

Parks Master Plan

Council Workshop

April 22, 2025



Parks Master Plan Objectives

30-year plan (2025-2055) to be reviewed / updated every 5 years

- Three key Objectives
 - Define current level of service for park land and amenities
 - Present options to maintain levels of service with 47% forecasted increase in population
 - Obtain public input to guide service level change recommendations

Service Standards

Park Classifications

City, Community, Neighbourhood, Urban Square, Trailhead, etc..

Defines how they serve the residents and what amenities should be expected to exist in different classifications of parks

Amenity Service Standards

Premium, Standard, Recreation, Basic, etc..

Defines the “grade” of amenity in terms of features and the expectations on what is provided and in what park classifications

EXAMPLE: “Community Park” classification (Soper, Churchill, Forbes, Lions Can Amera, etc.) would feature fully-accessible “Premium” playgrounds, washrooms, and splashpads as these park classifications can also support parking and are generally larger.

Amenity Service Levels

Premium – A term applied to various park amenities indicating the highest number of features available to support users of that amenity.

Standard – A term applied to various park amenities indicating a moderate set of features that support that amenity which is less than what is provided under Premium.

Recreational – A sports field that has limited features and maintenance. It is a lower service level than Standard.

Basic – A term applied to various park amenities indicating that the amenity has very simple functionality (e.g., a Basic splash pad has static nozzles and is generally smaller than Standard splash pads).

Supporting a Growing City

More people: 47% growth over next 30 years, the majority is expected to be intensification (i.e. more people using existing parks)

- A Parkland Dedication Bylaw is needed to define how parkland will be acquired and funded to support new and intensification areas of the City.
- Park land needs should be identified early in the planning process through Secondary Plans.
- Additional Park amenities are needed in existing parks to support additional residents associated with site re-development.

Public Consultation

- **Who we heard from**

- Users of parks through in-person interviews, paper and electronic surveys.
- Focus groups (sports groups, youth, older adults, newcomers)
- Advisory Committees and Associations (Homebuilders, Accessibility, Heritage, Environmental, Neighbourhood, Economic Development, Cycling and Trails)
- Other stakeholders (School Boards, GRCA, Members of Council, Staff)

- **Top Items we heard about**

- Equity in parkland and amenities across the city
- Quality of sportsfields and conflicts with other park users
- Park Safety
- Quality of Playgrounds
- Availability and quality of washrooms
- “More...” Splash pads, Dog parks, Shade, Amenities for Teens/Older Adults
- General maintenance of parks
- Accessibility and inclusion – playgrounds, caregiver needs, paths of travel...
- Natural areas and trails

Key Elements of the Plan

- Acknowledges that 698 Ha of Natural Areas (woodlands, wetlands, natural corridors including river/creeks) are a part of the City's Park Inventory and the city is responsible for Stewardship.
- Provides funding options to maintain amenity service levels in population intensification areas of the city.
- 91% of residents live within 800m walking distance of a Park.
- Identifies specific service level improvements driven by public input
- Processes to support volunteers and requests new amenities funded through donations and sponsorships.

Key Service Level Improvement Recommendations

- A wider range of park amenities to serve a broader range of activities and age groups.
- Community parks to have one playground upgraded or installed, over time, to Premium. Should also have a washroom and a splashpad.
- Improve playground inspection and maintenance.
- Improve maintenance of Premium grade sports fields.
- Update park washrooms to current standards and consider future improved maintenance.
- Expand operating season of splashpads.
- Acquire and develop a new outdoor events venue.
- Additional dog parks be created.
- Install and update park signage including wayfinding, information, and education boards.
- Develop a natural area inspection and maintenance program.

Process Changes

- Application process for new amenity requests in existing parks. Limited to parks identified as having the highest need to ensure equity across the City and an expectation of external funding to support the request.
- Public process for significant changes in vegetation maintenance in parks (i.e. adding/removing naturalized areas).
- Public education program about natural spaces and how to positively contribute.
- Develop a structured volunteer program to assist in maintaining park spaces.

