



Land Acknowledgement

The City of Owen Sound is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinabek Nation: The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations. We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinaabe peoples, and ancestors who shared this land and these waters.

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HARRISON PARK MASTER PLAN

1.0 Vision

Inspired by a rich cultural heritage and diverse natural environment, we envision a vibrant space that fosters community connections, environmental stewardship, and celebrates and maintains the rich cultural and natural history. Committed to sustainable practices, we strive to cultivate a place of beauty, learning, community, and recreation for all, ensuring a legacy of inspiration, memories, and wonder for generations to come.

2.0 Park History

(Credit: History based on the book by Richard J. Thomas, 100 Years of Pleasure: The Story of Harrison Park 1912-2012)

In 1848, William, John and Robert Harrison left the family farm in Puslinch and moved to Owen Sound. In 1875 John and his wife Emma purchased 150 acres in Derby Township including what is now known as Harrison Park.

From the time the lands were acquired until John Harrison's death in 1902, Harrison worked to turn the land into a place for all to enjoy. He preserved it in its natural state, only cutting brush to clear the way for roads and walking paths. By 1890, it was known as "Harrison's Pleasure Grounds". The public was welcome. Following the death of John Harrison the family continued to maintain the Park until 1909 when it offered the property to the "Town" at half of the appraised value of \$10,000. Owen Sound formed a Parks Commission and on July 9, 1912, it took possession of Harrison Park (see excerpt from Agreement to acquire Harrison Park, Attachment 1)

As a Town Councillor and Parks Commission member, Edward Brigham was an Owen Sound area contractor and amateur landscape designer who generously donated an enormous amount of time and expertise to the design and installation of park improvements. Most of the earlier road and building construction and the diversion of the Sydenham River to create what has become the north watercourse feature of the park, were largely carried out under Edward Brigham's watchful eye. All watercourses, which include the wading and reflecting pools, were originally lined with roughly squared limestone masonry retaining walls constructed in such a way as to have rustic charm, but with a consistent stonework surface pattern.

The Harrison Family dream project was brought to reality for the pleasure of generations before and after the creation of Owen Sound's Park system.

As a designated cultural heritage landscape, the importance of and stewardship of this important park asset is acknowledged.

3.0 Background

3.1 Introduction and Purpose

Parks make our City special!

A Park Master Plan is a valuable tool to ensure the seamless continuity of service delivery and guide decision-makers to ensure Harrison Park continues to meet the diverse needs of residents and visitors. A master plan should reflect what people value and help ensure that park planning reflects these priorities.

The Harrison Park Master Plan is a 10-year plan that will guide the development, renewal and operational management of the Park's vast natural resources, recreational amenities, buildings and structures, and other infrastructure.

3.2 Methodology

The foundation of the Master Plan is based on consultation with the community, input from stakeholders and staff.

A theme that was reflected through the public engagement is a deep appreciation and sentimental attachment to this Park and a love for things 'as they are'. The City has finite capital resources. Given the public sentiment for the Park as it is, the focus of this plan is on stewardship focusing on infrastructure renewal versus new assets.

The initial Harrison Park Master Plan was completed in 2002 by Larry Porter Landscape Architect. This plan has provided valuable guidance on the development and renewal of park infrastructure over the last 22 years.

At the outset of this Master Plan process, a report was prepared for review and consideration through Community Services Committee. This work has included:

- Review of the park location and history;
- Review of current park use;
- Review of projects completed since 2002;
- An approach to public engagement;

The public engagement used the OurCity Public engagement platform.

The Harrison Park Master Plan Engagement page included a short video that people were asked to view before taking the survey which provided helpful background information.

There were also 3 meetings with stakeholders.

Following the development of the Draft updated Master Plan, further feedback was obtained from Committee before finalizing the Master Plan for Council approval.

- Expert advice regarding waterfowl and avian areas. This has been provided by Canadian Wildlife.

The public survey included a question on the future of the waterfowl and avian area. There is significant public support for re-establishing the waterfowl and avian area. Expert advice was sought to help inform the recommendations for the future of this space.

4.0 Legislative and Policy Framework

4.1 City of Owen Sound Strategic Plan

The City's Vision is: The City of Owen Sound: Where you Want to Live.

The Plan is founded in four (4) values that serve as a framework to connect the objectives to the vision and guide decision-making.

The values are: Caring, Creativity, Integrity, and Sustainability.

There are four (4) pillars or focus areas including Economy, Environment, Society & Culture and Finance.

The Key Results identified under 7 priorities are supported by this approach to Parks master planning specifically:

Green City

Enhancing the City's resiliency and capacity for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Supporting and promoting healthy lifestyles.

A City that Moves

Facilitating sustainable transportation options and creating community connectivity.

City Building

Planning community amenities that create great places and spaces for community living. Cultivating a vibrant and diverse arts, culture, and heritage environment through the City.

Collaborative City

Maintaining and improving relationships through engagement.

Clear Direction

Cultivating an environment to support a common understanding of where the organization is going in the future.

The Master Plan reflects the Values and Key results of the Strategic Plan.

