designed from a combination of manufactured, natural materials and landforms, the natural playgrounds must comply with the CSA-Z614 and AODA standards.



Figure 4-2: Children enjoying a playground

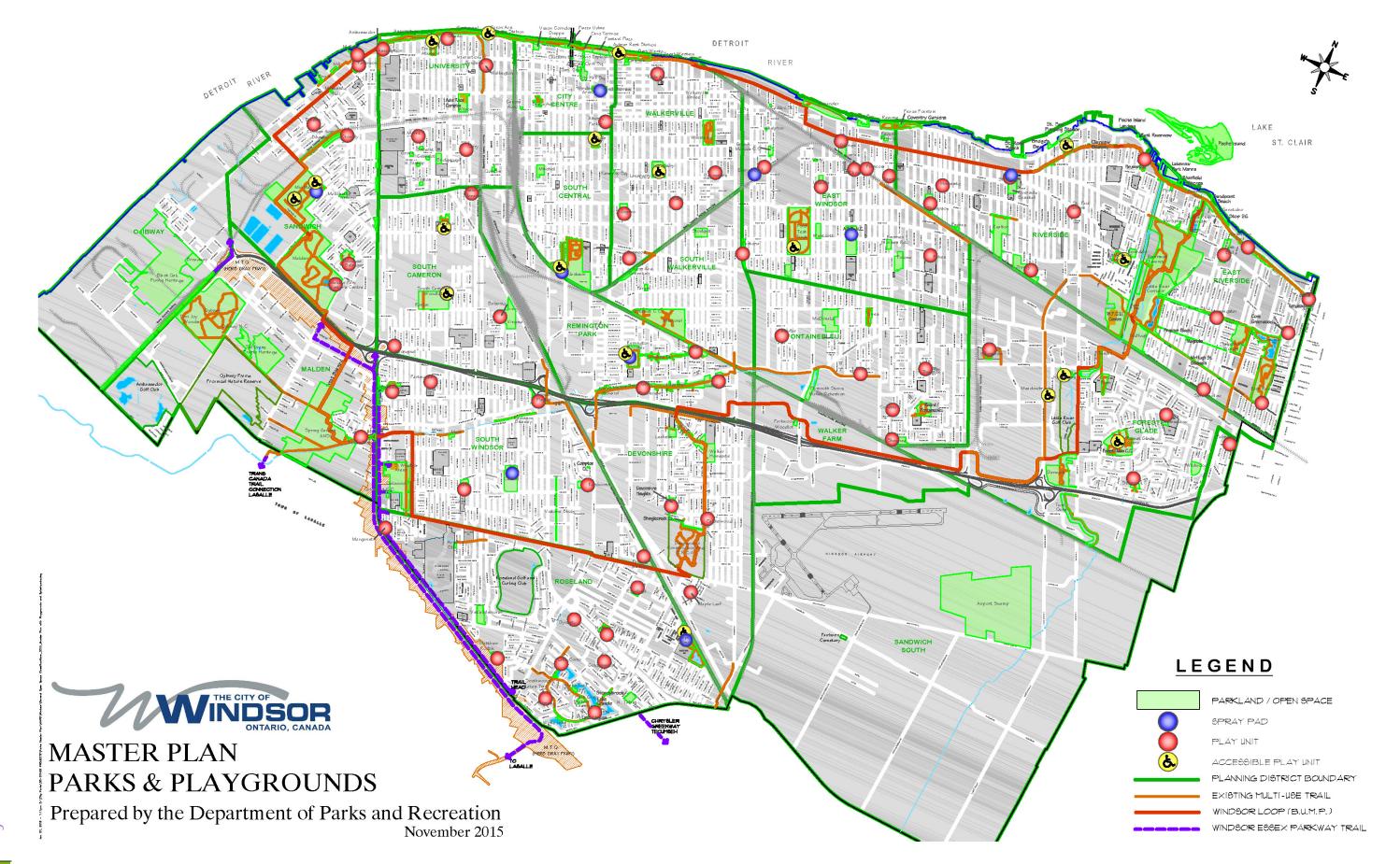


Figure 4-3: Distribution of Playgrounds and Splashpads



Figure 4-4: Spray pad at Captain Wilson Park

### SPLASH PADS

There are currently eight splash pads located throughout the city with another to be installed in the western half of Jackson Park in 2016. (see City of Windsor Recreation Inventory in Chapter 2- Parkland Supply) Parks Department has identified a need for 5 additional splash pads to locate in areas where there is a need and an availability of water, and preferably accessible washrooms. The proposed sites are:

- Forest Glade (Forest Glade Arena and Community Centre)
- Sandpoint Beach
- McDougall Park
- Wilson Park (Adie Knox Sports Complex)
- Ford Test Track Park

With the climate change, the need for such facilities is an important amenity to be considered, especially with the intensity of heat Windsor experiences in the summer months.

- > Implement playground replacement strategy as per Council direction **B40-2015** based on the "Playground Audit".
- > Establish pilot sites for non-traditional natural play elements and environments to establish uniqueness and to align with emerging trends.

### YOUTH

Recreational activity preferred by youth involves higher energy and often more risk to the users. Sports courts (i.e. Basketball, Tennis, Volleyball etc) and skateboard parks remain the top items desired by this population. It is also fair to mention that this demographic also finds multi-use trails for walking and cycling important as well. This is shared with other populations and will be further discussed in later strategic directions.

While it is obvious to discuss active recreation, youth also have responded with the desire for more social and passive activity areas in parks to sit, read and socialize with friends. While this can be seen by some as a problematic, it does offer the full user needs to be addressed.

Though currently no outdoor exercise equipment is installed in city parks, youth (as well as others) have identified this recreational resource as an opportune way to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Many communities have been installing modern exercise equipment in recent years, with varying degrees of success. The more popular exercise areas are in high-use sites and locations where groups of adults or seniors can use the equipment as part of organized programs.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- Work with neighbourhood communities including area youth and seniors to determine their specific interests in recreation activities, play, exercise and programming for designing park amenities at the inception of any park redevelopment plan.
- Collaborate with all School Boards to determine where efforts and resources can be aligned to provide recreation facilities in both parks and school grounds to accommodate the needs of the community.
- Incorporate outdoor exercise fitness stations along multi-use trails in parks where appropriate to maintain healthy activity for all.
- Review and develop designated areas in parks for skateboarding facilities throughout the city.





"The provision of recreational facilities for youth has many benefits. The most obvious benefits relate to the social and physical opportunities in an outdoor setting that have the potential to draw youth to engage in physically and mentally healthy pursuits as an alternative to screen time. There are numerous other benefits such as development of social and physical skills, fostering a sense of community, stress management and crime reduction,"

Source: West Vancouver Parks Master Plan

Figure 4-5: Exercising in Dieppe Park (left)

Figure 4-6: Family Strolls in Dieppe Park (right)

### **SENIORS**

Through the consultation process it was determined that the main areas of concern for seniors were:

- Areas to sit (such as benches and picnic tables)
- Paved sidewalks and multi-use trails
- Trees or shelters for shade
- Outdoor fitness equipment and age appropriate outdoor recreational programming
- Flower gardens and access to nature
- Access to washrooms facilities

### AGE FRIENDLY WINDSOR ACTION PLAN (2014-2017)

Evolving out of the World Health Organization's (WHO) concept of Global Age-friendly Cities, the *Age-friendly Windsor Action Plan* from 2005, recognized that the general population in Windsor is aging with currently over one/third of the residents over 50. The study also recognizes the city's growing cultural diversity will only add to the aging population. This Action Plan outlines recommendations from WHO to help integrate age-friendly services into the city's outdoor spaces, with respect to establishing and maintaining clean and obstruction-free accessible pathways of appropriate width, sufficient seating in parks and along trails, separated bike and pedestrian facilities, safe and well illuminated environments, easily read signage, and sufficient public restrooms. Socially the document recognizes that city parks can offer a variety of participation levels for seniors to gather, socialize and conduct healthy outdoor activities, through active and passive recreation.

Areas of improvement for outdoor public spaces as reported in the document are:

- Poor Pedestrian Safety
- Lack of accessibility
- Snow removal
- Inadequate signage
- Safety
- Lack of Public washrooms
- · Litter, graffiti
- No sidewalks in some neighbourhoods



Figure 4-7: Senior painting at Willistead Park

The report also summarized three desired OUTCOMES related to outdoor spaces and buildings that would contribute to an Age-friendly Windsor.

- An attractive, vibrant city that is enjoyed by all residents and is inviting to new prospective residents.
- A city that encourages and facilitates walkability and active transportation. (examples: walking, cycling, and other non-motorized methods of transport)
- A city that prominently identifies its' age-friendly features for the benefits of residents and visitors

- Focus on recreational activities and facilities for the aging population.
- Adopt the "Age-friendly Windsor Action Plan" recommendations into the parks standards including:
  - o Establish Wi-Fi hot spots in parks where appropriate.
  - o Promote age-friendly design in parks to ensure that pedestrian access is safe and universal.
  - o Provide pathways into parks for seniors and those with mobility issues to access.
  - Review and identify current park washroom locations and their existing infrastructure to determine where washroom facilities need to be upgraded and new facilities located for future development (ie: Within Regional or Community Parks).
  - o To identify locations for wheelchair charging stations
- ➤ To protect and enhance acess to floral displays at Coventry Gardens, Dieppe Park and Jackson Park as our premier floriculture and horticultural display parks.

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In 2005 the Province passed the AODA which legislates that all municipal public buildings are to be made accessible by 2010 and all municipal outdoor public spaces to comply with the Act by 2016. The City of Windsor, in recognition of this legislation, has adopted several supporting documents to this regulation and is actively transforming its parks to make them accessible for persons with disabilities, as well as the aged. AODA Legislation impacts the development of any public space in terms of accessibility, public consultation and the built environment.

### CITY OF WINDSOR ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS (F.A.D.S.) (2006)

As in many other Ontario cities, Windsor established an Accessibility Advisory Committee to enact standards for barrier-free design for built environments. Standards for accessible outdoor public space is covered in the document including; appropriate sidewalk widths, acceptable types of surfaces, minimum standards for maintenance (i.e. tree branching heights), slopes, pedestrian transitional areas, appropriate characteristics for plant material near sidewalks, placement and dimensions of suitable site furniture, as well as outdoor ramps, steps, parking, and public washroom facilities.

In consultation with the Windsor Accessibility Officer, the parks master plan was able to discuss specific concerns with members of the WAAC. It is fair to say that an aging population results in age-related disabilities. But disabilities are prevalent in all ages and demographics.

Provincial AODA legislation requires
municipalities to provide accessible parks by
2016 in compliance with PART IV.1 DESIGN OF
PUBLIC SPACES STANDARDS (ACCESSIBILITY
STANDARDS FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

During the public consultation process it was identified that the main issue for persons with disabilities

- Paved walkways and Multi-use Trails
- Connectivity and better Accessibility to parks and facilities
- Places to sit or picnic
- Specialized Playground and Exercise Equipment
- Accessible Washrooms
- Access to Nature and Trees for Shade

Also identified as an issue is tables being moved by other park users into the primary line of pedestrian traffic. This is especially of concern for individuals with visual impairments, as it creates an obstacle in a location where they do not expect one.

- Prepare a 'Redevelopment Plan' in collaboration with the City's Accessibilities Officer to assess the condition and compliance of municipal park pathways, trails as well as beach and riverfront access from an AODA perspective in all parks.
- Collaborate with Transportation Planning to review the "B.U.M.P." To provide recreational pathways and trails that promote continued linkages across the city and connections with surrounding municipalities.
- > Continue the Community Living Mentorship Partnership program to provide opportunities for meaningful work experience for persons with disabilities.

### **DIVERSITY**

Windsor-Essex is an important immigration destination in Ontario. Many newcomers to the Windsor Essex region have relocated here from original residencies in other parts of Canada. The 2011 census indicates that 21.4% of residents in the region were born outside of Canada and approximately one-quarter of those arrived in the area prior to 1971. Though there is no data for 1981, there has been a consistant percentage of new Canadians arriving in the Windsor Essex Region each decade.

To foster inclusivity, the Parks& Recreation Master Plan team lead by the Parks Department, with the assistance of the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership, sought feedback from the newcomers and immigrant communities through presentations and surveys conducted in English, French, Arabic, Chinese (n.o.s.) and Spanish; the five main languages of the communities presently immigrating to the area. Interpreters were on-hand to ensure language barriers were addressed. When asked about 'Opportunities for use of Public Space and Recreational Facilities', newcomers found the downtown area (primarily the riverfront parks) most accessible, while the more suburban areas, felt isolated from various social services and leisure facilities and amenities. Newcomers expressed the fact that the city offers many public parks and open spaces, however cited a lack of adequate transit routes to access the downtown riverfront parks which are favoured.

All groups cited that the need for shade, especially from trees is an important feature for parks. Health factors related to climate change and the adverse effects of excessive UV exposure are the driving forces behind this growing concern. While this is important to be mentioned as a common theme to all of the demographics, the specifics of this objective will be further discussed in subsequent Strategic Directions.

### ENHANCING THE WELCOMING CAPACITY OF WINDSOR ESSEX 2014

The study was provided six benchmarks of the Windsor Essex 'Characteristics of a Welcoming Community'; two of which pertained directly to the outdoor urban environment and public open space.

- Opportunities for Social Engagement, and
- Opportunities for the use of public space and recreational facilities.

Though the diversity of the new-comers to the area is widely varied including ethnoracial histories, age, occupational status, etcetera, the study was able to conclude that a sense of exclusion was a common theme among newcomers and immigrants alike. The study also cited that "Social engagement among newcomers was relatively narrow and limited, as are the opportunities to use public space and recreational facilities." Though public spaces are well used by immigrant communities, their financial means, differing social practices, and stereotyped perceptions by others present barriers to creating a welcoming environment. The study concluded this benchmark area with a recommendation for more immigrant involvement in the planning and decision making process associated with public space, transportation and leisure activities.

### **Immigration Profile of Windsor Essex**

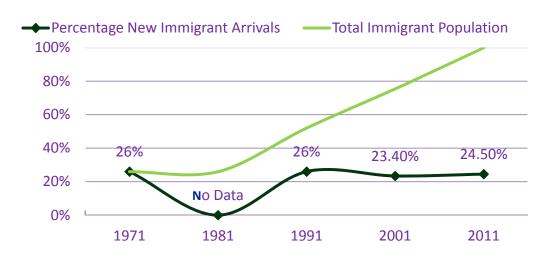


Figure 4-8: Immigration Profile of Windsor

- Provide ongoing consultation with immigrant communities to determine their needs.
- ➤ Provide First Nations' consultation on any natural lands and naturalization processes or display garden commemorating heritage of indigenous peoples of the area as required by the "Provincial Policy Statement 2014".

### COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2: Building parks and recreational solutions through open and transparent communication for the whole community.

City will encourage community participation in parks from design to operations, through continued community engagement and appropriate partnerships to help promote strength-based quality recreation facilities for public use.

During the public consultation process, interest in public involvement in partnerships, volunteerism, and adopt-a-park programs was sought. Not only does such community involvement provide public input in parks and facilities, it also contributes to the sustainability, as people then take on some of the direct ownership of the park. Programs such as the "Friends of the Park" are beneficial in the success of that particular park from both a financial and marketing aspect. Responses to such participation were overwhelmingly positive. There are challenges and responsibilities associated with volunteer programs. Volunteers want meaningful work, and with many organizations seeking volunteer support, it is difficult to attract volunteers if they do not feel that their contributions are valuable and acknowledged. It takes effort to organize the work of volunteers and to provide them with the capacity to undertake tasks.

Community groups and established non-governmental agencies have opportunities to access funding for park and environmental improvements. Partnering with the community and organizations can leverage funds from different sources to reduce the burden of park development and improvements (see Appendix 'U').

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

As continuous community involvement plays a key role in the longevity of parks, encourage the establishment of "Adopt-a-Park" partnerships with community organizations and groups to assist in the sustainability of parks.

Encourage and facilitate support for volunteer efforts in park stewardship and outdoor recreation activities such as; park restoration and renewal opportunities.

- ➤ Encourage the establishment of partnerships with private and community organizations as sponsors to access alternate funding sources including:
  - o Agencies
  - o Boards
  - o Committees, and
  - o Friends Groups
- ► Help promote parks and trails as destinations, through sponsorship of park development, park stewardships and outdoor recreation activities.
- Establish partnerships with the organized sports community to assist the City of Windsor in providing the best sports opportunities available in the region.
- Maintain the "Recreation Activity Guide" and use multiple types of communication and social media to promote recreational opportunities in parks and outdoor recreation areas.
- > To provide better marketing of parks through various media formats to engage the public.

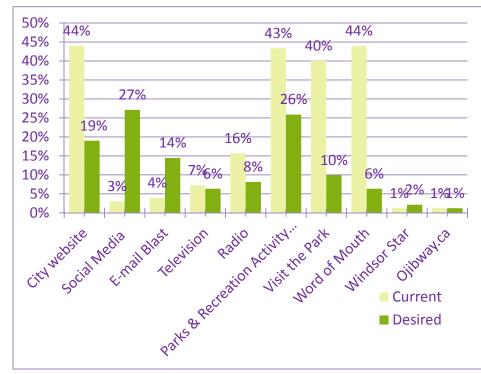


Figure 4-9: Changing directions for receiving parks and recreation programming

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3: To create a complete parks system that responds to the environmental well-being of our communities, as well as providing recreational experiences that promote healthy active living.

The City will continue to strive to provide accessible and regular recreational opportunities that support active and healthy living for all users of all ages and demographics, by adapting to current health concerns; especially climate change, in order to build healthier communities and environments for parks and recreation trail users.

During the public consultation process healthy lifestyles and well-being were identified as key elements to increased park use. The majority of respondents concurred with the statistical information presented in the Benefits of Parks section of this report, that Parks and Green Spaces in the City contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The five primary items that were identified as healthy benefits that should be in parks were:

- Drinking fountains to fill up re-usable water bottles. (77%)
- Walking Trails and pathways. (74%)
- Trees for Shade and better air quality. (73%)
- Bike routes and better park connections. (66%)
- Shelters for gathering spaces, picnics and outdoor concerts within parks. (59%)

When asked "What parks or recreational amenities would you like to see more of, that promote a Healthy Lifestyle?" The highest responses were:

### PASSIVE & SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES

While there were many responses as varied as the community is diverse, passive & self-directed recreational activities were twice as popular than their active /organized sports counterparts. The three top activities were as follows:

- Community gardens
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Access to natural or wildlife areas.

The current trend in popularity of these three items in many Ontario municipalities is on an increase due to the awareness of healthy environments. Further investigation into these three areas may be beneficial to assess capacity and appropriate locations in the city's greenway system.





### **ACTIVE & ORGANIZED SPORTING ACTIVITIES**

While the majority of people indicate that self-directed recreation activity is more popular than organized sporting activity, it is important to note that this trend is very cyclical. Of organized recreational activity the following top three activities in their order of preference was identified as:

- Swimming
- Soccer
- Some form of Baseball including Softball, Little League, and Hard Ball







- increases self-esteem, and boosts physical and mental health.
- Community design has a significant impact on an individual's ability to be physically active.vi
- Studies show that access to parks is positively associated with regular physical activity.vii
- Having access to recreational opportunities can help Ontarians meet the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines.
- Communities designed to support unstructured physical activity through walking and cycling not only benefits residents, but contributes to the local economy by supporting tourism.

### MUNICIPALITIES NEED TO CREATE ENVIRONMENTS THAT REMOVE BARRIERS TO RECREATION AND ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY. MUNICIPALITIES CAN ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- > Developing comprehensive policies around affordable access to recreation for all residents. This includes access to programs, facilities and green spaces.
- Designing communities to support physical activity by including easy access to recreation facilities, sidewalks, trails, cycling paths and parks.
- Implementing shared-use agreements for facilities and shared maintenance costs to sustain access to recreation in their communities.
- Allocating and ensuring a certain percentage of their budget goes to improving access to recreation for all of their residents.
- Seeking out partnerships with other recreation providers and community groups working toward access to recreation.

(source OSPAPPH as found in *Key Messages and Policy* Recommendations for Access to Recreation

### GREEN CITY: WHY NATURE MATTERS TO HEALTH - AN EVIDENCE REVIEW

In 2015, the Toronto Public Health Unit in collaboration with the GTA Conservation Authority prepared a literature review pertaining to public green space related health benefits. Cited were 106 studies published since 2008.

Of those studies nearly 78% found statistical evidence that the parkland and outdoor recreational open space, had a direct and positive relationship with at least one aspect personal health and wellness, including areas of mental and physical health.

The main conclusions of the review identified the following:

- Green space improves physical health, mental health and wellbeing of urban residents.
- Frequent access to nearby green space is important, especially for children.
- Nearby green space may provide added benefit in low-income neighbourhoods.
- Green space that is perceived as unsafe and poorly maintained does not provide health benefits. ix

As follow-up to the City of Windsor's 2007 Environmental Master Plan, (see Appendix 'D-3') a series of supplementary studies were completed including a shade audit in 2013<sup>x</sup>, as well as a shade inventory of all city Parks (see Appendix 'D-4'). The study takes into consideration the current conditions of the vegetation within the City of Windsor especially in Parks and Playgrounds, and how they mitigate the potential effects of predicted climate change and the urban heat island effect. Recognizing that even without climate change Windsor's climate experiences extremes, the report recommended increase vegetation in city parks, primarily in the form of trees to help mitigate the effects of UV by providing shade for users. The report also recommended that a Thermal Comfort Inventory of all parks be completed to determine a course of action based on the need and type of park use.

A study conducted in 2009-2010 by Carol Moogk-Soulis for the Windsor Essex Community Health Unit and the Riverside Optimist Club indentified public open spaces in the urban environments of Windsor and other developed areas having higher temperatures than those in outlying areas of the county. Using Landsat 7 satellite mapping to produce heat imagery, the research found that public spaces in urban environments void of trees were far hotter in the summer months than in those which had tree cover. Air temperatures near the surface were hotter to upwards of 20 degrees Celsius; the area where children traditionally play.

In 2014, the Parks Department conducted an inventory of the tree cover in all City Parks. On average city parks have a tree cover of 24.8 percent. Regional parks faired the best with 30% tree cover, partly due to the natural heritage sites of Peche Island and the Ojibway Complex which had 75.3% and higher in all six sites that comprise these two areas. Without the natural heritage sites Regional Parks including the Riverfront have a small tree cover of 16.5%. Community Parks were recorded as 22.2% and Neighbourhood Parks were recorded at 24.2% tree cover.

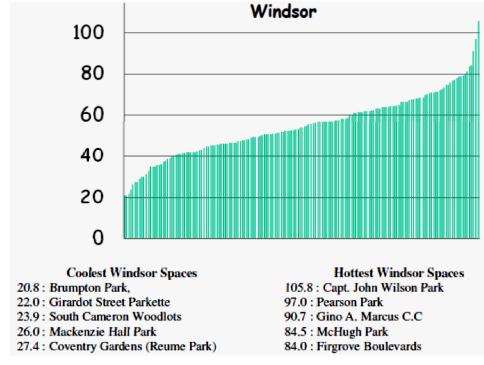


Figure 4-10: Windsor public spaces average surface temperature (degrees Celsius)



Figure 4-12: Stop 26 Park - Sandpoint Beach (Left)

Figure 4-11: Little River Corridor walkway lined with trees

### **BLUE FLAG BEACHES**

Blue Flag is a highly respected and recognized international eco-label. Blue Flags are awarded to beaches and marinas that meet strict criteria for water quality, environmental education, environmental management, and safety and services.

Blue Flags are flying at 25 beaches and six marinas in Canada. Blue Flag not only embraces the World Health Organizations mandate to provide clean and environmentally sustainable beachfront, it requires that the beaches offer a tourism service as well to meet the objectives of the World Tourism Organization. (see Appendix 'P')

### SANDPOINT BEACH

Located at the eastern end of the city along Riverside Drive, Sandpoint Beach offers bathers and sun-worshippers the <u>only</u> natural beach in the city for people to engage in beach-related activity. While Sandpoint Beach is a 2 hectare (5 acre) parcel of land, combined with Ganatchio Park and Stop26 Beach, these three parks stretch across 460 metres (1500 feet) of the western end of Lake St Clair. Recreational activities provided at these sites include; lifeguard-supervised swimming, windsurfing and kayak / canoeing, playground and concessions.

While the site is a natural recreation resource, the three parks also offer much cultural significance as well. Stop 26 Park is named after the electric streetcar transfer station between Windsor and the Town of Tecumseh. Ganatchio Park is a result of funding partnerships from the Province, Windsor -St Clair Rotary and the City, as well as historically reported to be the launching site of First Nation's Chief Pontiac to cross to Peche Island for native ritual and strategic reasons.

### Blue Flag Standards

### Water Quality

The Blue Flag program requires that beaches achieve excellent bathing water quality. Blue Flag beaches undergo regular water quality sampling measured against national standards and legislation.

### **Environmental Management**

Dedicated beach management committees are set up at Blue Flag sites to conduct environmental audits of the site and its facilities. The committee is also responsible for ensuring that beach habitat is protected and managed sustainably.

### **Environmental Education**

Educational activities that promote sustainability are an important part of the Blue Flag program. Environmental education activities can range from educational signage to training workshops for municipal staff.

### Safety and Services

Blue Flag sites are required to be safe and accessible for all ages and for people with disabilities. Lifeguards or lifesaving and first aid equipment must also be available at the Blue Flag beach. Emergency and safety measures must be implemented.

With the recommendations outlined in other sections of the Strategic Directions, the potential is there to establish Sandpoint as a Blue Flag beach. Environmentally, the shallowness of Lake St. Clair has created the greatest challenge with respect to water quality. Through concerted efforts with neighbouring municipalities, ERCA and other federal and international Great Lakes agencies, this may still be accomplished.





- Recreational activities for active healthy living should focus on selfguided opportunities through the promotion of fitness stations and park design.
- Work with the Windsor/Essex Community Garden Collective and other interested partners to provide opportunities for community gardens where there is demand at selected sites within the city as per the "Community Gardens Policy" in order to:
  - a) Promote sustainability through urban agricultural projects,
  - b) Education of sustainable gardening practices
  - c) Establish demonstration gardens and other forms of urban agriculture.
- Provide equal opportunity access to natural areas and experience of wildlife throughout the city based on the "AODA".
- Access to drinking water be provided in select, highly active Community and Regional Open Spaces within the Parks Greenway System.
- Determine shade targets through Forestry and Environmental Services as a follow-up to the Shade Audit for all parks in the Parks Greenway System as well as rights-of-ways in order to provide healthy shaded access throughout the city and help offset the impact of climate change.
- ➤ Prepare redevelopment plans for Sandpoint Beach to accommodate the needs of the community and establish it as a "Blue Flag Beach".

### SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #4 To create and maintain parks and recreational opportunities in an environmentally responsible manner, to ensure their longevity for future generations.

By investing in parks as long-term infrastructure, the City, through sustainable environmental stewardship initiatives of its natural heritage resources, can continue to provide high-quality recreational programming to all its residents and visitors.

Major development in the City of Windsor will assuredly occur in the Sandwich South Planning District over the next 20 years and beyond. This area holds a great opportunity for the construction of a parkland greenbelt in the southern half of the city to connect the eastern and western parcels of the Greenway System. Unlike the riverfront where land that is not already designated parkland is built up with residential and industrial property, Sandwich South is primarily agricultural and holds potential for development of an uninterrupted link.

In a recent study on the impact of Public Health and Urban Sprawl in Ontario, prepared by the Environmental Health Committee, Ontario College of Family Physicians, it was identified that Controlled Growth Plans (i.e. Secondary Plans) with ample greenspace remaining for public health concerns will help to offset the impact of development in former agricultural areas. The Planning Department of the City Windsor has been formulating a secondary plan for the Sandwich South Planning District, which includes the development of a significant greenbelt of passive and active public recreational open space, to facilitate these health concerns. The report concludes that, "... results of current studies clearly indicate that serious public health problems will continue to escalate unless decisive and immediate action is taken to control urban sprawl and preserve sufficient greenspace, improve air quality, and protect water sources."

### **BLUE DOT MOVEMENT**

Following a request from the Windsor-Essex Youth Advisory Committee, on August 24, 2015 the City of Windsor through Council Resolution joined 30 other Canadian municipalities by passing declarations in support of the right to a healthy environment as per the David Suzuki Foundation's "Blue Dot Movement". (see Appendix 'O')

The Blue Dot Movement encourages individuals and municipalities to recognize the right to healthy environments for citizens. A key factor in sustaining healthy communities is to ensure:

- That land development occurs in a sustainable manner.
- Provision of water and air quality.
- Measures to counteract climate change.
- Protection of wildlife habitat and biodiversity in urban populations.
- Protection of parkland and green spaces, through park creation and preservation of natural spaces.
- Access to nature for children.

Each of these sustainability objectives of the Blue Dot Movement can be fulfilled through the careful management of our parks.

"Protecting our right to a healthy environment — today, and for our children's children — is clearly an idea whose time has come."

- Blue Dot Movement



Figure 4-14: Nest of Birds at Ojibway Nature Centre



### WINDSOR'S OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTINUOUS ECOLOGICALLY DIVERSE THRESHOLD (BIODIVERSITY GATEWAY)

In highly developed and agricultural regions like Windsor - Essex County, habitats and ecosystems have become fragmented and isolated. It is observed that isolated habitats generally decline in the diversity of species within them, and see decline in the genetic health of individual species within them, ultimately leading to the failure and disappearance of critical populations and ecological function.

There is a lot of emphasis from Municipal,
Provincial and Federal planning
considerations for creating connectivity and
linkage for the natural environment. These
planning initiatives create corridors which
serve many goals including supporting species
diversity, ecological function, aesthetics, passive and active
recreation. All of this translates to improved human and environmental
health and well being.

Figure 4-15: Proposed Biodiversity Gateway

The City of Windsor has several unique opportunities to begin the consideration of creating a continuous corridor, a threshold, surrounding the City from Detroit River Brighton Beach to Detroit River-Peche Island, by connecting existing significant habitats, prairie, savannah, forest, river valley land, and swamp wetlands. Much of this opportunity is already in place with existing parkland (Little River corridor), the Herb Gray Parkway and the Ojibway / Spring Garden Complex.

This is an opportunity supporting our unique ecological and biologically diverse heritage, but also to positively improve the overall image of Windsor as the most biologically diverse municipality in Canada.

Recommendation: Look at opportunities to leverage corridor from the Objiway Shores Complex, Herb Grey Parkway trail habitat network, Upper Little River Stormwater Management Plan, the Airport provincially significant wetland swamp complex and the Little River flood plain, to create a natural and recreational corridor encompassing the entire City from extreme east to west. This corridor would potentially connect to existing trail networks like the Ganatchio Trail and the Chrysler Greenway.

Acquire property, natural heritage feature parcels, and linear storm water management opportunities, which will add to the overall City of Windsor park holdings and contribute to a linear regional park network. The City of Windsor Official Plan through the Sandwich South Secondary Plan supports a natural link corridor incorporating the Little River watershed with ultimate connection to the Herb Grey Parkway trail network.

### OJIBWAY NATURE COMPLEX

The largest collection of natural parkland in Windsor is located in the western end of the city, collectively known as the Ojibway Nature Complex consisting of the following sites:

- Black Oak Heritage & Broadway Park
- Tom Joy Woods & Ojibway Nature Park
- Tall Grass Prairie Heritage Park
- Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve
- Spring Garden ANSI & Seven Sisters Park
- Oakwood Nature Reserve
- St Clair Prairie E.S.A.

In total area the complex covers over 325 hectares of oak savannah (Carolinian Forest), tallgrass prairie, and wetlands. Once completed, the newly constructed Right Honorable Herb Gray Parkway, as well as part of Turkey Creek which flows from the



Grand Marais Drain in
Windsor through the Spring
Garden ANSI to LaSalle and
finally to the Detroit River,
will contribute
approximately 120
additional hectares to this
area of natural and
reclaimed naturalized
parkland for natureoriented recreational
purposes.



Figure 4-18: Raptor education at Ojibway Nature Centre (top)

Figure 4-17: Children learning at Ojibway Park Pond (bottom)

### BLACK OAK HERITAGE PARK AND ADJACENT UNDEVELOPED LANDS

Black Oak Heritage Park and the adjacent undeveloped lands have biological, archaeological, and historical importance. This environmentally significant area is an integral part of the Ojibway Prairie Complex because it provides ecological linkage to the Detroit River. Virtually all of the area is within the Ojibway Prairie Remnants Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. This area houses Black Oak Savanna, one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America, Provincially Significant Wetlands, numerous Species at Risk, and contributes to the genetic diversity of important organisms.

The park and surrounding lands have a rich cultural as well as natural heritage. Early explorers reported the presence of Huron First Nation corn fields along this part of the river. By 1749, the French had settled here, their fields replacing those of the Hurons. Their farmsteads represent the first major European farming community in Southern Ontario.

Today the vegetation of Black Oak Heritage Park and surrounding lands is made up of a variety of oak savanna and oak woodland species. The former farm lands now provide open sandy areas which offer tallgrass prairie habitat restoration opportunities. Additionally these areas may act as sites for local Species at Risk transplants protecting the genetic diversity of these flora and fauna.

This natural area aids in the reduction of air and noise pollution from the heavy industrialization of Zug Island and also provides filtration from runoff entering into the Detroit River.

Black Oak Heritage Park with its natural beauty will be the first impression of visitors entering our city using the new Gordie Howe Border Crossing.

Other benefits:

- Strengthens the biodiversity of our region.
- Provides a visual barrier from industrial disease.
- In 2014 and 2015, new species to Canada were discovered here.
- Home of *Cerceris fumipennis*, a solitary ground-nesting wasp used as biosurveillance for Emerald Ash borer.

UNESCO: Biosphere reserves are ecologically significant regions that promote sustainability and conservation by engaging all community stakeholders. Recognized by UNESCO, they support research, share the resulting knowledge broadly and inform policymakers. Biosphere reserves address one of the most challenging issues we face today: how to maintain the health of natural systems while meeting needs of communities?

### PECHE ISLAND

Deeply rooted in history, it has been speculated that Peche Island was once used as a strategic military outpost during the early settlement period of the area, however no strong evidence has been found to support that claim. The first most significant occupation of the property was by Hiram Walker in 1883. During that time it had been recorded that much of the island was cultivated for the Walker farm and the vegetation that exists today is a result of that period or from volunteer plants that have migrated to the island by birds, wind or floated ashore.

Though once a Provincial Park, the island was purchased by the City of Windsor in 1999 in order to preserve this natural heritage site. Today the island boasts it biodiversity of vegetation types and wildlife habitats; many of which are unique to the island within the Essex County Region.

Though not readily accessible to the public outside of small craft sailing vessels and organized naturalist trips, Peche Island needs to be managed as a Natural Park, with recreational facilities being of secondary nature to the primary focus of the habitat preservation. ERCA has indicated strong support for this endeavour as well as assistance in managing the processes involved.

### LITTLE RIVER CORRIDOR

Before it was straightened and walled in, the Little River flowed through what is now the eastern end of Windsor. The current park encompasses the old channel, consisting of a naturalized path the links that southeastern suburban neighbourhoods to Lake St Clair and the Detroit River, along the Ganatchio Trail.

Naturalization efforts started in 1990 through various community organizations, along with the City of Windsor and ERCA. It contains many types of natural parkland including: small streams, a large hill for tobogganing and mountain biking, a few open areas, and many large wooded areas that provide habitat for wildlife, especially birds, including the Bald Eagle. The park is a popular destination, along with its neighbouring park, Sandpoint Beach.

The Little River Corridor and the Little River Boulevard linear trail provide a natural connection between several east end parks including:

- Sandpoint Beach
- Ganatchio Trail
- Lakeshore Woods Park
- East Riverside Park and Blue Heron Lake
- East End Park
- Little River Acres Park
- WFCU & McHugh Parkland
- Bush, Teedie and Hawthorne Parks
- Little River Golf Club
- Derwent Park, and
- Twin Oaks Park

Once developed, the Sandwich South Lands can provide a further extension of this natural corridor to the Airport Swamp Woodlots and beyond to connect up to the newly constructed naturalized parkland and trails of the Right Honourable Herb Gray Parkway. (Hwy #401).

- > To protect and promote existing natural areas and provide connections where available.
- ➤ To promote naturalization where warranted to create buffers and connections to natural areas in consultation with the community.
- Identify and review parks or portions of parks for naturalization and establish appropriate management strategies with public consultation.
- Collaborate with ERCA to provide performance and management strategies for all natural parks and naturalized areas including:
  - a) Fish habitat along riverfront lands
  - b) Watershed management areas
  - c)Prairies
  - d) Woodlots
- Create a perfomance and management plan to determine high priority natural park such as:
  - o Peche Island
  - o Spring Garden ANSI
  - o Ojibway Nature Complex
  - o The Airport Swamp Woodlots
- > Prepare standards for the establishment of urban wildlife habitat to;
  - a) Accommodate expansion of the natural areas to help facilitate better management of species at risk, habitat for urban wildlife and opportunity for nature related recreation for people.
  - b) Establish a protocol for succession control in managed natural and naturalized areas to deter the establishment of exotic and aggressive naturally invasive species.
  - c) Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing vegetation, using native plants where possible, especially for restoration of disturbed areas, and naturalization projects.

- ➤ To identify drainage issues in the Parks Greenway System and areas where flooding is an issue for residents to determine if strategies promoted by the "Environmental Master Plan" (such as Low-Impact-Design and green infrastructure) can be used to accommodate storm water to help mitigate flooding.
- Protect the quality of life for future generations; establish an "Urban Forestry Management Plan" for the Parks Greenway System and public right-of-ways by conducting a full tree inventory of all cityowned trees and return to the industry standard through maintenance and funding to ensure that our urban forest remains sustainable.
- Naturalize underutilized parks (in whole or part) or those with poor drainage to enhance biodiversity while addressing level of service.
- Establish a 'Policy for 'No Mow' Areas'.
- Work with other civic departments to revise "Parking Lot By-Law" to allow 'Low-Impact-Design' in parks to reduce storm water impacts.
- Revisit the "Official Plan" with the Planning Department to offer green infrastructure bonuses for parkland development in subdivisions (especially in Sandwich South Planning District).
- ➤ Continue active involvement with the Planning Department in the development of the "Sandwich South Secondary Plan" to ensure that Parks and Recreational spaces are established to promote physical connectivity for pedestrian and active transportation through an ecologically diverse 'Biodiversity Gateway' by extending Little River Corridor to the Herb Grey Parkway and the Ojibway Nature Complex.
- ➤ That The City of Windsor coordinate a stewardship project with ERCA in order to secure Priority Natural Significant Lands such as Ojibway Shores, Sandwich South Planning District and any other opportunities where natural features exist to improve the natural heritage system in the City.
- ➤ Apply under criteria ix and x of the nomination process of UNESCO to establish the Ojibway Nature Complex of parks as a 'UNESCO Heritage Site', through the assistance of the Friends of Ojibway Prairie and ERCA, based on the universal natural significance of the properties.

### PARK DIVERSITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #5: To provide different types of parks and recreational experiences distributed evenly throughout the city.

The current two classification system for city parks is limited in establishing appropriate level of service for the diversity of parks which are found in Windsor. There are several avenues to consider when restructuring the current parks classification structure. Having only 2 classifications has lead to some ambiguity in what constitutes different levels of service operationally. It is therefore important to consider a reclassification that is based on:

- o Size
- o Use patterns
- o Demand
- o Natural resources of the park

In response to the changing demographics and needs, the City will continue to adapt by making parks diverse, unique and accessible through equitable distribution of parks, trails and recreation programming for different outdoor uses and users. By expanding the natural system of parks to address community desire, climate change, and sustainability it is possible to provide appropriate service in each of the different park classifications and sub-classifications.

Rediscover Our Parks has drawn from the current Official Plan and the responses citizens have made as to how they use their parks. Park diversity already exists and by expanding the classification system, it is felt that this will help draw people into parks by making them aware of the differences.

It is proposed that a new classification refer to the greater classification as Open Spaces to align more closely with the Official Plan. While Neighbourhood Open Space shall be maintained as a classification, the Parks Department has always recognized operational differences between Community and Regional Open Space. Community open spaces are generally situated to serve the residents within a Planning District while Regional Open Spaces serve users for the larger city-wide or tourism-oriented population. The Official Plan also identifies Natural Heritage Sites and Recreationways as significantly different and specialized parkland. These have been added as separate classifications to address the different operational management and level of public service which they will require. (See Figure 4-19: New Parks Classification Organizational Chart).

Under each of the new classifications are several sub-classifications. It is recognized that while there are traditional public spaces within the City's parkland supply, the other public open spaces held the Province and other governmental agencies, as well as private open spaces can be extended under each of the proposed classifications. This will assist in Official Plan designation and zoning where future development may be considered. (See Appendix 'Q' for detailed list of parks by proposed classification)

- > Adopt the re-classification of parks as outlined in this master plan and update the "City of Windsor's Official Plan".
- > Update the "Official Plan" to make certain that any new infrastructure, utilities and services abutting parkland is coordinated through the Parks Department to ensure appropriate service to parks.
- Prepare a 'Manual of Park Design Standards' for:
  - o Each classification and sub-classification
  - o Standard design details (eg. amenities, pathways, plant materials and field layouts)
  - o Specifications, and
  - o Compliance with "AODA"
- > Identify the key parks that would serve as community hubs..

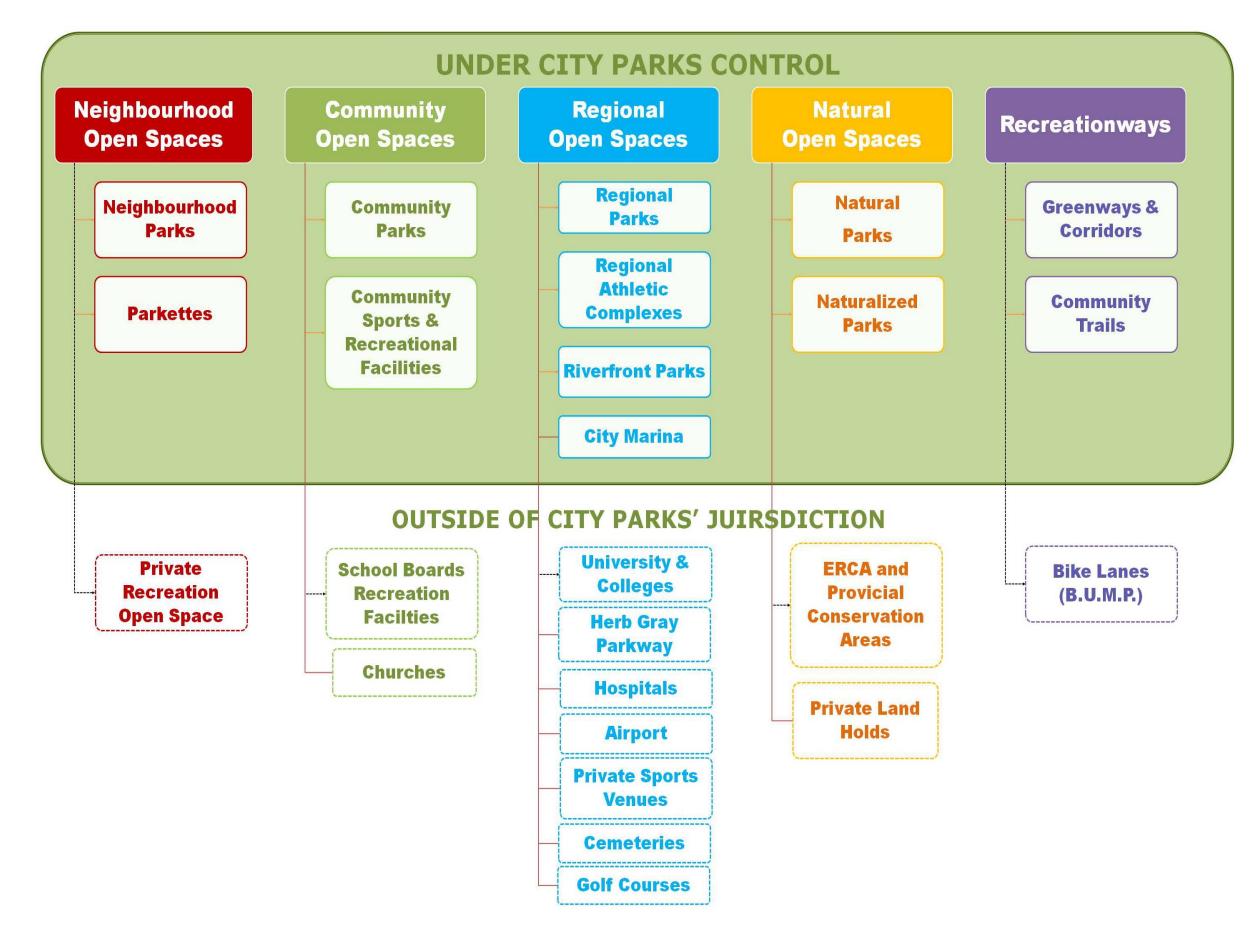


Figure 4-19: New Parks Classification Organizational Chart



Figure 4-20: New Parkland Classification

### NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE

The focus of Neighbourhood open spaces is to provide the local residents with an area in which to engage in outdoor leisure activity. It should provide areas in which to walk, sit, play and engage in unorganized sporting activities. Neighborhood open spaces will have a residential appeal whether situated in the urban core or suburbs. Under this classification are two sub-classifications

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS**

- Parks that serve Local residences within a 0.8km (1/2 miles) radius and provide passive recreation and leisure opportunities, open space, trees, and <u>may</u> include pathways, small playgrounds, benches and picnic tables.
- Where warranted, neighbourhood parks may also include enhancements such as a non-programmed sports field or picnic shelters for residential use.

