

REDISCOVER OUR PARKS

PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION MASTERPLAN



A twenty year vision

2015 to 2035





PREFACE

The development of a Parks Master Plan is an onerous task which includes public and administrative consultation, identifying trends, strengths and weakness and lays the foundation for the direction of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Departments, presumably for the next 20 years.

This Parks Master Plan was prepared completely in - house over the course of the past two years and represents hundreds of hours of work, research and consultation. It is intended to be a dynamic document that has room to evolve however, it has strong focus on identifying and highlighting the current park system today, and how we continue to expand and improve and ultimately sustain the parks system in the City through the next two decades, simply Rediscover Our Parks.

The previous 1989 Parks Master Plan is referenced several times throughout this document and it is important to note that the vast majority of recommendations and goals of the previous plan have been realized and came to fruition. The acquisition of contiguous parkland and development of Windsor's riverfront parks, the acquisition and protection of the Spring Garden ANSI, the consolidation of soccer play at Ford Test Track and the amalgamation of the Little River Corridor Park network to highlight a few accomplishments.

Not unlike the 20 Year Strategic Vision the information gathered from the consultation process shaped direction by which nine Guiding Principals were established. Accessibility & Inclusivity, Communication & Partnership, Health & Wellness, Sustainability, Park Diversity, Connectivity, Safety, Efficiency and Experience are the backbone of this plan.

In the course of preparing this Master Plan several interesting factors came to light like the renewal of parks as community gathering places and their importance to entire demographics like new Canadians, the elderly and those physically challenged. The popularity of community gardening and the growing role parks play in food security and public participation. There is an overwhelming consideration for trails and connectivity over all other expectations, wants and needs from both active and passive recreation enthusiasts.

The popularity and expressed need to access botanically rich parks like the riverfront and Jackson Park was nearly surpassed by the need to access natural areas and again trail networks that connected residents to nature and ultimately to connected natural areas.

This plan also in detail defines and categorizes the type of parks in our network as a tool to provide an expectation of physical amenities, level of service and management strategies for each classification. This lends itself to the distribution of parks and parks space as it relates to population density and resident proximity throughout the City and where there is surplus, adequate or deficient parkland. With the recognition of communities deficient in parkland, previous direction of Council with respect to the disposition of surplus parkland (Council Directive CR130-2012), has been held for inclusion into this plan as it relates to recommendations for acquisition of parkland as a potential funding strategy.

The Parks Master Plan is a document which outlines and qualifies goals, objectives and recommendations and does not specifically outline budget at this point. Prior to allocating value and budget it is first necessary to advance the recommendations in principal. With the adoption of the plan it is the goal of the Parks Department to develop a Strategic Action Plan defining cost, budget and timelines. It is expected that this would be completed by June 2016.

By Phil Roberts
Executive Director of Parks

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Master Plan Report has been prepared with the assistance of technical input and planning advice provided by several departments at the Corporation of the City of Windsor, Public Agencies and Organizations as well comments and ideas contributed by the citizens of Windsor.



LEAD

Stefan Fediuk

EDITING

Mike Clement
Heidi Baillargeon
Cathy Masterson
John Mailloux

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Phil Roberts
Steve Hayes
Dan Jaworski
Terry Fasan
Betty Tilson
Carrie Beaton
Colleen Calagiri
Paul Giroux
Karen Cedars
Mike Mailloux
Marc Edwards
Dave Tootill
Wanda LeTourneau
Jeff Burgess
Yvan Mantha
Bruce Norris
Mike Murphy

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Neil Robertson
Kevin Alexander
Simona Simion
Michael Cooke
Christopher Aspila

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Helene Gauci
Pam LeButte
Trese MacNeil
Christopher Menard
Merry Ellen Scully Mosna
Tam Nguyen
Carolanne Smith
Jan Wilson
Jim Golab

ADMINISTRATION & COUNCIL SERVICES

Anna Ciacelli
Valerie Critchley
Mel Douglas
Brittney Yeats
Susan Beaulieu
Helga Riedel
Steve Vlachodimos