4.2 City of Owen Sound Official Plan

From the City's Official Plan:

3.11.3 Provision of Parks and Open Space

3.11.3.1 A variety of types of public parks and open space shall be provided to meet the differing needs of users.

7.3 Parks and Recreation

7.3.1 General Policies

7.3.1.1 The City shall promote health in its population by providing for and supporting a variety of public recreational uses, programs, and facilities throughout the City, accessible to people of all areas of diversity. The City will also play a leadership and partnering role in the provision of recreational services and facilities on a regional level.

7.3.1.2 The major components of City recreational services shall consist of a system of open space, public parks, trails, sports facilities, and recreation facilities, as well as the programming of these resources. Expansion, redevelopment and extension of facilities, parks and trails and associated programs will be encouraged where financially feasible partnerships are developed, and community needs are addressed.

7.3.1.3 In order to adequately plan for the recreational needs of the community, the City shall continue to update the Recreation, Parks, and Facilities Master Plan.

Updates to the Plan shall:

- a. Review the current and projected recreation needs of the Owen Sound community in the context of the demand for recreational services from surrounding communities, tourism needs and usage trends for various types of recreational activities.*
- b. Assess the capacity and adequacies of the existing public and private facilities to meet these needs.*
- c. Provide direction to the City in the development, improvement and expansion of the public park system and recreational facilities including such matters as the provision of indoor swimming facilities for the community.*
- d. Provide the basis for long-term strategies and master plans for Victoria Park, Kelso Beach Park and Harrison Park and other potential open space options.*
- e. Identify appropriate recreation program ideas for the City and recreation partners.*
- f. Provide comprehensive plan or strategy for the design, use, maintenance, and development of the trail systems within the City, under the general framework of the Tom Thomson Trail on the east side, Nature Trail on the west side, and Freedom Trail at the south end of the City.*

g. The City shall maintain and regularly update Schedule 'D' – Trails to provide for paths and trails.

Harrison Park is classified as a City park which is described as an Open Space providing unique, specialized recreational facilities and services, serving users from throughout the City.

4.3 Recreation, Parks, and Facilities Master Plan

Consistent with the Official Plan, the City's Recreation, Parks, and Facilities Master Plan (RPFMP) identifies Harrison Park as a City Park. The purpose of City Parks is to provide Open Spaces providing unique, specialized recreational facilities and services, serving users from throughout the City. The Plan notes that Harrison Park is the only City Park consisting of over 100 acres (40 ha) of land.

The purpose of the Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan is to provide the City of Owen Sound with a ten to fifteen-year strategy to be used as a guide in maintaining and developing recreational programs, services, partnerships, and facilities as well as open spaces, parks, and trails. **A key recommendation from the 2018 Recreation Parks and Facilities Master Plan is that all park master plans (Harrison Park, Victoria Park, and Kelso Beach Park) should be reviewed and updated to ensure they are still relevant.**

Section 6 of the RPFMP provides a parkland and playground analysis. The City is divided into 4 quadrants for this purpose; Harrison Park is located in Quadrant 4. The playground analysis does not identify a need for an additional playground structure at Harrison Park.

Attachment 2 includes other Master Plan goals and recommendations that inform or have guided the development of the Harrison Park Master Plan.

5.0 Current Conditions and Park Use

5.1 Current Conditions

The 150-acre Park is divided into nine functional areas:



1. West Park Entry;
2. West Woodland and Escarpment Lands;
3. Island and Pleasure Grounds;
4. Inn, Good Cheer Rink and Bandshell area
5. Community Hall, Tennis/Pickleball Court, Upper Meadow and Pool Area;
6. Campground Area;
7. Bird area and Parks Operations Yard;
8. The Mile Drive; and,
9. Toboggan Hill, Commemorative Forest Grove, Fitness Trail and Northeast Woodland;

Each functional area along with its key attributes, map and air photo is included in Attachment 4.

Harrison Park is located within the valley area of the City on the Sydenham River at the southeast end of Owen Sound. The Park is unique among City Parks with its diversity including streams and rivers, gardens, forests, playgrounds, bridges, and trails located in the center of the City. Its network of trails connects to and includes sections of the Bruce Trail and trails managed by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

Harrison Park is the largest park consisting of 60.7 ha (150 acres). This area represents almost 2% of the City's entire land area.

The Park includes some 19 buildings and structures many created from river stone dating back to the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Notable heritage buildings and structures include:

- Community Hall,
- Bandstand (exterior);
- Heritage Cabin,
- The entrance pillars – Riverstone/fieldstone gate and walls;
- Laundry building;
- Black History Cairn;

- Sydenham River Watercourse;
- The Island;
- North Watercourse;
- Five globe light standards (Near the Inn);
- Weaver's Creek Watercourse and Trail;
- Ruin of inlets for Mill logging;
- Mile Drive
- South washroom.

Not included in the designation bylaw but of value are the drinking fountain and channel fountain.

Key attributes that express the contextual value of the Park are noted as follows:

- Views and vistas which can be viewed from a variety of vantage points;
- Relationship to regional and provincial trail systems.

Harrison Park was designated June 25, 2012 as a Cultural Heritage Landscape (Bylaw 2012-103). The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest is as follows:

Harrison Park's cultural heritage value lies in tangible and intangible elements that, together, identify it as a place where significant natural beauty mixes with park design, built heritage, as well as areas for community gatherings and recreational activities. Since the mid-1870s, Harrison Park has been a favorite recreation and leisure destination for Owen Sound residents and visitors and represents one of the city's most popular cultural heritage landscapes.