**BRADLEY PARK** 

MASTER PLAN

• Suggested Size: not less than 2ha to 8ha (5 to 20 acres)



Figure 4-21: Neighbourhood Park - Morningstar Park

### PARKETTES

- Civic spaces in various locations across the city, primarily within the downtown core and business areas, passive in nature with seating, lighting, and often exhibit public art and monuments.
- Suggested Size: Under 2ha (5 acres)

### **Base Amenities**

- Hard Open space
- Sidewalks
- Benches
- Shade created by trees or a structure
- Park Signage

### **Enhanced Amenities**

- Picnic tables and Picnic Shelters
- Site specific amenities of a cultural or natural character
- Seasonal displays

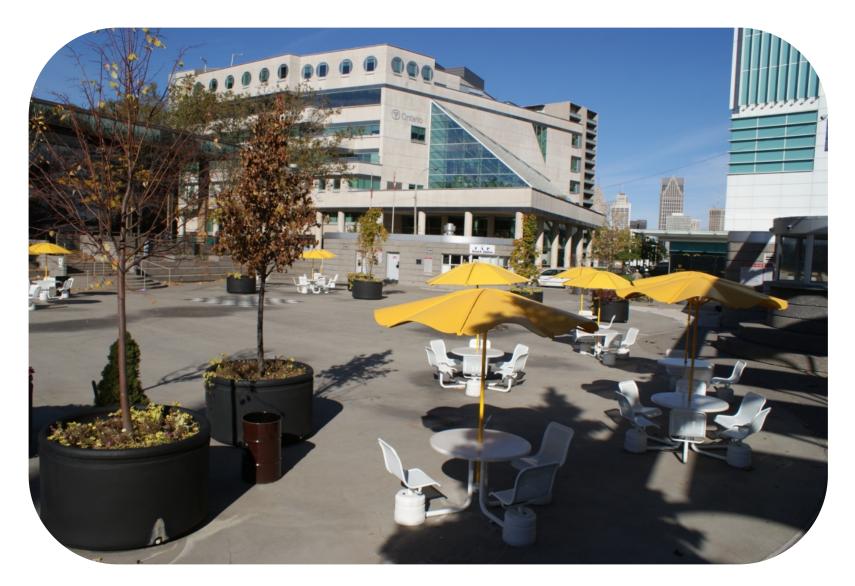


Figure 4-22: Parkette - Charles Clark Square

### **COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE**

The focus of Community recreational open spaces is to provide outdoor leisurely activity, including some organized recreational activity to a broader and more diverse catchment area. There are two main sub-classifications of Community Open Spaces.

### **COMMUNITY PARKS**

Community Parks resemble Neighbourhood Parks with the exception that they are larger, offering a broader selection of recreational activity. In the survey it was determined that people would be open to the notion of consolidation of services provided those services benefitted the greater community as a whole, and access to and from was improved upon. Stronger concentration of service at Community Parks can help to address that need.

- Community parks shall be developed for the enjoyment of a diverse population and provide opportunities for all types of recreation, social and cultural activities.
- These large scale parks provide a broad range of amenities such as splash pads, picnic shelters and accessible playgrounds and sports fields.
- They also include the base services of a Neighbourhood Park, but serve a greater catchment area.
- Suggested Size: minimum 8ha (20 acres)

### COMMUNITY SPORTS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

While there is a need for community based athletic recreation, it is not always practical to provide a full regional facility to accommodate organized sports needs in all communities. Community Sports & Recreational Facilities addresses that need. Having a focus on sporting activity, the level of service in such parks would be intensified to ensure that the fields are always in a condition suitable to the type of sport that is intended to be played upon them.

- Large scale parks provide opportunities for organized sporting activities and rental purposes.
- These facilities will have multiple fields programmed for various recreational outdoor sports activities such as soccer or baseball.
- These sites will include parking for various modes of active transportation.
- May also have a community centre, library, outdoor pool, skatepark or other facilities.
- Suggested Size: 2 TO 8 ha (5 to 20 acres)

## All Community Open Spaces provide the same base amenities of:

- Grassed Green open space
- Sidewalks
- Benches
- Trees
- Accessible Play Equipment
- Park Signage
- Lighting
- Multi-use trails
- Picnic tables and Picnic Shelters
- Parking Lot

# **Enhanced Amenities for all Community Open**Spaces

- Recreation / Community Centre
- Library
- Washrooms
- Organized Sports Fields or Courts
- Arenas
- Outdoor Pools
- Splashpads
- Skatepark / Skatespot
- Community Gardens
- Site specific amenities of a cultural or natural character
- Commemorative Installations
- Dog Parks

Community Sports and Recreation Facilities will have <u>multiple</u> organized sports fields and/or courts as a basic amenity in addition to those found in a Community Park



### REGIONAL OPEN SPACE

The focus of Regional Open Spaces is to provide outdoor leisurely activity for the greater Windsor area, as well as provide a draw from outside the City. These recreational facilities and parks will be able to accommodate large gatherings and festivals. They demand a level of service that will always showcase the City of Windsor in a positive manner, including maintenance, service, types of activities, and overall establish a unique character that is not found anywhere else in the city, or possibly the Essex County region. In this classification there are three sub-classifications.

### REGIONAL PARKS

- Regional Parks vary in scale and attract users from all across the city and surrounding areas.
- May include amenities such as band shelters, washrooms facilities, arboreta, etc.
- That significant draw provides opportunities for economic benefits (i.e. carnivals, festivals, art shows, or other special events).
- These parks may also offer a more cultural and/or tourist attraction
- They also include the base services of a Neighbourhood Park, but serve a greater catchment area.
- Suggested Size: Varies

### REGIONAL ATHLETIC COMPLEXES

- These larger scale parks provide venues for formal sporting activities for both league games and rental purposes; especially tournaments having a greater regional draw.
- They may include several types of activities or primarily focus on one sporting activity such as soccer or baseball, and may include interior or exterior sports/recreation facilities.
- Facilities at these complexes require parking for various modes of active transportation (i.e. cars, buses, cyclists and pedestrians in large numbers).
- May offer year-round operations.
- Suggested Size: 10ha (min 25 acres)

### RIVERFRONT PARKS

- Acting as the City of Windsor's primary showcase for events and festivals, Riverfront Parks provide opportunities not available in any other parks in the city, by connecting users with direct access to the Detroit River and/or Lake St Clair.
- Typically linear in sections that have the characteristics defined in other parks sub-classifications

Location based: North of Riverside Drive

### All Regional Open Spaces provide the same Base Amenities as Neighborhood and Community Open Spaces as well as:

- Shade Structures
- Parking Lot with Bus Access
- Washrooms
- Amenities with draws for the greater city or tourism

### **Enhanced Amenities for Regional Parks**

- Specific elements that cater to demographic uses
- Amenities of a scale that will not fit within a Neighborhood or Community Open Space

### **Enhanced Amenities for Regional Athletic Complexes**

- Sports fields
- Arenas

### **Enhanced Amenities for Riverfront Parks**

- Marinas
- Water-related recreational activity
- Items identified in the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan



Figure 4-26: Riverfront Park



Figure 4-28: Regional Park - Willistead Park

### NATURAL OPEN SPACE

The City currently has approximately 655 hectares of natural and naturalized parkland within the greenway system, inclusive of municipally and provincially owned public open space, with roughly 90% being indigenous environments. These parks are primarily located in the far eastern and far western ends of the city, with a scattering of smaller vestiges of natural forest being preserved throughout the south central areas of the City.

### NATURAL PARKS

While he Official Plan identifies these as Natural Heritage Areas, Natural Parks are those which have been preserved in their natural state that can be historically documented as indigenous to the site. These areas provide ecological function through wetlands, tallgrass prairie, oak savannah, Carolinian or riparian forest, or riverbank floodplain.

 Amenities/Facilities are often limited to ones that allow for the connection and/or enjoyment of nature in a way that protects the natural features.

Suggested Size: Varies based on extent of natural area.

### **Base Amenities**

- Designated & managed indigenous environmental significance in collaboration with ERCA and other Legislated Policies
- Signage
- Trees
- Trash & Recycle facilities

### **Enhanced Amenities**

- Trails (preferably bark or other natural material)
- Restricted Lighting where used for security purposes
- Benches
- Interpretational panels & kiosks
- Nature observation areas
- Guided Tour

### NATURALIZED AREAS

Naturalized Areas are those which have been, or have potential to be, remediated <u>primarily with indigenous species</u> to enhance the biodiversity of the area. Low Impact Design practices may be employed to assist traditional urban infrastructure to create the naturalized effect.

• Suggested Size: Varies, based on extent of naturalized area.



### **Base Amenities**

- Managed environments in collaboration with ERCA or other Community
   Stewardship group through Legislated Policies
- Signage
- Trees
- Trash & Recycle facilities
- Low Impact Design methods to manage storm water

### **Enhanced Amenities**

- Paved Trails
- Restricted Lighting
- Benches
- Interpretational panels
- Nature observation areas



Figure 4-30: Natural Park - Deer at Ojibway Nature Centre

### RECREATIONWAYS

According to the Official Plan, a Recreationway is a planned network of multi-use pedestrian and cycling trails, designed to serve recreational movements. Recreationways complement and connect with the Greenway System, with other areas of the city and neighbouring communities. New development proposals and infrastructure undertakings are to include extensions and improvements to Recreationways concurrently with other transportation infrastructure in new developments.

### **GREENWAYS & CORRIDORS**

- These <u>year-round Multi-use</u> Linear Trails serve active recreational purposes such as cycling, jogging as well as casual pedestrian strolling at the regional scale. Linking parks together, they also provide an opportunity to transit through the city by alternative modes of transportation other than automobiles.
- Benches and other amenities are strategically located along these trails where suited.
- Trailheads and Markers to be located in appropriate positions,



Figure 4-31: Clairview Bikeway

### **COMMUNITY TRAILS**

- These Linear Trails serve connectors for cyclist, joggers and pedestrians to parks from neighbourhoods as well as from parks to the greater Greenway or Corridor trails.
- Benches and other amenities may also be located along trails where suited.
- Trails Markers to be located in appropriate positions.
- Trails will not be serviced year-round.
- Minimum width: 9.1m (30 feet)



Figure 4-32: Blue Heron Lake Trail

### CONNECTIVITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #6: Parks and trails shall continue to play an important role in the city parks system, ensuring that the linkages to and from parks, as well as between parks remain accessible and serve the greater Windsor community.

Parks trails are to continue to play an important role in the city parks system, ensuring that the linkages to and from parks, as well as between parks remain accessible and serve the greater Windsor community. The community has a very high level of interest in trails. While the public consultation phase resulted in a desire for an improved trails system, it is important to note that key issues include:

- Lack of connectivity
- Lack of pathways in parks
- Quality of trails in some areas were poor

According to the City of Windsor Official Plan all Recreational Open Spaces are to be interconnected and linked through a greater Greenway System. The current Riverfront Parks in the Downtown Core, as well as those in various locations throughout the city (i.e. Ojibway Complex, Little River Corridor and Ganatchio Trail) create the beginnings of a fully linked Greenway. In addition the new constructed Herb Gray Parkway parklands and trails will establish a spine of interconnected parks along Highway #401. The ultimate goal for the city would be to physically connect as many parks as possible to provide an uninterrupted greenbelt to allow users to travel through the city within parkland without impediments from vehicular traffic. (see Sustainability Section in the Strategic Directions)

Similar to the legislation from 2005 that designated that the Golden Horseshoe communities (including Toronto) establish a Greenbelt<sup>xi</sup> to ensure a sustainable environment for agriculture, while helping to curb urban sprawl, Council along with the local Provincial Government, should investigate the option for similar legislation to assist in the formal establishment of a "greenbelt" through the Sandwich South Lands to connect eastern and western parks with the City of Windsor Greenway System



### GREENWAY SYSTEM AND B.U.M.P.

While the BUMP and Windsor Loop are adopted concepts for the City to ensure that there is appropriate cycling opportunities throughout the city, it is important to assure that all opportunities to incorporate cycling facilities associated with parks is investigated to achieve the best and scenic routes through the city parkland.

Though adopted in principle and while sections have been completed, the B.U.M.P. and the Windsor Loop are far from being completed in their entirety. As new opportunities arise through infrastructure development, subdivision planning, and expansion into Sandwich South, there is a need to secure parcels of land that will accommodate the goals and objectives of linking the east and west ends of the city through an interconnected bike route; preferably through a parkland.

The public consultation process strongly identified that the community holds trails for walking and cycling in high regard. The need for better connectivity to trails as well as between various open spaces was also valued as the most important amenity in the future of parks. Trails provide alternate and active transportation opportunities for all residents to commute to desired destinations as well as provide a leisurely means to exercise either individually or in groups. Most significantly trails and greenways provide access to the riverfront and other trail-based recreation found through the city.

The city has many popular trails including the Grand Marais Trail, Little River Corridor, Ganatchio and Clairview Trails and the Riverfront Trails. A lack of connectivity between these trails is one of the greatest challenges. Another deficiency in the trail system identified in the public consultation was the lack of a formal trail connection from the South Windsor Planning District to the urban core and the Riverfront. Currently, through BUMP those connections rely heavily on the existing road infrastructure.

The newly installed Herb Gray Parkway, has also recognized this need and has provided an extensive network of trails for pedestrians and cyclists to commute through the parkway providing a physical connection between the City of Windsor and the Town of LaSalle.

### TRAIL TYPES

The types of trails currently employed by the city are varied in size and construction depending on the environment and use patterns.



Multi-use Trail - There is roughly 130km of multi-use trails actively in use in the city. Primarily they are found in areas of high-use and more commonly along the riverfront. These trails are paved for accessibility and are traditionally wide enough for bi-directional traffic. They can be separated from other trail uses where needed. These trails will be outfitted with amenities such as benches to provide rest areas for those with limited mobility.

Walking Trail - Walking trails are primarily neighbourhood-scale connections throughout the greenway system and often found within parks. In general they are paved with a hard-surface and accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The minimum width of walking trails is designed to comply with the AODA standards to accommodate two wheelchairs to pass easily and often wide enough for a parks service vehicle to access if necessary. These trails will be outfitted with amenities such as benches to provide rest areas for those with limited mobility.

Nature Trail - Nature trails are found only within areas that have natural conservation and rehabilitation activities occurring in them. Primarily these trails are used for hiking and walking

for access to nature-related recreation. Nature trails vary widely in character based on the ecological sensitivity of location in which they are developed.

**Boardwalk** – Boardwalks are limited to areas such as natural areas, shorelines or ecologically sensitive areas where it is ideal to be elevated above grade to comply with AODA requirements.

Bridges - Where necessary, bridges provide connections over water courses, steep terrain, or heavily used roadways to complete trail linkages.

Typically following the road network are a component of routes which are included in B.U.M.P. and the Windsor Loop to complete trails where public land is not available. In an effort to help people *Rediscover Our Parks* these routes are defined in the master plan as key connections that should be completed during future transportation planning.

- Sidewalks Running parallel to right-of-ways to offer safe access and connectivity.
- Wide Shoulder Though not ideal, these pedestrian and cyclist routes are shared paved right-of-ways separated from vehicle traffic by a painted shoulder line. These are only to be used in extreme situations where conventional trail types are not possible due to physical limitations.
- Cycling Lanes Marked cycling lanes provide dedicated routes for bicycles as part of road design or upgrades as directed by BUMP. Though full width bike lanes are desired, where road widths are limited the use of sharrows may be used. Sharrows are widened vehicle lanes that have painted markings indicating that the road is to be shared with cyclists.

- ➤ Identify, prioritize and establish new trails to improve connectivity throughout the city.
- > Collaborate with Transportation Planning to update the "B.U.M.P." to promote trail connections for neighbourhoods.
- > To review opportunities to provide cyclists with safe routes through or adjacent to parkland instead of along major traffic routes.
- > To review and discuss options with the railways on routes which may be abandoned in the future to provide opportunities for recreational multi use-trails and commuter cyclists.
- > Strengthen all north-south connections to the Detroit River.
- Work with and establish partnerships to obtain formal access for the development of recreational trails where appropriate on non-city owned lands, e.g., Devonwood, utility corridors and private land parcels.
- Include environmental considerations in the planning of major new trails through natural areas, and design trails to minimize environmental impacts.
- > Develop trail heads and staging areas with the appropriate amenities for users including; wayfinding and interpretation.
- > Amend the "Adopt-a-Park Policy" to include an 'Adopt-a-Trail' Program.
- > Prepare and "Adopt-a-Trail" management plan that builds upon methods used in other jurisdictions' best practice models.
- > Update design standards on well used trails through areas with high environmental values to keep people on trails and to protect the resources.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #7: Parks facilities and recreational programming in the city shall provide safe, clean, and attractive environments for all users.

Parks provide immediate opportunities for society to enjoy the great outdoors in a safe and economical manner. Enhancing our public spaces through parkland development and improvement provides civic investment in ensuring that residents can maintain an enjoyable quality of life.

Parks embrace the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design also know as (CPTED principles) for all parkland developed in the city ensuring public safety is paramount. Parks works closely with Windsor Police when developing and designing City parks to ensure CEPTED best design practices are being met. CEPTED has three main principles:

Natural surveillance

SAFETY

- Natural access, control
- Territorial reinforcement

CPTED is a proactive design philosophy built around a core set of principles that is based on the belief that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life.

### Potential CPTED benefits include:

- productive use of space
- improved function and/or profit
- reduced exposure to fear, crime, loss and liability
- partnerships and problem solving
- improved quality of life, and
- major cost savings.

Studies show that the development of safe, quality neighbourhoods include the opportunity for residents to access public green space and parkland amenities in order to promote healthy lifestyles. A number of items are incorporated into park design to make users feel more secure in their surroundings; they include:

- Lighting
- Clear sight lines through the park
- Pathways wide enough for service vehicles and police to patrol and monitor parks
- Emergency call/distress buttons
- Trees and shrubs that are limbed up to maintain clear sight lines
- More than one access and egress in and out of facilities
- Signage

Through the public consultation process it was identified that people generally feel safe in city parks. However, where improvement to safety was considered, the use of lighting and emergency call buttons are favoured by most people who completed the surveys.

- Work with the Police Services to communicate and implement "CPTED" principles in parks to increase levels of safety while addressing a balance between aesthetic and environmental considerations.
- > Establish a 'Policy for Park and Trail Lighting'.
- Establish a 'Policy for Emergency Call Buttons' within parks and along trails.
- Develop a 'Parkland Encroachment Policy and Procedure' to enforce and educate the public regarding encroachment into city parks and open space.

### EFFICIENCY

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #8: To successfully develop, maintain and enhance parks and recreation facilities in a balanced cost effective manner.

Parks planning, development, and recreation programming will endeavour towards successful outcomes that recognize the need for balance between local and regional amenities distributed suitably throughout the city, to ensure that residents and visitors have affordable or financially cost-effective and readily accessible parks and open spaces that are usable. Through public consultation it was determined that citizens would support some level of service reduction in parks by consolidation of services, provided that parks were maintained to an acceptable standard of cleanliness. This by no means meant that parks would be closed and sold; indicating that parks with higher use would be fitted with a variety of activities.

### **BUDGET AND FUNDING**

The budget process consists of an examination of operations to determine any new initiatives, modifications, or service level changes projected to impact the budget. The City operates on a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year and a one-year Operating Budget cycle and a five-year Capital Budget cycle; the first year is approved by City Council, and the next four years as an adopted plan, but is subject to approval annually. The budget process begins in the summer, with extensive staff time spent on budget preparation in August, September and October. Administration submits a recommended budget to City Council and Council reviews and approves the Budgets in December. Over the past decade, the City of Windsor has been faced with decreasing revenues and increasing costs. Consequently, each year, there is much discussion about the elimination or reduction of services across the city, and Parks is no exception.

The Parks Department consists of Parks Operations, Parks Design & Development, Horticulture and Forestry Divisions. The Parks Department is overseen by an Executive Director and each Division has a Manager that reports to the Executive Director. Parks has 90 full-time employees and approximately 100 summer students and seasonal employees.

### PARKS DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SOURCES

Parks Design & Development is responsible for the short and long-term planning of the City Parks, capital projects, infrastructure improvements, and the development of park policies. The Parks Department Budget may include the following funding sources:

- General Operating Fund: Fund 001 supports Parks
- Dedicated Reserves:

Parkland Acquisition Fund - Revenue results from the sale of parkland as well as Development Charges which were established to receive developer contribution revenue. This Fund is used to purchase new parkland within the City limits. Developer parkland dedications and cash in lieu of dedication have provided much of the neighbourhood parkland for many years. The policy of requesting that developers provide parkland as part of the infrastructure to support new neighbourhoods, has helped the park system keep pace with development in the City.

- Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund Revenue is generated through a millage levy that is then used to support capital projects.
- Internal Pay-As-You-Go Fund These funds are comprised of PYG from the Operating Budget and PYG from the Debt Reduction Policy. There are no set restrictions for the use of these funds
- Federal Gas Tax Monies received from the federal government relating to the federal gas tax. There are restrictions on how this money can be spent.
- Subsidies and Grants: Provincial/Federal Government, one-time funding initiatives, and also Third Party Recoveries.
- Levies:

• Partnerships and/or Volunteerism: Partnerships can help defray project costs and increase visibility of programs and events throughout the community as well as create potential new sources of revenue. These types of revenue sources are infrequent, and typically are for a specific purpose. Funds received that were generated for a named project must be used only for that specific project. For example, in 2015 the City worked with a third-party volunteer group that raised funds for the Great Flag Project.

### PARKS, HORTICULTURE, FORESTRY AND NATURAL AREAS OPERATING BUDGET FUNDING SOURCES

The Parks Operations division is responsible for the day to day operations and maintenance of the City's 209 Parks, 1playground units, sports fields, 125.7 km of trails, a cemetery, equipment maintenance, 400 vacant/transitional lots and roadside ditch mowing. During the winter months, the Parks Operations staff provides Winter Control of sidewalks, trails and parking lots throughout the City. The Horticulture division operates the Lanspeary Greenhouses where they grow in excess of 50,000 specialty plants, purchase 200,000 annuals, grow 15,000 perennials, our nursery houses contain 10,000 trees and shrubs, and plant 70,000 tulips in 300,000 sq. ft. of floral displays that are maintained within the City parks, as well as 1000 hanging baskets and 500 portable planters. The Forestry division is responsible for the City's 70,000 boulevard trees including trimming, removal and planting. The Natural Areas division operates a Nature Centre that provides programs for public attendance. This division is also responsible for overseeing 1158 hectares of Natural Parkland within the City.

The Operating Budget may include the following funding sources:

- Fund 001 General Fund: The General Fund is the major source for financing the City's routine operations. The largest source of revenue for the General Fund is property tax. A small portion of the overall City General Fund revenue is from sources other than local property taxes. This Fund supports core parks maintenance functions such as infrastructure maintenance, mowing and snow removal.
- Subsidies and Grants
- External recoveries: These recoveries are based on work performed. For example, Parks recovers from the Board of Education for maintenance costs relating to the Windsor Stadium. This revenue completely offsets the cost of providing the service.
- **User Fees:** Parks charges user fees on a per use basis for programs at the Ojibway Nature Centre. This revenue helps to offset the cost of providing the programming. Memorials for specific tree plantings and park benches have allowed improvements that may not otherwise be funded. User Fees will continue to be evaluated as part of the annual budget process to make sure competitive fees are being charged, but that they also remain affordable for residents.
- Sports-field Improvements Reserve Fund: Established to help finance the costs of improvements to sports facilities.
- Tree Planting Reserve Account: These are tree contributions for new homes and subdivisions. It is also used to charge tree planting expenses for these properties or to issue refunds to homeowners who plant their own trees.
- Riverfront Brick Reserve Account: All revenues after expenses relevant to the memorial brick program reside in this account. Accumulated net proceeds are transferred to the Riverfront Development capital project each year.

### **FUTURE FUNDING**

The aging infrastructure within the Parks has resulted in an increased demand for parks facilities improvements and services at a time when operating budgets are being reduced, tax revenue is decreasing, and fixed operating costs are increasing. Through the dedicated Parkland Acquisition Reserve, the City has been able to acquire land for dedicated park and open space uses. However, the cost of developing and maintaining parkland is reaching a point where traditional funding means (i.e., property taxes, fees, etc.) are potentially no longer able to completely support the current and future needs of the park system.

Development of a Green Levy should be carefully considered. The replacement costs of the playgrounds to meet AODA Accessibility Standards and to bring the Park amenities up to community expectations are beyond the annual capital budget dollars available to Parks. In addition to future levy conversations, Parks will continue to explore all funding options to insure the continuing vitality of the parks system and provision of services, amenities, and programming for the entire community.

### **DISPOSITION AND ACQUISITIONS**

In the dynamic review of parkland needed city wide, it is reasonable to suspect that many areas of the City would have adequate, surplus, or deficient parkland coverage. The guiding criteria as evaluated in other areas of this plan is to provide a parks area to residents ratio (hectares of parkland per 1000 residents) and that residents live within .8 kilometre of a park.

As one might suspect the City core is generally park and open space deficient, as an area of greatest population and development density. The acquisition of parkland within the City core is challenged by the availability of adequate unoccupied space and relatively high value for property. In previous reports and strategic concepts to fund parkland space was the consideration of sale of parks considered to be surplus. It is noted that the disposition of any parkland requires public notice as specified in the Official Plan, Disposition of Parkland, clause 6.7.3.15 (e).

"The best available evidence

indicates that greenspace is an

essential part of human

health."

Aside from a consideration of parkland ratio to population or number of parks in close proximity, a park being considered surplus should also be evaluated for its ability to serve other strategic corporate goals, such as

- Whether that park space could contribute to natural or recreational connectivity.
- Is it able to support strategies identified for responding to global climatic change or urban heat island effect, or
- Would it support green infrastructure, soft engineering or dealing with storm water management.

As previously discussed, based on the current economic outlooks and growth projections, the population of the city is not projected to increase significantly within the next 20 years. In such a time, land costs are generally low and provide an opportune time in which to plan for future growth beyond the 20 year life of this master plan.

### PARKLAND ACQUISITION

As in the previous Culture and Recreation Master Plan the issue of acquisition of lands is still a concern. Several planning districts demonstrate deficiencies. With the current extent of developed lands within the city, it is difficult to resolve those deficiencies. However, the city should investigate and consider any opportunity that may arise to alleviate any deficiency in order to achieve the minimum standard of public open space throughout each planning district and ward.

### PLANNING ACT

This Master Plan recommends that when there is an opportunity, Council should strongly endorse acquisition of land for the use of recreational parkland on the premise of establishing healthy and sustainable communities with the city. Through the Provincial Planning Act (see Appendix 'R'), any development within the city of Windsor is subject to Parkland Conveyance in land at a rate of 2% for commercial and industrial lands and 5% for all others zoning designations. Alternatively the act also states that where residential development is taking place, the City can acquire land at a rate of 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units.

### ALTERNATE METHODS FOR PARKLAND ACQUISITION

In addition to the acquisition techniques found in the Planning Act, other methods in which the city can acquire land to meet the need for public open space are:

- Cash-in-lieu when land is not available or not of benefit to the City's parkland purposes, the Planning Act allows for cash-in-lieu as Parkland Conveyance. This is a generally accepted practice as a condition with minor development such as consent items or rezoning items.
- Municipal designation designation of other municipal lands a Parkland.
- **Donation -** Often land is bequeathed or vested for various reasons.
- Disposition of School Board Property This method is ideal for wards and districts
  with deficiencies identified in the Parkland Supply Chapter. Many of the
  properties which the school boards own falls under the Private Recreation and
  Open Space Classification of the Official Plan. Often the property abuts existing
  Public Recreational Open Space. Any opportunity to expand public open
  space, especially in the urban core, should be strongly considered and acted
  upon.
- Lease Agreements land which may be leased from another public agency such as schools or brownfields for a period of time, as a temporary gap-fill in areas of parkland deficiency, until such time that land may become available for permanent parkland development
- Shared Use / Management Agreements often with schools boards or other public sector agencies where there is an opportunity for amalgamated services or those which are similar in nature.

- Land Exchange The Planning Act does provide for the exchange of lands between the municipality and the private sector or another public agency for the purpose of parkland development if warranted. This becomes beneficial where there is a deficiency in one area of the city and a surplus in an area where the city may own undeveloped or underutilized land zoned as Green District.
- Property Tax Arrears Unfortunately owners do at times fail to pay taxes and thus the property is made available for sale in tax arrears. Occasionally these properties lie adjacent to existing parkland or a potential link between parks. More often, they are not usable as parkland due to size or location, but are ideal for infill development by the private sector. Where the land is not usable for parkland purposes, the land should be made available to the private sector and the price should reflect the appropriate Parkland Conveyance fees as established by the Planning Act to help offset parkland development. These types of properties may also be beneficial in Land Exchange deals between the City and either the private or other public agency, where they are beneficial to the City's interests in expanding the greenway system.
- Road easements during infrastructure development of roadways, often land
  is acquired from abutting properties to expand the width of the right-of-way to
  accommodate the traffic. In areas where bicycling facilities are identified by
  the B.U.M.P., acquisition of parkland to accommodate both cycling and
  pedestrian recreational activity should be sought.

The City should investigate without prejudice any and all opportunities to acquire lands suitable for parkland development.

- > Review and update the 2012 park disposition list.
- > That in areas of deficient park open pace a strategy be developed to identify and acquire property suitable for the parkland.
- Investigate opportunity to acquire lands from school boards, railways or other underutilized sites in the city for parks purposes as they become available to offset areas which demonstrate a deficiency in parkland.
- Actively explore alternative funding mechanisms such as sponsorships from businesses, individual donors, partnerships, grants and gifting can be made directly for parkland purposes.
- > To encourage donation (i.e. bequeathing, estate settlements, in-trusts) of land for parks purposes based on the "Donation Policy (M20-2013)".

### CONSOLIDATION OF SPORT RECREATIONAL FIELDS

The presence of baseball diamonds and soccer pitches in neighbourhood and community parks is fairly common, and in many instances is one of the contributing assets making up the collective identity of the community. Fields and pitches once used for unorganized play have evolved into facilities for a high level of organized play, with supporting infrastructure.

Some communities have held onto sports venues which continue to serve high level sport recreational needs, where others like west or central Windsor have experienced consolidation into regional park sports complexes (MicMac Park, Ford Test Track).

The trend now in the re-development of neighbourhood and community parks is the removal of out of use, formally maintained fields, replaced with paved trails, shade structures, playgrounds, benches, trees, and open turf areas facilitating unorganized sport play.

The consolidation of sports fields into single parks supports a much higher level of service provided by the Parks Department by creating greater efficiency in staffing and equipment resources. There is an economy of scale recognized with regional sports parks. This is perhaps now a greater need in east Windsor and can be expected as a future consideration for the development of the Sandwich South Secondary Planning Area



Figure 4-34: Consolidated soccer fields at Ford Test Track

- ➤ That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments undertake a "Sports Needs Analysis" in conjunction with community and sports facilities users looking at consolidation opportunities more immediately for the east end of Windsor and ultimately city wide.
- ➤ Review and develop designated areas in parks for skateboarding facilities throughout the city.
- ➤ Review and develop designated areas in parks for spraypads throughout the city.
- ➤ Review and develop a sport court strategy for the whole city to determine appropriate locations.
- ➤ Review and develop an outdoor swimming facilities strategy to ensure adequate access for all users.

### MANAGEMENT PLANS

The public consultation universally identified a general satisfaction with park maintenance. In focus groups, access to washroom facilities and routine waste and recycling removal were identified as areas for improvement. It is a challenge to manage expectations in relation to maintenance. In some cases, there are public concerns about lack of grooming, yet this is contrary to desires for more naturalized landscapes. Generally, operations staff are appreciated for their efforts in the parks.

Parks operations maintenance standards are neither formalized nor documented. Maintenance standards provide clear expectations to the public and staff. Standards also support budgeting and scheduling of maintenance, and provide clarity about the purpose and use of resources. With standards in place, the implications of making park design changes are better understood.

The park classifications can be used as a tool for establishing maintenance standards. Generally maintenance levels correlate with park classifications (e.g., regional open spaces receive more maintenance than community open spaces, and onwards down the hierarchy). Of course, the setting and facilities are also factors. Forested areas require less maintenance than groomed areas even if they are in other park designations. Sport fields and other facilities have specific maintenance requirements.

With 209 parks in the city's inventory, several of which have aging infrastructure, combined with a changing demographic profile for more individual, self-directed and passive recreation types, management plans are necessary. Deterioration of the infrastructure that has occurred in some of the older parks makes maintenance particularly challenging. Many washrooms, walkways, play areas, courts and other infrastructure are at or beyond their expected lifespan.

One of the components of park management is caring for the infrastructure within parks. There is a wide variety of infrastructure, including buildings, structures, recreation amenities, roads, trails, walkways, site furniture, and utilities. Through the assistance of Asset Management, establishment of a database that documents the age and condition of all park infrastructure should be created.

Parks operations staff has many responsibilities in relation to park maintenance, many of which take place year-round. These responsibilities include:

- Maintenance of washrooms outdoors and indoors.
- Inspection and maintenance of park infrastructure, including playgrounds, sport fields, courts, shelters, fences, signs, tables, benches, utilities, sidewalks/paths, parking lots
- Caring for trees, shrubs and garden beds, including planting, cultivation, fertilizing, watering/irrigation system management, trimming, pruning, weeding, edging, pest and disease control through forestry and horticultural staff.
- Turf maintenance, including aerating, fertilizing, turf repair, topdressing, mowing, trimming, and watering.
- Trail maintenance, including repair, drainage works, relocation, restoration, brush clearing.
- Event set-up and take-down.
- Vandalism repair and replacement.
- · Litter and garbage removal from all areas.



Figure 4-35: City Horticulture staff tending the beds on the Riverfront

Management plans are essential to ensure that the appropriate level of service expected by the community is achieved and that parks are sustainable with the economic outlook over the next 20 years. The following is list of parks which need a management plan or where the existing management plan requires updating:

### MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED

- Peche Island
- Optimist Memorial Woodlot
- Lakeshore woods
- Lanspeary Park
- South Cameron Woodlots
- Sandpoint Beach including the consolidation of Stop 26 and Ganatchio Park
- Grand Marais Trail including a consolidation of the abutting neighbourhood parks
- Oakwood Park
- Herb Gray Natural Area
- Windsor Raceway buffer lands
- Sandwich/Ojibway Parkway

### **UPDATES**

- Ford Test Track
- Willistead Manor Park
- Jackson Park
- MicMac Park
- Malden Recreation Park
- East Riverside / Blue Heron Park
- Waterfront Parks (excluding the C.R.I.P. lands)
- Entire Ojibway Nature Complex
  - o Ojibway Park (including Tom Joy Woods)
  - Tallgrass Prairie Nature Reserve (including Spring Garden ANSII)
  - Black Oak Heritage Park (including Broadway Park)

### **NEW PARKS**

- Airport Swamp Woodlots
- Virginia Park
- Little River Corridor expansion into Sandwich South
- Biodiversity Gateway

- Adopt a policy with Asset Management that establishes level of service for the maintenance and operation of parks.
- Establish a 'Management Plan' for each city park and open space.
- ➤ To develop 'Park Design Standards', and adoption of policies to improve and reduce maintenance costs, while achieving an aesthetically pleasing environment for each park type.
- To standardize park maintenance and level of service, as well as lifecycle costing by formalizing Parks Operations inspection and management standards as "C.I.T.E." based on:
  - o Classification and location of the park setting, ranging from very natural to urban.
  - o Infrastructure type, age, condition, replacement cycle.
  - o Type and amount of use numbers of people, demographics served, times of highest use.
  - o Environmental characteristics sensitivity of vegetation and wildlife, amount of shade from trees provided.

- ➤ Review the current City Forestry's Tree Nursery and determine its needs and identify an appropriate location in order for forestry to maintain an acceptable level of service and a reliable source for Carolinian tree species as well as boulevard trees.
- Establish and adopt an ongoing GIS referenced AutoCAD based data inventory in collaboration with Asset Management and Geomatics of all park assets including the purchase of computerized digital systems and equipment as needed to capture assets within the park system.
- Establish a labeling protocol for interpretation and communication of the horticultural and biodiversity of the plant material found in select premier natural and horticultural parks.
- > Review the "Parks Bylaw" for updates on a five-year basis.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #9: To provide vibrant and memorable community spaces which foster a positive and unique sense of place.

Whether the small neighbourhood parks, or the broad regional attractions, or along the waterfront, city parks are to provide a sense of place through a variety of high quality, innovative environments that foster a vibrant community to achieve a positive memorable experience for their users. From the public consultation process it was determined that people prefer some level of variety in parks to enhance their experience (see Appendix M).

With a great diversity in park types found in the city it is difficult to layout a single design standard to accommodate every park. Currently, the parks range from highly manicured horticultural landscape treatments in urban regional parks such as Jackson Park and along the CRIP and other riverfront properties, to informal natural areas and forested areas of Ojibway Nature Complex and Little River Corridor. Depending on the park type and its surroundings the level of maintenance is a critical consideration in park design, since maintenance costs over time are usually greater than initial development costs.

### PARK IDENTITY

Amenities located within parks, including buildings, structures, and recreational features offer uniqueness to a park's character. Due to their popularity and manufactured design, playgrounds have become a theme generating amenity in parks over the recent past. While this is only one method to convey unique characteristics of a park there are other amenities that are generally characteristic of a park.

Built infrastructure such as washrooms and shelters are a challenge for parks operations. The public consultation identified a greater desire for such facilities especially upgrading the existing washrooms in parks to accommodate accessibility requirements as listed in AODA. Such amenities are costly to maintain and locating a washroom in every park would not be achievable operationally. High-use parks such as those with organized outdoor sports facilities and regional open spaces should be a priority. Where any new washroom facility is to be considered, it should be incorporated in to another building to economize infrastructure.

Picnic facilities are popular, particularly for large family gatherings. City parks have a number of very well used picnic areas. The public consultation process has identified that picnicking appears to be on an increase. Location of new facilities will need to be carefully considered to avert any misuse or underuse which could lead to an undesirable condition. Besides the regular maintenance there is the issue of vandalism and graffiti. Evidence has shown where higher quality amenities are installed in the city, there has been more respect for the elements. Appeal and use is also driven by the uniqueness and aesthetic quality of a space. This should be a direction by which all new picnic shelters should strive to deliver to the community to help establish a sense of place to be in a park.

A shared identity is a key factor in making people sense that they belong to a larger plan. Signage in the city parks is currently eclectic with some dating back to a period before the last Culture and Recreation Master Plan (1989). In the pubic consultation it was found that participants referred to a specific by several different names, by a key element in the park, as a collective (such as the riverfront). There were often times where people could not name the park but identified it by the street it was on. Providing a standard park signage program to replace the collection of existing signs should be a priority. The provision of a uniform park sign at the main entries to parks will help neighbourhoods feel that the park matters. Though establishing a consistent park designation signage may seem counteractive to establishing a unique experience, there are elements of parks that a larger corporation needs to provide standardization.

Standardization of some park amenities such as benches, trash and recycling receptacles, and internal signage are necessary to establish efficiency in parks operations. Regional Parks often have been identified as such due to a particular cultural character or significant location within the city and warrant a special treatment which is unique to the park.

### ADOPT-A-PARK

Regular activity creates a presence that can deter negative activity, as there are eyes on the park. Where established neighbourhood groups, who assist in the development or provide programmed events in a given park, it creates a sense of ownership on the park. Such organizations are often called "The Friends of ..." or "... Residents Association". In areas of the city where community gardens have been established, there is a constant presence which in itself is self-policing. They also provide for an opportunity for children and youth to interact with seniors and people of diverse cultures and experience, allowing for a constant and stimulating educational element in parks.

Where adopt-a-park, resident associations or interest groups such as the Community Garden Collective or BIA's have been established, involvement with the city departments (i.e. Planning or Parks) is routine and provides a forum for discussion and foresight for the park or streetscape. When planning and designing park amenities in these sponsored parks, the city typically holds public open houses to gather ideas and work with the community to achieve a desirable outcome. This process is very important and is appreciated by residents.

Working with community groups in parks establishes:

- Best Practices for development, and affords members with the whole notion of life-cycling of developed amenities such as playgrounds, benches, etc.
- Safety and security through the principles of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).
- Awareness of specific demographic requirements of a community such as cultural, disabilities, age of residents, and general interests.



- Establish Neighbourhood Parks and a stronger community focus by providing opportunities for social gathering and a sense of pride in the community.
- Park design to be in character with the type of park, its location and setting and operational management practices.
- Establish a 'Policy and Procedures for Public Consultation' when soliciting any development in parks.
- That park development include areas of open turf where appropriate, to facilitate unorganized sport play.
- Review outdoor picnic facilities to ensure appropriate distribution throughout the city..

Figure 4-36: Youth group cleaning the statues along the river



### SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS

Organized sport fields and courts are fundamentally important components of parks; integral to the whole civic Greenway System. Sports venues have their specific goals and user needs. The uses are more directly associated with the programming offered through the Recreation and Culture Department and their design is regulated through the sport organizations that sponsor them. Sport fields, because of their intense use, structured system of programming, and specific types of maintenance, require a more specialized focus than simply a review of what is offered and where a sports field is needed. Development of a Sports User Needs Study as a companion document to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan is essential to fully assess the sports recreational needs of the city.

Public consultation identified users of organized sports facilities are concentrated in specific areas and represent a specific demographic of the community. Several studies have been completed with respect to sports needs for the county. Depending on the data used, differing results and directions have been tabulated. Organized sports groups recognize that the facilities which are required are legacy development and cooperation between the City of Windsor, the Windsor/ Essex Sports Council and other municipalities is essential to ensure that current and future sports facilities are sustainable and offer venues for a realistic demand.

Aside from sports fields like baseball, soccer, rugby and disc sports, the City of Windsor and other Essex County municipalities also have a wide variety of sports courts. The demand for tennis is demonstrating and increase in popularity in the more suburban areas while basketball is being requested more in the city centre. Jackson Park and Central Park offer hubs for tennis in the city but there is no official concentration of other court sports. In some areas it may feasible to multi-purpose courts with opportunities for a variety of users, including seasonal uses where demand may be present. Such organized programming facilitates an increase in the public experience of these facilities and provides appeal to a broader range of users from all age groups and demographics.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Undertake a 'Feasibility Study' in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Sports Organizations to determine the needs for:
  - a) Artificial sports fieldsb) Sports dome

Figure 4-37: Cricket in Jackson Park

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES**

### MACKENZIE HALL

Located in one of the most historic areas of Windsor, Mackenzie Hall is a living link between our colourful legal past and our artistic present.

Originally a courthouse and jail, Mackenzie Hall is now a cultural centre for the City of Windsor, with performing arts space, theatre, art galleries, meeting facilities and a ballroom for private rentals and special events.

Constructed of limestone in the classic revival style, Mackenzie Hall is administered by Parks and Recreation. Concerts, art exhibits, puppet shows, theatre, social events, day and overnight trips, poetry readings, folk music sing-alongs, children's performances and other cultural events are offered. A variety of leisure and recreation workshops, classes and programs that emphasize arts and culture for all age groups are available.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Work collaboratively with Local Organizations such as horticulturalist and artist groups to help promote, educate and enhance the public's experience when visiting parks. (for example: guided tours, workshops and interpretation)

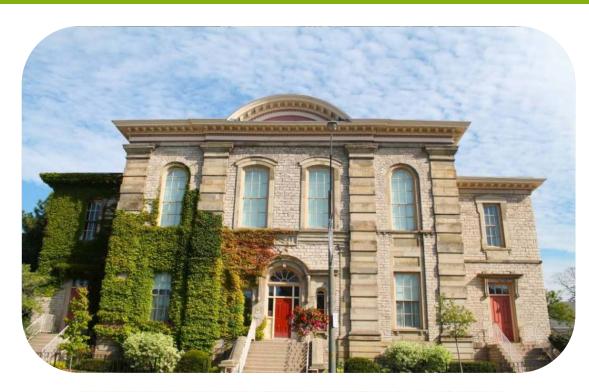




Figure 4-38: Mackenzie Hall Facade (top)

Figure 4-39: Mackenzie Hall Park and shelter (bottom)

# **Chapter 4: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

### WILLISTEAD

Willistead Park was the first Heritage Site designation in Windsor, under the Ontario Heritage Act, through a By-law passed by Council on January 12, 1976. The designation was revised with By-law No. 149-2012 on October 15, 2012, to include building and property features. The Windsor Heritage Committee advises Council on any proposed changes to the property.

The manor and ancillary buildings were designed and built by reknown American Architect, Albert Kahn under commission from Edward Chandler Walker, eldest son of Hiram Walker, who had founded Walkerville at the turn of the 1900's. The parksite is result of the estate becoming public lands after Chandler died and his wife Mary begueathed the property to Town of Walkerville.

Of note are several elements including, a portico from the former residence in Detroit, and the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fountain, designed by Albert Kahn. These artifacts were relocated to the in an effort to save these heritage artifacts and the cultural history of the Walkerville community. The ornamental ironwork fences and stone pillared gates which still encompass the property today were designed by Architects Stahl Kinsey & Chapman in 1914.

In an effort maintain the cultural heritage aspect of the property; the site hosts an annual 'Art in the Park' which attracts people from all over province.

Recent improvements to the park include walkways to allow for better accessibility and restoration of the tree canopy to over 400 trees with 125 different cultivars; making the park an opportune site for an urban arboretum. On December 9, 2014, Parks department presented opportunities for the rehabilitation of the parksite, including the four gateways, the parterre garden and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain, as well as proposal to establish an arboreatum. The results of the open house were very positive.

- > Implement the restoration, rehabilitation and conservation proposals for Willistead Park, of:
  - a) the Parks Gates and Perimeter fencing.
  - b) the South Parterre Garden.
  - c) the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fountain.
  - d) an Urban Arboreatum.
  - in a phased approach as per the park concept plan.

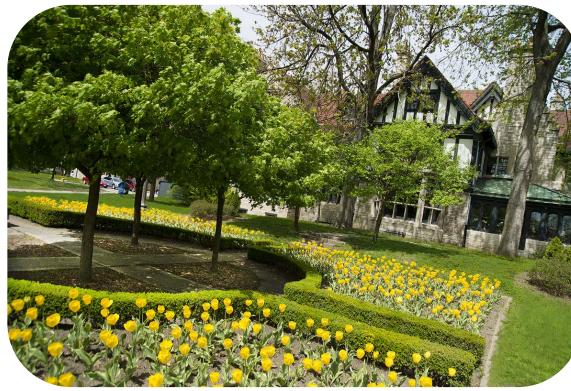




Figure 4-41: Parterre Garden at south of side of Willistead Manor (right)

Figure 4-40: Paul Martin Gardens at Willistead Park (left)

### JACKSON PARK

Though built during the Great Depression of the 1930's, Jackson Park, named after the Mayor of that time, is a showcase of manicured gardens, memorials, and commemorative areas for many of the city's diverse multi-cultural community, as well as the original sports facilities for baseball, lawn bowling, and tennis, once the Windsor Jockey Club race track was removed from the site.

The sunken gardens and main gates at the corner of Ouellette Avenue and Tecumseh Road East were original features that have been preserved and rehabilitated over the parks lifespan.

In the mid- 1900's, Jackson was the premier park for events and festivals. On the eastern end of the park is the 1959 grandstand, which is now on the Windsor Essex County Board of Education property and is still used as a football field. A bandstand, that was re-erected at the same time is no longer used for its original purpose of providing entertainment, however, is in a condition which could allow it to be restored or repurposed.