Special Feature – Park Atlas

Provides a map and information on

- Amenities that exist in each park.
- Park land service levels (*sq.m. / person of Developed parkland*)
- Existing development applications that indicates expected growth in the area around the park.
- Upcoming capital budget projects
- Tree canopy & climate change impacts (risk of flooding)
- Potential sponsorship projects
- Public consultation summary for each park

WILLARD PARK



Asset ID: PK10102
Park Type: COMMUNITY
Address: 85 BEECHWOOD RD

Park Area (ha): 3.25
Developed Park Area (ha): 1.72
Natural Area (ha): 1.26
Recreational Area (ha): 0.26

Tree Canopy Percent: 54%

Legend

■ Bench	■ Grass Cutting Standard
● Garbage Can	■ Park Finish
● Light	■ Sports Field
- - - - - Fence	
— Trail	
— Park Boundary	
■ Washroom	
■ City Building	
■ Playground	
■ Sports Facility	
■ Parking Lot	

Willard Community Park

Park Classification: Community Park

Large (2-30ha) open spaces that generally contain a wide variety of park and sports amenities serving several neighbourhoods as well as residents of the entire city. Community Parks can contain unique amenities, multiple sports and recreation opportunities, and host tournaments and special events programming. The Community Park is largely a "drive-to" location, serving all Cambridge residents, but also serves as a "neighbourhood park" to residents living within walking distance.

Typical Amenities / Levels of Service for Community Parks

Due to the size of Community Parks, and that they contain parking and washrooms, they can accommodate a wide variety of amenities not found in Neighbourhood Parks including sports and recreation fields and courts, splashpads, and fully-accessible Premium playgrounds.

Levels of Service

- Willard Park provides 6.3 sq.m / person to the 2,711 residents living within an 800m walking distance which is consistent with the city-wide average of 6.7 sq.m / person.
- There is anticipated residential development and intensification within the 800m parkshed with an estimated 54 additional residents but this will not affect current levels of service.
- The amenities in this park include Premium tennis court, parking area, asphalt park paths, benches, garbage, court, playground, open field area, woodlot, washroom and Operations building

Public Consultation

What did people like about this park?

close to home
clean playground
well maintained
large open space
natural forest area
swings
tennis court
quiet
trail connections

What did people suggest as improvements?

address wooden seating or playground
sealing around playground
volleyball
splash pad
dog park
picnic tables
skatepark
rock climbing wall
upgrade playground
additional tennis & pickleball
improve accessibility
rubber surface not woodchips
soccer nets
respond to vandalism quicker
more swings

Current and Potential Future Improvements

- Capital budget forecast: playground replacement
- Additional capital budget investments to consider: playground replacement should be upgraded to Premium, splashpad.

Park Atlas - Residents Within 800m Walking Distance to a Park



Climate Change Vulnerability and Resilience Snapshot

- There are no areas within this park within floodplains or at risk during more intense storms and winter snowmelt.
- Tree canopy is 54% within this park providing some relief from urban heat island, warmer temperatures, and wind gusts. Average tree canopy is 30% in Community Parks.
- Shade trees are concentrated around the boundaries of the park and in the woodlot.
- There are opportunities to improve the resilience of this park primarily through planting additional trees and/or providing shade structures at the activity areas.

Opportunities for Corporate Sponsorship / Community Fundraising*

Low Cost (< \$3,000)

Dedication trees, dedication benches, bike fix station

Medium Cost (\$10,000 - \$50,000)

shade structure, table games, adult fitness stations, water filling station, accessible swing

High Cost (> \$50,000)

splashpad, basketball court, pickleball courts, skateboard spot, accessible path walking loop

* Subject to an application process and approval through the budget process

Implementation Plan

1-3 years

- Proposed capital projects and service improvements with a capital cost of \$2.4M and an annual operating impact of \$660k.

3-5 years

- Proposed capital projects and service improvements with capital cost of \$7.2M and annual operating impact of \$412k.

5-10 years

- Proposed capital projects and service improvements with capital cost of \$4.9M and annual operating impact of \$84k.

10-20 years

- Proposed capital projects and service improvements with capital cost of \$5.9M and annual operating impact of \$116k.

NOTE: All Capital projects require additional resources to deliver and are not included in figures above. Additional capital projects are also recommended that estimates cannot be provided at this time and are not represented in the figures above. All costs above are estimated values in 2025 dollars and do not include inflation. All projects and resources are subject to review and approval through the regular budget process.

Next Steps

- Revisions based on Council feedback
- Report to Council for Parks Master Plan approval



2024 Councillor Park Requests

Greengate Park: Request for a ½ court basketball court

- *This park has a higher service level than other parks and does not qualify under the proposed new amenity application process.*

Compass Trail Park: Request for a basketball court

- *This park has a higher service level than other parks and does not qualify under the proposed new amenity application process.*

Lena Cres: Request for a new park in this area

- *Residents in this area are within 800m walking distance to Northview Heights Park and a new park is not warranted.*

Workshop Questions And Discussion