Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

As a contribution to your review of the 111-193 Silvercreek Pkwy N development application and the East Guelph Land Use Study, I am forwarding a copy of research conducted by Matt Saunders.

In 2018, Mr. Saunders raised serious and meticulously documented concerns about errors in Guelph's Parkland Inventory. To my knowledge, Mr. Saunders' assertions have never been adequately addressed by the City.

As laid out by Mr. Saunders, the errors in the Parkland inventory inflate the actual parkland numbers and distort our understanding of the parkland we really have.

The most egregious error identified by Mr. Saunders is the inclusion of more than 100 acres of wetland owned by the GRCA, located outside City boundaries.

The largest error is the reported 57.39 hectares for the Guelph Lake Sports Fields. The Guelph Open Data set shows just 13.3 hectares, as shown in Figure 5; only 13.08 hectares are outside of the GRCA wetland, and just 12.54 hectares are usable. Guelph Lake has no zoning status within the City of Guelph as it is outside of city limits, within Guelph/Eramosa Township.

In my view, introducing mixed use retail and residential to the plaza at Silvercreek and Willow Road is an efficient use of land resources within the City. However, in order for intensification to be livable, green space needs to be added into the City, along with additional population. We don't build subdivisions without parks.

I look forward to further discussion of this matter on Monday night.

Sincerely, Susan Watson

City of Guelph Parkland Preliminary Report

2018

— prepared by the —Matt Saunders for Ward 4 Campaign

Contents

1	Intro	oduction	5
2	Defi	initions	6
3	Met	chodology	7
4	Park	kland within Guelph	8
	4.1	Totals	9
	4.2	Neighbourhood Parks	9
		4.2.1 Kortright Hills Park	9
		4.2.2 Grange Road Park	10
	4.3	Community Parks	12
		4.3.1 Hanlon Creek Park	12
		4.3.2 Eramosa River and York Road Parks	12
		4.3.3 Woodland Glen Park	13
	4.4	Regional Parks	14
		4.4.1 Guelph Lake Sports Fields	14
		4.4.2 Eastview Community Park	15
		4.4.3 Riverside Park	16
		4.4.4 South End Community Park	17
		4.4.5 Margaret Greene Park	17
	4.5	Leased / Shared-Use Parkland	18
		4.5.1 Wellington Catholic District School Board	18
		4.5.2 Guelph Curling Club	18
	4.6	Future Parks	19
	4.7	Programmed Natural Space	19
_	_		
5	Brea	· ·	20
	5.1	Ward 1	20
	5.2	Ward 2	20

6	Con	clusions	21
	5.6	Ward 6	21
	5.5	Ward 5	21
	5.4	Ward 4	21
	5.3	Ward 3	20

List of Figures

1	Zoning of Kortright Hills Park, from Schedule A of the Zoning Bylaw, defined area map number 12. Kortright Hills Park is the small P.2 zone square at lower middle of map	1(
2	Aerial photo of Grange Road Park. The 4.01-hectare land parcel extends east to Watson Road, but the Open Data polygon has some (but not all) wetland removed	11
3	Aerial photo of area surrounding Hanlon Creek Park. The city is counting the large areas of wetland, visible at center, as parkland. Of the actual P.3-zoned section highlighted, the northern quarter consists of a significant natural area; the area also contains a portion of forested area which, for the purposes of this report, is being considered parkland despite not consisting of cleared tableland. Other parks can be seen: Preservation Park to the south is not counted as parkland by the city; St. Michael CS to the northeast is leased parkland with the school building and bus driveway removed, and University Village Park at the very north contains some forested area but no significant natural area.	12
4	Aerial photo of Eramosa River Park and York Road Park. Much of the riverbank along the north side of the Eramosa River is marshy and forested, and listed as a Significant Natural Area. Additionally, a large portion of the mapped boundaries of York Road Park is currently underwater, visible left. The map also shows the private areas of the Boathouse, including the building itself and the Guelph Lawn Bowling Club	13
5	Aerial photo of the Guelph Lake Sports Fields. The sports fields consist of just 13.08 hectares; the remainder is impassable wetland	14
6	Aerial photo of the Eastview Community Park. Large portions of the park are yet to be built, awaiting funding.	15
7	Aerial photo of Riverside Park, containing a provincially significant wetland, open water, multiple significant natural areas, and two private areas. Note that the official definition of Riverside Park extends south of Speedvale Avenue, on both sides of the Speed River. Note also the outdoor portion of the Evergreen Seniors Center land parcel, middle left, which if added to Riverside Park would add 0.96 hectares to its total area for a total of 22.74 hectares.	16
8	Aerial photo of the South End Community Park and Bishop Macdonell CHS. A portion of the City parkland has been specially zoned as the parking lot for the high school. Other parts are either Significant Natural Areas, or are still unbuilt.	17
9	Aerial photo of Margaret Greene Park. Most of the west end is a Significant Natural Area. Other forested areas separate the park from St. Peter CS to the north	18