COMMUNICATIONS & CUSTOMERS SERVICE

Dominic Carlone
Jason Moore

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH

Mary Ellen Bernard
Stephen Lynn

FINANCIAL & ASSET PLANNING

Tony Ardovini
Bobbi Reive
Natasha Couvillon
Melissa Osborne

HUMAN RESOURCES

Gayle Jones
Karen Kadour

LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Dana Paladino
Dana Strauss
Rosemary Menna

OPERATIONS

Josette Eugeni
Jennifer Leitzinger
Karina Richters
Averil Parent

EXTERNAL AGENCIES



Danielle Stuebing
Richard Wyma
Mike Nelson
Kevin Monry



Al Cook



Jill Cadarette

- Ford City Neighbourhood Renewal
- Our West End
- The Initiative – Glengarry to Marentette
- Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative



Cindy Gignac
Cathy Copot-Nepszy



Michelle Suchiu
Renee Marantette



- Essex Ravens Football
- Windsor Essex Football
- Windsor Rugby Football
- Windsor Soccer Club
- Windsor Senior Recreational Soccer
- Windsor Ultimate Frisbee
- Greater Windsor Lacrosse
- Windsor Lawn Bowling
- Cavaliers Cricket Club
- Walker Homesites Athletics
- Bernie Soulliere Baseball
- Riverside Minor Baseball
- Forest Glade Baseball
- Windsor Athletic Association
- Windsor Mixed Slopitch
- Bendo Blazer Hockey



Glenna Pacitti



Steve Green



Sungee John

WINDSOR ABORIGINAL & FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY
Yo Son Dah Nost Huff

Windsor Wildcats Girls Fastball

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	separate cover
PREFACE	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
INTRODUCTION	1
THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND RECREATION	4
TYPES OF PARKS	4
TYPES OF OUTDOOR RECREATION	5
BENEFITS OF PARKS AND OPEN GREEN SPACE	6
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN AND OTHER CIVIC DOCUMENTS.....	8
20 YEAR STRATEGIC VISION.....	8
CITY OF WINDSOR OFFICIAL PLAN	12
OTHER RELATED STUDIES	15
WHY ARE CHANGES NEEDED?	16
SCOPE OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN	17
PROCESS FOR THE MASTER PLAN	18
PUBLIC CONSULTATION	18
PROCESS TIMELINE.....	19
REDISCOVER OUR PARKS WORKING GROUP	20
CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND.....	21
GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES.....	23
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS	25
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT	25
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.....	28
HISTORICAL CONTEXT	31
LEGACY OF THE WINDSOR PARKS SYSTEM.....	32
CITY OF WINDSOR CULTURE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (1989).....	41
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	41
SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE THE 1989 PLAN.....	42
CHAPTER 2: PARKLAND SUPPLY	43
PARKS & OPEN SPACE SUPPLY	45
DISTRIBUTION	47
CURRENT PARKS CLASSIFICATION.....	49
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS.....	51
COMMUNITY/ REGIONAL PARKS.....	52
HERITAGE RESOURCES.....	55
CULTURAL RESOURCES	55
NATURAL RESOURCES	56
WATER RESOURCES	57
OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.....	59
CITY OF WINDSOR RECREATION INVENTORY	59
NEIGHBOURING MUNICIPALITIES RECREATIONAL AMENITIES.....	61
OTHER AGENCY OPEN SPACE INVENTORY	62
CITY OF WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOL INVENTORY	62
PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.....	62
FEDERAL	62
PROVINCIAL.....	63
ESSEX REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.....	63
CHAPTER 3: TRENDS & NEEDS	65
ECONOMY OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR	67
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS	68
NATIONAL TRENDS.....	68
WINDSOR CMA TRENDS	69
RECREATIONAL TRENDS.....	70
NATIONAL TRENDS.....	71
PROVINCIAL TRENDS.....	73
LOCAL TRENDS	74
PUBLIC CONSULTATION.....	75
WARD LEVEL OPEN HOUSES.....	75
WINDSOR ESSEX LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP	76
SECOND PUBLIC CONSULTATION	77
STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS.....	80
INTERNAL STAFF.....	85
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	90

