

# Park Plan



## Council Presentation

Committee of the Whole: April 4, 2022



- Why a Park Plan and why now
- Strategic Plan alignment
- Park service level assessment and key findings
- Growth and vision for the future
- Strategic direction and next steps

## Agenda

Our goal today is to present an overview of the Park Plan, key findings of the park service level assessment, and strategic directions for Guelph's park system.

# Why a Park Plan and why now?

The Park Plan has been developed to demonstrate the ongoing need for parks.

This supports the use of park acquisition tools, including parkland dedication.

The Park Plan is a master plan that provides direction to manage future land needs relating to our park system.

It is a component of the larger Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP), which will address all our park and recreation needs including land, infrastructure, indoor facilities, outdoor facilities, services, and operation.



# Study process

The Park Plan has been developed over three phases of work.

Phase 3 overlaps with timing of the Parkland Dedication Bylaw re-enactment.

The final phase of work will integrate the strategies and actions of this plan into a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Our **community engagement** process has helped us understand our community needs and set direction for the future.

Community and stakeholder engagement opportunities were provided throughout all three phases of work, totaling over 20 different opportunities to provide feedback.

Understanding what we have

Considering our strengths and opportunities

Parkland Dedication Bylaw update

Park Plan (parkland directions) 

Parks and Recreation Master Plan



# Park Plan and parkland dedication

The Park Plan and parkland dedication policies are different.

The Park Plan establishes the vision and objectives for park service levels.

Parkland dedication policies are tools used to help acquire parkland and achieve park service levels.

Parkland dedication alone will not meet Official Plan identified service level targets; more tools are needed beyond the parkland dedication bylaw.



# Strategic Plan alignment

The Park Plan builds on the Community and Strategic Plans and helps guide how we plan, design, fund, build and maintain our park system.

Master plans help us assess our infrastructure needs and the policies we may need to support city services as we grow and change.



# Strategic Plan pillars



**Building our future**



**Sustaining our future**



**Working together  
for our future**

# Park Plan pillars

1. We nurture a healthy and vibrant community.
2. All people can participate in recreation.
3. Recreation facilities and parks are welcoming and meaningful places for all people.
4. Infrastructure is maintained, sustainable and responsive to community changes.
5. We support the protection, restoration and management of the natural environment.
6. We work together for our community.

## Park service level assessment

An optimal level of service for parks that is sustainable, affordable and realistic is based on these key principles:

- Everyone can access a park within a reasonable walk from their home
- There are a variety of park types with different functions in all areas of the city
- Parks need to accommodate a variety of recreation amenities and programming
- A similar level of service should be provided throughout the city, recognizing that urban form or neighbourhood demographics may require a different approach to parkland

## Key findings

- 92 percent of people live within a ten-minute walk of a park
- We provide about two parking spaces of parkland per person
- Our parkland provision target is high: multiple tools will be needed to meet this service level and acquisition strategies will be required



## **Growth and vision for the future**

Parks and recreation are essential to everyday life in Guelph. To be future-ready we need parks that are sustainable, inclusive, adaptable, and have a built-in ability to respond to a growing and diverse community. We need to connect people to each other, active living, and the environment.

# Strategic directions

Park Plan recommendations will be carried forward to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and integrated into a comprehensive implementation plan.

Priorities, phasing, and financial strategies will be assigned as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Park Plan Recommendations are organized into four categories of work:

- Setting clear directions
- Exploring how we prioritize work
- Park access and provision
- Park improvement





April 13, 2022  
Special Council meeting - Growth Revenue

July 11, 2022  
Parkland Dedication Bylaw Enactment

2022-2023  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan project  
continuation

## Next Steps

# Park Plan



Thank you for  
your consideration.