



Hamilton Parks Master Plan

September 2023



Hamilton

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.

Executive Summary

Introduction

Hamilton's parks system is a cherished aspect of the city, providing important contributions to residents and visitors alike. These spaces provide space for people to play, exercise, gather, relax, and celebrate the diverse communities of Hamilton.

Hamilton's park and open space system is made up of several ownership groups including the City, Niagara Escarpment Commission, Conservation Authorities, and the Royal Botanical Gardens. This report focuses only on the lands owned and operated by the City. The City has a long history of park provision, and an established and distributed set of parks in place today that meet the needs of many Hamiltonians. However, gaps and deficits exist in the City's parkland provision in specific neighbourhoods and meeting the Official Plan's provision targets will require sustained capital investment. Innovative, collaborative approaches to funding, acquisition, and development of new parks are necessary, especially in older, denser neighbourhoods where land acquisition is often challenging.

Recently, park planning has shifted away from a focus on simple per capita measures of park area, to more nuanced assessments of parkland functionality and accessibility. Hamilton's urban fabric varies substantially across the community and, additionally, so too does the needs and requirements of the different residential areas. Addressing this variability requires an effective Parks Master Plan to create a flexible and adaptive framework for park service delivery.

Where parks are, how they connect to each other, and their relationship with surrounding neighbourhoods has a profound impact on how they serve the community. However, the acquisition, management, maintenance, and programming of the parks system is a significant resource requirement for the municipality. Long-term, spatially explicit planning will help focus efforts to the communities most in need of the benefits parks provide.

The Park System

Hamilton has four classes of parks – 'City Wide', 'Community', 'Neighbourhood', and 'Parkette' – collectively referred to as 'Municipal Parkland'. These parks provide active and passive opportunities for recreation, gathering, playing, and relaxation. 'City Wide' and 'Community' parks serve a large area of the city and are typically centred around a historical feature or other amenity. The Neighbourhood class is the primary focus of this report, forming the basis for accessible provisioning standards throughout the city. Parkettes are typically provided only where no other parkland can be secured, and while they serve an important function in the provision of open space opportunities in these areas, have less functional contribution to the surrounding community.

Hamilton's current provision target for municipal parkland is 2.1 hectares per 1000 residents. This is proportioned among the different park classes as follows (as identified in the City's Official Plan):

- City-wide Parks – 0.7 hectare per 1000 people
- Community Parks - 0.7 hectare per 1000 people
- Neighbourhood Parks - 0.7 hectare per 1000 people
- Parkettes do not have a provision target and are found throughout the city in response to historical and practical constraints on parkland supply. They are typically used to provide park space where no other option is available.

The 'Neighbourhood' park class is the primary focus of this Master Plan, given that it is funded through the Parkland Dedication By-law and forms the basis for the city's park provision standards. Currently, the City commits to providing Neighbourhood Parks within an 800m walking distance of all residents. However, many municipalities are shifting to a smaller radius, and it is recommended that Hamilton consider a 500m radius, helping to ensure that residents with limited mobility have access to these building blocks of the park system.

For the purposes of this report, a catchment analysis has been used to assess the relative distribution of municipal parkland across the city. The analysis draws on the walkable network of streets and pathways to define 800m catchment areas around each Neighbourhood Park (roughly a 5-10 minute walk, 2 minute cycle, or 1 minute drive). Providing parks that are accessible to residents within these distances is considered good community planning in an urban context.

In addition to these formal classes of parks, it is likely that other alternative forms of parks and open spaces will be necessary to meet the City's provision commitments. These may include:

1. Pedestrianized streets (creating space for plazas, markets, and recreation amenities on land already owned by the City)
2. Privately-owned public spaces (Though terms of use would need to be established with respect to access and management, they have the potential to supplement publicly-owned space in redeveloping areas)
3. Strata parks (City-owned lands that overlap with shared infrastructure such as parking structures)

While all alternatives have their drawbacks, there is a pressing need to address existing parkland deficits in existing neighbourhoods, and these tools provide flexibility where no other options present themselves.

Provision Requirements and Financial Implications

An estimated population growth of 236,000 by 2051 will translate into a need for approximately 496 hectares of additional parkland (realizing the target of 2.1 hectares / 1000 people). To inform recommendations for how to meet this need, it is important to understand the following:

- The anticipated parkland dedication from the development process to determine a shortfall from the parkland needs in 2051: Parkland dedication will provide approximately 1.46 hectares / 1000 people. This leaves about 205 hectares of additional parkland required to meet the 2051 target (58.6% of future needs or a 291 hectare shortfall).

- Areas with an existing neighbourhood park deficit: When accounting for park access, there is an existing parkland deficit of 48 hectares, of which 30 hectares are needed within Very High, High, or Medium acquisition priority neighbourhoods.
- Areas with an existing surplus of park space (areas exceeding 2.1 hectares / 1000 people): The provision model subtracts these supplies from the total long-term needs on a neighbourhood-specific basis (but not a city-wide basis).

By adding the parkland dedication shortfall and current deficiencies, and then subtracting current surpluses on a neighbourhood-specific basis, this approach yields a minimum long-term parkland shortfall of 98 hectares that will not be provided through parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu. This results in a need to acquire an average of 4.5 hectares of parkland annually in the 20 years between 2031 and 2051.

In summary, 205 hectares of parkland are projected to be provided through parkland dedication, while a minimum of 98 hectares will have to be made up through municipal acquisition and other alternatives. This totals 304 hectares of new parkland that will be required by 2051 to address the needs of future growth as well as existing deficiencies within priority areas.

For the purposes of this analysis a value of \$2,471,329 / hectare (\$1,000,113 / acre) is used, which applies to assembled lands in older, mature areas of the City. The estimated cost of acquiring 98 hectares of parkland between now and 2051 is at least \$242 million, which averages out to \$8.6 million per year (3.5 hectares) over the next twenty-eight years*. An estimated \$69 million will be needed to acquire 28 hectares before 2031, and \$86 million per decade thereafter. The City has a Parkland Acquisition Reserve (established in 2013) to contribute to these costs. The planned reserve contributions over the next ten years equate to \$28.9 million. The current contributions to the reserve are not enough to sustain the entire parkland deficiency with a remaining shortfall of \$213.1 million.

*note: these costs are in 2023 dollars, have not accounted for inflation, and exclude demolition and remediation costs, where applicable.

Recommendations

Achieving the City's goals for the equitable provision of municipal parks throughout the city requires improvements to existing funding, acquisition, and maintenance approaches. This includes changes to the City's approach to investment, internal coordination, and external cooperation to capitalize on opportunities to acquire parkland in high priority neighbourhoods.

Key short (<5 years), medium (5-10 years), and long term (>10 years) strategic actions include:

Short Term Actions

1. Develop a proactive strategy to communicate priority parkland acquisition focus areas across different business units with the City (including parks, planning, funding, and financing business units). This will help identify opportunities for land acquisition through partnerships, land trades, or infrastructure development projects.
2. Adopt the following parkland service level through a City-Initiated Official Plan Amendment to table B.3.5.3.1 - Parkland Standards:
 - a. All residents should have access to a Neighbourhood or other park with equivalent functions, within a 500 metre walking distance of their dwelling.
3. Complete amendments to align the Official Plan and the Parkland Dedication By-law with this Master Plan by:
 - a. Amend the Official Plan B 3.3.2.10 to allow for temporary and permanent road closures to support public gathering and open space programming.
 - a. Amend the Official Plan B 3.5.3.16 to explicitly incorporate social equity factors into the determination of parkland amount and type
 - a. Develop land specifications and rules around the use of privately owned public spaces.
4. Use the parkland priority acquisition mapping in this plan for land acquisition prioritization and develop a priority location list with the following information: location, ideal parkland size, associated acquisition cost.
5. Work with other departments to align with initiatives such as the Transportation Master Plan: City in Motion to improve the connectivity of parkland within the city.
6. Where land for parks is not available, explore repurposing existing public space for inclusive open space and park use.
7. Regularly present a short annual monitoring report to Council overviewing changes in parkland service levels and near-term acquisition priorities.
8. As part of a regular City property portfolio review, consider park use and needs, where underused city-owned land could be repurposed to fund new parks in areas of high need.
9. Update the Park and Open Space Development Guide to facilitate multifunctional design and flexible use.
10. Seek funding opportunities from other levels of government to improve park access and connectivity (e.g. bundle park acquisition into land purchases for rail-lines or other infrastructure projects).
11. Identify parkland priorities that can be achieved in conjunction with the recommendations set out in the City's Recreation Master Plan.
 - b. Revise the Community Planning Permit System as a tool to aid in the acquisition of infrastructure, parkland, or monetary contributions, in exchange for offering a more streamlined and transparent approval process for high priority areas.
 - c. Revise Section 5 of the Parkland By-law to ensure that townhouse units, multi-unit dwellings, and downtown redevelopments are supported by sufficient parkland.
 - d. Exploring the potential to eliminate discretionary discounts and require parkland dedication for lands that are currently exempt (such as institutional) to reduce the financial shortfall.

12. Develop land specifications and rules around the use of privately-owned public spaces.
13. Where possible, complete comprehensive block planning in high growth urban areas, in alignment with approved plans and studies, by working with landowners to ensure parks are properly sited within redevelopment areas, and land dedication is coordinated to support and connect functional park space.
14. Build on existing partnerships with Hamilton school boards and institutions by establishing a formal funding, acquisition, and programming partnership model to advance further opportunities to jointly use schools, campuses, and parks.
15. Continue to partner with the school boards to understand potential school closure criteria and potential closure locations, to assess possible future purchases for park and City use, in advance of closures.
16. Engage Real Estate staff for any negotiations on the sale of surplus lands to help ensure that parks-related interests are a priority.
17. Establish a funding, acquisition and programming partnership model with community agencies, user groups, and advocacy organizations to creatively find ways to increase park provision, naturalization, stewardship, and programming
18. Continue to capitalize on the City's right of first refusal to acquire excess school sites when the opportunity arises to secure expanded parkland without developer competition, or to hold in reserve as a land bank to swap with developers for parkland.
3. Prioritize multi-use, inclusive and accessible park designs. Multifunctional park space should be prioritized in areas where acquisition is challenging, or high use is expected. Adopt flexible approaches to park programming to allow parks to pivot to meet the needs of residents.
4. Seek out philanthropic contributions to help increase parkland and open space. This may be accomplished through outreach and communication to interested donors about potential land dedication opportunities (i.e. dialogue with foundations and Conservation Authorities).
5. Improve connectivity by extending the pathway and cycling network on utility rights-of-way through expanded or new partnerships.
6. Investigate opportunities to acquire underutilized properties to convert to parkland in the urban area, prioritizing high need areas.
7. Create a standard process to proactively pursue land purchases of parks in undeveloped areas once a secondary planning process has been completed.
8. Create and update plans for individual parks to identify opportunities to repurpose underused park spaces in alignment with current trends and needs.
9. Expand partnerships with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy to link parkland through regional connections to other open spaces and align with future land acquisition strategies.
10. Conduct a review and revision of the Park Master Plan to update acquisition priority mapping and report on the current state of parkland provision and funding.

Medium Term Actions

1. Increase contributions to the Parkland Acquisition Reserve to ensure that the City has the resources to acquire sufficient parkland in response to growth.
2. Streamline parkland acquisition processes so the City can act when new opportunities for parkland acquisition become available. Work to acquire parkland earlier in the development process at a lower cost.

Long Term Actions

1. Identify opportunities to acquire lands in advance of significant development pressure to hold in reserve as a land bank to swap with developers for parkland in other areas of the city.
2. Form partnerships with aggregate site owners and operators to explore the viability of quarry rehabilitation to public parkland.

Master Plan Purpose

This Master Plan provides an overarching framework to assess the current supply, access, and classification of Hamilton's parks system to guide management decisions and prioritize the acquisition of new parkland and guide the future of Hamilton's parks and open spaces. This framework provides guidance through an equity lens, focusing efforts in neighbourhoods that have historically lacked access to parks and open space. This framework adopts a practical approach to assessing how parks are used, what functions they provide to the surrounding communities, and what barriers limit the contributions of the park system to the people of Hamilton.

Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles

The following vision, guiding principles, and goals create the long-term, strategic direction for the parks system, and the recommendations and implementation actions identified in this Master Plan. The strategic direction for Hamilton's parks was developed based on what we heard through engagement with residents, user groups, community and industry organizations, school boards, and other park stakeholders.

Vision

Parks and open spaces are an essential part of our city. Parks are inclusive places where our diverse communities can gather, relax, socialize, and play, enjoying nature and one another. Our expanding network of different types of parks connect the city together, providing safe, equitable access to open space and to communities. Our parks support a biodiverse, climate resilient, and healthy city, celebrating and protecting Hamilton's unique cultural and ecological landscapes for generations to come.

The vision is an ambitious, overarching, and future-looking statement that illustrates what we will work towards to ensure Hamilton's parks continue to be well-loved and important community places:

We envision a future where our parks connect, support, and celebrate Hamilton's diverse communities and ecosystems through a sustainable, accessible, and inclusive network of open spaces.

Goals and Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles establish the foundation for the recommendations of the Master Plan, while the Goals are more specific elements to be achieved through implementation actions and programs. Rooted in the Vision, they tell the City, partner organizations, and residents what is important about Hamilton's parks, and how they should be planned and improved in the future. The Principles and Goals are not an exhaustive list, but represent key, focused priorities to guide subsequent efforts and investments in parks across the city.

Guiding Principles



Equity

All parks are distributed equitably and designed inclusively to serve the diverse needs of our communities, promoting safety, comfort, and joy for Hamiltonians of all ages.



Adaptability

Parks are acquired, distributed, designed, and managed adaptively. Hamilton's parks respond to changing and different community needs, providing new spaces for people as the city grows and contributes to climate change resiliency.



Community Wellbeing

Parks provide space for people to be together year-round, fostering a sense of place and community. Parks give opportunities for residents to express the diverse cultures and histories of the city.



Connectivity

Parks are easily accessible by everyone, across all modes of travel. The parks system helps to connect communities by providing spaces that support active living.



Resource Resiliency

The parks system is supported by adequate resources to enable the required supply, distribution, operations, and lifecycle management of parks across the city over the long-term.



Collaboration

The City works together with regional partners, public agencies, community organizations, and the private sector to fund, acquire, develop, and program parks as well as new types of public places.

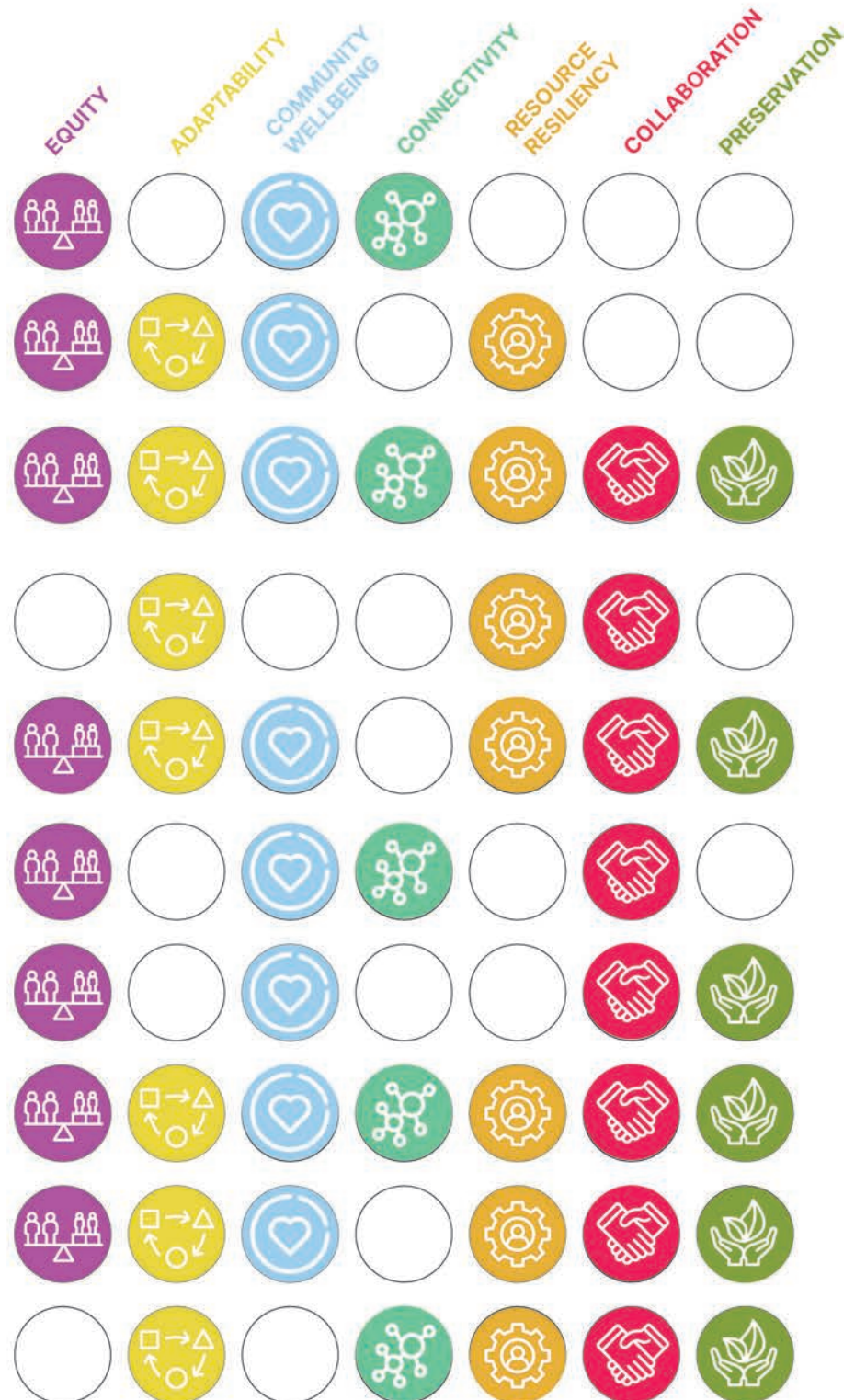


Preservation

Parks contribute to healthy communities and support biodiversity across Hamilton by maintaining the existing park system, encouraging naturalization, and preserving intact ecosystems.

Goals

- 1 **Equitable Access:** Continue to provide well-distributed equitable local access to neighbourhood parks across the city.
- 2 **Prioritize Acquisition:** Establish a clear and ongoing criteria-based assessment of community need to prioritize parkland acquisition and redevelopment opportunities.
- 3 **Acquire Parkland:** Additional parkland is needed to support growth within redeveloping neighbourhoods, and respond to identified gaps in parkland provision. Where necessary, this parkland may tailored to the needs and constraints of the communities, and provided through non-traditional spaces and private partnerships.
- 4 **Ensure Adequate Funding:** Secure and maintain sustainable and diverse sources of funding for park acquisition, development, ongoing maintenance, and lifecycle management.
- 5 **Respond to Changing Use:** Complete ongoing evaluations of how existing parks are used, and adaptively manage the parks system, including retrofitting or repurposing parks, to meet changing community needs.
- 6 **Include Everyone:** Implement a compassionate approach to park and amenity design and programming supporting safe, inclusive and barrier-free use of the parks system throughout the city.
- 7 **Celebrate Culture:** Recognize important cultural spaces and landscapes, and create new gathering places for celebration, placemaking, events, and interpretative programs.
- 8 **Provide Diverse Experiences:** Acquire and operate a diversity of park types and sizes to allow for a variety of open space experiences tailored to unique community characteristics.
- 9 **Expand Natural Spaces:** Explore opportunities to naturalize parts of the parks system to enhance the ecological contributions to local communities, climate change adaptability, regional biodiversity, and native ecosystems.
- 10 **Update the Official Plan:** Provide comprehensive bylaws/policies that better enable sustainable parkland improvement and acquisition.

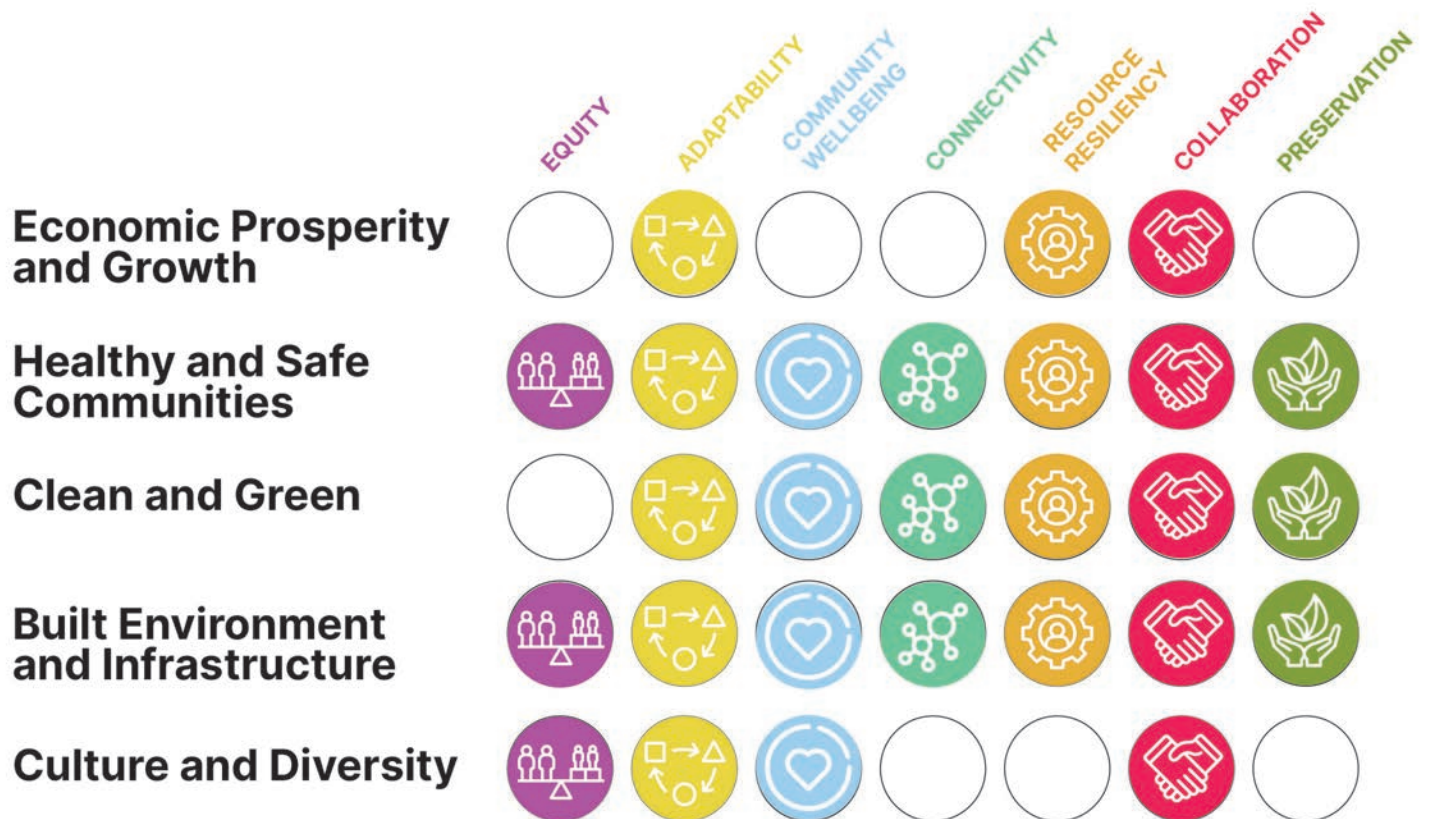


Alignment to City of Hamilton Strategic Priorities

Community Engagement and Participation



Master Plan Engagement Process



Our People and Performance



Transparency of decision-making in Master Plan, updating and review periods

Development of the Plan

Engagement Process

Parks are for everyone and, to ensure this Master Plan reflects the range of community needs, public engagement needed to be wide reaching and accessible. Additionally, targeted outreach to specific user groups, local experts, and potential partners complemented the broader public engagement with depth of expertise to inform plan direction.

Specifically, this project engaged with the following groups:

- The public (including residents, park user groups, and equity-seeking populations)
- Community organizations (including environmental organizations, community groups, and business associations)
- Industry and agencies (including Conservation Authorities, development associations, and educational institutions)
- Indigenous communities (including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee Development Institute, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Huron-Wendat Nation)
- City staff and Councilors



Public and targeted engagement took place over the following two phases:

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT: DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION FOR HAMILTON'S PARKS

Purpose:

- » Understand park use
- » Listen to Hamiltonians' needs and wishes for parks
- » Identify barriers faced in park use

This Informed:

- » A draft vision, principles, goals, and recommendations.

PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT: CONFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE VISION AND DIRECTION FOR HAMILTON'S PARK SYSTEM

Purpose:

- » Review the draft vision and direction
- » Identify desired changes and gaps

This informed:

- » A revised Parks Master Plan

To spread the word about engagement opportunities, the project team used signs in parks, mail-outs, print ads, social media posts and the City website. Participants could then provide feedback through workshops, the online survey (on Engage Hamilton), or through workbooks with discussion guides. After each engagement phase, detailed engagement summary reports distilled the feedback received and were posted to the project web page.

Engagement Process

-  Hamilton's public (including residents, park user groups, and equity-seeking populations)
-  Community organizations (including environmental organizations, community groups, and business associations)
-  Industry and agencies (including environmental authorities, development associations, and education institutions)
-  Indigenous communities including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee Development Institute and Six Nations of the Grand River.



Figure 1: Engagement tools used

Alignment with City Plans and Strategies

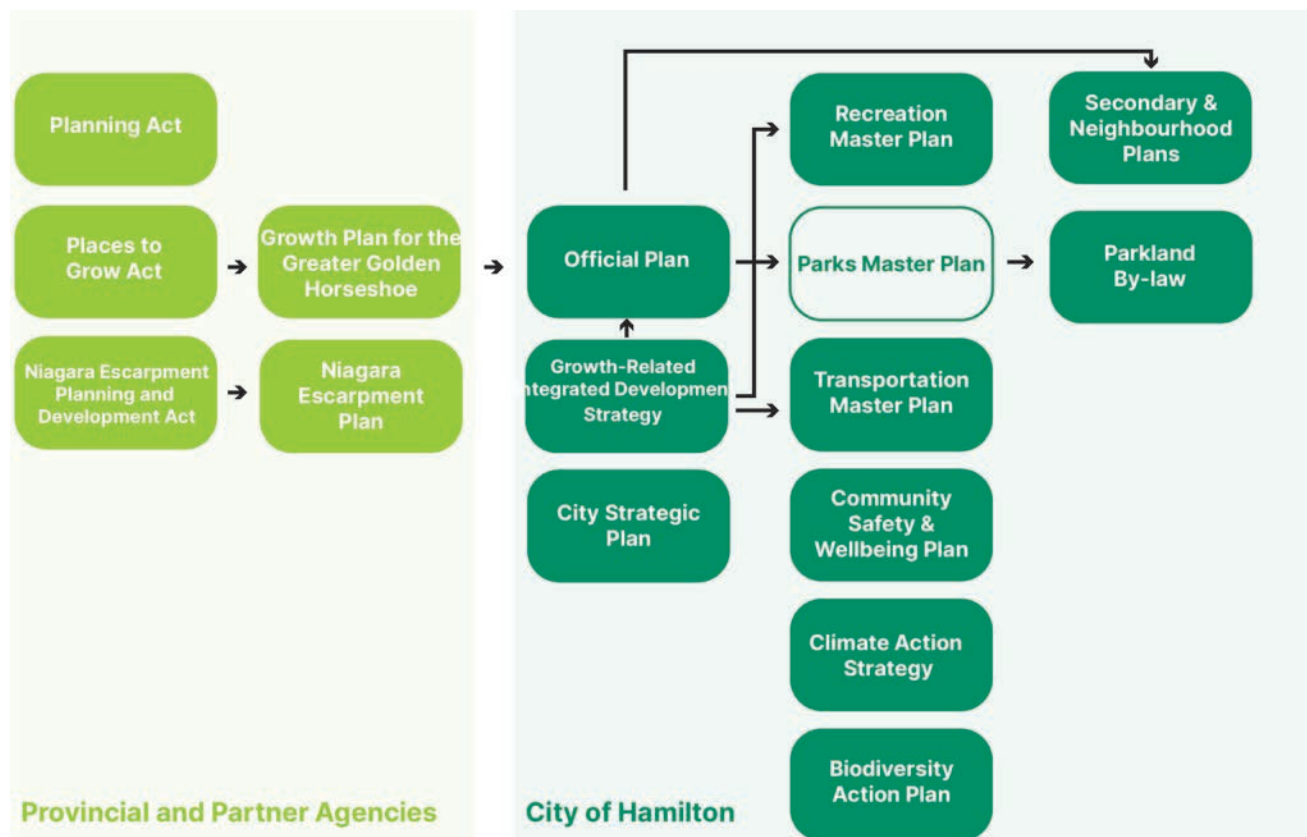


Figure 2: Existing plans and strategies

This Master Plan aligns with, and will help advance, several key goals and objectives from the provincial legislation and City plans and strategies summarized below.

Provincial

The Planning Act: This legislation enables municipalities to require the allocation of public parkland within a development or redevelopment as a condition of development approval. The Planning Act sets the following parkland contributions:

- Standard rate: 5% of developable land for residential developments and 2% of the developable land for non-residential developments (commercial, retail, institutional or industrial)

- Alternative rate: One hectare per 300 proposed residential units for higher-density developments (contingent on an approved parks plan identifying the park need)

Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA) & the Niagara Escarpment Plan: This legislation and plan direct how and what development activities can occur within the Niagara Escarpment to maintain a continuous natural landscape.

Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe: This plan identifies locations to concentrate growth and development. These locations impact park planning in two ways: existing parks, in growth areas, may face increased pressure and new parks may be required to meet increasing demand.

Municipal

Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy 2:

This strategy provides a framework to guide growth and development to 2051 using provincial population and employment forecasts. Specifically, it provides the land use structure with associated infrastructure, an economic development strategy, and financial implications for accommodating growth within the existing city boundary.

City Strategic Plan (to 2025): The Strategic Plan sets Hamilton's vision, the City's mission (as an organization), and priorities to guide City work, including this Park Master Plan.

Recreation Master Plan: This plan evaluates a range of indoor and outdoor recreational services and facilities to identify Hamilton's recreational needs and priorities for the next 10 to 20 years. It focuses on parks and recreation facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Hamilton, guiding their development, enhancement, and management.

Transportation Master Plan: This plan provides a framework to guide future transportation-related studies, projects, initiatives, and decisions. It includes active and higher-order transportation modes and networks, including the cycling master plan, which connect to and through parks.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: This plan aims to create safe and inclusive communities that meet residents' needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. It prioritizes addressing hate incidents, substance use, and housing and homelessness, which impact park safety (as identified in the Parks Master Plan engagement).

Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP): The Community Energy and Emissions Plan is a long-term plan to meet Hamilton's future energy needs while improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fostering local sustainable and community-supported energy solutions. The plan includes every aspect of city-wide energy use and GHG emissions, from homes to transportation to industry to waste.

Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan: This plan aims to enhance Hamilton's resilience to climate change impacts by preparing for extreme weather events, flooding, droughts, and rain and ice storms, among others. The City is preparing to improve resiliency through the design of public spaces, including road rights-of-way, parks, and utilities.

Urban Forest Strategy: The Urban Forest Strategy guides the protection, care and planting of the City's trees and forests on public and privately-owned land in the urban area.

Biodiversity Action Plan: This draft plan helps coordinate efforts between the City of Hamilton and local environmental partners to protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity in Hamilton.

Urban and Rural Hamilton Official Plans: These plans identify where and how land can be developed or used and guide the built, social, economic and open space components of Hamilton's urban and rural areas. These plans include policies that guide Hamilton's park types, standards, access and dedication.

Secondary Plans: Secondary plans are a component of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and provide specific land use designations and policies for neighbourhoods across the City. They determine park locations, sizes, proximity to schools and natural open spaces, as well as other park characteristics.

Parkland By-law No. 18-126: This By-law implements cash-in-lieu or land dedication (or conveyance) requirements for parks in land development, redevelopment, or subdivision. It sets dedication rates for different types of development (rural, urban, downtown) and cash-in-lieu unit rates and caps.

Hamilton Urban Indigenous & Implementation Strategy: This strategy aims to strengthen the City's relationship with the Indigenous community and promote an understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, experiences, and contributions among all residents. To integrate Indigenous perspectives and experiences, this strategy includes park-focused actions such as education and awareness programming, ecological and cultural heritage celebration, naming, and public art, among others.

Existing Conditions

Population

The demographic profile of Hamilton offers insights into the community's current and, potential, future park needs by identifying broad user groups to guide parks provision, services, and programming. Specifically, The Parks Master Plan needs to account for Hamilton's:

- Growing population by understanding the anticipated space needs
- Younger Population by considering the needs of young families and young adults
- Higher proportion of low-income households by considering the value parks in areas with a concentration of these households

Hamilton is a growing city. The city's population grew by 6% between 2016 and 2021, which is higher than both the province and the country (Statistics Canada, 2022). This trend continues, with a projected population growth of 236,000 in the next decades.

YEAR	POPULATION
2001	510,140
2011	535,000
2021	584,000
2031	652,000
2041	733,000
2051	820,000

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd. based on Statistics Canada Census data and Growth Plan Schedule 3 forecasts for 2051.



Population
6% Increase from 2016 to 2021, Outpacing Province and Country



Slightly Younger Population (41.5 years) compared to the province (41.8) and Higher Number of Individuals Under 14 Years Old



Income disparities
lower median individual and household income in Hamilton compared to the province

Demographics

The city currently has a slightly younger population (41.5 years) than the rest of the province (41.8 years) (Statistics Canada, 2022). In particular, Hamilton has more people under the age of 14. This has several implications for parks planning. Park design should consider amenities for young families and opportunities for youth recreation. Looking to the future, residents over 75 years old are anticipated to increase by 43% by 2031 and 114% by 2046. All other age groups – including children, youth, young adults and adults – are forecasted to grow by 26% to 35% between 2021 and 2046 (Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ontario Population Projections (Reference Scenario), 2020).

The median individual income and household income (\$32,917 and \$69,024 respectively) are both lower in Hamilton than the rest of the province (\$33,539 and \$74,287 respectively) (Statistics Canada, 2017). This means that income might serve as a barrier to participation for families in the city. Therefore, the city should make an effort to reduce cost as a barrier by offering low income grants or free programs to level the playing field to accessing recreational amenities.

Hamilton is generally less diverse than Ontario and Canada. In 2016, 19% of Hamilton's population identified as a visible minority compared to 29.3% in Ontario or 22.3% in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2017). Parks should be welcoming spaces for everyone. In order to help attract a more diverse population, it is essential to consider the different cultural needs and preferences of newcomers such as spaces to practice cultural activities and celebrations, specific sports, and different types of leisure. Potential barriers to recreation or park use include unfamiliarity with the climate, lack of specialized equipment, or language barriers.



Gage Park

Parkland Classes

City-owned parkland and other open spaces provide a variety of functions and important values to the City and its residents. Classes of parkland and open space are identified and defined in the Official Plan, which sets specific provision targets around the distribution and amount per person that shall be provided by the City. While open spaces are part of the municipally owned recreation land network, the Official Plan considers them separately from parkland, and these lands do not contribute to provision targets. This report therefore focuses on the distribution and acquisition of municipal parkland (however it is important to recognize that from the public perspective other open spaces may serve some of the same functions of parkland). The Urban Hamilton Official Plan states that “parkland classifications and standards shall be used to determine the amount and type of parkland required for the community” (Section C.3.3 of Volume 1). Classifying parks by type allows for equitable distribution throughout the city. Each park and open space classification also provides guidance on the appropriate functions and use of the lands, where they might best be located and accessed, and considerations for design quality and operational levels of service. An overview of the distribution of park classes and other open spaces throughout the City is shown in Figure 2 (citywide), and Figure 3 (for the urban area).

Although the current typical sizes and number of existing parks by class type generally aligns with the park classification description and guidance outlined in the Urban and Rural Hamilton Official Plans, there remains significant variety within each park class. This is not surprising, given the diversity of Hamilton neighbourhoods, and changes to the city through continuous urban development and redevelopment over the last 175 years.



Municipal Parkland

Hamilton's park system is currently comprised of four classes of parks - City Wide, Community, Neighbourhood, and Parkette - collectively referred to as Municipal Parkland. These lands provide active and passive space for the City's communities to recreate, gather, play, and relax. City Wide and Community parks serve a large area of the city, typically centred on a unique historical feature or other attractive amenity. The Neighbourhood class the primary focus of this report as these lands are funded through the Parkland Dedication By-law and form the basis for provisioning standards throughout the city. Hamilton's current provision target for municipal parkland is 2.1 hectares / 1000 people (0.7 hectare / 1000 for Neighbourhood Parks, 0.7 hectare / 1000 for Community parks, and 0.7 hectare / 1000 for City-wide Parks, as identified in the City's Official Plans). Parkettes do not have a specified provision target and are found throughout the city in response to historical and practical constraints on parkland supply, typically used to provide park space where no other option is available.

