

# 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

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