CHAPTER 4: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	93
GOALS	95
ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSIVITY	96
CHILDREN	97
YOUTH	100
SENIORS.....	101
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	102
DIVERSITY	103
COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS	104
HEALTH & WELLNESS.....	105
SUSTAINABILITY	110
PARK DIVERSITY	115
NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE	118
Neighbourhood Parks.....	118
Parkettes.....	119
COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE.....	120
Community Parks	120
Community Sports & Recreational Facilities.....	120
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE.....	122
Regional Parks	122
Regional Athletic Complexes.....	122
Riverfront Parks	122
NATURAL OPEN SPACE	124
Natural Parks.....	124
Naturalized Areas.....	124
RECREATIONWAYS	125
Greenways & Corridors	125
Community Trails	125
CONNECTIVITY	126
GREENWAY SYSTEM AND B.U.M.P.	127
TRAIL TYPES	127
SAFETY	129
EFFICIENCY	130
BUDGET AND FUNDING	130
DISPOSITION AND ACQUISITION.....	132
CONSOLIDATION OF SPORTS RECREATIONAL FIELDS.....	134
MANAGEMENT PLANS.....	135

EXPERIENCE.....	137
PARK IDENTITY	137
SPORT FIELDS AND COURTS	139
CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES	140
SPECIAL USE AREAS.....	145
REVIEW AND UPDATES.....	148

CHAPTER 5: ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS.....149

APPENDICES163

APPENDIX 'A': CITY OF WINDSOR OFFICIAL PLAN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION AND POLICIES	165
APPENDIX 'B': CITY OF WINDSOR PLANNING DISTRICTS.....	169
APPENDIX 'C': WARD MAPS.....	174
APPENDIX 'D': RELATED STUDIES	181
APPENDIX 'D-1': ACCESSIBILITY RELATED STUDIES.....	181
APPENDIX 'D-2': RIVERFRONT RELATED STUDIES.....	181
APPENDIX 'D-3': SUSTAINABILITY RELATED STUDIES	182
APPENDIX 'D-4': HEALTH RELATED STUDIES	183
APPENDIX 'E': CITY OF WINDSOR COAT OF ARMS.....	185
APPENDIX 'F': PARKLAND SUPPLY CITY-WIDE.....	186
APPENDIX 'G': PARKLAND SUPPLY BY WARDS.....	187
APPENDIX 'H': PARKLAND SUPPLY BY PLANNING DISTRICTS	188
APPENDIX 'I': CURRENT PARKS BY CLASSIFICATION	190
APPENDIX 'J': PARKS & OPEN SPACE TRENDS (SASAKI & ASSOCIATES)	192
APPENDIX 'K': WARD LEVEL PUBLIC CONSULTATION	193
APPENDIX 'L': NEW IMMIGRANT PUBLIC CONSULTATION	197
APPENDIX 'M': SECONDARY SURVEY PUBLIC CONSULTATION	203
APPENDIX 'N': ORGANIZED SPORTS PUBLIC CONSULTATION	212
APPENDIX 'O': BLUE DOT MOVEMENT	215
APPENDIX 'P': BLUE FLAG CAMPAIGN.....	218
APPENDIX 'Q': PARKS UNDER NEW CLASSIFICATIONS SYSTEM.....	219
APPENDIX 'R': PLANNING ACT: LAND CONVEYANCES.....	221
APPENDIX 'S': LIFE AFTER FIFTY SURVEY RESPONSES	222
APPENDIX 'T': ZONING BYLAW 8600 SECTION 9 – GREEN DISTRICTS	224
APPENDIX 'U': UNESCO RESOURCES	225
APPENDIX 'V': ALTERNATE FUNDING SOURCES	226

TABLE OF FIGURES

INTRODUCTION

Figure i-1: Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Spaces.....	8
Figure i-2: Charlie Borckes Memorial Peace Fountain at Coventry Gardens in Reaume Park.....	9
Figure i-3: Ojibway Nature Centre.....	10
Figure i-4: Seniors admiring the horticultural display in the Queen Elizabeth II Sunken Gardens at Jackson Park.....	11
Figure i-5: Planning Districts Map.....	13
Figure i-6: City Ward Map.....	14
Figure i-7: Central Riverfront Lands east of the Downtown.....	15
Figure i-8: Malden Park Recreation Area.....	16