City Wide Parks

City Wide parks are generally larger park sites that typically contain many park functions, and major recreational and cultural facilities and are considered municipally, regionally, provincially, and/or nationally significant park destinations. They are often associated with unique natural, historic, or cultural features that spurred their acquisition and guided their development. Their size and shape vary substantially, as does the nature of their contributions to parkland within the city. They are zoned with the City Wide (P3) Zone, which permits a wide range of community leisure, recreation, and commercial uses (e.g. marina, farmers market, commercial recreation, etc.). The attractions and events found within these parks draw residents together from across the City, and act as tourism destinations for visitors. Their size and attractive draw requires greater transportation infrastructure and maintenance to support greater amount and density of use.

Community Parks

Community Parks are typically four to seven hectares in size and are located near higher-order streets and roadways. They are intended to serve multiple neighbourhoods or approximately 20,000 residents but may also serve as Neighbourhood Park space to nearby residents and workers. They often provide enhanced recreational amenities, such as sports fields, spray pads, community gardens and support amenities such as parking and washrooms. They should have multi-modal transportation access, including transit options in urban areas, and be adjacent to arterial or collector roads. They are zoned with the Community Park (P2) Zone, which includes uses such as recreation and urban farmer's markets.

Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood Parks provide smaller, well-distributed park space throughout the city, ensuring that all residents have access to the park system within walking distance of their home. They are intended to serve the local neighbourhood, or approximately 5,000 people. The typical size of a Neighbourhood Park is two hectares and they provide a wide array of local park functions, including passive space for gathering and relaxation, playgrounds, sport courts, and pathway systems. They should be accessible by active transportation modes such as walking and cycling, sited within a neighbourhood along collector or local roads. They are zoned with the Neighbourhood Park (P1) Zone, which permits recreational and community garden uses, but prohibits larger facilities such as arenas, indoor pools, and tennis courts.

Parkettes

The size and location of Parkettes across the city varies, but they are typically under one hectare. They are often located within long established areas where larger blocks of parkland are challenging to provide. These small spaces offer limited recreational facilities or infrastructure, with a general focus on passive use such as seating. They occur within multiple zones, particularly Neighbourhood Park (P1) and Open Space (P4) Zones, that allow for recreational and natural

open space uses. Hamilton's Official Plan does not set a provision target for this park type. The small size of these spaces preclude many recreational uses traditionally associated with parkland, and they are not included in subsequent assessments of parkland provision to meet municipal provision targets.

Other Publicly Accessible Lands

Other publicly accessible lands include School Sites, Natural Open Space, and other General Open Space such as public golf courses and museums. These lands provide benefit to the community, but are not considered active municipal parkland, are not acquired nor funded through the same mechanisms, and do not contribute to overall provision rates in this report.

School Sites

School sites are lands that unofficially supplement local park provision by providing communities with additional green spaces, sports fields, and playgrounds. School sites are outside of municipal control and, therefore, are not a substitute for true municipal parks.

Natural Open Space

Natural Open Space includes public lands that contain significant ecological and natural landscapes and features. This includes the Niagara Escarpment lands which are a significant landform within the city, as well as creeks and ravines, steep slopes and wetlands, and woodlots. Their location is determined by where the ecological core areas, corridors, and habitat patches are located, especially along the Escarpment. While they may provide some passive recreational opportunities, such as trails, seating, and lookouts, they are not considered municipal parkland and are not included in the provision analyses in this report.

These lands are zoned with the Conservation/Hazard Land (P5) Zone in urban areas, where permitted uses are in line with the zone's title and functions. In rural Hamilton, the Rural Conservation/Hazard Lands (P6-P8) Zones apply, which extend permitted uses to agricultural (and services supporting agricultural) as well as to single-detached dwellings.

General Open Space

This broad class includes other publicly accessible open space, which may require an entry fee or charge, that are not City parks but provide community gathering and recreational uses. Examples include golf courses, trails and multi-use pathways, urban plazas and squares, picnic areas and beaches. This class also includes City-designated and owned museum and heritage spaces which are primarily open space (as opposed to indoor facilities only). General Open Space are scattered throughout the city. These lands are zoned with the Open Space (P4) Zone, which permits recreational, natural, and special open space uses, including golf courses, cemeteries, and botanical gardens, among others.

Current Supply of Parks and Open Space

Further to the above descriptions and functional guidance, Table 1 summarizes the current number, total area, median, and maximum sizes of each park class.

Across the entire municipality, there are currently 1.98 hectares of total Municipal Parkland per 1000 people (19.8 m² per person), but only 0.51 hectares of Neighbourhood Parkland per 1000 people (5.1m² per person). This is below the Official Plan targets of 2.1 hectares per 1000 (21m² per person) for municipal parkland, and 0.7 hectare per 1000 (7m² per person) of neighbourhood parks. A graphical example of these amounts is provided in Figure 3. The City of Hamilton currently has 2804 hectares of parkland and publicly accessible open space, 1155 hectares of Municipal Parkland (including City Wide, Community, and Neighbourhood Parks), of which 298 hectares is Neighbourhood Parkland. Figure 4 shows the distribution of these parks across the entire municipality, while Figure 5 provides an inset on Hamilton's urban area.

An additional 18 hectares of community parkland, and 39 hectares of neighbourhood parkland has been planned to date, which will bring the grand total of municipal parkland to 1242 hectares and thereby meeting the targets when averaged across the urban area. However, portions of the City remain deficient in

parkland provision, and this will be further compounded by ongoing planned intensification and growth.

Per capita parkland area values calculated across the entire city do not address the distribution of parks across the city, or the degree to which they are accessible, and equitably distributed. The Official Plan sets an 800m walkable target for Neighbourhood

Parks, and it is essential to assess parkland provision with this in mind. As Hamilton grows and intensifies, it is anticipated that there will be greater use and demand for existing parks, as well as greater challenges in acquiring and developing new parks, particularly in existing urban areas. A targeted approach to park provision must provide focus on high density areas lacking park access and prioritize the acquisition of new parkland in an equitable manner.

Table 1: Park Classification System Summary Statistics

CLASS	# EXISTING (+PLANNED)	TOTAL AREA (HECTARES)	MEDIAN SIZE (HECTARES)	MAX SIZE (HECTARES)
City Wide	24	470.52	17.41	96.44
Community	72(+3)	357.58	3.98	21.95
Neighbourhood	172(+24)	298.53	1.44	7.08
Parkette	109(+11)	28.64	0.21	1.42
School Site	114	315.32	2.14	17.30
Natural Open Space	88(+2)	815.39	3.42	100.92
General Open Space	49(+4)	518.08	2.14	145.58

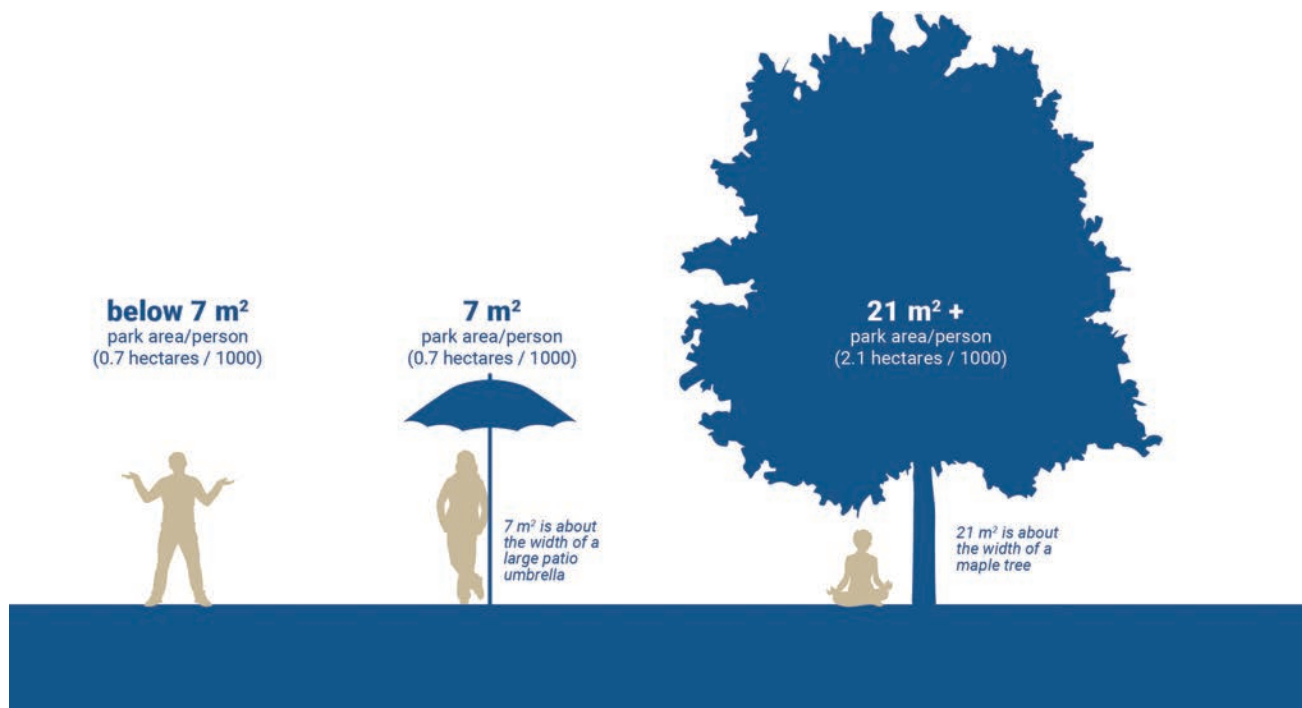
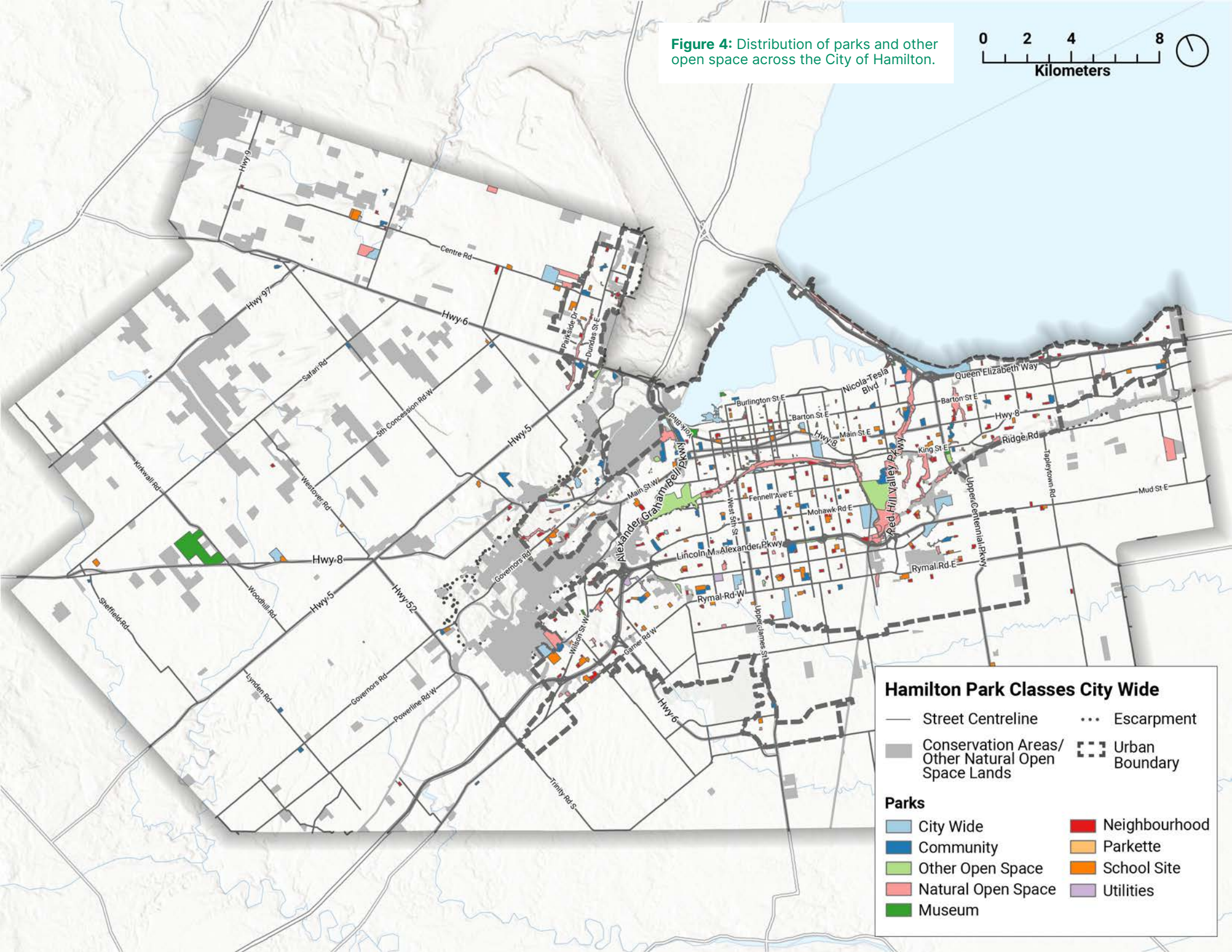


Figure 3: Relative amounts of parkland provided per person.

Figure 4: Distribution of parks and other open space across the City of Hamilton.



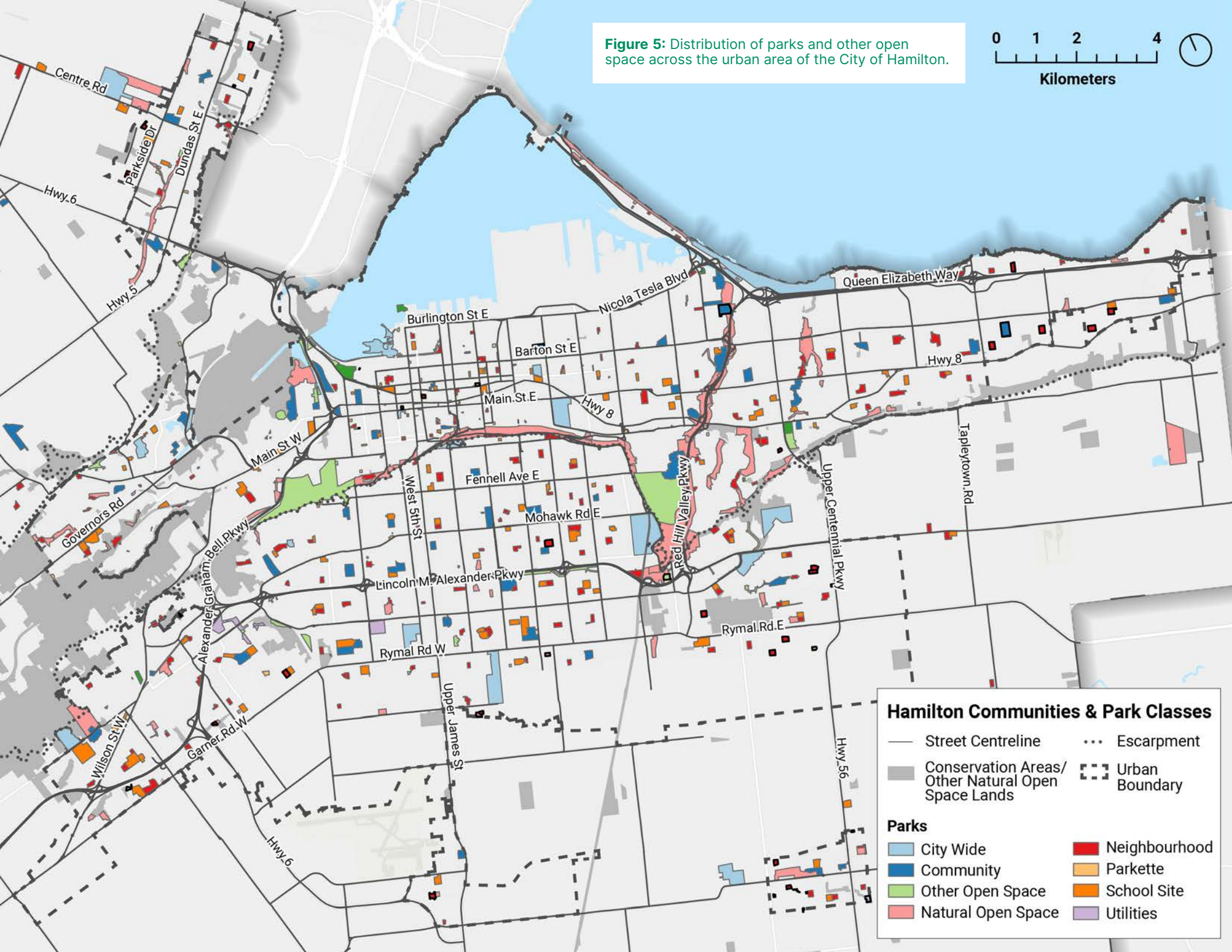
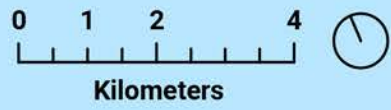
Hamilton Park Classes City Wide

— Street Centreline	... Escarpment
■ Conservation Areas/ Other Natural Open Space Lands	--- Urban Boundary

Parks

■ City Wide	■ Neighbourhood
■ Community	■ Parkette
■ Other Open Space	■ School Site
■ Natural Open Space	■ Utilities
■ Museum	

Figure 5: Distribution of parks and other open space across the urban area of the City of Hamilton.



Hamilton Communities & Park Classes

— Street Centreline	... Escarpment
■ Conservation Areas/ Other Natural Open Space Lands	--- Urban Boundary
Parks	
■ City Wide	■ Neighbourhood
■ Community	■ Parkette
■ Other Open Space	■ School Site
■ Natural Open Space	■ Utilities

Indigenous Peoples and Parks

Historically parks in Hamilton have prioritized settler colonial history and aesthetics and not considered Indigenous history or cultural practices. Some cultural practices have been historically banned in city parks. Fortunately, this is changing. Hamilton now allows the incorporation of Indigenous artwork, signage, and symbols in parks to reflect Indigenous culture and heritage. The City also permitted the hosting of Indigenous cultural events, ceremonies, and gatherings in designated park areas (City of Hamilton, 2021). A recent change has allowed for ceremonial fires to take place within City parks. Hamilton's Urban Indigenous Strategy is working to create more opportunities for Indigenous stories and cultural practices in parks across Hamilton.

Indigenous peoples today face violence and discrimination in public spaces. Research shows that Indigenous people, particularly Indigenous youth, face greater barriers to accessing and participating in recreation, including organized sports, due to increased social, cultural, and economic barriers (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.) Active partnerships and relationships with Indigenous communities and organizations is essential to create inclusive spaces that respect Indigenous history, traditional uses, and contemporary cultural expression as well as foster Truth and Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.



Trends and Best Practices

Municipal Benchmarking for Park Provision

There are several methods to measure park provision (for a list of the different methods refer to Table 2 below). However, most commonly municipalities measure park provision in two ways: park supply (total area of city-owned parkland per 1000 residents) or park distribution and access (amount or presence of a park within a walkable distance).

For a more in-depth look at park supply per 1000 residents, refer to Figure 6 on the next page to see how Hamilton compares to cities across Canada. When reviewing this data, please note that cities may

define and classify parks differently. However, despite the challenges with this data (described below), this remains the most popular park measure and the best method to compare municipal performance with each other.

Measuring parks per population does not indicate where parks are located within a city, whether they are accessible or if they are equitably distributed. However, measuring park distribution and access accounts for these characteristics. An increasing number of municipalities are identifying distribution and access targets with the intent that certain classes of parks are accessible to residents within a maximum prescribed distance.

Table 2: Park Provision Measures Currently Used by Comparable Municipalities
(source: Park People <https://ccpr.parkpeople.ca/2022/data/cities>)

PARK PROVISION MEASURES CURRENTLY USED	EXAMPLE MUNICIPALITIES
Supply: total area of city-owned parkland per 1,000 residents	(not an exhaustive list) City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, City of Ottawa, plus many others
Distribution and access: amount, or presence, of park within a walkable distance (usually 400 to 800 metres, or 5 to 10 minute walk)	City of Toronto, City of Mississauga, City of Markham, City of Winnipeg, City of Edmonton
Quality: functionality of park program or service, condition of park infrastructure	City of Edmonton, City of Winnipeg, City of Vaughan
Diversity: different types of parks and open spaces, multi-functionality	City of Edmonton
Park access to priority populations: existing low park supply, prevalence of low income, high growth areas	City of Toronto

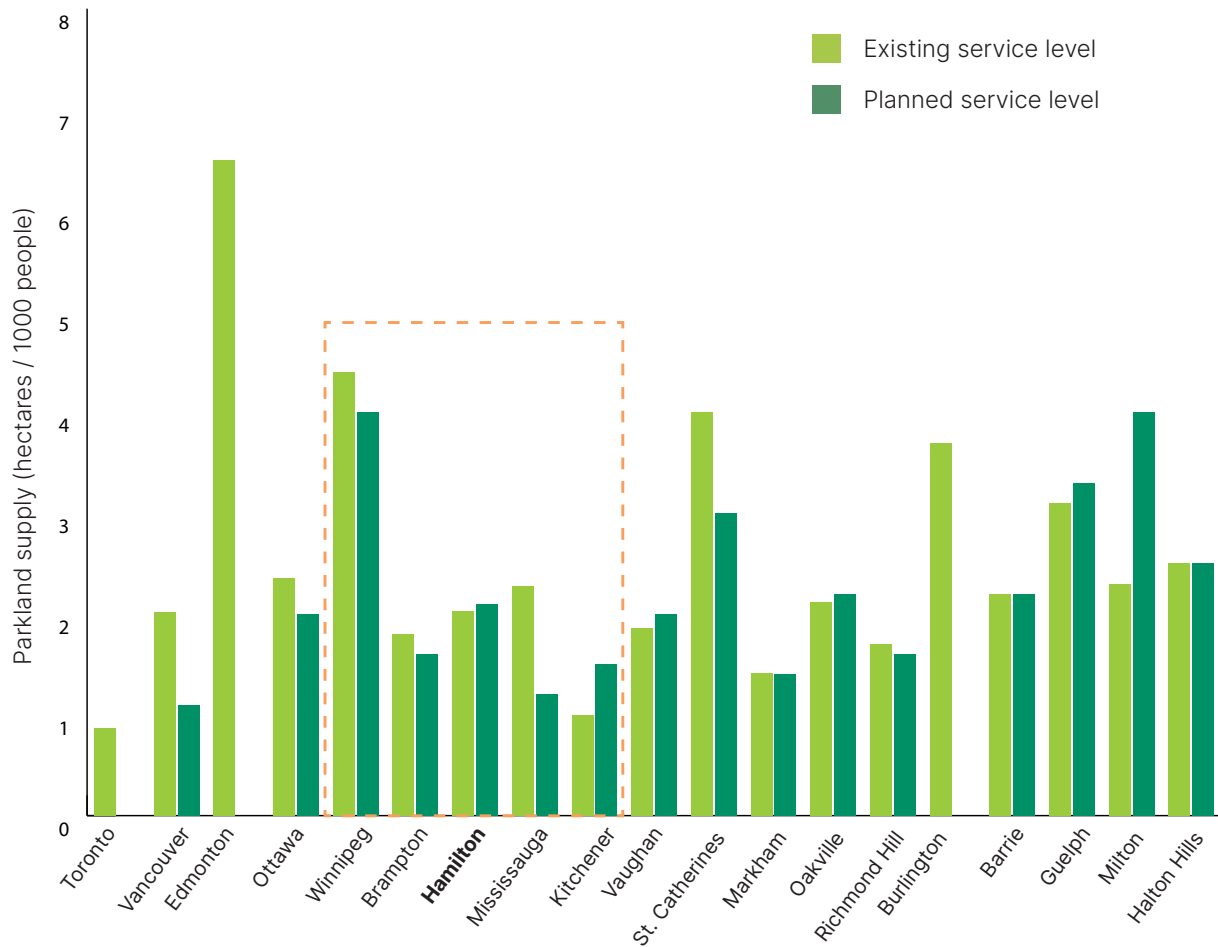


Figure 6: Park Provision Measures Currently Used by Comparable Municipalities
 (source: Park People <https://ccpr.parkpeople.ca/2022/data/cities>)

MUNICIPAL BENCHMARKS

All the municipalities reviewed measured their existing park supply as a measurement of total parks area per population. They either measure 'hectares of parks per 1,000 residents', or 'square metres per individual'. This measure provides a quick, high-level summary of the amount of parkland provided for a particular population across a geography, such as a city or planning area.

To help contextualize Hamilton's park provisioning, the most comparable municipalities are highlighted in orange in the bar graph below. These municipalities have a comparable population, similar urban/rural structures, or equivalent growth pressures.

Additionally, the municipal provisioning comparison below includes other communities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, with a Niagara Escarpment Plan (or similar conservation plan) or who are located within the inner or outer ring of the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The figure above presents Parkland Supply showing existing, and planned targets (where available) per one thousand residents. The data is measured based on population numbers and the area in hectares for each municipality.

Park Trends

Two-thirds of Canadians visit parks weekly, using them for socializing, playing, and exercising (Park People, 2020; Volenec et al., 2021; Collins et al., 2020). Understanding current and emerging park trends within Hamilton and across Canada can help indicate potential spatial, programmatic and design needs to consider in park planning, design, and provision. As preferences shift over time, there is a need to create adaptable parks to evolve as the population does. Figure 7 highlights recent recreational trends for the City.

ROAD CONVERSIONS TO PARKS

Park visitation has surged by around 55%, with over half of Canadian cities reporting an increased use of parks. Non-traditional techniques, specifically closing streets to convert to parkland, could help expand park space, particularly in areas with a deficit. The City has converted road segments into parks already (Honourable Bob Mackenzie Park). Also, King Street East was recently closed for a Sunday as part of an Open Streets pilot project. This strategy can aid in the equitable supply of parkland for existing neighbourhoods where land acquisition is difficult due to cost, supply, or other constraints (Coleman, 2022).

DIVERSE SPORTING FACILITIES

There is an increasing demand for a more diverse range of sports (e.g. cricket, disc sports and swimming opportunities for all ages) to adapt to changing demographics, preferences, and needs (City of Windsor, 2015). Free recreational amenities, such as outdoor tennis courts, basketball courts, play features, and spray pads, also have high rates of participation and appeal to a range of demographics.

ACTIVE ADULT PROGRAMS

Despite the general increase in self-directed recreation, residents are interested in more adult-oriented programming, such as Zumba, yoga, or cross-training opportunities. Demand for shorter and more flexible programs can help accommodate residents' busy schedules and support greater participation.

PUBLIC ART

Parks provide the setting for public art spaces, including local mural installations and formal graffiti walls, as well as more permanent art installations such as sculptures.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

There is substantial value in providing community gardens throughout the City, allowing local residents to contribute to affordable food options while building community, enhancing the environment, and contributing to personal wellness.

SENIORS PROGRAMS

Retirement-age adults are also in need of more leisure activities and amenities, such as pickleball or spaces to enjoy nature (City of Windsor, 2015). This growing demand reflects their desire for fulfilling and engaging experiences that enhance their overall well-being during retirement.

CASUAL AND UNSTRUCTURED PARK USE

Across Canada, the popularity of casual and unstructured opportunities is increasing compared to more programmed recreation (Department of Canadian Heritage, n.d.; City of London, 2019). This results in increased demand for more flexible, multi-purpose recreational spaces. Many municipalities have responded to this demand by boosting unstructured activities such as walking, hiking, cycling, and utilizing park spaces to learn new skills in one's own time.

PARKS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

Parks have gained recognition for their significant mental health benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parks offer opportunities for physical activity, socialization, and nature exposure, relieving stress and improving overall well-being (National Recreation and Park Association, 2015; Penbrooke, 2020). Considering parks mental health role can inform design and programming by acknowledging the roles activity, socialization and solitude play in mental well-being.

FREE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Cost can be a significant barrier to participating in a range of exercise, recreation, and leisure activities (Town of Okotoks, 2017; B.C. Recreation and Parks Association, n.d.). Free amenities in parks can help address this barrier. Examples of free facilities can include outdoor fitness stations, open-space exercise zones (for activities like yoga and tai chi), and water play facilities. By implementing these features, parks can create inclusive recreational experiences accessible and available to all residents (City of Markham, 2019).

MULTI-USE PARKS

Across Canada, municipalities are moving forward more multi-use parks with flexible spaces (Strathcona County, 2019). Park biodiversity can be enhanced through varied green spaces to facilitate connections with nature as well as a variety of passive and active recreation (Park People, 2022). Design can also help support multiple uses through rectangular sites to support informal field play, open unstructured areas, mixes of shade and sun exposure, and buffering from active and passive uses (City of St Johns , 2014).

CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE

Parks with green and natural features offer opportunities for individuals to connect with and appreciate the natural world. People of all ages recognize the importance of outdoor connection, with an increased desire to walk, hike, and bike through natural areas (City of Windsor, 2015). Naturalized landscapes have many benefits, including improving the ecological function and biodiversity, reducing long term operational maintenance effort and costs, and improving climate change resiliency. Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan will provide additional guidance to support healthy natural areas. However, naturalized spaces require specific considerations including site design, safety and sight lines, and species planting and maintenance, among others.

Summary

Based on the above survey of trends, the following are major takeaways for Hamilton:

1. Consider multi-generational and multi-cultural needs within parks.
2. Support increased greenery, natural elements, and trail-based recreation to allow people to connect with nature and gain mental health benefits.
3. Design spaces to be multi-use and flexible to adapt to shifting needs and preferences overtime.
4. Increase the amount of parks space and the amenities and facilities within that offer free opportunities for exercise, recreation, and leisure to improve equitable access to parks.

Overall, these takeaways emphasize the importance of considering diverse populations, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and community well-being in the planning and development of parks in Hamilton.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The City of Hamilton is not immune to the impacts of climate change, recent years have seen increased rates of ice storms, power outages, waterfront flooding and the accompanying costly infrastructure repairs, increasing escarpment erosion and damage to escarpment access roads, basement flooding, increasing extreme heat events, wind storms, and vector-borne diseases such as Lyme. It is imperative to adapt to and prepare for those climate impacts we can no longer avoid.

Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan creates evidenced-informed actions to help reduce impacts and protect our most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Priority climate impacts to be addressed through action include: Flooding, extreme heat, water quality, health and safety, erosion and infrastructure damage, power outages, and food insecurity. The City's parks can contribute to mitigating many of these impacts.

Climate change will continue to impact parks requiring adaptation to ensure their resilience. One of the immediate impacts is a shift in seasonally dependent activities hampered by a warming climate impacting the facilities needed and their operations and maintenance. Increased hazards, such as flooding or smog, will also impact park function, increasing maintenance costs and impacting usability. Creating adaptable spaces and facilities whose purpose can shift overtime will help with parks adaptation. Park design considering a warming climate to guide planting, water absorption and the need for heat refuges will also help with resilience.

Household Participation in Outdoor Sports and Activities (since 2019)*

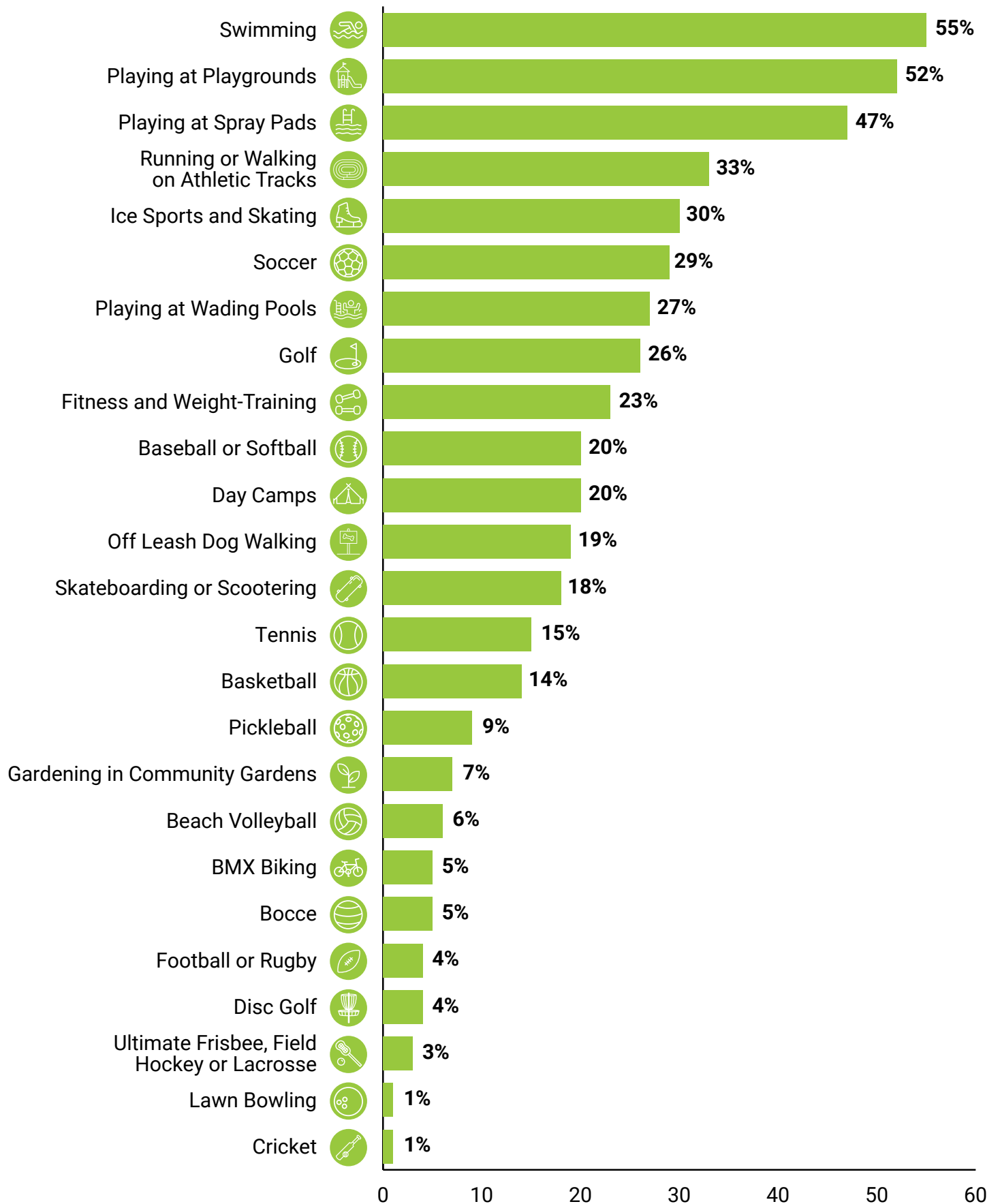


Figure 7: Relative participation in outdoor recreation.
(source: Hamilton Recreation Master Plan 2022)

Partnerships and Opportunities

Existing Partnerships and Potential Opportunities

The City of Hamilton partners with public organizations and companies to provide services to residents, including parks. The following table outlines existing partnerships with a range of stakeholders, organizations, community groups, and companies. Ongoing collaboration with existing and new partners supports innovation, efficiency, and services provision.

PARTNER	DESCRIPTION OF PARTNERSHIP	OPPORTUNITIES
School Boards (Public, Catholic, French-language public, French-language Catholic)	<p>The City has formal shared use agreements with some school boards for public access to school sites and facilities. These agreements are critical and this model is working well.</p> <p>Additionally, nearby public parks can support school programming and activities.</p> <p>School boards have changing needs and shifts in demographics can make school sites vulnerable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increasing outside school hour public access (particularly in areas lower in park provision) › Collaborating on mutually beneficial park amenities (like playgrounds)
Royal Botanical Gardens	<p>The Royal Botanical Gardens is a partner in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System initiative, which aims to establish a connected ecological park along the Harbour, extending into Burlington and the Halton Region. The Royal Botanical Garden is also the owner of Churchill Park which is a successful park partnership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Collaborating on natural area conservation and passive recreational opportunities for the public
Utility and Infrastructure Agencies	<p>The City actively collaborates with Hydro One and other utility and infrastructure agencies to enhance park connections. Through public access agreements, multi-use pathways and greenways can be developed along hydro corridors, improving access to parks, and promoting active transportation connectivity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Strengthening collaboration to using utility corridors for pathways to facilitate recreational use, mobility, and broader community connectivity.

PARTNER**DESCRIPTION OF PARTNERSHIP****OPPORTUNITIES****Development Industry**

The development industry actively partners with the City to provide land for new park spaces in growing communities. Through parkland conveyance and dedication requirements, the industry supports parks in growing areas.