The Park is unique and has a complex combination of active and passive recreation areas and activities that span all 4 seasons with hiking, outdoor skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, tobogganing, camping, mini golf, and paddling. The spring migration of rainbow trout and fall migration of salmon can be seen up close from the banks of the Sydenham River in the Park.

Harrison Park has 2567 inventoried trees comprised of 71 different species. 17 species are represented by single specimens. Sugar Maple is the most common tree in Harrison Park with 363 inventoried examples with 309 white cedar. A Tree inventory diversity chart for Harrison Park is included in Attachment 3. It is important to note that there are 217 White Ash, and 188 Green Ash trees in Harrison Park that are susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer and are among the trees slated for removal. Significant work has been done in the spring of 2024 on high priority ash tree removal at Harrison Park.

A series of Interpretive Plaques are located around the Park and help share the story of its early history and development as well as about the City's Black History and the Emancipation Festival.

Annually the park holds many special events including the Emancipation Festival held in the park each August. This is the longest-running Emancipation Festival.

5.2 Park Use

Within the functional areas, the park has a complex combination of active and passive recreation areas, open spaces, facilities, and uses.

The park records 150,000 cars annually entering at the 2nd Avenue East vehicular entrance and 236,136 pedestrians combined using the Freedom Trail and Fitness Trail.

5.2.1 Events

Many special events occur at Harrison Park annually.

In the last 4 years these included facility use agreements with:

- Emancipation Festival Summerfolk,
- Movie filming,
- Craft show,
- Newcomer Event,
- Weddings,
- Dog Training Event,
- Sweetwater Concerts,
- City Band performances,
- Scouts Canada (Winter Campout),
- Dog Show,
- Kids Help Phone Walk,
- Walk for Hospice,
- Emancipation Festival,
- Kidney Foundation Walk,
- CMHA Teddy Bear Picnic,
- Terry Fox Run,
- Hockey Day in Canada Saturday Festival and Broadcast
- Day camps – Bike camp; and,
- Forest School (At Last and Bluewater District School Board, BWDSB)

The City values every event that comes to Harrison Park; however, the Emancipation Festival merits special note. The festival has been an ongoing and continuous annual event since 1862 and has used Harrison Park since it became available as a public space.

Attachment 5 provides a summary of rentals at the Park each year. In total the rentals of the community hall and bandshell, picnic pavilion and for special events exceeds \$35,000.

5.2.2 *Lease Agreements*

Three areas within the Park are operated by 3rd parties under lease arrangements including the Harrison Park Inn Restaurant, the Putt N Paddle, and the Seniors Centre. Attachment 6 outlines these agreements and revenue. Annually, these leases generate approximately \$75,000 in revenue (including property tax) for the City.

The pool is also operated under a memorandum of understanding with the Family Y.

5.2.3 *Campground and Cabin*

In 2022, 6,668 days of camping were booked between the two campgrounds, generating \$358,800 in revenue as of October 31. In 2023, 6,371 nights of camping were booked between the two campgrounds, generating approximately \$337,000 in revenue (\$150,000 net revenue).

Revenue from the campground help reduce the overall cost of parks to the City taxpayer. In 2024, the campground also started collecting the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) on all camping and cabin rentals.

The campground offers swimming to campers in the nearby public pool. Funds from the campground are used to offset the cost of operating the pool (\$15,000 in 2023).

In 2022, 2,508 campers enjoyed complimentary access to the pool included with their campground registration. This was an increase of 176 (7%) campground users from the previous year.

5.2.4 *Unstructured Use*

Rentals and revenues are important aspects of operating Harrison Park, however unstructured use of the property makes up the vast majority of how residents and visitors use and benefit from Harrison Park.

Since 2020, a trail and vehicle counting program has been used to tabulate entry/exit numbers at 3 key access points. Attachment 7 details 2-year averages for trails with the 3 counters deployed at Harrison Park.

On average, 301,737 (total in and out) vehicles enter the park each year and with another 236,136 pedestrians captured by the trail counters at both the Fitness trail and Freedom Trail. The highest monthly pedestrian total count as well as car count was in August. This coincides with the survey of users who report summer as the most popular time to visit the Park.

The lowest monthly total was 4,048 on the Fitness trail and the highest monthly total counted was 13,997 with the lowest monthly total 7,861 on the Freedom Trail.

6.0 2002 Master Plan Initiatives and other Projects Completed

6.1 2002 Master Plan Projects Completed

The 2002 Harrison Park Master Plan contained 84 recommendations broken out into 8 different park areas. Attachment 8 includes a table that details the status of each recommendation as complete, not started, or ongoing.