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

Figure 1-1: Windsor In Relationship to Essex County Municipalities.....	23
Figure 1-2: Urban Structure Plan of the City's Official Plan overlaid with major physical barriers that create physical Planning Districts.....	24
Figure 1-3: Ganatchio trail along Riverside Drive acts as a pedestrian and bicycle path and a gateway from the eastern end of the city.....	26
Figure 1-4: The Windsor Loop.....	27
Figure 1-5: Components of the Ojibway Nature Complex.....	28
Figure 1-6: Black Oak Heritage Forest.....	29
Figure 1-7: Physical development pattern of the City Windsor from European Settlement to Present Day.....	31
Figure 1-8: Proposed layout of City of Windsor downtown circa 1900 showing proposed parks and street patterns.....	32
Figure 1-9: Map of the Border Cities circa 1923. Enhanced to illustrate the proposed recreation linkage of Little River and Turkey Creek along the Grand Marais drainage channel.....	32
Figure 1-10: Original plan for Roseland.....	33
Figure 1-11: Aerial photo of Jackson Park (c. 1945).....	34
Figure 1-12: Ojibway Parks Boardwalk.....	35
Figure 1-13: Tall ship docked at Dieppe Park.....	35
Figure 1-14: Coventry Garden Terraces in Reaume Park.....	36
Figure 1-15: Little River Corridor Trail.....	37
Figure 1-16: Current Parks Greenway System.....	38
Figure 1-17: Aerial Photo of Ford Test Track Park showing soccer fields.....	39
Figure 1-18: Malden Park Visitor Centre.....	39
Figure 1-19: Bert Weeks Memorial Fountain in the Central Riverfront Lands.....	40
Figure 1-20: Aerial view of Peche Island Nature Preserve.....	40

CHAPTER 2: PARKLAND SUPPLY

Figure 2-1: Distribution of Current Parkland Supply.....	45
Table 2-1: Parkland Supply from 1989 to 2015.....	45
Figure 2-2: Green Space Provision and Standards in Canadian Urban Municipalities.....	46
Figure 2-3: Detail of Public Greenspace in the City of Windsor as compared to the Canadian and World Health Organization Standards.....	46
Figure 2-4: Parkland Supply Ratio by Wards.....	47
Figure 2-5: Parkland Supply by Planning District.....	47
Figure 2-6: Existing Parks Classification.....	48
Figure 2-7: Bert Weeks Memorial Fountain.....	49
Figure 2-8: Windsor Sculpture Garden.....	49
Figure 2-9: Horticultural Display along E.C. Row Expressway.....	49
Figure 2-10: Catchment area of Windsor parks at a 0.8km (1/2 mile) walking distance.....	50
Table 2-2: Neighbourhood Parks Supply.....	51
Table 2-3: Community/Regional Supply by Ward.....	52
Figure 2-11: Parkland Supply by Planning District.....	54
Figure 2-12: Kayaking at Peche Island.....	56
Figure 2-13: McKee Park.....	57
Figure 2-14: Sandpoint Beach.....	58
Figure 2-15: City of Windsor Outdoor Recreational Supply.....	60
Figure 2-16: WFCU Recreation Centre.....	60
Figure 2-17: Recreation supply for all Essex County Municipalities outside of Windsor.....	61
Figure 2-18: Ojibway Shores outlined in red abutting Black Oak Prairie Heritage Park.....	62
Figure 2-19: Parkland Open Space distribution by area.....	64
Figure 2-20: Cyclists on a trail in Devonwood Conservation Area.....	64