Current park maintenance operations are situated immediately south of Jackson Park. The current greenhouse operations at Lanspeary Park grow and provide the plant material which is extensively used at Jackson Park. For efficiency of service the greenhouse operations could be relocated to Jackson Park. This move would allow the public to experience the growing operations more readily, and would provide an opportunity for people to engage in regularly scheduled horticultural programming in an appropriate venue, with a display greenhouse incorporated into the scheme. In 2008 the Parks

Department prepared a master plan for the park which considered this proposal.

# JACKSON PARK CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Figure 4-42: Proposed Jackson Park Redevelopment Concept Plan

- Amalgamate Parks Forestry and Horticultural Operations to centralize parks services at Jackson Park to:
  - a) Relocate of the City's Greenhouses from Lanspeary Park to Jackson Park.
  - b) Create a true 'Botanic Garden'.
  - c) Investigate and develop a Display Greenhouse for year-round demonstration and horticultural programs.
  - d) Investigate the potential collaboration with Schools Boards and the Community Garden Collective for horticultural training at the facility.
  - e) Formalize an 'Urban Arboreatum'.
  - f) Provide year-round interest with activity through a 'Festive Winter Lights Display' and an outdoor 'Skating Rink'.
  - g) Update the "Jackson Park Master Plan".



Figure 4-43: Floral display at Jackson Park

### **RIVERFRONT**

The City's riverfront is a valuable recreational and tourism resource. While the design and development of the central parks have been consolidated into the CRIP, the riverfront parks which lie outside of that area offer a great value to the community as well. With parkland dispersed along the riverfront there is an opportunity to provide more variety of waterfront-based activity stretching along the riverfront. As the

Rediscover Our Parks mandate is to draw people into the parks, we need to provide amenities such as benches, washrooms, designated fishing areas, as well as trees for shade, so people can enjoy relaxing by the riverfront.

With spectacular views from our water front parks, especially in the eastern half of the city towards Belle Isle, vistas from within the riverfront parks need to be capitalized upon as a treasured asset. While riverfront parks in the western half are also desired, the view immediately across from these parks is of an industrialized nature, and trees will help to channel views away from this development towards the more positive views of, the Ambassador Bridge and the downtown Skyline of Detroit.

As the public consultation has identified these parks as the most favoured and well used, we should celebrate these assets by:

- Protecting them for all to use.
- Enhancing them with amenities and programmed events.
- Strategically ensuring access to the riverfront.
- Access to the water and shorelines where possible.

This should be the direction for the future of the riverfront parks, to ensure that people are able to *Rediscover Our Parks*.

Aside from the large tourist ships that dock occasionally along Dieppe Park, Lakeview Marina and park is the City's only small craft boating access along the riverfront. Sandpoint Beach offers nonmotorized boating activity access to Lake St Clair. The City needs to encourage more activity along the riverfronts to help promote water-based recreation. Incorporation of water-taxis and ferry service between the core and the outer limits of the city will also help

to provide a vibrant waterfront while capitalizing on the city's motto of the 'River and Land Sustain Us'. It is not just to bring people to riverfront that is important, but to make them stay there and interact

with it. As mentioned in the public surveys, the concerts in Reaume Park and at the Festival Plaza are very popular, and there is a desire for more of that, as well as food vendors to be included in these parks.

### CENTRAL RIVERFRONT LANDS

The riverfront parks which line the Detroit River stretching from the foot of the Ambassador Bridge, through to the Hiram Walker's Distilleries in the east are the result of many years of forward thinking by previous Councils. Referred to as the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP) area, these parks exhibit several installations of artifacts interpreting the rich cultural heritage of Windsor; sculptures, memorials and

commemorative markers outlining the history and events of

the area.

Parks found along the CRIP from west to east are:

- Ambassador
- Assumption
- Centennial
- Caron Avenue Pumping Station
- Dieppe Gardens
- Piazza Udin
- C.N.R. Park
- Festival Plaza
- Aylmer Rest station
- Bert Weeks Memorial Gardens
- Great western Park.

Along the walkway connecting Ambassador, Assumption and Centennial Parks is the Windsor Sculpture Park, sponsored by the Louis Odette family and the P & L Odette Foundation. The sculpture garden is a primary attraction for visitors along the riverfront and has been the recipient of many awards for its innovative concept.

One of the original parks found in the CRIP is Dieppe Gardens. It is a premier tourist attraction, with its ornamental gardens, views of the Detroit Skyline, its monuments and plaques commemorating military conflicts, as well as original settlement of la Petite Cote (now Windsor) of 1749. Through the course of a year, the site is the premier docking site for naval vessels, cruise ships, and tall ship regattas that tour the Great Lakes; providing opportunity for public viewing.



Figure 4-44: Sculpture Park along the Riverfront

### REAUME PARK AND COVENTRY GARDENS

Located further east along the Detroit River at the intersection of Pillette Road is Reaume Park and Coventry Gardens. Bequeathed to the former Town of East Windsor by the estate of Joseph Reaume, the park was enlarged in 1975 to include the Coventry Gardens half purchased from the Glengarda Ursuline Convent and the Windsor Harbour commission.

A showplace and tourist attraction on the banks of the Detroit River, Coventry Garden was designed for relaxation and recreation, and as a place of civic pride. It features the Peace Fountain, the only international floating fountain in the world, which can propel water 70 feet in the air and displays a light show.

Each year, thousands of visitors enjoy the brilliant flowers displayed at Coventry Garden, and the patios serve as unique staging areas for concerts and other events during the summer.



Figure 4-45: Charlie Brookes Memorial Peace Fountain

- > Protect and increase access to and along the Riverfront Parks.
- Identify popular marine-based recreation areas within city parks and establish 'Marine-based Recreation Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community to provide access for non-motorized water-based activities, e.g., boating, paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming, walking, sitting, and picnicking.
- Identify popular fishing areas along Riverfront Parks and establish 'Recreational Fishing Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community.
- Ensure that the phased development projects are carried out as per the "Central Riverfront Implementation Plan 2001" taking into consideration the "2014 Public Consultation Update Report".
- Work with Recreation and Culture for the management of sculptures found along the riverfront, as per the "Maintenance Management Manual".
- ➤ Undertake a study to replace the 'Charlie Brookes Memorial Peace Fountain' at Reaume Park for redevelopment options in consultation with the community.



Figure 4-46: Coventry Gardens Horticultural Display

# **Chapter 4: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

### SPECIAL USE AREAS

There are special areas within the City's Greenway System of parks and trails where special attention must be given in terms of going forward for the next 20 years. As we endeavor to promote the use of all parks, we cannot forget the parks that are held in high regard to the citizens of Windsor and those who come to visit.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Though special events are a function of the Recreation and Culture Department, they generally occur in public open spaces within the city. While the community in general supports these activities, there are physical impacts to parks that need to be considered, as well economic development benefits that may be capitalized on by parks. The Special Events Policy addresses management and fees related to all special events in parks. The policy is working well; staff handle all aspects of event management, and collaborate with Parks and other departments as required.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

> Identify the impacts of special events on our parks and work in collaboration with Special Events Coordinators to determine appropriate locations.

### COMMERCIAL USES OF PARK LANDS

The character of city parks makes them very desirable for commercial activities. Establishment of commercial entities in parks has always been met with much debate especially along the riverfront parks. Currently, agreements for commercial operations have been provided for including:

- Food vending
- Weddings
- > Filming
- Organized sports tournaments
- > Farmers markets
- Picnic shelter rentals
- Parking
- Tourist related activities
- > Other special events with commercial aspects to them

Commercial use within parks is currently being managed by different departments in the city; primarily under Recreation and Culture and Legal Services, Real Estate & Risk Management.

Public parks are intended for the benefit of everyone. It is assumed that access to them should be unimpeded by commercial operations, yet due to the nature of some commercial entities and events, restricted access can become a challenge. Parks are

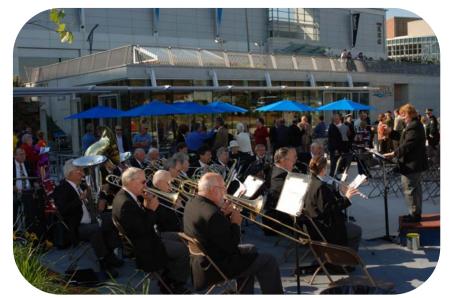
also very expensive to maintain, and municipal resources are always stretched. Through carefully executed agreements, it has been possible to allow revenue generating commercial entities to operate in parks while maintaining access for all. Conflicts arise only when access to or through parks is greatly interrupted.

Other municipal jurisdictions have successfully implemented measures to allow for revenue generating activities without greatly disrupting the main directive of free and equal access. Such measures of revenue generating include:

- · Pay parking,
- User fees for enhanced park servicesxii

Commercial and other park uses are regulated by the Parks Bylaw. The current bylaw is over 10 years old and is currently being reviewed for an update.

- Investigate the addition of park infrastructure that would support special events as potential revenue generators. (examples: special displays at a botanic garden, or long-term event in a park)
- Create a 'Policy on Weddings in Parks' in collaboration with Recreation and Culture including specified locations and fees.







### DOG PARKS

Dog activities in parks, whether simply for walking or in a dog park setting, is one aspect of parks that has varying views. In the public consultation, views in open responses were strong either way. Those who own dogs generally want more off-leash opportunities, and some residents are concerned about inappropriate behaviour by some dogs and their owners.

Dog parks are very limited in Windsor. While there is demand for these facilities there is currently only four off-leash dog parks in the city at:

- Broadway Park
- Optimist Memorial Park
- Remington Booster Park
- Ford Test Track (north end off Seminole)

There are currently no dog parks in the city's east end or south of E.C.Row Expressway. The current experience is that dog parks of confidence are a management is a formidable challenge for parks operations. Many other municipal jurisdictions have

/ or off-leash area management is a formidable challenge for parks operations. Many other municipal jurisdictions have examples of what is best, which may be considered for future development of dog parks in the city.

- ➤ Determine locations within Community Open Spaces and Regional Open Spacesto establish dog parks.
- ➤ Evaluate the environmental impacts of dogs in parks and work with stakeholders to establish 'Policies and Procedures for Off-Leash Dog Parks'.
- > Create a 'Dog Park Information Package' downloadable form the City's website.

Figure 4-47: Event at the Bistro in Dieppe Park (top)

Figure 4-48: Wedding at Malden Park Shelter (middle)

Figure 4-49: Dog Park at Optimist Memorial Park (bottom)

### URBAN AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY GARDENS

The City of Windsor recognizes the vibrant local food system in our community, including the drastic increase in the demand for community gardens and farmers markets in recent years. Community gardens are an important tool for the development of healthy communities and quality of life improvement for residents. People can grow healthy and nutritious food while having a positive impact on the environment.

There are several existing community gardens throughout the city. Additional sites have been predetermined as suitable and should be considered when groups present themselves in areas for the establishment of community gardens. There is a desire by some school boards to offer community garden plots in various locations in the city to promote urban agriculture to youth. School boards, in collaboration with the Community Garden Collective and Parks Staff, can assist in the educational process of these facilities to all users. Where schools may not have the appropriate locations on site, it may provide an opportunity for a coordinated effort between the city, the school board and the collective to provide it in a nearby park identified on the list to encourage more use and public activity in our parks.

### COMMUNITY GARDENS ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY POLICY (2014)

A community garden generally occurs when land is used for the growing of fruits, vegetables or flowers collectively by a group of people for non-commercial purposes. The land may have both individual plots for individual produce consumption, as well as community plots where produce is donated to the community through food banks. Community gardens can occur on publically or privately owned lands, and are usually managed collectively by a not-for-profit group or organization.

Operating a successful garden requires a dedicated group of individuals who cooperatively maintain the garden by watering, weeding, harvesting, and donating the produce as required. A community garden can be located almost anywhere a willing group of individuals live.

- ✓ Benefits of a Community Garden:
- ✓ Provide a source of healthy, fresh food for the community;
- ✓ Enhance habitat for bees, birds and other animals;
- ✓ Foster community spirit and interaction;
- ✓ Limit the use of pesticides and manufactured fertilizer;
- ✓ Create a thriving neighbourhood gathering place;
- ✓ Increase the absorption of storm water into the ground;
- ✓ Provide education to the community about growing food.

The Community Gardens on Municipal Property Policy provides a structure and process for community gardens on City-owned property. The Parks Department has provided a list of parks recommended for community gardens. This list will continue to be updated as more City of Windsor properties, including parks, become more suitable for community gardens. Parks were evaluated based on access to water, parking, a community centre or school, as well as being the appropriate size to accommodate a community garden.



Plan

### REVIEW AND UPDATES

In an effort to maintain relevance, to guide parks development and operations over the next 20-years, Rediscover Our Parks will need to be reviewed and updated regularly. It is recommended that this be completed on a 5-year basis to track progress, reassess priorities should opportunities arise, or changes in the demographics or economy of the city are experienced through the course of the master plan's lifespan. Public consultation should be sought to track the level of satisfaction with the progress, the achievements and new directions when they may emerge.

Progress is to be reported to Council on a five year basis to help define annual and five year operating and capital budgets. Revised budgets will need to reflect the Parks Master Plan Action Plan as amended by the regular review process.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- > Complete an update to "Rediscover Our Parks" on a 5-year basis to:
- a) Track progress.
  - b) Reassess priorities should opportunities arise.
  - c) Address trends, changing demographics, or the economy of the city.

### **END NOTES**

- 1 Youth are often a neglected age group with special needs that are not being addressed in the current delivery system
- Seniors are the most rapidly growing demographic which is becoming more physically active within the city as per the most recent Census data.
- Special Populations are those vulnerable segments of the population including, but not limited to, persons with disabilities, the homeless, immigrants, single parents and low income households
- Maddox, D., An explicitly urban Sustainable Development Goal has been adopted by the UN (#11). Now what? Where could it go wrong? Retrieved from http://www.thenatureofcities.com/2015/12/08/.
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- vi Williams, M and Wright, M. (2007, Jan. 11). The impact of the built environment on the health of the population: A review of the review literature. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.
- vii Bell JF, Wilson JS, and Liu GC. (2008). Neighborhood greenness and 2-year changes in body mass index of children and youth. American Journal of Preventative Medicine, 35(6), 547-53.
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- ix Toronto Public Health. (2015). Green City: Why nature matters to health An evidence Review. Toronto, Ontario (pg 22)
- × Blanchard, s., City of Windsor: Improving Thermal Comfort in Windsor, ON; Assessing Urban Parks and Playgrounds, (2013)
- xi Greenbelt Act, S.O. 2005, CHAPTER 1
- Metro Vancouver has been investigating opportunities related to "enhanced park services" to expand the range of outdoor recreation opportunities while generating non-tax revenue streams. Enhanced park services are defined as value-added services or facilities provided for a fee, involving individual or group exclusive use, or services requiring additional capital and operation resources beyond basic park services. Enhanced services may be provided commercially through a business agreement with the private or non-profit sectors. Examples of this type of revenue generation include: rental of picnic shelters or areas for private events, rental or leasing of buildings to non-profit or commercial groups (sometimes as joint ventures), food services, rental of equipment (such as canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, bicycles, event tents), commercial activities or services (such as zip-lines, dog washing), charging for the use of parks for filming or commercial classes (such as fitness, scuba, bike tours, dog obedience classes), and smartphone applications.





# CHAPTER 5: ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS





**REDISCOVER OUR PARKS** Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan is a higher level document identifying the needs and recommendations for consideration in both Parks Capital and Parks Operational Budgets for the next 20 years. While the recommendations contained within are for the higher level, they provide direction for an Action Plan which is to be completed in 2016.

That Action Plan will detail each recommendation with internal departmental staff requirements, external agencies who may be involved in the implementation, priorities for consideration. As this is a twenty-year plan, a timeframe for completion has also been identified to assist future Operational and Capital Budgetary considerations.

In this chapter, the recommendations found in the body of this document have been summarized. Guiding Principles which each recommendation embodies is identified. A list of studies to be undertaken and policies and procedures to be written has been highlighted to identify the staff resources requirements of Parks.

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY   | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 1.01 | Place added focus on the construction of any park amenity or recreational paths within City Parks to comply with "PART IV.1 DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES STANDARDS (ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005. |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                | <b>⊘</b>     | <b>⊘</b> |            | L          |
| 1.02 | Implement playground replacement strategy as per Council direction<br>MB based on the " <u>Playground Audit"</u> .                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                |              | <b>②</b> | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 1.03 | Establish pilot sites for non-traditional natural play elements and environments to establish uniqueness and to allign with emerging trends.                                                                                                                                             | b                 |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               | <b>⊘</b>          | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |          |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 1.04 | Review current and proposed splash pad locations and criteria for development throughout the city to ensure adequate coverage.                                                                                                                                                           | P                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   | Ø          |
| 1.05 | Work with neighbourhood communities including area youth and seniors to determine their specific interests in recreation activities, play, exercise and programming for designing park amenities at the inception of any park redevelopment plan.                                        |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY   | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|
| 1.06 | Collaborate with all <i>School Boards</i> to determine where efforts and resources can be aligned to provide recreation facilities in both parks and school grounds to accommodate the needs of the community.                                                |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>②</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 1,07 | Incorporate outdoor exercise fitness stations along multi-use trails in parks where appropriate to maintain healthy activity for all.                                                                                                                         |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               | <b>Ø</b>          |                |                |              |          |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 1.08 | Focus on recreational activities and facilities for the aging population.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               | <b>Ø</b>          |                |                |              |          |            |            |
| 1.09 | Adopt the " <u>Age-friendly Windsor Action Plan</u> " recommendations into the parks standards including:                                                                                                                                                     |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               | <b>Ø</b>          |                |                |              |          |            |            |
| 1.09 | a) Establish Wi-Fi hot spots in a parks where appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                    | P                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          |            |            |
| 1.09 | b) Promote age-friendly design in parks to ensure that pedestrian access is safe and universal.                                                                                                                                                               |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          |            |            |
| 1.09 | c) Provide pathways into parks for seniors and those with mobility issues to access.                                                                                                                                                                          |                   |                        | <b>②</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                | <b>②</b>     |          |            |            |
| 1.09 | d) Review and identify current park washroom locations and their existing infrastructure to determine where washroom facilities need to be upgraded and new facilities located for future development (ie: Within Regional or Community Parks).               | b                 |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               | <b>⊘</b>          |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |          |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 1.09 | e) To identify locations for wheel chair charging stations.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | P                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               | <b>②</b>          |                |                |              | <b>Ø</b> |            |            |
| 1.10 | To protect and enhance acess to floral displays at Coventry Gardens, Dieppe Park and Jackson Park as our premier floriculture and horticultural display parks.                                                                                                |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |          |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 1.11 | Prepare a <u>'Redevelopment Plan'</u> in collaboration with the City's Accessibilities Officer to assess the condition and compliance of municipal park pathways, trails as well as beach and riverfront access from an <u>AODA</u> perspective in all parks. | P                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               | <b>⊘</b>          |                |                | <b>②</b>     | <b>②</b> |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 1.12 | Collaborate with <i>Transportation Planning</i> to review the <u>"B.U.M.P."</u> To provide recreational pathways and trails that promote continued linkages across the city and connections with surrounding municipalities.                                  |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                |                | <b>⊘</b>     |          |            | <b>⊘</b>   |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|------------|------------|
| 1.13 | Continue the Community Living Mentorship Partnership program to provide opportunities for meaningful work experience for persons with disabilities.                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 1.14 | Provide ongoing consultation with immigrant communities to determine their need.s                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 1.15 | Provide First Nations' consultation on any natural lands and naturalization processes or display garden commemorating heritage of indigenous peoples of the area as required by the "Provincial Policy Statement 2014".                                                                                                  |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>②</b>       |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 2.01 | As continuous community involvement plays a key role in the longevity of parks, encourage the establishment of "Adopt-a-Park" partnerships with community organizations and groups to assist in the sustainability of parks.                                                                                             |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 2.02 | Encourage and facilitate support for volunteer efforts in park stewardship and outdoor recreation activities such as; park restoration and renewal opportunities.                                                                                                                                                        |                   |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 2.03 | Encourage the establishment of partnerships with private and community organizations as sponsors including:  - Agencies  - Boards  - Committees, and  - Friends Groups  to help promote parks and trails, as destinations, through sponsorship of park development, park stewardships and outdoor recreation activities. |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |        | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 2.04 | Establish partnerships with the organized sports community to assist the City of Windsor in providing the best sports opportunities available in the region.                                                                                                                                                             |                   |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 2.05 | Maintain the <u>"Recreation Activity Guide"</u> and use multiple types of communication and social media to promote recreational opportunities in parks and outdoor recreation areas.                                                                                                                                    |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            |            |
| 2.06 | To provide better marketing of parks through various media formats to engage the public.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                   |                        |                             | <b>②</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        | <b>②</b>   |            |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 3.01 | Recreational activities for active healthy living should focus on self-guided opportunities through the promotion of fitness stations and park design.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | b                 |                        |                             |                               | <b>⊘</b>          |                |                |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 3.02 | Work with the Windsor/Essex Community Garden Collective and other interested partners to provide opportunities for community gardens where there is demand at selected sites within the city as per the "Community Gardens Policy" in order to:  a) Promote sustainability through urban agricultural projects, b) Education of sustainable gardening practices c) Establish demonstration gardens and other forms of urban agriculture. |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      | <b>⊘</b>          |                |                |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 3.03 | Provide equal opportunity access to natural areas and experience of wildlife throughout the city based on the "AODA".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      | <b>Ø</b>          |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 3.04 | Access to drinking water be provided in select, highly active Community and Regional Open Spaces within the Parks Greenway System.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | P                 |                        |                             |                               | <b>Ø</b>          |                |                |              |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 3.05 | Determine shade targets through Forestry and Environmental Services as a follow-up to the Shade Audit for all parks in the Parks Greenway System as well as rights-of-ways in order to provide healthy shaded access throughout the city and help offset the impact of climate change.                                                                                                                                                   | b                 | P                      |                             |                               | <b>Ø</b>          | <b>Ø</b>       |                |              |        |            |            |
| 3.06 | Prepare redevelopment plans for Sandpoint Beach to accommodate the needs of the community and establish it as a "Blue Flag Beach".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | P                 |                        |                             |                               | <b>②</b>          | <b>Ø</b>       |                |              |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 4.01 | To protect and promote existing natural areas and provide connections where available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       |                | <b>Ø</b>     |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 4.02 | To promote naturalization where warranted to create buffers and connections to natural areas in consultation with the community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       |                | <b>②</b>     |        | ın.        |            |
| 4.03 | Identify and review parks or portions of parks for naturalization and establish appropriate management strategies with public consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | b                 |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |        | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY   | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 4.04 | Collaborate with ERCA to provide performance and management strategies for all natural parks and naturalized areas including:  a) Fish habitat along riverfront lands b) Watershed management areas c) Prairies d) Woodlots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       |                |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 4.05 | Create a perfomance and management plan to determine high priority natural park such as:  - Peche Island  -Spring Garden ANSI  -Ojibway Nature Complex  - The Airport Swamp Woodlots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 4.06 | Prepare standards for the establishment of urban wildlife habitat to; a) Accommodate expansion of the natural areas to help facilitate better management of species at risk, habitat for urban wildlife and opportunity for nature related recreation for people. b) Establish a protocol for succession control in managed natural and naturalized areas to deter the establishment of exotic and aggressive naturally invasive species. c) Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in managing vegetation, using native plants where possible, especially for restoration of disturbed areas, and naturalization projects. | P                 | <b>P</b>               |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              |          |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 4.07 | To identify drainage issues in the Parks Greenway System and areas where flooding is an issue for residents to determine if strategies promoted by the <u>"Environmental Master Plan"</u> (such as Low-Impact-Design and green infrastructure) can be used to accommodate storm water to help mitigate flooding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | b                 |                        |                             |                               | <b>Ø</b>          | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              | <b>⊘</b> | <b>⊘</b>   |            |
| 4.08 | Protect the quality of life for future generations; establish an " <u>Urban Forestry Management Plan</u> " for the Parks Greenway System and public right-of-ways by conducting a full tree inventory of all city-owned trees and return to the industry standard through maintenance and funding to ensure that our urban forest remains sustainable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   | <b>P</b>               |                             |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       |                |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   |            |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 4.09 | Naturalize underutilized parks (in whole or part) or those with poor drainage to enhance biodiversity while addressing level of service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 4.11 | Establish a <u>'Policy for 'No Mow' Areas'</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              |        |            |            |
| 4.12 | Work with other civic departments to revise <u>"Parking Lot By-Law"</u> to allow 'Low-Impact-Design' in parks to reduce storm water impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | b                 | P                      |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   | <b>②</b>       |                |              |        |            |            |
| 4.13 | Revisit the <u>"Official Plan"</u> with the <i>Planning Department</i> to offer green infrastructure bonuses for parkland development in subdivisions (especially in Sandwich South Planning District).                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       |                | <b>②</b>     |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 4.14 | Continue active involvement with the <i>Planning Department</i> in the development of the "Sandwich South Secondary Plan" to ensure that Parks and Recreational spaces are established to promote physical connectivity for pedestrian and active transportation through an ecologically diverse "Biodiversity Gateway" by extending Little River Corridor to the Herb Grey Parkway and the Ojibway Nature Complex. |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>     |        |            |            |
| 4.15 | That The City of Windsor coordinate a stewardship project with ERCA in order to secure <i>Priority Natural Significant Lands</i> such as Ojibway Shores, Sandwich South Planning District and any other opportunities where natural features exist to improve the natural heritage system in the City.                                                                                                              |                   |                        |                             | <b>②</b>                      |                   | <b>②</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>     |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 4.16 | Apply under criteria ix and x of the nomination process of <i>UNESCO</i> to establish the Ojibway Nature Complex of parks as a <u>'UNESCO Heritage Site'</u> , through the assistance of the Friends of Ojibway Prairie and <i>ERCA</i> , based on the universal natural significance of the properties.                                                                                                            |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 5.01 | Adopt the re-classification of parks as outlined in this master plan and update the <u>"City of Windsor's Official Plan"</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 5.02 | Update the <u>"Official Plan"</u> to make certain that any new infrastructure, utilities and services abutting parkland is coordinated through the <i>Parks</i> Department to ensure appropriate service to parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            |            |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY   | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 5.03 | Prepare a 'Manual of Park Design Standards' for:  - Each classification and sub-classification  - Standard design details (eg. amenities, pathways, plant materials and field layouts)  - Specifications, and  - Compliance with "AODA" | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       |              |          |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 5.04 | Identify the key parks that would serve as community hubs.                                                                                                                                                                              | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |          |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 6.01 | Identify, prioritize and establish new trails to improve connectivity throughout the city.                                                                                                                                              |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          |            |            |
| 6.02 | Collaborate with <i>Transportation Planning</i> to update the <u>"B.U.M.P."</u> to promote trail connections for neighbourhoods.                                                                                                        | b                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 6.03 | To review opportunities to provide cyclists with safe routes through or adjacent to parkland instead of along major traffic routes.                                                                                                     |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     | <b>Ø</b> |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 6.04 | To review and discuss options with the railways on routes which may be abandoned in the future to provide opportunities for recreational multi usetrails and commuter cyclists.                                                         | b                 |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                | <b>⊘</b>     | <b>⊘</b> | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 6.05 | Strengthen all north-south connections to the Detroit River.                                                                                                                                                                            | P                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                |              |          |            |            |
| 6.06 | Work with and establish partnerships to obtain formal access for the development of recreational trails where appropriate on non-city owned lands, e.g., Devonwood, utility corridors and private land parcels.                         |                   | P                      | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                |                | <b>⊘</b>     |          |            |            |
| 6.07 | Include environmental considerations in the planning of major new trails through natural areas, and design trails to minimize environmental impacts.                                                                                    |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          |            |            |
| 6.08 | Develop trail heads and staging areas with the appropriate amenities for users including; wayfinding and interpretation.                                                                                                                |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      | <b>Ø</b>          | <b>Ø</b>       |                | <b>⊘</b>     |          |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 6.09 | Amend the <u>"Adopt-a-Park Policy"</u> to include an 'Adopt-a-Trail' Program.                                                                                                                                                           |                   | <b>P</b>               |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              |          |            |            |
| 6.10 | Prepare and <u>"Adopt-a-Trail"</u> management plan that builds upon methods used in other jurisdictions' best practice models.                                                                                                          |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   |                |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          | <b>⊘</b>   |            |

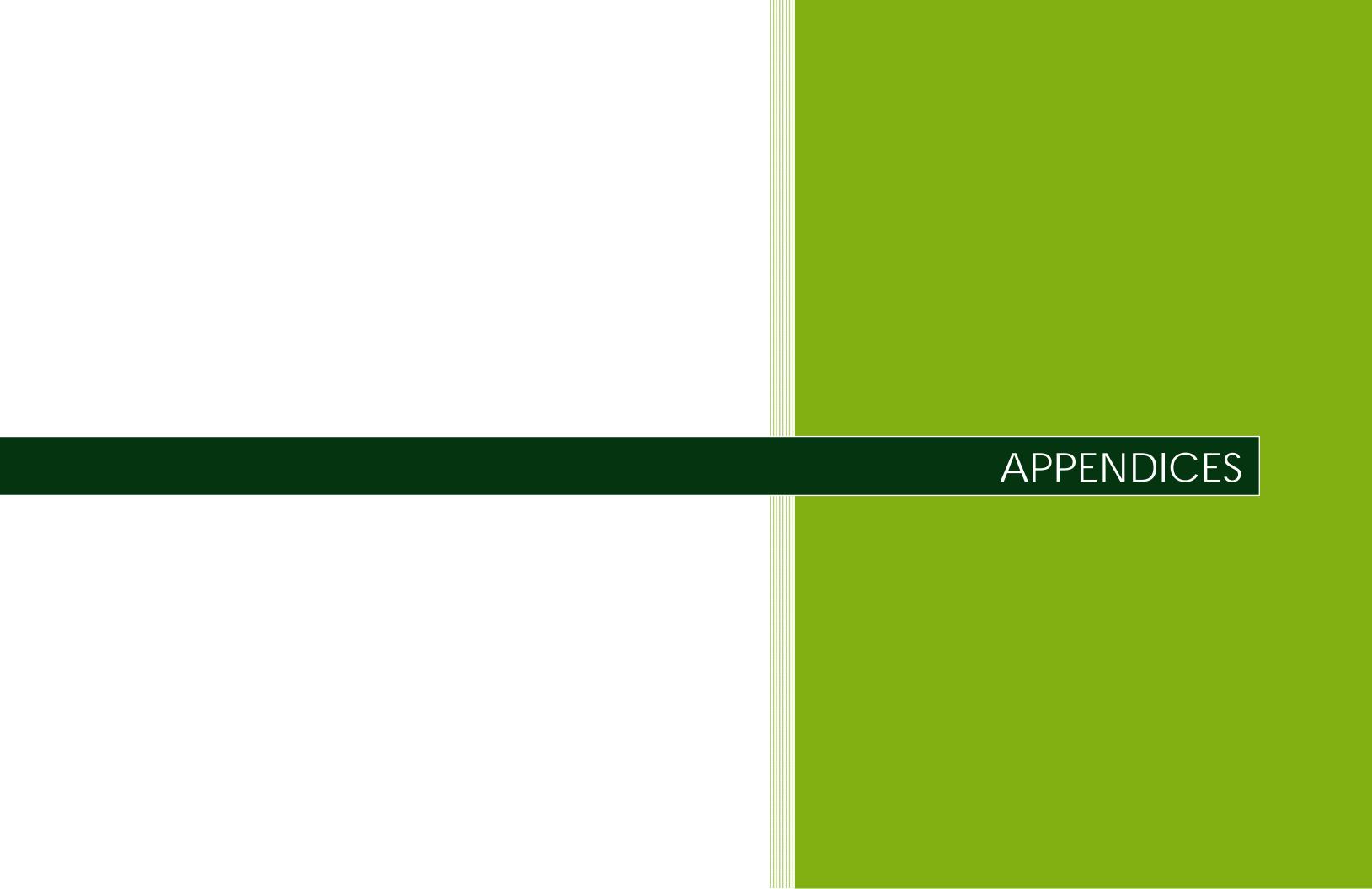
| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY   | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 6.11 | Update design standards on well used trails through areas with high environmental values to keep people on trails and to protect the resources.                                                                                                                |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       |                | <b>Ø</b>     |          |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 7.01 | Work with the <i>Police Servcies</i> to communicate and impement " <u>CPTED"</u> principles in parks to increase levels of saftey while addressing a balance between aesthetic and environmental considerations.                                               |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      | <b>⊘</b>          |                |                |              | <b>⊘</b> |            |            |
| 7.02 | Establish a <u>'Policy for Park and Trail Lighting'</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                      | P                 | <b>P</b>               | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                |              | <b>Ø</b> |            |            |
| 7.03 | Establish a <u>'Policy for Emergency Call Buttons'</u> within parks and along trails.                                                                                                                                                                          | b                 | P                      |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              | <b>Ø</b> |            |            |
| 7.04 | Develop a 'Parkland Encroachment Policy and Procedure' to enforce and educate the public regarding encroachment into city parks and open space.                                                                                                                |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              | <b>Ø</b> |            |            |
| 8.01 | To review and update the 2012 park disposition list.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6                 |                        |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   |            |
| 8.02 | That in areas of deficient park open pace a strategy be developed to identify and acquire property suitable for the parkland.                                                                                                                                  |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   |            |
| 8.03 | Investigate opportunity to acquire lands from school boards, railways or other underutilized sites in the city for parks purposes as they become available to offset areas which demonstrate a deficiency in parkland.                                         |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>     |          | <b>⊘</b>   |            |
| 8.04 | Actively explore alternative funding mechanisms such as sponsorships from businesses, individual donors, partnerships, grants and gifting can be made directly for parkland purposes                                                                           |                   |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>②</b>   |
| 8.05 | To encourage donation (i.e. bequeathing, estate settlements, in-trusts) of land for parks purposes based on the "Donation Policy (M20-2013)".                                                                                                                  |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   |            |
| 8.06 | That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments undertake a "Sports Needs Analysis" in conjunction with community and sports facilities users looking at consolidation opportunities more immediately for the east end of Windsor and ultimately city wide. | P                 |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      | <b>②</b>          | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>     |          | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 8.07 | Review and develop designated areas in parks for skateboarding facilities throughout the city.                                                                                                                                                                 | P                 |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY   | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 8.08 | Review and develop designated areas in parks for spraypads throughout the city.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | P                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                |                |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>②</b>   |
| 8.09 | Review and develop a sport court strategy for the whole city to determine appropriate locations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | b                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 8.10 | Review and develop an outdoor swimming facilities strategy to ensure adequate access for all users.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | P                 |                        | <b>②</b>                    |                               | <b>②</b>          |                |                | <b>②</b>     | <b>②</b> | <b>②</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 8.11 | Adopt a policy with Asset Management that establishes level of service for the maintenance and operation of parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              | <b>⊘</b> | <b>②</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 8.12 | To establish a <u>'Management Plan'</u> for each city park and open space.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |          | <b>Ø</b>   |            |
| 8.13 | To develop <u>'Park Design Standards'</u> , and adoption of policies to improve and reduce maintenance costs, while achieving an aesthetically pleasing environment for each park type.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | b                 |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 8.14 | To standardize park maintenance and level of service, as well as lifecycle costing by formalizing Parks Operations inspection and management standards as "C.I.T.E." based on:  - C lassification and location of the park – setting, ranging from very natural to urban.  - Infrastructure – type, age, condition, replacement cycle.  - Type and amount of use – numbers of people, demographics served, times of highest use.  - Environmental characteristics – sensitivity of vegetation and wildlife, amount of shade from trees provided. |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   |            |
| 8.15 | Review the current City Forestry's Tree Nursery and determine its needs and identify an appropriate location in order for forestry to maintain an acceptable level of service and a reliable source for carolinian tree species as well as boulevard trees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |          | <b>⊘</b>   |            |
| 8.16 | Establish and adopt an ongoing GIS referenced AutoCAD based data inventory in collaboration with Asset Management and Geomatics of all park assets including the purchase of computerized digital systems and equipment as needed to capture assets within the park system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>②</b>       |                |              |          | <b>②</b>   |            |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
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| 8.17 | Establish a labeling protocol for interpretation and communication of the horticultural and biodiversity of the plant material found in select premier natural and horticultural parks.                                                                                                           |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        | <b>⊘</b>   | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 8.18 | Review the <u>"Parks Bylaw"</u> for updates on a five-year basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>②</b>                      |                   | <b>②</b>       |                |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   |            |
| 9.01 | Establish Neighbourhood Parks and a stronger community focus by providing opportunities for social gathering and a sense of pride in the community.                                                                                                                                               |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 9.02 | Park design to be in character with the type of park, its location and setting and operational management practices.                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.03 | Establish a 'Policy and Procedures for Public Consultation' when soliciting any development in parks.                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   | P                      | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.04 | That park development include areas of open turf where appropriate, to facilitate unorganized sport play.                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                        |                             |                               | <b>Ø</b>          | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.05 | Review outdoor picnic facilities to ensure appropriate distribution througout the city.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.06 | Undertake a <u>'Feasibility Study'</u> in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Sports Organizations to determine the needs for: a) artificial sports fields b) sports dome                                                                                                                        | b                 |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                | <b>②</b>       |              |        | <b>②</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.07 | Implement the restoration, rehabilitation and conservation proposals for Willistead Park, of:  a) the Parks Gates and Perimeter fencing. b) the South Parterre Garden. c) the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fountain. d) an Urban Arboreatum. in a phased approach as per the park concept plan. |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |

| No:  | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|------------|------------|
| 9.08 | Amalgamate Parks Forestry and Horticultural Operations to centralize parks services at Jackson Park to:                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   |                |                |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>②</b>   |
| 9.08 | a) Relocate of the City's Greenhouses from Lanspeary Park to Jackson Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                   |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>②</b>   |
| 9.08 | b) Create a true 'Botanic Garden' .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | P                 |                        | <b>②</b>                    |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.08 | c) Investigate and develope a <i>Display Greenhouse</i> for year-round demonstration and horticultural programs.                                                                                                                                                                                                  | b                 |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 9.08 | d) Investigate the potential collaboration with Schools Boards and the Community Garden Collective for horticultural training at the facility.                                                                                                                                                                    |                   | P                      | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>②</b>                      |                   | <b>Ø</b>       |                |              |        | <b>②</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.08 | e) Formalize an 'Urban Arboreatum' .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 9.08 | f) Provide year-round interest with activity through a 'Festive Winter Lights Display' and an outdoor 'Skating Rink' .                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      | <b>②</b>          | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.08 | g) Update the <u>"Jackson Park Master Plan"</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 6                 |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.09 | Work collaboratively with Local Organizations such as horticulturalist and artist groups to help promote, educate and enhance the public's experience when visiting parks. (for example: guided tours, workshops and interpretation)                                                                              |                   |                        |                             | <b>②</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.10 | Protect and increase access to and along the Riverfront Parks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |                        | <b>Ø</b>                    |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       | <b>Ø</b>     |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.11 | Identify popular marine-based recreation areas within city parks and establish 'Marine-based Recreation Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community to provide access for non-motorized water-based activities, e.g., boating, paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming, walking, sitting, and picnicking. | P                 |                        | <b>②</b>                    |                               | <b>②</b>          |                | <b>②</b>       | <b>②</b>     |        |            | <b>②</b>   |
| 9.12 | Identify popular fishing areas along Riverfront Parks and establish<br>'Recreational Fishing Design Guidelines' that meet the needs of the community.                                                                                                                                                             | b                 |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    |                               |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 9.13 | Ensure that the phased development projects are carried out as per the "Central Riverfront Implementation Plan 2001" taking into consideration the "2014 Public Consultation Update Report".                                                                                                                      |                   |                        |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>②</b>   |

| No:   | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Study<br>Required | Policy or<br>Procedure | ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS | HEALTH & WELLNESS | SUSTAINABILITY | PARK DIVERSITY | CONNECTIVITY | SAFETY | EFFICIENCY | EXPERIENCE |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------|------------|------------|
| 9.14  | Work with Recreation and Culture for the management of sculptures found along the riverfront, as per the "Maintenance Management Manual".                                                                             |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                | <b>⊘</b>       |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 9.15  | Undertake a study to replace the 'Charlie Brookes Memorial Peace Fountain' at Reaume Park for redevelopment options in consultation with the community.                                                               | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   | <b>Ø</b>       |                |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.16  | Identify the impacts of special events on our parks and work in collaboration with Special Events Coordinators to determine appropriate locations.                                                                    |                   |                        |                             | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 9.17  | Investigate the addition of park infrastucture that would support special events as potential revenue generators. (examples: special displays at a botanic garden, or long-term event in a park)                      | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.18  | Create a <u>'Policy on Weddings in Parks'</u> in collaboration with Recreation and Culture including specified locations and fees.                                                                                    |                   | P                      |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        | <b>Ø</b>   | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.19  | Determine locations within Community Open Spaces and Regional Open Spaces to establish dog parks.                                                                                                                     | P                 |                        |                             |                               |                   |                | <b>Ø</b>       |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 9.20  | Evaluate the environmental impacts of dogs in parks and work with stakeholders to establish <u>'Policies and Procedures for Off-Leash Dog Parks'</u> .                                                                | b                 | P                      |                             |                               |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |        |            | <b>⊘</b>   |
| 9.21  | Create a 'Dog Park Imformation Package' downloadable form the City's website.                                                                                                                                         |                   |                        |                             | <b>Ø</b>                      |                   |                |                |              |        |            | <b>Ø</b>   |
| 10.01 | Complete an update to <u>"Redsicover Our Parks"</u> on a 5-year basis to: a) Track progress. b) Reassess priorities should opportunities arise. c) Address trends, changing demographics, or the economy of the city. |                   |                        | <b>⊘</b>                    | <b>⊘</b>                      |                   | <b>⊘</b>       |                |              |        | <b>⊘</b>   |            |



#### APPENDIX 'A' - OFFICIAL PLAN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE POLICIES

#### **OFFICIAL PLAN**

#### 6.7 Open Space

The lands designated as "Open Space" on Schedule D: Land Use provide the main locations for recreation and leisure activities and facilities. In order to recognize the important role that Open Space plays in improving the quality of life of residents and enhancing Windsor"s image, Open Space land uses are divided into two categories: Public Open Space and Private Open Space.

The following objectives and policies establish the framework to guide development decisions in Open Space areas.

#### 6.7.1 Objectives

| SATISFY NEEDS                    | 6.7.1.1 | To satisfy the year-round recreation and leisure needs of Windsor residents.                                                   |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENHANCE OPEN<br>SPACES           | 6.7.1.2 | To protect and enhance Windsor"s existing Open Space, while planning for future recreation and leisure needs.                  |
| DISTRIBUTION,<br>SITING & DESIGN | 6.7.1.3 | To ensure the proper distribution, siting and design of Open Space.                                                            |
| PUBLIC & PRIVATE<br>INVOLVEMENT  | 6.7.1.4 | To encourage public and private involvement in the development and delivery of recreation and leisure facilities and services. |
| COMPLEMENT & LINK<br>AREAS       | 6.7.1.5 | To ensure that new Open Space complements and, where possible, is linked to other components of the Greenway System.           |
| PERMITTED USES                   | 6.7.2.1 | Uses permitted in the Open Space land use designation include recreation and leisure areas and facilities.                     |
| ANCILLARY USES                   | 6.7.2.2 | In addition to the uses permitted above, Council may also permit ancillary                                                     |
|                                  | (a)     | the ancillary use is clearly incidental and secondary to, and complementary with, the main Open Space use: and                 |
|                                  | (b)     | the development satisfies the policies for the proposed land use.                                                              |

#### *DEFINITION* 6.7.2.3

For the purpose of this Plan, Open Space land uses are divided into two categories:

- Public Open Space that is owned by the Municipality, the federal or provincial governments or the Essex Region Conservation Authority; and
- (b) Private Open Space that is owned by persons other than the Municipality, the federal or provincial governments or the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

#### CONNECT TO GREENWAY SYSTEM

Council will encourage the development of connections between Open Space areas, other elements of the Greenway System (as described in the Environment chapter) and other points of interest.

#### 6.73 Public Open Space Policies

6.7.2.4

#### CLASSIFICATION 6.7.3.1 OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

For the purpose of this Plan, Public Open Space is further classified as follows:

- (a) Community and Regional Parks which are designed for the recreation and leisure activities of all Windsor residents and/or a broader regional population; and
- (b) Neighbourhood Parks which are designed for the recreation and leisure activities of residents within a defined service radius of Windsor

# PUBLIC OPEN SPACE 6.7.3.2 DESIGNATIONS

6.7.3.3

Community and Regional Parks shall be designated as Open Space on Schedule D: Land Use. Neighbourhood Parks shall not be designated as Open Space on Schedule D: Land Use, although they shall be designated in any Secondary Plan or Guideline Plan, where appropriate.

# COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PARK STANDARDS

7

Council will provide Community and Regional Parks in accordance with the following standards:

(a) Community and Regional Parks will be developed for the enjoyment of a diverse population and provide opportunities for all types of recreation, social and cultural activities;

- (b) Community and Regional Parks will be accessible by emergency services and public transportation and be located with frontages along Arterial or Collector roads. Access will also be provided by pedestrian and cycling linkages;
- (c) Community and Regional Parks may vary in size depending on the nature and extent of the facilities being provided and the purpose of the park. However, they should not be less than 8 hectares in size;
- (d) Community and Regional Parks will be distributed throughout Windsor and will be designed to complement and contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhoods: and
- (e) Community and Regional Parks will be provided at a ratio of not less than 3.25 hectares per 1000 Windsor residents.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD 6.7.3.4 PARK STANDARDS

Council will provide Neighbourhood Parks in accordance with the following standards:

- (a) Neighbourhood Parks will be designed to serve a variety of recreation and leisure needs, including children"s playgrounds, athletic fields and passive recreation needs;
- (b) Neighbourhood Parks will be developed for the recreation and leisure needs of Windsor residents located within a 0.8 km radius;
- (c) Neighbourhood Parks should be accessible by pedestrians and be located along a Collector or Local Road. Access should also be provided by cycling linkages;
- (d) Neighbourhood Parks may vary in size depending on the nature and extent of the facilities being provided and the purpose of the park. However, they should not be less than 2 hectares in size except for special use parks;
- (e) Neighbourhood Parks will be distributed throughout Windsor and will be designed to complement and contribute to the character of the neighbourhood it serves; and
- (f) Neighbourhood Parks will be provided at a ratio of not less than 0.8 hectares per 1000 Windsor residents.