- › Coordinating efforts to identify suitable parkland in growing and redeveloping areas.
- › Exploring alternative means, such as privately-owned public spaces, and improved streetscapes to provide park-like services

Community, Conservation, and User Groups

Community groups, like Environment Hamilton, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, and sports organizations, provide diverse programming, stewardship, and volunteer opportunities to activate and maintain the city's parks.

- › Enabling these groups to continue to offer park activities and programming.
- › Utilizing partnerships to better understand residents' perspectives and identify areas for improvement.
- › Exploring partnerships with organizations that own land or offer grants to create new parks or improve existing spaces.

Conservation Authorities & the Niagara Escarpment Commission

Conservation Authorities and the Niagara Escarpment Commission actively protect and manage natural lands and features in and around Hamilton. They play a key role in acquiring and connecting ecological corridors, supporting both residents' passive recreation opportunities and the region's biodiversity. Currently, the City and Hamilton Conservation Authority have active agreements in place, such as Confederation Beach Park and Wild Waterworks

- › Leveraging expertise and resources on any naturalization efforts in parks whether to identify parks that can play a role in wildlife connectivity or to seek advice about how best to naturalize a portion of a park.

Neighbourhood Profiles

NEIGHBOURHOOD TYPE

ROLE IN THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

OPPORTUNITY

Development of New Urban Neighbourhoods

Developing areas on the periphery of the urban area play a crucial role in the open space network. These development areas offer more flexibility in parkland development, allowing for long-term adaptability to changing amenity designs and requirements.

Secondary Planning for New Urban Neighbourhoods is instrumental to ensuring that the parkland needs for the anticipated future community are established at the beginning of the land use planning process.

- › Ensure adequate parkland provision: Utilize parkland dedication processes in developing areas to guarantee sufficient open space for the growing population.
- › Design for flexibility: Plan and design park spaces in developing areas with flexibility in mind, enabling future adjustments to meet changing amenity needs as the community ages.
- › Promote connectivity: Connect the periphery and the urban core, creating a well-connected parks system that facilitates movement and access.
- › Preserve natural areas: Protect existing natural areas to maintain connected ecological corridors and support biodiversity throughout the city.

Redevelopment of Existing Urban Neighbourhoods

Redevelopment, through intensification in Hamilton's Existing Urban Neighbourhoods, plays a significant role in accommodating the City's future population growth. However, these areas face challenges in providing sufficient parkland due to factors such as high land costs, limited availability of unoccupied land, and parcel fragmentation.

Existing neighbourhoods undergoing intensification also have limited accessible parkland compared to newer communities.

As the population increases in these areas, parks must accommodate greater use without a proportional growth in parkland. To address this, park acquisition and provisioning in intensification areas require prioritization, opportunistic purchases, partnerships, and consideration of non-traditional park-like spaces.

- › Opportunistic acquisitions: Prioritize strategic purchases to secure parkland in intensification areas.
- › Non-traditional park-like spaces: Explore innovative approaches such as strata or rooftop parks, privately-owned public spaces, and indoor park facilities.
- › Enhanced transportation routes: Improve accessibility to parks by integrating frequent transit access and active transportation infrastructure.
- › High-quality park design and maintenance: Design urban parks at a robust standard to accommodate the higher anticipated use and reduce maintenance costs over time.
- › Multi-functional and flexible parks: Create multi-functional parks with a range of functions for diverse social and community uses.
- › Expand tree cover and incorporate natural spaces and green infrastructure: This will provide ecological benefits and climate adaptation, including urban heat island reduction and naturalized stormwater runoff management.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TYPE **ROLE IN THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK**

OPPORTUNITY

Transit Oriented Development

The Province's Growth Plan (2019) directs municipalities to intensify around transit nodes to create vibrant, walkable communities that encourage sustainable transportation options and reduce reliance on private vehicles. Parks are an important component of transit-oriented development given the growing population living in apartment-style housing with limited access to private outdoor space for their recreational, leisure and social needs. This development will occur within existing urban neighbourhoods, and provides a significant opportunity to acquire lands in conjunction with this significant redevelopment.

- › Plan for future development: Take advantage of the Light Rail Transit implementation to strategically plan for future parks alongside development along the corridors, prioritizing Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs) within a 500m walking distance of transit stops.
- › Acquire and expand parkland: Secure and expand parkland to accommodate the increased population densities, ensuring accessible and sufficient open space resources for new residents' recreational and leisure needs. Where direct acquisition of City-owned parkland is not possible, potential partnership opportunities for publicly-accessible private open spaces should be identified.

Rural Lands

Hamilton's rural lands encompass large agricultural areas, scattered population centers, and natural vegetation. While primarily focused on agricultural uses, the rural area of Hamilton also contains some intact, biodiverse areas that are part of the City's Natural Heritage System. These open spaces, most of which are privately-owned, continue to play a significant role in the connectivity of local ecosystems.

- › Enhance active transportation networks: Improve connectivity between parks in the rural landscape to enable easier non-motorized travel.
- › Expand municipal park presence: Identify and develop additional municipal parks for the dispersed rural population, providing accessible and nearby recreational opportunities.

Parkland Provisioning

Walkable Catchment Analysis

A catchment analysis uses the network of roads, sidewalks, and trails to calculate walking routes and uses this to determine how far it is to travel from a specific feature or park. This is a more useful analysis than a typical “buffer” or “birds’ eye” catchment, as it considers on the ground pathways and existing terrain barriers to access to create a more accurate assessment of the accessibility of parkland in the city (Figure 8).

For the purposes of this report, a catchment analysis has been used to assess the relative distribution of municipal parkland across the city. The analysis draws on the walkable network of streets and pathways to define 800m catchment areas around each Neighbourhood Park (roughly a 5-10 minute walk, 2 minute cycle, or 1 minute drive). Providing parks that are accessible to residents within these distances is considered good community planning in an urban context.

Using the city’s network of sidewalks and pathways, an 800m walkable catchment has been identified around each Municipal Park (including City Wide, Community, and Neighbourhood Parks). Using these catchments combined with the 2021 census dissemination blocks, an assessment of existing

Municipal Parkland and Neighbourhood Parkland Provision identifies the total amount of parkland per person as it varies across the city. Catchment areas are summarized using the 2021 census dissemination blocks to calculate the total park area available to the people within each block.

Municipal Parkland Provision

Across the entire city, Hamiltonians have access to 1.98 hectares of Municipal Parkland per 1000 people. The overall Municipal Park analysis is presented in Figure 9, highlighting areas above the municipal park provision target (2.1 hectares per 1000) in dark green, areas of sufficient provision in light green, areas below the minimum 0.7 hectare / 1000 (7 m²/person) provision target in yellow, and areas without provision in shades of orange to red (identifying high density lands without park access).

Neighbourhood Parkland Provision

Across the entire city, Hamiltonians have access to 0.51 hectares of Neighbourhood Parkland per 1000 people. The Neighbourhood Park analysis is presented in Figure 10, highlighting areas of high neighbourhood park provision (> 2.1 hectares per 1000) in dark green, areas of sufficient provision in light green, areas below the minimum 0.7 hectare / 1000 (7 m²/person) neighbourhood provision target in yellow, and areas without provision in shades of orange to red (identifying high density lands without park access). A neighbourhood level summary is provided in Figure 11, detailing the percentage of neighbourhood residents lacking Neighbourhood Park access within walking distance.

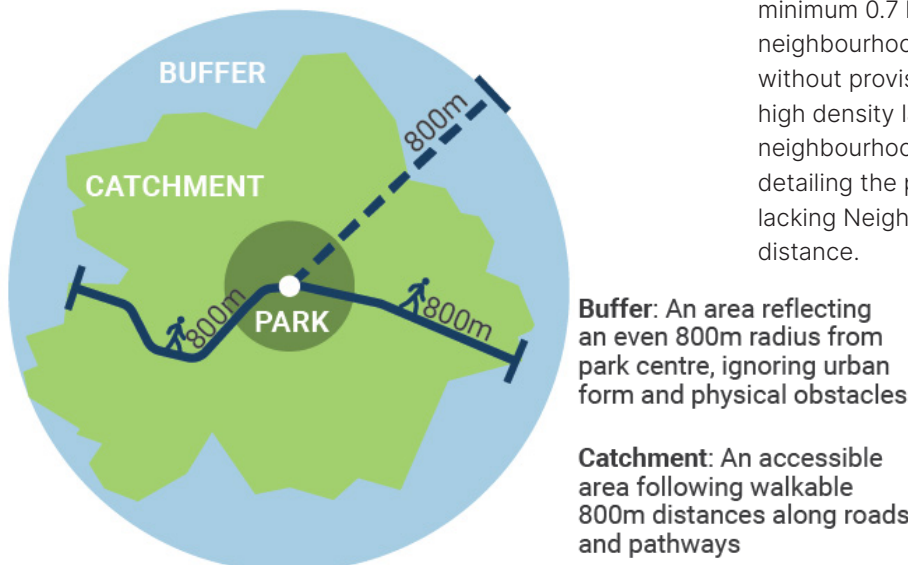






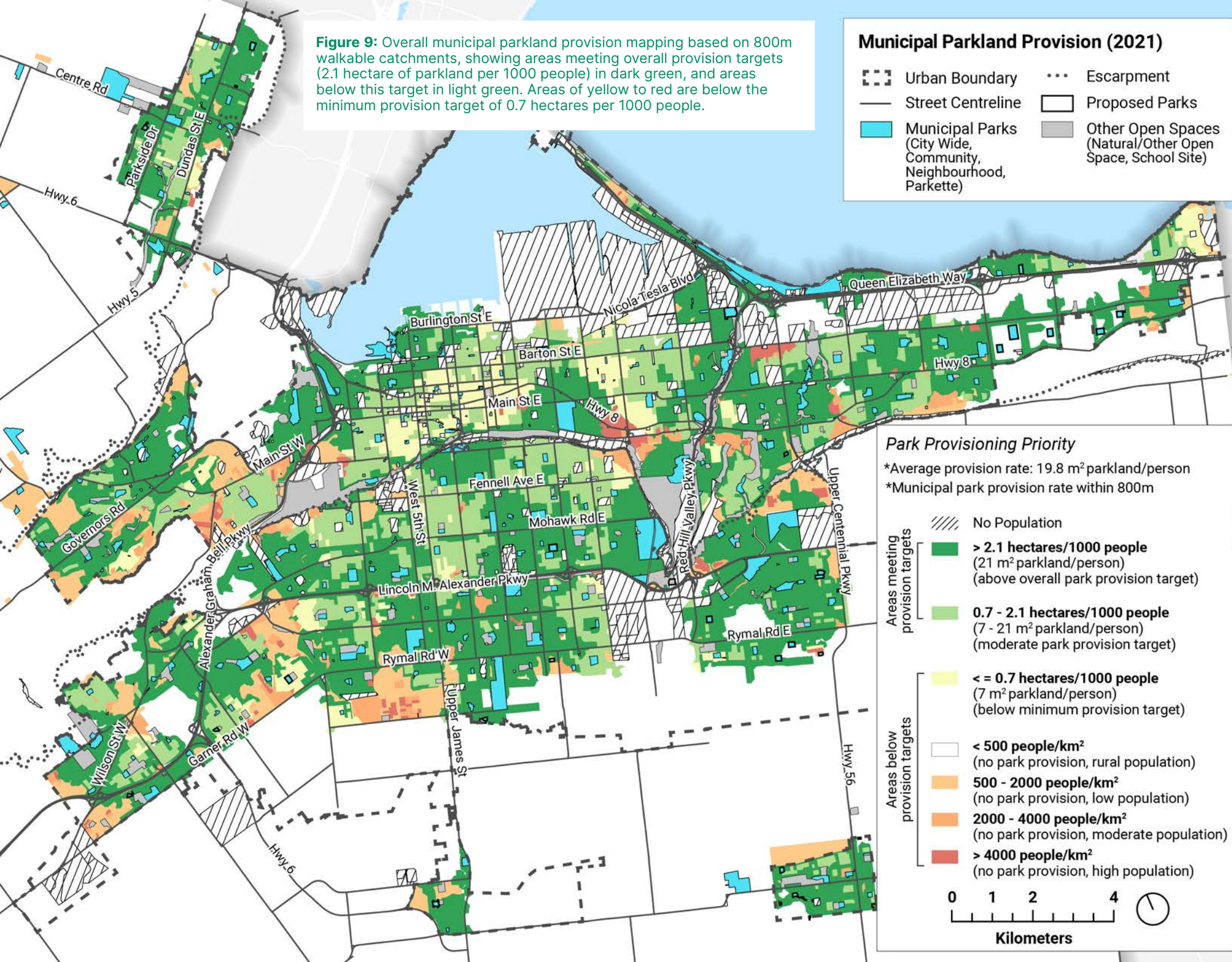


Figure 8: The difference between a buffer and a catchment.

Figure 9: Overall municipal parkland provision mapping based on 800m walkable catchments, showing areas meeting overall provision targets (2.1 hectare of parkland per 1000 people) in dark green, and areas below this target in light green. Areas of yellow to red are below the minimum provision target of 0.7 hectares per 1000 people.









Municipal Parkland Provision (2021)

-  Urban Boundary
-  Escarpment
-  Street Centreline
-  Proposed Parks
-  Municipal Parks (City Wide, Community, Neighbourhood, Parkette)
-  Other Open Spaces (Natural/Other Open Space, School Site)



Park Provisioning Priority

*Average provision rate: 19.8 m² parkland/person
 *Municipal park provision rate within 800m

-  No Population
-  **> 2.1 hectares/1000 people**
(21 m² parkland/person)
(above overall park provision target)
-  **0.7 - 2.1 hectares/1000 people**
(7 - 21 m² parkland/person)
(moderate park provision target)
-  **<= 0.7 hectares/1000 people**
(7 m² parkland/person)
(below minimum provision target)
-  **< 500 people/km²**
(no park provision, rural population)
-  **500 - 2000 people/km²**
(no park provision, low population)
-  **2000 - 4000 people/km²**
(no park provision, moderate population)
-  **> 4000 people/km²**
(no park provision, high population)

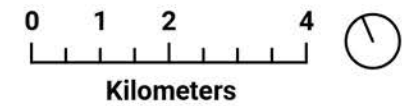
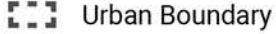

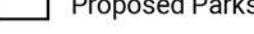
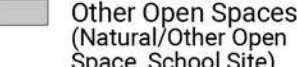
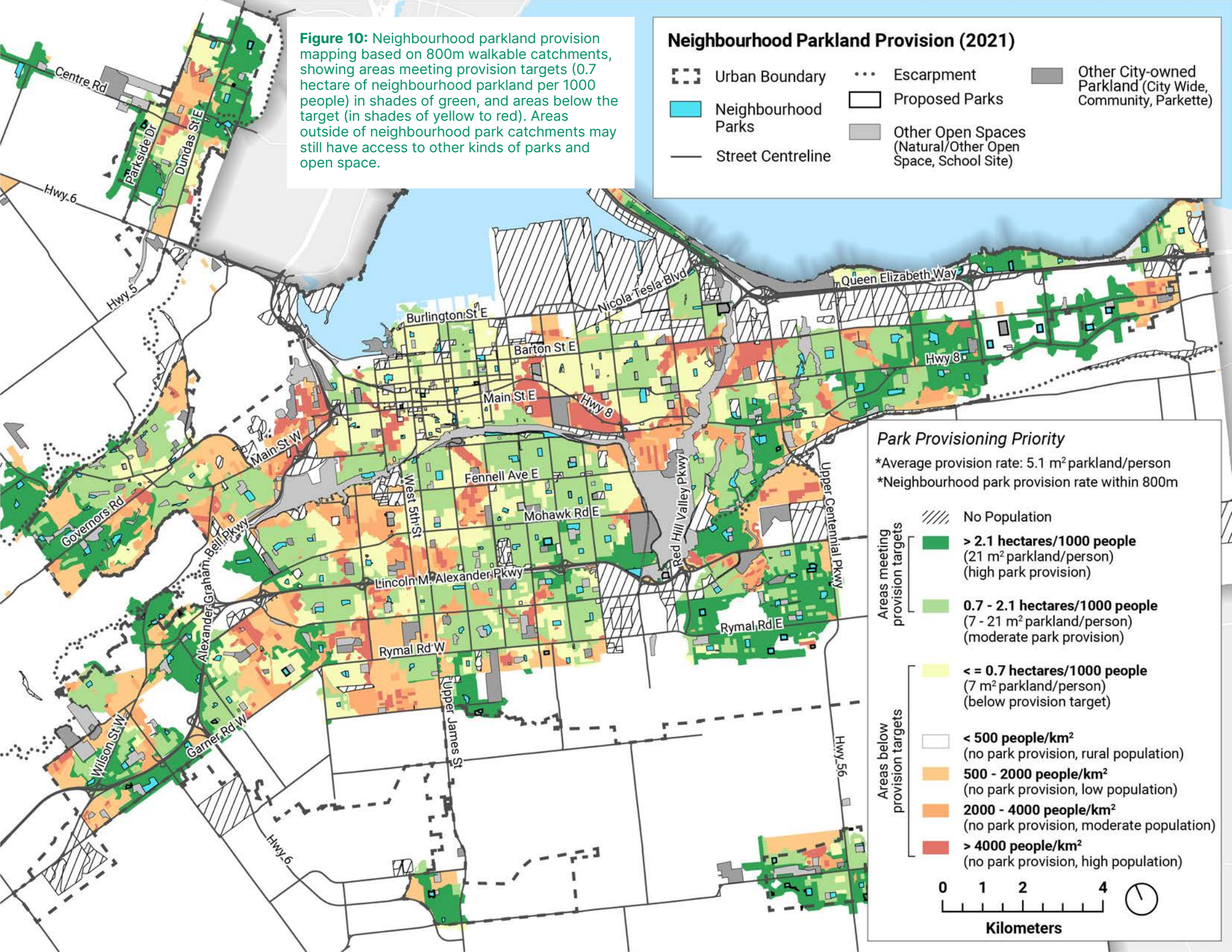


Figure 10: Neighbourhood parkland provision mapping based on 800m walkable catchments, showing areas meeting provision targets (0.7 hectare of neighbourhood parkland per 1000 people) in shades of green, and areas below the target (in shades of yellow to red). Areas outside of neighbourhood park catchments may still have access to other kinds of parks and open space.

Neighbourhood Parkland Provision (2021)

-  Urban Boundary
-  Escarpment
-  Other City-owned Parkland (City Wide, Community, Parkette)
-  Neighbourhood Parks
-  Proposed Parks
-  Other Open Spaces (Natural/Other Open Space, School Site)
-  Street Centreline



Park Provisioning Priority

*Average provision rate: 5.1 m² parkland/person
 *Neighbourhood park provision rate within 800m

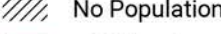
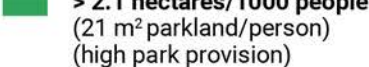
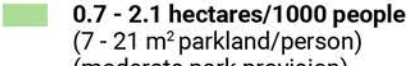



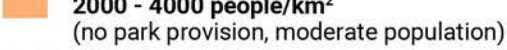
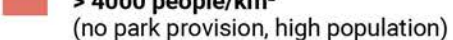
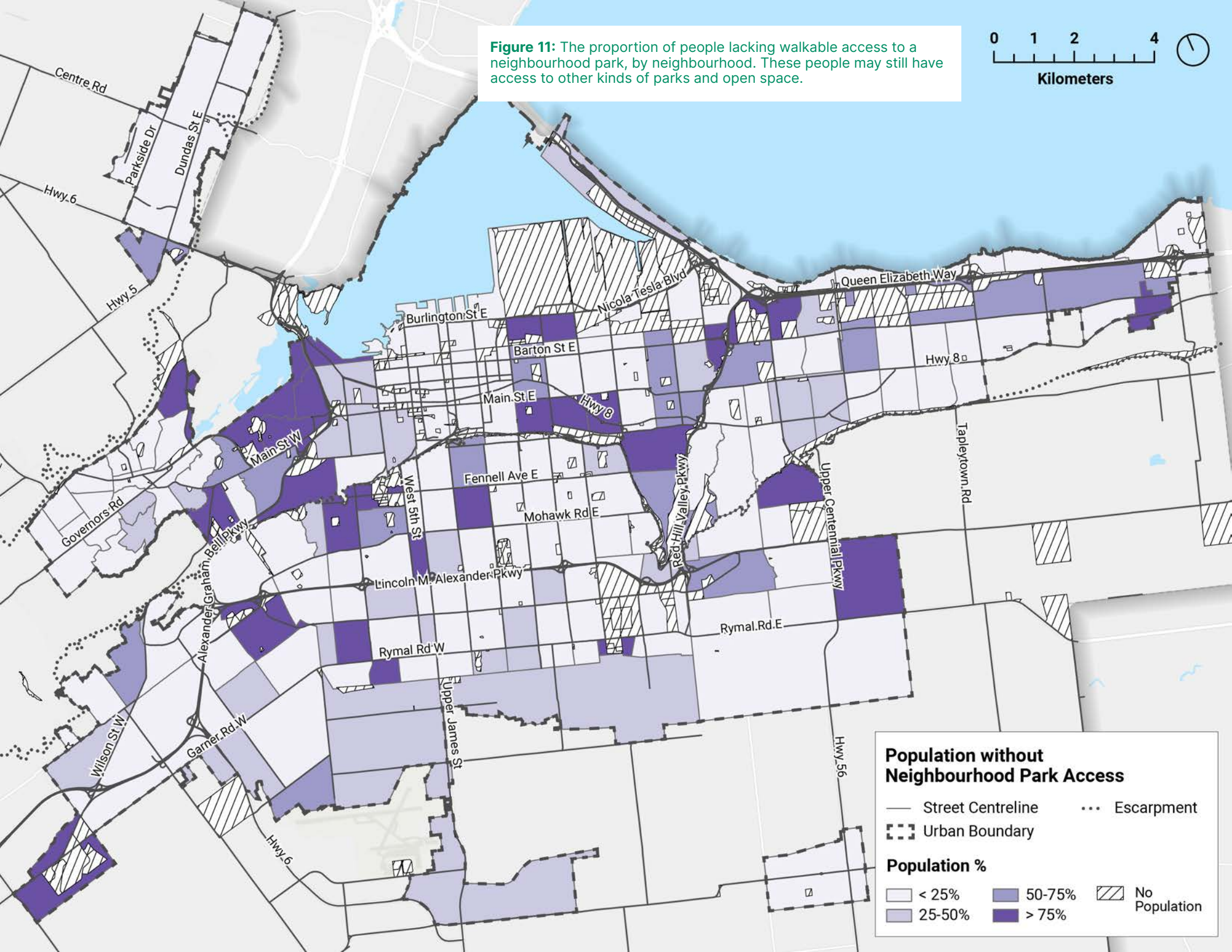
-  No Population
- Areas meeting provision targets**
 -  **> 2.1 hectares/1000 people**
(21 m² parkland/person)
(high park provision)
 -  **0.7 - 2.1 hectares/1000 people**
(7 - 21 m² parkland/person)
(moderate park provision)
- Areas below provision targets**
 -  **<= 0.7 hectares/1000 people**
(7 m² parkland/person)
(below provision target)
 -  **< 500 people/km²**
(no park provision, rural population)
 -  **500 - 2000 people/km²**
(no park provision, low population)
 -  **2000 - 4000 people/km²**
(no park provision, moderate population)
 -  **> 4000 people/km²**
(no park provision, high population)



Figure 11: The proportion of people lacking walkable access to a neighbourhood park, by neighbourhood. These people may still have access to other kinds of parks and open space.



Population without Neighbourhood Park Access

- Street Centreline
- ⋯ Escarpment
- ⌈⌋ Urban Boundary

Population %

 < 25%	 50-75%	 No Population
 25-50%	 > 75%	

Decision Making Process

The proposed decision-making framework provides a lens to evaluate and prioritize the parkland acquisition process (Figure 12). This decision-making framework will help guide the strategic acquisition of parks across the City. Drawing on the catchment analysis to identify areas lacking sufficient nearby park access, the framework prioritizes where additional parks are needed using a variety of focus factors. This includes desktop-level assessments of structural, social, and demographic focus factors, as well as site-level characteristics and contexts. This framework for parkland acquisition and (re)development provides clarity by identifying priority areas for new parkland acquisition to facilitate fair, transparent, and consistent decision-making. As with the rest of this Master Plan, this framework must be updated and adjusted as Hamilton and its many communities change and grow over time.

The framework draws on the accessible park provision mapping to identify gaps in the park system across the city. Gaps are prioritized based on a desktop-level assessment of key focus factors, then potential sites for acquisition are identified using the lenses of site suitability, the population and site context a new park location would service, alignment with existing plans, and partnership opportunities. In priority gap areas where suitable sites are not able to be acquired, alternative public realm options should be explored (including pedestrianizing streets, developing shared Strata spaces, or Privately-Owned Public Spaces).

Where sufficient parkland is already in place, the decision-making framework can be used to assess whether ongoing need for municipal parkland exists (drawing on the focus factors, and other plans or partnership opportunities), to either renew or bolster existing park spaces, or repurpose them to provide other municipal benefits to the neighbourhood (as and where such opportunities are identified).

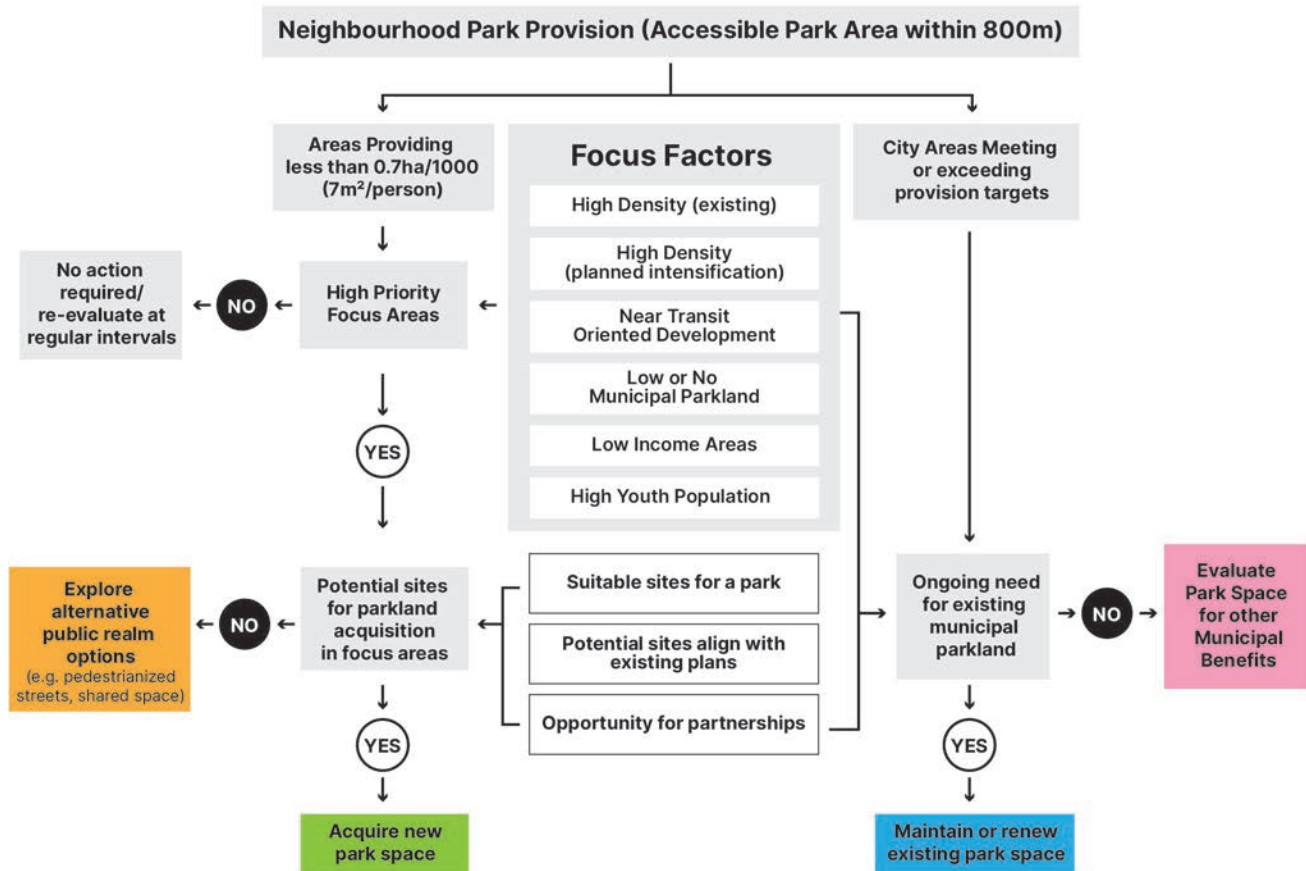


Figure 12: Proposed decision-making framework to guide subsequent parkland acquisition and renewal.

Parkland Gaps and Priority Focus Areas

There is a pressing need to acquire new parkland to better support the city's growing population. Existing gaps in the provision of Neighbourhood Parks, and of municipal parkland in general, exist throughout the city today. As the city continues to develop, these gaps will become more significant. While new growth area communities have more options when it comes to the development of parkland, the existing neighbourhoods of the city are more constrained by land availability and other issues related to urban structure. As redevelopment projects increase the population density in these urban areas, existing parks will experience greater demand, and the social impacts of gaps in park provision will become more pronounced.

There are numerous factors that lead to the prioritization of parkland acquisition in one area over another, even if one area may be more deficient than another. These factors may include anticipated and realized population growth, area demographics, City strategic investment areas, opportunistic acquisition timing, and funding priorities to name a few.

As parkland acquisition can be a costly and time-consuming process, a strategic approach is necessary to help target areas most in need of additional parkland. To ensure broad support, this process must be transparent and equitable. This section presents an adaptable approach, drawing on a catchment-based assessment of park provision and access to understand the per capita supply of parkland throughout the city. Focusing on the Neighbourhood Park class, the distribution of these parks is assessed with reference to the 2021 census population using a 800m walkable catchment. This highlights areas of the city with good supply of neighbourhood parks, and those where parks are not locally accessible.

These existing gaps in Neighbourhood Park access then serve to define the Focus Areas where the acquisition of new parks is most necessary. Within

these Focus Areas, a variety of Focus Factors are used to help prioritize where acquisition should occur next. This provides a useful triage to focus attention on the areas of greatest overall need. This desktop-level assessment should not be seen as the sole approach to prioritizing acquisition, but rather as the first step in the broader process of parkland acquisition and redevelopment. The city should be prepared to acquire lands in these focus areas as they become available and explore opportunities to provide alternatives to municipal parkland (through pedestrianized streets, Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS), strata parks or other shared spaces, and other alternative provision methods, described in a subsequent section) where opportunities for the City to formally purchase parkland are few and far between.

Areas lacking walkable access to neighbourhood parkland are prioritized using a variety of overlapping focus factors. Areas with greater overlap take higher priority for acquisition. These focus factors include the following (described in greater detail in a subsequent section):

- Low or No Other Municipal Parkland: Areas with access to less than 7m²/person (0.7 hectare / 1000) of any significant municipal parkland (including all Neighbourhood, Community, or Citywide parkland)
- High Density (Existing): Areas with a population density greater than 4000 people/km²
- High Density (Planned Intensification): Greenfield or redevelopment areas with a planned increase in population greater than 75% of current population by 2051
- Transit Oriented Development Corridors: Areas nearby to key transportation corridors which will experience targeted redevelopment and densification
- Low Income: Areas with >25% low-income residents
- High Child and Youth Population: Areas with >25% residents less than 19 years old

Focus Factors

The following set of Focus Factors are used to help prioritize the acquisition of new parkland in areas currently lacking nearby access to Neighbourhood Parks. The focus factors are determined by using a threshold to identify lands where provision gaps are a significant concern. By overlapping these factors, areas of highest priority can be identified, where multiple factors make the absence of parkland more pressing.

Low or No Other Municipal Parkland

While the focus remains on areas lacking nearby access to Neighbourhood Parks, those areas without access to any other parkland are a high priority. Some residents may not have access to a nearby Neighbourhood Park, but live close to a Community or City Wide Park that can serve the same function. This focus factor is defined as any area with access to less than 7m²/person of any municipal parkland (including all Neighbourhood, Community, or City Wide parkland (Figure 13).

High Density (Existing)

High density areas typically achieve this density through multi-family residences which typically lack private backyards or shared open spaces. This focus factor is defined as any areas with a population density greater than 4000 people/km² (Figure 14).

High Density (Planned Intensification)

Looking forward, Hamilton is expected to become more densely populated over time, with more people living in apartments and townhouses. Multi-unit buildings provide fewer private backyards, creating a greater reliance on public parks for a wide range of uses. Parks in these areas are expected to be more intensely used by residents and visitors to the surrounding urban area. This focus factor is defined as any areas with a planned increase in population greater than 75% of the current population (Figure 15).

Transit-Oriented Development Corridors

Transit-oriented development will see increased density of residents, and the presence of key transportation infrastructure will lead to increased visitation and foot travel as people include these lands as part of their travel experience. Development intensification will see these lands increasingly the focus of commercial and community activity, drawing the focus of people throughout the city. Parkland in this area provides gathering space for inclusive events, relaxation, and opportunities for recreation to improve livability. This focus factor is defined as any areas within 500m of the City's defined transportation corridors (Figure 16). These routes depict Primary and Secondary Corridors of the City of Hamilton's Urban Structure, as shown on Schedule E of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan.

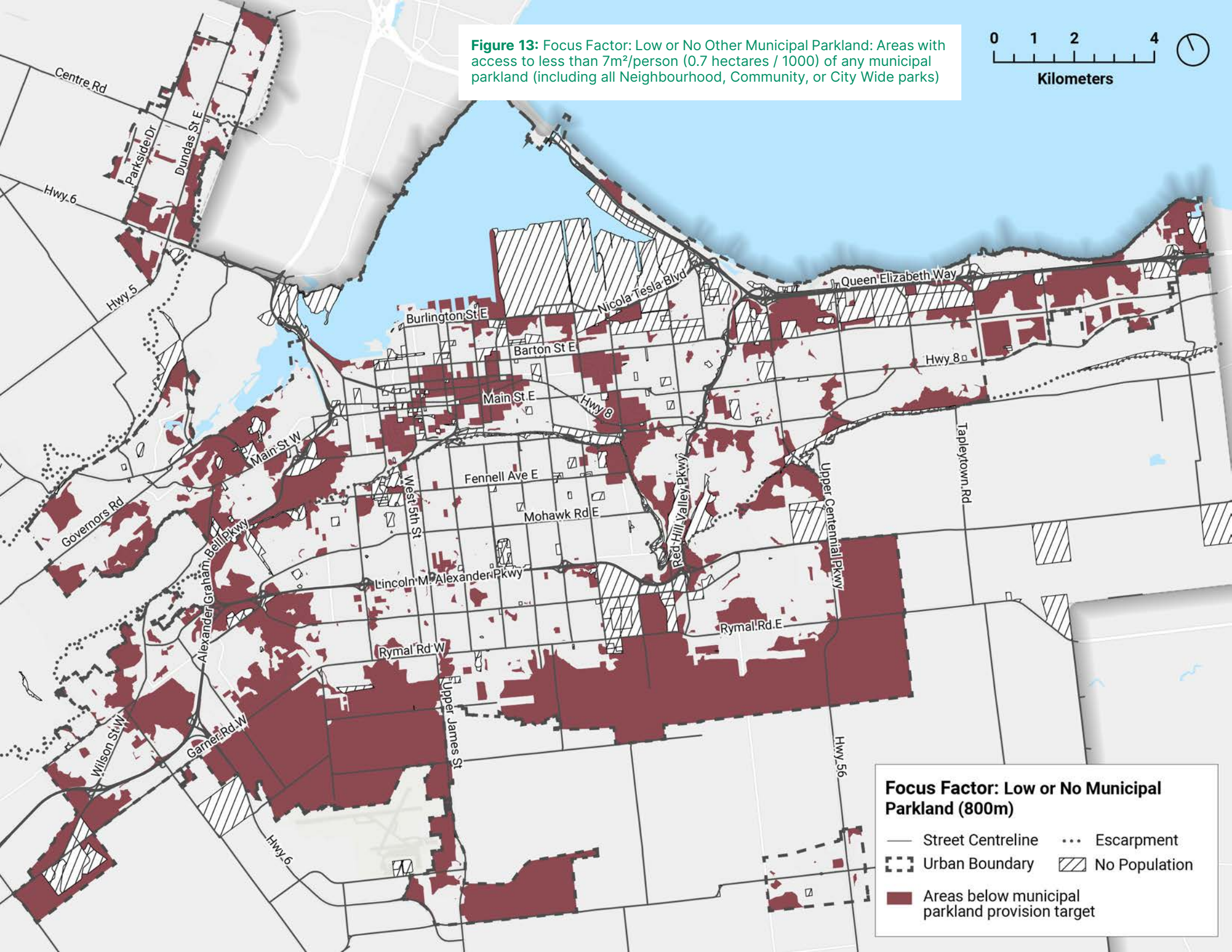
Low Income

Neighbourhoods with a significant proportion of low-income households rely on local parks to provide essential recreation and social functions. Lower-cost rental properties often lack backyards, making park spaces important to ensure access to active recreation, natural experiences, and community gatherings. These households have reduced opportunities to access private open space or to travel to escape the hot summer months, making access to park spaces important ways to experience shade and relaxation. This focus factor is defined as the percentage of population of low-income residents within each neighbourhood (Figure 17), as identified by StatsCanada's Low Income Cut-Off assessment.