There has been a significant investment in the Park over the last 20 years. Notable upgrades have included:

- Upgraded Park electrical distribution in several phases that include new transformer and switch, new pad mount transformers, new overhead, and primary power line replacement as well as the replacement of all electrical infrastructure in the campground;
- Replacement of the campground water system;
- Asphalt Freedom Trail and replacement of Rainbow Bridge, improved stone dust Fitness Trail;
- Community Hall upgrades including an accessible washroom and connection of the building to the sanitary sewer system;
- Pool upgrade including filling the deep tank and addition of new leisure deck and shade sails. Accessible pool ramp and improvements to change room;
- Re-construction of failing walls along the park entry road and other erosion control measures on both sides of the Island;
- 2 replaced playgrounds;

Projects completed but not included in the 2002 Master Plan include:

- Ongoing maintenance and repairs to the 19 buildings in the park including: a. roof assessments and replacements as required, b. interior upgrades to washrooms and shower buildings including accessibility improvements in all 7 of the parks washrooms, and c. the Parks Shop had significant environmental remediation;
- Conversion of the former kitchen building to an overnight heritage cabin;
- Addition of interpretive plaques relating to Black History and the history of Harrison Park;
- Scenic City Order of Good Cheer Outdoor Rink and basketball court;
- Weaver's Creek Boardwalk and habitat improvements along campground section of creek.

A detailed summary is included at Attachment 9.

7.0 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

7.1 Survey Input

The Our City Platform was launched on August 14, 2023 and remained open for 30 days. The site included background to the master plan project as well as a video summarizing information included with the original staff report CS-23-030.

In addition to the survey, the Our City Platform included:

- an opportunity for the public to engage with staff to ask a particular question;
- A story section that allowed the public to share their stories about the park;
- A map to help orient people to the various areas of the park;
- An “Ideas” area – this was not well used given the open-ended survey questions (only one response was received about playgrounds).

7.2 Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

Three engagement sessions were held in different locations at various times of day to encourage attendance by a broader audience.

The same presentation was shared at each session and there were 2 key questions:

- a. Identify 3 barriers to enjoying the park
- b. Identify 3 amenities to add to the park

Sessions were held at the community hall at Harrison Park on the following dates and times:

1. Thursday, August 24 – 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (3 people attended)
2. Thursday, September 7 – 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
3. Monday, September 11 – 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Note: Staff are working to obtain the data from the September sessions)

The input received is summarized in Attachment 10. The feedback aligns with the input around the survey question about what park service, amenity, or feature people would like to see added to the park.

7.3 Survey Feedback (see Attachment 11)

This project has achieved the highest level of engagement and feedback to date of all projects that have utilized the OurCity Engagement platform. 965 people responded to the survey.

Attachment 11 includes a summary of survey feedback.

The following highlights are noted respecting the survey:

- 90.7 % of respondents reported having reviewed the background presentation.
This shows that a significant majority reviewed the background and presentation to support their knowledge before responding to the survey.
- 75% of people responding reported living in Owen Sound. 25% live in other places.
- 25% of respondents reported having lived in the City for less than 10 years. Nearly 36% of respondents reported living in the City for over 20 years (269 responses).
- Of the 25% of respondents who lived outside the City, the largest percentage represented Georgian Bluffs residents (36%), followed by Meaford (15%) and Chatsworth (12.5%).
- The age of those completing the survey saw the highest percentage of respondents between 35 and 44 years (24%), followed by 25-34 years (20%) and 45-54 years (16%).
This survey has successfully engaged a younger demographic, supporting the idea that this is a park used by families.
- 57% of respondents completed the survey for themselves and 43% for a family. Less than 1% represented a business or other group.
- The largest group (45%) of respondents visit the park one time per week followed by those indicating that they visit monthly (38%).
- The seasonality of visits reports summer followed by fall, spring and then winter as most popular. The variation between seasons shows that while more people enjoy the park in the summer months, the other seasons have strong visitation.
- The top six reasons reported for visiting the park include trails, the Festival of Northern Lights, the birds, the Inn, watching fish migration, and playgrounds.
- There was strong support demonstrated for the heritage attributes of the Park, including the character of the trees and forest, the stone buildings, the stone walls, the gardens, and the fountain.
- There was significant support for the level of maintenance of many amenities, including:
 - Grounds and trails (noting both summer and winter),
 - Trees and forests,

- Playgrounds,
- Washrooms,
- Basketball courts,
- Outdoor rink,
- Restaurant.
- The amenities identified as needing improved maintenance included:
 - The campground (although a large percent noted they neither agree nor disagree which may reflect Owen Sound residents who may not camp)
 - The outdoor pool.
- The last question asked respondents if there was a service, amenity or feature respondents would like to see added in Harrison Park. There were over 200 pages of feedback received from the survey respondents to this question. Staff have reviewed this feedback and combined the responses into themes, noting the number of times the item or theme was noted.

Attachment 12 provides a summary of themes and inputs within those themes:

The top five themes include:

- Amenities: Buildings, Structures, Rental Cabins, Washrooms and Bird/Waterfowl area
 - Re-instating/improving waterfowl and bird area
 - Buildings – including noting the use of Senior's Building
- Park Grounds
 - Improve the fountain area
 - More tables, chairs, benches
- It is great the way it is!
- Playgrounds
 - Desire for splash pad
 - Improved maintenance of current structures and replacement of outdated structure (campground)
- Maintenance, Signage and Safety
 - Restore/improve water fountain
 - Improved signage including some wayfinding signage

- 68% of respondents support additional cabins for overnight rental similar to the cabin developed in the campground in 2023.
The current senior's building and laundry building were identified as future candidates for conversion for overnight stays.
- 82% of respondents support studying ways to repopulate the avian and waterfowl area.
- The question that had the most balanced public response related to the rink boards gifted to the City as part of Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada. 37.6% of respondents would like them partially installed (ends and not sides), 35.6% do not support installing and 26.8% support installing the boards permanently.