#### PARK RATIO

6.7.3.5 When determining the park per Windsor resident ratio for

Community and Regional Parks and Neighbourhood Parks, Natural Heritage areas owned by the Municipality, federal or provincial governments or the Essex Region Conservation Authority shall be included in the calculation.

- 6.7.3.6 At the time of submission, the proponent shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that a proposed Public Open Space development is:
  - (a) feasible having regard to the other provisions of this Plan, provincial legislation, policies and appropriate guidelines and support studies for uses:
    - (i) within or adjacent to any area identified on Schedule C: Development Constraint Areas and described in the Environment chapter of this Plan;
    - (ii) within a site of potential or known contamination; and
    - (iii) where traffic generation and distribution is a municipal concern.
  - (b) in keeping with the goals, objectives and policies of any secondary plan or guideline plan affecting the surrounding
    - located to adequately serve the recreation and leisure needs of existing and proposed population densities and demographic characteristics;
    - (ii) capable of being provided with full municipal services and emergency services, where appropriate;
    - (iii) capable of being connected to the Greenway System as identified on Schedule B: Greenway System; and
    - (iv) accessible by pedestrians and cyclists.
- 6.7.3.7 The following guidelines shall be considered when evaluating the proposed design of a Public Open Space:
  - (a) the ability to achieve the associated policies as outlined in the Urban Design chapter of this
  - (b) the ability to enhance the natural features and functions of the site;
  - (c) relevant design manuals;
  - (d) landscaping and other design measures and recreational programming used to enhance the visual appearance and ensure compatibility with adjacent land uses;
  - (e) light spill-over or glare from any lighting source onto adjacent residential uses should be minimized;
  - (f) adequate on-site parking, drop-off areas and public transportation service to accommodate existing and proposed uses should be provided;
  - (g) site frontages along roadways should be maximized to ensure visibility and safety and to reduce conflicts with adjacent uses;
  - (h) the design of the open space provides for the extension of the Greenway System; and
  - (i) maintenance requirements.

| LARGE SCALE<br>RECREATION<br>FACILITIES | 6.7.3.8  | aren  | ncil shall encourage large-scale public recreation facilities, such as as and pools, to be located within or adjacent to Community and onal Parks and where: |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                         |          | (a)   | there is direct access to Arterial or Collector Roads;                                                                                                       |
|                                         |          | (b)   | full municipal physical services can be provided;                                                                                                            |
|                                         |          | (c)   | public transportation services can be provided;                                                                                                              |
|                                         |          | (d)   | adequate off-street parking can be provided; and                                                                                                             |
|                                         |          | (e)   | the use will be compatible with the surrounding area in terms of scale, massing, height, siting, orientation, setbacks and landscaped areas.                 |
| COMMUNITY<br>SERVICES                   | 6.7.3.9  | servi | ncil will encourage community services such as libraries, emergency ces and community centres to be located adjacent to Community and onal Parks where:      |
|                                         |          | (a)   | there is direct access to Arterial or Collector Roads;                                                                                                       |
|                                         |          | (b)   | full municipal physical services and emergency services can be provided;                                                                                     |
|                                         |          | (c)   | the use will be compatible with the surrounding area in terms of scale, massing, height, siting, orientation, setbacks and landscaped areas;                 |
|                                         |          | (d)   | public transportation service can be provided; and                                                                                                           |
|                                         |          | (e)   | adequate off-street parking can be provided.                                                                                                                 |
| NATURALIZE                              | 6.7.3.18 |       | ouncil may authorize the naturalization of Public Open Space having ven consideration to:                                                                    |
|                                         |          | (a)   | the location of the Public Open Space in relation to other natural landscapes;                                                                               |
|                                         |          | (b    | existing and proposed recreational usage;                                                                                                                    |
|                                         |          | (c)   | maintenance costs and practices;                                                                                                                             |
|                                         |          | (d    | ) public safety and aesthetics; and                                                                                                                          |

| (e) | any relevant studies or reports. |  |
|-----|----------------------------------|--|
|     |                                  |  |

| CONSERVATION    | 6.7.3.19 | Where Public Open Space is to be naturalized or conserved in a natural |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MANAGEMENT PLAN |          | state, the Municipality will prepare a conservation management plan.   |

#### 6.8 Natural Heritage

The lands designated as "Natural Heritage" on Schedule D: Land Use provide for the protection and conservation of Windsor"s most environmentally significant and sensitive natural areas, including provincially designated Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and wetlands.

|                             | •       | establish the framework for Natural Heritage.                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PROTECT &<br>CONSERVE       | 6.8.1.1 | To protect, conserve and improve Windsor's most environmentally significant and sensitive natural areas.                                     |
| RECREATION<br>OPPORTUNITIES | 6.8.1.2 | To provide opportunities for recreational uses within Natural Heritage areas.                                                                |
| GREENWAY<br>SYSTFM          | 6.8.1.3 | To link Natural Heritage areas to other components of the<br>Greenway System                                                                 |
| PERMITTED USES              | 6.8.2.1 | Uses permitted in the Natural Heritage land use designation shall be nature reserves and wildland management.                                |
| ANCILLARY USES              | 6.8.2.2 | In addition to the uses permitted above, Council may permit ancillary recreation and leisure activities and facilities in areas              |
|                             |         | (a) the ancillary use is clearly incidental and secondary to, and complementary with, the main Natural Heritage use; and                     |
|                             |         | (b) the ancillary use does not negatively impact upon the natural features and functions of the site.                                        |
| EVALUATION<br>CRITERIA      | 6.8.2.3 | At the time of submission, the proponent shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that a proposed Natural Heritage site is: |

- (a) not environmental significant and/or sensitive based on an evaluation of the area"s:
  - (i) ecological function;
  - (ii) biological diversity;
  - (iii) natural communities;

- (iv) vulnerable, threatened or endangered species; (v) physical size; (vi) representation; (vii) level of disturbance; (viii) earth science features; and (ix) cultural significance.
- in keeping with the goals, objectives and policies of any secondary plan or guideline plan affecting the area

| EER REQUIRED | 6.8.2.4 |
|--------------|---------|
| FOR ADJACENT |         |
| LANDS        |         |

Council shall protect lands designated as Natural Heritage from incompatible development. Accordingly any proponent of development adjacent to lands designated as Natural Heritage may be required to complete an Environmental Evaluation Report or other suitable study in accordance with the Procedures chapter of this Plan. The identification of adjacent lands subject to this requirement will be determined on a site specific basis by the Municipality, in consultation with the province and/or the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and in accordance with policy 10.2.5.4 of this Plan.

CONSERVATION 6.8.2.5 **MANAGEMENT** ΡΙΔΝ

The Municipality will prepare a conservation management plan for municipally-owned lands which are designated as Natural Heritage and will encourage other land owners to do the same

#### APPENDIX 'B' - PLANNING DISTRICTS

#### OJIBWAY

Situated at the furthest west end of the City, Ojibway Planning District is predominantly a heavy industrial area, comprising two neighbourhoods of Brighton Beach and Morton Industrial Park, which includes the local salt mining and processing operations, supported by railway lines and Great Lakes shipping along the Detroit River. Incorporated as a town in 1913, Ojibway and was later annexed by the City of Windsor in 1966.

Originally, Brighton Beach was to be further industrialized with steel manufacturing plants, but those plans were transferred to areas farther east of Essex County. Though relatively void of a significant residential component (164 people in 2011 census), and as much of the land was never developed for its intended industrial purpose, the vacancy has allowed for the heritage designation of Black Oak Heritage Forest (49.24 ha), a significant natural parcel of land in the City's Park System.

Both the Ojibway and Malden Districts north and east boundaries are currently under transformation with the

new access route to the international crossing and extension of King's Highway #401, which is to include several naturalized land bridges complementary to the natural character.



#### **MALDEN**

Lying just south of the Ojibway Planning District, is the Malden Planning District. It shares much of its history of underdevelopment with the Ojibway Planning District; however, it has a small residential neighbourhood (1,582 people per 2011 census data) at the northeast section of the district. The neighbourhood is often referred to as Yawkey Bush, and named after the onetime owner of the Boston Red Sox who also owned much of the land for prospective industrial development which never materialized.

Much of the area in this district has maintained its indigenous forest and savannah resulting in the establishment of the city's 389.47ha natural resources of Ojibway Nature Park, Tom Joy Woods, Tall Grass Prairie Heritage Park and the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve, as well as the Spring Garden ANSI, which along with the Black Oak Heritage Forest are collectively referred to as the "Ojibway Nature Complex"; comprising 47% of the District, an area 15% larger than Central Park

in New York. Any private development in this district is significantly restricted with natural buffers around the Complex to ensure preservation of this significant natural resource.

#### **SANDWICH**

Lying north east of the natural areas of the Ojibway and Malden Planning Districts, bounded by the Detroit River to the North and Huron Church Road (Hwy #3) to the east, is the Sandwich Planning District; consisting of the former Town of Sandwich (established in 1817 and as a town 1858); one of the City of Windsor's oldest and historical settlement areas.

Though the Sandwich Heritage Conservation District lies in the northern half of the planning district, its establishment in 1700's, it is one of Ontario's oldest settlements, and played a key role in the diverse history of the region with links to First Nations, Black migration from the United States, along with the traditional English and French colonization. The Towne of Sandwich has played an important role in shaping Canada as it was the site of battles during the War if 1812 and the Windsor and Patriot Rebellions of 1837. Measures have been implemented through the <u>Sandwich Heritage</u> <u>Conservation District Plan</u> to ensure that the area's rich historical character is preserved.

Lying in the southern half of the Sandwich Planning District, is community characteristic of post wartime development, with a predominantly single family residential housing stock dating from the 1930's through to 1960's. It is depictive of a complete neighbourhood with all the amenities including schools, a hospital and parkland of varying scale. However, some of this infrastructure is slowly being eroded away with centralization of schools and commercial resources out of the district.

According to the 2011 census the district has been relatively stable in population with 10,618 persons. A 10% drop since the last census could be attributed to amassing of land by the Ambassador Bridge Company in their efforts to build a new bridge alongside the existing bridge.

#### **UNIVERSITY**

The University Planning District is dominated by an educational corridor in its western third, leading from the Detroit River at its northern boundary to Tecumseh Road west at its southern boundary, by the University of Windsor Main Campus and the two west end High Schools of Assumption (Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board) and central (Windsor Essex High School Board). As a result the district reported one of the youngest populations in the City with an average age of 20 to 24 years in the 2011 census as well as the greatest number of rental properties. It also boasts one of the highest densities in the city.

The eastern third is defined by two main railway lines; Essex Terminal Railway and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Main Line and Marshalling yards. The CP Main Line operates in partnership with its U.S. affiliates through the railway tunnel that connects Windsor and Detroit underground. These two major barriers result in a central bounded community. An evolving central commercial corridor along Wyandotte Street West also separates two distinct neighbourhoods north and south of this corridor.

#### SOUTH CAMERON

Bounded by Tecumseh Rd West in north, Huron Church along the west, E.C.Row Expressway on the South and the C.P. Main Lines on the East is the South Cameron Planning District. Though relatively central within the City, this district has experienced a slow development of residential homes, resulting in a varied typology of housing stock and parcels of individual neighbourhoods.

Due to the slow development, much of the undeveloped land is characterized by natural woodlots. Centrally located is South Cameron Woodlot which has been the impetus for current wooded residential lot development in eth area, in order to retain the natural character of the community. With a 15.7% increase, this slow development may also have attributed to South Cameron District being the single most significant increase in population since the last census. It is also the one district in the City with the greatest difference in its demographics, including;

- Youngest average age at 10 to 14yrs
- Largest household size of 3.4 persons
- Highest percentage of children with 23%, and
- Largest number of households with children at 41% The district is also characterized with the largest percentage (54%) of residents whose mother tongue is not English or French.

#### SOUTH WINDSOR

One of the first modern suburban communities of the city, South Windsor saw its greatest residential development of single family homes in the late 1950's thru the 1970's. As a result the greatest part of the district works as one larger community with a variety of schools, parks and commercial areas to compliment the residential population.

Near the eastern boundary is the main commercial corridor of Dougall Avenue, which acts a gateway from Highway 401 into the City Centre. Even with a slight decrease in population of 2.96% since the 2006 census primarily due to the Herb Gray Parkway development, as well as the expansion of the commercial corridor along Dougall Avenue, the area has maintained a relatively constant demographic ratio pertaining to age, living arrangements, and household size.

#### ROSELAND

Aside from the development immediately surrounding Roseland Golf and Curling Club, built prior to the second World Ward on large lots, for the greater part this is one of the newest residential suburban community in the City of Windsor, with most of the development being built in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Due to the existing road patterns the district can be characterized by three individual neighbourhoods; Roseland (the oldest neighbourhood) to the north central, Southwood Lakes to the south central and Walker Gates to the east. Despite having been physically impacted by the Herb Gray Parkway development, the district still saw an increase in population of 8.05% since the 2006 census. The area has a similar demographic profile as South Cameron, however the average age profile is between 40 and 44 years. Culturally, the demographics are characterized with a similar increase in Arabic, Italian, Chinese, and Panjabi speaking people.

To the far west of the district is the St Clair College main campus.

#### CITY CENTRE

Often referred to as the Downtown, the City Centre District at 4692.59 people per square kilometre, is the most densely populated community in the City. With primarily urban dwellers living in apartment complexes, the City Centre is populated primarily by empty nesters or seniors as referenced in the 2011 census with 33% of the population over 55 years and a low 13% of children under the age of fifteen years.

Once the core business and retail district of the City of Windsor up until 1970's when suburban shopping malls were introduced to the city which ushered in an exodus of retail to edges of the city, the downtown has been struggling to redefine itself.

Currently, both the University of Windsor and St Clair College have expanded their campuses into the district to offer students direct access to some of their urban curriculum, while ensuring that heritage architectural building stock can be preserved through reuse and rehabilitation conservation means. In doing so, the potential for increased residential development in the form of student housing has greatly increased. This will result in the need for appropriate public amenities such as urban plazas, pocket parks, and other recreational venues. Currently, the offered is a world class aquatic centre, for active recreation in the downtown.

Combined with the convention facilities at Caesars' Windsor, and the St Clair Centre for the Arts as well as the Riverfront Festival Plaza, along with several hotels, there is an existing structure for a strong tourism market in the City Centre with the appropriate and regular convention and tourism business.

#### **SOUTH CENTRAL**

Lying immediately south of the City Centre District, and comprising some of the city's oldest residential homes. With the exception of a decrease in population 3 times greater than that of the city as a whole, the South Central District parallels the demographics and population character of the city.

Bounded by the CP rail Yards to west and south and Howard Avenue to the east, the South Central District street pattern of the long north-south blocks is depictive of the former French river lots of the originally settlement patterns of the late 1700's. Now bisected by the eastwest arties of Erie, Giles, Sheppard, Hanna Streets as well as Tecumseh Road, the district has transformed in to a traditional city block pattern. As a result the park layouts in the district have a typical north-south orientation.

As a well established community, and stable population, it is unlikely that there would be much change in the immediate future in this district, with exception to the potential amalgamation of the Catholic School Board into one larger mega-school somewhere in the urban core of the City. However, this would result in the closure of Catholic central High School in the southeast corner of the same district.

#### WALKERVILLE

The third District in the urban core is the Walkerville District, with its rich heritage related to Town of Walkerville founded by Hiram Walker in 1858 as a community based around the Hiram Walker's Distillery Complex along the Detroit River. Additional immigrant settlements of the early 1900's and 1910's associated with the distillery and the emerging automotive industry saw much development southerly from the river .

Similar to the South Central District, the former French farm lot pattern is still characterized in the current road patterns, especially in the southern half of the district. In the northern half of the district the imposition of the English grid system is more evident, which greatly divided the river lots into smaller blocks; making it more difficult to consolidate larger tracks of land for viable parkland.

The district is strongly divided with a north and south community on either side of Giles Boulevard, resulting in both Wyandotte Street East and Ottawa Street evolving into their respective communities commercial areas. A later influx of Italian residents along Erie street resulted in a third commercial corridor being established. As a result the Walkerville District has three distinctly different Business Initiation Areas (Walkerville, Ottawa, and Little Italy) running parallel from the central core in the west through to Walker Road.

Aside from the heritage aspect of the street patterns, Walkerville has a nationally recognized heritage designation, which includes; several prominent and architecturally significant residences and commercial edifices, including Willistead. Recent streetscape improvements along the three BIA's have helped to solidify their continued existence, as well as proposed improvements to the Wyandotte Towne centre BIA. Current census information indicates the district has seen a greater population decrease than the rest of the city, while still primarily attracting people from the Mediterranean area.

#### SOUTH WALKERVILLE

Bounded by the Essex Terminal Railway to the north, Canadian Pacific Railway Main Line to the South and Walker Road to the east, South Walkerville District is triangular tract of land at roughly the geographical centre of the city. More related to the Walkerville District to its north, the demographics of South Walkerville is similar to that of the southern half of Walkerville, with residential development evolving as result of post war migrations with people wishing to be closer to the already established immigrant communities in the city.

There is no strong commercial area in this district with exception of the Tecumseh Road commercial corridor which runs east-west through the northern half of the district. The residential base was closely related to the Chrysler and General Motors automotive plants and the Metropolitan Hospital which creates the eastern boundaries of the district.

The 2011 census indicates that as this was an area settled later than the northern districts, many of the original immigrant families seem to still reside in this district. With an aging population and lower number of children under 15 years old, the community has seen little change and has the potential of a major turnover in the next twenty years.

#### **WALKER FARMS**

Walker Farms is predominantly a light industrial and manufacturing district straddling the E.C.Row Expressway situated south of the Canadian Pacific Railway Line, North of the Windsor International Airport and east of the Canadian National –Chesapeake Ohio Railway Line. It currently has a small population of 80 people, which is a 25.74% increase since the 2006 census. It is highly unlikely that there would be much change in the population as much of the available has already been developed by predominant use.

#### REMINGTON PARK

Remington Park District is characterized with lands west of Howard Ave as being commercial and Zalev Brothers metal recycling plant, while the eastern half of the district is an isolated residential area bounded by Howard Avenue, E.C.Row Expressway to the South, Walker road to the east and the Canadian Pacific Main Line to the north.

Similar to the South Central District, the 2011 census information closely parallels the community demographics with that of City as a whole. The current state of the western half of the district has developer speculation, as to its future. With such a large parcel of land being studied there is potential for some change in this district, but as the options are great no definitive plans have been established.

#### **DEVONSHIRE**

Bounded by E.C.Row Expressway to the north, Walker Road and the Canadian National Chesapeake and & Ohio line to the east, Canadian National Caso Subdivision Line to the west, is the city's primary suburban retail development. Consisting of Devonshire Mall and the Roundhouse shopping plaza in the northwest, a centrally located auto dealership mall near the Provincial Rd and Cabana intersection, the Walker Road commercial area along the eastern edge, and the Box Store Power Centre in its southern half, the Devonshire Planning District is the City's primary retail and commercial centre. The residential community of Devonshire Heights is concentrated to the northeast, and also includes Devonwood Conservation Area, a natural area managed by the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

The district began its development evolution in the early 1970's and has continued to progressively evolve into the major commercial centre it is today. With less than a 1% reduction in population since 2006, the district is characterized by a balanced demographic of age and culture.

#### **EAST WINDSOR**

Bounded by the Detroit River to the north, Walker Road to the west, Tecumseh Rd to the South and the Canadian National Railway (Chrysler Spur) to the east, East Windsor has evolved as working middle class community associated with the automotive industry including General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Auto plants. As these companies have been downsizing in the Windsor area or as in the case of General Motors having left the City of Windsor entirely, this area has been slowly impacted with shifts in demographics, closely paralleled to the whole city.

The District has three major communities. One centered on the Drouillard Rd known as Ford City, which once served as a vibrant commercial corridor that catered to the workers from the Ford Motors Company plant established in 1912.

A second community north of the CN Railway Lines was establish by executives of the Ford Motor Company, which over time has evolved in to higher density apartment and condominium towers. A large section of the waterfront (Alexander Park) has been transformed into a linear park fronting these high rises allowing for vistas to the Detroit Skyline and Belle Isle (an historical Olmstead Park). Efforts are being made to work with the Ford Motor Company to ensure that the linear park is extended to the Hiram Walker's Distilleries located at the very western end of the district along on the riverfront.

The third community lies east of Pilette and is characterized by a more medium density 1970's/1980's suburban community referred to as Polonia Park. This area is dominated by lower income housing units. Census information from 2011 demonstrates demographic information paralleled to the City as a whole.

#### **FOUNTAINBLEU**

Situated between the Fiat/Chrysler Plant and Ford Motor Company's Essex Engine Plant, Tecumseh Rd to the north and the Canadian Pacific Main Line to the South, is the Fontainebleau Planning District.

Similar to other districts in the city that evolved due to the centralization of the Canadian automobile industry in the 1950's and 1960's in Windsor this area was the last to be developed in the city before the major shift away from the Windsor area by the automotive industry in the early 2000's.

Since both plants are still in operation, the impact to the demographics of the community has been less severe than in other areas where the plants have been closed. New development on the former Chrysler lands in south end of the district holds promise for continued automotive industry related activity in the area.

#### **RIVERSIDE**

Lying north of the Canadian National Railway Line and bounded by Pilette Rd to the west and the Little River Corridor to the east, Riverside Planning District was once the Town of Riverside and amalgamated in to Windsor in 1966.

With the largest percentage of residents over the age 55 and the lowest number of children under the age of 15, this district represents a stable over a long period of time.

The main traffic corridor of the district is Wyandotte Street East which travels through two Business Improvement Areas of Pillette Village BIA and Olde Riverside.

Residents in this district have great variety of parks including several along the River front and Clairview Bikeway in the northeastern end; connecting with the Ganatcho Multi-use Trail in East Riverside.

At the southeastern end of the district is the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre which is the city's premier indoor sports and hockey arena, catering to a wide variety of events.

#### EAST RIVERSIDE

As one of the areas that has experienced population growth since the 2006 census, the Eats Riverside District has seen some of the most contemporary development in the city, related to parks and recreation. It is bounded by Lake St. Clair to the North, the Little River Nature Corridor to the west, the Canadian National (VIA) rail line to the south and the Town of Tecumseh to east.

It is still growing community and offers opportunity to develop sustainably.

#### FOREST GLADE

Developed in the late 1960's and 1970's as the model community, Forest Glade is still one of the City's most complete neighbourhoods. It is roughly bounded by the eastern limits of the City with the Town of Tecumseh, E.C.Row Expressway to the south, Jefferson Avenue to the west and Tecumseh Road East to the North.

It's population and demographics parallels that of the city with a 2.47% reduction in the overall population since 2006, a dominant middle age group, with a low a population of children 15% and rising aged population of 33% over the age of 55.

Bisecting the District north and south is the Little River Corridor which results in the eastern half as a residential community and the western half a mix of commercial and Industrial lands. The largest parcel in the western half is the Ford Essex Engine plant.

In the western half is an small and isolated residential area known as Roseville Gardens which primarily consists of medium to higher density housing, services by a single neighbourhood park flanked by two schools.

#### SANDWICH SOUTH

In 2002 the this area of the Township of Sandwich South Township was transferred to the City of Windsor after having originally been merged with the Town of Tecumseh in 1998. Predominantly bounded by to the north by the airport and the eastern extreme end of the E.C.Row Expressway, the Canadian National – Chesapeake Ohio Railway Line to the west, the Town of Tecumseh to the east, and the King's Highway #401 to the south, it is the newest and potential growth area for the City.

Currently, most of the district is agricultural land, it has been reviewed by the City, for prospective future development with several secondary plans. Those plans include a major component of parkland that will connect with the Little River Corridor Parks in the eastern half of the City.

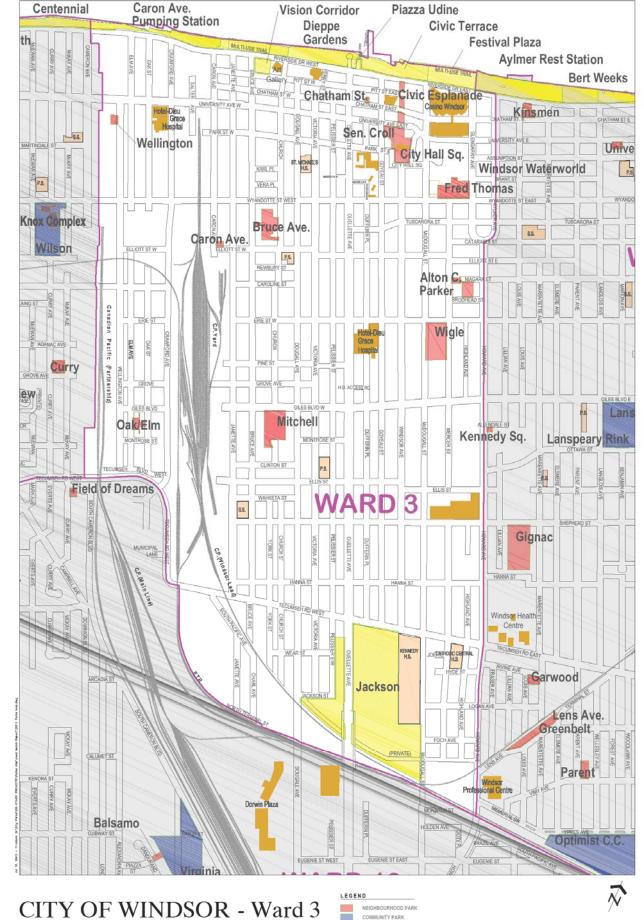
Recently, it has become home to the Southwest Detention Centre that serves much of Southwestern Ontario, and has also been identified by the Province as the location for new Mega-hospital complex. Proposed development of the hospital

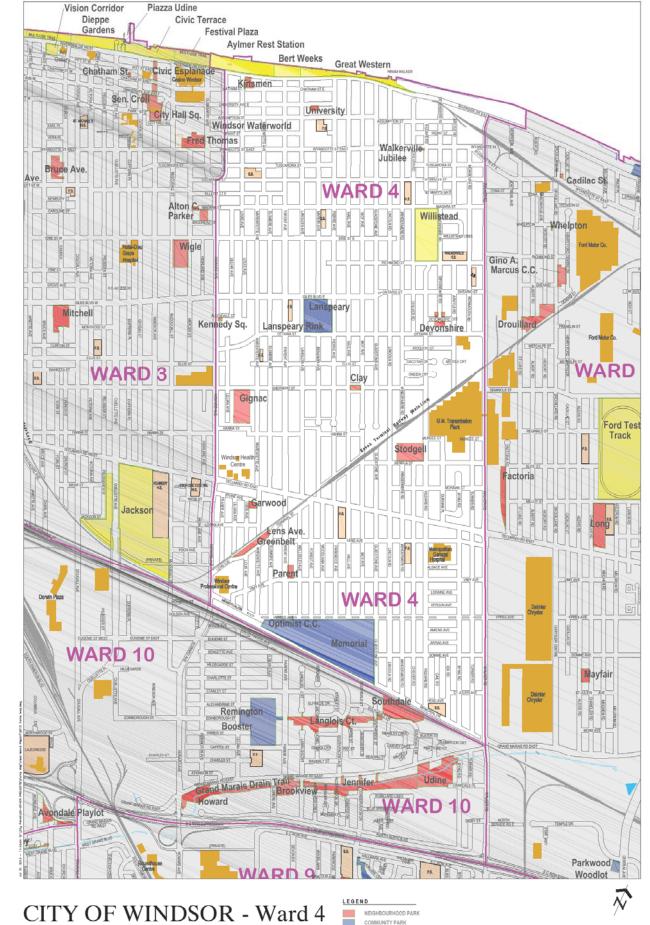
#### PECHE ISLAND

Associated with the East Riverside District, is the island natural conservation area of Peche Island which sits at the mouth of the Detroit River from Lake St Clair. Though regarded as a Planning District, the island has no residents and access is limited to small craft boaters.

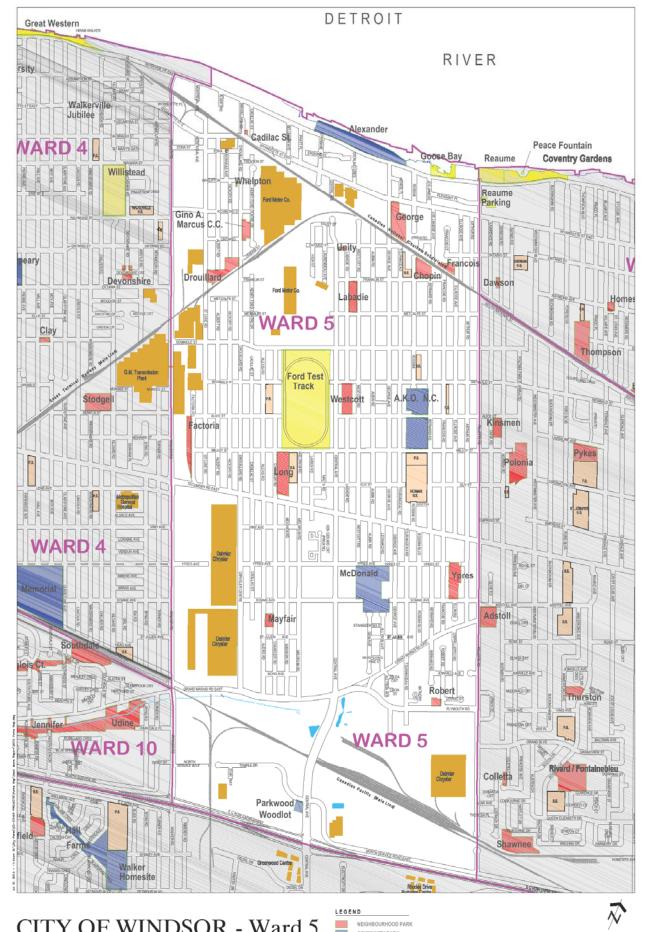
This 35 hectare conservation area was once a Provincial Park and later transferred to the City in 1999. As a conservation area, the island is home to many rare species of plants, and animals.

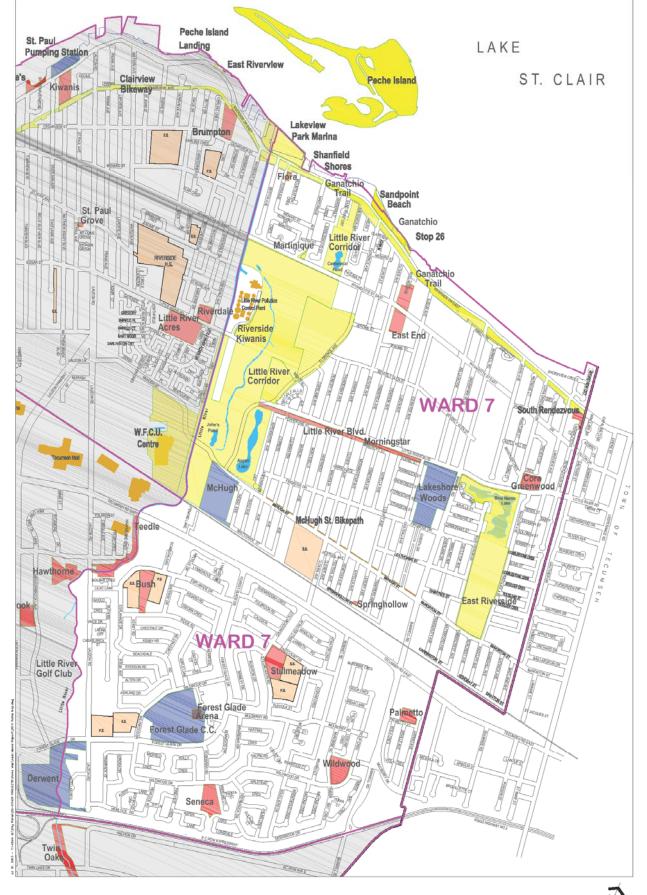


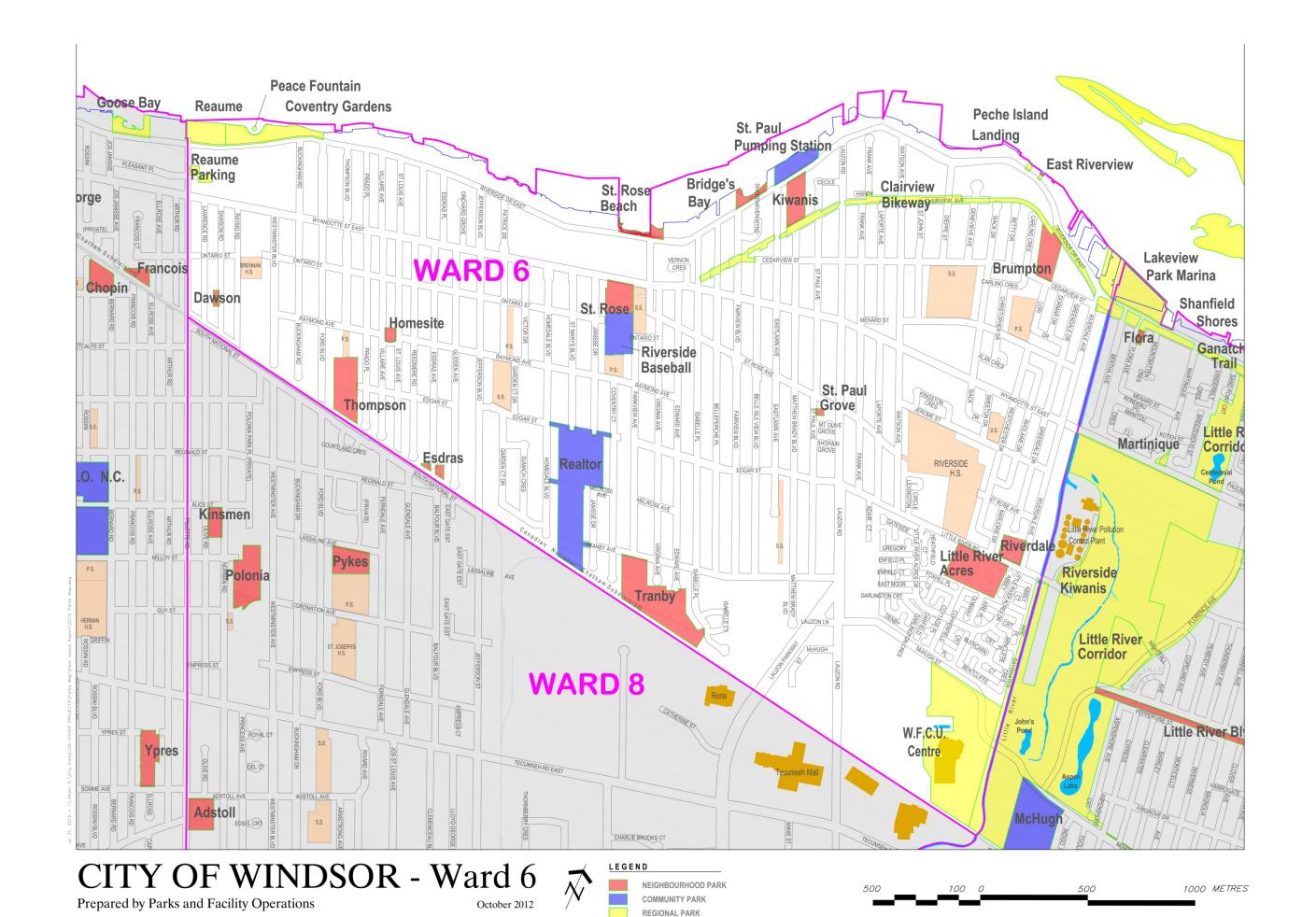


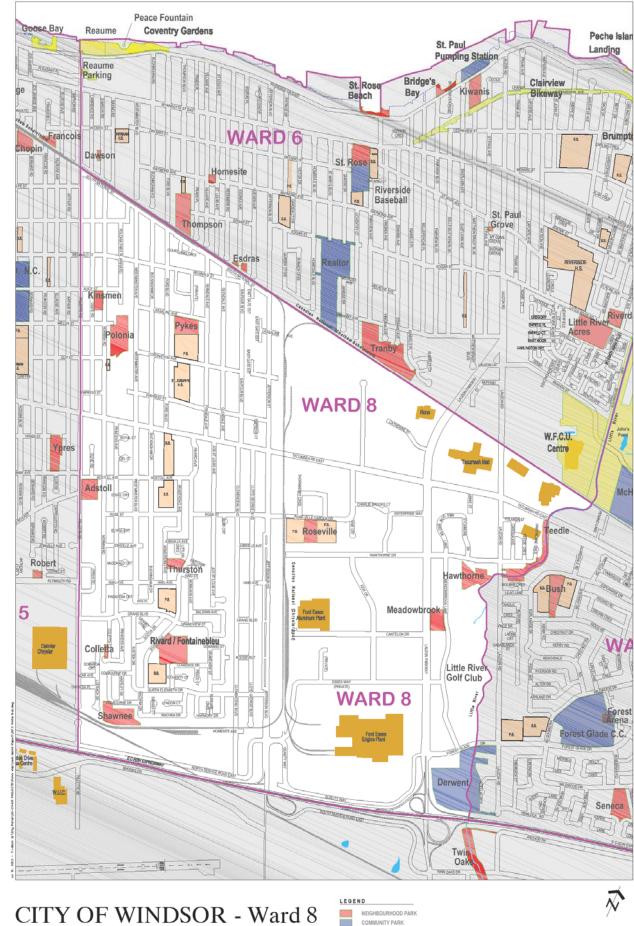


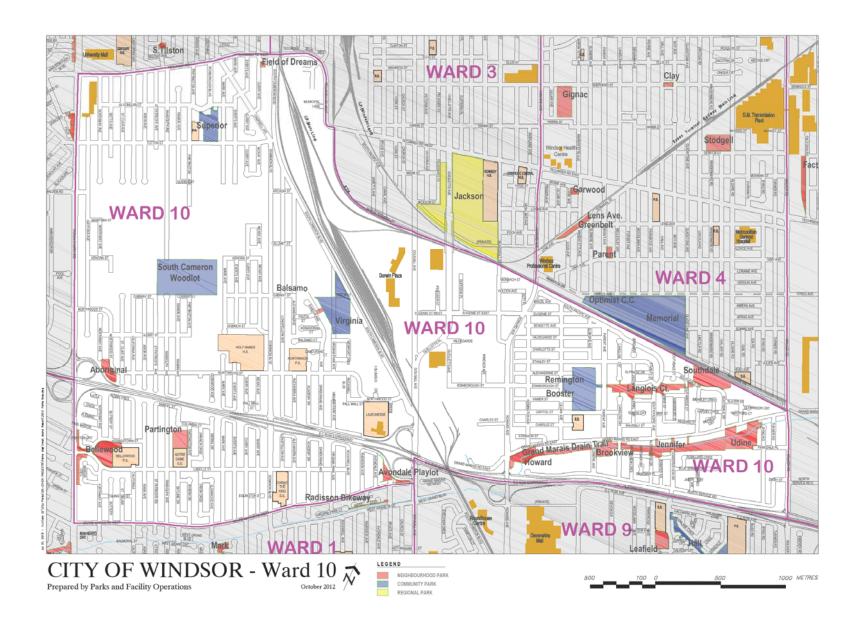
Prepared by Parks and Facility Operations October 2012





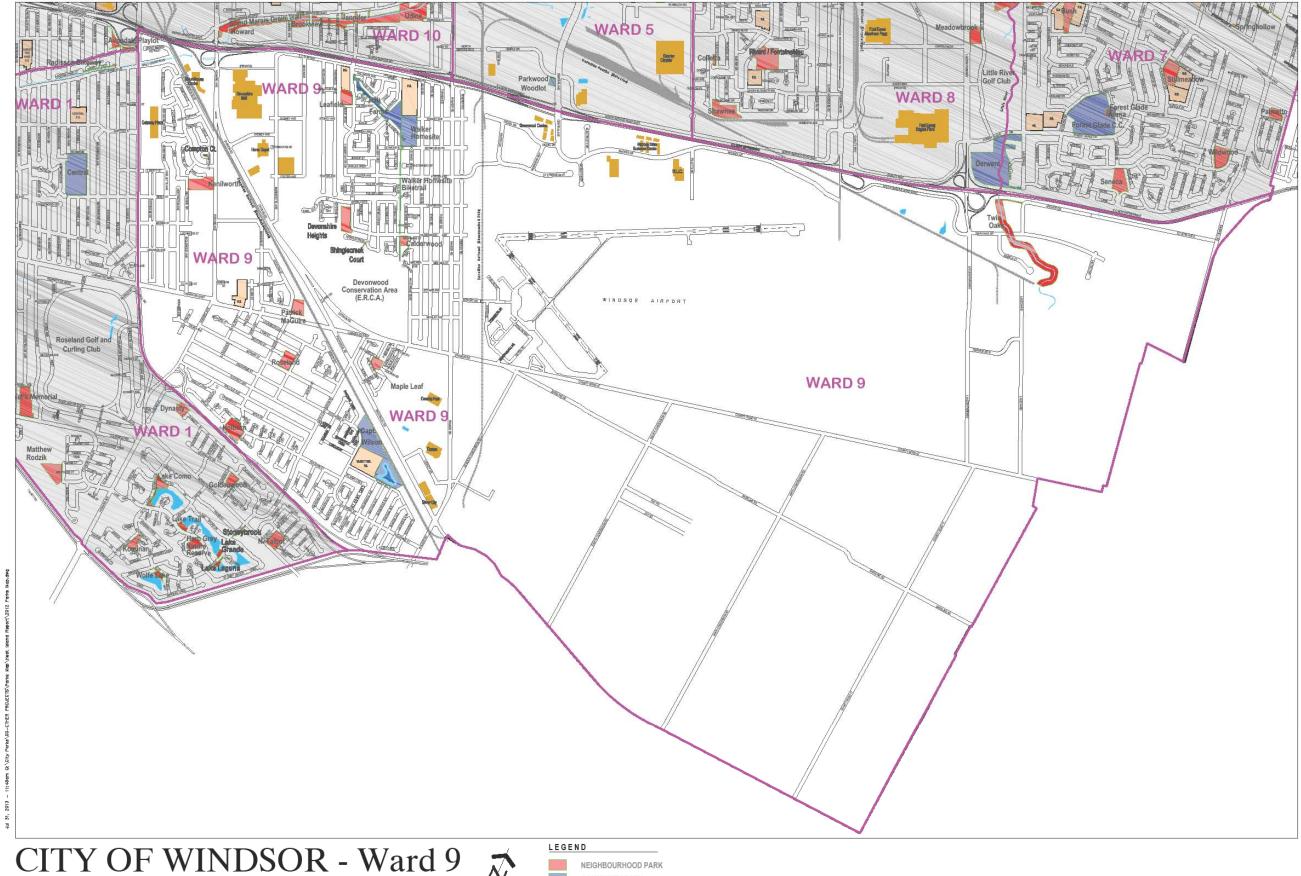






Prepared by Parks and Facility Operations October 2012

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## APPENDIX 'D-1' - ACCESSIBILITY RELATED STUDIES

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2005 (AODA)

In 2005 the Province legislated that all municipal public buildings are to be made accessible by 2010 and all outdoor public spaces to comply with the Act in 2016. The City of Windsor, in recognition of this legislation, has adopted several supporting documents to this regulation and actively transforming it parks to make them accessible for both persons with disabilities as well as the aged.

## CITY OF WINDSOR ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS (F.A.D.S.) (2006)

As in many other Ontario cities, Windsor established an Accessibility Advisory Committee established a Accessibility Standards for barrier-free design for built environments. Standards for accessible outdoor public space is cover in the document including; appropriate sidewalk widths, acceptable types of surfaces, minimum standards for maintenance (i.e. tree branching heights), slopes, pedestrian transitional areas, appropriate characteristics for plant material near sidewalks, placement and dimensions of suitable site furniture, as well as, outdoor ramps, steps, parking and public washroom facilities.

## AGE FRIENDLY WINDSOR ACTION PLAN (2014-2017)

Evolving out of the World Health Organization's (WHO) concept of Global Age-friendly Cities (2005), Windsor recognized that the general population is aging with over one/third of the residents over 50. The study also recognizes the city's growing cultural diversity will only add to the aging population. The document outlines recommendations from WHO to help integrate age-friendly services in the city's outdoor spaces, with respect to establishing and maintaining clean and accessible pathways, adequate seating in parks, separated bike and pedestrian facilities, as well as safe and well illuminated environments. Socially the document recognizes that city parks can offer a variety of participation levels for seniors to gather, socialize and conduct healthy outdoor activities, through active a passive recreation.

## APPENDIX 'D-2' - RIVERFRONT RELATED STUDIES

## RIVERSIDE DRIVE VISTA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (2006)

Created to emphasize the importance of the 'Scenic Drive' along Riverside Drive through its various stages of redevelopment, the 'VISTA' is a class environmental assessment, providing clear direction on the intended character and use of the entire 17 kilometre corridor. Many of the City's prestigious riverfront parks including those under the CRIP will be impacted by the improvements as they take place.

The document identifies several guidelines as a tool for character improvement of the city's oldest corridor and how it interfaces with the built environment and the riverfront parks, including; the establishment of a hierarchy of nodes, gateway locations, bikeway and multi-use trail connections, traffic calming, public art installations, parking opportunities as well as views and vistas which need to be preserved or reinforced.

## CENTRAL RIVERFRONT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (CRIP) (2000)

Focusing on the riverfront lands immediately north of the city's downtown core, the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan's (CRIP) scope encompasses 95 acres within a 6 kilometre stretch between Riverside Drive and the Detroit River from McKee Park in the western end to the Hiram Walker Lands in the eastern end; linking two of the City's most recognized heritage districts of Sandwich and Walkerville respectively. The CRIP is a living document with established design principles and guidelines as standards to direct the future development of parkland, open space, built environments, as well as pedestrian and cycling circulation throughout this ribbon of parks.

While the CRIP is primary design document for the future development of the Riverfront Parks, the parks have regional significance from a heritage as well as social perspective. Though the CRIP riverfront parks are significant with respect to a tourism aspect, they still offer residents of the city a first class waterfront park that rates regional significance.

## DETROIT RIVER SHORELINE ASSESSMENT (2012)

In 2011, the Essex Region Conservation Authority and its partners (including Environment Canada) completed a shoreline assessment of Canadian mainland properties within the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC) to inventory and assess shoreline structures and conditions.

The study identified that most of the shoreline along the Canadian side of the Detroit River is in good condition, but also cited that more than 80% of the shoreline has been artificially hardened due to urbanization; impacting natural habitat negatively. The report promotes opportunities to reduce the impact of the steel sheet retaining walls to prevent erosion while promoting fish habitat.