High Child and Youth Population

Parks provide essential play spaces for youth, encouraging active lifestyles and providing low-cost opportunities for community gatherings. Parks also provide areas for educational programs and all-ages events. Park provision in neighbourhoods with many children is essential. This focus factor is defined as the percentage of population of residents aged less than 19 years old within a census block.(Figure 18).

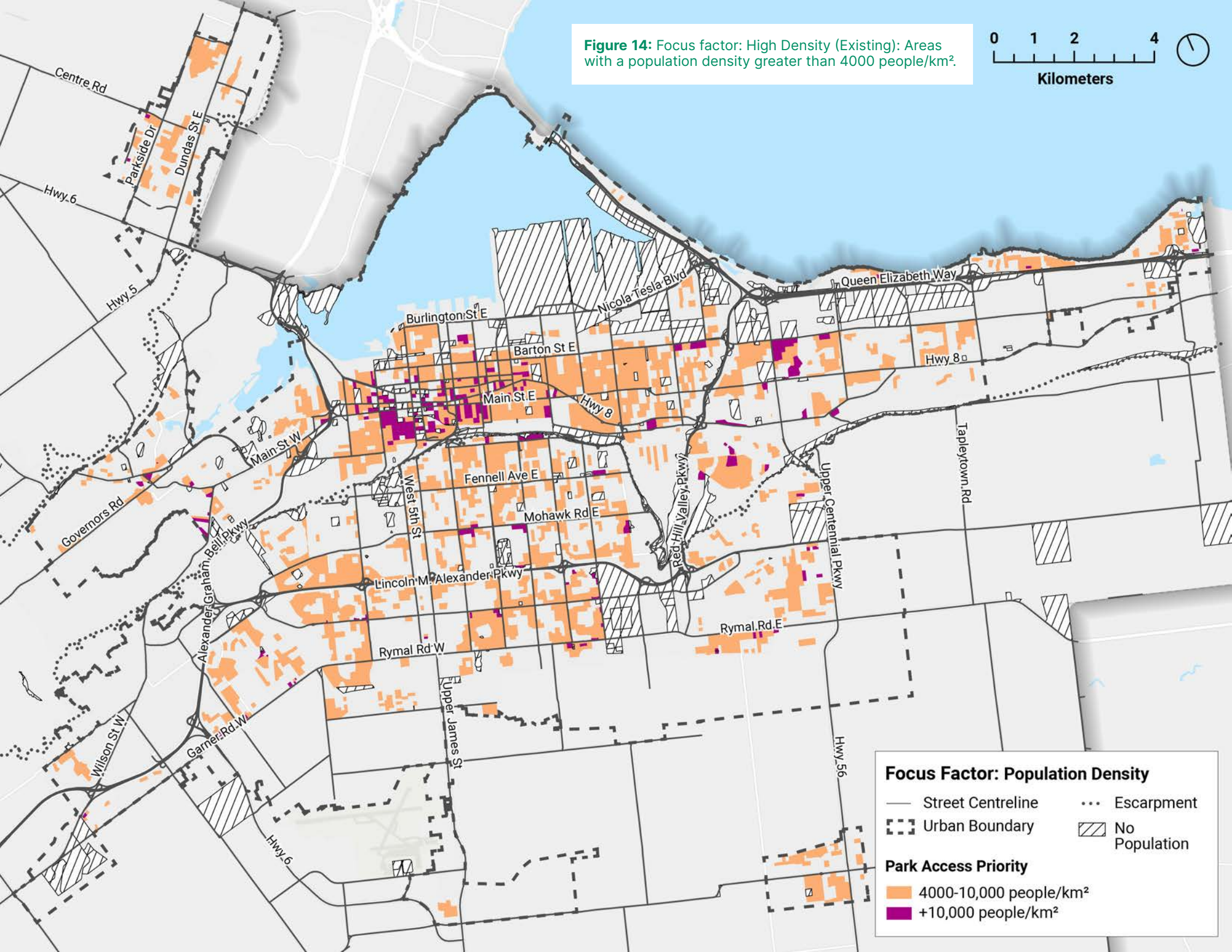
Figure 13: Focus Factor: Low or No Other Municipal Parkland: Areas with access to less than 7m²/person (0.7 hectares / 1000) of any municipal parkland (including all Neighbourhood, Community, or City Wide parks)



Focus Factor: Low or No Municipal Parkland (800m)

— Street Centreline	... Escarpment
- - - Urban Boundary	▨ No Population
■ Areas below municipal parkland provision target	

Figure 14: Focus factor: High Density (Existing): Areas with a population density greater than 4000 people/km².



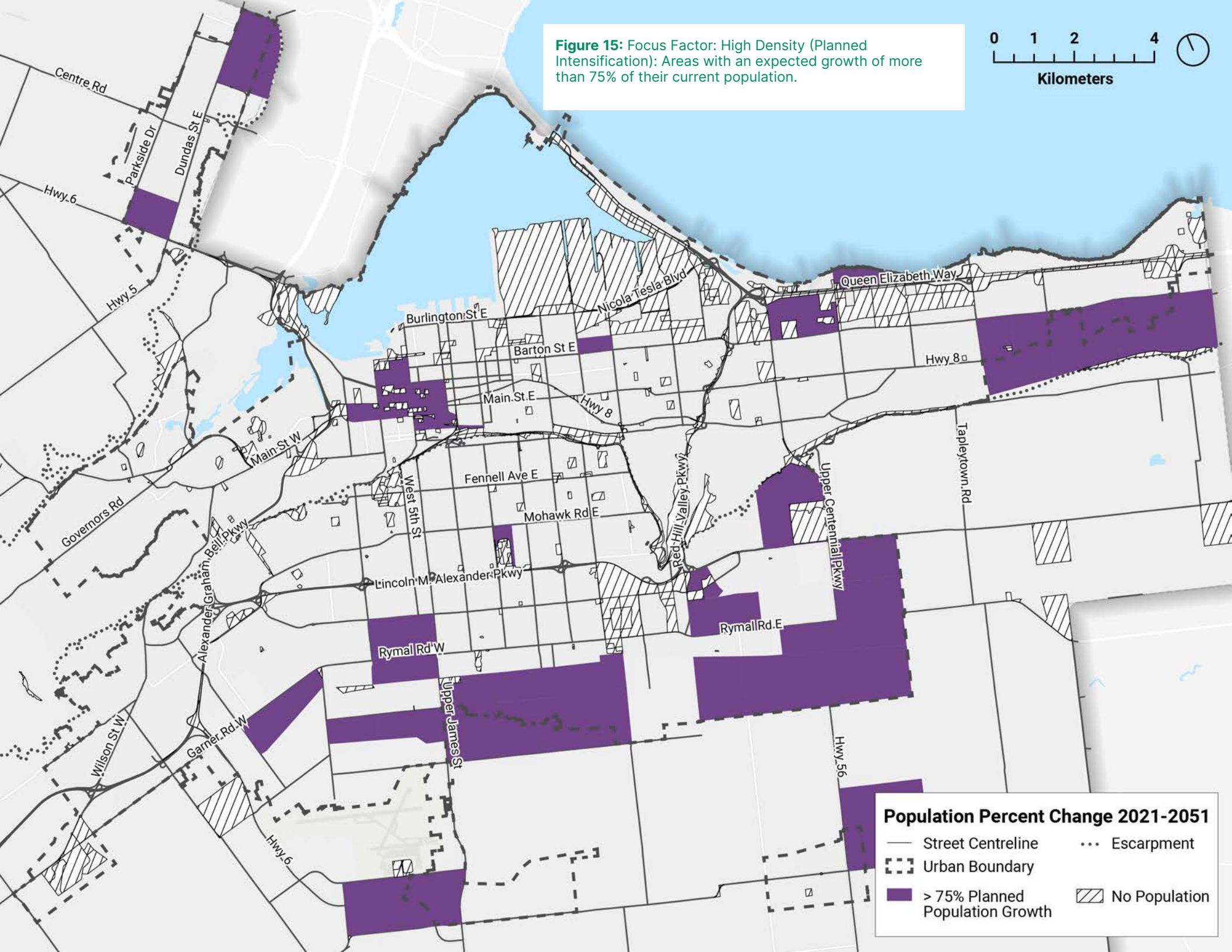
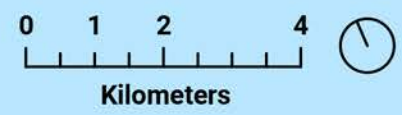
Focus Factor: Population Density

— Street Centreline	... Escarpment
- - - Urban Boundary	▨ No Population

Park Access Priority

Orange	4000-10,000 people/km ²
Purple	+10,000 people/km ²

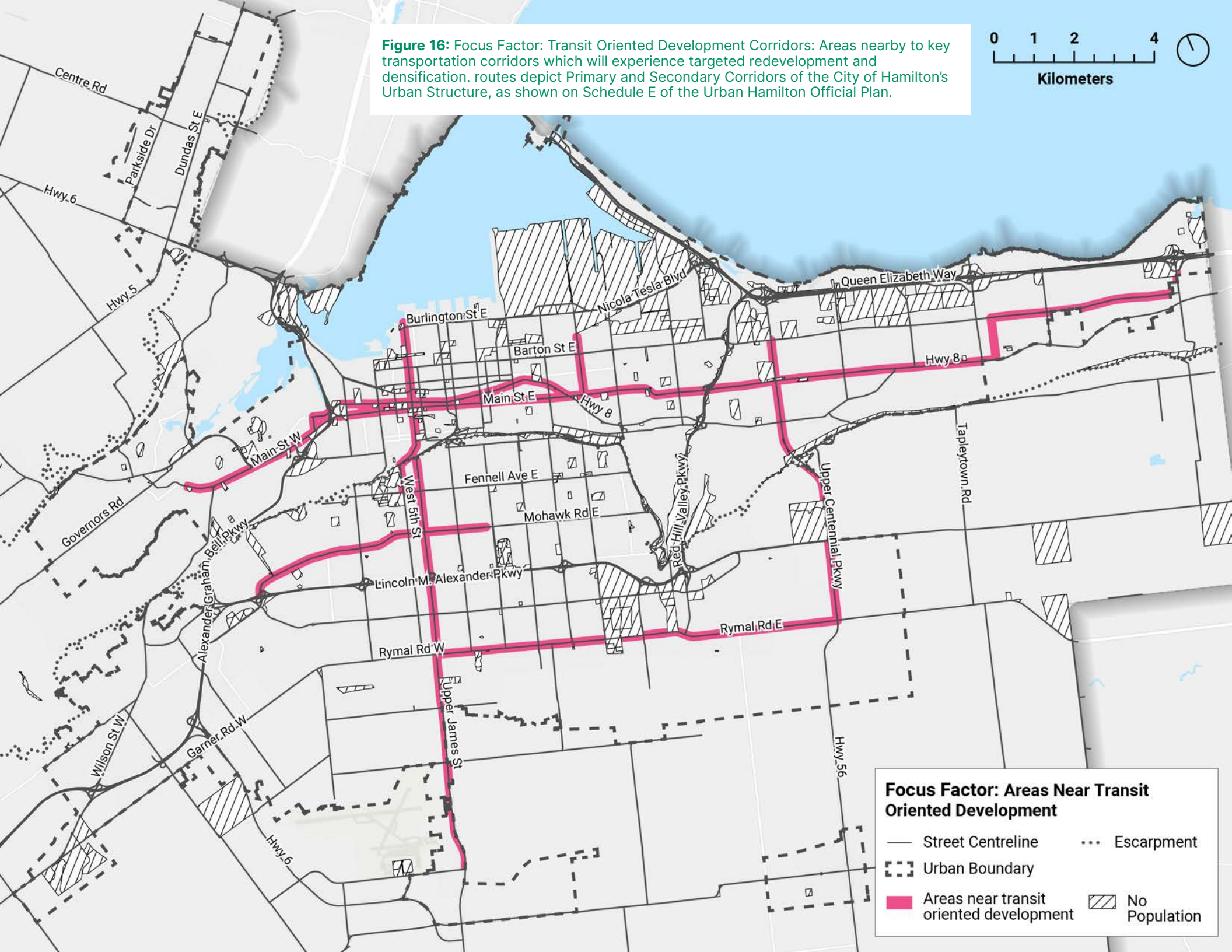
Figure 15: Focus Factor: High Density (Planned Intensification): Areas with an expected growth of more than 75% of their current population.



Population Percent Change 2021-2051

Street Centreline	Escarpment
Urban Boundary	No Population
> 75% Planned Population Growth	

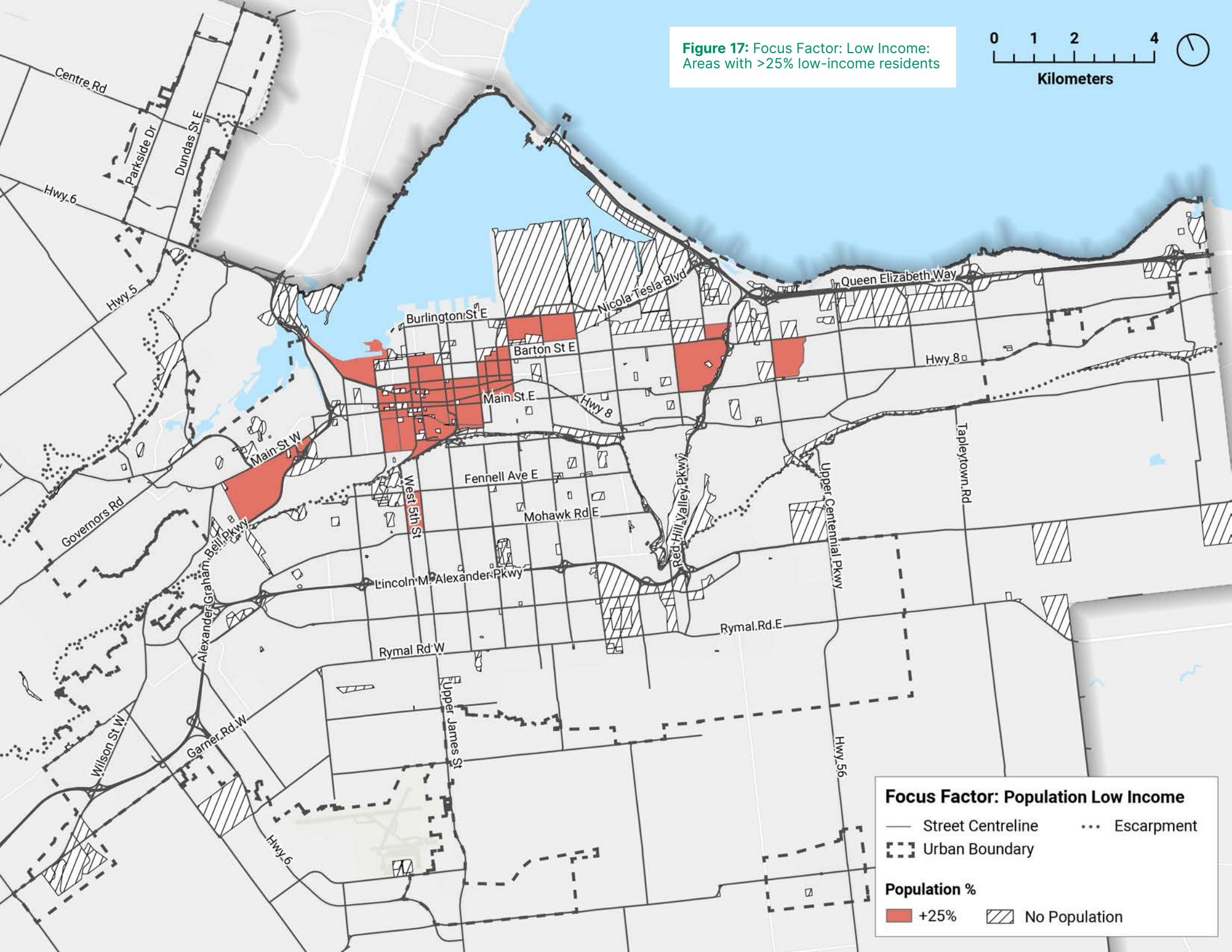
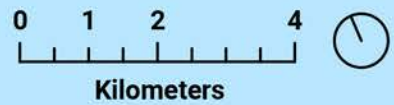
Figure 16: Focus Factor: Transit Oriented Development Corridors: Areas nearby to key transportation corridors which will experience targeted redevelopment and densification. routes depict Primary and Secondary Corridors of the City of Hamilton's Urban Structure, as shown on Schedule E of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan.



Focus Factor: Areas Near Transit Oriented Development

— Street Centreline	... Escarpment
--- Urban Boundary	▨ No Population
■ Areas near transit oriented development	

Figure 17: Focus Factor: Low Income:
 Areas with >25% low-income residents



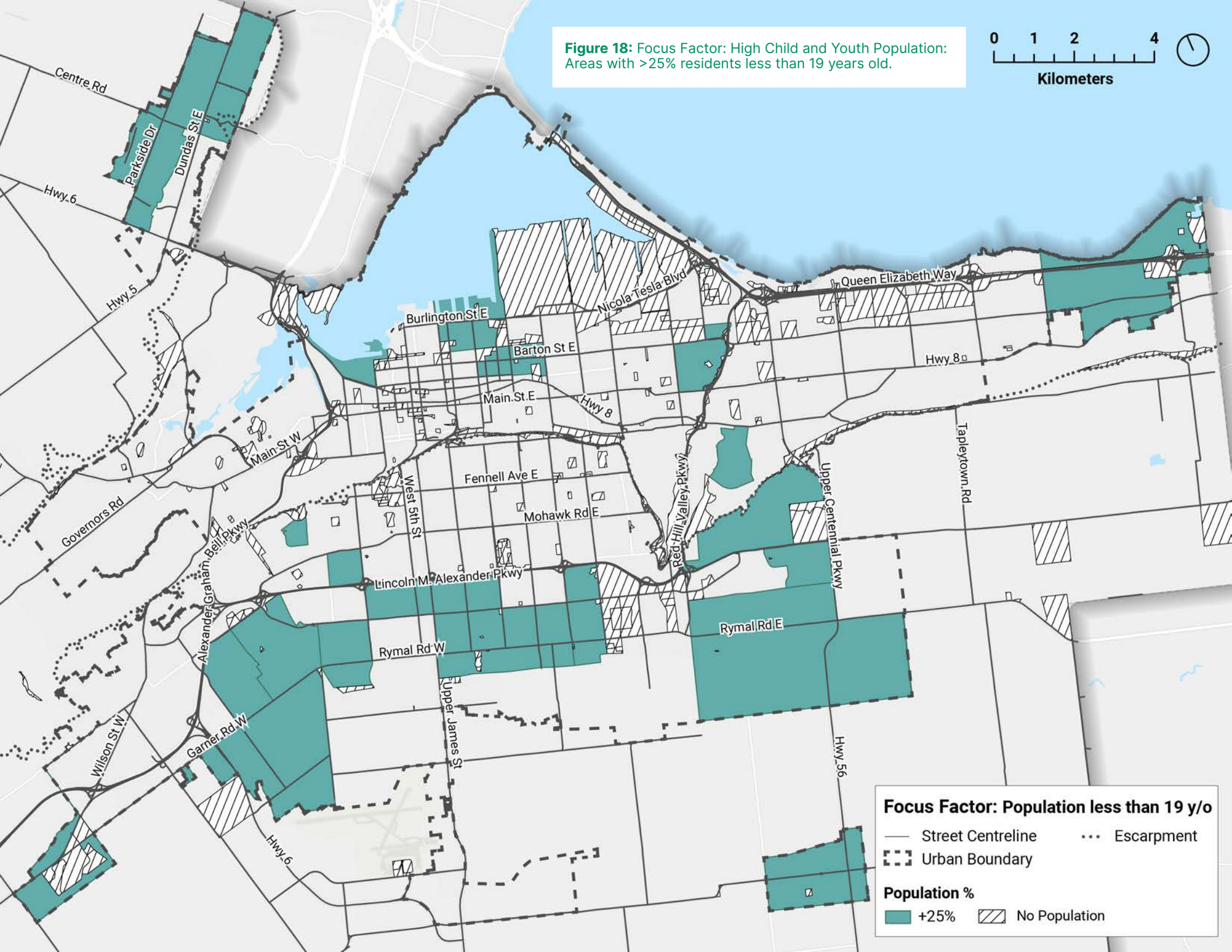
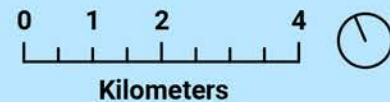
Focus Factor: Population Low Income

- Street Centreline
- ⋯ Escarpment
- ⌈⌋ Urban Boundary

Population %

- +25%
- ▨ No Population

Figure 18: Focus Factor: High Child and Youth Population:
Areas with >25% residents less than 19 years old.



Focus Factor: Population less than 19 y/o

- Street Centreline
- ... Escarpment
- Urban Boundary

Population %

- +25%
- No Population

Priority Focus Areas

Focus Area Counts

The outer boundary of the identified Focus Areas is defined by the existing gaps in the cover of Neighbourhood Park Provisioning (using the 800m catchments). Within these gap areas, Focus Factors are overlaid, and the total count provides a straightforward assessment of where the greatest need for new parkland exists. Figure 19 details the specific location of overlapping focus factors, highlighting Lower Hamilton as of the highest priority for increased parkland supply.

Parkland Provision Priorities By Neighbourhood

A high-level parkland acquisition priority can be created by summarizing the average focus factor count across each city neighbourhood and weighting these scores by the total neighbourhood population (Figure 20), and classifying them into 'Very High', 'High', 'Medium', and 'Low' priority classes using natural breaks. The highest scoring neighbourhoods contain numerous overlapping focus factors, and high populations lacking sufficient parkland provision, making parkland acquisition in these areas more urgent. Table 3 provides a summary of these focus

areas by neighbourhood, sorted by the total population which falls within these focus areas. The complete list of neighbourhoods, ranked by priority, is found in Appendix C.

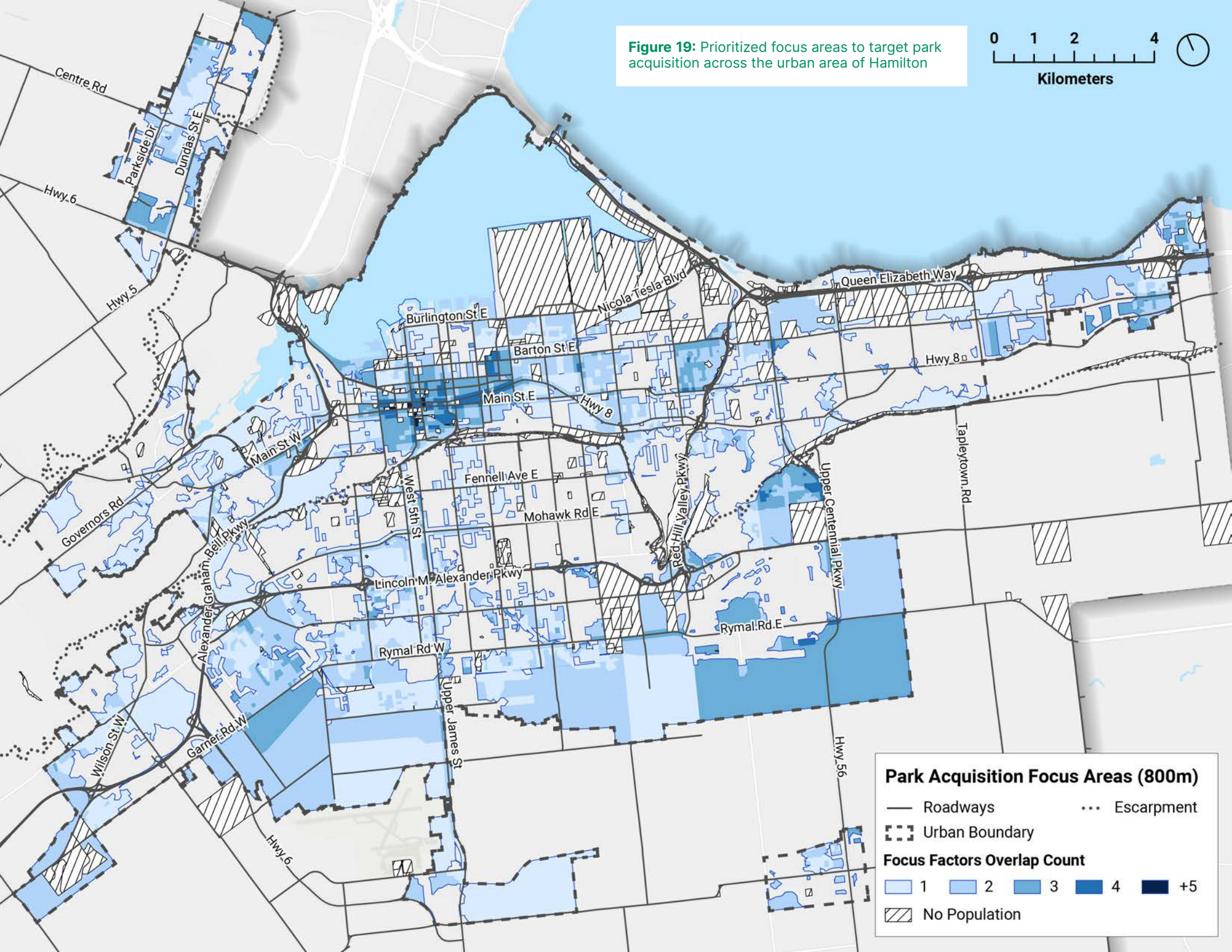
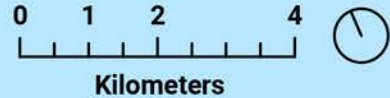
Parkland Acquisition Priority by Neighbourhood

'Very High' priority neighbourhoods include the Lower Hamilton areas of Durand, Gibson, Beasley, Landsdale, and Corktown. Today, over 40000 people within these five neighbourhoods have Neighbourhood Park provision below 0.7 hectare per 1000 (7m2 per person), with planned growth taking this to an estimated 69000 people by 2051. Five neighbourhoods fall into the 'High' priority class, containing over 21000 people without sufficient nearby access (49000 in 2051), and four neighbourhoods fall within the 'Medium' class, comprising 23000 people (32000 in 2051). While other neighbourhoods also lack sufficient park provision, these neighbourhoods overlap significantly with equity factors, making the provision of parkland in these areas more pressing. However, it should be noted that parkland planning in urban expansion neighbourhoods will be completed during the Secondary Plan stage, and will not likely be developed before 2041. Acquisition of parkland prior to subdivision may be more cost effective.

Planning Area	Neighbourhood	% of People Below Minimum 0.7ha / 1000 Target (only Nbhd Parks)	# of People Below Minimum 0.7ha / 1000 Target (only Nbhd Parks)	% of People Below Minimum 0.7ha / 1000 Target (Any Municipal Park)	# of People (2021) Below Minimum 0.7ha / 1000 Target (Any Municipal Park)	Average Focus Factor Score	Focus Factor Score x # People Below Minimum 0.7ha / 1000 Target (Any Municipal Park)	Parkland Acquisition Priority
Lower Hamilton	Durand	97%	12,109	78%	9,742	2.72	26453	Very High
Lower Hamilton	Gibson	96%	7,298	74%	5,611	3.20	17934	Very High
Lower Hamilton	Beasley	92%	6,574	63%	4,458	3.02	13458	Very High
Lower Hamilton	Landsdale	85%	6,540	65%	5,010	2.59	12951	Very High
Lower Hamilton	Corktown	100%	7,736	54%	4,183	2.97	12444	Very High
Glanbrook	4100	50%	6,225	43%	5,420	1.60	8691	High
Glanbrook	4200	26%	5,894	15%	3,324	2.31	7671	High
Lower Hamilton	Crown Point	85%	4,447	69%	3,584	2.11	7545	High
Lower Stoney	Fifty Point	73%	2,595	73%	2,593	2.57	6675	High
Lower Hamilton	St. Clair	73%	2,345	72%	2,300	2.85	6558	High
Ancaster	Lampman	85%	3,580	59%	2,495	2.23	5561	Medium
Lower Hamilton	Stinson	92%	4,042	47%	2,077	2.67	5546	Medium
Upper Stoney	Nash North	99%	3,444	49%	1,691	3.04	5135	Medium
Flamborough	1400	52%	12,312	11%	2,633	1.92	5056	Medium

Table 3: Summary of Hamilton's neighbourhoods, detailing the number of people with nearby access to Neighbourhood Parks, summarizing the total municipal parkland area, the average neighbourhood focus factor score, and flagging those with the highest priority for parkland acquisition.

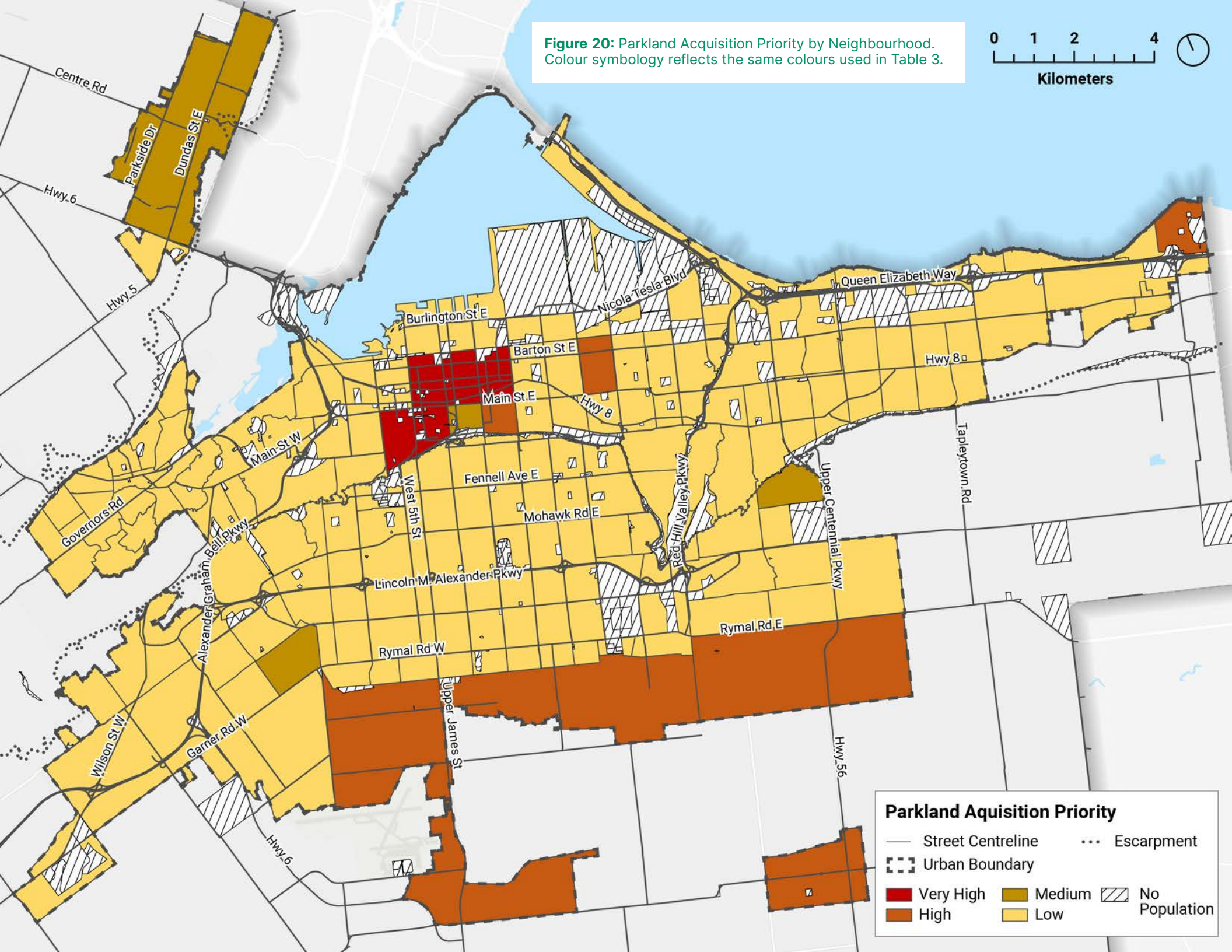
Figure 19: Prioritized focus areas to target park acquisition across the urban area of Hamilton



Park Acquisition Focus Areas (800m)

- Roadways
- ⋯ Escarpment
- - - Urban Boundary
- Focus Factors Overlap Count**
- 1 2 3 4 +5
- ▨ No Population

Figure 20: Parkland Acquisition Priority by Neighbourhood.
 Colour symbology reflects the same colours used in Table 3.



Parkland Aquisition Priority

— Street Centreline	... Escarpment
▤ Urban Boundary	▨ No Population
■ Very High	■ Medium
■ High	■ Low

Parkland Acquisition

Once gaps in the existing park system have been identified, and prioritized, the City is faced with the challenge of acquiring, developing, and programming these new lands. While the latter phases are beyond the scope of this report, the following section describes existing and potential parkland acquisition tools for the city to achieve its goals of parkland provision.

Existing Parkland Acquisition Tools Used by the City of Hamilton

Currently the City uses two primary methods to acquire parkland. The first is through the dedication of land at the time of development by developers and the second is by the City purchasing parkland. As the City focuses on accommodating more population growth in the existing urban area rather than the greenfield area, it will become more challenging to acquire parkland in these areas through the dedication of land. Smaller land parcels in the urban area will make it difficult to achieve a suitable amount of land dedication in one location. Additionally, high property values in urban areas will limit the City's ability to purchase land for park purposes. Greenfield development urban expansion areas this is less challenging, as detailed planning for parks is conducted as part of Secondary Planning exercises.

There are many tools that Hamilton currently uses under the two methods of parkland acquisition. Existing tools that have typically been used to support parkland provision include:

PARKLAND DEDICATION THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. (E.G. NEW ACTIVE PARKLAND)

The City requires as a condition of development or redevelopment, the conveyance of land for a park or other public recreational purpose, or cash-in-lieu thereof, or a combination of land and cash. Parkland

dedication or cash-in-lieu of parkland is one mechanism that provides the City with sufficient land or funds to acquire lands, to ensure adequate public recreational development and green space is provided throughout the City. Cash-in-lieu is maintained in a reserve fund until appropriate land may be purchased. This tool works well in new greenfield areas but is difficult to use in existing urban areas due to small amounts of parkland owing on individual parcels.

PURCHASE NEW LAND

Land purchases can be funded through the parkland cash-in-lieu reserve, grants, or more commonly through taxes. These purchases are made to supplement parkland dedication, in response to identified provision gaps or other identified needs for more parkland.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS (E.G. SCHOOL SITES)

Reciprocal agreements between the City and school boards benefit both parties by allowing the use of each other's parks and recreation facilities during off-peak times. This tool requires coordination between the parties and limits flexibility. However, this tool has the potential to create long term capital and operating cost savings compared to the City constructing and providing the equivalent amenities by itself. There is a risk of loss of existing recreation space if non-City owned lands are surplussed and sold.

EXPROPRIATION

Expropriation is the taking of land expropriating authority in the exercise of its statutory powers. The expropriating authority (the Crown or any person empowered by statute to expropriate land) must pay compensation to the owner for the land taken. Expropriation if contested can be a time-consuming process and it requires the City to identify the public benefit served. The same challenge of finding the necessary funding also exists as it does with a regular land purchase.

LICENSE AGREEMENTS

License agreements are currently used by the City to allow for the construction of trails within utility rights-of-way and corridors. Trails offer passive recreation opportunities and improve the connectivity of communities through a continuous pathway system. Since the primary function of these lands is for utility purposes, no additional parkland uses are permitted.