8.0 Park Planning Considerations

8.1 Conflicting and Competing Uses/Overuse

Harrison Park is a busy place with a wide variety of uses and users.

At times, particularly in the busy summer months and during special events or during the Festival of Northern Lights season, there can be conflicting uses.

While the park is 150 acres in area, a large portion of the developed areas cover a much smaller footprint.

In many cases, the same areas used for vehicular driving and parking are also heavily relied on by pedestrians moving within the park.

Large, booked events can bring many attendees that may have a perceived negative impact on more informal uses such as the playground or walking.

During the busiest times, finding a parking space can be challenging.

Carrying capacity considers environmental (the ability of the park ecosystem to manage demands placed on it), social (how many people can be in the space before the experience of using the space is diminished) and managerial capacity (staffing and financial resources to support uses).

The recommendations of this Master Plan recognize conflicting and competing uses as well as the carrying capacity of the park.

8.2 Natural Amenities and Slopes

The natural environment that creates the park's beautiful setting, including mature trees, grassy areas, streams and creeks, and biodiversity, is impacted by human use. In the past, water quality has been impacted by upstream activities, including the waterfowl. The Park includes many slopes and ravine areas. With intense rainfall and snow melt, and pedestrian use, there can be negative impacts on slope and soil stability in these areas.

The ongoing and proactive management of invasive species is also a key consideration in operations.

The recommendations of the Master Plan recognize the importance of protecting and enhancing the parks natural amenities, waterways, and slopes.

8.3 Accessibility and Inclusion

Accessibility refers to removing barriers to use and enabling people to participate in everyday activities. Accessibility includes physical accessibility, attitudinal barriers and financial considerations that may prevent or be a barrier to participation.

Accessibility and inclusion are important considerations and have been a focus for much of the capital work in the Park in the last 20 years and should remain an important consideration for Park development and infrastructure renewal moving forward. The recommendations of the Master Plan recognize the importance of addressing accessibility including physical, attitudinal, and financial.

8.4 Cultural Heritage Landscape

In 2007, a report by Stephen Robinson, Robinson Heritage Consulting recommended that Harrison Park be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as it contains a number of qualities and features of cultural heritage significance that together constitute a cultural heritage landscape. This report and the designation bylaw are included in Attachment 13.

The recommendations of the Master Plan recognize and support Cultural heritage attributes that are important to the Park.

8.5 Asset Renewal and Reconciliation

The draft Master Plan focuses on investing in the assets that exist and renewing the assets that the public has identified as important and decommissioning assets that are not valued or that are not core.

The recommendations of the Master Plan focus on asset renewal and reconciliation of assets.

9.0 Themes and Recommendations

The 150-acre Park is divided into nine functional areas:

1. West Park Entry;
2. West Woodland and Escarpment Lands;
3. Island and Pleasure Grounds;
4. Inn, Good Cheer Rink and Bandshell Area
5. Community Hall, Tennis/Pickleball Court, Upper Meadow and Pool Area;
6. Campground Area;
7. Bird Area and Parks Operations Yard;
8. The Mile Drive; and,
9. Toboggan Hill, Commemorative Forest Grove, Fitness Trail and Northeast Woodland.

Attachment 4 provides a detailed description, air photo and map of each area.




Together, the sum of the parts is the entirety of Harrison Park and reflects a diverse and complex set of interrelated parts.

Because of the size and complexity of the areas, the Master Plan is organized by Section with certain global recommendations that apply across the Park in all areas.

The Master Plan recommendations are also organized to address Operational & Maintenance Issues as well as Capital Projects.

This master plan focuses on asset investment, renewal and reconciliation (decommissioning non-core assets).

The various recommendations have been classified under the following general themes. For many of the actions, more than one theme may apply.

Theme	Icon
Accessibility	
Environmental Stewardship	
Parks Management Best Practice	
Operational Efficiency	
Safety	
Infrastructure Investment	
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	
Cultural Heritage	
Communication	
Implement a previously approved action	

9.1 West Park Entry (WPE)








This area is 34,203 square metres (8.45 acres) in area and extends from the park entry at the river stone gates from the road access from 2nd Avenue East and 1st Street East.






It includes a 2-lane, 2-way roadway along with a portion of the Freedom Trail that runs slightly below and parallel to the park entrance road. This section terminates at the small parking area and bridge to the Kiwanis Accessible Playground.

The sanitary sewer system that services the Park enters from 3rd Avenue East to the north and through this section to the Park.