In a subsequent document for shoreline development <u>Detroit River Canadian Shoreline</u> <u>Restoration Alternatives Selection Manual (2014)</u>, ERCA provided various scenarios and cross-sections to how shoreline development should be implemented to encourage healthy natural habitats along the riverfront properties; many of which are conducive to providing accessibility through parkland to the water.

# APPENDIX 'D-3' - SUSTAINABILITY RELATED STUDIES

# CANDIDATE NATURAL HERITAGE SITE BIOLOGICAL INVENTORY (CNHS) (1992 – UPDATED 2007)

In 1992 the City of Windsor and ERCA initiated a review process through the Official Plan that included documentation of the environmentally significant areas of the city. The *Candidate Natural Heritage Site Biological Inventory* was to assists City Administration and Council with determining land use designation and developing special policy to reduce any impact or loss of significant natural heritage features and biological communities.

Under Section 3 of the Provincial Planning Act, a Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) was established in 2005 which read; "provincial plans and municipal official plans provide a framework for comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning and supports and integrates the principles of strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and economic growth, for the long term." This was supported by the City of Windsor Official Plan under the Environmental Section supports the CNHS through the City of Windsor Greenway System.

In 2007, the document was updated to include the lands the new Sandwich South Planning District based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Significant wetlands
- Habitat of threatened and endangered species
- Significant woodlands
- Significant wildlife habitat
- Significant valley lands
- Ecological function
- Diversity
- Significant species
- Significant Communities
- Condition

# ENVIRONMENTAL MASTER PLAN (2007)

The Environmental Master Plan brings together a strategic direction, guiding principles, goals and actions plans with the goal of strengthening the City's environmental performance.

There are many actions within the Plan that are related to park development, enhancement and conservation.

Goal B: Creating Health Communities

Parks have a great influence on creating a healthy community with its extensive trail network. Promoting walking and biking along trails as leisure activities helps a community stay active and enjoy their natural areas. The length of multi-use trails in Windsor has been steadily increasing since it was first measured in 2008.

#### Goal C: Green Windsor

This EMP goal has the most direct ties to parks, and includes expanding, enhancing and linking the City's greenway system. The greenway system is our network of natural areas and recreational elements including parks, natural heritage sites, the waterfront and street trees.

This goal has many action items that will strengthen our parks. Rehabilitating and naturalising under utilize lands, acquiring parks, increasing tree cover and increasing connectivity between parks are some of the ways we are working towards fulfilling this EMP goal. For many years more trees have been planted throughout Windsor than have been removed, with a focus on planting native trees where practical. Applying practices such as top-dress, over-seeding and aeration has allowed us to decrease pesticide use in parks and on sports fields. When necessary, more environmental friendly pesticides are used, such as herbicidal vinegar or an iron-based pesticide.

#### Goal D: Use Resources Efficiently

There are many ways that parks contribute to this goal. Recently, recycling receptacles were installed in several parks which helps the City increase the amount of recyclable material collected at our facilities. In addition, many buildings located in parks throughout the city have been developed resource efficiencies such as the LEED Gold Ojibway Nature Centre and buildings with green or cool roofs. Two Art Carts that provide tours of the Riverfront Sculpture Garden are now solar powered, and the City now owns a 375 US Gallon mobile water trailer for use at sporting events and festivals to help limit the amount of single-use plastic water bottles needed at events.

# APPENDIX 'D-4' - HEALTH RELATED STUDIES

# ADAPTING TO EXTREME HEAT – SPECIAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HEALTH CANADA (2012 – 2014)

As the southernmost city in Canada, Windsor's humid continental climate results in warm summer temperatures. As a result, Windsor has the greatest number of days annually in Canada with the Humidex reaching 35 or higher. This coupled with Windsor's urban area of concrete and asphalt surfaces as well as large amount of industrial land use can present a considerable heat health risk to residents.

The City of Windsor has partnered with Health Canada to conduct several reports studying how to best design our parks as cool places to beat the extreme heat of summer.

# THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT IN WINDSOR, ON: AN ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES (2012)

The urban heat island effect is the resulting temperature difference between urban and surrounding rural areas. This occurs as a result of an increase in hard surfaces in urban areas, such as asphalt and concrete, as compared to more vegetated, natural rural areas. Vegetation and trees cool landscapes through the shading they provides as well as through the cooling effect of evapotranspiration.

This report outlines the impacts of the urban heat island effect on human health and suggests general measures to mitigate these effects, such as using cool roofs, green roofs, cool pavement and urban greening when designing landscapes and buildings. The report also makes more specific recommendations based on an urban heat map of Windsor showing the location of our hot and cool areas within the city.

# IMPROVING THERMAL COMFORT IN WINDSOR, ON; ASSESSING URBAN PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS (2013)

City parks provide relief from the effects of urban heat, however several features in parks may actually exacerbate the urban heat island effect, such as the rubber matting required for Accessible Playgrounds, asphalt for parking areas or basketball courts, and lack of trees around sports fields.

This report provides an assessment of Windsor's parks and playgrounds to determine characteristics that may either improve or reduce human comfort levels to heat. For example, the temperature of some of the rubber matting used under plays structure was found to be above 65°C on a mid-20°C day. Though this matting has several benefits and provides compliance for accessibility, it also significantly increases the heat exposure to young children. Through enhanced park design it may be possible to reduce the heat exposure risk. The report recommends various design and policy based actions to improve park design.

# DESIGNING CITY OF WINDSOR PARKS TO IMPROVE THERMAL COMFORT IN SUMMER (2014)

Building on the previous report, this study analyses the many ways in which parks can be cool places for residents in times of extreme summer heat. By using various methods of natural shade, built shade, water features and cool surface materials, many design features of parks can be implemented to help them become places where people can cool down. This report outlines further policy and design recommendations and as a result, a Shade Policy has been developed to guide park design. In addition, all City of Windsor parks were assessed for shade coverage in order to prioritize those requiring urgent action.

#### **Urban Heat Island Reduction Actions in Windsor Parks**

Building on the results and recommendations from the above-listed reports, the City is moving forward on direct action to reduce our urban heat island effect, including:

- <u>Installation of green and reflective roofs on municipal buildings</u> The City is leading by example through the installation of green roofs and reflective roofs on municipal buildings, many of which are in parks. Where roofing shingles are being replaced, efforts have been made to replace dark shingles with lighter coloured alternatives.
- Integrated thermal comfort considerations into the retrofit of city parks The City has integrated thermal comfort design features including installing shade structures, planting trees and using lighter coloured artificial mats under playground equipment into city parks that are being retrofitted.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STUDY (2012)

The overall aim of Windsor's adaptation strategy is to create a more resilient city to the effects of a changing climate. A well-adapted city is able to absorb the effects of climate change, such as extreme summer heat or intense rain events, through the advancement of sustainable policies, infrastructure investment and public education.

Our parks play a key role when it comes to climate change adaptation. Enhancing our green spaces to better retain and absorb stormwater decreases the risk of flooding to basements, roads and other infrastructure. Parks are a great place to implement alternative stormwater management techniques.

In addition, the City faces risks associated with increasing temperature and its effect on human health. Parks are the perfect places to cool down in the summer, and they act as "cooling centres" that help to decrease the local air temperature around them.

Many of the actions developed in the Plan to help deal with increasing precipitation and temperatures can be implemented in our parks and include:

- Developing a green roof policy;
- Developing pilot projects for the use porous pavement;
- Installing rain gardens;
- Improving and enhancing green space to improve rainwater retention;
- Increasing tree planting;
- Increasing capital funding for shade structures; and
- Increasing heat education available at community centres and pools; and
- Completing an urban heat island study.

Currently, there are several buildings in parks that have green or cool roofs, and a rain garden has been installed at the Ojibway Nature Centre. Some areas within parks have been enhanced to include native plants as well as community gardens. In addition, tree planting (especially native species) has increased. The number of shade structures and splash pads found in our parks is increasing and we have already completed an Urban Heat Island study.

#### APPENDIX 'E' - CITY OF WINDSOR COAT OF ARMS

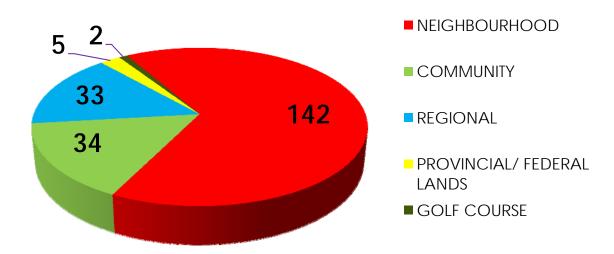
Windsor's roots are reflected in its corporate Coat of Arms, which hangs in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The motto, "The River and the Land Sustain Us" reminds us of the foundation of our city's well being and the need to care for the environment.

Shield of Arms: The core of the design is a symbolic representation of the most important elements from the city's history. At the top is the broad sweep of the Detroit River. The lower portion is divided into three parts representing the three periods of Windsor's history: First Peoples, Colonial, and Canadian. The central band on the shield represents the first settlements by Europeans, the French-speaking pioneers of the mid-18th century whose fields echoed the distinctive patterns of the river-based communities of their compatriots on the St. Lawrence. The fleur-de-lis recalls the Virgin Mary who was honoured in the name of the first parish, L'Assomption, in 1762. The sides of the shield represent the riches of the land including the roses of the "City of Roses" and a cogwheel centre representing the city's impressive industrial heritage.

Crest: The crest above the shield with the helmet and mantling are the traditional components of this Coat of Arms. Today they can symbolize, in the same spirit as the knight defending his lands, the determination of citizens to safeguard and strengthen their community. Above a coronet representing loyalties to province and country is a stag, an emblem drawn from the city's first seal. The belt of wampum honours the local First Peoples, stewards of the land for centuries, while the automobile wheel represents some of the distinctive components of civic economy.

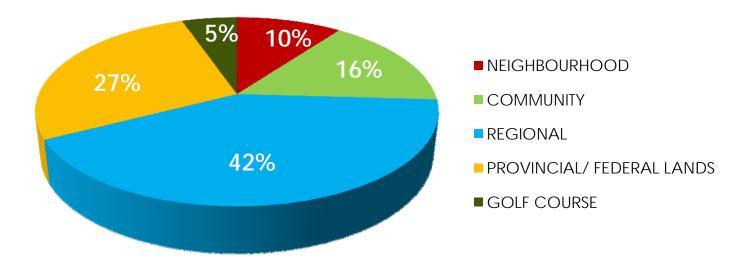
On a grassy mound rising above the waters of the River are two floral sprays celebrating the varied and multicultural character of Windsor's population: the rose, the trillium, and fringed gentian. The gentian also honours a unique part of local natural heritage: the unusual plants and flowers of the tall grass prairie. Windsor's status as Canada's gateway to the heart of North America is symbolized by the two lions. Their collars consist of Loyalist military coronets honouring the pivotal role played by the region in the War of 1812. The collar pendants recall the steamboat and steam railway heritage.

# Parks Classification (by Numbers of Parks) - CITY WIDE



|           | CLASSIFICATION            | ACRES   | % BY AREA | #<br>PARKS |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|------------|
|           | NEIGHBOURHOOD             | 361.97  | 10%       | 142        |
|           | COMMUNITY                 | 564.66  | 16%       | 34         |
| City Wide | REGIONAL                  | 1485.68 | 42%       | 33         |
|           | PROVINCIAL/ FEDERAL LANDS | 975.58  | 27%       | 5          |
|           | GOLF COURSE               | 189.53  | 5%        | 2          |
|           | TOTAL ACRES               | 3577.42 |           |            |
|           | TOTAL HECTARES            | 1447.78 |           |            |

# Parks Classifications (by Area) - CITY WIDE



| WARD    | CLASSIFICATION     | ACRES   | % Parkland |
|---------|--------------------|---------|------------|
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD      | 40.73   | 3%         |
|         | COMMUNITY          | 81.07   | 6%         |
| WARD 1  | REGIONAL           | 498.37  | 38%        |
|         | OTHER PUBLIC LANDS | 579.44  | 44%        |
|         | GOLF COURSE        | 125.09  | 9%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES        | 1324.70 |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES     | 536.11  |            |
|         |                    |         |            |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD      | 47.21   | 13%        |
|         | COMMUNITY          | 17.81   | 5%         |
| WARD 2  | REGIONAL           | 287.37  | 82%        |
|         | OTHER PUBLIC LANDS | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE        | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES        | 352.40  |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES     | 142.61  |            |
|         |                    |         |            |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD      | 28.37   | 26%        |
| MADDO   | COMMUNITY          | 0.00    | 0%         |
| WARD 3  | REGIONAL           | 82.84   | 74%        |
|         | OTHER PUBLIC LANDS | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE        | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES        | 111.21  |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES     | 45.01   |            |
|         | NEIGUROURUGOR      | 20.02   | 470/       |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD      | 20.83   | 17%        |
| WADD 4  | COMMUNITY          | 61.79   | 51%        |
| WARD 4  | REGIONAL           | 38.66   | 32%        |
|         | OTHER PUBLIC LANDS | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE        | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES        | 121.28  |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES     | 49.08   |            |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD      | 42.50   | 28%        |
|         | COMMUNITY          | 46.80   | 31%        |
| WARD 5  | REGIONAL           | 63.70   | 42%        |
| WAILD 3 | OTHER PUBLIC LANDS | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE        | 0.00    | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES        | 152.99  |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES     | 61.91   |            |
|         | 1017 ETILOTAILO    | 01.71   | -          |

| WARD    | CLASSIFICATION             | ACRES          | % Parkland |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------|------------|
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD              | 30.30          | 19%        |
|         | COMMUNITY                  | 76.86          | 48%        |
| WARD 6  | REGIONAL                   | 53.66          | 33%        |
|         | GOVERNMENTAL               | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE                | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES                | 160.82         |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES             | 65.08          |            |
|         |                            |                |            |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD              | 32.72          | 6%         |
|         | COMMUNITY                  | 93.92          | 17%        |
| WARD 7  | REGIONAL                   | 440.15         | 78%        |
|         | GOVERNMENTAL               | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE                | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES                | 566.80         |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES             | 229.38         |            |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD              | 48.21          | 31%        |
|         | COMMUNITY                  | 41.78          | 27%        |
| WARD 8  | REGIONAL                   | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | GOVERNMENTAL               | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE                | 64.44          | 42%        |
|         | TOTAL ACRES                | 154.43         |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES             | 62.50          |            |
|         | METCHBOTIBLEOOD            | 25.70          | 70/        |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD<br>COMMUNITY | 35.78<br>61.58 | 7%         |
| WARD 9  | REGIONAL                   | 0.00           | 12%<br>0%  |
| WARD 9  | GOVERNMENTAL               | 396.14         | 80%        |
|         | GOLF COURSE                | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES                | 493.50         | U 70       |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES             | 199.72         |            |
|         | 101/1E TIE OT/TIES         | 177.72         |            |
|         | NEIGHBOURHOOD              | 35.32          | 25%        |
|         | COMMUNITY                  | 83.05          | 60%        |
| WARD 10 | REGIONAL                   | 20.94          | 15%        |
|         | GOVERNMENTAL               | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | GOLF COURSE                | 0.00           | 0%         |
|         | TOTAL ACRES                | 139.31         |            |
|         | TOTAL HECTARES             | 56.38          |            |

| WARD        | CLASSIFICATION              | ACRES          | % Parkland |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|
|             | NEIGHBOURHOOD               | 17.64          | 43%        |
|             | COMMUNITY                   | 0.00           | 0%         |
| City Centre | REGIONAL                    | 23.20          | 57%        |
|             | GOVERNMENT LANDS            | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | GOLF COURSE                 | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | TOTAL ACRES                 | 40.84          |            |
|             | TOTAL HECTARES              | 16.53          |            |
|             |                             |                |            |
|             | NEIGHBOURHOOD               | 12.64          | 10%        |
|             | COMMUNITY                   | 22.34          | 18%        |
| Devonshire  | REGIONAL                    | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | GOVERNMENT LANDS            | 91.78          | 72%        |
|             | GOLF COURSE                 | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | TOTAL ACRES                 | 126.76         |            |
|             | TOTAL HECTARES              | 51.30          |            |
|             |                             |                |            |
|             | NEIGHBOURHOOD               | 12.10          | 2%         |
| East        | COMMUNITY                   | 56.06          | 11%        |
|             | REGIONAL                    | 440.15         | 87%        |
| Riverside   | GOVERNMENT LANDS            | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | GOLF COURSE                 | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | TOTAL ACRES                 | 508.32         |            |
|             | TOTAL HECTARES              | 205.72         |            |
|             |                             |                |            |
|             | NEIGHBOURHOOD               | 49.20          | 35%        |
| East        | COMMUNITY                   | 29.60          | 21%        |
|             | REGIONAL                    | 63.70          | 45%        |
| Windsor     | GOVERNMENT LANDS            | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | GOLF COURSE                 | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | TOTAL ACRES                 | 142.50         |            |
|             | TOTAL HECTARES              | 57.67          |            |
|             | MEICHBOURHOOD               | 10.04          | 400/       |
|             | NEIGHBOURHOOD               | 18.06          | 40%        |
| Containbleu | COMMUNITY                   | 27.19          | 60%        |
| Fontainbleu | REGIONAL COMPRIMENT LANDS   | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | GOVERNMENT LANDS            | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | GOLF COURSE TOTAL ACRES     | 0.00           | 0%         |
|             | TOTAL ACRES  TOTAL HECTARES | 45.25<br>10.21 |            |
|             | IOIAL NECIAKES              | 18.31          |            |

| WARD      | CLASSIFICATION   | ACRES  | % Parkland  |
|-----------|------------------|--------|-------------|
|           | NEIGHBOURHOOD    | 43.03  | 22%         |
| Forest    | COMMUNITY        | 88.01  | 45%         |
|           | REGIONAL         | 0.00   | 0%          |
| Glade     | GOVERNMENT LANDS | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | GOLF COURSE      | 64.44  | 33%         |
|           | TOTAL ACRES      | 195.48 |             |
|           | TOTAL HECTARES   | 79.11  |             |
|           | NEI CHE CHEN CO  | 4.50   | 00/         |
|           | NEIGHBOURHOOD    | 4.53   | 0%          |
|           | COMMUNITY        | 0.00   | 0%          |
| Malden    | REGIONAL         | 386.19 | 40%         |
|           | GOVERNMENT LANDS | 571.70 | 59%         |
|           | GOLF COURSE      | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | TOTAL USCIADES   | 962.41 |             |
|           | TOTAL HECTARES   | 389.49 |             |
|           | NEIGHBOURHOOD    | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | COMMUNITY        | 9.49   | 8%          |
| Ojibway   | REGIONAL         | 112.18 | 92%         |
|           | GOVERNMENT LANDS | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | GOLF COURSE      | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | TOTAL ACRES      | 121.67 |             |
|           | TOTAL HECTARES   | 49.24  |             |
|           | NEIGHBOURHOOD    | 11.94  | 17%         |
| Dominaton | COMMUNITY        | 35.87  | 52%         |
| Remington | REGIONAL         | 20.94  | 30%         |
| Park      | GOVERNMENT LANDS | 0.00   | 0%          |
| Taik      | GOLF COURSE      | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | TOTAL ACRES      | 68.74  | <b>3</b> 70 |
|           | TOTAL HECTARES   | 27.82  |             |
|           |                  |        |             |
|           | NEIGHBOURHOOD    | 30.30  | 19%         |
|           | COMMUNITY        | 76.86  | 48%         |
| Riverside | REGIONAL         | 53.66  | 33%         |
|           | GOVERNMENT LANDS | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | GOLF COURSE      | 0.00   | 0%          |
|           | TOTAL ACRES      | 160.82 |             |
|           | TOTAL HECTARES   | 65.08  |             |

| WARD            | CLASSIFICATION                | ACRES  | % Parkland |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------|------------|
|                 | NEIGHBOURHOOD                 | 38.10  | 19%        |
|                 | COMMUNITY                     | 28.15  | 14%        |
| Roseland        | REGIONAL                      | 0.00   | 0%         |
| rt 3331ai i G   | GOVERNMENT LANDS              | 7.75   | 4%         |
|                 | GOLF COURSE                   | 125.09 | 63%        |
|                 | TOTAL ACRES                   | 199.08 | <u> </u>   |
|                 | TOTAL HECTARES                | 80.57  |            |
|                 | 24                            |        |            |
|                 | NEIGHBOURHOOD                 | 29.94  | 10%        |
|                 | COMMUNITY                     | 8.45   | 3%         |
| Sandwich        | REGIONAL                      | 257.54 | 87%        |
|                 | GOVERNMENT LANDS              | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | GOLF COURSE                   | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | TOTAL ACRES                   | 295.93 |            |
|                 | TOTAL HECTARES                | 119.76 |            |
|                 |                               |        |            |
|                 | NEIGHBOURHOOD                 | 0.00   | 0%         |
| Sandwich        | COMMUNITY                     | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | REGIONAL                      | 0.00   | 0%         |
| South           | UNCLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT LANDS | 304.35 | 100%       |
|                 | GOLF COURSE                   | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | TOTAL ACRES                   | 304.35 |            |
|                 | TOTAL HECTARES                | 123.17 |            |
|                 |                               | 10.50  | 4004       |
| <b>C</b> 11-    | NEIGHBOURHOOD                 | 10.58  | 18%        |
| South           | COMMUNITY                     | 47.18  | 82%        |
| Camaaran        | REGIONAL                      | 0.00   | 0%         |
| Cameron         | GOVERNMENT LANDS              | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | GOLF COURSE                   | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | TOTAL ACRES                   | 57.76  |            |
|                 | TOTAL HECTARES                | 23.38  |            |
|                 | NEIGHBOURHOOD                 | 4.61   | 7%         |
| South           | COMMUNITY                     | 0.00   | 0%         |
| 30 <b>u</b> tii | REGIONAL                      | 64.39  | 93%        |
| Central         | GOVERNMENT LANDS              | 0.00   | 0%         |
| Contrai         | GOLF COURSE                   | 0.00   | 0%         |
|                 | TOTAL ACRES                   | 69.00  |            |
|                 | TOTAL HECTARES                | 27.92  |            |
|                 | . O. I. E. II. O. I. III. O   | 21.72  |            |

| WARD         | CLASSIFICATION           | ACRES | %    |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------|------|
|              | NEIGHBOURHOOD            | 9.46  | 16%  |
| South        | COMMUNITY                | 50.43 | 84%  |
|              | REGIONAL                 | 0.00  | 0%   |
| Walkerville  | PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LANDS | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | GOLF COURSE              | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | TOTAL ACRES              | 59.89 |      |
|              | TOTAL HECTARES           | 24.24 |      |
|              | NEIGHBOURHOOD            | 34.05 | 35%  |
| South        | COMMUNITY                | 64.31 | 65%  |
|              | REGIONAL                 | 0.00  | 0%   |
| Windsor      | GOVERNMENT LANDS         | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | GOLF COURSE              | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | TOTAL ACRES              | 98.36 | _    |
|              | TOTAL HECTARES           | 39.81 |      |
|              |                          |       |      |
|              | NEIGHBOURHOOD            | 18.08 | 31%  |
|              | COMMUNITY                | 9.36  | 16%  |
| University   | REGIONAL                 | 30.40 | 53%  |
|              | GOVERNMENT LANDS         | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | GOLF COURSE              | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | TOTAL ACRES              | 57.84 |      |
|              | TOTAL HECTARES           | 23.41 |      |
|              | NEIGHBOURHOOD            | 1.03  | 100% |
| Walker       | COMMUNITY                | 0.00  | 0%   |
| waikei       | REGIONAL                 | 0.00  | 0%   |
| Farms        | GOVERNMENT LANDS         | 0.00  | 0%   |
| Tairis       | GOLF COURSE              | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | TOTAL ACRES              | 1.03  | 070  |
|              | TOTAL HECTARES           | 0.42  |      |
|              |                          |       |      |
|              | NEIGHBOURHOOD            | 11.37 | 19%  |
|              | COMMUNITY                | 11.36 | 19%  |
| Walkerville  | REGIONAL                 | 38.66 | 63%  |
| Wellkerville | GOVERNMENT LANDS         | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | GOLF COURSE              | 0.00  | 0%   |
|              | TOTAL ACRES              | 61.39 |      |
|              | TOTAL HECTARES           | 24.84 |      |
|              |                          |       |      |

# REDISCOVER OUR PARKS City of Windsor Parks & Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK S

| WARD | DISTRICT       | PARK NAME              |
|------|----------------|------------------------|
| 10   | South Cameron  | Aboriginal             |
| 3    | City Centre    | Alton C Parker         |
| 1    | Roseland       | Avon Ct.               |
| 10   | South Windsor  | Avondale Play Lot      |
| 10   | South Cameron  | Balsamo                |
| 10   | South Windsor  | Bellewood              |
| 2    | Sandwich       | Bradley                |
| 6    | Riverside      | Bridges Bay            |
| 2    | University     | Bridgeview             |
| 2    | Sandwich       | Brock                  |
| 10   | Remington Park | Brookview              |
| 3    | City Centre    | Bruce                  |
| 6    | Riverside      | Brumpton               |
| 7    | Forest Glade   | Bush                   |
| 5    | East Windsor   | Cadillac St.           |
| 9    | Devonshire     | Calderwood             |
| 3    | City Centre    | Charles Clark Square   |
| 3    | City Centre    | Chatham St             |
| 5    | East Windsor   | Chopin                 |
| 3    | City Centre    | City Hall Square       |
| 3    | City Centre    | Civic Green            |
| 4    | Walkerville    | Clay                   |
| 8    | Fontainbleu    | Coletta                |
| 2    | Sandwich       | College Avenue Bikeway |
| 9    | South Windsor  | Compton Ct.            |
| 7    | East Riverside | Cora Greenwood         |
| 2    | Sandwich       | Crowley                |
| 1    | South Windsor  | Curry                  |
| 2    | University     | Curry Play Lot         |
| 6    | Riverside      | Dawson                 |
| 4    | Walkerville    | Devonsnire             |
| 9    | Devonshire     | Devonshire Heights     |
| 1    | Roseland       | Dynasty                |
| 2    | University     | Earnest Atkinson       |
| 6    | Riverside      | East Riverview         |
| 6    | Riverside      | Esdras                 |
| 5    | East Windsor   | Factoria               |
| 10   | South Cameron  | Field Of Dreams        |
| 7    | East Riverside | Firgrove Blvd          |
| 7    | East Riverside | Flora                  |
| 5    | East Windsor   | Francois Frad Thomas   |
| 3    | City Centre    | Fred Thomas            |
| 5    | East Windsor   | Garry Dugal            |
| 4    | Walkerville    | Garwood                |
| 5    | East Windsor   | George                 |
| 4    | Walkerville    | Gignac Maraus          |
| 5    | East Windsor   | Gino A. Marcus         |

| WARD          | DISTRICT          | PARK NAME                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>WARD</b> 2 | University        |                             |
| 1             | Roseland          | Girardot<br>Goldenwood      |
| 2             | University        |                             |
| 8             | Forest Glade      | Grove<br>Hawthorne          |
| 1             | Roseland          | Herb Grey Nature Reserve    |
| 9             | Roseland          | 1.1 - 11                    |
| 6             | Riverside         |                             |
| 10            | Remington Park    | Homesite Howard             |
| 2             | Sandwich          | Huron ChurchGreen Belt      |
| 10            | Remington Park    | Jennifer                    |
| 8             | Forest Glade      | Joint Justice               |
| 9             | South Windsor     | Kenilworth                  |
| 4             | Walkerville       | Kennedy Square              |
| 4             | Walkerville       | Kid's Alliance (University) |
| 4             | Walkerville       | Kinsmen                     |
| 8             | East Windsor      | Kinsmen (Norman Rd)         |
| 6             | Riverside         | Kiwanis                     |
| 1             | Roseland          | Kominar                     |
| 5             | East Windsor      | Labadie                     |
| 1             | Roseland          | Lake Como                   |
| 1             | Roseland          | Lake Grande                 |
| 1             | Roseland          | Lake Laguna                 |
| 1             | Roseland          | Lake Trail                  |
| 9             | Devonshire        | Leafield                    |
| 4             | South Walkerville | Lens Ave                    |
| 5             | East Windsor      | Long                        |
| 2             | Sandwich          | Mackenzie Hall              |
| 7             | East Riverside    | Magnolia                    |
| 9             | Devonshire        | Maple Leaf                  |
| 1             | Roseland          | Marguriet                   |
| 1             | South Windsor     | Mark                        |
| 7             | East Riverside    | Martinique                  |
| 2             | Sandwich          | Matchette                   |
| 1             | Roseland          | Matthew Rodzik              |
| 5             | Fontainbleu       | Mayfair                     |
| 2             | Sandwich          | McKee                       |
| 8             | Forest Glade      | Meadowbrook                 |
| 2             | Sandwich          | Mill                        |
| 3             | South Central     | Mitchell                    |
| 7             | East Riverside    | Morningstar                 |
| 2             | University        | North Merrit                |
| 1             | Roseland          | North Talbot                |
| 2             | University        | North Tilston               |
| 3             | University        | Oak-Elm                     |
| 7             | Forest Glade      | Palmetto                    |
| 4             | South Walkerville | Parent                      |
| 5             | Walker Farms      | Parkwood Woodlot            |
| 10            | South Windsor     | Partington                  |

| WADD          | DICTRICT                 | DADI/ NIANAE                        |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WARD          | DISTRICT                 | PARK NAME                           |
| 9             | South Windsor            | Patrick Maguire                     |
| 2             | Sandwich                 | Patterson                           |
| 6             | Riverside                | Peche Island Landing                |
| 3             | City Centre              | Piazza Udine                        |
| 8             | East Windsor             | Polonia                             |
| 8             | East Windsor             | Pykes                               |
| 1             | South Windsor            | Radisson Bikeway                    |
| 6             | Riverside                | Riverdale                           |
| 7             | East Riverside           | Riverside Kiwanis                   |
| 5             | Fontainbleu              | Robert                              |
| 9             | Roseland                 | Roseland                            |
| 8             | Forest Glade             | RUSEVIIIE                           |
| 3             | City Centre              | Senator Croll                       |
| 7             | Forest Glade             | Seneca                              |
| 1             | Malden                   | Seven Sisters                       |
| 7             | East Riverside           | Shanfield Shores                    |
| 8             | Fontainbleu              | Shawnee                             |
| 9             | Devonshire               | Shinglecreek                        |
| 2             | University               | South Merrit                        |
| 7             | East Riverside           | South Rendezvous                    |
| 2             | University               | South Tilston                       |
| 10            | Remington Park           | Southdale                           |
| 1             | Roseland                 | Southwood Lakes Trail               |
| 7             | East Riverside           | Springhollow                        |
| 6             | Riverside                | St. Paul Grove                      |
| 6             | Riverside                | St. Paul Pumping Station            |
| 6             | Riverside                | St. Rose Beach                      |
| 7             | Forest Glade             | Stillmeadow                         |
| 4             | South Walkerville        | Stodgell                            |
| 1             | Roseland                 | Stoneybrook                         |
| 7             | East Riverside           | Stop 26                             |
| 2             | University               | Straith                             |
| 10            | South Cameron            | Superior                            |
| <u>8</u><br>6 | Forest Glade             | Teedie                              |
| 8             | Riverside                | Thompson                            |
| 8<br>5        | Fontainbleu Font Windoor | Thurston                            |
| 9             | East Windsor             | Unity Victoria Plyd                 |
| 3             | South Windsor            | Victoria Blvd                       |
| 4             | City Centre Walkerville  | Vision Corridor Walkerville Jubilee |
| 2             |                          |                                     |
| <u> </u>      | University East Windsor  | Wellington Westcott                 |
| 5<br>5        |                          |                                     |
| 3             | East Windsor             | Whelpton Windsor Arena              |
| 3             | City Centre              |                                     |
| <u>3</u><br>1 | City Centre<br>Roseland  | Windsor Water World Wolfe Lake      |
| <u> </u>      |                          |                                     |
| ິນ            | Fontainbleu              | Ypres                               |

# COMMUNITY / REGIONAL PARKS

| WARD | DISTRICT          | PARK NAME                     |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5    | East Windsor      | A.K.O.                        |
| 5    | East Windsor      | Alexander                     |
| 1    | Ojibway           | Broadway                      |
| 9    | Roseland          | Captain Wilson                |
| 1    | South Windsor     | Central                       |
| 6    | Riverside         | Clairview Bikeway             |
| 8    | Forest Glade      | Derwent                       |
| 7    | East Riverside    | East End                      |
| 7    | Forest Glade      | Forest Glade                  |
| 9    | Devonshire        | Hall Farms                    |
| 7    | East Riverside    | Lakeshore Woods               |
| 10   | Remington Park    | Langlois Ct.                  |
| 4    | Walkerville       | Lanspeary                     |
| 6    | Riverside         | Little River Acres            |
| 7    | East Riverside    | Little River Blvd             |
| 2    | Sandwich          | Maurice Belanger              |
| 5    | Fontainbleu       | McDonald                      |
| 7    | East Riverside    | McHugh                        |
| 1    | South Windsor     | Oakwood                       |
| 4    | South Walkerville | Optimist Memorial             |
| 6    | Riverside         | Realtor Park                  |
| 10   | Remington Park    | Remington Booster             |
| 8    | Fontainbleu       | Rivard-Fontainebleu           |
| 10   | South Cameron     | South Cameron Woodlot         |
| 6    | Riverside         | St. Rose / Riverside Baseball |
| 6    | Riverside         | Tranby                        |
| 9    | Forest Glade      | Twin Oaks                     |
| 10   | Remington Park    | Udine                         |
| 1    | Roseland          | Vets Memorial                 |
| 10   | South Cameron     | Virginia                      |
| 9    | Devonshire        | Walker Homesite               |
| 9    | Devonshire        | Walker Homesite Bike Trail    |
| 7    | Forest Glade      | Wildwood                      |
| 2    | University        | Wilson                        |

| WARD  | DISTRICT                     | PARK NAME                             |
|-------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2     | University                   | Assumption                            |
| 4     | Walkerville                  | Aylmer Rest Station                   |
| 4     | Walkerville                  | Bert Weeks                            |
| 1     | Ojibway                      | Black Oak Prairie Heritage            |
| 3     | University                   | Caron Ave Pumping Station             |
| 3     | City Centre                  | Caron Avenue                          |
| 2     | University                   | Centennial                            |
| 3     | City Centre                  | Civic Terrace                         |
| 3     | City Centre                  | Dieppe Gardens                        |
| 7     | East Riverside               | East Riverside                        |
| 3     | City Centre                  | Festival Plaza                        |
| 5     | East Windsor                 | Ford Test Track                       |
| 3     | City Centre                  | Former Ramada Site                    |
| 7     | East Riverside               | Ganatchio                             |
| 7     | East Riverside               | Ganatchio Trail                       |
| 5     | East Windsor                 | Goose Bay                             |
| 10    | Remington Park               | Grand Marais Drain Trail              |
| 4     | Walkerville                  | Great Western Joan and Clifford Hatch |
| 3     | South Central                | Jackson                               |
| 7     | East Riverside               | Lakeview Marina                       |
| 7     | East Riverside               | Little River Corridor                 |
| 2     | Sandwich                     | Malden                                |
| 2     | Sandwich                     | Mic Mac                               |
| 1     | Malden                       | Ojibway Tom Joy Woods                 |
| 7     | East Riverside               | Peche Island                          |
| 6     | Riverside                    | Reaume / Coventry Gardens             |
| 6     | Riverside                    | Reaume Overflow Parking               |
| 7     | East Riverside               | Sandpoint Beach                       |
| 1     | Malden                       | Spring Garden ANSI                    |
| 1     | Malden                       | Tall Grass Heritage                   |
| 6 & 7 | X Riverside & East Riverside | WFCU                                  |
| 3     | South Central                | Wigle                                 |
| 4     | Walkerville                  | Willistead                            |

 $\omega$ 

#### PARKS + OPEN SPACE

#### The Great (Urban) Outdoors

While it's true that a city's skyline defines its character in the postcard sense, at the human scale, we identify with the spaces between buildings.

Recent research also suggests that open spaces and a high quality public realm add significant value (think real estate along Central Park in New York).

But making room for open space can be a significant challengeespecially for major, dense metropolises. Not everyone can recreate New York's Central Park.

Clearly, there are huge opportunities in existing underutilized spaces to transform them into parks. Often, these spaces are linear, like New York's High Line and Chicago's Riverwalk. These projects require design innovation and engineering ingenuity, but ultimately provide unique outdoor experiences and connective tissue between different parts of the city.

Coastal and riverfront cities are examining their waterfronts, which are a major draw when it comes to types of outdoor space. Transforming these often industrial and/or underutilized spaces can elevate the reputation of a city, enhance the well-being of its residents, and create major revenue drivers through a variety of programming options.

MOST PEOPLE REMEMBER THEIR FAVORITE CITY EXPERIENCE TAKING PLACE OUTDOORS-EITHER IN A PARK OR ON A STREET

> PARK/ STREET 65% remember their favorite experience being in a park or on a street

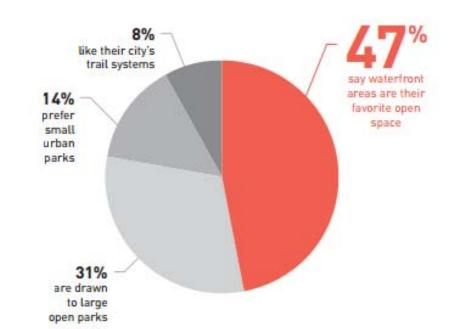
PRIVATE BUILDING

22% remember their favorite experience taking place in a private building

6% remember their favorite experience occurring in a government/civic

building

WATERFRONT AREAS ARE THE MOST POPULAR OPEN SPACE ACROSS THE COUNTRY



#### REGIONALLY

Austinites are more likely to love their trail systems. New Yorkers are the only ones who prefer large open parks to waterfront areas.

Bostonians are least satisfied with their parks and public spaces. Even more surprising, Bostonians are very unsatisfied by their local sports scene, despite the strong loyalty and affinity for sports teams in the city. Chicago, on the other hand, is very satisfied with its sports scene, as is New York.

#### GENERATIONALLY

Age is a factor in preference for open space. Baby Boomers prefer waterfront areas, while Millennials and Gen Xers are more likely to hang out in a large open park.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THEIR CITIES TO INVEST IN MORE COMMUNITY-FOCUSED **EVENTS AND** ATTRACTIONS (LIKE FARMER'S MARKETS, SWAP MEETS. AND FOOD TRUCKS) FOR THEIR OPEN

SPACES

# FORTY SIX

encourage communityfocused events and attractions

41% support investment in making the waterfront more accessible and appealing

40% would like to see more large parks that support both passive and adventurous activities

37% wish their cities would make streets more pedestrian/bike friendly

36% support adding outdoor music and entertainment venues

31% desire more small urban parks (such as for visiting on lunch breaks)

#### REGIONALLY

Boston has the biggest demand for an investment in attractions like farmer's markets, swap meets, and food trucks. Bostonians would also like to see the city invest in making the waterfront more accessible and appealing, despite Boston's recent investment in the waterfront. Austinites seem fairly happy with their area events and attractions, but would like to build up their waterfront. Chicagoans are most happy with their small urban parks.

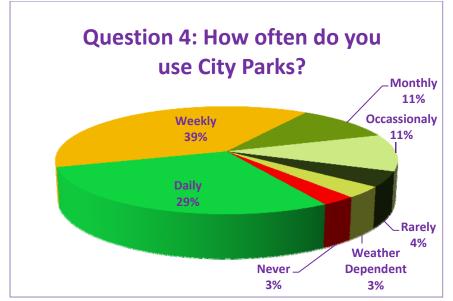


| Parks and Recreation Master Plan Ward No                                                                                                                                    |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Contact Information: Parks and Recreation Main Office: 2450 McDougall Windsor, ON N8X 3N6 Phone:519-253-2300 Email:parkrec@citywindsor.on.ca www.facebook.com/CityofWindsor |  |
| 1. What is your Age                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| What is your Age 13 and under                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 14 to 20                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| 21 to 30                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| 31 to 45                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| 46 to 55                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| 56 and over                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 2. What is your gender?                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| What is your gender? Male                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| □ Female<br>3. Are you a resident of this Ward?                                                                                                                             |  |
| Are you a resident of this Ward?  Are you a resident of this Ward? Yes                                                                                                      |  |
| No                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 4. How often do you use city parks?                                                                                                                                         |  |
| How often do you use city parks? Daily                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Weekly                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Monthly                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| Occasionally                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Rarely                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Weather Dependent                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 5. How often do you or your family use city recreational facilities?                                                                                                        |  |
| For example (community centre, arena)                                                                                                                                       |  |
| (community centre, arena) Daily                                                                                                                                             |  |
| Weekly                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Monthly                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| Occasionally                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Rarely                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Never                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| 6. In general, do you come alone or as part of a group to use the park? (ie: soccer team, organized group)                                                                  |  |
| In general, do you come alone or as part of a group to use the park? (ie: soccer team, organized group) Alone                                                               |  |
| With others                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

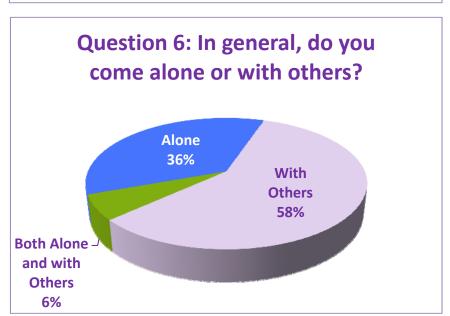
7. What is your favourite parks and recreation facility?

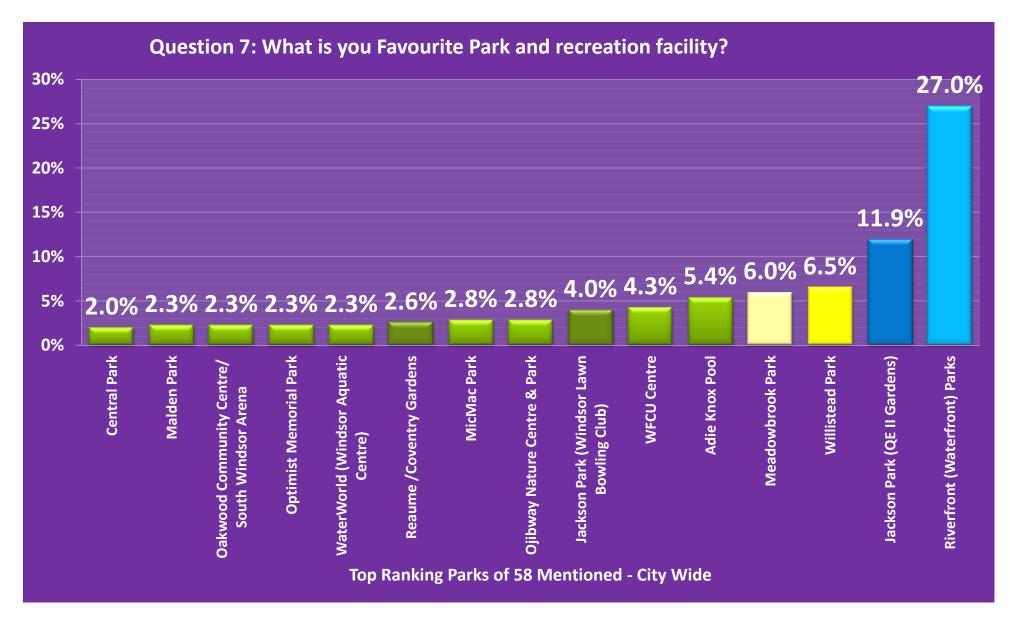
|      | Do you generally feel safe when visiting city parks?  Do you generally feel safe when visiting city parks? Yes                                     |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | No                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9. I | s the park normally clean and well maintained?                                                                                                     |
|      | Is the park normally clean and well maintained? Yes                                                                                                |
|      | No                                                                                                                                                 |
|      | Sometimes                                                                                                                                          |
| 10.  | Do you visit a park as part of your exercise or fitness routine?                                                                                   |
|      | Do you visit a park as part of your exercise or fitness routine? Yes                                                                               |
|      | No                                                                                                                                                 |
|      | How important to you is a playground within a park?                                                                                                |
|      | How important to you is a playground within a park? Very Important                                                                                 |
|      | Somewhat Important                                                                                                                                 |
|      | Not important                                                                                                                                      |
|      | Do you think the parks are physically accessible and                                                                                               |
| COI  | nveniently located?                                                                                                                                |
| Yes  | Do you think the parks are physically accessible and conveniently located?                                                                         |
|      | No                                                                                                                                                 |
|      | Depends on the park                                                                                                                                |
|      | Do you think recreational facilities are physically accessible d conveniently located?                                                             |
| oca  | Do you think recreational facilities are physically accessible and conveniently ated? Yes                                                          |
|      | No                                                                                                                                                 |
| yoı  | What is the most important parks and recreational amenity to u? For example (playground, walking trails, tennis court, sketball court, splash pad) |
| 15.  | Are walking paths and trails important to you?  Are walking paths and trails important to you? Yes                                                 |
|      | No                                                                                                                                                 |
| 16.  | How can we improve our parks system?                                                                                                               |
|      |                                                                                                                                                    |
|      |                                                                                                                                                    |
|      |                                                                                                                                                    |

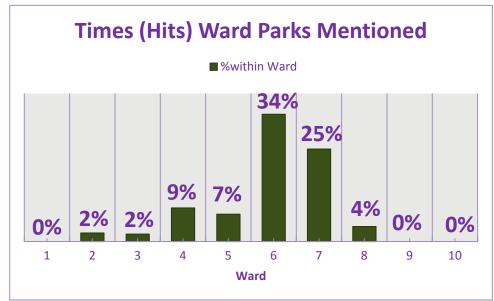
your family?