OPEN SPACE REDEVELOPMENT / INTENSIFICATION

In priority areas where parkland acquisition is prohibitively expensive or otherwise infeasible, there may be opportunities to repurpose or redevelop existing parkland, rights-of-way, or other publicly accessible open space to support the surrounding community. Redevelopment of existing parkland may provide more flexible spaces for public use. Temporary or permanent road closures may provide space for community events, and naturalization of these spaces may provide climate mitigation in hotter areas of the city. Road closures have the benefit of occurring on lands already owned by the City. Other city-owned open spaces could likewise be repurposed to provide more park-oriented functions, although it will be important to maintain existing natural areas to ensure that their contributions are not impacted by recreational use



Sam Lawrence Park

Parkland Provision Practices from Comparable Municipalities

This section outlines parkland acquisition tools and alternative public realm options that can supplement the City’s existing toolkit. While some of these tools may work better than others, the City will likely have to become more reliant on using property taxes for the acquisition of parkland in the existing urban area if it wants to maintain parkland service levels as the City grows. Hamilton’s Official Plan does not currently include policies about privately-owned public space, strata parks or other types outlined in the table below.

PROVISIONING/ ACQUISITION TOOL	SUMMARY	EXAMPLE MUNICIPALITIES THAT USE THIS TOOL (not exhaustive)
Shared Use Agreements & Easements	<p>Definition: An agreement with a landowner to allow public access to an existing open space (that is not owned by the municipality) for recreational or mobility purposes.</p> <p>Application: Typically, these agreements and easements are applied to other forms of ‘open space’ to increase use and access, like schoolyards use outside of school hours and pathways along hydro and utility corridors.</p> <p>What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: Specific legal agreements will need to be executed with landowners to allow the use of their land for public open space purposes, especially if there is public infrastructure to be located on site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › City of Hamilton › City of Burlington › Town of Milton › City of Guelph
Community Improvement Plans (CIP)	<p>Definition: CIPs allow municipalities to direct funds and implement policy initiatives toward a specifically defined project area (authority is given under S.28 of the Planning Act).</p> <p>Application: CIPs facilitate zoning changes, tax assistance, grants, or loans to support the revitalization of the Community Improvement Project Area. CIPs increase development desirability, potentially trigger parkland dedication, result in increased amenities, and promote POPS (see below) through incentives and site plan control.</p> <p>What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: Hamilton already uses Community Improvement Plans, but not for parkland acquisition. Community Improvement Plans that specify parkland dedication requirements would be needed while excluding the CIP areas from the parkland dedication by-law.</p> <p><i>Community Improvement Plans are generally not used for the acquisition of parkland. A municipality may only acquire parkland through a Parkland Dedication By-law in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act or through a Community Improvement Plan. A municipality may not acquire parkland through both means for the same area.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › City of Hamilton › City of Barrie

**PROVISIONING/
ACQUISITION
TOOL**

SUMMARY

**EXAMPLE MUNICIPALITIES
THAT USE THIS TOOL**

(not exhaustive)

**Privately-Owned
Public Space
(POPS).**

Definition: POPS are publicly accessible spaces (like plazas) on private land.

Application: POPS emerge through the development process, often via density bonusing and may provide an open space function when land acquisition for parks is challenging and in areas undersupplied with parks. In practice, POPS can be a useful tool in providing smaller, urban style, spaces. There are, however, limitations to using POPS as a tool to acquire parkland. The two challenges with POPS are:

The lack of City ownership and control of the land over the long term.

Developers may provide land that is more beneficial to the development itself rather than providing appropriate parkland to service the needs of the neighbourhood / wider community.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: An amendment to the parkland dedication by-law 22-218 and an amendment to section 3.5.3, Chapter B of the City's Urban Official Plan will be required to address POPS. The City will need to establish design and operations guidelines to support this class of open space. Legal agreements will also be required between the landowner and the City to ensure public access and maintenance are maintained during the life of the development.

Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, indicates that developers may provide parkland in the form of POPS. If cities are not willing to accept the POPS proposed for a development, a municipality will have to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). Regulations around the use of POPS are required to provide more clarity around rules and requirements.

- › City of Burlington
- › City of Toronto
- › City of Mississauga
- › City of Vancouver

Strata Parks

Definition: Strata Parks involve the acquisition of a park through a strata ownership agreement (a vertical division of land ownership). This typically involves a park above underground parking.

Application: Strata Parks involve complexities with underground facilities and maintenance of supporting structures while providing discounted dedication credits as City parkland. Strata parks and subdivisions require legal agreements between different landowners because they will own space above and below each other. Strata parks are similar to POPS in their limitations however, in the case of a strata park, the City owns the park. There are examples where this type of tool could be effectively used if the right partnership is formed, and risks are managed to all parties that own below grade, at grade and above grade. An example of how this tool may work is providing a park above a parking structure.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: An amendment to the parkland dedication by-law 22-218 and an amendment to section 3.5.3, Chapter B of the City's Urban Official Plan will be required to address strata parks similar to POPS. Legal agreements will also be required between landowners to ensure maintenance agreements are in place should one landowner's structure negatively affect the use of the other landowner.

Strata parks are similar to POPS; however, the City will own the strata park

- › City of Vaughan
- › Town of Oakville
- › City of Vancouver

**PROVISIONING/
ACQUISITION
TOOL**

SUMMARY

**EXAMPLE MUNICIPALITIES
THAT USE THIS TOOL**

(not exhaustive)

**Targeted /
Priority
Acquisition**

- › Real Estate Strategy
- › Based on Provision, City Goals
- › Assessment Tools & Decision-Making Framework

Definition: A real estate strategy that prioritizes park acquisition based on specific criteria aligned with city goals and provisions.

Application: City-wide land acquisition is prioritized every year allowing the proactive acquisition of parcels that may be used as parkland or that may be used by other services to free up existing land for parks.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: A corporate strategy that establishes criteria for land acquisition prioritization. The prioritization matrix and focus factors identified in the previous section could help to guide this acquisition process.

- › City of Toronto
- › City of Ottawa
- › City of Winnipeg

**Repurpose
Surplus
Municipal Lands**

Definition: Repurpose surplus municipal lands by assessing City-owned properties for parkland conversion.

Application: The optimization of municipal lands to increase parkland availability. In areas with a substantial parkland deficit existing municipal lands such as Municipal Golf Courses may provide greater net benefit following conversion to parkland. Golf courses offer potential for the provision of more passive recreational space while, at the same time, enhancing urban forest canopy cover through reforestation of open golf course greens.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: An assessment of City owned underutilized lands to address parkland provision gaps. Zoning changes may be required to accommodate activities on the repurposed lands.

- › City of Ottawa
- › City of Guelph
- › Town of Milton

**Off-Site Park
Conveyance**

Definition: Off-Site Park Conveyance enables developers to provide required parkland by dedicating land at another location owned by the developer.

Application: Due to incompatible surrounding uses and area constraints, onsite parkland dedication may not be feasible at some locations and rather than provide cash-in-lieu, a developer may be able to provide parkland dedication from other land that they own. This could be a benefit to all parties as long as the alternative location is determined suitable by the City. The risk to the City is that there still may be a strong need to acquire parkland within the community of the proposed development, and so ideally this new dedication should not be located in a wholly different part of town.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: An amendment to the parkland dedication by-law 22-218 to explicitly allow off-site dedication would be required. Additionally, an amendment to section 3.5.3, Chapter B of the City's Urban Official Plan and the City's Rural Official Plan would be required.

- › Town of Milton
- › City of Vaughan

**PROVISIONING/
ACQUISITION
TOOL**

SUMMARY

**EXAMPLE MUNICIPALITIES
THAT USE THIS TOOL**

(not exhaustive)

**Tax Increment
Equivalent Grant
& Tax Increment
Financing**

Definition: Financial incentive programs for property redevelopment in association with Community Improvement Plans.

Application: A municipality uses the incremental tax increase expected from redevelopment to provide a grant to developers to incentivize redevelopment. The use of this tool does not directly lead to the acquisition of parkland without the use of other dedication tools however, it could encourage additional open space provision or improvements through redevelopment.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: The City would need to establish a Community Improvement Area and identify these financial tools as available options. The City would need to set up and establish the grant and incentive programs.

- › City of Toronto (contemplated)
- › City of Vaughan
- › City of Mississauga
- › City of Sault Ste. Marie
- › Government of Alberta (Edmonton and Calgary)
- › USA (e.g. Chicago)

**Community
Benefits Charges**

Definition: Funding mechanism where municipalities designate an area of the municipality where high density developments are charged a fee.

Application: Through a Community Benefits Charges By-Law a fee is imposed on higher density development to pay for capital improvements not covered by development charges or for parkland in excess of parkland covered under the parkland dedication by-law.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: The City has a Community Benefits Charges By-law 22-158 in place. The list of capital improvements would require adjusting to include specific parkland acquisition locations.

- › City of Ottawa
- › City of Mississauga
- › City of Toronto
- › City of Vancouver (using equivalent tools to Ontario)

**Voluntary
Expropriation**

Definition: The City works with developers in a certain area to reach an agreement where the area developers agree to fund the buyout of one of the developers to provide a site for parkland.

Application: Developers in an area agree to fund the acquisition of parkland by having the City purchase land from one or more of the developers.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: The City would need to work with developers to establish a front-ending agreement for the purchase of land for park.

**Community
Planning Permit
System**

Definition: A type of community improvement area with specific design standards.

Application: The design and conditions of development are imposed for an area of the City in exchange for a faster development approval process. A downside to this process is significant up front work is required by the City and developers may appeal the Community Planning Permit By-Law.

What is needed to implement this in Hamilton: An amendment to the Official Plan identifying the planning permit area and a Community Planning Permit By-Law would be required.

Financial Implications & Implementation

This section includes a summary of total parkland needs, how much can be expected to be provided through dedications derived from development, and what the cost to the City would be to acquire the remaining shortfall.

Current Pressures

At present, Hamilton funds the majority of its new parkland acquisitions through the 5% cash-in-lieu of parkland provision. The City's Parkland Dedication Reserve has an uncommitted balance of approximately \$71.6 million (as of December 31, 2022) taking into account approximately \$16.6 million in outstanding developer credits for over dedication of parkland. Over the past ten years (2013 to 2022), the City has received about \$9.9 million on average annually in cash-in-lieu payments. In the same period, a total of about \$3.1 million has been spent on purchasing 'over-dedicated' land from developers (this land is dedicated at the City's request and is typically funded at 'serviced' land values). In Hamilton, the Parkland Dedication Reserve is generally designed to secure parkland in growing areas, not areas with existing deficiencies. It can also be used to supplement the Landscape Architectural Services' annual capital budget.

Recent legislative changes to the Parkland Dedication regime include:

- A requirement to exempt non-profit housing and inclusionary zoning units.
- A requirement to exempt affordable and attainable units (not yet proclaimed into force).
- A requirement to exempt up to two secondary dwelling units, one of which may be detached.
- A requirement to provide credit for existing gross floor area.

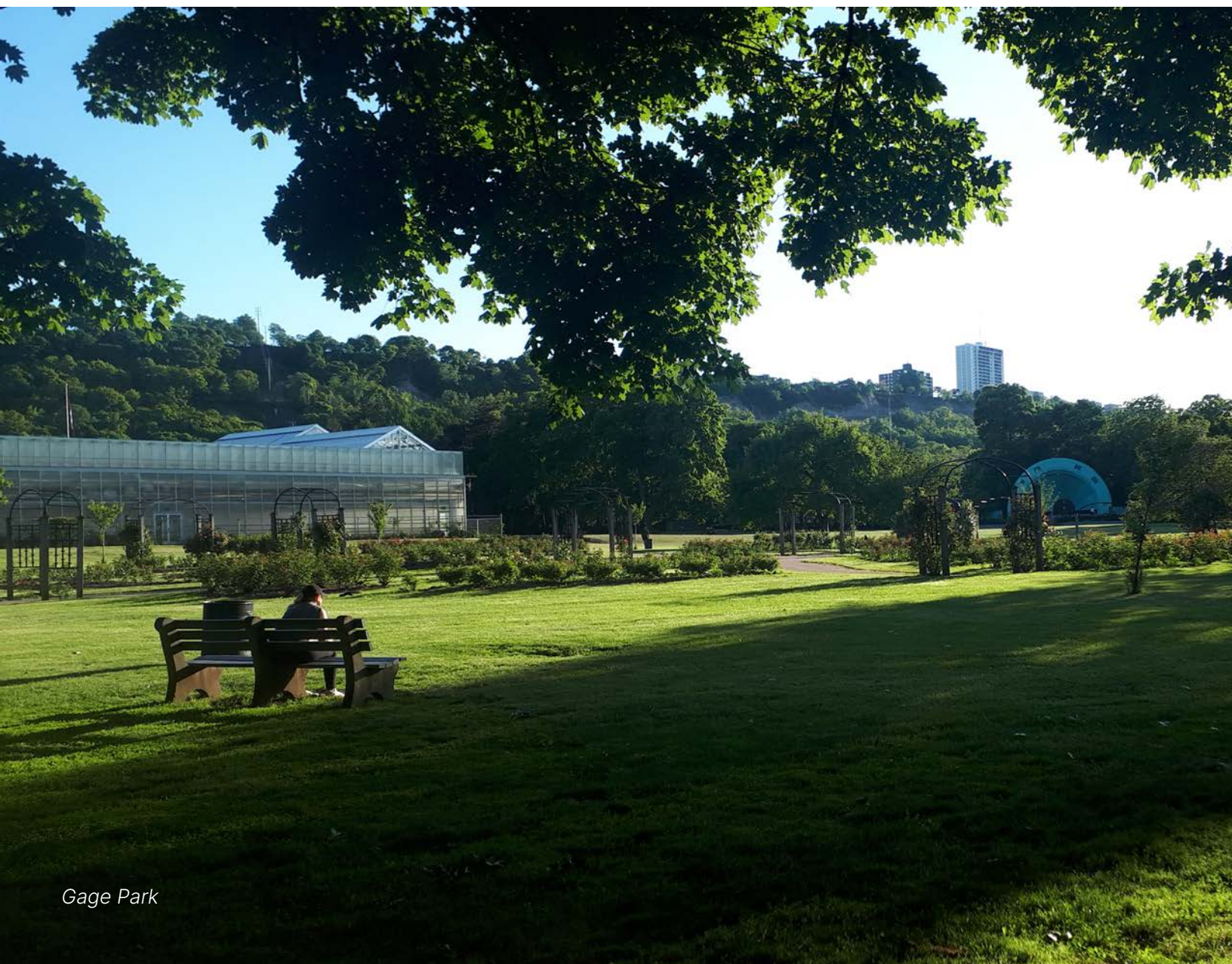
- Locking in the land value rate to be used at the date of the related site-plan or zoning specific site plan amendment application date, if applicable, for two years after the approval of that application.
- Reducing the alternative requirement of one hectare (ha) per 300 dwelling units to one hectare per 600 dwelling units where land is being conveyed. Where the municipality imposes payment-in-lieu requirements, reducing the amount from one hectare per 500 dwelling units to one hectare per 1,000 net residential units.
- Capping the alternative requirement at 10% of the land area or land value where the land proposed for development or redevelopment is five hectares or less and 15% of the land area or land value where the land proposed for development or redevelopment is greater than five hectares.

The updates to the Parkland Dedication regime results in an estimated reduction in parkland revenues (dedicated land value and cash-in-lieu of land) of \$23 million annually .

Like most community services, parks are heavily subsidized municipal assets. A significant portion of their acquisition and construction costs are provided by developers (through parkland dedication and Development Charges). However, as identified in the Recreation Master Plan, there remains a funding shortfall for park development and maintenance in the City of Hamilton. Revenues generated by field and facility rentals do not fully cover the costs for maintenance or administration. Because parks have little opportunity for revenue generation, they are often targets for budget reductions in many communities.

The amount of discretionary funding available for parkland purchases and development is severely limited in the capital budgets and, to exacerbate the situation, Recent Development Charge legislative changes have placed increasing pressure on DC revenues. These funds are used for most capital development and improvement projects within parks. As a result, the current 10-year Capital Plan is likely to take much longer to be implemented. Therefore, even if the City is able to acquire more parkland, it may not have the ability to develop this parkland in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the cost of park development is rising with the use of harder materials, more urban parks (with more hardscape surfaces), new features (e.g., artificial turf), new specifications (to reduce the impact of the pesticide ban), and growing expectations from the public and developers (the latter is designing/developing parks, some of which have unique features). As pressure mounts to do more with each square inch of parkland, the per unit cost to develop parks may increase.



Gage Park

Financial Implications of this Strategy

The following section provides a high-level estimate of the potential financial implications of addressing the parkland deficits identified in this report.

Future Parkland Dedication Amounts

To assess the financial costs of addressing parkland shortfalls, the amount of parkland to be dedicated to the City must be calculated and then subtracted from current and future parkland needs.

Parkland dedication (including cash-in-lieu), as directed through the policies of the City's Official Plans, will contribute the majority of future parkland requirements, but will not be enough to meet the City's target of 2.1 hectares / 1000 residents. Unfortunately, the City's current park dedication rates do not allow the City to meet its existing park standards, particularly in areas of high density construction. Even in greenfield areas, the 5% standard rate used for lower density residential developments is falling short of meeting needs.

A high-level assessment of future parkland dedication amounts can be conducted using existing data and a set of reasonable assumptions. The density of development that is proposed and its location both play a large part in determining future parkland dedication amounts.

In calculating future parkland dedication amounts, the following assumptions were made:

- There are approximately 2.5 persons per private occupied dwelling in the City (2021 Census). This average is decreasing very slowly over time (2.62 in 1996, 2.59 in 2006, and 2.55 in 2011) and is likely to continue to decline. Multi-unit developments such as apartments and condominiums tend to have a lower persons per unit average (closer to 2 persons/unit), while single detached dwellings tend to have a higher persons per unit average (closer to 3 persons/unit). For the purposes of this analysis, an average of 2.5 persons per unit will be used.

- The average population density across the entire City of Hamilton is approximately 5 persons per hectare (or 2 units per hectare); however, this figure is skewed by Hamilton's vast rural area. The average density in a typical urban area in Hamilton is 23 persons per hectare (or 9.2 units per hectare). Municipal planning policies are encouraging higher densities through intensification, suggesting that this average density is likely to increase. There will be a very strong focus on intensification in the built-up area through to 2041, however the City has a large amount of greenfield lands within the expanded urban settlement area boundary that will likely see development by 2051. For the purposes of this analysis, an average of 15 units per hectare for future development has been used.
- The City also collects a parkland amount for commercial and non-exempt institutional development. Future dedications in these areas are not included in this assessment.

Based on an average density of 13.7 units per hectare and 2.5 persons per unit for future developments and redevelopments (representing 34.2 persons per hectare), an average of approximately 1.46 hectares of new parkland per 1,000 persons will be received through future 5% parkland dedications (including cash-in-lieu). With a projected population increase of nearly 236,000 between 2021 and 2051, this will result in approximately 205 hectares of new parkland dedication using the estimated average. If densities increase above this average, the amount of parkland dedicated to the City may be reduced.

Note: This average will vary widely and is highly dependent upon the density of development and the location of development (at present, an alternative rate of 1 hectare / 600 units applies for densities greater than 20 units per hectare, up to a max of 10% of land value for less than 5 hectares, and 15% for sites greater than 5 hectares., and parkland dedication for applications in the downtown core is not maximized). For higher density developments, the alternative rate results in more money than a 5% dedication on those sites, so it is more beneficial to have in place.

Notwithstanding this, Section 5 of the Parkland By-law has fixed rate caps for townhouse units and multiple dwelling units, and a further reduced cap for

downtown, which may result in a dedication amount lower than what the City could ask for. If the City continues to discount high density developments (those exceeding 75 units per hectare) and proposals in the downtown core, then the amount of dedicated parkland will be less than this average.

Total Parkland Needs

The following formula is used in determining the long-term (to 2051) parkland shortfall:

$$A - B - C + D = E$$

Where:

- A = Future Parkland Needs, 2021-2051 (current City target of 2.1 hectares / 1000; applied to new growth)
- B = Anticipated Future Parkland Dedication (1.46 hectares / 1000; applied to new growth)
- C = Current Neighbourhood-Specific Parkland Surplus (current City target of 2.1 hectares / 1000; applied to existing population and with reference to accessible parkland within 800m of each neighbourhood)
- D = Current Neighbourhood-Specific Parkland Deficits ((current City target of 2.1 hectares / 1000; applied to existing population and with reference to accessible parkland within 800m of each neighbourhood)
- E = Minimum Long-term Parkland Shortfall

This formula encapsulates the needs of new population growth and current deficiencies. It also discounts for communities with current parkland supplies above the 2.1 hectares / 1000 target under the assumption that some existing parks may be able to accommodate a portion (but not all) of the needs generated by future growth. The long-term shortfall is a 'minimum' because it assumes that the full amount of current parkland surpluses can be subtracted from future needs.

With estimated population growth of 236,000 by 2051, this will translate into a need for an approximate additional 496 hectares of parkland based upon the target of 2.1 hectares / 1000 persons. As established previously, parkland dedication is anticipated to contribute approximately 1.46 hectares / 1000 persons for future growth, which translates into 205 hectares

(representing 58.6% of future needs), leaving a shortfall of 291 hectares. Taking into account park access, across the City there is an effective existing parkland deficit of 48 hectares, of which 30 hectares occur within Very High, High, or Medium acquisition priority neighbourhoods.

Lastly, this model acknowledges current surpluses for areas that have park supplies exceeding

2.1 hectares / 1000 and subtracts these supplies from the total long-term needs on a neighbourhood-specific basis (not a City-wide basis). By adding the parkland dedication shortfall and current deficiencies, and then subtracting current surpluses on a neighbourhood-specific basis, this approach yields a minimum long-term parkland shortfall of 98 hectares that will not be provided through parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu. This results in a need to acquire an average of 4.5 hectares of parkland annually in the 20 years between 2031 and 2051.

It should be noted that this additional 98 hectares is an absolute minimum. It will allow the City to maintain a long-term target of 2.1 hectares / 1000 residents across the entire City and the nine communities identified in this report, but it will not allow for new growth to be served at the same level. The degree to which the current 'surplus' in some areas can accommodate a portion of the needs generated by future growth (which will first and foremost be served by parkland dedicated through the development process) is difficult to determine, as these existing park spaces may not be appropriately sited around higher density developments, and existing uses and designs may not meet the needs of these changing communities.

In summary, 205 hectares of parkland are projected to be provided through parkland dedication, while a minimum of 98 hectares will have to be made up through municipal acquisition and other alternatives. In total 304 hectares of parkland will be required by 2051 to address the needs of future growth as well as existing deficiencies within priority areas. Of the 304 hectares needed by 2051, a minimum of 100 hectares (33%) should be provided as Community Parks and a minimum of 128 hectares (42%) should be as Neighbourhood Parks. This will ensure the provision of highly functional park spaces to support continued growth.

The remaining 76 hectares (25%) could take various forms (Pedestrianized streets, POPs, Strata Parks, Parkettes, Neighbourhood, Community, and/or City-wide Parks) depending on the specific circumstances of the development or area, recognizing that most of the parkland enhancements in established areas will occur through the expansion of existing parks or the development of smaller public spaces.

All growing communities are expected to generate additional parkland dedication or cash-in-lieu between now and 2051. Cash-in-lieu is not tied to a specific area but is available for City-wide use. In terms of the parkland shortfall (i.e., needs that will not be provided for through dedication), the greatest shortfalls are expected in the 4200 Neighbourhood of Glanbrook (29.04 ha), the Lower Hamilton neighbourhoods of Durand, Landsdale, and Gibson (26.09 hectares in total), Upper Stony Creek's East Mountain Area (8.95 ha), and the West Hamilton Dundas neighbourhood of Ainslie Wood West (7.67 ha).

As the Province has recently modified the Urban Official Plan to remove previous targets around residential intensification, The City needs to work now to determine what the intensification target will be in consideration of the Urban Expansion Areas and their anticipated development. The residential intensification target shall be established through future Amendments to the Urban Official Plan as part.

Financial Implications – Parkland Acquisition

The following land values have been provided by the City of Hamilton's Real Estate Division for the purposes of this report, based on acquisitions of 11.4 acres of parkland over the past five years, with parcel sizes that have ranged from 0.05 to 4.91 acres.

Parkland Acquisition (rates per acre)

GREENFIELD LAND

Greenfield land at or near draft plan approval (with urban services at the lot) is estimated at approximately \$2,965,265 per hectare (\$1,200,000 per acre). This represents a 3x increase over land costs a decade earlier. This will be higher if the proposed

subdivision has a good proportion of medium or high-density residential lands (i.e., \$4,612,634 per hectare -- \$ 1,866,667 per acre – or more).

ASSEMBLED LAND (IN MATURE AREAS)

Assembled land in an older, mature area of the City is estimated at \$6,520,008 per hectare (\$2,638,553 per acre). This represents a 5.8x increase over land costs a decade earlier.

UNASSEMBLED IMPROVED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Unassembled improved residential properties in the existing urban area are estimated at up to \$34.8 million per hectare (\$14.1 million per acre). This represents a 2.9x increase over land costs a decade earlier.

Note: These estimates are “ballpark” land values as of January 2023, to be used for planning purposes only. Many factors could affect land values throughout the City, such as location, parcel size and shape, accessibility, land use designations /zoning, presence of a hazard or environmentally sensitive land, topography, incompatible adjacent land uses (industry, highway, railway, etc.), presence of contamination, motivation of the parties, etc. Therefore, these value estimates should not be applied to any specific property. All costs assume acquisition at market values based on the willing seller/buyer; costs would be higher if expropriation were required. Demolition and remediation costs would be extra.

CITY PARKLAND HISTORY

- Average rate per acre spent on parkland acquisition in last 5-years: \$1,000,113
- Total spent on parkland acquisition in last 5-years: \$11,753,600

Past spending on land acquired for park purchases in the City of Hamilton has averaged \$2,471,329 per hectare. As noted above, this rate can increase depending on the specific circumstances of the parkland to be acquired. In acquiring lands outside of its cash- in-lieu funding, a portion of these would be to meet deficiencies in existing neighbourhoods, most of which are in densely populated areas within Lower Hamilton. Improved residential properties within the

urban area are even more costly, and their acquisition is not recommended unless a reasonable cost opportunity arises in a priority area without other more feasible options. As identified previously, in addition to the 205 hectares expected by way of parkland dedication, at least 98 hectares need to be secured to address deficiencies in under-served areas and to address the shortfall between the provision target and parkland dedication requirements through the Planning Act. These 98 hectares will need to be secured through means other than parkland dedication, such as direct acquisition, funded outside of its Parkland Dedication Reserve.

For the purposes of this analysis a value of \$2,471,329 / hectare (\$1,000,113/acre) is used, which applies to assembled lands in older, mature areas of the City. The estimated cost of acquiring 98 hectares of parkland between now and 2051 is at least \$242 million (solely for the purchase of new parkland, leaving aside additional costs of development and operations), which averages out to \$8.6 million per year (3.5 ha) over the next twenty-eight years (note: these costs are in current year dollars and have not been escalated for inflation; they also exclude demolition and remediation costs, where applicable). An estimated \$69 million will be needed to acquire 28 hectares before 2031, and \$86 million per decade

thereafter. The City does not currently have a dedicated fund in place to cover these costs. In addition to this amount, increased funding is required for park development and maintenance which must be considered hand-in-hand with funding for land acquisition.

Because land is a finite resource, timing of acquisition is key – the City must be poised to purchase strategic properties when the opportunity arises, which may not always align with the availability of funding. To ensure that funds are available when purchases are required, the establishment of a dedicated Strategic Parkland Acquisition Reserve Fund is recommended. This would enhance opportunities for the City to buy land for Community Parks earlier in the development process at a lower cost and allow the City to address parkland deficits in priority neighbourhoods. This Reserve Fund would provide for annual contributions from the general tax levy and operating budget and/or capital reserves and would be for new acquisitions over and above what can be achieved through parkland dedications. There may be opportunities to gradually phase in funding to a dedicated Strategic Parkland Acquisition Reserve, however, the longer the City waits in doing so, the larger the park deficit will become.



Augustus Jones Fountain (cc: Joey Coleman)

Recommended Actions

To achieve the City's parkland goals, parkland acquisition and improvements will be required. To ensure these parkland goals are being met, the City will need to continuously monitor and assess the parkland service targets to determine if any course changes are required. This section lists strategic actions over the short, medium, and long term that can help the City achieve its parkland goals.

Short term is defined as actions that should be implemented immediately to over the next four years. Aligning the short term with Council's four-year term allows for continuity in decision making over the short term.

Medium term is defined as actions that could be implemented over the next 5-10 years. These actions usually take longer to plan and implement. Long term is defined as actions that look beyond 10 years and plan for long term success.

Achieving the City's goals for the equitable provision of municipal parks throughout the city requires improvements to existing funding, acquisition, and maintenance approaches. This includes changes to the City's approach to investment, internal coordination, and external cooperation to capitalize on opportunities to acquire parkland in high priority neighbourhoods.

Key short (<5 years), medium (5-10 years), and long term (>10 years) strategic actions include:

Short Term Actions

1. Develop a proactive strategy to communicate priority parkland acquisition focus areas across different business units with the City (including parks, planning, funding, and financing business units). This will help identify opportunities for land acquisition through partnerships, land trades, or infrastructure development projects.
2. Adopt the following parkland service level through a City-Initiated Official Plan Amendment to table B.3.5.3.1 - Parkland Standards:
 - e. All residents should have access to a Neighbourhood or other park with equivalent functions, within a 500 metre walking distance of their dwelling.
3. Complete amendments to align the Official Plan and the Parkland Dedication By-law with this Master Plan by:
 - a. Amend the Official Plan B 3.3.2.10 to allow for temporary and permanent road closures to support public gathering and open space programming.
 - a. Amend the Official Plan B 3.5.3.16 to explicitly incorporate social equity factors into the determination of parkland amount and type
 - a. Develop land specifications and rules around the use of privately owned public spaces.
 - b. Revise the Community Planning Permit System as a tool to aid in the acquisition of infrastructure, parkland, or monetary contributions, in exchange for offering a more streamlined and transparent approval process for high priority areas.

- c. Revise Section 5 of the Parkland By-law to ensure that townhouse units, multi-unit dwellings, and downtown redevelopments are supported by sufficient parkland.
 - d. Exploring the potential to eliminate discretionary discounts and require parkland dedication for lands that are currently exempt (such as institutional) to reduce the financial shortfall.
4. Use the parkland priority acquisition mapping in this plan for land acquisition prioritization and develop a priority location list with the following information: location, ideal parkland size, associated acquisition cost.
 5. Work with other departments to align with initiatives such as the Transportation Master Plan: City in Motion to improve the connectivity of parkland within the city.
 6. Where land for parks is not available, explore repurposing existing public space for inclusive open space and park use.
 7. Regularly present a short annual monitoring report to Council overviews changes in parkland service levels and near-term acquisition priorities.
 8. As part of a regular City property portfolio review, consider park use and needs, where underused city-owned land could be repurposed to fund new parks in areas of high need.
 9. Update the Park and Open Space Development Guide to facilitate multifunctional design and flexible use.
 10. Seek funding opportunities from other levels of government to improve park access and connectivity (e.g. bundle park acquisition into land purchases for rail-lines or other infrastructure projects).
 11. Identify parkland priorities that can be achieved in conjunction with the recommendations set out in the City's Recreation Master Plan.
 12. Develop land specifications and rules around the use of privately-owned public spaces.
 13. Where possible, complete comprehensive block planning in high growth urban areas, in alignment with approved plans and studies, by working with landowners to ensure parks are properly sited

within redevelopment areas, and land dedication is coordinated to support and connect functional park space.

14. Build on existing partnerships with Hamilton school boards and institutions by establishing a formal funding, acquisition, and programming partnership model to advance further opportunities to jointly use schools, campuses, and parks.
15. Continue to partner with the school boards to understand potential school closure criteria and potential closure locations, to assess possible future purchases for park and City use, in advance of closures.
16. Engage Real Estate staff for any negotiations on the sale of surplus lands to help ensure that parks-related interests are a priority.
17. Establish a funding, acquisition and programming partnership model with community agencies, user groups, and advocacy organizations to creatively find ways to increase park provision, naturalization, stewardship, and programming
18. Continue to capitalize on the City's right of first refusal to acquire excess school sites when the opportunity arises to secure expanded parkland without developer competition, or to hold in reserve as a land bank to swap with developers for parkland.

Medium Term Actions

1. Increase contributions to the Parkland Acquisition Reserve to ensure that the City has the resources to acquire sufficient parkland in response to growth.
2. Streamline parkland acquisition processes so the City can act when new opportunities for parkland acquisition become available. Work to acquire parkland earlier in the development process at a lower cost.
3. Prioritize multi-use, inclusive and accessible park designs. Multifunctional park space should be prioritized in areas where acquisition is challenging, or high use is expected. Adopt flexible approaches to park programming to allow parks to pivot to meet the needs of residents.

4. Seek out philanthropic contributions to help increase parkland and open space. This may be accomplished through outreach and communication to interested donors about potential land dedication opportunities (i.e. dialogue with foundations and Conservation Authorities).
5. Improve connectivity by extending the pathway and cycling network on utility rights-of-way through expanded or new partnerships.
6. Investigate opportunities to acquire underutilized properties to convert to parkland in the urban area, prioritizing high need areas.
7. Create a standard process to proactively pursue land purchases of parks in undeveloped areas once a secondary planning process has been completed.
8. Create and update plans for individual parks to identify opportunities to repurpose underused park spaces in alignment with current trends and needs.
9. Expand partnerships with the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy to link parkland through regional connections to other open spaces and align with future land acquisition strategies.
10. Conduct a review and revision of the Park Master Plan to update acquisition priority mapping and report on the current state of parkland provision and funding.

Long Term Actions

1. Identify opportunities to acquire lands in advance of significant development pressure to hold in reserve as a land bank to swap with developers for parkland in other areas of the city.
2. Form partnerships with aggregate site owners and operators to explore the viability of quarry rehabilitation to public parkland.



Appendices

Appendix A: Bill 23

Bill 23 Overview & Municipal Responses

What is Bill 23?

The Province of Ontario passed Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act in the fall of 2022. It seeks to increase housing supply in Ontario through a wide-reaching slate of legislative and regulatory changes across Ontario. Bill 23 amends the Planning Act, Municipal Act, Development Charges Act, Ontario Land Tribunal Act, Conservation Authorities Act, and to a lesser extent several other acts and regulations that relate to the approval and provision of housing. Most relevant to Hamilton's Parks Master Plan are the changes to the Planning Act that impact how parkland dedication can and is employed to secure the provision of park space or cash-in-lieu for parks improvements and expansion.

What are Bill 23's Impacts on Parks?

Bill 23 will diminish park budgets and reduce the amount of parkland created to support new growth due to a variety of changes to the ways parkland dedication is calculated and in what amounts and ways it can be provided to municipalities.

Today, developers in Ontario are required to invest in public services in the communities where they build. Municipal tools to do so include Development Charges, Parkland Dedication Fees, and Community Benefit Charges. However, under Bill 23 there are several changes to the mechanisms:

- The maximum amount of Parkland Dedication has been capped at 10% of the land or its value for sites under 5 hectare and 15% of the land or its value for site greater than 5 hectares.
- The maximum alternative Parkland Dedication rate is now one hectare for every 600 units, down from one hectare per 300 units. Privately-owned public

spaces (POPS) and encumbered parkland/strata parks can count towards Parkland Dedication requirements. This change impacts park experience, standards, and programming opportunities. Owners can appeal if a municipality refuses conveyed parkland at the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal).

- The maximum alternative Parkland Dedication cash-in-lieu rate is reduced by 50% to a value of 1 hectare per 1000 units.
- The number of residential units on a property prior to a proposed development or redevelopment is subtracted from the number of units used to calculate Parkland Dedication.
- The parkland dedication amount is calculated on the day a site plan application is made, or a zoning application if there is no site plan application, instead of on the date that a building permit is issued. This approach also has an impact on the valuation process.
- Cities are required to allocate or spend 60 percent of cash-in-lieu money every year.
- Development Charges, Parkland Dedication, and Community Benefit charges no longer apply to affordable housing units, attainable housing units, non-profit housing, and inclusionary zoning units.

How are other municipalities addressing Bill 23?

Municipalities across Ontario have responded to Bill 23 in diverse ways, categorized into several overarching themes. Municipalities broadly have sought to:

1. Quantify & Explain Impacts on Residents.
2. Quantify Costs to Residents
3. Request Compensation from the Province
4. Express Discontent to the Province

Through all of these approaches, municipalities have primarily shown an initial reaction by highlighting the perceived harms caused by the new Act. While many municipalities have expressed their protests against the bill, it is important to note that they are unable to initiate legal action or directly address the impacts of the new act. Most focus on the impacts to local governance, though many also highlight the environmental damage potentially set in motion by Bill 23, which weakens or eliminates wetland protections, expert oversight of watersheds and protection of species-at-risk habitat, among other measures aimed at accelerating development.

Below, a summary of several select municipalities' responses to Bill 23 are highlighted. The municipalities noted below were selected to provide a breadth of geographic and political perspectives, representing a range of urban, suburban, and more rural communities, as well as a range of differing tactics and approaches in responding to Bill 23. While each municipality in Ontario did (or did not) respond to Bill 23 in its own unique way, upon a broader environmental scan, it was found that these responses can largely be distilled into 6 overarching themes. These themes are:

1. Development charges and infrastructure funding
2. Unbuilt housing and meeting targets
3. Revenue reduction and tax implications
4. Environmental conservation and heritage protection
5. Infrastructure upgrades and funding
6. Impacts on parkland provision

Representative examples of each are provided over the following pages.