9.1.1 West Park Entry (WPE) Operational/Maintenance (O/M)


Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
WPE/OM-001	Install yield or stop signage for vehicles exiting the parking area and also signage that warns of the pedestrian crossing.		
WPE/OM-002	Install warning signage for pedestrians and cyclists northbound on Freedom Trail approaching intersection with roadway of vehicles ahead		
WPE/OM-00	Amend traffic bylaw prohibiting overnight parking in the small parking lot from main entrance		
WPE/OM-00	Offer benches that are not sponsored as part of the Commemorative Bench Program and move existing bench to other less popular areas		
WPE/OM-00	Alter grading adjacent to Freedom Trail to create a level platform (a minimum of 0.3 m) adjacent to the trail		
WPE/OM-00	Paint center line on asphalt trail and ensure line painting is part of the annual maintenance program for Harrison Park.		
WPE/OM-00	Install trail signage warning cyclists of sharp turns		

WPE/OM-00	Remove high-priority ash trees adjacent to trail and roadway	 	
WPE/OM-00	Include main park entrance road in City's pavement condition index report	  	

9.1.2 West Park Entry (WPE) Capital (C) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Rationale	Priority
WPE-C-001	Repair/replace roadway pavement that has failed	 	
WPE-C-00x	Install the Commemorative Forest Monument in a location on the west side of the trail approximately 30 m south of trail head		
WPE-C-00x	Consider optimizing the layout of the north parking lot to maximize parking and integrate a minimum of one accessible parking space.		
WPE-C-00x	Add park standard bollards and signage on the west side of the entry road adjacent to sensitive areas to prohibit parking Amend Streets Bylaw as required		
WPE-C-00x	Add railing as required on the east side of the Freedom Trail where drop-off exceeds 1.0 m with a minimum of 0.5 m or less of level platform adjacent to the trail.		
WPE-C-00x	Add benches along trail in the meadow to provide quiet spaces for people in compliance with AODA connected with an accessible path of travel		

WPE-C-00x	Modify signage at entrance to allow for upcoming or current events to be posted		
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9.2 West Woodland Escarpment (WWE)







The West Woodland area is 115,307 square metres in area (28.5 acres) and includes the forested ravine that extends from the west edge of the Harrison Park entrance road, extending west to the east side of the 2nd Avenue East right of way starting from the north Harrison Park entrance south to the top of the Cemetery Hill (2nd Ave East, GR 5). At the base of the ravine, this area extends to and includes the treed area and a portion of Weaver’s Creek west of the outdoor pool. There are a number of homes fronting 2nd Avenue South East within the municipality of Georgian Bluffs that form the west Park boundary.

The predominant feature is a tree-covered ravine, the Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk and Creek.



There is one area at approximately midpoint with access from the entrance road that was used for organic debris including trees removed from Parks.

9.2.1 West Woodland Escarpment Operational/Maintenance (OM)

Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
WWE-OM-001	Expand the tree inventory in areas proximate (within 20m) of trails and public spaces		
WWE-OM-002	Remove high-priority ash trees adjacent to trail and roadway	 	
WWE-OM-003	Enhance vegetation and trees by planting on slopes in areas with less cover		
WWE-OM-004	Consider signage to restrict public access in areas that may be dangerous or have a significant negative impact on natural environment		
WWE-OM-005	Remove historic debris on west side of entrance road		

9.2.2 West Woodland Escarpment (WWE) Capital Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
WWE-C-001	<p>Develop a plan with alternatives to address the failed Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk.</p> <p>Consideration to altering approach and moving trail/boardwalk out of sensitive riparian environment to reduce costs, extend life of the asset, and minimize environmental impact.</p> <p>Modify capital budget for consideration by Council as required to support completion of this project.</p>		High
WWE-C-002	<p>Improve Wayfinding Signage for the Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk</p>		

9.3 Island and Pleasure Grounds (IPG)





The Island and Pleasure Grounds are 30,967 square metres (7.6 acres) of area and are highly developed.









The island was created through the development of the man-made channel which was constructed to alleviate flooding in this area in the early 1900's.










This area is bounded by the man-made stone walled channel on the west to the west edge of the Sydenham River on the east edge. North to south, the area includes the Rainbow Bridge and a portion of the Freedom Trail with the man-made channel along this area's southern boundary. There is a small water fountain that has been decommissioned for public use that sits adjacent to the Picnic Shelter.

The picnic shelter offers an excellent facility and central location for gatherings of all kinds. This area also includes the Kiwanis accessible playground and Putt N Paddle. With all the recreational amenities, trails, and infrastructure, this area of the park is highly developed and sees significant use.



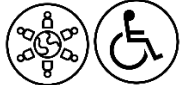






9.3.1 Island and Pleasure Grounds Operational/Maintenance Recommendations










No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
IPG-OM-001	Patch asphalt trail adjacent to fountain.		
IPG-OM-002	Fill in small holes adjacent to channel walls that have sunk and create a hazard.		
IPG-OM-00x	Maintain operating agreement for the Putt N Paddle focusing on maintenance and capital investment by operator to minimize capital and operating support from City.		
IPG-OM-00x	Given intense use, develop an SOP for an elevated level of routine of inspections and maintenance of playground and replace broken or outdated parts		
IPG-OM-00x	Ensure engineered wood fibre is topped up in the		

	spring season and receives regular maintenance including sweeping fiber from trail and topping up edges to avoid trail hazard adjacent to playground.		
IPG-OM-00x	Regular removal of weeds and litter in and under playground equipment.		
IPG-OM-00x	Establish operating and capital support for wall maintenance and major asset replacement as required.		
IPG-OM-00x	Undertake annual clean-out of debris in the man-made portions of the channel.		
IPG-OM-00x	Remove park donation box and develop an on-line platform for donations to Harrison Park.		
IPG-OM-00x	Update and add signage prohibiting swimming/wading in the man-made channel.		
IPG-OM-00x	Investigate the use of subterranean waste receptacle(s) or other larger volume waste collection system on the Island to reduce the frequency of pick up and avoid overflowing waste receptacles.		
IPG-OM-00x	Re-install road and pedestrian counters on island in tamper proof boxes.		
IPG-OM-00x	In areas of trail transition from one material to another, or bridge approaches, undertake regular inspection and maintenance to ensure transition does not create a trip hazard.		