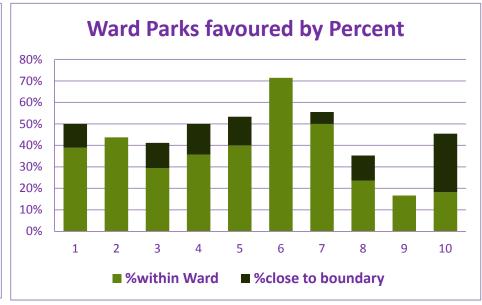


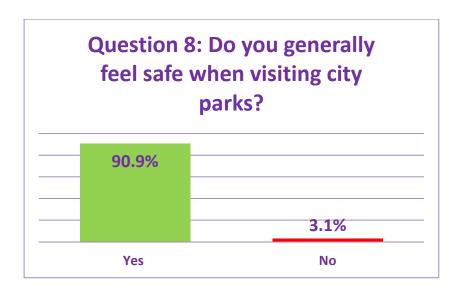


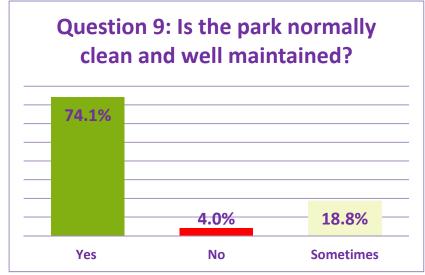


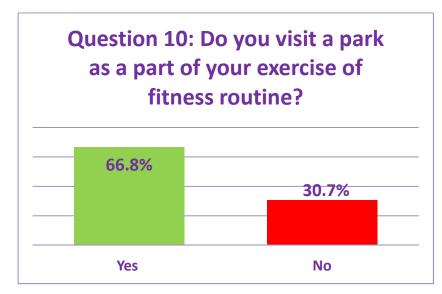


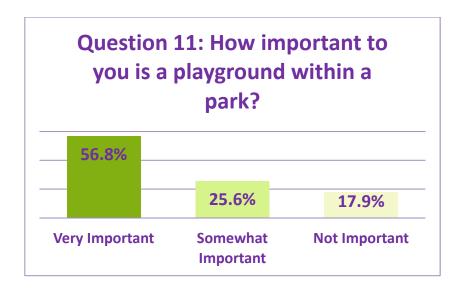


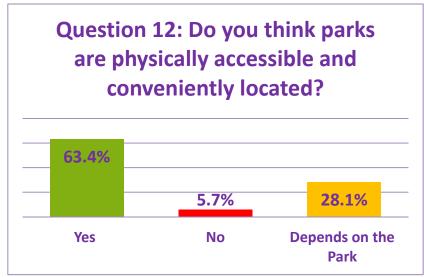




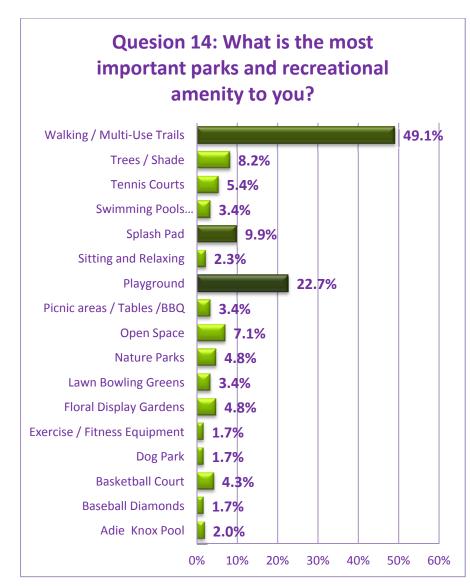




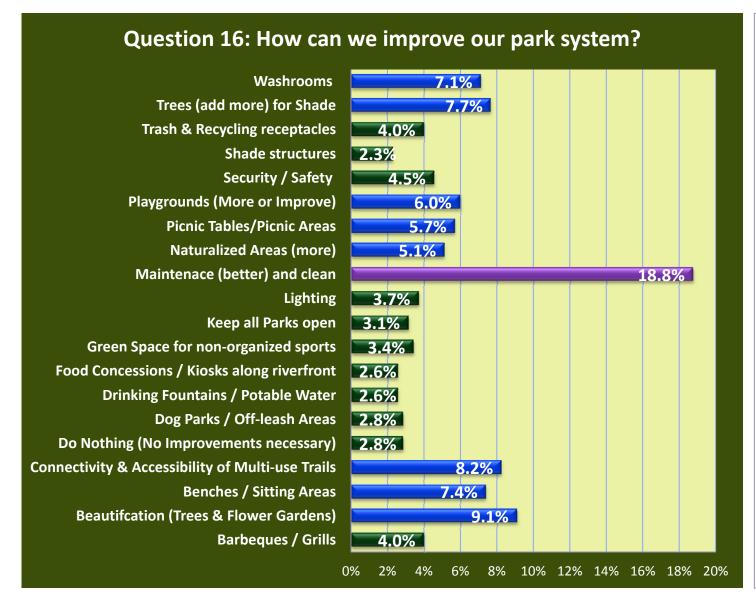


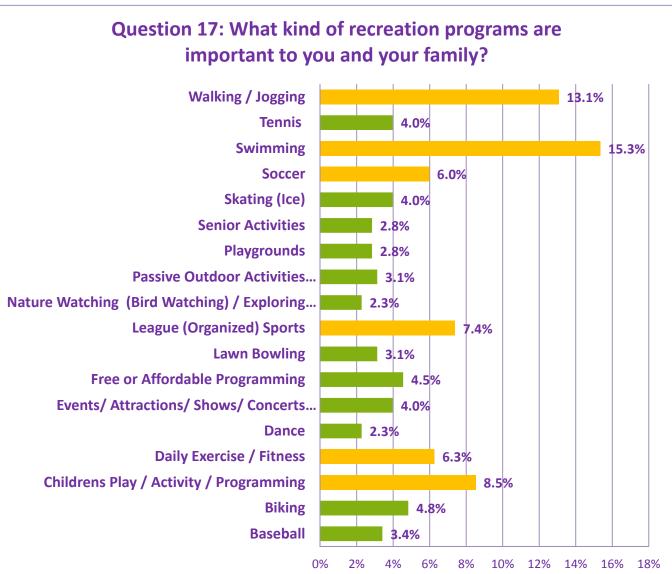












#### APPENDIX 'L' - NEW IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Contact Information:

Phone:519-253-2300

Email:parkrec@citywindsor.on.ca www.facebook.com/CityofWindsor

1. What is your Postal Code?

3. How often do you use city parks?

For example (community centre, arena)

park? (ie: soccer team, organized group)

know the name; Where is it located?)

Under 5 years

5-9 years

□ Daily
□ Weekly

☐ Monthly

Daily

Weekly

☐ Monthly

Alone

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ With others

please identify why?

10-14 years

15-19 years

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Parks and Recreation Main Office: 2450 McDougall Windsor, ON N8X 3N6

2. Including yourself, How many persons in your household are?

4. How often do you or your family use city recreational facilities?

5. if you answered "Rarely" or "Never" to either question 3 of 4

6. In general, do you come alone or as part of a group to use the

7. What is your favourite park and recreation facility? (If you do not

8. Do you generally feel safe when visiting city parks?

20-34 years

35-54 years

55-64 years

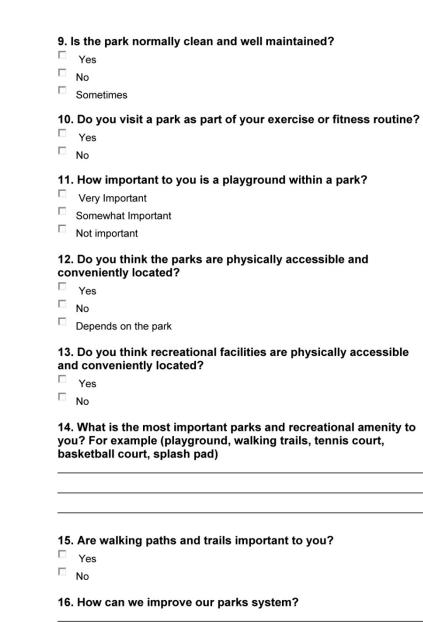
65+ years

Rarely

Never

Rarely

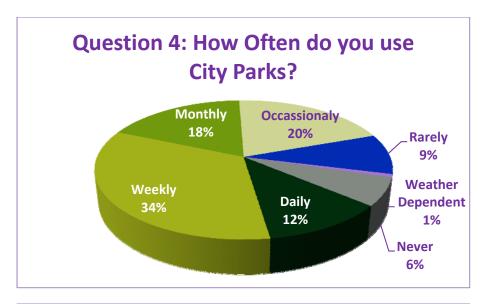
Occasionally



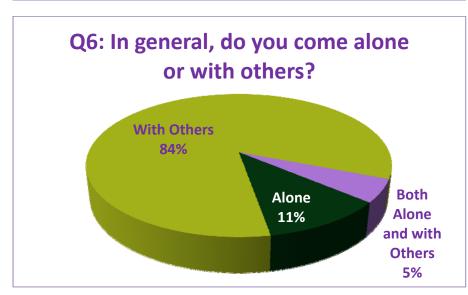
your family?

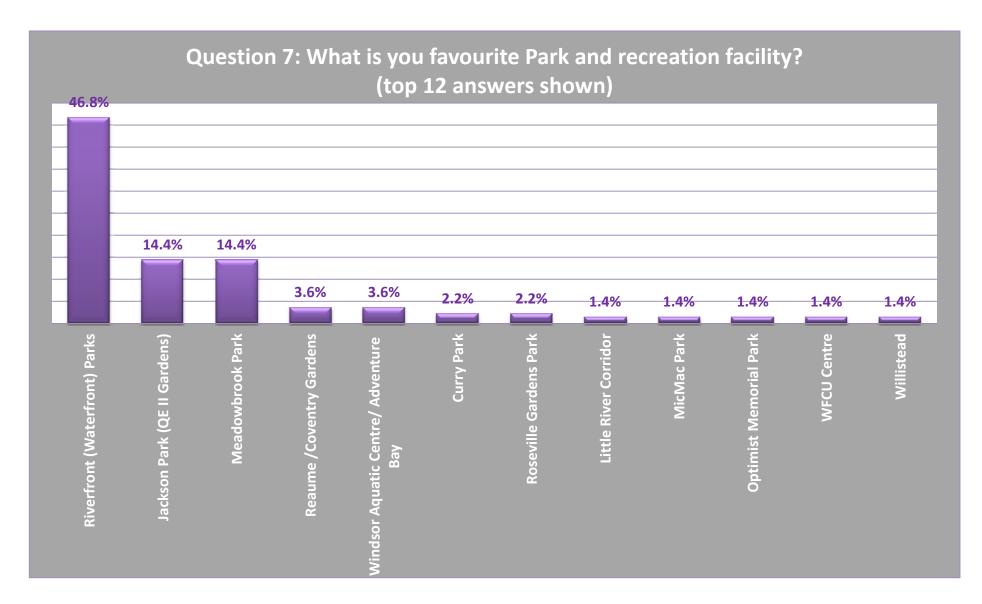
17. What kind of recreation programs are important to you and

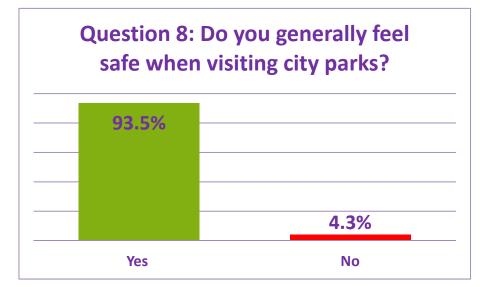
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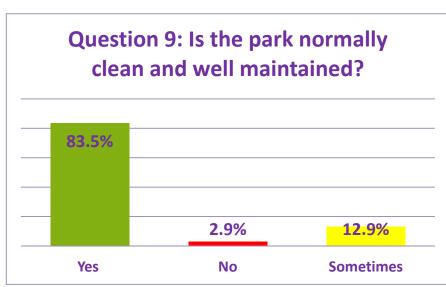




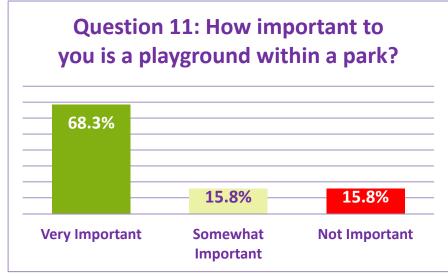


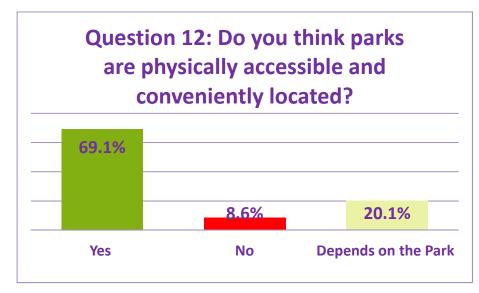


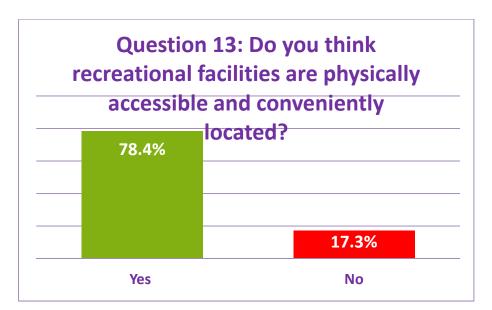






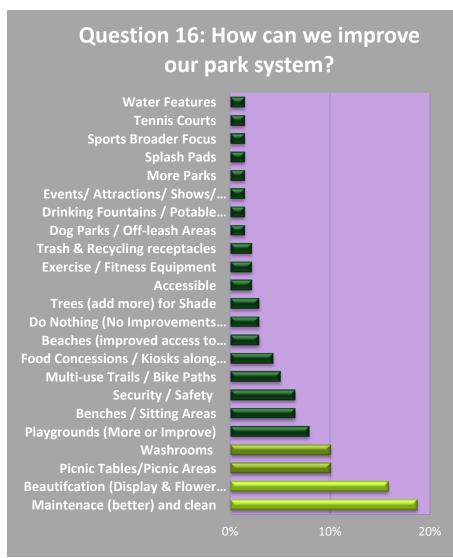


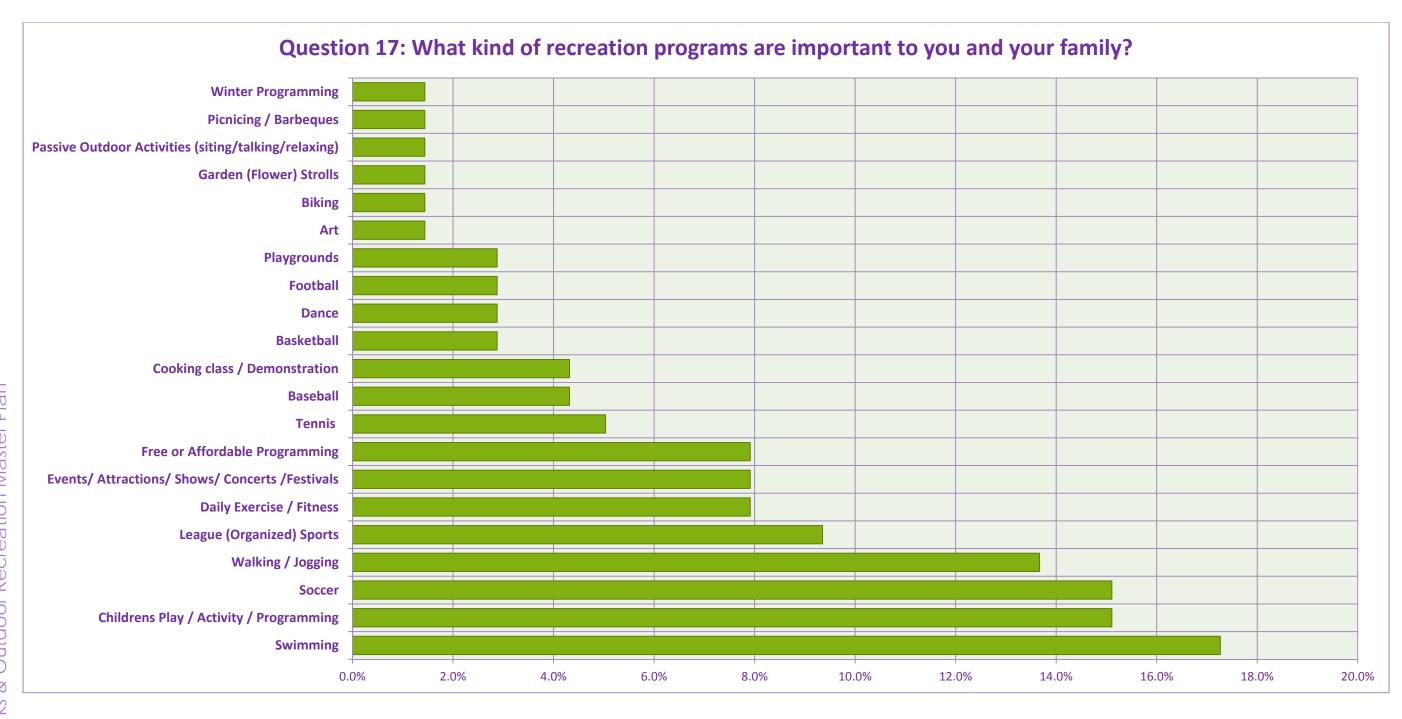














#### THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR

Parks and Facilities/ Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership Community Consultation: Parks for Today-Planning for Tomorrow

Dec 9, 2014 Windsor Public Library

#### **Summary of Small Group Discussion Notes**

Total # of participants: 64

| POSTAL<br>CODE | # of participants |
|----------------|-------------------|
| N9A            | 28                |
|                |                   |
| N8X            | 5                 |
| N9E            | 5                 |
| N8Y            | 3                 |
| N9B            | 6                 |
| N9G            | 5                 |
| N8S            | 2                 |
| N8R            | 1                 |
| N9C            | 2                 |
| N8W            | 1                 |
| N8P            | 1                 |



1 a) How often do you or your family use City recreational facilities such as community centres or arenas?

| Frequency    | # of Responses |
|--------------|----------------|
| Daily        | 8              |
| Weekly       | 34             |
| Monthly      | 13             |
| Occasionally | 8              |
| Rarely       | 1              |
| Never        | 2              |

1 b) If participants responded that their use was 'Occasionally, Rarely or Never', please ask them to explain why. Responses below:

- Transportation don't walk in rain or snow (2)
- Too expensive
- Children are too young
- · Don't go swimming in winter
- · Don't know where services are, cost
- · Not easy to arrange with every family member

- Not near a park (residence) Polonia Park- no big parks
- New to Canada, don't know about the them
- Hectic busy life
- They are warm and it is not cold
- Like it in the winter because of the snow
- In summer
- Because I have no car
- I don't have little kids
- Windsor doesn't have nice parks
- . Newcomer- don't know the centres, don't know what they do there

### 2. When you go to the park, do you usually go alone or as part of a group (such as a team)? \*Note some participants answered both alone and with others.

| Response                     | # of responses |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Alone                        | 7              |
| With others/ Part of a group | 60             |

#### 3. What is your favorite park and recreation facility? If not sure of the namewhere is it located? Please note responses below:

- Riverside Drive (7)
- Sculpture Garden (3)
- · Likes many parks with water
- Children go to park alone to play soccer
- Aquatic Centre (5)
- · WFCU for shows, entertainment, karate program
- Adventure Bay (3)
- Giles School park
- Neighborhood park N9A 4R7
- Jackson park (6)
- Riverside park downtown (4)
- Willistead (3)
- Mic Mac Park (3)
- Ojibway (2)
- Remington Park
- BB2 Park
- Lansbury Park
- Gino A Marcus
- Malden Park
- Willson Park

2

# **PARKS** OUR REDISCOVER (City of Windsor

#### 3b) Why is that facility your favorite one? Please note responses below:

- Flowers/gardens (3)
- Walking (2)
- Exercise
- Live in apartment fresh air
- Bbg at park- Mic Mack Park
- Enclosed, can use in the winter
- Interesting for children (Water World/Adventure Bay)
- Like parks with pavilions
- Scenery (2)
- Riverfront has long walking path
- Festivals
- Aguatic Centre/water slide
- Near the house
- Outdoor swimming
- Kids like the park
- Splash pad (Mic Mac)
- Pool is very clean
- Scenery is beautiful (2)
- Location
- Tennis/sports/running/bike trails
- Relaxing environment
- Fishing
- Safe area
- Playground for kids (2)
- Parking available
- Food fast food food trucks
- Swimming pool
- Beautiful parks
- Close to home
- Have swimming outdoor
- Fountain splash pad
- Waterfront fresh air
- Like swimming –tepid water, good for swimming, very relaxing, clean, good
- 4. What are the most important features or services for you at parks and Recreational areas? For example, is it a playground, walking trail, tennis court, Basketball court, splash pad or other features? Please note responses below:
  - Drinks (soft drinks), cookies
  - Small Snacks/ venders/vending machines (2)
- Over the counter food
- Entertainment for children

- Areas for comfort
- Exercise machine outdoors for adults (3)
- Bicycles (stationary)
- Free parking
- More washrooms (3)
- Splash pads (3)
- Tennis/basketball/soccer/football (4)
- Slides/swings (good maintenance) (2)
- Connected to each other
- · Safety with lights at waterfront
- Bbq (2)
- · Natural wild areas in residential areas (well lit)
- Swimming pools
- Larger playgrounds (4)
- Open space and fresh air at the aquatic centre
- Safety
- View
- Bicycling (2)
- Walking paths (4)
- Pavilions
- Benches
- Trees
- Water fountains
- Water temperature for swimming
- Aquatic centre is good for swimming, open space, fresh air
- Safety
- clean

#### 5. How do think the City of Windsor can improve its parks system? Please note responses below:

- Refreshment –need at all parks, restaurants/waterfront/coffee shop (2)
- Children play equipment
- Clean up dog waste too much
- Other Animal waste geese (3)
- Zoo park (4)
- Clean washrooms
- More washrooms (2)
- Change tables
- More benches with tables picnic tables (2)
- Pavilions or over hang
- More trees for shelter
- Fences Janette & Caron (2)
- Advertisement history plaques (lack of knowledge about parks)
- Free parking
- More South Windsor parks
- Small park landscaping

- Riverfront very busy in summer needs lighting; colorful lighting
- Water fountains (3)
- Shallow pools for adults
- More shade (3)
- Indoor park (greenhouses-Example: Montreal Bio dome)
- Building parks between apartment buildings for convenience
- Man-made ponds with fish
- More ice rinks (outdoor) (2)
- Washrooms are not clean at Jackson
- More garbage bins
- Mosquitos/flies are present in a lot of parks (2)
- Tennis courts
- Keep washroom opens in September and October (2)
- More public transportation to parks (2)
- Keep open on weekend and holidays
- Connect bike paths/walking paths trails
- Dedicated winter facilities for children Indoor playgrounds for kids under 12
- Artificial hills for winter activities
- Inside-lit skating
- Lights
- Renovation of sport sights
- Upkeep of playgrounds
- Events/free/music
- Theme park
- Marketplace/food/international
- Need more seating for families with umbrella/shade
- Bbg to cook in the parks/specifically on Riverside
- Dog limitations in parks (scary)
- Improve the washrooms
- Competition for children with prizes
- Alcohol (2)
- Ball pit (McDonalds)
- Restaurants with place to sit down for kids (esp in winter)
- Riverside washrooms not clean & small
- Some of the equipment geared for kids not adults
- Riverside-no parking
- Cannot buy anything on Riverside park
- Indoor park possibly a greenhouse/aquarium
- Some parks need a playground
- Ask people and step by step do it
- Food and beverage, kíosk, venders
- More washrooms in every park
- Need to pick up garbage more often
- Bathrooms need to be clean
- Flowers
- Clean and safe
- Ping pong
- Improve picnic tables
- More public skating-improve
- Art along the river Odette Sculpture Garden is good
- History being demonstrated in the parks



#### Parks and Recreation – MASTER PLAN PUBLIC FEEDBACK SURVEY – June 2015

| 1. What is the closet park to where you live? (If you do not know the name please describe where it is (i.e. street name, or corner of 'A' street and 'B' drive)) |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Please CIRCLE how satisfied are you                                                                                                                            | with the amenities at that park?                                                                |
| Very Somewhat                                                                                                                                                     | Neither Somewhat Very                                                                           |
| Satisfied Satisfied                                                                                                                                               | Dissatisfied Dissatisfied                                                                       |
| Satisfied                                                                                                                                                         | Dissaustied Dissaustied                                                                         |
| 3. Are there any barriers that exist that that park more regularly? (Please Circle or                                                                             | prevent you (or family member) from using ne) YES or NO                                         |
| a) If YES, please CHECK all that apply.                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |
| Distance (too far to walk)                                                                                                                                        | of Amenities   The Park does not offer                                                          |
| Lack of Trails or                                                                                                                                                 | what I need                                                                                     |
| Sidewalks                                                                                                                                                         | Other                                                                                           |
| ( D                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | on Facilities offer something for everyone?  YES or NO                                          |
| (Please Circle one)                                                                                                                                               | YES or NO                                                                                       |
| 5. What do you feel would make Parks o                                                                                                                            | or Recreation Facilities more user-friendly for:                                                |
| a) Children (under 12)                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |
| b) Youth & Teens                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| c) Seniors (Over 60)                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                 |
| d) Persons with Disabilities                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                 |
| d) I cisons with Disabilities                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | s and Recreation Facilities provide good access,<br>Please CHECK all statements you feel apply) |
| Yes I feel our parks and facilities are                                                                                                                           | ☐ I am in good walking or biking distance to a                                                  |
| accessible and provide good walkways and                                                                                                                          | local park or green space or recreational facility                                              |
| connections to all park amenities                                                                                                                                 | focus pain of green space of recreational facility                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | No I am not in good walking or biking                                                           |
| I feel our parks and facilities need better                                                                                                                       | distance to a local park or green space or                                                      |
| access connections and walkways to all park                                                                                                                       | recreational facility                                                                           |
| amenities                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                 |
| _                                                                                                                                                                 | I don't know where the closest parks or                                                         |
| No our parks and facilities are NOT                                                                                                                               | recreational facilities are, they are not well                                                  |
| accessible or very well connected                                                                                                                                 | known to me.                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                 |

<u>Please NOTE:</u> Recreation Facilities throughout this Survey refers to community centres, arenas, sports fields, pools, etc.

| Parks and Recreation - | - MASTER | PLAN PUBI | LIC FEEDBA | ACK SURVE |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|

Page 2 of 4

| 7. Please CIRCLE how impouse trail for cycling and walk                                                                                                            | rtant it is to you whether your ing?                                                                                                                              | neighbourhood has a multi-                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Very Important                                                                                                                                                     | Somewhat Important                                                                                                                                                | Not Important (Don't Care)                                                                                                                                                        |
| 8. Do you feel safe visiting Ci                                                                                                                                    | ty Parks? (Please CIRCLE One)                                                                                                                                     | YES or NO                                                                                                                                                                         |
| a. Check any of the items by Better Lighting Surveillance Cameras Emergency Call Buttons                                                                           | More Police Patrolling  Better Visibility sight lines through park                                                                                                | Open and Accessible Walkways Other                                                                                                                                                |
| (Please Circle one)                                                                                                                                                | and green spaces promote a h  Recreational amenities would                                                                                                        | YES or NO                                                                                                                                                                         |
| promote a healthy lifes  Walking Trails and pathways  Bike routes and better park connections  Outdoor Fitness Equipment  Soccer  Baseball  Basketball  Volleyball |                                                                                                                                                                   | Trees for Shade and better air quality  Drinking fountains to fill up re-usable water bottles  Shelters and gathering spaces for picnics and outdoor concerts within parks  Other |
| (If you do not know the name parteet and 'B' drive)  a) Please CIRCLE how or Parks or Recreation Factorians.                                                       | FAVOURITE City of Windsomity centre, arena, sports field, polease describe where it is (i.e. soften you visit, use or participate acility?  Beekly Monthly Yearly | treet name, or corner of 'A'                                                                                                                                                      |

<u>Please NOTE:</u> Recreation Facilities throughout this Survey refers to community centres, arenas, sports fields, pools, etc.

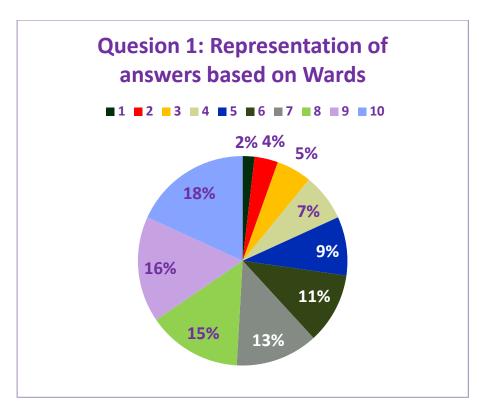
| 12. Thinking only of outdoo uniqueness of our Parks? (  I would like to visit the same kind of park all the time | r public parks, how important to Please CHECK all that apply)  I would like parks to have a variety of things to do                | I would like more variety in our parks so they offer different experiences depending on where they are located in the city |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trees Pathways/Trails Large Green Open Space Drinking Fountain Public Washrooms Soccer Basketball Volleyball     | Baseball Diamond Playground Swings Shelter Beautiful Gardens & Flowers Community Garden Lighting Ulike to see in Our Parks or Face | Benches Picnic Areas Tennis Courts Bike Rack Signage Dog Park Other                                                        |
| amenity was available at a C                                                                                     | n would you visit, use or partici<br>City Park or Recreational Facili<br>eekly Monthly Yearly                                      | ty?                                                                                                                        |

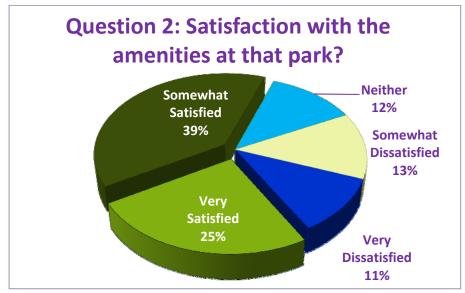
Please NOTE: Recreation Facilities throughout this Survey refers to community centres, arenas, sports fields, pools, etc.

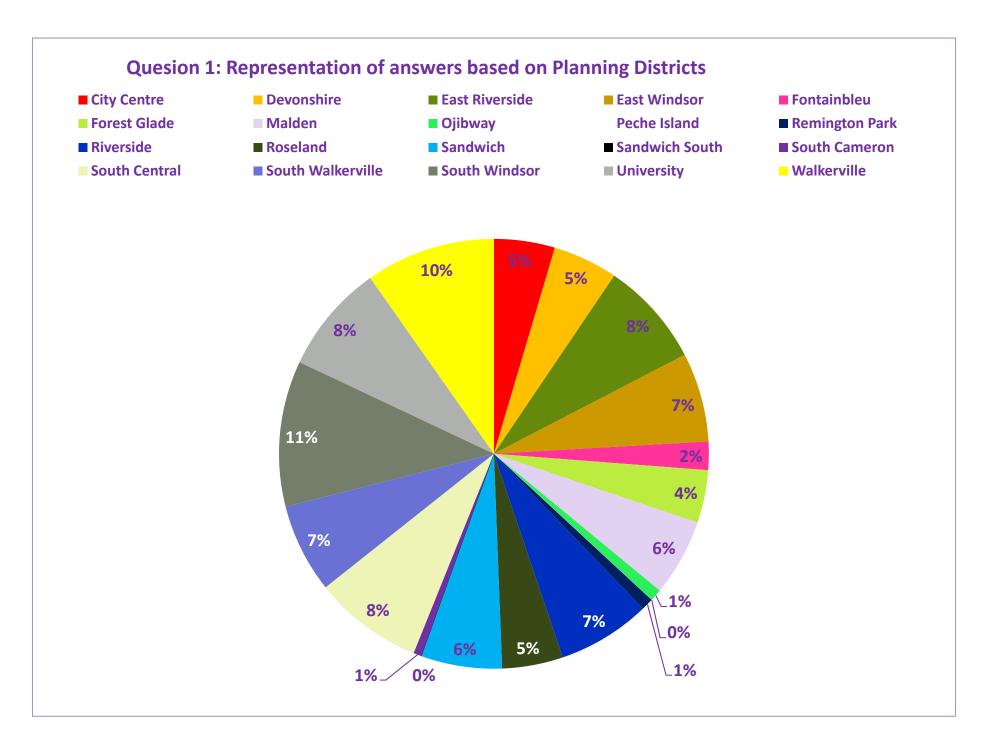
| (Please Circle One)                                | upport having "NO                                                                                                                  | MOW / NATURA                                                            | ALIZED" areas w      | ithin parks?         |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Would<br>Support                                   | Only in Certain<br>Areas                                                                                                           | Need More<br>Information                                                | Would Not<br>Support | Neither (don't care) |
|                                                    | get information abo<br>te in? (Please CHEC<br>Radio<br>Parks & Rec<br>Activity Gui                                                 | K all that apply)  ☐ Visit the reation ☐ Word of                        | _                    | ther                 |
|                                                    | you like to be notified ase CIRCLE One)  E-mail Blast  Television  Radio                                                           | Parks & Activit                                                         | & Recreation O       | and<br>ther          |
| involvement for Yes  20. What is the Windsor Parks | volunteers or participation willing to participation will be a single most importation or Recreation Facilities, how the parks are | erships if availabl<br>faybe<br>ant thing you wou<br>ties within the ne | e?  No  No           | en in City of        |
|                                                    |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                         |                      |                      |
|                                                    | DE ANY ADDITIONAL<br>IC IDEA THAT YOU N                                                                                            |                                                                         |                      | ER PLAN OR           |

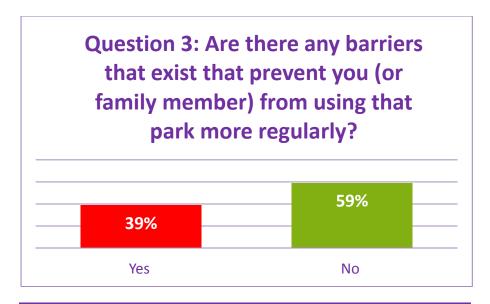
Parks and Recreation – MASTER PLAN PUBLIC FEEDBACK SURVEY

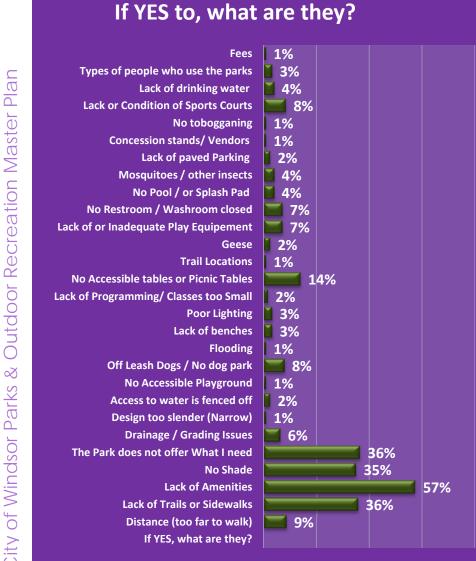
Please NOTE: Recreation Facilities throughout this Survey refers to community centres, arenas, sports fields, pools, etc.