List of Tables

1	Areas designated as parkland in Guelph. Data according to (1) the City of Guelph Claim, (2) the OpenData set, (3) the amount of land which meets the definition of parkland, and (4) the actual amount of maintained tableland within the city	9
2	Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 1	20
3	Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 2	20
4	Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 3	20
5	Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 4	21
6	Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 5	21
7	Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 6	21

1 Introduction

Guelph, a city of 132,000 in the heart of Southern Ontario, is a city known for its commitment to protecting green space. Built among a drumlin field left as a remnant the most recent period of glaciation, the city's rolling hills and deep-cut river valleys help to make the city one of the greenest in Canada.

In 2009, to protect and enhance this green space, the City of Guelph adopted a new framework: the Recreation Parks, and Culture Strategic Master Plan [1]. In this framework, two types of green space has been defined for the city: parkland, and conservation land. Parkland consists of land suitable for playing fields, play apparatuses, and community recreational and leisure facilities — typically, sports fields and playgrounds. Conservation land, also called natural heritage areas, was defined as woodlands, significant valleylands, and environmentally significant areas. This definition was further refined within Guelph's Official Plan [2], in which the city's open space system was defined as a hierarchy of parkland, specifically excluding the city's Natural Heritage System.

In recognizing the two types of green space, the city can ensure enough land is set aside for all types of outdoor uses: for programmed recreation and for conservation uses. Within the Official Plan, requirements have been set for each type of parkland. The city's policy is to maintain 0.7 hectares of neighbourhood parks, 1.3 hectares of community parks, and also to recommend (but not require) 1.3 hectares of regional parks for every 1000 residents. With a population of 132,000, and a total recommended amount of 3.3 hectares per thousand people, the city should have 435.6 hectares of parkland.

On October 3, 2018, the City of Guelph publicly released a full list of all of its parkland, supporting the claim that the city has enough parkland to serve the current population. In their report, the city claims to own almost 450 hectares of parkland, and leases another 40 hectares from private owners.

However, a detailed analysis of the data shows a number of inconsistencies: large amounts of conservation land, provincially significant wetlands, other significant natural areas, and unbuilt future parks are being counted as parkland. Once these areas are removed from the total, a different picture emerges: the city only owns 270 hectares of developed parkland, and owns an additional 30 hectares of naturalized areas within that parkland. In addition to the city-owned parkland, the city leases another 30 hectares of developed parkland from private owners — a total of just 330 hectares, and over 100 hectares short of the requirement.

The remainder of this report provides the details of this disparity: definitions of parkland, examples of miscategorized parks, and a list of actual parkland by ward.

This report is meant to be read alongside the accompanying open data set, which consists of an Excel spreadsheet containing the raw data, and several ESRI shape files which allow any person with access to GIS software to reproduce the calculations.

2 Definitions

In the Recreation, Parks and Culture Strategic Master Plan [1], page 64, parkland is defined as follows:

- lands within the City's inventory of parks (including those that are leased or under municipal influence) that are suitable for playing fields, play apparatuses, and community recreational and leisure facilities;
- encompassing those lands currently identified in the City's inventory database and Zoning Bylaw as Neighbourhood (P2), Community (P3) and Regional (P4) parks;
- containing mostly tableland, although it may also contain vegetative patches such as woodlots, ravines or other natural heritage features outside of environmentally significant areas; and
- may also be thought of as lands for active and programmed recreation, with the recognition that many active parks in Guelph also offer some naturalized open space elements.

By contrast, open space/conservation lands are defined as:

- lands for the preservation and conservation of the City's natural heritage system (e.g., woodlands, significant valleylands, ESAs, ANSIs, etc.), which tend to be under the ownership of the City or GRCA (although may also contain private lands);
- unprogrammed green spaces within the City's residential, commercial and industrial land base, which serve to reduce the impact of urban densities;
- aesthetically pleasing or beautified areas that enhance the City's beautification efforts;
- lands that preserve historic and cultural areas and structures; and
- linkages or corridors for the movement of animals, birds, pedestrians, cyclists, etc.