IPG-OM-00x	Monitor bank stability along edge of island where rip rap has been added for stability. Address issues as they are identified.	 	
IPG-OM-00x	Treat mold/moss on sides of building chemically prior to painting and on an annual basis.		
IPG-OM-00x	Remove and replace wooden planter at Island washroom (south side).		
IPG-OM-00x	Regrade low turf areas adjacent to trails where water ponds and creates maintenance issues.		
IPG-OM-00x	<p>Undertake bridge assessment together with City's bi-annual bridge inspection with other city bridges and structures.</p> <p>Ensure any structures not included are added to the inventory.</p>	 	
IPG-OM-00x	Modify trail and improve connection between Freedom Trail and trail to Black History Cairn.	 	

9.3.2 Island and Pleasure Grounds (IPG) Capital (C) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
IPG-C-001	At the time of the replacement of the accessible playground asset, consider expanding the footprint to reduce congestion in this well-used space.		
IPG-C-00x	At the time of replacing playground, consider upgrading the surface to the fully accessible rubberized surface.		
IPG-C-00x	Update Black History Plaques near the Cairn and replace as part of the City's Interpretive Plaque Refresh (DEI focus)		
IPG-C-00x	Replace large spinner in the Kiwanis Accessible playground.		
IPG-C-00x	Develop a meaningful use for the historic water fountain between picnic shelter and channel – consider removing water and adding a top and a plaque re John and Emma Harrison.		
IPG-C-00x	Inventory and replace utility covers.		
IPG-C-00x	Add bike racks on Island.		
IPG-C-00x	Investigate restoring the fountain to reflect the original fountain – removing stone circle and pedestrian path that impedes water flow.		
IPG-C-00x	Rationalize and prioritize pedestrian crossings to the island and develop a plan to identify crossings with		

	signage and pavement markings.		
IPG-C-00x	Develop a plan to re-point Black History Cairn and undertake reconstruction of base where the tiles are cracking (due to unstable base).		
IPG-C-00x	Reposition benches and modify the design to improve accessibility from trails and include mobility device seating on concrete surface	  	
IPG-C-00x	Develop an inspection program for the man-made channel walls and riverbanks and a proactive approach to wall maintenance utilizing a standardized engineered walls section, and based on priorities, undertake repair. Invest in regular maintenance to extend the life of the asset.	 	
IPG-C-00x	Add channel wall replacement in City's 5 and 10-year capital plans.	  	

9.4 Inn, Good Cheer Rink, Meadow and Bandshell

This 29,777 square metre (7.35 acres) section is located in the mid-section of the Park.

It includes the large majority of the asphalt parking and includes some of the main one-way roads that provide for multi-modal transit (cars, pedestrians, bikes).

The area extends from the south side of the man-made stone-walled channel and includes one-way sections of the main park access road that is separated by a landscaped area between in and outbound traffic. On the south side, this area includes the one-way road located on the south side of the open space and includes the one-way road that extends north adjacent to the river and waterfowl/bird area.




The sanitary service for the park traverses the midpoint of this area from the island and extends south to the campground area.














The space includes the Harrison Park Inn Restaurant and during the spring, summer and fall, the area proximate to the takeout window sees significant pedestrian use together with the tot lot.


Several of the larger park buildings are located in this area including the Seniors Building, Harrison Park Inn Restaurant, Bandshell, as well as the artificial outdoor rink/basketball courts.

9.4.1 Inn, Good Cheer Rink, Meadow and Bandshell (IRMB)












Operational/Maintenance (O/M) Recommendations







No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
IRMB-OM-001	Working with the FoNL, right-size the Festival within the Park's open spaces.		
IRMB-OM-xxx	Raise branches on the large spruce tree blocking the view of the bandstand from the parking area.		
IRMB-OM-xxx	Eliminate parking on the east side of the restaurant and emphasize the pedestrian connection through this space.		

IRMB-OM-xxx	Examine the layout of parking in this space and driving aisles and optimize parking ensuring that the proper ratio of accessible spaces is provided based on overall parking numbers.	 	
IRMB-OM-xxx	Line painting of parking scheduled as required and coordinated with other City line painting.		
IRMB-OM-xxx	Remove all wooden benches (tipping hazard).		
IRMB-OM-xxx	Develop a standardized stone dust trail cross section and top up trail system on an annual basis and undertake regular inspection and maintenance.	 	
IRMB-OM-xxx	Work with the Harrison Park Seniors Group to coordinate an amalgamation with the McQuay Tannery/Bayshore groups. Evaluate Repurposing the Seniors building based on a report and business case to another use.	 	
IRMB-OM-xxx	Remove cotoneaster planting from around Inn and replace with appropriate, low maintenance plant material in conjunction with repair of north patio.		
IRMB-OM-xxx	Improve traffic directional signage.	 	
IRMB-OM-xxx	At the time of agreement renewal, update the agreement with Forest	 	

	Schools to ensure cost recovery both operating and capital and consider carrying capacity in update.		
IRMB-OM-xxx	Install full rink boards in 2024/25. Assess install, operational impacts and engage public for further feedback with a subsequent report to CSC.		