Guelph

The City of Guelph has adopted a suite of actions in response to Bill 23's adoption. These include an increase in staff, approving a new development fee structure, and advocating for development charges to be maintained.

ADDITIONAL CITY STAFF

The costs associated with these additional approved staff will be included in the 2023 budget update which will be presented to Council for confirmation on January 25. Additional requests to support Bill 109 and Bill 23 may be brought back to Council through the 2024-2027 multi-year budget process.

NEW DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FEES

Council also approved staff's proposed changes to the fee structure for pre-submission review meetings to ensure the additional costs associated with the application review process are not borne by Guelph's residents. The updated fee structure is based on a benchmarking review of fees charged by surrounding municipalities and Council directed staff to undertake a full fee study with an objective of full cost recovery in 2023.

ADVOCACY FOR DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

Lastly, Council will call on the Province to fund financial gaps resulting from the proposed legislation within Bill 23. Currently about 80 per cent of development growth is funded through development charges and 20 per cent is funded through property taxes. Should the Province pass the proposed Bill 23 legislation as is, it will significantly reduce development charges, parkland dedication fees and community benefit charges which are important revenue sources to support growth related infrastructure. This would increase the portion of growth-related costs funded through taxes and significantly impact existing property taxpayers.

In addition, Council supported staff's request for the Province to review policies and penalties related to approved, yet unbuilt, housing in Guelph. Data shows there are thousands of approved, unbuilt units, which jeopardizes the City's ability to meet the Province's target of 18,000 new homes by 2032.

Northumberland County

Northumberland County has explicitly called on the province to pause implementation of Bill 23, and has created a webpage dedicated to highlighting the potential negative impacts that Bill 23 could have on the County. These impacts include reduced municipal

revenue, environmental impacts, canceling affordable housing projects, and contributing to the loss of heritage assets.

REVENUE REDUCTION

Northumberland County stands to lose \$17.4 million in revenue from development charges - money that is ear-marked for local affordable and attainable housing projects. A \$17.4 million shortfall could result in a potential increase to the County portion of property tax bills of about 27% over the next 2-7 years—or about \$360 for the average homeowner. Lower-tier municipalities in Northumberland are also in the process of calculating financial impacts to their operations resulting from Bill 23.

RISK TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

Without the planned revenue from development charges, the County estimates that over 250 new affordable housing units may be at risk of not being built over the next 2-7 years without significant increased funding from the provincial and federal governments.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Local conservation authorities have been assisting the County and our municipalities with development reviews and guidance for many years. We rely on their expertise and local knowledge to ensure responsible and sustainable development does not impact our unique environmental features. Under Bill 23, our conservation authority partners will now have a diminished role as it relates to conservation of land, protection of significant environmental features and matters of pollution.

LOSS OF HERITAGE

Bill 23 proposes to remove barriers to housing by updating how heritage properties are identified and conserved by municipalities. Lower tier municipalities with such registries will have two years to review heritage properties to determine if they should be designated or removed from the registry. Only properties on the current registry can be reviewed—no new properties can be added.

This will make it much harder to keep listed heritage properties on the registry and increases the threat of removing the listed properties from the heritage register, leaving them with no heritage status or protection.

St. Catharines

The City of St. Catharines's Council adopted a formal resolution requesting substantial Provincial investment be provided to support municipalities to fund anticipated infrastructure upgrades to accommodate new intensification goals and compensate for the decrease of development charge funding opportunities.

Mississauga

The City of Mississauga has produced one of the most comprehensive overviews of the impacts of Bill 23, and provides specific, calculated examples of how the bill will influence the provision of parkland over the coming years. Specifically, the City outlines how Bill 23 caps the amount developers are required to pay for new parkland, how developers would be able to choose where to locate new parkland, and how developers would get credit for building privately-owned public spaces that aren't City parks.

Hamilton

The City supports the Province's goal of building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years and tackling the affordability crisis affecting every Ontarian. The City has concerns that the changes proposed to the DC Act through Bill 23 will not effectively support these goals. There are drastic cuts proposed to the funding municipalities use to install the infrastructure required to service growth; this would drastically impact the provision of green spaces. Without funding from the Province or Federal Government, municipalities will need to raise taxes and water rates across the board, impacting every resident and business across the Province (City of Hamilton, 2022).

What are options for Hamilton ?

Moving forward there are three broad areas of action the City should investigate:

1. Provincial-Facing Actions

These include actions that seek to engage the Province in dialogue around reducing or eliminating the negative impacts from Bill 23, and investigating alternative approaches for providing services and funding resulting in shortfalls impacted by the Bill. The funding inherently impacts public services such as the provision of parks and green spaces.

2. Parks-Related Actions

These include specific actions related to how the City procures and plans for the procurement of park space and cash-in-lieu, how the City funds parks and open space operations and capital investments, and how the City positions its requests for Provincial funding to support large-scale parks projects.

3. City-Wide Actions

Includes new approaches to planning and managing city land and assets. These strategies aim to optimize the use of existing assets, promote collaborative sharing of spaces, and align parks and open space objectives with the goals of future development and city planning.

Appendix B: What We Heard Reports

PARKS

MASTER PLAN



Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary

April 2022



Hamilton

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About the Project

Parks are important to our community. The Hamilton Parks Master Plan will guide the long-term planning of new parks and the expansion and improved access to existing parks across the city.

A Parks Master Plan is a guiding document that helps municipalities plan for and provide parks for residents. It is an important step in considering the development and enhancement of parkland over the short, medium and long term. It also aids in decision-making and helps prioritize investment in parkland across the city.

The Master Plan will focus on:

- All existing parkland within the City of Hamilton.
- City-owned properties that currently serve other uses but could serve as potential candidates for future parkland.
- Future growth areas, as identified by the City's [Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy \(GRIDS\)](#) currently underway.
- Public open spaces in Hamilton that are not owned by the City but are used by the public, such as school board properties, and utility corridor lands.

With the help of Hamilton residents, user groups, and other key stakeholders, this Master Plan will develop a shared vision for the future provision of parkland in Hamilton by listening and learning about what matters to the community. By aligning these values to policy and budget frameworks, the Master Plan will be a flexible working document that can adapt to changing values and emerging trends, recognize new opportunities, and identify new priorities for parkland provision.

The Parks Master Plan considers public and stakeholder input, demographic data and growth forecasts, park usage levels, parkland trends and best practices, ongoing planning initiatives, and more. In this way, the priorities and recommendations advanced in the Plan will be evidenced-based and respond to dynamic needs across the entire city.

Engagement Approach

The aim of the Hamilton Parks Master Plan public and stakeholder engagement is to develop a shared vision for the future provision of public park space in Hamilton by listening and learning about what matters to the community. We want to understand how residents currently use Hamilton's parks and open spaces, the needs and wishes of park visitors, and the barriers people face to access parkland. The input and insights will be essential in the development of the Master Plan to ensure the principles, policies, and recommendations reflect the lives of Hamiltonians.

Engagement & Project Timeline

The “Background Review & Information Gathering” phase of public engagement ran from **February 15 to March 20, 2022**. The insights gathered through this engagement will be used along with other inputs to develop the vision, goals, guiding principles and other strategic direction within the draft Parks Master Plan.

- **Phase 1: Background Review/Information Gathering | January to March 2022**
Review trends and best practices; analyze parkland supply, gaps and needs; prepare preliminary report and analysis. Collecting community input.
- **Phase 2: Strategic Direction | March to April 2022**
Develop and refine vision, goals and guiding principles. Provide the community with a progress update.
- **Phase 3: Recommendations and Taking Action | April to May 2022**
Develop parkland acquisition solutions; develop policy framework, recommendations and actions. Collecting further community input.
- **Phase 4: Report and Recommendations | June to July 2022**
Develop a final report to guide long term planning, prioritization and investment in parkland across the city.

Additional opportunities for public engagement will be available in upcoming phases of the project. Up-to-date engagement details are available at engage.hamilton.ca/parksmasterplan



Who We Engaged

Parks are for everyone, so involving a diverse range of Hamiltonians is essential to ensure a broad range of perspectives and experiences are represented. Targeted outreach to specific user groups, local experts, and potential partners also provides a depth of knowledge that will be essential to the success of the plan.

- Hamilton general public (including residents, park user groups, and equity-seeking populations)
- Community organizations (including environmental organizations, community groups, and business associations)
- Industry and agencies (including environmental authorities, development associations, and education institutions)
- The Project Team reached out to Hamilton's Indigenous groups (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee Development Institute, Six Nations of the Grand River, Huron-Wendat Nation), notifying each group about the project and sending a workbook with questions to review with any comments.



4730

PUBLIC SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

How We Engaged

Engagement Tools

To encourage meaningful participation, the engagement opportunities aimed to be accessible and easy to participate for everyone on their own time:

- **Public Survey:** An online survey acted as the primary tool to collect feedback in Phase 1. A printed version was available to those that could not participate online.
- **Stakeholder Workshops & Discussion Guides:** Community organizations were invited to attend workshops and/or submit a discussion guide to share their interests and perspectives with the project team.



3

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Communications Tactics

Several communications and outreach tactics were used to reach as many Hamiltonians as possible:

- **Park Signage:** Signs were placed in major city parks and along commercial shopping streets to reach existing park users and residents of underserved neighbourhoods.
- **Mailout Flyer:** A project flyer was mailed to 230,050 Hamilton residences.
- **Social Media:** Ads and posts were shared on the City's social media accounts..
- **Print Ads:** Project advertisements were placed in The Hamilton Spectator (5 ads placed), Hamilton Community News (2 ads placed), and The Bay Observer (1 ad placed)
- **Digital Ads:** Project advertisements were placed on The Weather Network (3 ads placed).
- **Email Invitations:** Stakeholder were invited to participate through targeted email invites.



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STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

Public Engagement Summary

The general public was invited to participate in an online survey to gather insights about current use of parks, potential park needs, and a vision for the future of parks in Hamilton. Through widespread communications, the survey received feedback from 4730 participants.

The summaries on the following pages highlight the findings from the survey questions below:

Vision & Values

- Are parks important to you?
- Why are parks important? Is anything missing?
- What is your parks vision? What 3 words would you use to describe your vision for the future of parks in Hamilton?

Frequency of Park Use

- How often do you visit parks in Hamilton?
- What park(s) do you visit most often?
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed how frequently you use parks?

Access & Barriers

- Are your needs being served by local parks?
- How far do you typically travel to visit a city park?
- Does anything prevent or limit you from using city parks?

Demographics

- What is your age?
- What is your gender?
- Do you have access to outdoor space at home?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Strong agreement that **parks are important**.

Particular importance focused on **community health, well-being** and the **environment**.

Desire for **park improvements** (including maintenance, accessibility and safety) of existing parks to support greater use.

Desire for **more parks** in areas currently lacking park access.

Need for **safe access** through multiple modes of transportation (including cycling connections and parking challenges).

Vision & Values

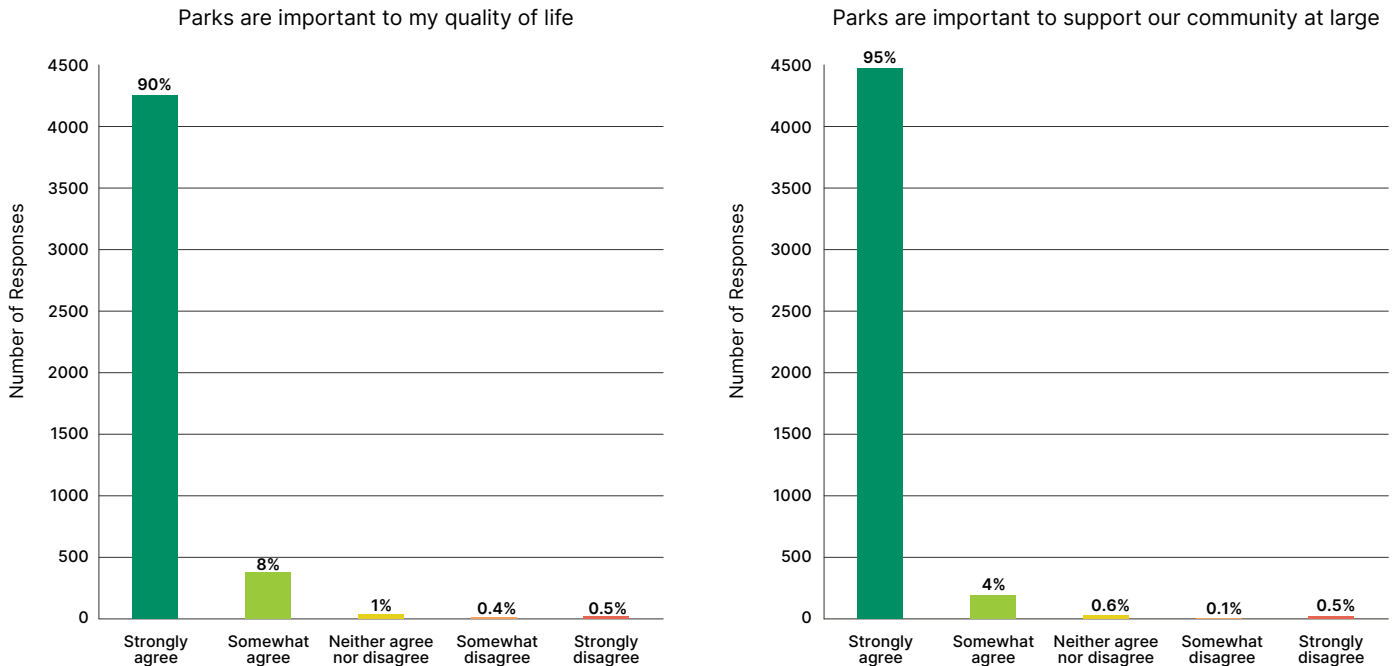
The Importance of Parks

Parks are highly valued and very important to Hamiltonians. Over 98% of all survey participants indicated that they agree that parks are both important to their quality of life and support the community at large.

When asked why parks are important (see page 6), most participants strongly agreed that Community Health & Wellbeing (92%) and Environment (86%) were key benefits of parks, followed closely by Culture & Arts (66%) and Economy (65%). All four factors were supported by the majority of participants.

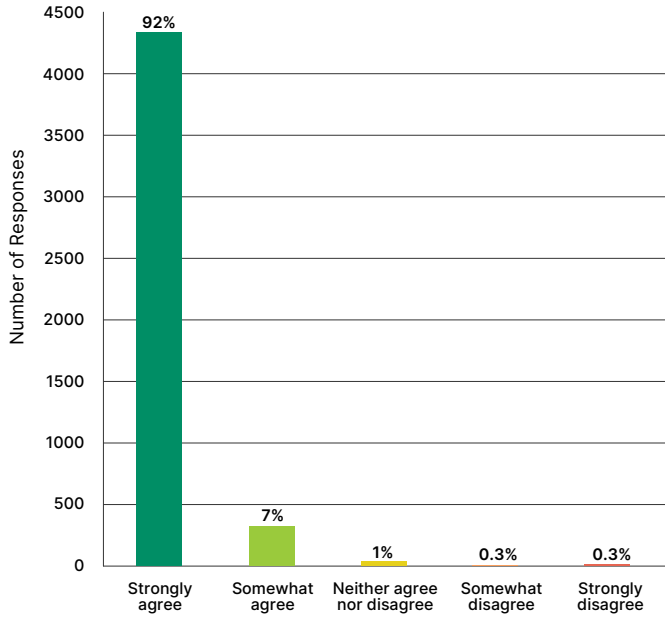
Participants also provided additional insights to the importance of parks, including how they enhance quality of life, provide community/multi-generational space, support equitable public access to activities, create green space, support peace and well-being, and generally provide things to do. (These comments are summarized in more detail on page 7).

Are parks important to you?

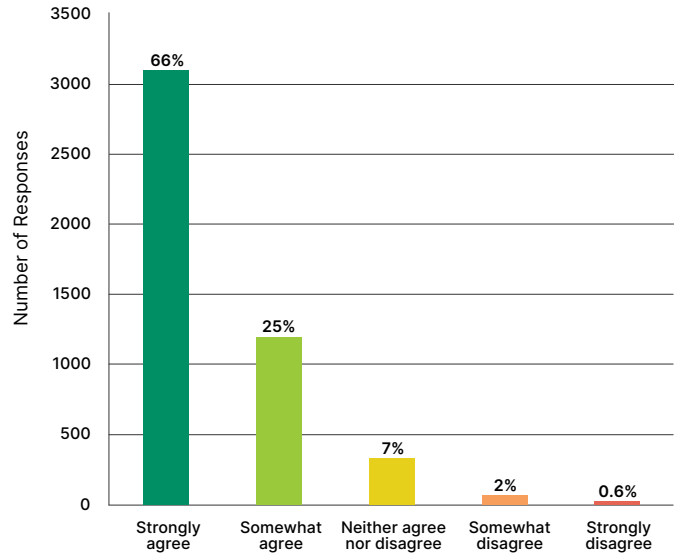


Why are parks important?

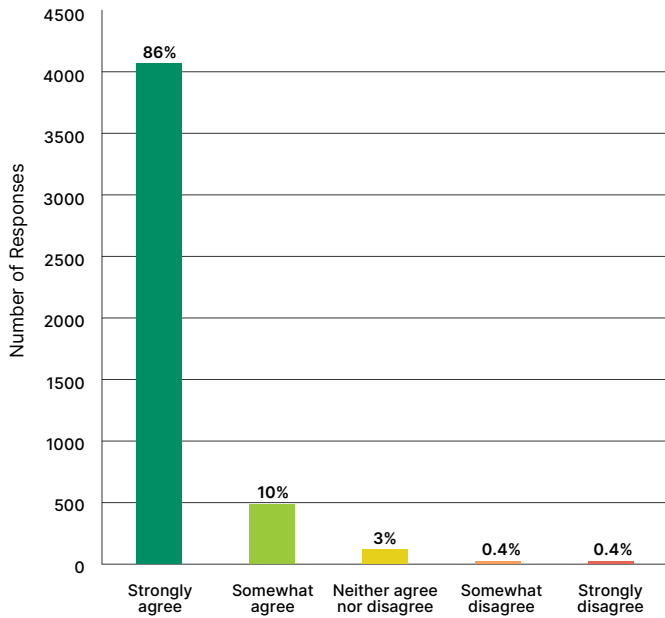
Community Health and Wellbeing



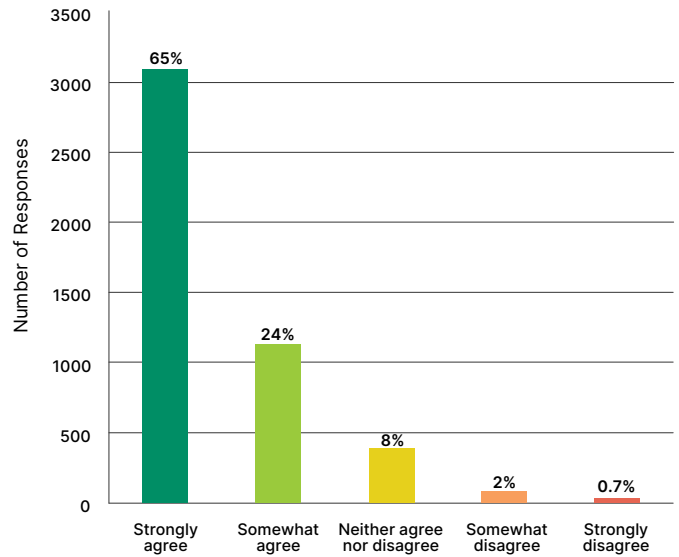
Culture and Arts



Environment



Economy



Other Comments

Survey participants added a wide variety of additional and insightful reasons why parks are important for Hamilton, with 2,143 open ended comments shared. Comments represented a wide variety of themes and subjects, which are briefly summarized below.

Essential for Quality of Life

Nearly one-half of respondents to this question commented on the importance of parks as necessary places for quality of life. Many commented on the need to preserve and protect the existing park network in Hamilton, and to expand the network with more parks where possible. Given the overall importance of parks to Hamiltonians, several participants noted the need to focus investment and energy in updating or improving the design and functionality of existing parks, to ensure they continue to meet various social, recreational, and ecological needs into the future.

A significant number of comments were shared that relayed the importance of parks to physical, mental and spiritual health, as well as general well-being. The wide variety of activities, uses, and functions of Hamilton parks were noted as being beneficial to personal and community well-being. For instance, comments noted improvements to mental health by having safe spaces in parks to rest and relax near nature, accessing outdoor spaces to gather and meet up with friends, as well as to attend and participate in social events and festivals. Several participants noted the importance of Hamilton's parks have increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as parks provide local, accessible outdoor places to socialize safely, given public health measures and restrictions. The fact that parks provide recreational, play, and sport opportunities, typically for free or at a low-cost, was also highlighted by respondents as providing physical health benefits. Many commented on the inclusion of pathways, trails, and scenic natural areas as providing important well-being benefits to parks users as well.

"It should be a safe place for people to congregate, both young and old. It is a place to enjoy fresh air, for kids and adults to play sports and other games, to walk your pet. It should have garbage cans and recycling bins that are easily accessible."

"Interact with people we normally wouldn't."

Community and Multi-Generational Space

The parks system's ability to facilitate community gatherings, from family barbeques to large city-wide festivals and events, was highlighted by many respondents. Other participants added to these themes by noting that many parks provide spaces and activities that allow for multigenerational gatherings and enjoyment, from young children to older adults. Some commented on the possibility of spontaneous social interactions and connecting with different people from different walks of life as being the primary reason parks are important to Hamilton. Examples shared included meeting new friends and families at a playground or a soccer tournament, sharing a picnic table with another group, or running into neighbours while walking or biking on a public trail.

Public Space, Equitable Access to Activities

Some participants specifically identified that the most important aspect of parks is that they are public and open to anyone. Other respondents added that they felt parks are important because they are equitable and inclusive. Reasons for this shared with the project team include the low or no cost to access, variety of types of parks spaces available, and relatively good distribution across Hamilton. Some noted that free access to certain amenities and park activities, from playgrounds, to dog parks, to community programs, was the most important aspect of parks being equitable.

Green Space, Trees, and the Environment

Nearly a thousand comments were shared that spoke to parks being important because of the natural, green space, environmental and ecological benefits they provide. Respondents spoke to the importance of natural systems in their own right, with parks providing vital habitat for local flora and fauna, and ecological corridors for wildlife. Others identified various ecosystem services, such as naturalized stormwater management, flood mitigation and protection, and reducing the heat island effect as the main reasons why parks within the city are essential. For many other participants, parks that provide treed and shaded areas and primarily green or planted land cover were seen as most important, functioning as green and natural oases within more urban and busy areas.

Peaceful and Restorative

Building off of themes regarding human well-being and the greenness of parks above, many residents commented on the primary importance of parks as peaceful places for quiet contemplation, rest and relaxation, and other passive uses. Some commented on parks being important for providing safe public spaces to be alone, noting that parks provide important open space for people who live in apartments and for those with low incomes or limited ability to travel long distances to other amenities. Some respondents commented on park importance in relation to housing development and urban intensification, where private open space access may be limited. Therefore, for many Hamiltonians, parks act as the backyard of the city.

Things to Do: Amenities, Sports, and Play

For others, the most important role parks provide is places and amenities for play, active recreation, and organized and informal sports. Of these respondents, a large number commented on how much they enjoyed park amenities and infrastructure generally, ranging from playground equipment, spray and splash pads, sportsfields and courts, as well as more passive items such as seating, benches, and picnic areas. Many participants took this opportunity share that more and higher-quality amenities, such as tennis courts, disc golf courses, bicycle single-track trails, and water play features would improve the importance and their use of the parks system.

“Builds respect for our resources and pride that motivates stewardship of our community. A place to learn about the natural environment and what grows around us all the time. Plants, insects, animals, weather etc. a place of peace and security.”

“Parks are valuable for the mental & physical health of individuals and families, across generations. Even a short walk in nature/ parks has measurable effects on the body and mind such as lowering blood pressure and improving mood.”

For many dog owners, parks were identified as being most important for the opportunity to exercise with their pets and attend dog-friendly outdoor gatherings. Some commenters asked the City to add more off-leash or dog specific park areas, particularly for those without private backyards or open spaces to allow their dogs to run free. A few other respondents noted park benefits for other types of pets too, such as cats.

Other comments highlighted the ability to enjoy and learn about both cultural and natural heritage through parks, and associated commemorative and interpretive features, as being an important function of city parks.

Other Themes: All-Season Use, Climate, Economy, Safety and Maintenance Feedback

Several other themes arose from the comments provided to this question. Additional entries identifying reasons parks are important include winter activities and the ability to use parks year-round, the ability for parks to contain ecological functions that mitigate climate change (such as carbon sequestration and flood protection), and their benefits to the local economy through tourism, benefits to property values for land owners, and providing attractive amenities to workers. A small number of respondents identified concern for the impact park development and operations have to the tax rate relative to their perceived importance.

Some participants submitted comments regarding parks maintenance and upkeep, as well as safety and security. However, the sentiment of these comments were mixed. Some respondents noted that the cleanliness and feelings of safety and security within Hamilton's parks were a reason why they are important to the city. Others felt that park upkeep, improvements, and availability of waste and recycling bins needs to be improved in order for parks to live up to their potential. Similar sentiments were shared regarding safety and security, noting that lighting and patrols could be increased for those who felt parks were not already safe. On this note, a few respondents expressed concern for the safety and wellbeing of persons experiencing homelessness in parks, while others were concerned about the impact to other parks users.

Remaining respondents noted they had nothing additional to add based on the selectable items provided in Question 2.

“Parks are extremely important now more than ever due to pandemic and people using parks a lot more to meet up in and plan social gatherings. Parks are especially important to children who create so many fun memories with loved ones while playing.”

Hamilton Parks Vision

What 3 words would you use to describe your vision for the future of parks in Hamilton?

Many Hamiltonians submitted responses regarding their vision for the future of the city's parks, with 4,720 comments received through the survey. A wide range of three word combinations that made up respondents' parks vision were received. Some three word submissions worked together as a theme or short sentence, such as "nature activates community." Others were a collection of key words that best represented what the participant felt was most important for parks' vision (e.g. "abundant, recreational, inviting").

Participants' vision for the future of Hamilton parks were across a wide range of subjects and themes, which are summarized on the following page along with frequent keywords used.



COMMENT SUMMARY

ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

- Access
- Parking
- Welcoming
- Inviting
- Diverse
- Free
- Freedom
- Affordable
- Equitable
- Diverse
- Engagement

COMMUNITY

- Social
- Socialize
- Events
- Camaraderie
- Gathering
- Neighbour
- Friendly
- Together
- Community-Building

SAFE

- Safety
- Light and Lighting
- Enforcement

CONNECTED AND MORE PARKS

- Connected
- Network
- More Parks
- Space
- Spacious
- Generous
- Everywhere
- Plentiful
- Necessary
- Treasured
- Bigger
- Expanded

CLEANLINESS, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

- Clean(er)
- Remediate
- Maintain
- Well Maintained
- Upkeep
- Enhance
- Protect
- Improve
- Update
- Better
- Innovative
- Design
- Modern
- More Trash/Garbage Bins

AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- More of them! (e.g. tennis courts, disc golf, playgrounds)
- Sport
- Sportsfields
- Ball Diamonds
- Cycling
- Biking
- Walking
- Dog Parks
- Off-Leash
- Multi-Purpose
- Multi-Use
- Washrooms
- Outdoor Rinks
- Sit
- Seating
- Benches
- Barbeques
- Picnics
- Trails
- Paths
- Playgrounds
- Exercise Equipment

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Healthy
- Wellness
- Exercise
- Fitness
- Mental Health
- Human Health
- Health Promoting

GREEN AND NATURE

- Greenspace
- Natural
- Environment
- Ecology
- Trees
- More Trees
- Sustain
- Sustainable
- Wildlife
- Animals
- Garden
- Water
- Lake and Lakefront
- Preserve
- Environmental Health
- Biodiversity
- Ecosystems

CHILD AND FAMILY FRIENDLY

- Child-Friendly
- Family
- Youth
- Teen
- All Ages
- Seniors
- Age Appropriate

ENJOYMENT AND FUN

- Peaceful
- Beautiful
- Play
- Playful
- Interactive
- Vibrant
- Engaging
- Entertainment
- Recreation
- Escape
- Livable
- Oasis
- Scenic
- Pretty
- Relaxation
- Restore
- Happiness
- Culture
- History
- Art
- Cool
- Food

OTHER

Other ideas shared by a relatively small portion of the total comments:

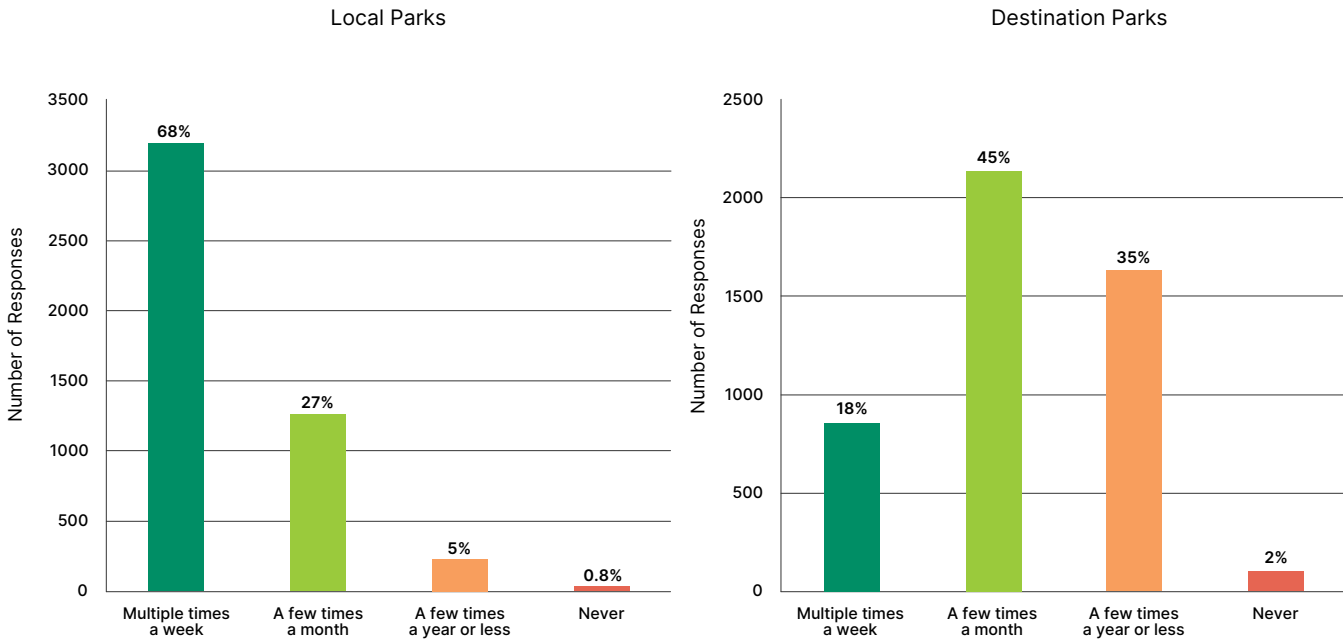
- Taxes and Cost
- Housing
- COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequency of Park Use

Park Visitation

Local parks are used more frequently, with 68% of participants indicating they visit their local park(s) multiple times a week. Less than 1% of participants never visit their local parks. Destination parks, on the other hand, are visited less frequently, with the majority of participants indicating that they visit those specialty parks only a few times a month (45%) or a few times a year or less (35%). It is important to note that 'local parks' refer to the closest park in walking distance to the home. This, in some cases, might include 'destination' or 'community' parks.

How often do you visit parks in Hamilton?



Top Park Visitation

What park(s) do you visit most often?

Survey participants were asked to rank their three favourite parks throughout the city. Participants mentioned roughly 179 different parks in their responses. The 20 most frequently-mentioned parks are listed on the right. These parks were generally spread out throughout Hamilton, with some of the larger parks located in more central locations.

Gage Park was the most popular park that participants mentioned. Dundas Open Space, Bayfront Park, and Dundas Driving Park were also quite popular. Within the most common parks, six were city-wide parks and five were community parks. This was well balanced with more local neighbourhood parks, of which there were five in the top 20.

Neighbourhood parks were generally well represented throughout the survey, with participants including many different neighbourhood parks as one of their favourites. Given that they serve less people, many popular neighbourhood parks were not ranked as highly as community and city parks that serve more people, despite being highly valued by participants.

The most popular parks were generally sports parks, with some passive and active park spaces as well. The major exceptions to this were Bayfront Park (a waterfront park) and Dundurn Park (a historic park), as well as Dundas Open Space, William Connell Park, and Binbrook Park.

The most popular parks also ranged in size. Seven of the most popular parks were quite large (over 10 hectares), with Gage Park and Bayfront Park being the largest of these. Most of the top 20 parks were between two and 10 hectares, but there were a few smaller parks that were also quite popular, including High Park and Chedoke Tot Lot. However, the most popular of these were generally larger and offered a range of different amenities to cater to different users. They also contained a number of destinations to draw people to the park, such as the Gage Park Greenhouse or the Dundurn Castle.

TOP 20 PARKS

1. Gage Park
2. Dundas Valley Conservation Area *
3. Bayfront Park
4. Dundas Driving Park
5. Churchill Park
6. Valley Park
7. Memorial Park
8. Victoria Park
9. Bruce Park
10. Dundurn Park
11. Sam Lawrence Park
12. Parkdale Park
13. Montgomery Park
14. Chedoke Tot Lot
15. Dundas Valley Secondary
16. Inch Park
17. William Connell Park
18. High Park
19. Sanctuary
20. Binbrook Park

* NB: not a City-owned municipal park



Pandemic Impacts

Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed how frequently you use parks?

When asked about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their use of park spaces, most survey participants mentioned that their park use had changed over the course of the pandemic. Comments generally indicated either an increase or decrease in parks usage during the pandemic.

Increase in Visitation

Most survey participants that saw a change in their park use revealed that they visited parks more frequently during the pandemic. One of the main reasons for this was an increase in free time. Many participants mentioned that they were spending less time commuting. This meant that they had more free time in the evenings to visit parks. Others mentioned that since they were working from home, they used parks as an opportunity to get outside their home. A number of participants mentioned that they replaced their daily commute with daily walks at their local park. Participants also mentioned that they went to parks to walk their dogs or take their kids outside. Others mentioned that they went to parks because they had nothing else to do.

A number of participants stated that their park use increased for mental and physical health reasons. During lockdowns, parks provided an escape from the stresses of the pandemic and were key to many participants' mental health. Parks were also used as an alternative space for exercising, since gym spaces were closed. These benefits heightened the importance of parks, particularly for renters who often do not have access to private greenspace.

Decrease in Visitation

On the other hand, a number of survey participants revealed that their park use decreased over the course of the pandemic. One of the main reasons for this were COVID-19 public health measures. During the pandemic, many facilities were closed, including parks. This was particularly a concern for parents with young kids, who were unable to access playground equipment during the periods of restriction. The lack of organized sports also resulted in decreased park use for many participants. The closure of washroom facilities was also a major concern for participants, as many seniors and families need to have washroom facilities nearby. This was an issue throughout the pandemic, not just during the lockdowns. Masks and social distancing policies were another reason for reduced park use for many participants. Some participants felt uncomfortable with these policies while others were concerned that these policies were not being adequately enforced in parks.

“Yes, more frequent use by both adults & children. Parks were lifesavers for parents & kids during lockdowns.”

“My use of parks had increased during COVID. Working from home had me trapped in my house and I needed an escape. I normally use the parks a lot but during COVID it increased.”

“Aside from the time we weren't permitted to use the parks, no it hasn't changed our park habits at all.”

Another reason for decreased use of parks was for health reasons. Many participants voiced feelings of fear or apprehension at going out into public. This was particularly a concern for older people who wanted to stay home to avoid getting sick or were encouraged by their family members to stay at home. There were also increased concerns about the cleanliness of park amenities and playground equipment. Participants also mentioned that they reduced their park visitation due to other users' behaviour. This included people who chose to ignore masking requirements or who poorly treated those who were wearing masks and following health guidelines.

“Use a little less frequently as the pandemic has made it such that it is not as peaceful. Sometimes too crowded to enjoy.”

A lack of park space was also a factor for decreased park usage for some participants. These participants mentioned that they wanted to use the city's parks, but none were available within walking distance. Due to pandemic restrictions, it was difficult for many users, particularly lower income users, to access parks that were further away.

