

Proposed Motion:

That Heritage Guelph supports the creation of a National Urban Park at the Ontario Reformatory for the conservation of its cultural and natural heritage, to advance reconciliation, and encourage public access and education.

Purpose:

The purpose of this motion is to align Heritage Guelph with motions passed by the Guelph Tourism Advisory Committeeⁱ (Jan 24, 2024) and Councilⁱⁱ (Nov 26, 2024).

In August 2021, Parks Canada launched the National Urban Park program with a federal budget to create a network of up to six national urban parks by 2025.ⁱⁱⁱ

“National urban parks are places of natural or historical significance to the nation, located in or near a major city in Canada, that are managed in ways that contribute to three core objectives: conserving nature; connecting people with nature; advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. They are typically, large, predominantly natural areas that may consist of existing natural areas or areas that are being restored to a more natural condition. A national urban park may be one large area or a group of smaller areas that do not need to be physically connected to each other.”^{iv}

National urban parks governance is determined by local context in collaboration with partners/stakeholders. Potential governance models include: federally administered places (Parks Canada), partnership models (between Parks Canada and other partners), or third party partnerships (municipal, provincial, or Indigenous governments, or other organizations.^v

This project, brought forward by Urban Park Guelph, has seen support from numerous stakeholders within the city of Guelph as well as the Mississauga’s of the Credit First Nation^{vi} and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Resources:

<https://www.urbanparkguelph.com/home>

[National urban parks - Parks Canada](#)

ⁱ [Tourism committee supports national urban park plan - Guelph News](#); January 24, 2024 TAC Meeting Minutes [FileStream.ashx](#)

ⁱⁱ [Council supports national urban park plan ‘in principle’ - Guelph News](#); November 26, 2024 Council Planning Meeting Minutes [Council Planning - November 26, 2024](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Creating new national urban parks](#)

^{iv} [What is the National Urban Parks Program? - Canadian Parks & Recreation Association](#)

^v [Creating new national urban parks](#)

^{vi} [Guelph’s urban park plan endorsed by Mississaugas of the Credit - Guelph News](#); [Urban Park Guelph - MCFN Support Letter](#)