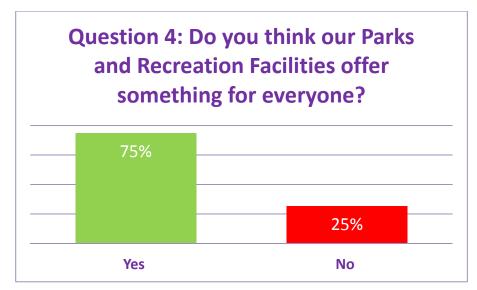


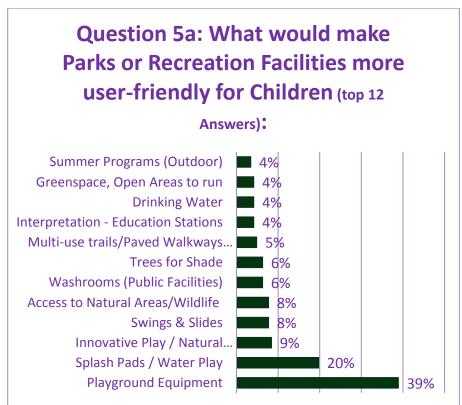


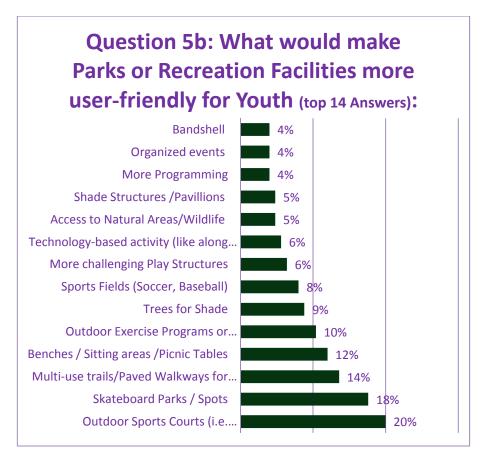


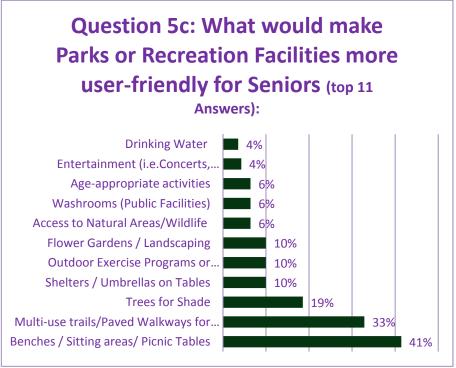


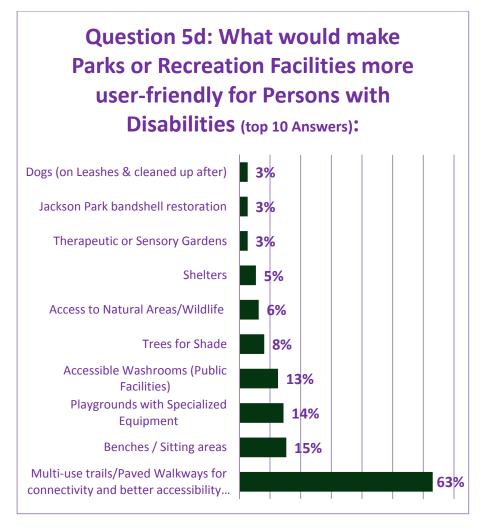


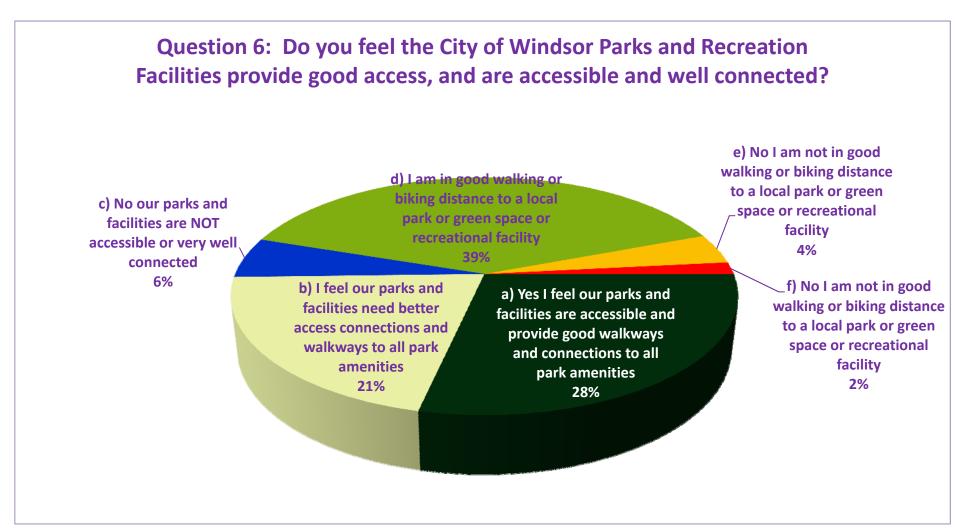


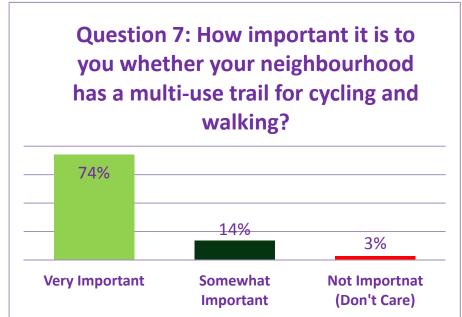


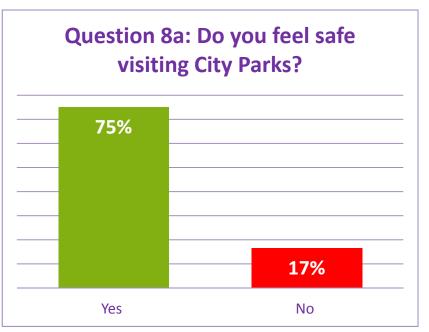


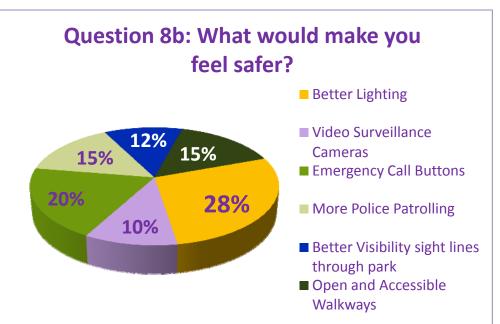


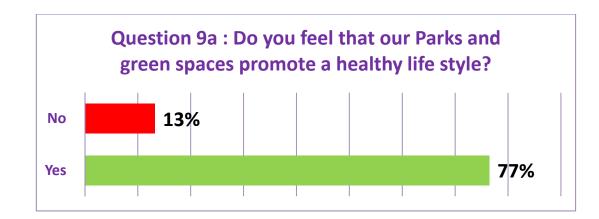


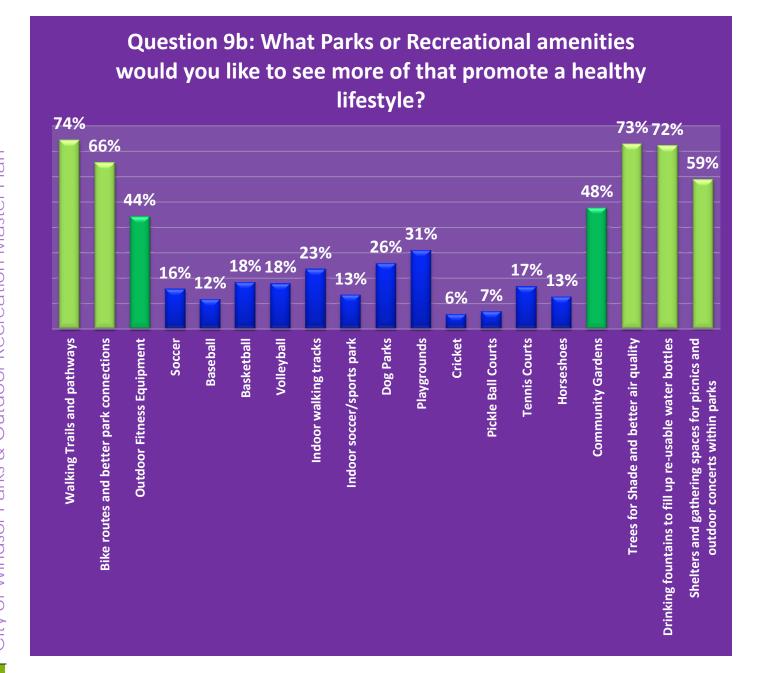


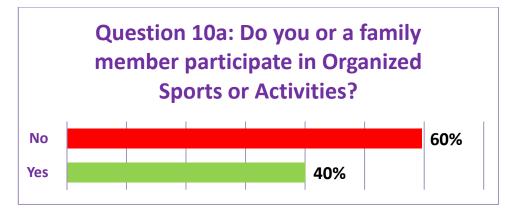


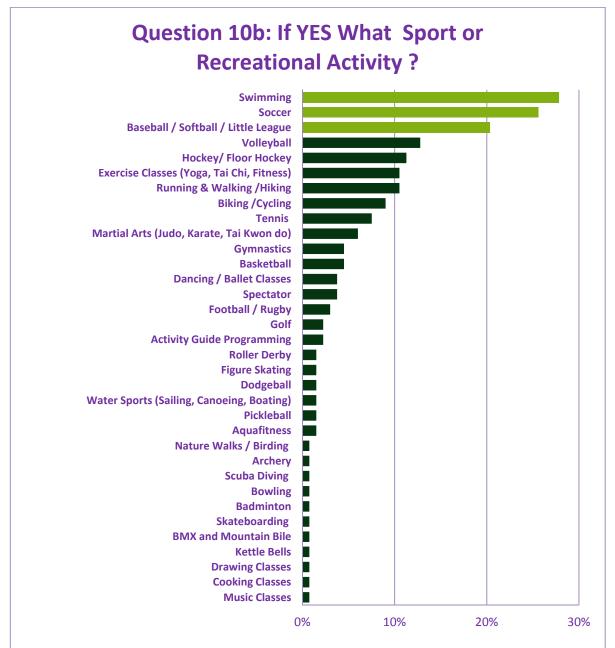


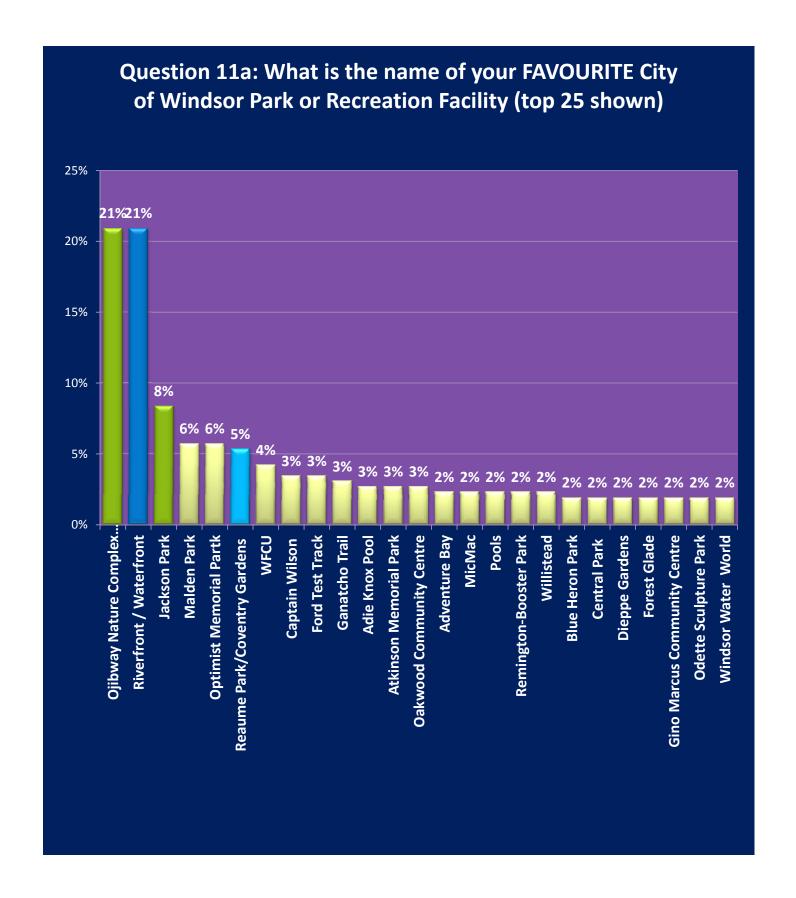


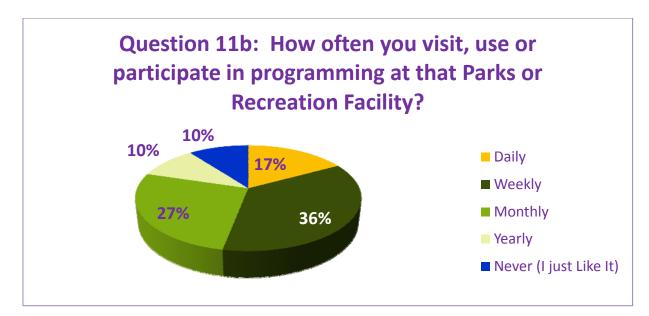


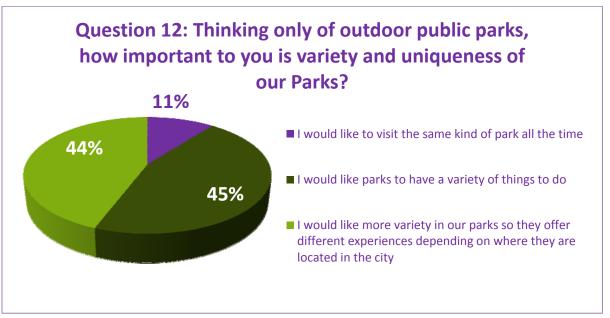


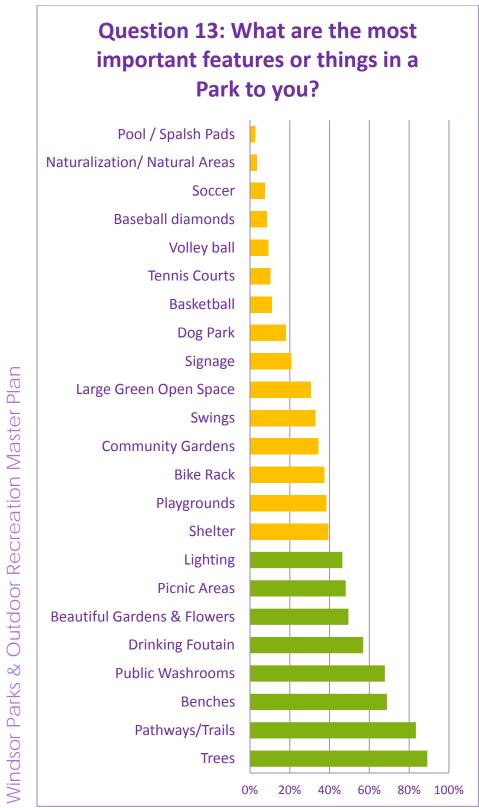


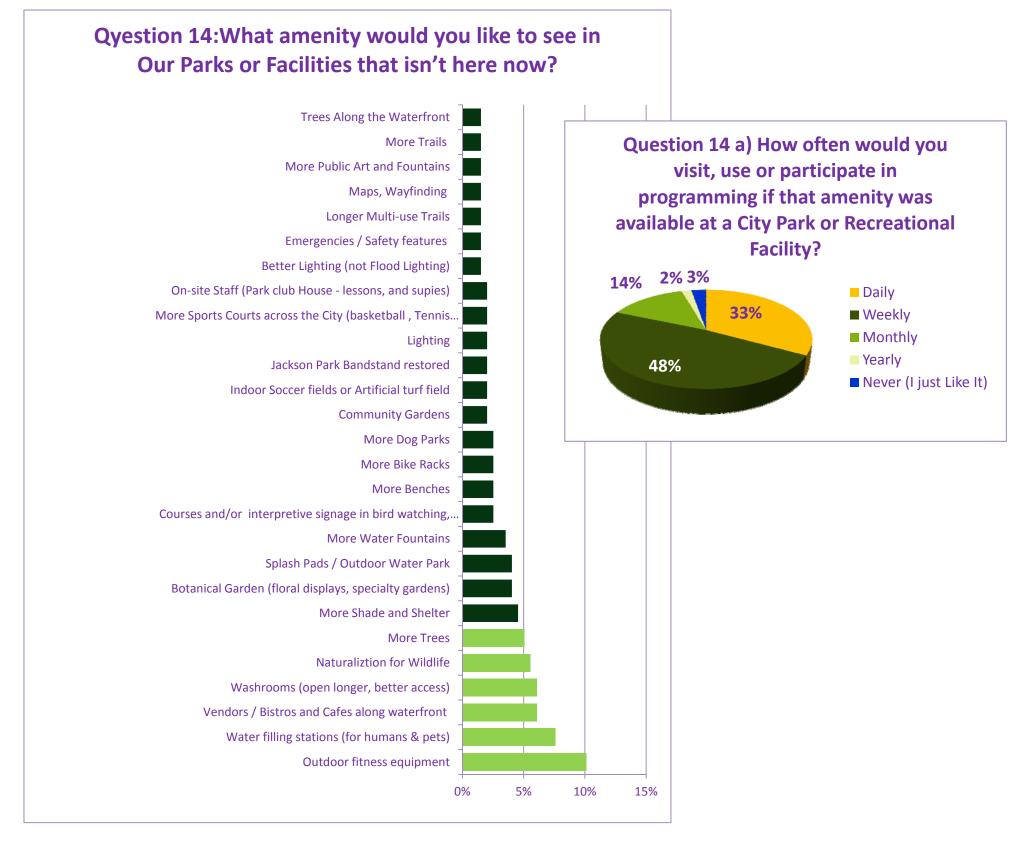


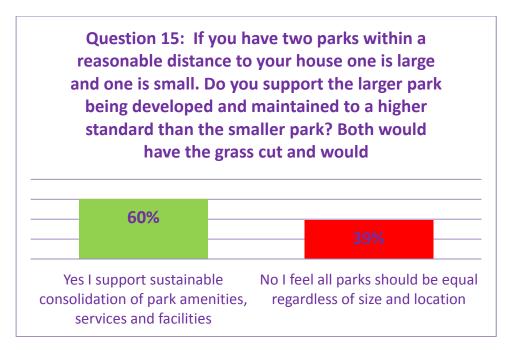


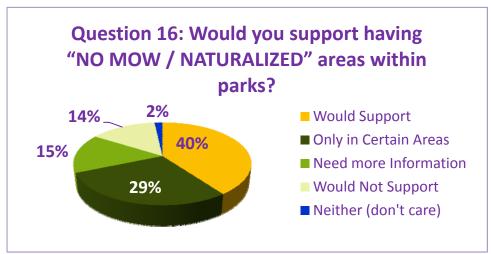


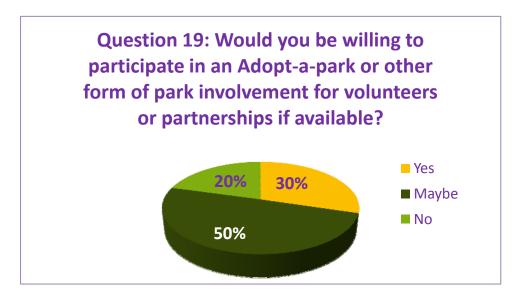


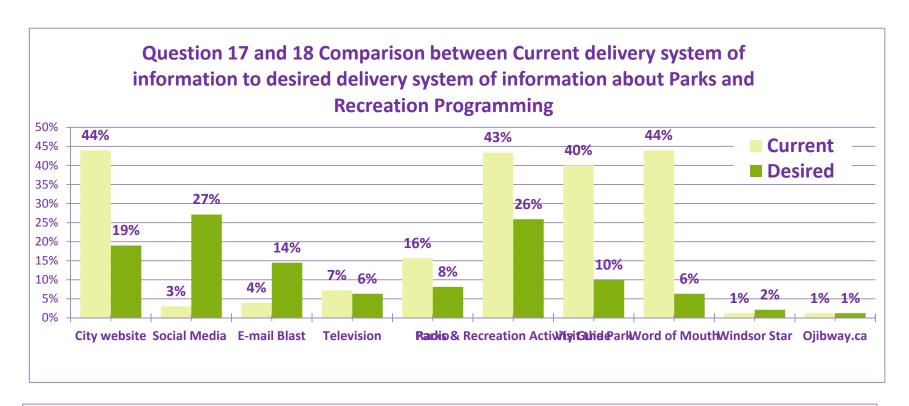


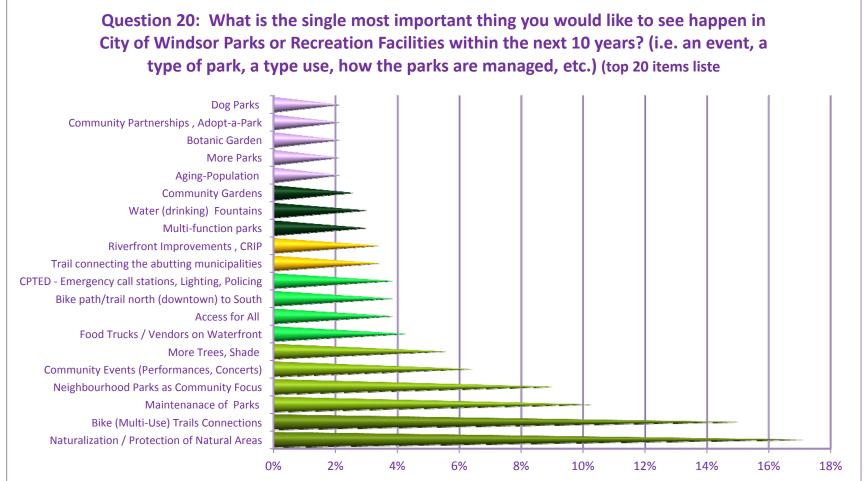


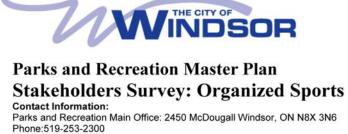












| (Please include c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | ization and Co<br>ontact number | ontact Completing the Survey<br>and/or e-mail)                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                                                                                                                    |
| Over the last five                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | e years, has th                 | he number of registrants in your sp                                                                                                |
| Increased                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Decrease                        | ed Remained the same                                                                                                               |
| How satisfied ar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | e you with you                  | ur field allocations for team practice                                                                                             |
| □ Very satisfied                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Satisfied                       | ☐ Somewhat satisfied ☐ Not satisfied                                                                                               |
| How satisfied ar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | e you with you                  | ur allocations for team games?                                                                                                     |
| □ Very satisfied                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ☐ Satisfied                     | □ Somewhat satisfied □ Not satisfied                                                                                               |
| How often does                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | your organiza                   | ation use city parks?                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 | Occassionally                                                                                                                      |
| Daily                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 | Paraly                                                                                                                             |
| Daily<br>Weekly                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 | Rarely                                                                                                                             |
| Daily Weekly Monthly                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 | Weather Dependent                                                                                                                  |
| a) If one of above v                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | which Months<br>to              | b) If one of the above Why?                                                                                                        |
| a) If one of above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | to                              | b) If one of the above Why?                                                                                                        |
| a) If one of above to the document of the docu | your organiza                   | b) If one of the above Why?                                                                                                        |
| a) If one of above we have often does For example (co                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | your organiza                   | b) If one of the above Why?  ation use city recreational facilities? tres, pools or arenas etc)  Occassionally                     |
| How often does For example (co                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | your organiza                   | b) If one of the above Why?  ation use city recreational facilities? tres, pools or arenas etc)  ————————————————————————————————— |
| a) If one of above we have determined to the control of the contro | your organiza                   | b) If one of the above Why?  ation use city recreational facilities? tres, pools or arenas etc)  Occassionally                     |
| How often does For example (co                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | your organiza                   | b) If one of the above Why?  ation use city recreational facilities? tres, pools or arenas etc)  ————————————————————————————————— |

| 7 | . What are the most im<br>amenities to your org                                                                                                                                                  |                     |                       | or park and recr                                                                      | eational                                             |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|   | (Mark up to FIVE (5) wi                                                                                                                                                                          | ith an 'X' as imp   | ortant an             | d up to FIVE (5) a                                                                    | s with an                                            |
|   | <u>'A' as accessor</u>                                                                                                                                                                           | y to your organi    | zations r             | ecreational needs                                                                     | <u>s)</u>                                            |
|   | Baseball Fields                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |                       | Public Washroom                                                                       | ms                                                   |
|   | Basketball Cou                                                                                                                                                                                   | rts                 |                       | Rugby Fields                                                                          |                                                      |
|   | BMX tracks<br>Community Cer                                                                                                                                                                      | atros               | _                     | Shelters<br>Skate Parks                                                               |                                                      |
|   | Cricket Fileds                                                                                                                                                                                   | illes               | _                     | Soccer Fields                                                                         |                                                      |
|   | Dog Parks                                                                                                                                                                                        |                     | _                     | Splash pads                                                                           |                                                      |
|   | Floor Hockey C                                                                                                                                                                                   | ourts               |                       | Swimming pool                                                                         | (Indoor)                                             |
|   | Football Fields                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     | _                     | Swimming pool                                                                         | (Outdoor)                                            |
|   | Golf courses                                                                                                                                                                                     |                     |                       | <b>Tennis Courts</b>                                                                  |                                                      |
|   | Gymnasiums                                                                                                                                                                                       |                     |                       | Trails (Multiuse)                                                                     |                                                      |
|   | Hockey Arenas                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |                       | Trails (Hiking / Of                                                                   | ff Road)                                             |
|   | Nature Centres                                                                                                                                                                                   |                     | _                     | Volleyball court                                                                      |                                                      |
|   | Outdoor Fitnes Equipment                                                                                                                                                                         | S                   |                       | Water Parks                                                                           |                                                      |
|   | Outdoor Ice Rir                                                                                                                                                                                  | nks                 | OTHER                 | _                                                                                     |                                                      |
|   | Picnic Areas                                                                                                                                                                                     |                     | ·                     |                                                                                       |                                                      |
|   | Pools                                                                                                                                                                                            |                     |                       |                                                                                       |                                                      |
|   | Playgrounds                                                                                                                                                                                      |                     |                       |                                                                                       |                                                      |
|   | (being the least important) (being the least important) (being the least important)                                                                                                              |                     |                       |                                                                                       | •                                                    |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | east                |                       | Most                                                                                  |                                                      |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | east<br>portant     |                       | Most<br>important                                                                     |                                                      |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  | oortant<br>12       |                       | important<br>45                                                                       | N/A                                                  |
|   | Imp<br>Accessibility<br>Bleachers for Spectators                                                                                                                                                 | oortant<br>12<br>12 | 3                     | important<br>4 5<br>4 5                                                               | N/A                                                  |
|   | Imp<br>Accessibility<br>Bleachers for Spectators<br>Clubhouse Facility                                                                                                                           | 12                  | 3                     | important 4 5 4 5 4 5                                                                 | N/A<br>N/A                                           |
|   | Imp<br>Accessibility<br>Bleachers for Spectators<br>Clubhouse Facility<br>Dugouts/Benches                                                                                                        | 12                  | 3<br>3                | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                                             | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A                                    |
|   | Imp<br>Accessibility<br>Bleachers for Spectators<br>Clubhouse Facility<br>Dugouts/Benches<br>Field Location                                                                                      | 12                  | 3<br>3<br>3           | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                                         | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A                                    |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling                                                                                   | 12                  | 3<br>3<br>3<br>3      | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                                     | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A                             |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights                                                                            | 12                  | 3<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>3 | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                                 | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A                      |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights Netting for Goal Posts                                                     | 1                   | 3                     | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                             | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A               |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights Netting for Goal Posts Outfield Fence                                      | 12                  | 3                     | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                 | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A               |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights Netting for Goal Posts Outfield Fence Parking                              | 1                   | 3                     | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                                 | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A        |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights Netting for Goal Posts Outfield Fence Parking Portable Goal posts          | 12                  |                       | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5                 | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A |
|   | Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights Netting for Goal Posts Outfield Fence Parking Portable Goal posts Turf quality | 1                   | 3                     | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5             | N/A              |
|   | Imp Accessibility Bleachers for Spectators Clubhouse Facility Dugouts/Benches Field Location Garbage/Recycling Lights Netting for Goal Posts Outfield Fence Parking Portable Goal posts          | 12                  | 3                     | important 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A |

| field facility was available, such as Mic Mac park, instead of havir scattered neighbourhood parks?  2. Currently, most of Windsor's Sport fields are decentralized per | would c   | vere managing the sports fields, what is the one thing you<br>do today to improve our field system short term?<br>In the next 5 years) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| field facility was available, such as Mic Mac park, instead of havir scattered neighbourhood parks?  2. Currently, most of Windsor's Sport fields are decentralized per |           |                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | field fac | cility was available, such as Mic Mac park, instead of havir                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | 2. Curre  | ently, most of Windsor's Sport fields are decentralized per<br>rould it be in the best interest of your organization if the            |
|                                                                                                                                                                         | facility? | our organization have a favourite park and or recreational? If so what is it? es                                                       |

Barrier (outlining field) to prevent ball from exiting playing area

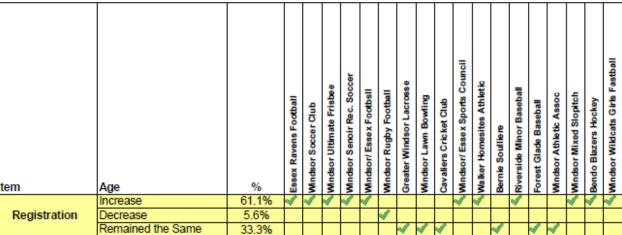
| Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor Needs to be re | edeveloped for people to use it                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| about upcoming p                                  | est way for the city to communicate information<br>park improvements, community events in parks and<br>recreation opportunities (check all that apply)? |
| V F L S H                                         | Open House Vindsor Star or News paper City website Cacebook Cocal News TV Cigns in Park Come delivery mail out notices 11 Chone notification            |
| 16. Any Additiona                                 | Il Comments:                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                         |

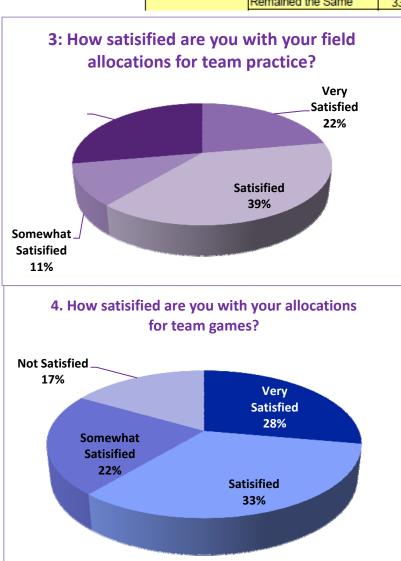
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Stakeholders Survey

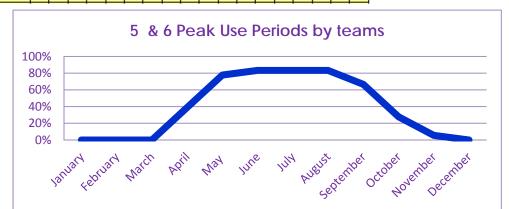
14. What is your overall opinion of City of Windsor Spots Facilities?

Over the last five years, has the number of registrants in your sport changed?

19 Organizations represented







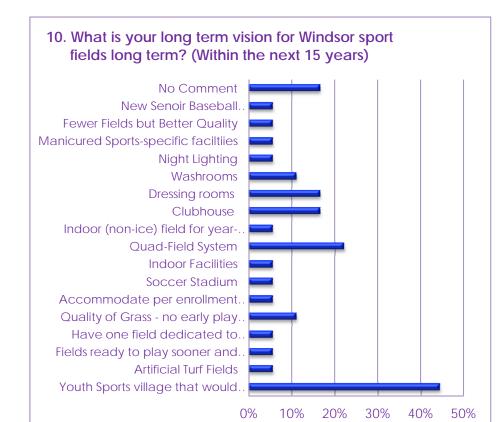


#### 7. What are the Five (5) most important City of Windsor park and recreational amenities to your organization's needs?

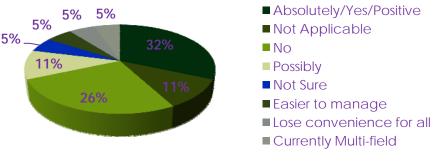
| recreational amenities to your organization | s needs? |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|
| Item                                        | %        |
| Public Washrooms                            | 61.1%    |
| Baseball Fields                             | 44.4%    |
| Gymnasiums                                  | 16.7%    |
| Playgrounds                                 | 16.7%    |
| Shelters                                    | 16.7%    |
| Change / Locker Rooms                       | 16.7%    |
| Football Fields                             | 11.1%    |
| Picnic Areas                                | 11.1%    |
| Soccer Fields                               | 11.1%    |
| Basketball Courts                           | 5.6%     |
| Community Centres                           | 5.6%     |
| Cricket Fileds                              | 5.6%     |
| Dog Parks                                   | 5.6%     |
| Hockey Arenas                               | 5.6%     |
| Outdoor Fitness Equipment                   | 5.6%     |
| Rugby Fields                                | 5.6%     |
| Splash pads                                 | 5.6%     |
| Ultimate Frisbee Fields (Lakeshore Woods)   | 5.6%     |
| Lacrosse Arenas                             | 5.6%     |
| Field Lighting                              | 5.6%     |
| Lawn Bowling Greens                         | 5.6%     |

#### 9. If you were managing the sports fields, what is the one thing you would do today to improve our field system short term? (Within the next 5 years)

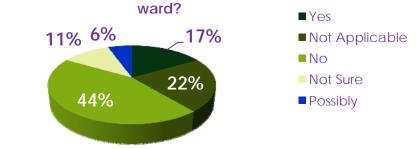
| Item                                       | %     |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Improve Turf Fields                        | 16.7% |
| Improve drainage                           | 44.4% |
| Aeration of fields                         | 5.6%  |
| Irrigation of Fields                       | 22.2% |
| Reseeding                                  | 11.1% |
| Washrooms                                  | 11.1% |
| Proper & Consistent Maintenance            | 5.6%  |
| One location with 4 fields and a clubhouse | 5.6%  |
| Indoor (non-ice) field for year-round use  | 5.6%  |
| Parking                                    | 5.6%  |
| Upgrade Lighting                           | 5.6%  |
| No Comment                                 | 11.1% |



11. In your opinion, would it be easier to run your league if a multi-field facility was available, such as Mic Mac park, instead of having scattered neighbourhood parks?

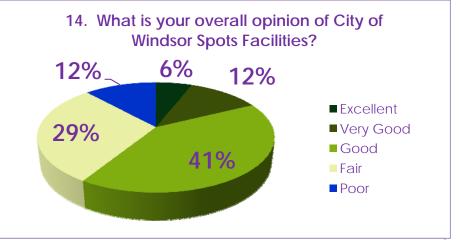


12. Currently, most of Windsor's Sport fields are decentralized per ward, would it be in the best interest of your organization if the fields were moved to a more centralized location in the same



| 13. Does your organization have a favourite par<br>recreational facility? If so what is it? | rk and or |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Item                                                                                        | %         |
| Yes                                                                                         | 61.1%     |
| No                                                                                          | 27.8%     |

| Ford Test Track         | 11.1% |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Lakeshore Woods Park    | 5.6%  |
| Forest Glade Arena/Park | 11.1% |
| Jackson Park            | 16.7% |
| Walker Homesite Park    | 5.6%  |
| Mic Mac Park Complex    | 22.2% |
| Riverside Park          | 5.6%  |
| Remington-Booster Park  | 5.6%  |











To: Mayor and Council 350 City Hall Square West Windsor, Ontario N9A 6S1

May 29, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council:

I write to you today on behalf of Windsor-Essex Youth Advising City Councillors and on behalf of Blue Dot Windsor volunteers and supporters to ask you to join residents of Windsor in support of our right to a healthy environment.

Around the world, more than 110 nations recognize their citizens' right to a healthy environment. But not Canada. The Blue Dot Movement, started by the David Suzuki Foundation, is the simple, yet powerful idea that all Canadians deserve the right to clean air, healthy food, and fresh water. Since October of last year, 74,468 Canadians have signed and 53 municipal governments have passed declarations showing support for their residents' right to a healthy environment. As municipalities pass these declarations, they are then calling upon provinces to make changes to environmental bills of rights. Once seven out of 10 of provinces are on board, the final push is to see the Charter of Rights and Freedoms amended to include our right to a healthy environment.

Windsor is making strides. The creation of the Environmental Master Plan has been a great tool for shaping our environmental future. The dedication of our current council to the development of healthy transit options, including actively adding bike lanes to roadways, is encouraging. The environmental considerations for large infrastructure projects such as the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant and the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway are excellent examples of what our local government and stakeholders are able to accomplish. However, as Windsor continues to work on environmental initiatives, we also want to ensure that we are working toward an even brighter future—a future where we don't have "cancer clusters", where we don't have to fight to preserve our parklands, where we and future generations can swim safely in our lakes and rivers.

We hope you will join us on our path toward amending the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by passing a declaration for Windsor in support of our right to a healthy environment.

As we say around here, "The river and the land sustain us." The core values of our city are based within access to clean air, healthy food, and fresh water. Let's work together to show the rest of Canada the heart of Windsor is a healthy environment and that this truly is a great place to live.

Sincerely,
Claire Ferris
Blue Dot Windsor Organizer; WE-YACC Youth Advisor; Windsor Resident, Ward 4
clairenferris@gmail.com
519.965.3233





#### Subject: The Right to Live in a Healthy Environment

#### ISSUE:

The inextricable link between environmental and human health is now widely recognized. Nine out of 10 Canadians are concerned about the impact of environmental degradation on their health and the health of their children<sup>1</sup> - and with good reason. The World Health Organization estimates environmental contamination, including polluted air and water, causes as many as 36,000 premature deaths annually in Canada.<sup>2</sup> Preventable environmental hazards contribute up to 1.5 million days in hospital annually due to cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, cancer, and birth defects alone.<sup>3</sup> The environment has a tremendous influence on our health and well-being.<sup>4</sup>

Municipal governments make decisions that affect transportation, housing density, waste disposal and other issues related to the quality of the environment. Local governments also have the power to pass bylaws to protect residents from environmental harm. A municipal declaration recognizing the right to a healthy environment would show support for residents' rights to clean air, water and safe food, signal municipal leadership in building a healthy, sustainable community and draw attention to the Canadian Constitution's silence on environmental issues.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The David Suzuki Foundation and partners recommend that the municipality:

- Officially recognize the Right to a Healthy Environment, through a municipal declaration or equivalent measure:
- 2. Respect, protect and fulfill the right to a healthy environment within municipal boundaries; and
- 3. Encourage provincial and federal action to protect the right to a healthy environment for all Canadians.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Over the past 50 years, the right to a healthy environment has gained recognition faster than any other human right. More than 110 governments around the world, including several cities, have already recognized their citizens' right to live in a healthy environment through bylaws, declarations, legislation, charters and constitutional provisions. In the United States, over 150 local governments have passed ordinances that recognize citizens' right to a healthy environment and protect them from a range of harmful practices. The rights protected by these legal instruments include breathing clean air, drinking clean water, consuming safe food, accessing nature and knowing about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment. Evidence shows that most countries with environmental rights and responsibilities in their constitutions:

- · Enjoy stronger and better enforced environmental laws;
- Demonstrate enhanced government and corporate accountability;
- Have smaller per capita ecological footprints;
- · Rank higher on environmental performance in over a dozen key areas;

- · Are more likely to have ratified international environmental agreements; and
- Have been more successful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>6</sup>

Today, Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms presently does not explicitly protect or even address environmental rights, leaving Canada among a minority of countries that do not yet recognize the right to a healthy environment. Just as the Charter guarantees us freedom of expression and protects us from discrimination, environmental rights would ensure that our laws and policies protect the basic elements of our survival, such as clean air, safe water and unpolluted land.

While five provinces and territories have some modest form of environmental rights legislation, even in these jurisdictions (Quebec, Ontario, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut) the laws have significant weaknesses that undermine their effectiveness and need to be substantially strengthened.

Municipal governments can help move toward developing an overarching environmental legal framework in Canada. Yellowknife became the sixth city in Canada to pass an environmental rights declaration in December 2014, following other municipalities like Montreal and Vancouver.

#### CONCLUSION:

Most of us understand that the environment is a key factor in sustaining healthy communities. Environmental rights support many issues Canadians care about - healthy food, land use and development, water and air quality, climate change, habitat and biodiversity protection, parks creation, children's access to nature, social justice and more. Yet Canada lacks important legal protection for environmental rights. All levels of government must take action to address this oversight. Municipal adoption of a declaration respecting all residents' right to a healthy environment will set an important precedent and can inspire action at other levels of government, ultimately resulting in better environmental performance and a healthler population in Canada.7

#### CONTACT:

Alaya Boisvert, Project Lead Right to a Healthy Environment aboisvert@davidsuzuki.org 604-732-4228 x1263 | 604-562-2779

DRAFT December 2014

2211 WEST 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 219 . VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA V6K 452 TOLL-FREE 1.800.453.1533 • TEL 604.732.4228 • FAX 604.732.0752 • WWW.DAVIDSUZUKI.ORG

#### **Municipal Declaration** The Right To A Healthy Environment

Whereas the MUNICIPALITY understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community:

AND WHEREAS, The MUNICIPALITY finds and declares that:

- 1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:
  - (a) The right to breathe clean air;
  - (b) The right to drink clean water;
  - (c) The right to consume safe food;
  - (d)The right to access nature;
- (e)The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and,
  - (f) The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment
- 2. The MUNICIPALITY has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights;
- 3. The MUNICIPALITY shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the MUNICIPALITY shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the MUNICIPALITY to postpone such measures
- 4. The MUNICIPALITY shall apply full cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the MUNICIPALITY will consider costs to human health and the environment.
- 5. As part of the development of the 20-year strategic plan for 2035, the MUNICIPALITY shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions the MUNICIPALITY will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:
  - 1. Responsibly increase density;
  - 2. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
  - 3. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
  - 4. Promote the availability of safe foods;
  - 5. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
  - 6. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods;
  - 7. In taking these aforementioned steps, continue to protect and restore the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the many unique and varied natural features that define our MUNICIPALITY, from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair to the Detroit River and the Oilbway Parkland, with new developments as Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant and Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway at its heart;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

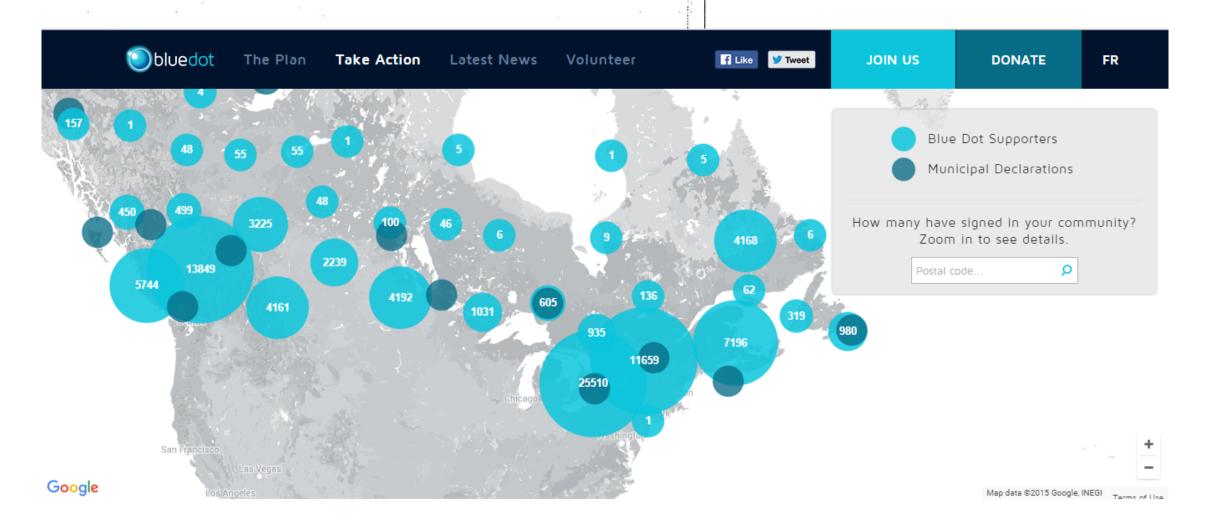
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> McAllister, A. 2010a. A Backyard Field Guide to Canadians. Vancouver: McAllister Opinion Research; Hoggan and Associates. 2009. Sustainability Research Initiative. Vancouver: James Hoggan and Associates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. 2008. National Estimates of Environmental Burden of Disease - Canada, Geneva: World Health

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Boyd, D. R. and S. Genuls. 2008. "The Environmental Burden of Disease in Canada: Respiratory Disease, Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, and Congenital Affliction." Environmental Research 106: 240-49.

<sup>4</sup> Boyd, D. 2012. The Right to a Healthy Environment. Vancouver: UBC Press.
5 Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. Community Rights. http://www.celdf.org/section.php?id=423
6 Boyd, D. R. 2013. "The Importance of Constitutional Recognition of the Right to a Healthy Environment" http://davidsuzuki.org/publications/2013/11/DSF%20White%20Paper%201—2013.pdf
7 Boyd, D. 2012. The Right to a Healthy Environment. Vancouver: UBC Press.

- (a) That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, be directed to correspond with the Right Honourable Stephen Harper and the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, calling for a public review of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights in order to improve the Act and to include recognition that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment and the development of federal and provincial legislation that recognizes that all people have the right to a healthy environment;
- (b) That the City Manager be directed to review and report on the objectives, targets, timelines, and actions, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration as part of Windsor's next Reports on the State of our Environment as part of Windsor's Environmental Master Plan, developed with extensive input from residents and stakeholders, the five goals of which are to improve our air and water quality; create healthy communities; green Windsor; use resources efficiently; and, promote awareness.
- (c) That the Mayor and City council be directed to include this declaration as part of the creation of the 20 year strategic plan for Windsor for 2035; that the values and goals created as part of the Environmental Master Plan be upheld and developed further and that;
- (d) That staff be directed to continue to consult with residents as part of the Right to a Healthy Environment process including on-going Environmental Attitudes Surveys every 5 years.





<u>Blue Flag</u> is a highly respected and recognized international eco-label. Blue Flags are awarded to beaches and marinas that meet strict <u>criteria</u> for water quality, environmental education, environmental management, and safety and services.

Blue Flags are flying at 25 beaches and six marinas in Canada.

If you have a question or comment about the program, or something to report about the conditions of a Blue Flag beach, please let us know by emailing <a href="mailto:info@blueflag.ca">info@blueflag.ca</a>.

#### The Campaign

As the coordinator of Blue Flag Canada, Environmental Defence works with beach and marina managers, their partners, and community stakeholders to achieve the international Blue Flag award. The Blue Flag International program is managed by the Foundation for Environmental Education, a non-governmental, non-profit organization promoting sustainable development through environmental education.

#### **Blue Flag Standards**



#### Water Quality

The Blue Flag program requires that beaches achieve excellent bathing water quality. Blue Flag beaches undergo regular water quality sampling measured against national standards and legislation.



#### **Environmental Management**

Dedicated beach management committees are set up at Blue Flag sites to conduct environmental audits of the site and its facilities. The committee is also responsible for ensuring that beach habitat is protected and managed sustainably.



#### **Environmental Education**

Educational activities that promote sustainability are an important part of the Blue Flag program. Environmental education activities can range from educational signage to training workshops for municipal staff.



#### Safety and Services

Blue Flag sites are required to be safe and accessible for all ages and for people with disabilities. Lifeguards or lifesaving and first aid equipment must also be available at the Blue Flag beach. Emergency and safety measures must be in place to protect the users of the Blue Flag site.

Take a look at some of the blueflag beaches and marinas across Canada:

#### Manitoba

- Gimli Beach, Rural Municipality of Gimli
- West Grand Beach, Grand Beach Provincial Park
- Winnipeg Beach, Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park

#### Nova Scotia, Halifax Region

- Birch Cove Beach, Dartmouth
- Halifax Waterfront, Halifax

#### Ontario, Georgian Bay, Simcoe, Muskoka

- City of Barrie Marina
- Wasaga Beach Area 1, Wasaga Beach Provincial Park
- Wasaga Beach Area 2, Wasaga Beach Provincial Park
- Wasaga Beach Area 5, Wasaga Beach Provincial Park
- Waubuno Beach, Parry Sound

#### Ontario, Greater Toronto Area

- Bluffer's Park Beach, Toronto
- Centre Island Beach, Toronto
- Cherry Beach, Toronto
- Gibraltar Point Beach, Toronto
- Hanlan's Point Beach, Toronto
- Kew-Balmy Beach, Toronto
- Ward's Island Beach, Toronto
- Woodbine Beach, Toronto

#### Ontario, Northern

• Bell Park Beach Ontario, South and West

- Bayfield Main Beach, Municipality of Bluewater
- Bluewater Marina, Municipality of Bluewater
- Canatara Park Beach, City of Sarnia
- Erieau Beach, Municipality of Chatham-Kent Blue Flag Candidate
- Grand Bend Beach, Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Grand Bend Marina, Municipality of Lambton Shores
- LaSalle Park Marina
- Port Franks Marina, Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Port Stanley Main Beach, Municipality of Central Elgin
- Station Beach, Town of Kincardine

#### Quebec

- Plage de l'Est, Magog
- Plage de l'Ouest, Magog
- Plage des Cantons, Magog

| B-CLASSIFICATIONS                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| AND RECREATION FACILITY          | CS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Alton C Parker                   | NP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.64                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Bruce                            | CP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 3.05                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Charles Clark Square             | UP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 0.51                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| City Hall Square                 | UP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 3.52                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Civic Green                      | UP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 0.38                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Fred Thomas                      | CP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.42                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Piazza Udine                     | RI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 0.80                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Senator Croll                    | UP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.07                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Vision Corridor                  | RP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.78                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Civic Terrace                    | RI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 6.98                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Dieppe Gardens                   | RI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 5.86                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| Hall Farms                       | LT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 10.13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Walker Homesite                  | CP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 10.01                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Walker Homesite Bike Trail       | LT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2.20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Calderwood                       | NP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.68                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  | NP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 5.17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 3.41                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2.30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 0.09                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 91.78                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2 STORMS OF CONTRACT PRODUCTION  | . 101                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 01.75                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| East End (separate natural area) | NP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 8.03                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21.95                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 8.19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 17.89                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 17.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 3.67                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.08                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Firgrove Blvd                    | LT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                  | AND RECREATION FACILITY JERIC COMPLEX  REA  CORRIDOR RAIL  PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LANDS GOLF COURSE  PARK NAME  Alton C Parker Bruce Charles Clark Square City Hall Square Civic Green Fred Thomas Piazza Udine Senator Croll Vision Corridor Caron Avenue Civic Terrace Dieppe Gardens Festival Plaza Former Ramada Site  Hall Farms Walker Homesite Walker Homesite Walker Homesite Bike Trail Calderwood Devonshire Heights Leafield Maple Leaf Shinglecreek Devonwood Conservation Area (ERCA)  East End (separate natural area) Lakeshore Woods Little River Bivd * McHugh Bikepath Cora Greenwood | RK - GENERIC  UP  ENERIC  COMPLEX  REA  REA  REA  REA  RI  REA  CORRIDOR  RAIL  PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LANDS  GOLF COURSE  PARK NAME  Bruce  Charles Clark Square  City Hall Square  Civic Green  Fred Thomas  Prizza Udine  Senator Croll  Vision Corridor  Garon Avenue  Civic Terrace  Dieppe Gardens  Festival Plaza  Former Ramada Site  Hall Farms  Walker Homesite  Walker Homesite  Walker Homesite  Walker Homesite Bike Trail  Calderwood  Devonshire Heights  NP  Maple Leaf  Shinglecreek  Diepvowood Conservation Area (ERCA)  Prov  East End (separate natural area)  Lakeshore Woods  CP  Little River Blvd  RA  MCHugh  McHugh  McHugh  McHugh  Keparate natural area)  Lakeshore Woods  CP  Little River Blvd  RA  McHugh  McHugh Bikepath  LT  Cora Greenwood  NP  Cora Greenwood |