From these definitions, it is clear that a distinction is intended: recreational parkland is meant to be separate from conservation land. The distinction is reinforced within the Official Plan [2], which states in section 7.3 that parks are not part of the Natural Heritage System:

The City's open space system accommodates a variety of recreational pursuits while having regard for and complementing the City's natural areas. The open space system consists of parks, trails and open space areas that are not part of but may be interconnected with or supportive of the Natural Heritage System and conservation lands as illustrated on Schedule 6. The open space system plays an important role in defining the character of the City and promoting community health and wellness.

The Official Plan, section 7.3.2, also defines a park hierarchy, consisting of urban squares, neighbourhood parks, community parks and regional parks, and goes on to define the features of each. In addition, the Official Plan requires a minimum provision of 0.7 hectares of neighbourhood parks, and 1.3 hectares of community parks, with a recommendation of 1.3 hectares of regional parks, for each 1000 people in the city.

Additionally, the Official Plan defines size requirements that should be met for new parks: neighbourhood parks should be at minimum 1.0 hectares in size, community parks 10-20 hectares, and regional parks at least 25 hectares.

The Zoning Bylaw [3], section 9, also defines park zones. For the purposes of zoning, conservation land is defined as P.1, neighbourhood park is P.2, community park is P.3, and both regional park and urban squares are P.4. A fifth category, Commercial Recreation Park, is P.5, though for the purposes of parkland inventory, all parks in P.5 land are counted as regional parks.

3 Methodology

Determining actual parkland area is not a simple task. To map all of Guelph's parks, GIS software was used, using data from the Guelph Open Data Portal and from the Grand River Information Network [4], part of the Grand River Conservation Authority. ESRI shape files were obtained for Guelph parks [5], Guelph property parcels [6], and all wetlands and watercourses within the Grand River watershed.

As the parks shape file does not contain the parkland leased from the Wellington Catholic District School Board, consisting of parkland from eight schools across Guelph, the land parcels for these schools was added to the parkland shape file from the parcel data.

Next, ESRI shape files were created for all significant natural areas within Guelph's natural heritage system, by combining aerial imagery with the map in the City of Guelph's Official Plan, Schedule 10 [7]. Since this data has not been made public by the city, the map was created by drawing polygons over forested areas within Guelph that correspond to the areas marked in Schedule 10. Conservative estimates were taken due to the inherent uncertainty; as a result it is likely that the city has even less parkland than stated in this report.

Other ESRI shapefiles were created to map areas of parks with no public access, with unbuilt future parkland, and with naturalized areas which are not part of the natural heritage system.

To determine the actual amount of parkland, the private areas, wetlands, watercourses, significant natural areas, and unbuilt future parkland areas were removed from each park. Finally, to calculate the areas of each polygon in hectares, the map was projected using the NAD 1983 CSRS Ontario MNR Lambert projection, a projection designed to work most accurately with environmental data within Ontario.

4 Parkland within Guelph

4.1 Totals

Table 1 shows the breakdown of parkland within the City of Guelph. A full data dump, in Excel format, has been made available to accompany this report.

Table 1: Areas designated as parkland in Guelph. Data according to (1) the City of Guelph claim, (2) the OpenData set, (3) the amount of land which meets the definition of parkland, and (4) the actual amount of maintained tableland within the city.

Type of Parkland	Parkland Req. (Ha)	City (Ha)	OpenData (Ha)	Actual Parkland	Actual Maintained Tableland
Programmed Natural Space	0.00	18.01	12.26	2.93	0.00
Neighbourhood Parks	92.40	79.14	65.98	59.00	55.65
Community Parks	171.60	150.08	144.87	125.12	110.74
Regional Parks	171.60	190.15	154.90	114.07	104.69
Future Parks	0.00	2.68	2.68	0.00	0.00
Total City-Owned		442.36	378.01	301.11	271.08
Shared Use / Leased	0.00	39.25	42.94	30.53	28.95
TOTALS	435.60	481.61	420.95	331.64	300.03
Shortfall			14.65	103.96	135.57
Missing Parkland $\%$			3.48%	31.35%	45.19%

Next are some examples of larger discrepancies between reported and actual parkland area values.

4.2 Neighbourhood Parks

The City of Guelph reports owning or leasing 58 neighbourhood parks, totaling 79.14 hectares. However, the Guelph Open Data set lists only 65.98 hectares; once water features and significant natural areas are removed, the number drops to 59 hectares.