CHAPTER 3: TRENDS & NEEDS

Figure 3-1: National demographic trend by age from 2006 to 2011	68
Figure 3-2: Windsor Population Pyramid based on 2011 Census Data.....	69
Table 3-1: Relevant Demographic from 2011 Census Data for Windsor by Planning District	69
Figure 3-3: Sasaki Study on Recreational Trends	70
Figure 3-4: Economic Case for Investing in Recreation	72
Figure 3-5: Seniors pole walking along trail	72
Figure 3-6: Results from open ended question from Ward level parks master plan survey asking where the Parks system can be improved?	75
Figure 3-7: Top 5 Parks favoured by the multicultural community	76
Figure 3-8: Top Amenities favoured by the multicultural community.....	76
Figure 3-9: Importance of parks	77
Figure 3-10: Observation deck along Central Riverfront Lands	78
Figure 3-11: Word cloud of most favoured parks and Recreational facilities in the City of Windsor's Parks System	79
Figure 3-12: Jackson Park Lawn Bowling Greens	80
Figure 3-13: MicMac Park Baseball Diamonds	80
Figure 3-14: Community Garden at Drouillard Road	82
Figure 3-15: Map of existing and potential community garden sites based on criteria established in the Community Garden Policy	83
Figure 3-16: Ojibway Nature Complex Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve	86
Figure 3-17: City Forestry Operations	87
Figure 3-18: Jackson Park – Queen Elizabeth II Sunken Gardens.....	88
Figure 3-19: Guiding Principles.....	90

CHAPTER 4: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Figure 4-1: People walking along the riverfront trail.....	96
Figure 4-2: Children enjoying a playground.....	97
Figure 4-3: Distribution of Playgrounds and Splashpads.....	98
Figure 4-4: Spray pad at Captain Wilson Park	99
Figure 4-5: Exercising in Dieppe Park	100
Figure 4-6: Family Strolls in Dieppe Park.....	100
Figure 4-7: Senior painting at Willistead Park.....	101
Figure 4-8: Immigration Profile of Windsor.....	103
Figure 4-9: Changing directions for receiving parks and recreation programming.....	104
Figure 4-10: Windsor public spaces average surface temperature (degrees Celsius)	107
Figure 4-11: Stop 26 Park - Sandpoint Beach	106
Figure 4-12: Little River Corridor walkway lined with trees.....	107

Figure 4-13: Sandpoint Beach Visitor Centre.....	109
Figure 4-14: Nest of Birds at Ojibway Nature Centre.....	110
Figure 4-15: Natural trail in Ojibway Forest.....	111
Figure 4-16: Proposed Biodiversity Gateway	111
Figure 4-17: Raptor education at Ojibway Nature Centre	112
Figure 4-18: Children learning at Ojibway Park Pond	112
Figure 4-19: New Parks Classification Organizational Chart	116
Figure 4-20: New Parkland Classification Map.....	117
Figure 4-21: Neighbourhood Park - Morningstar Park	118
Figure 4-22: Parkette - Charles Clark Square.....	119
Figure 4-23: Community Park - Captain Wilson Park.....	121
Figure 4-24: Garry Dugal Splash Pad	121
Figure 4-25: Regional Park – Jackson War Memorial	122
Figure 4-26: Riverfront Park	123
Figure 4-27: Regional Athletic Complex – MicMac Park.....	123
Figure 4-28: Regional Park Willistead Park.....	123
Figure 4-29: Naturalized Park - Blue Heron Park	124
Figure 4-30: Natural Park - Deer at Ojibway Nature Centre	124
Figure 4-31: Clairview Bikeway	125
Figure 4-32: Blue Heron Lake Trail	125
Figure 4-33: Riverfront Parkway Trail	126
Figure 4-34: Consolidated soccer fields at Ford Test Track.....	134
Figure 4-35: City Horticulture staff tending the beds on the Riverfront	135
Figure 4-36: Youth group cleaning the statues along the river	138
Figure 4-37: Cricket in Jackson Park	139
Figure 4-38: Mackenzie Hall Facade	140
Figure 4-39: Mackenzie Hall Park and shelter	140
Figure 4-40: Parterre Garden at south of side of Willistead Manor	141
Figure 4-41: Paul Martin Gardens at Willistead Park.....	141
Figure 4-42: Proposed Jackson Park Redevelopment Concept Plan.....	142
Figure 4-43: Floral display at Jackson Park	142
Figure 4-44: Sculpture Park along the Riverfront.....	143
Figure 4-45: Charlie Brookes Memorial Peace Fountain.....	144
Figure 4-1: Coventry Gardens Horticultural Display	144
Figure 4-47: Event at the Bistro in Dieppe Park.....	146
Figure 4-48: Wedding at Malden Park Shelter.....	146
Figure 4-49: Dog Park at Optimist Memorial Park	146