Other COVID-19 Park Trends

Survey participants mentioned several other trends related to their use of parks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many participants mentioned that they were less likely to travel to parks that were located further away. Instead, they used more local and neighbourhood parks that were located closer to their homes rather than larger city-wide parks. Many participants also mentioned that they used conservation areas more during the pandemic. Others mentioned that they tried to go to parks where there was less people or at off-peak times.

“We use the smaller parks closest to us more frequently, but the parks that are located near the waterfront we go to less frequently now.”

A number of participants were also concerned about perceived increases in people experiencing homelessness and illicit behaviour in local parks. They mentioned that they were concerned for their children and their own safety, which often discouraged them from visiting certain park spaces.

Access & Barriers

Park Service & Location

Overall, the majority of participants feel that their core needs are being served by Hamilton parks. However, it is important to take note of the areas that could be improved to ensure parks are accessible and serve the needs of all residents.

Quantity: Most participants (74%) feel they have enough, or nearly enough, local parks near where they live. A combined 19% disagreed, indicating that there may be key gaps in the parks network.

Access: 88% of participants indicated that they strongly or somewhat agree that they can easily get to their local parks. Conversely, 8% indicated that they strongly or somewhat disagree and cannot easily access their local parks.

Crowding: Again, the majority of participants (69%) indicated that their local parks do not feel crowded, but 15% noted that they are over-crowded.

Needs: While 65% of participants indicated that local parks currently meet their needs, this question had the highest percentage of disagreement at a combined 25%.

Are your needs being served by local parks?

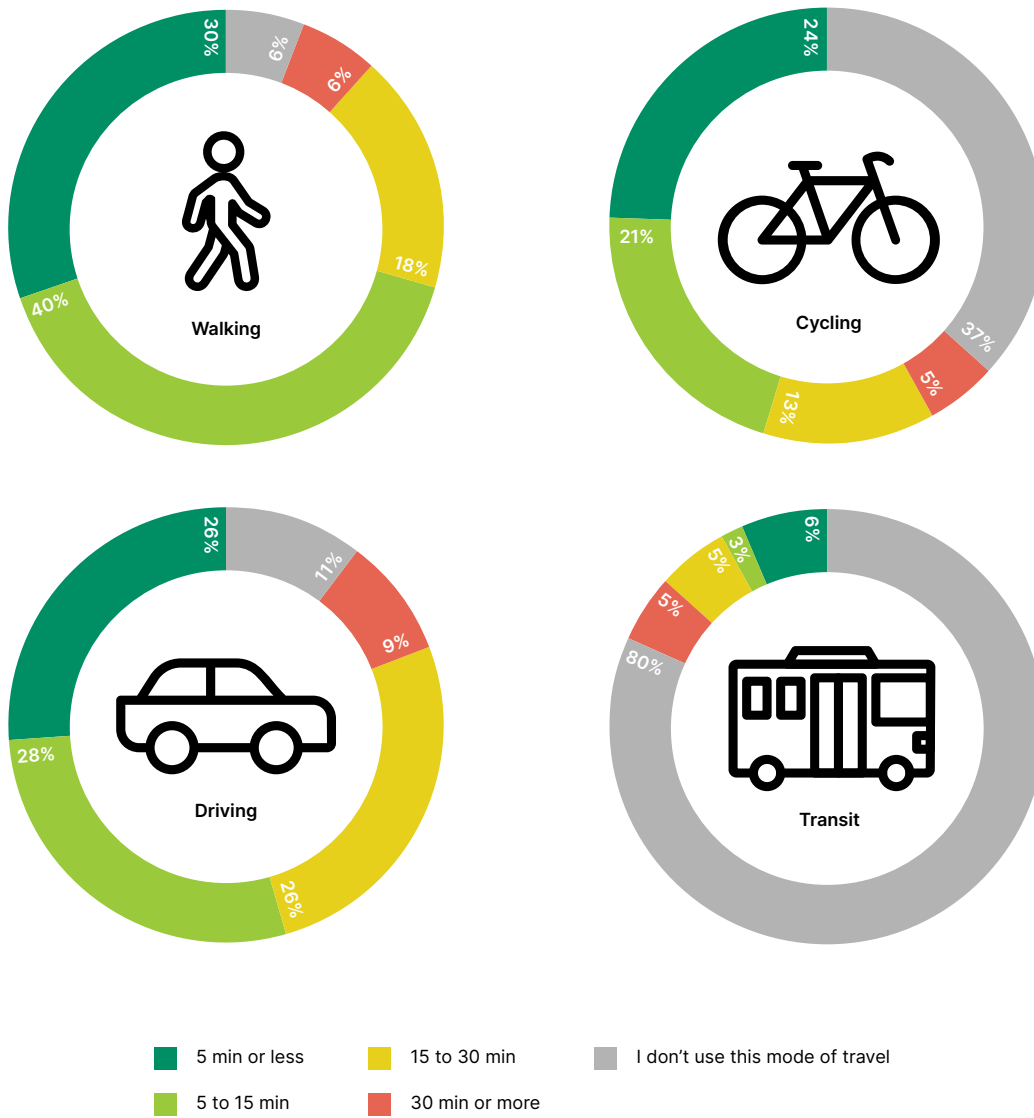


Travel to Parks

Most participants travel to parks by walking (94%), following closely by driving (89%). Only 20% of participants indicated they access parks on public transit.

Trips by walking, cycling, and driving are most often under 15 minutes in length. However, at least 5% of participants of every mode indicated that it typically takes 30 minutes or more to travel to a park.

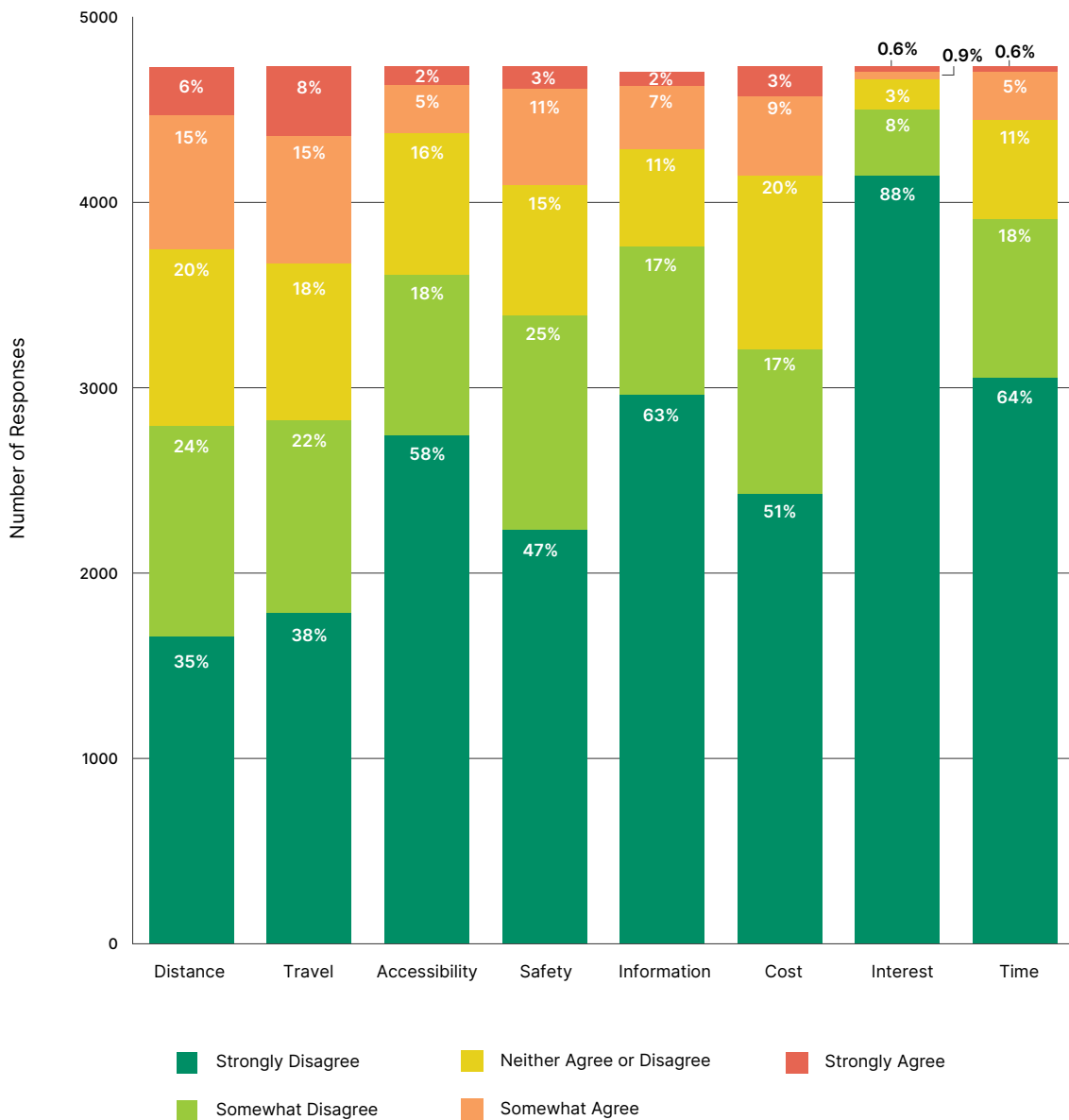
How far do you typically travel to visit a city park(s)?



Barriers to Access

To garner a more complete picture of the reasons people are, or are not, accessing parks in Hamilton, participants were asked about any barriers that they face that may be preventing or limiting their use of parks. Overall, the majority of participants indicated that they do not face significant barriers to accessing parks. Travel and distance were the highest barriers, with over 21% of participants noting they strongly or somewhat agree. Safety and cost were also key barriers.

Does anything prevent or limit you from using city parks?



A Snapshot of Other Comments

Through open-ended comments, several additional themes emerged, including concerns over crowding, a lack of access and amenities, and safety.

Crowding

Many participants mentioned that they did not visit parks because they were too crowded. This was particularly an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic, as many participants were concerned about the lack of social distancing. These participants also mentioned the need for more park spaces that are better distributed.

Access

Another major barrier to park use was a lack of access. Participants mentioned that many of their local parks lacked sidewalks, which made them difficult to access by walking or other active transportation modes. Distance to amenities was also a barrier, as many participants mentioned that there were no parks nearby. This was a particular concern in lower income neighbourhoods. Finally, participants mentioned that they wanted to be able to access parks without a car. They revealed their desire for better transit connections to parks.

Safety

Safety concerns were another barrier to use that participants identified. Many participants mentioned avoiding certain parks due to the perceived presence of people experiencing homelessness and drug use in the park. A number of participants also revealed that, as a woman, they often feel unsafe in parks. They mentioned that improving the lighting in parks or adding emergency buttons might help alleviate some of their concerns.

Participants also mentioned safety issues regarding off-leash dogs in parks. They revealed that they often avoided parks with off-leash dogs because their children were scared of the dogs or dog owners were acting inappropriately. Several participants also mentioned that they were concerned with the amount of dog and animal waste present in park spaces. Participants with young children were particularly concerned about the effect of this on their children's health, as they would sometimes pick the waste up while playing.

Participants also mentioned that a lack of safety for pedestrians and cyclists was another barrier to their use of parks. In particular, a lack of sidewalks and pathways made it difficult to access parks by walking or cycling. Maintenance issues with pathways, such as uneven surfaces and erosion, also made it difficult to safely walk or cycle on these paths. There is also a lack of winter maintenance that makes pathways and other amenities difficult to use for fear of slipping.

“Local Parks are much too crowded in peak periods due to out of district visitors to enjoy ”

“In Spring and Fall it is hard to use some of the pathways, because of the mud. They are not always very accessible. Parking can be a problem, especially during the pandemic.”

“As a woman, safety sometimes prevents me from feeling like I can (safely) access parks.”

“Safety is my only concern that is why I don't use parks at night or early in the morning.”

Amenities

Survey participants mentioned that a lack of certain amenities posed a barrier to park use. Parking issues were raised by a number of participants. They mentioned that they often have difficulty finding parking at parks, which restricts their ability to use these spaces.

Survey participants also voiced concern over the lack of amenities addressing the needs of seniors. They pointed to the lack of seating and even paths, and washrooms in many parks. Several participants were also concerned with the absence of shaded areas to provide relief from hot weather. This was an issue for both parents with young children and older people who find it difficult to be outside in the heat for long periods.

Several participants also mentioned that parks needed to include more amenities targeted as youths and adults rather than just children. These participants mentioned that they do not frequent parks as much as they would like because there are no amenities targeted at them.

Other

Other barriers that participants identified include:

- Online directories can be confusing when trying to find information about parks
- A general lack of information on parks – need more maps and accessible information
- Belligerent youth frequent parks and make users uncomfortable
- Flooding often prevents park spaces and amenities from being used
- Parks in lower income neighbourhoods are not well maintained

“A lot of the parks will have areas that I can’t reach in my wheelchair. There won’t be paths between amenities.”

“Restricted or paid parking usually created by neighbours who do not want hikers or parking near their homes is very distressing. Parkland should not just be the province of the local neighbours.”

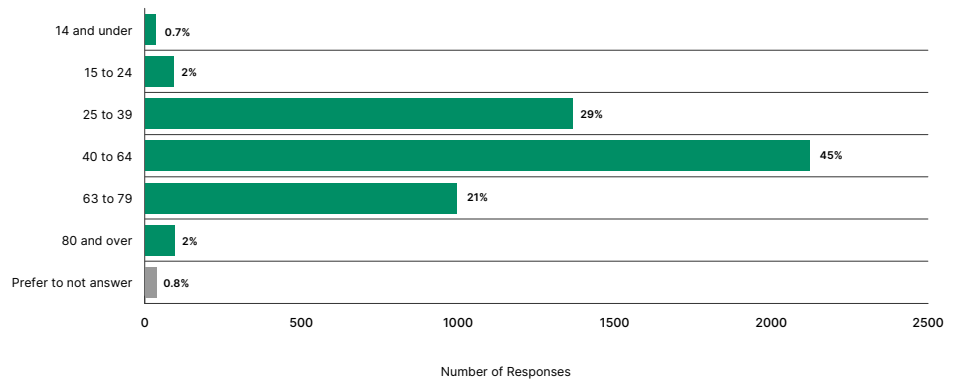
“More benches required, more lighting, more garbage/cleaning, more bathrooms”

“There are no parks that are close by enough that can be easily visited on a daily basis.”

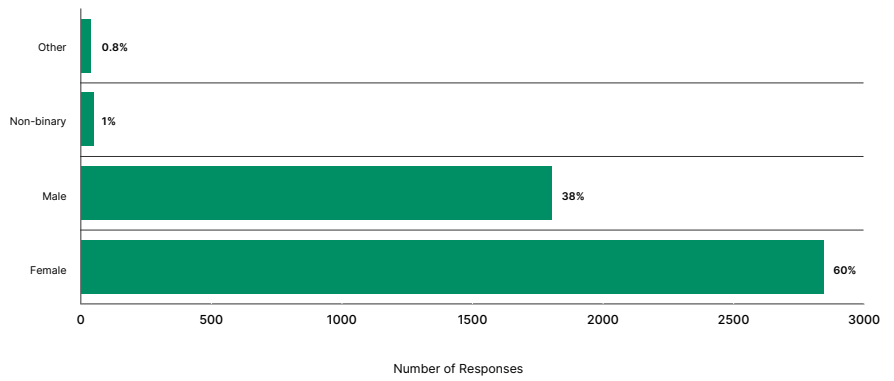
Demographics

To better understand who is—and is not—participating in the public engagement process, this page highlights the demographics shared by participants. All questions were optional.

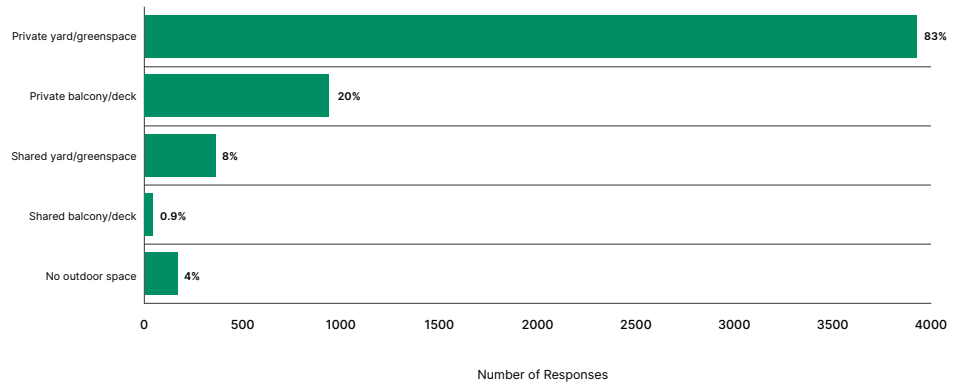
What is your age?



What is your gender?



Do you have access to outdoor space at home?



Stakeholder Engagement Summary

A total of nine submissions from key stakeholder organizations were received in response to the request for feedback to inform Phase 1 of the Hamilton Parks Master Plan. The submissions took the form of completed workbooks, which were created and shared by the Project Team to facilitate ease of response by stakeholders, as well as e-mails and letters. A wide range of organizations provided feedback, including:

- Hamilton Naturalists' Club
- Bruce Trail Conservancy
- West End Home Builders' Association
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
- Cycle Hamilton
- Environment Hamilton
- Social Planning Research Council
- Conservation Halton

The following pages summarize the feedback received from stakeholder organizations.

Vision for the Parks System

- Resilient with climate change
- Biodiverse and prioritize native planting
- Connects people with nature and natural systems
- Accessible and equitable distribution of parks across the city
- Parks are inclusive and barrier-free
- Creativity and innovation drive high quality parks
- Parks are loved and used by all residents
- Made up of an integrated network of parks and trails that allow for safe and sustainable access to parks
- Meets the needs of current and future residents
- Fully accessible by bicycle and other modes of active transportation
- Parks system is well maintained and feels safe
- Parks are diverse in character and offerings

Parks Opportunities & Challenges

- Increase access to nature, improve ecological connections, and promote naturalization and biodiversity
- Look at park-like spaces to convert to parks or provide public park functions (e.g. school sites, golf courses, underused City lots)
- Land acquisition and availability for parks is limited due to development pressures
- Improve safe access and connected routes to and within parks that promote active transportation and healthy living
- Impacts of municipal development charges and requirements, including for parkland, on housing affordability
- Park system design that allows for use by all ages and abilities, maximizes effectiveness and efficient use of the land, and provides high quality amenities and infrastructure
- Continued collaboration and partnership with other public agencies and organizations to acquire and program parkland

Recommended Park Improvements

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Access to nature to improve community health
- Fully connected active transportation and trail system that provides public access to all open spaces
- Safe access to outdoors for both physical and mental health benefits
- Safety and sound/noise considerations for both people and wildlife
- Growing medicines in these spaces and having more planting learning opportunities
- Connection to nature, truth and reconciliation, urban agriculture, in collaboration with other organizations' programming

Economy

- Quality parks will attract businesses and investment
- Infrastructure investments would lead to safer and greater use
- Natural and park spaces contribute to the local economy
- Provide opportunities for small mobile vendors (e.g. food trucks) in more parks
- Ensure parks are multifunctional and provide green infrastructure services to improve value

Environment

- Increased tree canopy and green-ness to reduce the urban heat island effect
- Enhance & grow natural heritage areas
- Naturalization and restoration opportunities
- More natural and park lands that contribute to a sustainable environment and decrease emissions
- Improved ecological connectivity
- Provide residents access to nature through safe and active transportation options

Culture & Arts

- Provide more gathering and celebration spaces in parks
- Spaces for performances by the arts community
- Educational opportunities to help people connect with the outdoors
- Providing cycling and protected bike lanes allows Hamiltonians to access public art around the city

Other Comments

- Neighbourhood consultation is important for creating new parks and redeveloping existing ones
- Equity considerations: natural assets and distribution should be considered along with other amenities like playgrounds and splashpads

Parkland Provision & Dedication

A wide range of current concerns or challenges were shared by stakeholder organizations regarding how the City currently acquires and provides parkland throughout the City. A similarly broad range of perspectives were shared on proposed changes, as well as some comments on the aspects of the current process that is working well. The following lists illustrate the range of comments received.

Concerns & Challenges

- Ensure all developments have land dedicated, not just cash in lieu, as people need the park space
- Land that is dedicated needs to be accessible and provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity
- Ensure the City is able to adequately manage and maintain all existing and future parkland, and not acquired at a rate higher than is manageable
- School sites should be exempt from parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu fees, due to the recreational and other public services they provide
- Increase the amount of parkland necessary for dedication

Proposed Changes & Improvements

- Use priorities to determine acquisition of parkland, based on lenses such as equity, green infrastructure, and natural area protection
- Prioritize acquisition in areas with little amount of private open space, such as backyards
- Acquire parkland early and more proactively
- Expand definition of parkland to include active and passive parkland
- Active parkland should include all forms including squares, plazas, pathways, pocket parks, and Privately Owned Public Spaces
- Consider the opportunity for off-site parkland dedication
- Implement green or sustainable development standards and provide associated incentives
- Acquire parkland to support all life within the region for the benefit of people and the environment

Parkland Level of Service

Identification of Particular Areas in Short Supply of Parks

- The urban and industrial areas north of Main Street are in need of improved quality of existing parks, more parks, and increased biodiversity and vegetation
- Strachan Street area has newly acquired land – underused, good spot for increased biodiversity
- Parks system should connect natural areas across the city, as per the Natural Heritage System
- Flamborough at this time seems to be deficient in community and neighbourhood park space
- Conservation areas provide passive recreational opportunities to nearby residents

Unique Approaches to Meet Parkland Demand

- Develop and use a metric to evaluate community accessibility to natural open spaces
- Include a list of different types of spaces that provide some nature benefit
- Consult with Trails and Transportation Departments to improve active transportation connections to parks that don't have them
- Look at available private space (i.e. backyards) when determining where investment should be made in developing parks
- Areas identified in low supply should be priority
- Consider using existing underutilized City properties as parkland
- Consider passive spaces that include recreational opportunities as parkland, including within the Greenbelt
- Look at other forms of parkland ownership, such as Strata and Privately Owned Public Spaces
- Greater collaboration with other public agencies to provide recreational and park access opportunities

Other Feedback & Knowledge Sharing

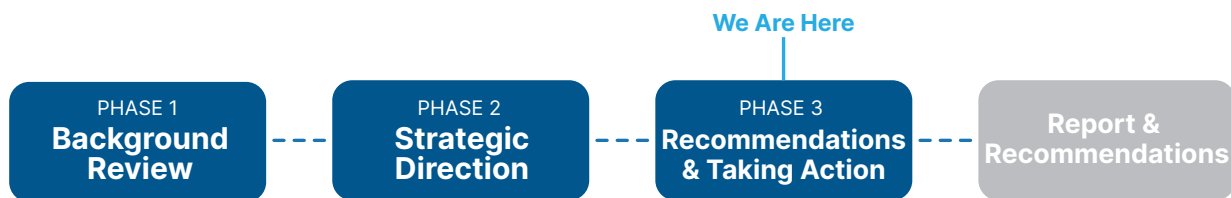
Other feedback and parks-specific knowledge shared by participating stakeholder organizations included concern for how people experiencing homelessness in parks are treated generally, noting a housing-first approach should be supported. Stakeholders also supported continued collaboration with organizations to deliver parks services across Hamilton and continued engagement in the Master Plan project. Specific opportunities were noted by school boards, conservation authorities, and environmental non-profits. Some noted that there exists further opportunities to have volunteers steward certain aspects of the parks system, such as community and pollinator gardens, and that both the City and volunteer groups can work together to improve access to such programs.

Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who participated!

The insights gathered through this first phase of engagement will help guide the next steps of development of the draft Parks Master Plan as we develop guiding principles and strategic directions to guide further recommendations and actions. Stay tuned for the next phase of engagement in the coming months to stay involved and share your voice.

Visit engage.hamilton.ca/parksmasterplan for more information about the project and to sign-up for project updates.



PARKS

MASTER PLAN



Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary

August 2022



Hamilton

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About the Project

Parks are important to our community. The Hamilton Parks Master Plan will guide the long-term planning of new parks and the expansion and improved access to existing parks across the city.

A Parks Master Plan is a guiding document that helps municipalities plan for and provide parks for residents. It is an important step in considering the development and enhancement of parkland over the short, medium and long term. It also aids in decision-making and helps prioritize investment in parkland across the city.

The Master Plan will focus on:

- All existing parkland within the City of Hamilton.
- City-owned properties that currently serve other uses but could serve as potential candidates for future parkland.
- Future growth areas, as identified by the City's [Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy \(GRIDS\)](#) currently underway.
- Public open spaces in Hamilton that are not owned by the City but are used by the public, such as school board properties, and utility corridor lands.

With the help of Hamilton residents, user groups, and other key stakeholders, this Master Plan will develop a shared vision for the future provision of parkland in Hamilton by listening and learning about what matters to the community. By aligning these values to policy and budget frameworks, the Master Plan will be a flexible working document that can adapt to changing values and emerging trends, recognize new opportunities, and identify new priorities for parkland provision.

The Parks Master Plan considers public and stakeholder input, demographic data and growth forecasts, park usage levels, parkland trends and best practices, ongoing planning initiatives, and more. In this way, the priorities and recommendations advanced in the Plan will be evidenced-based and respond to dynamic needs across the entire city.

Engagement Approach

The aim of the Hamilton Parks Master Plan public and stakeholder engagement is to develop a shared vision for the future provision of public park space in Hamilton by listening and learning about what matters to the community. In this phase, we wanted to learn if the public and stakeholders support the draft vision, strategic direction, and recommendations to improve the parks system. We also wanted to know if anything was missed that people feel is important.

Engagement & Project Timeline

The “Recommendations and Taking Action” phase of public engagement ran from **June 16 to July 11, 2022**. The input gathered will be used to further refine the draft strategic direction and finalize the Master Plan.

- **Phase 1: Background Review/Information Gathering | January to March 2022**
Review trends and best practices; analyze parkland supply, gaps and needs; prepare preliminary report and analysis. Collecting community input.
- **Phase 2: Strategic Direction | March to April 2022**
Develop and refine vision, goals and guiding principles. Provide the community with a progress update.
- **Phase 3: Recommendations and Taking Action | April to May 2022**
Develop parkland acquisition solutions; develop policy framework, recommendations and actions. Collecting further community input.
- **Phase 4: Report and Recommendations | June to September 2022**
Develop a final report to guide long term planning, prioritization and investment in parkland across the city.

Additional opportunities for public engagement will be available in upcoming phases of the project. Up-to-date engagement details are available at engage.hamilton.ca/parksmasterplan

Who We Engaged

Parks are for everyone, so involving a diverse range of Hamiltonians is essential to ensure a broad range of perspectives and experiences are represented. Targeted outreach to specific user groups, local experts, and potential partners also provides a depth of knowledge that will be essential to the success of the plan.

- Hamilton general public (including residents, park user groups, and equity-seeking populations)
- Community organizations (including environmental organizations, community groups, and business associations)
- Industry and agencies (including environmental authorities, development associations, and education institutions)
- The Project Team reached out to Hamilton's Indigenous groups (Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Haudenosaunee Development Institute, Six Nations of the Grand River, Huron-Wendat Nation), notifying each group about the project and sending a workbook with questions to review with any comments.



67

PUBLIC SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

How We Engaged

Engagement Tools

To encourage meaningful participation, the engagement opportunities aimed to be accessible and easy to participate for everyone on their own time:

- **Public Survey:** An online survey acted as the primary tool to collect feedback in this phase. A printed version was available to those that could not participate online.
- **Stakeholder Discussion Guides:** Community organizations were invited to submit a discussion guide to share their feedback with the project team.



2

STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

Communications Tactics

Several communications and outreach tactics were used to reach as many Hamiltonians as possible:

- **Social Media:** Seven advertisements and one post were shared on the City's Instagram and Twitter social media accounts.
- **Engage Hamilton:** A project-specific webpage was provided on the Engage Hamilton platform.
- **City Website:** A project-specific webpage for the Master Plan advertised engagement opportunities.
- **Email Invitations:** Stakeholders were invited to participate through targeted email invites.



Public Engagement Summary

The general public was invited to participate in an online survey to review and gather feedback on the draft plan directions. This survey received comments from 67 respondents.

The summaries on the following pages highlight the findings from the survey questions below:

Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals

- Overall, does the Master Plan's proposed vision capture the future you imagine for Hamilton's parks?
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the Master Plan's proposed Principles and Goals represent the main priorities for Hamilton's parks?
- Is anything missing from the vision, guiding principles, and goals?

Recommendations and Big Moves

- How supportive are you of each Area of Focus?
- What's missing? What could be improved?

Demographics

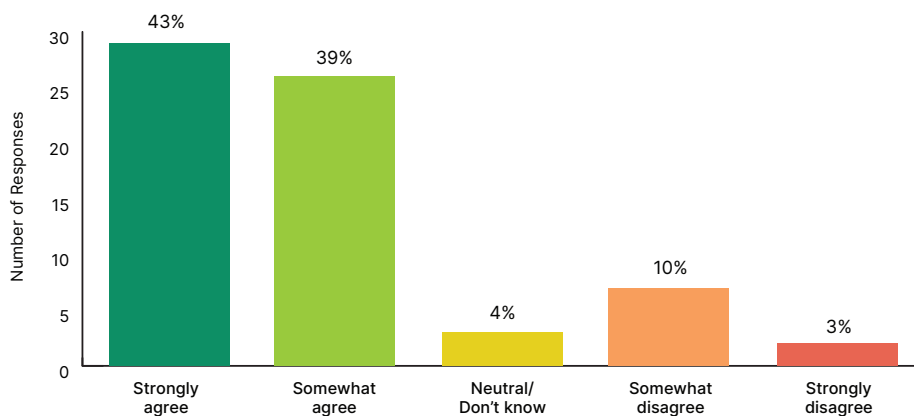
- Where do you live?
- Do you have access to outdoor space at home?
- What is your gender?
- How old are you?

Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals

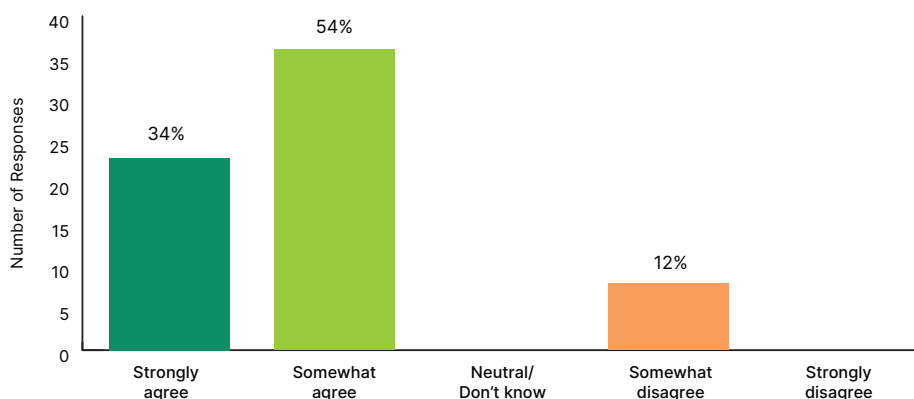
Overall, respondents strongly and somewhat agreed with the proposed vision, principles, and goals presented, as shown in the graphs below.

To help guide revisions to the draft plan, respondents provided comments on what was missing and how these guiding statements could be improved. These recommendations included improving maintenance and safety of existing parks, adding language about accessibility, and emphasizing the need for green space to improve health and wellbeing. These comments are summarized to the right.

Overall, does the Master Plan's proposed vision capture the future you imagine for Hamilton's parks?



Overall, to what extent do you feel the Master Plan's proposed Principles and Goals represent the main priorities for Hamilton's parks?



Comment Summary

(67 comments)

Main takeaways:

- Improve **maintenance** and management processes of existing parks to ensure clean and safe spaces for everyone
- Strengthen commitment to more **green space**, trees, naturalization, access to nature, and green infrastructure
- Include specific direction about barrier-free **accessibility** in parks
- Emphasize the importance of parks for **health**, wellbeing, and quality of life for all
- Simplify language for clearer intent/direction

Other considerations:

- Location-specific issues
- More/less emphasis on sports
- Variety of play opportunities for kids and teens
- Wifi
- Community input and activation
- Walkability, cycling, and creative movement
- Account for the difference between communities
 - Less affluent neighbourhoods have high reliance on parks
 - Older neighbourhoods have less green space
 - More outlying and rural neighbourhoods pay taxes for parks that are far from them

Recommendations and Big Moves

The recommendations proposed for each area of focus also received a high level of support from respondents, with all areas of focus receiving at least 78% strong or somewhat support. “Building, Connecting and Celebrating Communities” and “Funding the Parks Systems received the lowest amount of support, as seen in the graph below.

These insights are consistent with the comments shared in the following question, where respondents were invited to share what they felt was missing or could be improved. Some respondents indicated a desire to address maintenance issues in existing parks and strengthen commitments to taking action and building relationships. Comments are summarized to the right.

Comment Summary

(40 comments)

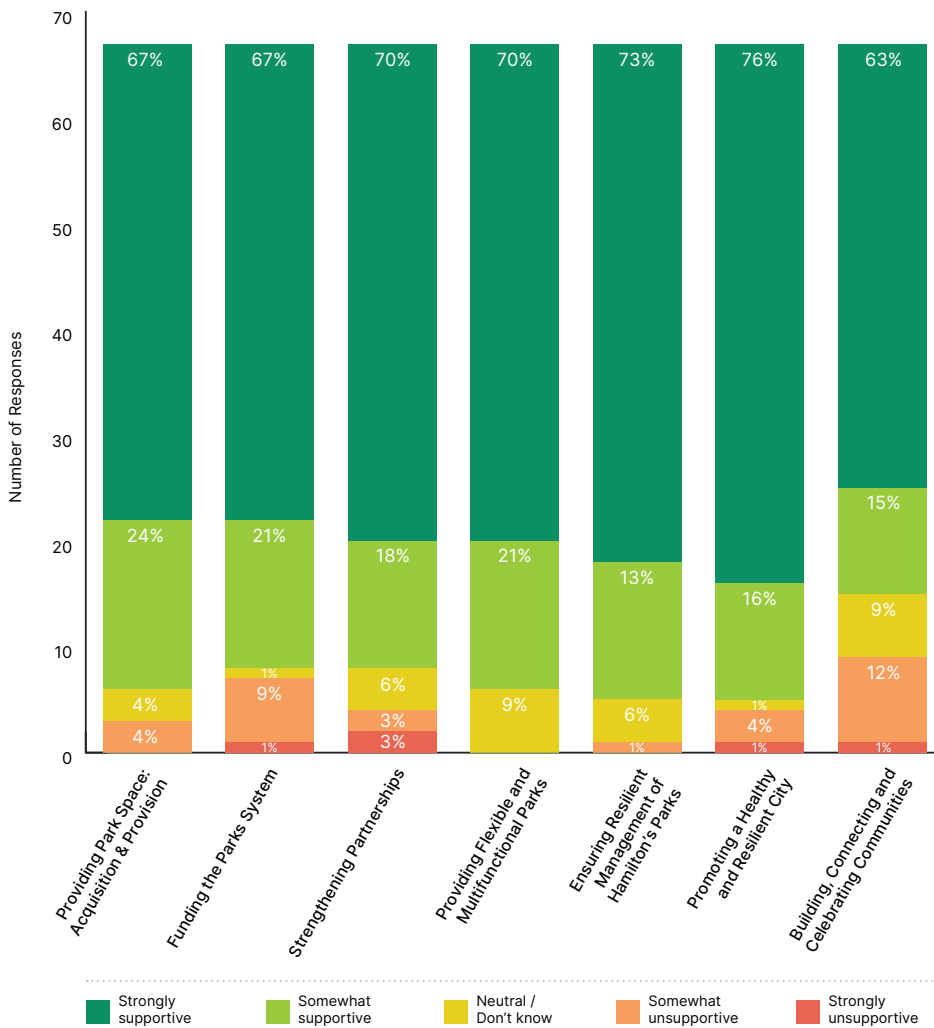
Main takeaways:

- Move beyond planning and take action
- Improve maintenance and self-sustainability of existing parks
- Strengthen direction to address homelessness in parks
- Emphasize commitment to engaging with communities and stakeholders
- Consider relationship with/ between different types of partners (e.g. schools, communities, conservation authorities, developers, industry)

Other considerations:

- Accessibility, diversity, and equitable use
- Provide basic functionality and less programming
- Strategy for the escarpment as a unique environmental and culture feature
- Temporary use of unused spaces
- Funding for green school spaces
- Budget implications
- Cold season park resources
- Bike amenities
- Simplify language and improve readability of park plans, signage and materials

How supportive are you of the following areas of focus:

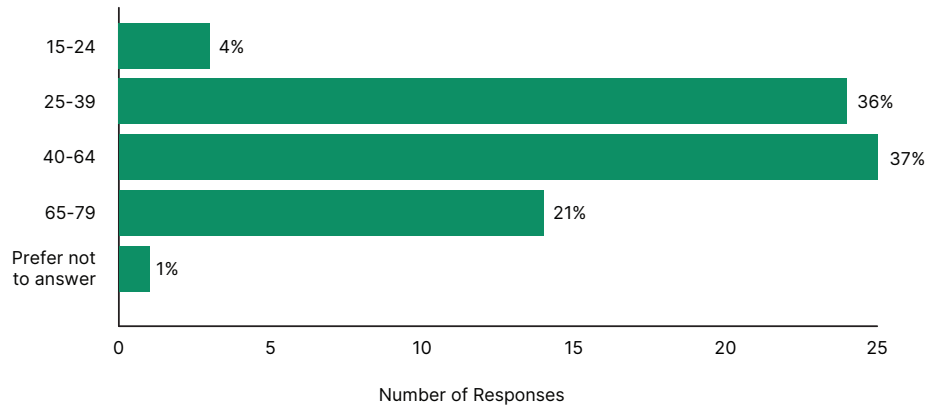


Demographics

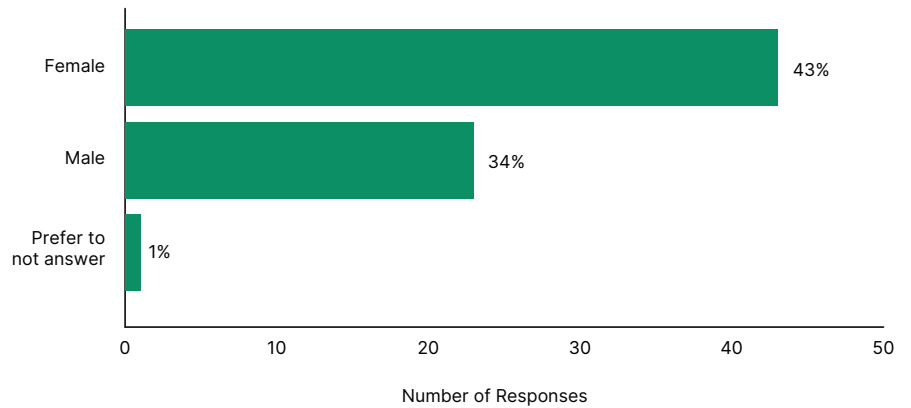
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All questions were optional.