4.2.1 Kortright Hills Park

There is a significant error is the given area of Kortright Hills Park, located at 165 Milson Crescent. The city reports 12.80 hectares, however, almost all of this land is zoned as P.1 conservation land and provincially significant wetland, as shown in Figure 1. Only 0.36 hectares are P.2 parkland.

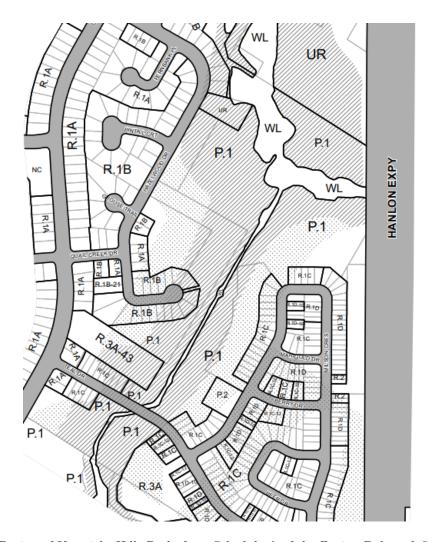


Figure 1: Zoning of Kortright Hills Park, from Schedule A of the Zoning Bylaw, defined area map number 12. Kortright Hills Park is the small P.2 zone square at lower middle of map.

4.2.2 Grange Road Park

A smaller but still significant error can be found in the count for Grange Road park (with the city reporting 4.01 hectares and Open Data reporting 2.72 hectares), which contains 1.95 hectares of wetland and an additional 0.35 hectares of significant natural area; the actual area of parkland is 1.71 hectares. The parcel is illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Aerial photo of Grange Road Park. The 4.01-hectare land parcel extends east to Watson Road, but the Open Data polygon has some (but not all) wetland removed.

4.3 Community Parks

The City of Guelph reports owning or leasing 32 community parks, totaling 158.8 hectares. However, the Guelph Open Data set lists only 144.87 hectares, and once water features and Significant Natural Areas are removed, only 125.12 hectares remain.

4.3.1 Hanlon Creek Park

The largest error is in the Hanlon Creek Park count. The City has reported large portions of P.1 conservation land, including land owned by the GRCA, as parkland, to give a total size of 23.9 hectares. Only the southwestern quadrant of the park is zoned P.3, as shown in Figure 3; the rest consists of wetland and other conservation land. Of the remaining 6 hectares, only 4.9 hectares are actual parkland (including the forested area); the rest is a Significant Natural Area.



Figure 3: Aerial photo of area surrounding Hanlon Creek Park. The city is counting the large areas of wetland, visible at center, as parkland. Of the actual P.3-zoned section highlighted, the northern quarter consists of a significant natural area; the area also contains a portion of forested area which, for the purposes of this report, is being considered parkland despite not consisting of cleared tableland. Other parks can be seen: Preservation Park to the south is not counted as parkland by the city; St. Michael CS to the northeast is leased parkland with the school building and bus driveway removed, and University Village Park at the very north contains some forested area but no significant natural area.

4.3.2 Eramosa River and York Road Parks

The Eramosa River and York Road park complex, along the Eramosa River between Victoria and Gordon, contains significant natural areas which consist of forested slopes and marshy ground at the riverbank,

as shown in Figure 4. Only 10.62 hectares of the reported 15.02 in Eramosa River Park are parkland. York Road Park, on the other hand, was left out of the city data entirely. The parcel area is 6.16 hectares; 4.69 hectares of this land is usable park.

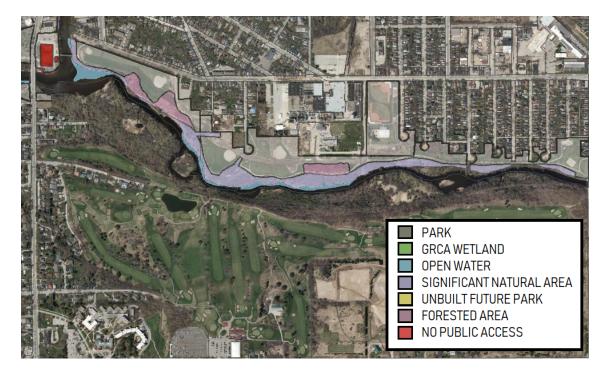


Figure 4: Aerial photo of Eramosa River Park and York Road Park. Much of the riverbank along the north side of the Eramosa River is marshy and forested, and listed as a Significant Natural Area. Additionally, a large portion of the mapped boundaries of York Road Park is currently underwater, visible left. The map also shows the private areas of the Boathouse, including the building itself and the Guelph Lawn Bowling Club.

