

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Evolution of Open Space requirements in Guelph's Official Plan

Comparison of OP parkland requirements

Type of Parkland	Previous OP minimum ratio	Current OP minimum ratio	What future development will generate	Future OP update
Neighbourhood	Minimum 1.5 ha/ 1000 pop.	Minimum 0.7 ha/ 1000 pop.	0.7 ha/1000 pop?	?
Community	Minimum 1.8 ha/ 1000 pop.	Minimum 1.3 ha/ 1000 pop.	0.5 ha/1000 pop?	?
Regional	Encouraged 5.5 ha/ 1000 pop.	Encouraged 1.3 ha/ 1000 pop.	No plans for new regional parks?	?
Total	8.8 ha/ 1000 pop.	3.3 ha/ 1000 pop.	1.2 ha/1000 pop. (p. 90 of staff report)	?

City of Guelph Previous Official Plan policies

Neighbourhood open space

- ▶ *It is the policy of the City to maintain a minimum city-wide average rate of neighbourhood parks provision of 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres)/1000 population.*

City wide open space

- ▶ *It is the policy of the City to maintain a minimum city-wide average rate of citywide parks provision of 1.8 hectares (4.45 acres)/1000 population.*

Regional open space

- ▶ *The City will encourage the provision of regional open space facilities at the rate of 5.5 hectares (13.6 acres)/1000 population.*

Previous Official Plan requirements

- ▶ 3.3 hectares/ 1000 population – neighbourhood and City-wide space
- minimum requirement

Encouraged

- ▶ 5.5 hectares/ 1000 population – regional open space

Total

- ▶ 8.8 hectares/ 1000 population

Parkland Dedication By-law update

- ▶ Park Plan reports demonstrate that City needs to seek the maximum amount of land and cash-in-lieu allowed under the Planning Act
- ▶ **Projection of 1.2 ha/1000 residents via development does not necessarily represent future parkland.** This also include cash-in-lieu. The City has not done a good job of translating parkland funds into actual parks. (Several hundred thousand dollars of parkland funds were diverted to pay for the renovation of the Victoria Rec Centre).
- ▶ The consultant hired for the previous Parkland Dedication By-law update recommended prioritizing land over cash-in-lieu. His interviews with staff revealed that staff feel pressured by developers to accept cash-in-lieu instead of land.

Future planning

- ▶ We need to plan for the green infrastructure that our City needs to mitigate climate change and maintain the physical and mental well-being of citizens.
- ▶ Quality of life will deteriorate for current and future residents with less parkland/1000 residents.
- ▶ Timely investment of Parkland Funds is needed so we are not always chasing property values.
- ▶ Consider Green Bonds as a way for the community to invest in parkland up front.
- ▶ Setting aside parkland is an ethical issue. If we fail to set aside land for parks, we have precluded the opportunity of future generations to have them.