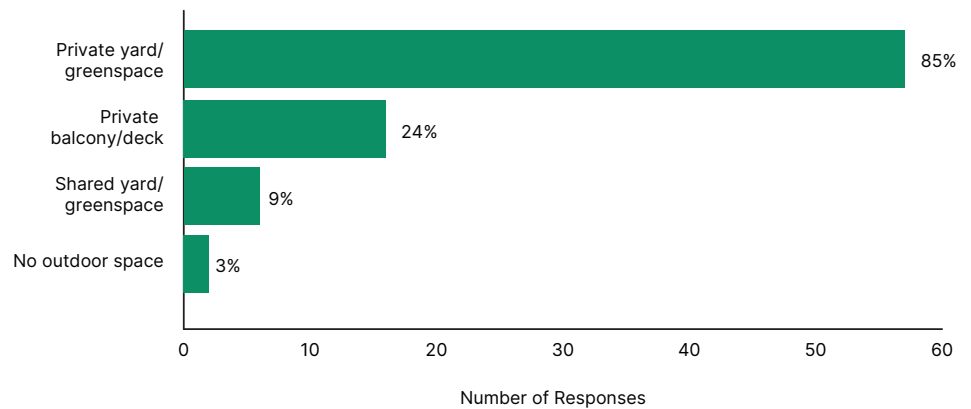
What is your age?



What's your gender?



Do you have access to outdoor space at home? (check all that apply)



Stakeholder Engagement Summary

In follow-up to the first phase of engagement, stakeholder organizations were invited to complete a workbook to share their input and perspectives on the draft strategic direction, recommendations and actions with the project team.

Two stakeholder organizations completed a workbook during this phase of engagement:

- Environment Hamilton
- Hamilton Naturalists' Club

The following pages summarize the feedback received from stakeholder organizations.

Draft Vision

- Feel strongly that there should be direct reference to climate change adaptation and biodiversity
- Incorporate role of parks in support climate resilience/ adaptation and supporting habitat and biodiversity

Draft Guiding Principles & Goals

- Place even more emphasis on the climate emergency and biodiversity elements
- Reference the City's Climate Change Action Strategy
- More emphasis on how parks play an integral part in the emerging Biodiversity Action Plan and urban tree canopy, through reference to the Urban Forest Strategy

Draft Recommendations, Big Moves & Actions

Providing Park Space

- Add specific reference to 'repurposing' of existing uses in our parks to shift to more inclusive, universal uses
- General concern about issue of encroachment of private landowners onto public park property
- Suggest making the criteria and acquisition goals public as much as possible
- Have a range of park types in each neighbourhood where possible
- Linear corridors should be looked at to add natural features (e.g. like the Meadowway in Toronto)

Funding the Parks System

- Challenge to City to strike a good balance between prioritization of land acquisition for parks and the urgent need to provide more affordable housing
- Use of charges will need to be carefully considered to ensure it doesn't create a barrier
- Look at financial or tax incentives to promote donations for parks and park features (e.g. basketball court sponsorship)

Strengthening Partnerships

- Partnerships are essential to providing natural areas and parks for Hamiltonians to enjoy
- Exploring ways to effectively amplify these partnerships makes a huge amount of sense
- Ensure lands owned by school boards but effectively used as park space are not lost with school closures
- Consider an adopt-a-park type program for volunteerism and stewardship

Flexible and Multifunctional Parks

- Hope there is potential for extensive application of this recommendation
- Does the City need more input from stakeholders on how to implement this?
- How will this principle be applied to address current challenges with 'exclusivity'?
- Having parks easily be multifunctional helps to meet the needs of all
- Helps encourage creativity in the use of park spaces

Resilient Management

- Have on-going concerns about current maintenance practices in our parks and tree health
- Rapidly changing climate is forcing us to look at parks and open spaces differently, and could allow more functionality to be brought into parks as needed (e.g. stormwater management)

Healthy and Resilient City

- Opportunity to ensure that natural area remnants are preserved and enhanced in urban greenfield sites
- Potential to implement this approach through the creation of streetscape parkettes and depaving/greening efforts
- Organizations such as Hamilton Naturalists' Club would like to play a role, where possible, in the implementation

Building, Connecting, Celebrating Communities

- Supportive, but caution that this must be done in a balanced manner where physical facilities are concerned. City needs to consider the 'capacity' of these spaces
- Continue to be concerned about the city's practice of clearing out encampments in city parks and other community locations
- Storytelling through parks would also be a good way to help celebrate and maybe help to educate about Hamilton's biodiversity – opportunity for partnerships

Park Need Focus Areas

- Prioritize locations where the expectation is that urban growth will be accommodated at higher densities.
- In high growth areas, additional effort needs to be focused on ensuring that there is adequate greenspace/park space for people to enjoy
- Quality park space and natural areas are key for many important reasons (e.g. health and wellbeing)
- Greening as an adaptation/mitigation tool - build a climate resilient community that is able to cope with extreme heat (urban heat island, etc.) extreme storm events, extreme cold events
- Important City gets amount and location of park space along the east-west LRT route from Eastgate to McMaster University
- Map already illustrates areas where city does need more parks/green. Support the need to prioritize these locations

Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who participated!

The insights gathered through this phase of engagement will help guide the final revisions to the proposed plan. Stay tuned to view the final Parks Master Plan in the coming months.

Visit engage.hamilton.ca/parksmasterplan for more information.



Appendix C: Parkland Dedication Calculations

Planning Area	Nbhd	Total Nbhd Population 2021	Existing Municipal Parkland Within Nbhd (ha)	Accessible Amount outside Nbhd	Fraction of Total Accessible Municipal Parkland Found Within Nbhd	Total Municipal Parkland (ha) Accessible Within 800m	Target Amount of Municipal Parkland (2021)	Effective Existing Amount - Target Amount (Accessible Amount)	Effective Existing Surplus (Accessible Amount - Target Amount)	Target Amount of Municipal Parkland (2051)	Additional Parkland Requirements 2051 (@2.1 ha/1000)	Effective Additional Parkland 2051 (Required + Deficit - Surplus)	Expected Parkland Dedication Amounts 2051 (@1.46 ha/1000, or Cash Equivalent)	Dedication Shortfall
Glanbrook	4200	22503	46.50	12.50	0.96	48.29	47.3	-	1.04	145.9	98.69	97.65	68.61	29.04
Lower Hamilton	Durand	12423	2.56	8.38	0.17	15.06	26.1	11.03	-	39.4	13.27	24.29	9.22	15.07
Upper Stoney Creek	East Mountair	2215	4.65	21.71	0.65	7.16	4.65	-	2.51	42.26	37.61	35.09	26.14	8.95
West Hamilton Dundas	Ainslie Wood	4464	-	11.36	-	1.73	9.4	7.64	-	9.4	0.07	7.71	0.05	7.66
Lower Hamilton	Landsdale	7681	1.55	15.99	0.12	12.91	16.1	3.22	-	24.1	7.99	11.21	5.56	5.65
Lower Hamilton	Gibson	7577	3.45	23.17	0.29	11.83	15.9	4.08	-	20.1	4.19	8.28	2.91	5.36
West Hamilton Dundas	Ainslie Wood	2900	-	1.80	-	3.08	6.09	3.01	-	12.05	5.96	8.97	4.14	4.83
Lower Stoney Creek	Riverdale West	6785	4.79	11.63	0.44	10.87	14.25	3.38	-	14.91	0.66	4.04	0.46	3.58
Lower Stoney Creek	Fifty Point	3565	2.09	1.39	0.60	3.48	7.5	4.00	-	6.8	0.72	3.28	-	3.28
Lower Stoney Creek	Vincent	7621	5.33	6.53	0.44	11.99	16.00	4.01	-	14.45	1.56	2.45	-	2.45
Hamilton Mountain	Kennedy East	1043	1.19	11.08	0.89	1.33	2.19	0.86	-	6.80	4.61	5.47	3.21	2.27
Hamilton Mountain	Gilbert	3203	6.42	13.72	0.58	11.13	6.73	-	4.40	6.05	0.68	1.65	-	1.65
Hamilton Mountain	Gurnett	4478	2.49	9.40	0.35	7.13	9.40	2.27	-	8.51	0.90	1.37	-	1.37
Lower Stoney Creek	Winona North	1203	1.39	2.13	0.94	1.49	2.53	1.04	-	2.65	0.12	1.16	0.09	1.08
Lower Hamilton	Corktown	7743	3.34	1.73	0.17	19.32	16.3	-	3.06	29.7	13.47	10.41	9.37	1.04
Ancaster	Sulphur Springs	549	0.41	24.48	0.27	1.54	1.15	-	0.38	5.80	4.65	4.26	3.23	1.03
Lower Hamilton	Bartonville	3998	5.07	2.72	0.65	7.79	8.40	0.61	-	9.15	0.76	1.36	0.53	0.84
Hamilton Mountain	Kennedy West	826	-	4.65	-	1.98	1.73	-	0.25	5.05	3.32	3.08	2.31	0.77
Glanbrook	Carluk	484	0.41	9.80	1.00	0.41	1.02	0.60	-	1.04	0.02	0.62	0.01	0.61
West Hamilton Dundas	Cramer	177	-	27.13	27.13	-	0.37	0.37	-	0.51	0.14	0.51	-	0.51
Glanbrook	Duff's Corner	106	-	5.18	-	0.00	0.22	0.22	-	0.34	0.12	0.34	0.08	0.26
West Hamilton Dundas	Patterson	139	-	10.97	10.97	-	0.29	0.29	-	0.24	0.05	0.24	-	0.24
West Hamilton Dundas	Binkley	43	-	4.52	4.52	-	0.09	0.09	-	0.41	0.32	0.41	0.22	0.19
West Hamilton Dundas	Simcoe	43	-	14.17	14.17	-	0.09	0.09	-	0.16	0.07	0.16	-	0.16
Lower Hamilton	Crown Point East	5219	0.85	29.62	0.07	12.49	11.0	-	1.53	16.5	5.51	3.98	3.83	0.15
Lower Hamilton	Beasley	7128	2.71	38.30	0.11	24.42	15.0	-	9.45	39.9	24.97	15.52	17.36	-
Glanbrook	4100	12565	35.30	12.52	0.60	58.48	26.4	-	32.09	82.5	56.16	24.07	39.04	-
Lower Hamilton	St. Clair	3206	2.30	8.19	0.26	8.82	6.73	-	2.09	7.31	0.57	-	0.40	-
Ancaster	Lampman	4223	2.05	3.08	0.16	13.13	8.9	-	4.26	11.1	2.20	-	1.53	-
Lower Hamilton	Stinson	4391	3.39	9.98	0.20	17.11	9.2	-	7.89	13.0	3.83	-	2.66	-
Upper Stoney Creek	Nash North	3472	-	6.05	-	9.40	7.3	-	2.10	7.5	0.20	-	0.14	-
Flamborough	1400	23901	71.71	22.53	0.97	73.84	50.2	-	23.65	75.3	25.11	1.46	17.46	-
Lower Hamilton	Delta East	4153	-	15.48	-	24.48	8.7	-	15.76	9.7	0.94	-	0.66	-
Ancaster	Marritt	3251	1.24	2.10	0.11	11.05	6.83	-	4.22	9.04	2.22	-	1.54	-
Lower Hamilton	Stipeley	6567	10.05	19.43	0.27	37.17	13.8	-	23.38	15.1	1.31	-	0.91	-
Hamilton Mountain	Quinndale	3585	2.46	14.16	0.32	7.65	7.53	-	0.12	7.03	0.50	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Gourley	4319	0.99	4.73	0.08	11.96	9.1	-	2.89	7.8	1.23	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	University Gardens	1406	0.79	11.61	0.15	5.31	2.95	-	2.36	2.68	0.27	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	Kirkendall North	5687	4.24	5.21	0.23	18.41	11.94	-	6.47	17.27	5.33	-	3.71	-
Lower Hamilton	Central	4542	3.25	13.09	0.10	32.87	9.5	-	23.33	48.5	38.98	15.65	27.10	-
Lower Hamilton	Crown Point West	6134	0.81	0.12	0.02	39.12	12.9	-	26.24	15.5	2.64	-	1.83	-
Lower Hamilton	Homeside	6008	1.97	45.35	0.14	14.49	12.62	-	1.88	15.94	3.32	1.45	2.31	-
Hamilton Mountain	Sherwood	2561	-	6.08	-	8.19	5.38	-	2.82	5.17	0.20	-	-	-
Ancaster	Horning	3343	-	7.60	-	9.98	7.0	-	2.96	8.5	1.53	-	1.06	-
Hamilton Mountain	Jerome	2784	2.36	8.66	0.28	8.40	5.85	-	2.56	4.78	1.07	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Crerar	2867	-	17.51	-	22.53	6.02	-	16.51	6.57	0.55	-	0.38	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Kentley	4021	6.09	8.03	0.28	21.57	8.44	-	13.13	14.67	6.22	-	4.33	-
Ancaster	Shaver	3021	7.08	26.92	0.77	9.17	6.34	-	2.83	7.53	1.19	-	0.83	-

Planning Area	Nbhd	Total Nbhd Population 2021	Existing Municipal Parkland Within Nbhd (ha)	Accessible Amount outside Nbhd	Fraction of Total Accessible Municipal Parkland Found Within Nbhd	Total Municipal Parkland (ha) Accessible Within 800m	Target Amount of Municipal Parkland (2021)	Effective Existing Deficit (Accessible Amount - Target Amount)	Effective Existing Surplus (Accessible Amount - Target Amount)	Target Amount of Municipal Parkland (2051)	Additional Parkland Requirements 2051 (@2.1 ha/1000)	Effective Additional Parkland Requirements 2051 (Required + Deficit - Surplus)	Expected Parkland Dedication Amounts 2051 (@1.46 ha/1000, or Cash Equivalent)	Dedication Shortfall
Upper Stoney Creek	Highland	6303	5.89	6.02	0.34	17.50	13.24	-	4.27	10.77	-	2.46	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Greeningdon	3334	2.55	10.67	0.33	7.76	7.00	-	0.76	7.85	0.85	0.09	0.59	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Fruitland	2490	17.33	33.09	0.57	30.42	5.23	-	25.19	32.01	26.78	1.59	18.62	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	788	0.74	14.87	0.86	0.86	1.66	0.80	-	0.68	-	0.97	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Huntington	4935	4.18	6.66	0.08	49.53	10.36	-	39.17	10.59	0.23	-	0.16	-
Hamilton Mountain	Bonnington	1812	0.61	0.78	0.07	8.21	3.80	-	4.41	3.98	0.17	-	0.12	-
Hamilton Mountain	Allison	1423	0.94	6.99	0.10	9.60	2.99	-	6.61	4.01	1.02	-	0.71	-
Upper Stoney Creek	Valley Park	5423	23.51	7.55	0.57	41.02	11.39	-	29.63	13.06	1.67	-	1.16	-
Ancaster	Garner	3226	3.86	15.98	0.32	11.89	6.77	-	5.11	8.07	1.29	-	0.90	-
Upper Stoney Creek	Felker	4939	10.95	4.98	0.29	37.87	10.37	-	27.50	13.72	3.35	-	2.33	-
Hamilton Mountain	Sheldon	1711	19.66	8.29	0.66	29.91	3.59	-	26.31	15.04	11.45	-	7.96	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Pleasant Valle	1216	3.69	6.14	0.58	6.38	2.55	-	3.83	3.09	0.54	-	0.37	-
Glanbrook	Trinity	2499	1.95	8.70	0.15	13.00	5.25	-	7.75	8.74	3.49	-	2.43	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Corman	6556	6.94	2.81	0.23	29.77	13.77	-	16.01	14.17	0.40	-	0.28	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	325	-	2.29	-	6.02	0.68	-	5.34	1.82	1.14	-	0.79	-
Ancaster	Spring Valley	4089	9.11	36.16	0.46	19.78	8.59	-	11.19	8.32	-	0.27	-	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Industrial	1803	-	3.10	-	33.09	3.79	-	29.30	3.84	0.05	-	0.04	-
Ancaster	Scenic Woods	1731	3.06	3.64	0.17	17.92	3.64	-	14.29	4.00	0.37	-	0.26	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Winona South	1223	5.81	2.49	0.88	6.59	2.57	-	4.02	1.42	-	1.15	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Templemead	3923	1.69	8.64	0.19	8.68	8.24	-	0.44	7.56	-	0.68	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Westcliffe We	1644	0.96	2.51	0.11	8.51	3.45	-	5.06	3.85	0.39	-	0.27	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Lakeshore	3109	1.40	9.48	0.08	17.38	6.53	-	10.85	15.61	9.08	-	6.31	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Golf Course	566	-	3.53	-	4.98	1.19	-	3.79	2.39	1.20	-	0.83	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Westmeria	2646	9.97	8.23	0.55	18.26	5.56	-	12.71	4.92	-	0.64	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Broughton We	1389	1.17	14.35	0.16	7.31	2.92	-	4.39	3.62	0.71	-	0.49	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Highway Valle	2256	2.14	5.02	0.20	10.84	4.74	-	6.11	4.97	0.24	-	0.16	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Ainslie Wood	754	-	8.77	-	2.81	1.58	-	1.23	1.22	-	0.37	-	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	203	-	20.35	-	2.29	0.43	-	1.87	0.28	-	0.15	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Albion Falls	861	-	58.95	-	36.16	1.81	-	34.36	1.71	-	0.10	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Mountview	5067	15.30	1.64	0.83	18.40	10.64	-	7.76	16.11	5.47	-	3.80	-
Glanbrook	Bowman	189	-	22.57	-	3.64	0.40	-	3.24	5.97	5.57	2.33	3.87	-
Ancaster	St. John's	2382	4.76	1.98	0.66	7.24	5.00	-	2.24	5.32	0.32	-	0.22	-
Ancaster	Leeming	2850	2.97	8.57	0.26	11.61	5.98	-	5.62	6.33	0.34	-	0.24	-
Hamilton Mountain	Gilkson	2938	2.09	11.19	0.18	11.57	6.17	-	5.40	6.13	-	0.04	-	-
Ancaster	Lime Kiln	1765	2.06	6.60	0.37	5.59	3.71	-	1.89	2.28	-	1.43	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	York Road	1097	-	10.53	-	8.23	2.30	-	5.93	2.77	-	0.47	-	0.32
West Hamilton Dundas	Cootes Parad	547	19.46	3.45	0.58	33.82	1.15	-	32.67	7.34	6.19	-	4.30	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Pleasant Valle	1054	0.21	15.91	0.04	5.22	2.21	-	3.01	2.61	0.40	-	0.28	-
Hamilton Mountain	Ryckmans	2042	5.46	15.65	0.38	14.23	4.29	-	9.94	6.52	2.24	-	1.55	-
Hamilton Mountain	Chappel East	1021	0.75	12.42	0.04	21.11	2.14	-	18.96	4.25	2.10	-	1.46	-
Lower Hamilton	Lower King's F	422	9.95	2.40	0.14	68.90	0.89	-	68.01	3.96	3.07	-	2.13	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Dundana East	665	0.32	11.25	0.16	1.96	1.40	-	0.56	1.66	0.26	-	0.18	-
Hamilton Mountain	Barnstown	4556	3.01	4.05	0.12	25.58	9.57	-	16.01	5.83	-	3.74	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Eleanor	3473	2.22	7.20	0.21	10.79	7.29	-	3.50	7.53	0.24	-	0.17	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	1365	0.60	10.15	0.05	11.79	2.87	-	8.92	2.22	-	0.64	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Highland Hills	856	-	7.68	-	6.60	1.80	-	4.80	1.90	0.10	-	0.07	-
Hamilton Mountain	Rolston	4939	8.86	8.23	0.46	19.39	10.37	-	9.01	9.91	-	0.47	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Southam	930	1.03	7.97	0.23	4.48	1.95	-	2.53	2.62	0.67	-	0.46	-
Hamilton Mountain	Falkirk West	1591	1.61	17.13	0.09	17.52	3.34	-	14.18	3.66	0.32	-	0.22	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Westdale Sou	3797	0.11	7.71	0.01	15.76	7.97	-	7.79	7.54	-	0.44	-	-

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Hamilton Mountain	Centremount	3098	5.55	9.95	0.33	16.80	6.51	-	10.29	6.89	0.38	-	0.26	-
Hamilton Mountain	West Hannon	122	-	4.14	-	4.05	0.26	-	3.79	1.54	1.29	-	0.89	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Turnball	1609	2.49	9.85	0.26	9.69	3.38	-	6.31	2.68	0.70	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Carpenter	2963	2.06	5.95	0.17	12.21	6.22	-	5.99	5.37	0.86	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Balfour	2362	1.40	8.65	0.15	9.07	4.96	-	4.11	5.52	0.56	-	0.39	-
Glanbrook	Book	111	-	3.14	-	8.23	0.23	-	7.99	0.29	0.06	-	0.04	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Gersholme	2370	6.15	8.56	0.44	14.12	4.98	-	9.14	9.42	4.44	-	3.09	-
Hamilton Mountain	Eastmount	4494	3.96	17.58	0.19	21.09	9.44	-	11.65	10.98	1.54	-	1.07	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	247	-	3.01	-	7.71	0.52	-	7.19	1.08	0.56	-	0.39	-
Upper Stoney Creek	Albion	3884	5.69	17.43	0.12	48.88	8.16	-	40.73	9.45	1.30	-	0.90	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	687	-	1.98	-	6.60	1.44	-	5.16	1.01	0.44	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	55	-	0.15	-	7.83	0.12	-	7.71	0.30	0.18	-	0.13	-
Lower Hamilton	Hamilton Bea	1378	1.39	5.79	0.12	11.34	2.89	-	8.45	3.72	0.83	-	0.58	-
Ancaster	Old Mill	675	-	0.00	-	4.14	1.42	-	2.73	1.10	0.32	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Sunninghill	2352	4.24	14.18	0.30	14.09	4.94	-	9.15	5.38	0.45	-	0.31	-
Hamilton Mountain	Buchanan	2469	2.75	0.86	0.32	8.70	5.19	-	3.52	5.72	0.53	-	0.37	-
Hamilton Mountain	Kernighan	935	0.45	0.00	0.05	9.10	1.96	-	7.14	2.43	0.47	-	0.33	-
Ancaster	Clearview	2310	21.33	9.86	0.87	24.48	4.85	-	19.63	1.97	2.88	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Hunter	977	9.26	29.10	0.52	17.82	2.05	-	15.76	3.25	1.20	-	0.83	-
Hamilton Mountain	Randall	2521	2.06	5.41	0.10	19.64	5.29	-	14.34	4.80	0.49	-	-	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Trillium	2866	3.09	16.68	0.51	6.10	6.02	-	0.08	5.35	0.67	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Central Busin	2999	3.81	5.60	0.18	21.25	6.30	-	14.95	4.55	1.75	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	North Hannon	107	-	15.02	-	1.98	0.23	-	1.76	0.01	0.21	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	South Hannon	41	-	9.37	-	0.15	0.09	-	0.07	0.10	0.01	-	0.01	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Dewitt	1543	1.56	37.26	0.21	7.35	3.24	-	4.11	3.79	0.55	-	0.38	-
Hamilton Mountain	Yeoville	1200	-	25.85	-	14.18	2.52	-	11.66	3.65	1.13	-	0.79	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	40	-	0.09	-	0.86	0.08	-	0.77	0.66	0.57	-	0.40	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Highland Hills	636	-	3.97	-	9.86	1.34	-	8.52	2.07	0.74	-	0.51	-
Hamilton Mountain	Chappel West	864	12.18	18.38	0.29	41.28	1.81	-	39.47	3.46	1.65	-	1.14	-
Beverly	1500	5184	29.97	7.10	0.85	35.38	10.89	-	24.50	11.22	0.33	-	0.23	-
Upper Stoney Creek	Nash South	167	32.55	2.78	0.66	49.23	0.35	-	48.88	8.86	8.51	-	5.92	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Creighton Eas	1196	-	16.56	-	5.60	2.51	-	3.09	2.21	0.30	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	Strathcona	6969	18.57	4.71	0.55	33.58	14.6	-	18.95	20.9	6.27	-	4.36	-
Hamilton Mountain	Mohawk	528	-	12.20	-	9.37	1.11	-	8.26	1.10	0.01	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Trenholme	1200	4.49	4.46	0.11	41.75	2.52	-	39.23	2.36	0.16	-	-	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Stoney Creek	4037	-	14.69	-	25.85	8.48	-	17.37	9.46	0.98	-	0.68	-
Ancaster	Oakes	4050	9.50	0.00	0.71	13.47	8.50	-	4.96	6.47	2.04	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Bruleville	4299	0.70	5.73	0.04	19.07	9.03	-	10.04	9.71	0.69	-	0.48	-
Hamilton Mountain	Mewburn	348	-	2.15	-	7.10	0.73	-	6.37	4.48	3.75	-	2.61	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Dundana Wes	664	0.85	10.59	0.23	3.63	1.39	-	2.24	1.84	0.45	-	0.31	-
Hamilton Mountain	Fessenden	3616	2.34	5.76	0.12	18.89	7.59	-	11.30	8.33	0.74	-	0.51	-
Hamilton Mountain	Westcliffe East	2813	3.96	4.68	0.25	16.17	5.91	-	10.26	6.20	0.30	-	0.21	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Sobel	911	3.30	14.03	0.43	7.76	1.91	-	5.84	1.68	0.23	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	North End East	3939	8.66	20.89	0.37	23.35	8.27	-	15.08	11.32	3.04	-	2.12	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Ainslie Wood	930	4.20	-	1.00	4.20	1.95	-	2.25	6.28	4.33	2.08	3.01	-
Lower Hamilton	Kirkendall South	2667	3.52	5.43	0.38	9.25	5.60	-	3.65	5.08	0.53	-	-	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Bayview	1177	4.00	1.13	0.65	6.15	2.47	-	3.68	5.58	3.11	-	2.16	-
Lower Hamilton	Normanhurst	3260	7.99	5.96	0.43	18.58	6.85	-	11.73	8.66	1.82	-	1.26	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Spencer Cree	886	1.19	12.44	0.17	6.95	1.86	-	5.09	2.25	0.39	-	0.27	-
Hamilton Mountain	Rymal	6	-	1.52	-	4.68	0.01	-	4.66	0.00	0.01	-	-	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Grayside	10	-	27.81	-	14.03	0.02	-	14.01	1.28	1.26	-	0.88	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Lakeley	5	-	41.35	-	20.89	0.01	-	20.88	1.05	1.04	-	0.73	-

Planning Area	Nbhd	Total Nbhd Population 2021	Existing Municipal Parkland Within Nbhd (ha)	Accessible Amount outside Nbhd	Fraction of Total Accessible Municipal Parkland Found Within Nbhd	Total Municipal Parkland (ha) Accessible Within 800m	Target Amount of Municipal Parkland (2021)	Effective Existing Deficit (Accessible Amount - Target Amount)	Effective Existing Surplus (Accessible Amount - Target Amount)	Target Amount of Municipal Parkland (2051)	Additional Parkland Requirements 2051 (@2.1 ha/1000)	Effective Additional Parkland 2051 (Required + Deficit - Surplus)	Expected Parkland Dedication Amounts 2051 (@1.46 ha/1000, or Cash Equivalent)	Dedication Shortfall
West Hamilton Dundas	Creighton We	1174	1.95	22.10	0.22	9.06	2.47	-	6.59	2.84	0.38	-	0.26	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Morden	1475	1.51	5.85	0.22	6.94	3.10	-	3.84	1.67	1.43	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	York Heights	1472	11.35	9.93	0.66	17.30	3.09	-	14.21	2.75	0.34	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	North End We	932	22.72	0.00	0.65	35.16	1.96	-	33.21	5.86	3.90	-	2.71	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Hrca_B	169	-	7.08	-	1.52	0.35	-	1.16	1.92	1.57	0.40	1.09	-
Lower Hamilton	Parkview East	599	19.23	1.31	0.41	47.04	1.26	-	45.79	2.99	1.73	-	1.20	-
Lower Hamilton	Blakeley	3153	1.49	0.93	0.03	42.84	6.62	-	36.22	7.18	0.56	-	0.39	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Nashdale	14	-	-	-	35.85	0.03	-	35.82	1.35	1.32	-	0.92	-
Lower Hamilton	Dundurn	154	1.26	2.96	0.05	23.36	0.32	-	23.04	0.96	0.64	-	0.44	-
Lower Stoney Creek	South Meado	2016	4.09	2.52	0.41	9.94	4.23	-	5.71	4.47	0.23	-	0.16	-
Beverly	Skunk's Miser	230	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.93	0.48	-	9.45	1.47	0.99	-	0.69	-
Glanbrook	Alberton Sout	252	1.62	0.00	1.00	1.62	0.53	-	1.09	0.46	0.07	-	0.03	-
Glanbrook	Kelly	223	-	0.00	-	7.08	0.47	-	6.61	0.36	0.10	-	-	-
Beverly	Copetown Ea	368	-	36.89	-	1.31	0.77	-	0.54	0.58	0.19	-	-	-
Beverly	Jerseyville Ea	269	-	0.72	-	0.93	0.56	-	0.36	0.48	0.09	-	-	-
Beverly	Summit	103	-	6.13	-	-	0.22	0.22	-	0.53	0.31	0.53	0.53	-
Beverly	1100	8051	27.08	14.44	0.90	30.04	16.91	-	13.13	17.89	0.98	-	0.07	-
Beverly	1200	2759	7.37	13.06	0.75	9.88	5.79	-	4.09	5.64	0.15	-	0.06	-
Beverly	Copetown	273	3.26	10.68	1.00	3.26	0.57	-	2.69	0.35	0.23	-	-	-
Beverly	Jerseyville We	364	2.01	1.28	1.00	2.01	0.77	-	1.24	0.52	0.24	-	0.22	-
Beverly	Lynden	530	3.77	24.04	1.00	3.77	1.11	-	2.66	1.15	0.03	-	0.26	-
Flamborough	1300	7155	32.20	4.30	0.47	69.09	15.03	-	54.07	14.42	0.60	-	-	-
Glanbrook	Alberton Nort	81	-	47.48	-	0.72	0.17	-	0.55	0.21	0.04	-	0.10	-
Hamilton Mountain	Falkirk East	3404	10.81	0.14	0.64	16.94	7.15	-	9.79	7.31	0.16	-	0.11	-
Hamilton Mountain	Butler	3256	8.89	17.38	0.38	23.32	6.84	-	16.48	7.30	0.46	-	0.32	-
Hamilton Mountain	Inch Park	4009	7.92	13.44	0.38	20.98	8.42	-	12.56	9.51	1.09	-	0.76	-
Hamilton Mountain	Hill Park	3263	8.26	35.05	0.44	18.95	6.85	-	12.09	7.66	0.80	-	0.56	-
Hamilton Mountain	Broughton Ea	1321	3.83	5.29	0.75	5.11	2.77	-	2.34	2.35	0.43	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Burkholme	3580	1.79	13.42	0.07	25.83	7.52	-	18.32	7.66	0.14	-	0.10	-
Hamilton Mountain	Rushdale	2619	14.46	18.07	0.77	18.76	5.50	-	13.25	4.73	0.77	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Lisgar	3944	2.30	4.48	0.05	49.78	8.28	-	41.50	7.56	0.72	-	-	-
Hamilton Mountain	Lawfield	3620	7.08	27.46	0.29	24.46	7.60	-	16.86	7.74	0.14	-	0.10	-
Hamilton Mountain	Macassa	2586	7.94	12.50	0.37	21.38	5.43	-	15.95	5.80	0.37	-	0.26	-
Hamilton Mountain	Thorner	2434	1.80	6.20	0.05	36.85	5.11	-	31.74	8.54	3.43	-	2.39	-
Hamilton Mountain	Upper King's F	97	56.80	13.04	0.91	62.09	0.20	-	61.89	0.71	0.50	-	0.35	-
Hamilton Mountain	Raleigh	4757	3.43	3.77	0.20	16.84	9.99	-	6.85	11.59	1.60	-	1.11	-
Hamilton Mountain	Hampton Heig	3496	2.22	21.99	0.11	20.29	7.34	-	12.95	10.13	2.78	-	0.05	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	-	-	12.52	-	4.48	-	-	4.48	0.76	0.76	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	Mcquesten W	4975	1.45	11.76	0.05	28.91	10.4	-	18.46	12.7	2.28	-	1.59	-
Lower Hamilton	Mcquesten Ea	1351	11.46	18.13	0.48	23.97	2.84	-	21.13	4.96	2.12	-	1.47	-
Lower Hamilton	Delta West	2040	28.83	9.09	0.82	35.03	4.28	-	30.74	4.61	0.33	-	0.23	-
Lower Hamilton	Glenview Wes	2214	-	11.48	-	13.04	4.65	-	8.39	5.00	0.35	-	0.24	-
Lower Hamilton	Glenview East	1006	5.11	14.70	0.58	8.88	2.11	-	6.76	2.87	0.76	-	0.53	-
Lower Hamilton	Parkview Wes	1570	2.96	11.66	0.12	24.95	3.30	-	21.65	2.65	0.65	-	-	-
Lower Hamilton	Industrial Sec	-	-	7.86	-	12.52	-	-	12.52	0.01	0.01	-	0.01	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Battlefield	4518	12.78	25.32	0.52	24.54	9.49	-	15.05	11.79	2.30	-	1.60	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Greenford	1877	1.37	14.63	0.07	19.50	3.94	-	15.56	5.99	2.05	-	1.42	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Poplar Park	3030	4.30	0.01	0.32	13.39	6.36	-	7.03	6.65	0.29	-	0.20	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Eastdale	2692	4.28	-	0.27	15.76	5.65	-	10.10	6.30	0.64	-	0.45	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Riverdale East	3370	4.48	-	0.23	19.18	7.08	-	12.10	7.73	0.65	-	0.45	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Confederatio	80	96.44	-	0.89	108.10	0.17	-	107.93	0.72	0.55	-	0.38	-
Lower Stoney Creek	Guernsey	3803	5.25	-	0.40	13.11	7.99	-	5.13	7.40	0.59	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Westdale Nor	2434	2.42	-	0.09	27.74	5.11	-	22.63	4.34	0.77	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Sydenham	1083	0.93	6.55	0.06	15.55	2.27	-	13.28	3.51	1.24	-	0.86	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Pleasant View	256	4.04	2.13	1.00	4.05	0.54	-	3.51	0.35	0.18	-	-	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Wier	48	-	2.40	2.40	-	0.10	0.10	-	0.48	0.38	0.48	0.68	-
West Hamilton Dundas	Colborne	822	-	-	-	6.55	1.73	-	4.83	1.54	0.19	-	1.94	-