4.3.3 Woodland Glen Park

Additionally, Woodland Glen Park (2.54 ha) was left out of the city data. 2.09 hectares of this park are usable.

4.4 Regional Parks

The City of Guelph reports owning or leasing 192.45 hectares of regional park. Of this 192.45 hectares, only 154.9 hectares exist in the Guelph Open Data dataset.

4.4.1 Guelph Lake Sports Fields

The largest error is the reported 57.39 hectares for the Guelph Lake Sports Fields. The Guelph Open Data set shows just 13.3 hectares, as shown in Figure 5; only 13.08 hectares are outside of the GRCA wetland, and just 12.54 hectares are usable.

Guelph Lake has no zoning status within the City of Guelph as it is outside of city limits, within Guelph/Eramosa Township.

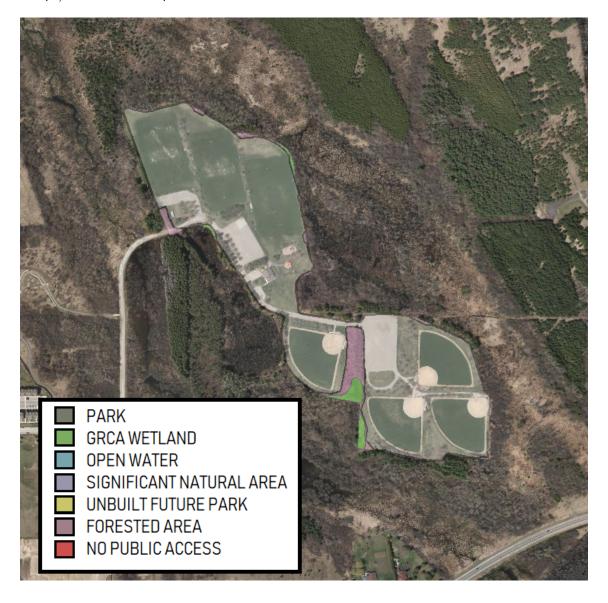


Figure 5: Aerial photo of the Guelph Lake Sports Fields. The sports fields consist of just 13.08 hectares; the remainder is impassable wetland.

4.4.2 Eastview Community Park

Another concern is the reported 25 hectares for Eastview Community Park. This is a new park with just 7.34 hectares of actual built and maintained park; a large portion of the remainder is uncleared and unbuilt scrub land, filled with waist-high weeds. The park also contains a wetland, several stormwater retention ponds, and a large buffer woodlot, as shown in Figure 6.

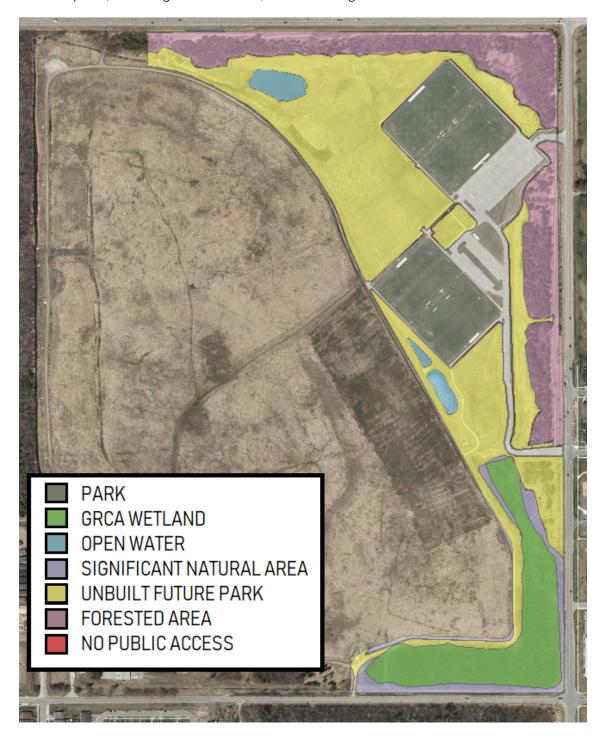


Figure 6: Aerial photo of the Eastview Community Park. Large portions of the park are yet to be built, awaiting funding.