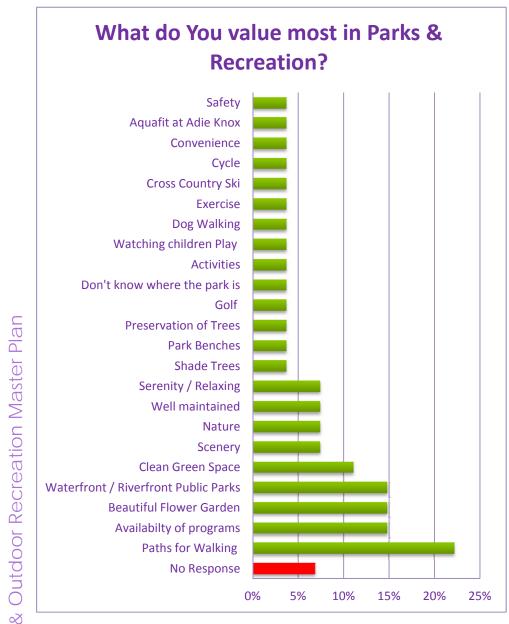
| PLANNING<br>DISTRICT | PARK NAME                             | SubClassification | Total<br>Parkland |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                      |                                       | SubCl             |                   |
| East Riverside       | Magnolia (undeveloped)                | NP                | 0.23              |
| East Riverside       | Martinique                            | NP                | 0.56              |
| East Riverside       | Morningstar *                         | LG                | 0.49              |
| East Riverside       | Riverside Kiwanis                     | NP                | 2.03              |
| East Riverside       | Shanfield Shores                      | RI                | 1.04              |
| East Riverside       | South Rendezvous                      | NP                | 1.58              |
| East Riverside       | Springhollow                          | NP                | 0.24              |
| East Riverside       | Stop 26                               | RI                | 0.71              |
| East Riverside       | East Riverside (Blue Heron)           | NA                | 62.70             |
| East Riverside       | Ganatchio +                           | RI                | 1.58              |
| East Riverside       | Ganatchio Trail                       | LG                | 28.04             |
| East Riverside       | Lakeview Marina                       | RI                | 12.85             |
| East Riverside       | Little River Corridor                 | LG                | 255.11            |
| East Riverside       | Little River Corridor (non-vegetated) | LG                | 200.11            |
| East Riverside       | Peche Island                          | NH                | 75.95             |
| East Riverside       | Sandpoint Beach +                     | RI                | 3.92              |
|                      |                                       |                   |                   |
| East Windsor         | A.K.O.                                | CP                | 15.92             |
| East Windsor         | Alexander                             | RI                | 13.68             |
| East Windsor         | Cadillac St.                          | NP                | 0.21              |
| East Windsor         | Chopin                                | NP                | 3.39              |
| East Windsor         | Factoria                              | NP                | 3.45              |
| East Windsor         | François                              | NP                | 1.48              |
| East Windsor         | Garry Dugal                           | CP                | 4.90              |
| East Windsor         | George                                | NP                | 6.18              |
| East Windsor         | Gino A. Marcus                        | CP                | 2.14              |
| East Windsor         | Kinsmen (Norman Rd)                   | NP                | 2.36              |
| East Windsor         | Labadie                               | NP                | 3.55              |
| East Windsor         | Long                                  |                   | 3.84              |
| East Windsor         | Polonia                               | NP                | 7.99              |
| East Windsor         | Pykes                                 | NP                | 4.98              |
| East Windsor         | Unity                                 | NP                | 0.39              |
| East Windsor         | Westcott                              | NP                | 4.17              |
| East Windsor         | Whelpton                              | UP                | 0.16              |
| East Windsor         | Ford Test Track                       | RA                | 61.14             |
| East Windsor         | Goose Bay                             | RI                | 2.56              |
|                      |                                       |                   |                   |
| Fontainbleu          | McDonald                              | CP                | 17.20             |
| Fontainbleu          | Rivard-Fontainebleu                   | CP                | 10.00             |
| Fontainbleu          | Coletta                               | NP                | 0.76              |
| Fontainbleu          | Mayfair                               | NP                | 1.48              |
| Fontainbleu          | Robert                                | NP                | 1.02              |
| Fontainbleu          | Shawnee                               | NP                | 7.40              |
| Fontainbleu          | Thurston                              | NP                | 2.30              |
| Fontainbleu          | Ypres                                 | NP                | 5.09              |
|                      |                                       |                   |                   |
| Forest Glade         | Derwent                               | CP                | 31.78             |
| Forest Glade         | Forest Glade                          | CS                | 31.86             |
| Forest Glade         | Twin Oaks                             | LG                | 18.37             |
| Forest Glade         | Wildwood                              | NP                | 6.00              |
| Forest Glade         | Little River Golf Course              | Golf              | 64.44             |
| Forest Glade         | Bush                                  | NA                | 5.57              |

| PLANNING<br>DISTRICT   | PARK NAME                                | SubClassification | Total<br>Parkland | PLANNING<br>DISTRICT           | PARK NAME                               | SubClassification | Total<br>Parkland | PLANNING<br>DISTRICT       | PARK NAME                             | SubClassification | Total<br>Parkland |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Forest Glade           | Hawthorne                                | NP                | 5.77              | Roseland                       | Roseland Golf and Curling club          | Golf              | 125.09            | South Windsor              | Central                               | CS                | 18.71             |
| City Centre            | Joint Justice                            | UP                | 0.44              | Roseland                       | Avon Ct.                                | NP                | 0.59              | South Windsor              | Oakwood                               | NH                | 45.59             |
| Forest Glade           | Meadowbrook                              | NP                | 3.99              | Roseland                       | Dynasty                                 | NP                | 2.34              | South Windsor              | Avondale Play Lot                     | NP                | 2.27              |
| Forest Glade           | Palmetto                                 | NP                | 2.57              | Roseland                       | Goldenwood                              | NP                | 2.37              | South Windsor              | Bellewood                             | CP                | 6.39              |
| Forest Glade           | Roseville                                | NP                | 4.00              | Roseland                       | Herb Grey Nature Reserve                | NH                | 2.32              | South Windsor              | Compton Ct.                           | UP                | 0.21              |
| Forest Glade           | Seneca                                   | NP                | 6.00              | Roseland                       | Holburn                                 | NP                | 5.53              | South Windsor              | Curry                                 | NP                | 5.73              |
| Forest Glade           | Stillmeadow                              | NP                | 6.48              | Roseland                       | Kominar                                 | NP                | 2.32              | South Windsor              | Kenilworth                            | NA                | 6.30              |
| Forest Glade           | Teedie                                   | LG                | 8.21              | Roseland                       | Lake Como                               | NP                | 3.09              | South Windsor              | Mark                                  | NP                | 1.26              |
|                        |                                          |                   | 1.50              | Roseland                       | Lake Grande                             | NP                | 0.63              | South Windsor              | Partington                            | NP                | 4.14              |
| Malden                 | Seven Sisters                            | NH                | 4.53              | Roseland                       | Lake Laguna                             | NP<br>NP          | 0.91              | South Windsor              | Patrick Maguire                       | NP                | 3.72              |
| Malden                 | Ojibway Prairie Nature Reserve           | Prov              | 271.70            | Roseland<br>Roseland           | Lake Trail                              | NP<br>NP          | 1.02<br>0.31      | South Windsor              | Radisson Bikeway (this is Bigger)     | LG                | 0.78              |
| Malden<br>Malden       | The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway           | Prov              | 300.00<br>151.73  | Roseland                       | Marguriet Matthew Rodzik                | NP NP             | 5.57              | South Windsor              | Victoria Blvd                         | UP                | 3.25              |
| Malden                 | Ojibway Tom Joy Woods Spring Garden ANSI | NH<br>NH          | 183.80            | Roseland                       | North Talbot                            | NP                | 4.00              | University                 | Wilson Adie Knox                      |                   | 9.36              |
| Malden                 | Tall Grass Heritage                      | NH                | 50.66             | Roseland                       | Roseland                                | NP                | 4.14              | University                 | Bridgeview                            | СР                | 3.10              |
| Waldell                | Tall Glass Heritage                      | INIT              | 30.00             | Roseland                       | Southwood Lakes Trail (this is bigger ) | LT                | 1.21              | University                 | Curry Play Lot                        | NP                | 1.17              |
| Ojibway                | Broadway                                 | NH                | 9.49              | Roseland                       | Stoneybrook                             | NP                | 0.63              | University                 | Earnest Atkinson                      | CP                | 6.16              |
| Ojibway                | Black Oak Prairie Heritage               | NH                | 112.18            | Roseland                       | Wolfe Lake                              | NP                | 1.12              | University                 | Girardot                              | NP                | 0.67              |
| Gjioway                | Didok ouk i famo fichago                 |                   | 112.10            | Roseland                       | St. Clair Prairie E.S.A.                | Prov              | 7.75              | University                 | Grove                                 | NP                | 0.73              |
| Remington Park         | Langlois Ct.                             | LT                | 8.17              |                                | of old Francisco                        | 1                 |                   | University                 | North Merrit                          | NP                | 0.62              |
| Remington Park         | Remington Booster                        | CP                | 17.10             | Sandwich                       | Maurice Belanger                        | CP                | 8.45              | University                 | North Tilston                         | NP                | 0.67              |
| Remington Park         | Udine                                    | NP                | 10.60             | Sandwich                       | Bradley                                 | NP                | 2.56              | University                 | Oak-Elm                               | NP                | 0.81              |
| Remington Park         | Brookview                                | NP                | 0.35              | Sandwich                       | Brock                                   | RI                | 0.90              | University                 | South Merrit                          | NP                | 0.62              |
| Remington Park         | Howard *                                 | LG                | 3.44              | Sandwich                       | College Avenue Bikeway (Crowley)        | LG                | 8.42              | University                 | South Tilston                         | NP                | 0.65              |
| Remington Park         | Jennifer                                 | NP                | 0.81              | Sandwich                       | Crowley (College Community Centre)      | NP                | 3.90              | University                 | Straith                               | NP                | 2.46              |
| Remington Park         | Southdale                                | NP                | 7.33              | Sandwich                       | Huron ChurchGreen Belt                  | LG                | 4.76              | University                 | Wellington                            | NP                | 0.44              |
| Remington Park         | Grand Marais Drain Trail                 | LG                | 20.94             | Sandwich                       | Mackenzie Hall                          | RP                | 0.38              | University                 | Assumption                            | RI                | 14.94             |
|                        |                                          |                   |                   | Sandwich                       | Matchette                               | NP                | 1.33              | University                 | Caron Ave Pumping Station             | RI                | 0.57              |
| Riverside              | Clairview Bikeway                        | LG                | 13.39             | Sandwich                       | McKee                                   | RI                | 3.56              | University                 | Centennial                            | RI                | 14.88             |
| Riverside              | Little River Acres                       | CP                | 10.50             | Sandwich                       | Mill                                    | RI                | 1.28              | -                          |                                       |                   |                   |
| Riverside              | Realtor Park                             | CS                | 25.29             | Sandwich                       | Patterson                               | NP                | 2.85              | Walker Farms               | Parkwood Woodlot                      | NH                | 1.03              |
| Riverside              | St. Rose / Riverside Baseball            | NP                | 10.80             | Sandwich                       | Malden                                  |                   | 162.77            |                            |                                       | -                 |                   |
| Riverside              | Tranby                                   | CP                | 16.88             | Sandwich                       | Mic Mac                                 | RA                | 94.77             | Walkerville                | Lanspeary                             | CP                | 11.36             |
| Riverside              | Bridges Bay                              | RI                | 1.52              |                                |                                         |                   |                   | Walkerville                | Clay                                  | NP                | 0.70              |
| Riverside              | Brumpton                                 | NP                | 4.88              | Sandwich South                 | Airport Swamps                          | NH                | 304.35            | Walkerville                | Devonshire                            | NP                | 1.17              |
| Riverside              | Dawson                                   | NP                | 0.55              | 0 - 11- 0                      | 0 11 0 11 11 11 11                      |                   | 24.00             | Walkerville<br>Walkerville | Garwood                               | NP                | 0.76<br>6.78      |
| Riverside              | East Riverview                           | RI                | 0.15              | South Cameron                  | South Cameron Woodlot                   | NH                | 31.26             | Walkerville                | Kennedy Square                        | UP                | 0.22              |
| Riverside              | Esdras                                   | NP                | 0.82              | South Cameron                  | Virginia                                | CP                | 15.92             | Walkerville                | Kid's Alliance (University)           | NP.               | 0.55              |
| Riverside              | Homesite                                 | NP                | 0.88<br>4.54      | South Cameron<br>South Cameron | Aboriginal                              | NP<br>NP          | 2.75<br>0.36      | Walkerville                | Kinsmen (Oniversity)                  | NP                | 1.05              |
| Riverside              | Peche Island Landing                     | NP                | 0.22              |                                | Balsamo                                 |                   |                   | Walkerville                | Walkerville Jubilee                   | UP                | 0.14              |
| Riverside<br>Riverside | Riverdale                                | NP.               | 3.08              | South Cameron<br>South Cameron | Field Of Dreams Superior                | CP                | 7.06              | Walkerville                | Aylmer Rest Station                   | RI                | 10.70             |
| Riverside              | St. Paul Grove                           | NP.               | 0.31              | South Cameron                  | Superior                                | GF                | 7.00              | Walkerville                | Bert Weeks                            | RI                | 3.95              |
| Riverside              | St. Paul Pumping Station                 | RI                | 4.15              | South Central                  | Mitchell                                | CP                | 4.61              | Walkerville                | Great Western Joan and Clifford Hatch | RI                | 8.45              |
| Riverside              | St. Rose Beach                           | RI                | 1.70              | South Central                  | Jackson                                 | RP                | 59.08             | Walkerville                | Willistead                            | RP                | 15.56             |
| Riverside              | Thompson                                 | NP.               | 7.49              | South Central                  | Wigle                                   | CP                | 5.31              |                            |                                       |                   |                   |
| Riverside              | Reaume / Coventry Gardens                | RI                | 11.72             | - Juli John G                  |                                         | 0,                | 0.01              |                            |                                       |                   |                   |
| Riverside              | Reaume Overflow Parking                  | RI                | 1.09              | South Walkerville              | Optimist Memorial                       | CP                | 50.43             |                            | PARK NAME                             |                   | Total             |
| Riverside              | WFCU                                     | RA                | 40.86             | South Walkerville              | Lens Ave                                | CP<br>NP          | 2.47              |                            | PARK NAIWE                            |                   | Parkland          |
|                        |                                          |                   | 12.00             | South Walkerville              | Parent                                  | NP                | 1.02              |                            |                                       |                   |                   |
| Roseland               | Captain Wilson                           | CP                | 20.87             | South Walkerville              | Stodgell                                | NP                | 5.97              |                            |                                       |                   | 3573.94           |
| Roseland               | Vets Memorial                            | CP                | 7.28              |                                |                                         |                   |                   |                            | TOTAL HECTARES                        |                   | 1446.37           |
|                        |                                          |                   |                   |                                |                                         |                   |                   |                            | TOTAL ACRES TOTAL HECTARES            |                   |                   |

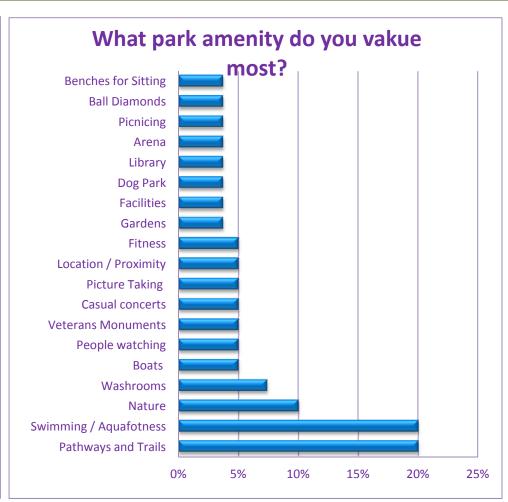
#### APPENDIX 'R' - PLANNING ACT : CONVEYANCE OF LAND FOR PARK PURPOSES

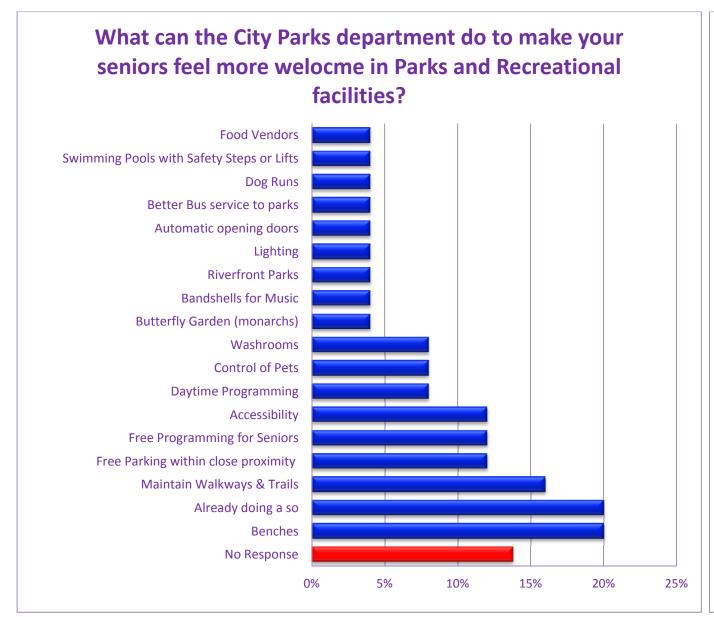
Planning Act: Conveyance of land for park purposes

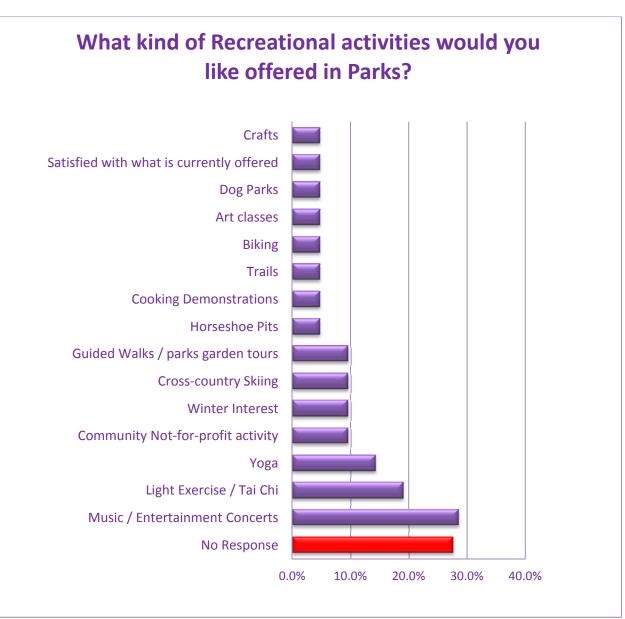
- 42. (1) As a condition of development or redevelopment of land, the council of a local municipality may, by by-law applicable to the whole municipality or to any defined area or areas thereof, require that land in an amount not exceeding, in the case of land proposed for development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes, 2 per cent and in all other cases 5 per cent of the land be conveyed to the municipality for park or other public recreational purposes. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, s. 42 (1). Alternative requirement
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), as an alternative to requiring the conveyance provided for in subsection (1), in the case of land proposed for development or redevelopment for residential purposes, the by-law may require that land be conveyed to the municipality for park or other public recreational purposes at a rate of one hectare for each 300 dwelling units proposed or at such lesser rate as may be specified in the by-law. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, s. 42 (3).











# **PARKS**

#### APPENDIX 'T' - ZONING BYLAW 8600 SECTION 9 - GREEN DISTRICTS

#### SECTION 9 - GREEN DISTRICTS I (GD1.1)

#### (1) Green District I.I (GDI.I)

#### (a) Permitted Uses

- A public park; day nursery. (AMENDED by B/L 33-2001, October 23, 2001, OMB Decision/Order No. 1716, OMB Case No. PL010233)
- Any use accessory to the foregoing use.

#### (b) Regulations

- Maximum building height 9 metres on a lot having a lot area of less than 0.5 hectares; 14 metres on a lot having a mini- mum lot area of 0.5 hectares.
- Maximum lot coverage 25% of the lot area.
- Supplementary Regulations:

- See Section

21 re: Supplementary Use Regulations 22 re: Supplementary Lot Regulations 23 re: Supplementary Building Regulations

24 re: Parking Space Regulations 25 re: Parking Area Regulations

#### Green District I.2 (GDI.2)

#### (a) Permitted Uses

- A public park, private park; day nursery. (AMENDED by B/L 33-2001, October 23, 2001, OMB Decision/Order No. 1716, OMB Case No. PL010233)
- A golf course;
- (iii) A club;
- Any use accessory to the foregoing uses.

#### (b) Regulations

- Minimum lot area 1,850 square metres.
- Maximum building height 9 metres on a lot having a lot area of less than 0.5 hectares; 14 metres on a lot having a minimum lot area of 0.5 hectares.
- 25% of the lot area. Maximum lot coverage
- Supplementary Regulations: (iv)

See Section

21 re: Supplementary Use Regulations 22 re: Supplementary Lot Regulations

23 re: Supplementary Building Regulations

24 re: Parking Space Regulations 25 re: Parking Area Regulations

#### (3) Green Districts I.3 (GDI.3)

#### (a) Permitted Uses

- A cemetery, mausoleum, crematorium;
- Any use accessory to the foregoing uses.

#### (b) Regulations\

- Minimum lot area - I hectare
- Maximum building height - 9 metres
- Maximum lot coverage - 25% of the lot area
- Supplementary Regulations:

See Section

21 re: Supplementary Use Regulations 22 re: Supplementary Lot Regulations

23 re: Supplementary Building Regulations

24 re: Parking Space Regulations 25 re: Parking Area Regulations

#### (4) Green District I.4 (GDI.4)

(ADDED by B/L 8988, May 19,1987 and AMENDED by B/L 370-2001, Nov. 15/01)

#### (a) Permitted Uses

- A natural heritage area;
- (ii) Any use accessory to the foregoing uses.

#### (b) Regulations

No buildings or structures except buildings or structures accessory to the natural heritage use shall be permitted.

> Maximum building height - 8 metres, except for an observation platform, deck or tower;

Supplementary Regulations:

See Section

21 re: Supplementary Use Regulations

22 re: Supplementary Lot Regulations

23 re: Supplementary Building Regulations

24 re: Parking Space Regulations

25 re: Parking Area Regulations

#### (5) Green District I.5 (GDI.5)

(ADDED by B/L 181-2003, July 14th, 2003)

#### (a) Permitted Uses

- A permanent stormwater management facility.
- Any use accessory to the foregoing use.

#### (b) Regulations

Any stormwater management facility shall be built in accordance with the terms of an agreement entered into with the Corporation of the City of Windsor.

# Natural



Criterion (ix): be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals

The assessment of this criterion depends on the scientific knowledge and understanding of Earth's ecosystems and the ecological and biological processes associated with their dynamics.

- Forests
- Wetlands
- Marine & Coastal Areas
- Mountains
- · Small island ecosystems, and
- Boreal Forests



Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)

## Natural



Criterion (x): contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation

Additional information on the application of these global classification systems can be found in the Background Paper for the Special Expert Meeting of the World Heritage Convention: The Concept of Outstanding Universal Value (Cameron, 2005).

- IUCN Red List
- Centres of Plant Diversity
- Endemic Bird Areas of the World
- Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspots
- WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions for Saving Life on Earth



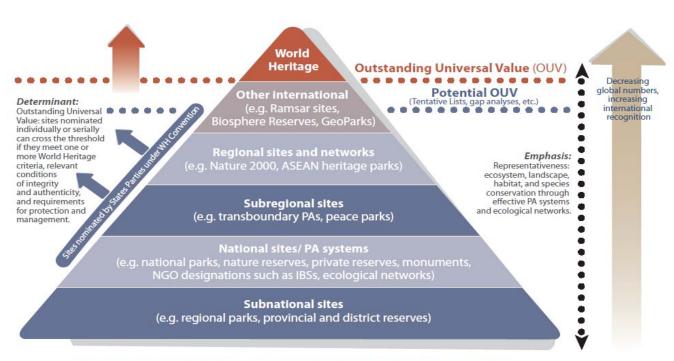
Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)

#### Criteria

#### NATURAL HERITAGE

The World Heritage Convention defines natural heritage as:

- natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;
- geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which <u>constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals</u> and plants of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation;
- natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty (Article 2).



Relationship of World Heritage sites to other types of protected areas (PAs) in terms of Outstanding Universal Value versus representativeness as key determinants

#### **BIODIVERSITY FUNDING**

#### **EcoAction Community Funding Program**

Helping Communities Create a Healthy Environment

The EcoAction Community Funding Program funds projects across Canada to encourage Canadians to take action to address clean air, clean water, climate change and nature issues, and to build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities into the future.

#### Take action for your environment

Your organization may be eligible to receive financial support from Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program to address environmental issues of importance in your community. Your project must have measurable, positive environmental results and promote community participation.

#### Who can apply?

- Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. This includes environmental groups, community groups, youth and seniors groups, communitybased associations, service clubs, and Aboriginal organizations.
- Organizations must secure at least half of the total project funding from sources other than the federal government.
- Organizations must be able to measure the direct positive environmental results of the project and build the community's capacity to take action toward priority environmental issues.

#### What types of projects are funded?

Your project should address one or more of the following key environmental issues:

#### Clean air

Projects with a focus on improving air quality or reducing emissions that contribute to air pollution. For example:

 active transportation such as biking, and alternative methods of commuting aimed at reducing traffic and harmful air emissions

#### Clean water

Projects with a focus on reducing or diverting substances that negatively affect water quality or with a focus on water-use efficiency and conservation. For example:

 reduction of nutrient load, contaminants or toxics in water bodies

#### Climate change

Projects with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions or with a focus on addressing the impacts of climate change. For example:

- sustainable consumption and waste reduction activities
- cooling measures to reduce urban heat islands

#### Nature

Projects with a focus on protecting, rehabilitating or restoring the natural environment. For example:

o improving biodiversity by restoring and conserving habitat that will provide long-term protection to plants and wildlife in sensitive areas For more project examples, visit <a href="https://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=FA475FEB-1">https://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=FA475FEB-1</a>

#### Did you know?

- Projects may be local, regional or national in scope.
- Up to a maximum funding of \$100,000 per project is available.
- The maximum duration of a project is 36 months.

#### Got a project idea?

Please call us to discuss your project idea. We will advise you on the eligibility of your organization and project, and answer any questions you may have on the application process. To learn more about program criteria, eligibility and how to apply, download the *Applicant's Guide and Application Form* <a href="https://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=FA475FEB-1">https://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=FA475FEB-1</a>.

#### Application deadline

The annual application deadline is **November 1**. Your complete application must be submitted to the Environment Canada office in your area on or before the deadline.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES FUND**

The Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) is a specified-purpose account administered by Environment Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to manage funds received as compensation for environmental damage. These funds may come from court orders, awards, out-of-court settlements and voluntary awards. They primarily support the restoration of natural resources and environment, and wildlife conservation projects in the same geographic area where the damage originally occurred. The EDF also supports research and development on environmental damage assessment and restoration, and education on pollution prevention and the restoration of natural resources.

#### Who can apply?

- Non-government organizations
- Community-based environmental groups
- Aboriginal communities and organizations
- Universities
- Provincial, territorial and municipal governments

#### **Funding deadlines**

Environment Canada actively seeks project proposals from eligible groups. Please contact your Environment Canada regional office to confirm available funds in your area.

#### Contact

For more information or to apply to the program, contact the EDF office in your area.

**Program website:** <a href="https://www.ec.gc.ca/edf-fde/default.asp?lang=En&n=BD1220D8-1">https://www.ec.gc.ca/edf-fde/default.asp?lang=En&n=BD1220D8-1</a>

# HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR SPECIES AT RISK

The Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) allocates funds to projects that conserve and protect species at risk and their habitats and help to preserve biodiversity as a whole. These funds promote the participation of local communities to help with the recovery of species at risk and prevent other species from becoming a conservation concern.

New funding under the National Conservation Plan expanded the HSP to focus funding on two distinct funding streams:

- 1. The HSP Species at Risk Stream focuses on species at risk recovery projects; and
- 2. The HSP Prevention Stream focuses on projects addressing other priority species beyond the protection and recovery of species at risk under the *Species at Risk Act* to prevent them from becoming a conservation concern.

The HSP is administered by Environment Canada and managed cooperatively with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Parks Canada Agency.

#### Who can apply?

- Non-governmental organizations
- Community groups
- Aboriginal organizations and communities
- Private corporations
- Educational institutions
- Provincial, territorial and municipal governments
- Crown corporations

#### **Geographic location**

Projects must take place on private lands, provincial Crown lands, Aboriginal lands, or in aquatic and

marine areas across Canada. <u>Contact</u> the program to learn more about its priorities.

#### Range of funding available

Funding usually ranges from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per year. Projects may extend over more than one year.

#### Funding deadline

For projects beginning after April 1, 2016, a call for proposals will go out in the fall of 2015.

#### Contact

For more information or to apply to the program, please contact your Environment Canada regional office.

**Program website** <a href="http://ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih/default.asp?lang=En&n=59BF488F-1">http://ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih/default.asp?lang=En&n=59BF488F-1</a>

#### GREAT LAKES SUSTAINABILITY FUND

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund provides technical and financial support to action projects aimed at cleaning up, restoring and protecting the environmental quality and beneficial uses of Canada's Great Lakes in areas of concern. The fund is targeted at three key priority areas: fish and wildlife habitat rehabilitation and stewardship; contaminated sediment assessment and remediation; and innovative approaches to improving municipal wastewater effluent quality.

#### Who can apply?

- Eligible organizations are federal government departments other than Environment Canada
- Provincial ministries
- Municipalities
- Aboriginal organizations and communities
- Conservation authorities
- Environmental non-governmental organizations
- Universities
- Schools
- Private industry

#### **Geographic location**

Projects are restricted to the Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

#### Range of funding available

Funding is variable and depends on the project.

#### Funding deadline

Early December of each year.

#### Contact

For more information or to apply to the program, call 416-739-5834 or <a href="mailto:glsf@ec.gc.ca">glsf@ec.gc.ca</a>

**Program website:** <a href="https://www.ec.gc.ca/raps-pas/default.asp?lang=En&n=F328E319-1">https://www.ec.gc.ca/raps-pas/default.asp?lang=En&n=F328E319-1</a>

#### GREAT LAKES GUARDIAN COMMUNITY FUND

#### Sponsor:

**Ontario Government** 

#### **Description:**

As part of Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund was set up to help people take action to protect and restore their corner of the Great Lakes.

#### Who Can Apply:

Not-for-profit organizations, First Nations communities and organizations, Métis communities and organizations

#### Types of Projects Funded:

Your organization could receive a grant for projects in:

Lake Erie

Lake Huron

Lake Ontario

Lake Superior

St. Lawrence River

Ottawa River

their connecting channels and watersheds

#### Range of Funding Available:

\$10,000 - \$25,000

#### **Description of Funding:**

To qualify, your project must have a direct environmental benefit and support at least 1 of the 3 goals.

Goal 1: protect water quality for human and ecological health

strengthening riverbanks to reduce erosion students restoring wetlands to manage stormwater runoff building fences to keep livestock out of waterways helping property owners maintain septic systems Goal 2: improve wetlands, beaches and coastal areas youth planting native grasses to restore sand dunes rehabilitating coastal wetlands by restoring fish habitats organizing community events to clean-up shorelines restoring wetlands using traditional ecological knowledge Goal 3: protect habitats and species students planting trees to provided shaded habitats along shorelines creating habitats for wetland wildlife restoring traditional harvesting areas by planting native species creating fish spawning beds

#### Deadline for application submissions:

n/a

#### Contact:

http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/great-lakes-guardian-community-fund

# NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN – NATIONAL WETLAND CONSERVATION FUND

The National Wetland Conservation Fund (NWCF) supports projects that: restore degraded or lost wetlands; enhance degraded wetlands; scientifically assess and monitor the health and functionality of wetlands and the species that use them; and, encourage stewardship and wetland appreciation by a wide variety of partners to build support for future wetland conservation and restoration activities. The NWCF focuses on working landscapes.

#### Who can apply?

- Non-governmental organizations
- Aboriginal organizations and communities
- Individuals
- Universities
- Conservation authorities
- Private corporations
- · Provincial, territorial and municipal governments
- Provincial Crown corporations

#### **Geographic location**

Projects must take place on private land, provincial Crown land, or Aboriginal land across Canada. Contact the program to learn more about its priorities.

#### Range of funding available

Funding is variable and depends on the project. Typical funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$250,000, with a maximum amount available of \$500,000 per year per project.

#### **Funding deadlines**

For projects beginning after April 1, 2016, a call for proposals will go out in the fall of 2015.

# SCIENCE HORIZONS YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Environment Canada's Science Horizons program is a collaborative effort with Canadian universities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other eligible organizations that offers promising young scientists and post-secondary graduates hands-on experience working on environmental projects under the mentorship and coaching of experienced scientists and program managers.

#### Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit organizations such as charitable and volunteer organizations, professional associations, and non-governmental organizations
- Aboriginal organizations or associations
- Post-secondary educational institutions
- Local organizations such as community associations and groups, seniors and youth groups, and service clubs
- For-profit organizations such as small businesses, companies, corporations and industry associations
- Municipal/local governments and provincial/territorial agencies if specified in a federal-provincial/territorial agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, or specified by the Minister of the Environment

#### Geographic location

Canada-wide

#### Range of funding available

A maximum of \$12,000 per year.

#### **Funding deadlines**

For more information on funding deadlines, please contact the program.

Program website: <a href="http://ec.gc.ca/scitech//default.asp">http://ec.gc.ca/scitech//default.asp</a>

# CENOTAPH/MONUMENT RESTORATION PROGRAM

#### Introduction

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is committed to honouring those who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace, and to keeping the memory of their achievements and sacrifices alive for all Canadians. The Cenotaph/Monument Restoration Program (CMRP), which supports this commitment, aims to expand the reach of remembrance programming by providing funding for projects that recognize traditional and modern-day Canadian Veterans and those who died in service. Supporting commemorative projects ensures that cenotaphs and monuments to Canada's Veterans and war dead are conserved, and that these places of remembrance, reflection and thanks are preserved.

#### GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND

Through GMF, FCM supports initiatives that demonstrate an innovative solution or approach to a municipal environmental issue, and that can generate new lessons and models for municipalities of all sizes and types in all regions of Canada. These initiatives offer significant environmental benefits, a strong businesses case and social advantages, and are complemented by local policies and measurement systems.

FCM's Green Municipal Fund continues to respond to evolving municipal sustainability needs and priorities.

We're building on success — ours and yours. The unique GMF program model continues to offer integrated funding and knowledge services; along with added benefits such as broader capital project eligibility, enhanced client service and improved application forms and resources, and more opportunities for communities to work together through peer networks.

Helping local sustainability leaders move from vision to reality. Whether you are at the planning stage, undertaking a feasibility study or pilot project, or getting ready to implement a capital project, we're with you every step of the way!

After extensive research and consultation with municipalities, their partners, and other sustainability stakeholders, FCM has renewed the GMF funding offer to remain responsive and relevant to municipal sustainability needs. To best manage the funding available and to support the strongest initiatives, these updates went into effect on April 1, 2015:

- An updated competitive selection process for capital projects in the energy, transportation, waste and water sectors
- Updated **eligibility criteria and funding limits** for all funding streams

An updated **application process**, as well as new application forms and support tools for applicants

| Updates                                                                                  | Previous offer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Renewed offer In effect April 1, 2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Competitive selection process (energy, transportation, waste and water capital projects) | <ul> <li>Applications accepted year-<br/>round; funding decisions made six<br/>times per year</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul> <li>Applications accepted year-round; funding decisions made twice per year (February and September)</li> <li>Applicants for energy, transportation, waste and water capital project funding undergo an Initial Review before completing the full application form</li> </ul>       |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                          | <ul> <li>Plans: funding for sustainable<br/>neighbourhood action plans,<br/>community brownfield action<br/>plans and greenhouse gas (GHG)<br/>reduction plans</li> </ul>                                                                                                     | No change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eligibility                                                                              | Feasibility studies and field tests:     must align with criteria for capital     projects                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul> <li>Must align with updated criteria for capital projects</li> <li>Field tests are now called pilot projects</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| _                                                                                        | Capital projects: energy,<br>transportation, waste and water                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul> <li>Capital projects: energy, transportation, waste and water</li> <li>A range of updates</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                          | Capital projects: Brownfields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul><li>Capital projects:</li><li>Some updates</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                          | Plans: Up to 50% of eligible costs;<br>maximum grant of \$175,000                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| osts                                                                                     | Feasibility studies: Up to 50% of<br>eligible costs; maximum grant of<br>\$175,000                                                                                                                                                                                            | No changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| nd eligible costs                                                                        | Field tests: Up to 50% of eligible costs; maximum grant of \$175,000                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul> <li>Now called <b>pilot projects</b></li> <li>Maximum funding amount raised from \$175,000 to \$350,000</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Funding limits and eli                                                                   | Capital projects — energy, transportation, waste and water:     Loans for up to 80% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10 million combined with a grant for up to 20% of the loan amount; highranking projects may qualify for higher loan amounts under certain provisions. | <ul> <li>Loans for up to 80% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5 million, combined with a grant for up to 15% the loan amount</li> <li>Applicants with high-ranking projects may be eligible for a loan of up to \$10 million combined with a grant for 15% the loan amount</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                          | Capital projects — brownfields:     Loans for up to 80% of eligible     costs (no loan limit)*                                                                                                                                                                                | <ul> <li>No changes</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Website                                                                                  | http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/green-municipal-fund/apply-for-funding/application-resources.htm                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |  |  |

# PARKS CANADA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES COST-SHARING PROGRAM

Parks Canada's National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program ("the Program") helps ensure the commemorative integrity of non-federally owned or administered national historic sites through financial contributions. The Program supports the Parks Canada Agency's mandate of protecting and presenting places of national historic significance, and fostering the public's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of these places in ways that ensure their commemorative integrity for present and future generations. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when: the resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat; the reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public; and, the site's heritage values (including those not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site) are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

#### **Program Office**

National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program Parks Canada

30 Victoria Street (PC-03-P), Gatineau, Quebec J8X 0B3

Phone: 1-866-377-1947 Fax: 819-420-9260

Email: partagedesfrais.costsharing@pc.gc.ca

#### CANADA CULTURAL SPACES FUND

#### Objective

The CCSF seeks to improve physical conditions for artistic creativity and innovation. It is also designed to increase access for Canadians to performing arts, visual arts, media arts, and to museum collections and heritage displays. The Fund supports the improvement, renovation and construction of arts and heritage facilities as well as the acquisition of specialized equipment.

#### Who Can Apply?

Not for profit arts and heritage organizations incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, Part II of the *Canada Corporations Act* or under corresponding provincial or territorial legislation. Provincial/territorial governments, municipal or regional governments and their agencies, or equivalent Aboriginal people's institutions or organizations are also eligible. Federal organizations and federal Crown corporations are not eligible for funding.

All potential applicants must contact a CCSF program advisor at the nearest Department of Canadian Heritage regional office before submitting a funding application.

#### **Summary of Program Activities**

The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund has financially contributed to 175 projects for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

#### For Further Information

You must contact the nearest Department of Canadian Heritage regional office before submitting an application.

# BENJAMIN MOORE COMMUNITY RESTORATION PROGRAM

Benjamin Moore and Co., Limited and Community Foundations of Canada share more than a decade of history together as partners in The Benjamin Moore Community Restoration Program, a granting program to support heritage restoration and community projects in Canada.

Local community foundations identify restoration and renovation projects and Benjamin Moore provides paint, expertise and financial support. The program is offered in different target communities each year and administered by CFC.

#### **Objectives**

- Provide financial support and Benjamin Moore paint to heritage and community programs making an impact in local communities
- Make connections between local charities, community foundations, and Benjamin Moore retailers
- Share stories about the impact of Benjamin Moore's philanthropy in local communities

#### **Impact**

- Contributed more than 160 grants to projects in close to 220 communities across the country
- Committed more than \$800,000 in grants and in-kind donations and \$124,000 in paint donations to community groups
- Helped community groups realize their dreams: from restoring a small museum in Northern Ontario to renovating a hospice in Saint John. Other grants have refurbished a women's shelter, decorated a cutting-edge seniors' residence, improved a marine museum, and restored one of Canada's original post offices.

#### PARK & PLAYGROUND FUNDING

Governments, many foundations and corporations are strong supporters of good parks and they have funding available to help you make a difference in your park.

**Website:** <a href="http://parkpeople.ca/funding-opportunities-for-parks">http://parkpeople.ca/funding-opportunities-for-parks</a>

#### **TD Park Builder's**

#### 2013-Present

Together TD Bank Group and Park People have developed a new initiative called the TD Park Builder's Program which encourages community engagement and animation of vital community green space in Toronto's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and underserved communities. TD Park Builder's is an initiative of our Sparking Change program.

Under the program, Park People will assist the work of Friends of City Park groups and community agencies in new immigrant and Neighbourhood Improvement Areas as well as facilitating the development of new Friends of City Park groups. As part of the program, there is also support for park events or small capital improvement projects ranging from \$500-\$5,000.

The TD Park Builders Program will help communities to turn their green spaces into vital neighbourhood hubs. Park People will assist new park groups to partner with city staff, local organizations and other partners to green and naturalize their park and improve park conditions.

#### **Home Depot Canada Foundation**

• Grants for playground and park improvements.

#### Kaboom

Grants and resources for improving playgrounds.

#### TD BANK FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD FEF) recognizes that investing in talent and leadership development is integral to capacity building of small to medium-sized organizations.

The TD FEF Leadership Grant program aims to enhance the organizational capacity of environmental charities by providing funding for both formal and informal training and development opportunities for leaders within these organizations.

The only national program of its kind entirely focused on the environmental sector, TD FEF's Leadership Grants will allow charities to move beyond day-to-day activities and build stronger, more vibrant organizations.

Fourteen Leadership Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded annually, two for each of TD FEF's seven regions

Pacific, Prairie, Ontario North and East, Western Ontario,
 Greater Toronto Region, Quebec and Atlantic.

Up to \$5,000 for projects within these areas of focus:

- Protecting and preserving the Canadian Environment
- Assisting young Canadians in understanding and participating in Environmental activities
- Supporting urban renewal such as environmental projects to rejuvenate smaller or at-risk neighbourhoods and "main streets"
   Enhancing cooperation among Environmental organizations

#### Organizations eligible to receive funding:

- Registered Canadian charities with a Charitable Registration Number (CRN)
- Educational institutions (primary/secondary/postsecondary)
- Municipalities
- Aboriginal groups

The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education, urban greening and enhancing biodiversity, and energy conservation.

#### Eligible projects include:

- Community Gardens
- Environmental Education Projects
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Protection of Endangered Species/Wildlife
- Recycling/Composting Programs
- Tree Planting and Urban Naturalization Projects
- Energy Conservation/Renewable Energy
- Research Projects
- Habitat restoration

#### ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

As one of Canada's leading charitable grant-making foundations, the Ontario Trillium Foundation works with others to make strategic investments to build healthy, caring and economically strong Ontario communities. The Foundation makes grants that have province-wide impact as well as grants in local communities across Ontario.

#### Who Can Apply:

The Ontario Trillium Foundation will accept funding applications from any one of the following:

- a) Registered charities, b)
- b) Organizations incorporated as not-for-profits in a Canadian jurisdiction.
- c) Unincorporated branches or chapters of charitable or incorporated not-for-profit organizations. Branches, chapters or member agencies of a provincial network must submit a signed letter from the provincial organization authorizing the application and accepting responsibility for the Trillium grant.
- d) First Nations initiatives through a Band Council resolution.
- e) Métis Charter communities.
- f) Collaborative of organizations, containing at least one eligible member. A collaborative group of two or more organizations workir achieve a common goal. There must be r benefit, shared decision-making, and accountability among members and to the community they serve. Collaborative mer will demonstrate how they will work togeti part of their application. For Trillium applic purposes, one incorporated or otherwise eligible organization must take the lead as applicant on behalf of the collaborative. Collaboratives may include unincorporate groups.

#### Types of Projects Funded:

Ontario Trillium Foundation grants are awarded to fund capital, operating and/or specific project costs in support of:

- -Arts & Culture
- -Environment
- -Human & Social Services, and
- -Sports & Recreation.

Grants are used by eligible charitable and not-forprofit organizations to assist initiatives that increase the capacity and effectiveness of community organizations, encourage the continued growth of

volunteerism, promote partnerships, support access and meet the diverse needs of Ontarians.

#### Range of Funding Available:

range \$0 - \$1.25M up to five years

#### Deadline for application submissions:

N/A

#### Contact:

http://www.otf.ca/en/applyForaGrant/granting p rograms.asp







Fostering more active lifestyles



**Building inclusive and** engaged communities



**Encouraging people to** support a healthy and sustainable environment

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People connect

environment and

understand their

impact on it

with the



Enriching people's lives through arts, culture and



Supporting the positive development of children and vouth

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For more details, visit otf.ca

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS**

Community Impact Grants provide funding for projects or programs which forge partnerships, tackle important issues, and will make a lasting impact on the Windsor and Essex Community.

#### Who Can Apply:

Registered charities, registered amateur athletic association's, or a municipality may apply. Your organization must be based in or provide a service solely for the Windsor and Essex County Community.

#### **Types of Projects Funded:**

Projects that address local needs, Use local leadership and expertise, Involve collaboration and partnerships, Build on existing community strengths and assets, Respond to clearly identified needs, Make a significant and lasting impact on community, Benefit a wide audience, Use resources efficiently and effectively, Show innovation, creativity and a degree of risk, Align with our funding principles and fields of interest

#### Range of Funding Available:

\$10,000 - \$25,000

#### **Description of Funding:**

Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement outlining the conditions of the grant before funds are disbursed. Recipients must seek written approval from the foundation prior to any deviation from the terms of the original application.

#### Deadline for application submissions:

Around July of every year, see website for more details.

#### SMART GRID FUND

Building a smart electricity grid is a key part of Ontario's plan for a clean energy future.

The Smart Grid is a modern electricity system. It is composed of intelligent electricity infrastructure that uses advanced communications and control technology to improve the flexibility, reliability, and efficiency of the electricity system. The Smart Grid will help consumers' conservation efforts, manage energy costs and integrate new beneficial technologies like electric vehicles and storage.

#### Who Can Apply:

Organizations established in Ontario
Non-governmental agencies
Universities and Colleges
Regional or Municipal government agencies
Business organizations such as technology
developers/manufacturers, software providers,
communication and information services providers

#### Types of Projects Funded:

Visit website for more information

#### Range of Funding Available:

\$10,000 - \$25,000

#### **Description of Funding:**

The smart grid fund has two project categories: Capacity Building Demonstration

#### Deadline for application submissions:

Visit website for more information

#### Contact:

**Website**: <a href="http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/smart-grid-fund/">http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/smart-grid-fund/</a>

Please direct any inquiries about the Smart Grid Fund by

email to SGF@ontario.ca

# THE JOHN AND PAT MCCUTCHEON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable foundation funds projects and programs in the environmental area where an investment has the most impact. They are therefore most interested in proposals that highlight collaboration for the purpose of leveraging resources.

#### Who Can Apply:

Registered Canadian charities within Ontario

#### Types of Projects Funded:

Ideally project will lead to a self-sustaining model.

#### Range of Funding Available:

\$0 - \$10,000

#### **Description of Funding:**

Most interested in proposals that highlight collaboration for the purpose of leveraging resources. Ideally the project will lead to a self-sustaining model.

#### Deadline for application submissions:

Our application deadline is February 1. Final approval for projects is March 31, with funds forwarded no later than April 30

#### Contact:

3093 Dundas Street West Toronto, M6P 1Z9 Email: wmccutcheon@ymail.com Web site: http://www.jpmcf.org/

# EVERGREEN WE ARE CITIES: COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Now more than ever, there is a need to test new ideas and find creative solutions that tackle the systemic urban challenges that hinder the ability of our cities to thrive.

Building off of the We Are Cities campaign—a national collaboration focused on sustainable city-building—the We Are Cities: Community Innovation Grant supports projects addressing issues critical to the success of our communities including, but not limited to, mobility, the built and natural environment, citizen engagement, multisectorial collaboration, policy design, waste management and energy.

**Amounts offered:** Grants of \$2,000 and \$5,000 are available.

#### Eligibility

This grant is available to Canadian community groups\* and non-profit organizations working to improve systemic urban challenges in their communities. Each applicant may submit one grant application for this funding opportunity.

Eligible groups may be working collaboratively with a local municipality, institutional or other project partner(s).

Where relevant, projects must be located on publicly accessible lands. Projects developed on land belonging to a public school board are only eligible for funding through the <u>Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds</u> funding program.

Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Public space improvement
- Citizen science
- Pilot projects
- Public events and festivals
- Community engagement

- Community workshops
- Education and skills development

#### Eligible expenses include:

- costs related to permits/approvals
- event costs
- educational and communications materials such as signage, flyers and press releases
- native plant material such as plants, trees, shrubs and wildflowers
- gardening supplies such as soil, compost and hand tools
- volunteer expenses such as refreshments, awards and honoraria
- health and safety supplies
- transportation (car or truck rental, delivery of materials/supplies)
- staff wages, salary for professional consulting services, or project co-ordination (to a maximum of 20% of awarded funds)

#### **Grant Recipient Responsibilities**

If your project is selected for funding, you will be asked to:

Obtain all necessary permits and approvals

Submit photos, news clippings, receipts and a final report to Evergreen

Agree to participate, if requested, in the promotion of your project locally and/or nationally (e.g. press release or press event)

#### **Contact information:**

grants@evergreen.ca

National: 1-888-426-3138 x310

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Community groups" may include groups or individuals working collaboratively or leading innovation in their communities.

#### TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Tourism Development Fund supports projects that encourage three key streams: tourism investment, tourism product development and industry capacity building.

The Tourism Development Fund program provides non-capital, project-based funding to:

- develop research-based innovative and emerging tourism sectors;
- support tourism organizations' capacity building;
- encourage new private sector tourism investment attraction; and
- enhance Ontario's overall economic competitiveness and opportunities for the Ontario tourism industry.

#### **Deadline**

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, and should be submitted a minimum of **four months** prior to the start of the project.

For information on how to apply, please review the Application Guide.

#### Who is eligible to apply?

Tourism associations (excluding Regional Tourism Organizations), economic development corporations, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and businesses interested in undertaking tourism-related initiatives which support tourism product development, industry development and increased visitation.

The *Tourism Product Development stream* and the *Industry Capacity Building stream* accept applications from tourism associations (excluding Regional Tourism Organizations), not-for-profit organizations, municipalities,

and national and/or provincial industry sector associations.

The *Tourism Investment Attraction* stream accepts applications from municipalities, economic development corporations and businesses.

#### What are the mandatory requirements?

Each application must confirm compliance with the following:

- Legal status of organization applying (i.e., established by or under legislation; federally or provincially incorporated; First Nations in the Province of Ontario; proof of registration in Canada or another jurisdiction).
- Applicant is not in default of the terms and conditions of any grant or loan agreement with any ministry or agency of the Government of Ontario (e.g., Ontario Trillium Foundation).
- Applicant has at least \$2 million General Commercial Liability insurance coverage.
- None of the proposed expenses will be used for recurring costs to run the applicant organization.
- A confirmed cash contribution of at least 20 per cent of the total cash expenses for your proposed project must be made by your organization and a total of 50 per cent by your organization and your project partners.

Further information on eligibility criteria is in the application guide.

#### What are the eligible expenses?

Eligible expenses for Tourism Development Fund applications include, but are not limited to:

• Consulting services and project management.

- Research costs.
- Tourism sector strategic planning.
- Business plan support, economic assessments and feasibility studies.
- Organizational development and capacity building.
- Conference organization costs including speaker fees.
- Project-related permits, fees and other similar charges.
- Other costs deemed reasonable..

#### Contact

For technical support including any computer related issues please contact:

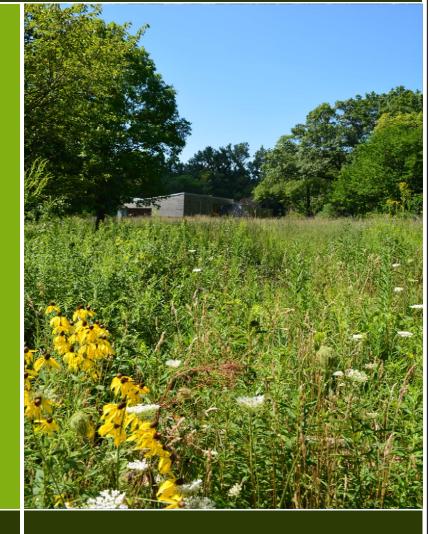
#### Telephone

• Toll Free: 1-855-216-3090

#### E-mail

GrantsOntarioCS@Ontario.ca





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