4.4.3 Riverside Park

Riverside Park is also over-represented. The park contains two private areas with no public access: a fire hall and an equipment yard. Additionally, the north end of the park contains both a provincially significant wetland and a significant natural area, shown in Figure 7. Including the non-highlighted outdoor area of the Evergreen Seniors Center, which is functionally but not legally a part of the park, the actual area is 22.74 hectares, nearly 10 hectares short of the initial reported 31.3.



Figure 7: Aerial photo of Riverside Park, containing a provincially significant wetland, open water, multiple significant natural areas, and two private areas. Note that the official definition of Riverside Park extends south of Speedvale Avenue, on both sides of the Speed River. Note also the outdoor portion of the Evergreen Seniors Center land parcel, middle left, which if added to Riverside Park would add 0.96 hectares to its total area for a total of 22.74 hectares.

4.4.4 South End Community Park

The South End Community Park is unique on this list as it is not built in a P.4 zone but rather as specialty zone P.5-6. This specialty zone was required as the attached land parcel was not big enough to build a high school. As a workaround, part of the South End Community Park was leased to the school board as a parking lot. However, the City of Guelph is still counting this area as a park.

Additionally, the southern reaches of the park contain large portions of Significant Natural Area, and a small amount of unbuilt future park, all shown in Figure 8. Of a reported of 16.2 hectares, only 9.46 hectares is usable.

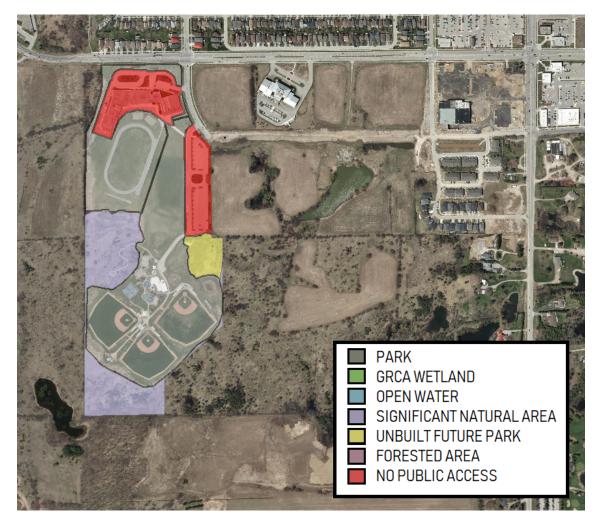


Figure 8: Aerial photo of the South End Community Park and Bishop Macdonell CHS. A portion of the City parkland has been specially zoned as the parking lot for the high school. Other parts are either Significant Natural Areas, or are still unbuilt.

4.4.5 Margaret Greene Park

Margaret Greene Park is listed as 17.7 hectares, but contains a Significant Natural Area 4.20 hectares in size, shown in Figure 9. Additionally, other forested lands outside of the Significant Natural Area amount to 2.36 hectares. In total, the park contains 13.54 hectares of parkland, of which 11.18 hectares is actual cleared tableland.

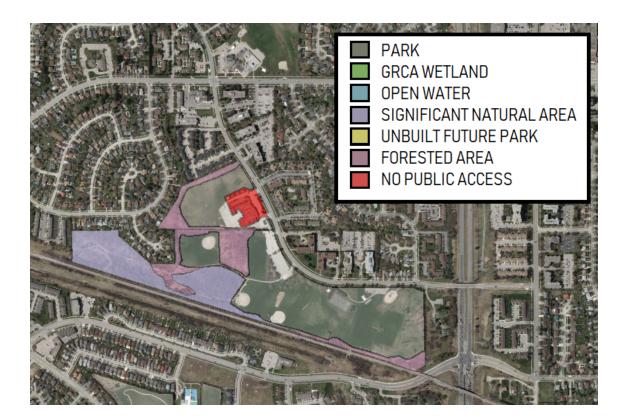


Figure 9: Aerial photo of Margaret Greene Park. Most of the west end is a Significant Natural Area. Other forested areas separate the park from St. Peter CS to the north.

4.5 Leased / Shared-Use Parkland

The City of Guelph leases and maintains parkland at ten sites: nine schools and the Guelph Curling Club. These schools, all part of the Wellington Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), are under contract with the city, in which the city provides maintenance and booking services. The city reports 39.25 hectares of leased parkland; however, further analysis shows this number includes the areas of the school buildings, and other non-parkland areas such as bus loops.

4.5.1 Wellington Catholic District School Board

Three high schools and six elementary schools consist of leased parkland. Bishop Macdonell CHS, Our Lady of Lourdes CHS, and St. James CHS are all leased to the city, as are Holy Trinity CS, St. Francis of Assisi CS, St. John CS, St. Peter CS, Ecole St. Rene-Goupil, and St. Michael CS.

For those investigating the ESRI shape file data accompanying this report, note that St. James CHS and St. John CS share the same land parcel, with a second land parcel containing St. James sports fields. Due to the nature of the parcel data set, some land that the city considers part of St. James is counted as part of St. John, however, the overall amounts are accurate.

4.5.2 Guelph Curling Club

The Guelph Curling Club sits on a 3.92 hectare parcel of land at the north edge of the city. Of this land, only 2.89 hectares has been built into parks: the remainder is the Curling Club building (a private establishment) and an unmaintained field to the rear of the property.

Removing these private and non-park areas of the schools and the private club reduces the actual parkland area to 28.95 hectares.

4.6 Future Parks

The city data lists six future parks, yet to be built: five neighbourhood (P.2) parks and one community (P.3) park. As they are unbuilt, these parks are not being counted towards the total.

However, as a tangential note, only one of these parks (Kortright East Neighbourhood Park, at 1.02 hectares) is sized adequately per the requirements in the Official Plan. Every other park is under a hectare in size. Neighbourhood Parks are intended to be at least one hectare in size per the Official Plan. Though Community Parks are meant to be ten hectares in size, the future community park listed here is the Woods Development river walk (0.33 hectares), which is constrained by its location and should be expected to be small.

The Open Data set contains six other future parks, for a total of twelve. With the exception of the parks within the future Innovation District, none of these new parks meet the size constraints.

4.7 Programmed Natural Space

The city is also claiming Crane Park as parkland, despite its P.1 zone. The park is a designated off-leash area, which may be the reason behind the declaration. However, as the park is entirely forested and mostly GRCA wetland, it should not be considered parkland.

5 Breakdown by Ward

5.1 Ward 1

Ward 1, with a population of 25,008 [8], has a total parkland requirement of 82.53 hectares. There are currently 56.86 hectares of actual parkland built in Ward 1, amounting to **2.27 hectares per 1000 people**. Full details are shown in Table 2.

Table 2:	Amount	of	each	type	of	parkland	in	Ward	1.

Zone	City (Ha)	OpenData (Ha)	Actual Parkland	Actual Maintained Tableland
P.2	9.99	8.99	7.84	7.84
P.3	41.64	43.39	37.52	35.76
P.4	4.93	4.57	3.38	3.38
Lease	12.56	12.42	8.12	8.12
Total	69.12	69.37	56.86	55.10

5.2 Ward 2

Ward 2, with a population of 18,501 [8], has a total parkland requirement of 61.05 hectares. There are currently 70.67 hectares of actual parkland built in Ward 2, amounting to **3.82 hectares per 1000 people** — making Ward 2 the only ward to exceed the overall parkland targets, due to the presence of three regional parks. Full details are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 2.

	Q:4	O D- +-	A -+1	Actual
Zone	City (Ha)	OpenData	Actual Parkland	Maintained
	(па)	(Ha)	Parkiand	Tableland
P.2	17.88	18.76	16.99	16.99
P.3	4.64	4.91	4.91	4.91
P.4	115.19	75.32	48.77	43.02
Lease	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	137.71	98.99	70.67	64.91

5.3 Ward 3

Ward 3, with a population of 21,551 [8], has a total parkland requirement of 71.12 hectares. There are currently 41.51 hectares of actual parkland built in Ward 3, amounting to **1.93 hectares per 1000 people** — well below the minimum amount, though proximity to Silvercreek Park in Ward 5 and Riverside Park in Ward 2 may alleviate this need somewhat. Full details are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 3.

		<i>v</i> 1	-	
Zone	City (Ha)	OpenData (Ha)	Actual Parkland	Actual Maintained Tableland
P.2	4.24	4.13	4.13	4.13
P.3	20.05	20.65	16.60	15.32
P.4	12.64	13.91	13.67	13.67
Lease	8.52	9.79	7.14	6.37
Total	45.45	48.48	41.51	39.49

5.4 Ward 4

Ward 4, with a population of 20,175 [8], has a total parkland requirement of 66.58 hectares. There are currently 41.07 hectares of actual parkland built in Ward 4, amounting to **2.04 hectares per 1000 people** — the absolute minimum acceptable amount. Full details are shown in Table 5.

Table 5:	Amount	of	each	type	of	parkland	in	Ward	4.
rabic o.	1 mound	$O_{\rm I}$	Caci	UVDC	$O_{\rm I}$	parmana	111	vvaru ·	т.

Zone	City	OpenData	Actual	Actual Maintained
	(Ha)	(Ha)	Parkland	Tableland
P.2	14.12	14.05	10.91	7.56
P.3	9.47	11.58	11.20	8.46
P.4	17.74	17.82	13.54	11.18
Lease	5.8	7.37	5.42	4.62
Total	47.06	50.87	41.07	31.82

5.5 Ward 5

Ward 5, with a population of 19,173 [8], has a total parkland requirement of 63.27 hectares. There are currently 81.82 hectares of actual parkland built in Ward 5, amounting to **4.27 hectares per 1000 people** — one of two wards with more parkland than required. Full details are shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 5.

Zone	City (Ha)	OpenData (Ha)	Actual Parkland	Actual Maintained Tableland
P.1	18.01	19.49	2.93	0.00
P.2	13.42	9.94	9.36	9.36
P.3	66.11	47.27	38.49	29.89
P.4	25.76	27.61	25.25	23.98
Lease	6.30	7.31	5.79	5.79
Total	126.12	111.04	81.82	69.02

5.6 Ward 6

Ward 6, with a population of 27,402 [8], has a total parkland requirement of 90.43 hectares. There are currently 39.69 hectares of actual parkland built in Ward 5, amounting to **1.45 hectares per 1000 people** — by far the ward with the least amount of parkland. Full details are shown in Table 6.

Table 7: Amount of each type of parkland in Ward 6.

Zone	City (Ha)	OpenData (Ha)	Actual Parkland	Actual Maintained Tableland
P.2	23.04	10.64	9.77	9.77
P.3	16.87	17.07	16.40	16.40
P.4	16.19	15.67	9.46	9.46
Lease	6.07	6.05	4.06	4.06
Total	62.17	49.42	39.69	39.69

6 Conclusions

After applying the Official Plan definition of parkland to the OpenData Guelph parkland data set, and comparing it to the parkland amounts provided by the city, it has been shown that Guelph is below its parkland targets by 103.96 hectares. If we consider only parkland Guelph has full control over (i.e. not leased from a third party) there is only 301.11 hectares of parkland, a shortfall of 134.49 hectares. Of this parkland, 90% is developed tableland suitable for programmed recreational activities, with the remaining 10% undeveloped, unbuilt, or forested.

To calculate these numbers, we compared the OpenData dataset to the City-provided dataset, and noted major discrepancies. Importantly, the city is counting P.1 unprogrammed conservation land (at Kortright Hills and Hanlon Creek) as parkland, and GRCA-regulated provincially significant wetland at Guelph Lake Sports Fields as parkland.

We also noted the City's inclusion of lands designated as Significant Natural Areas, GRCA wetlands, and open water features, which are explicitly excluded from parkland in the Official Plan. Finally, the city's data was also noted to include many buildings and areas with no public access, such as the building footprints of elementary schools, and other private organizations such as the Guelph Curling Club and the Guelph Lawn Bowling club.

The City of Guelph needs to have a serious discussion, involving all stakeholders and with real citizen engagement, to determine how to move forward, and how to ensure we are building and maintaining enough parkland as we continue to grow through the next decade.

References

- [1] City of Guelph. Recreation, Parks and Culture Strategic Master Plan. https://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/RecreationParksCultureStrategiMastePlan.pdf, 2009.
- [2] City of Guelph. The City of Guelph Official Plan, March 2018 Consolidation. https://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/Official-Plan-Consolidation-March-2018.pdf, 2018.
- [3] City of Guelph. Zoning Bylaw. https://guelph.ca/city-hall/by-laws-and-policies-2/zoning-by-law/, 1997.
- [4] Grand River Conservation Authority. Grand River Information Network: Geospatial Data. https://data.grandriver.ca/downloads-geospatial.html.
- [5] City of Guelph Open Data. Guelph Parks. http://data.open.guelph.ca/dataset/guelph-parks.
- [6] City of Guelph Open Data. Guelph Property. http://data.open.guelph.ca/dataset/guelph-property.
- [7] City of Guelph. City of Guelph Official Plan Schedule 10: Natural Heritage System. http://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/OPA42OMBApprovedSchedules.pdf, 2018.
- [8] City of Guelph. Response to Candidate Question re: Population counts by ward. Available on the City of Guelph election candidates portal., 2018.