9.4.2 Inn, Good Cheer Rink, Meadow and Bandshell (IRMB) Capital (C) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
IRMB-C-001	Working in cooperation with the Inn operator, consider an expansion of the enclosed Inn restaurant patio further along the south and east side of the building.		
IRMB-C-xxx	Remove existing flagstone on the north side of the Inn restaurant and replace it with a more stable material. Maintain this space for takeout seating and public use.	  	
IRMB-C-xxx	Remove failed wooden tree enclosure and seating structure on the west side of the takeout window. Redesign seating area in conjunction with project IRMB-C-xxx.	  	
IRMB-C-xxx	Develop a design that optimizes accessibility and optimizes the existing space in the area between the takeout, playground and rink that rationalizes and reshapes the spaces for pedestrians including linkages to the trail, bandshell and tot lot. Implement design using City staff if possible.	 	
IRMB-C-xxx	Undertake a scoped Traffic Impact Study to rationalize roads and ensure pedestrian safety. Optimize parking and internal road network and develop a strategy for dedicated pedestrian pathways.	 	

IRMB-C-xxx	Repair the failed section of roadway on the main entrance road and consider a lay-by for campers or staff vehicles that may be stopping briefly in this section of roadway.	 	
IRMB-C-xxx	Remove and replace horseshoe pit area with seating ensuring proper distance and protection from roadway.	 	
IRMB-C-xxx	Install bollards to protect areas not suitable for parking adjacent to roadways and sign these areas to permit enforcement.		
IRMB-C-xxx	Replace or refinish heritage streetlights and replace fixtures with LED fixtures.		

9.5 Community Hall, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Upper Meadow and Pool






This 27,891 square metre (6.9 acre) area forms the southwest portion of the park.

It extends from the south boundary of the east-west park road and includes 2 roads: one southbound road that provides mixed pedestrian/vehicle access to the pool and hall, as well as a northbound one-way road that exits the pool to the EW park road located in area 4. To the west of the southbound drive, there is a small watercourse. The in and outbound roads are divided by a natural treed area.

The area includes a small parking area adjacent to the Tennis/Pickle Ball area and an open space meadow that is used for overflow camping. There is a historic shuffleboard close to the Tennis court one-way northbound road.












The campground is the east boundary of this section. At the southern end of section 5 is the Harrison Park Outdoor pool, and pool buildings and associated parking area. This area provides pedestrian access to Weaver’s Creek and the boardwalk.




9.5.1 Community Hall, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Upper Meadow and Pool (HTMP) Operational/Maintenance (O/M) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
HTMP-OM-001	Expand tree inventory to include areas proximate (within 20m) of public spaces and trails.		
HTMP-OM-00x	Undertake high-priority tree removals in this area.		
HTMP-OM-00x	Include this area and roads/pedestrian routes in the scoped Traffic Impact Study.		
HTMP-OM-00x	Until the southbound in-road to the pool can be repaired, close this road in winter, noting there is no winter maintenance (due to uneven surface road cannot receive proper winter snow removal).		
HTMP-OM-00x	Review agreements with Forest Schools and consider impact of these		

	rentals on park assets and natural areas.		
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9.5.2 Community Hall, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Upper Meadow and Pool (HTMP) Capital (C) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
HTMP-C-001	Pulverize pavement on one-way in pool road and in the short term, finish with compacted granular.	 	
HTMP-C-xxx	Pave one way in pool road as either a pedestrian route or one-way road subject to the outcome of scoped Traffic Impact Study in IRMB-C-xxx.	  	
HTMP-C-xxx	Eliminate overflow camping except for tents only area from the upper meadow as infrastructure is not in place. Parking for overflow should be in space adjacent to courts and not on the turf.		
HTMP-C-xxx	Replace lights at tennis courts with energy efficient solution on timer.		
HTMP-C-xxx	Remove shuffleboard		
HTMP-C-xxx	Install parking bumpers at pool for safety.		
HTMP-C-xxx	Undertake line painting of parking at the pool on a regular basis.		
HTMP-C-xxx	Ensure the number, size and signage of accessible spaces is consistent with the requirements based on the overall number of spaces in accordance with the City Zoning Bylaw.		

HTMP-C-xxx	Regrade, repair, and reinstate turf areas proximate to the Community Hall.		
HTMP-C-xxx	Install eavestroughs on Community Hall with gutter guards and outlet downspouts to minimize erosion and ponding of water and connect roof drains on Community Hall to storm sewer.		
HTMP-C-xxx	<p>Pave the accessible parking spaces and connection in the community hall parking area and ensure the number of accessible spaces is consistent with the requirements based on the overall number of spaces.</p> <p>Plan for regular line painting as part of the City's annual line painting program.</p> <p>Upgrade gravel parking area and ensure regular maintenance.</p>		

9.6 Campground

This 27,139 square metre (6.7 acre) area includes the 97-site Harrison Park Family Campground. The area has a series of one-way, compacted, narrow granular driveways that provide access to campsites. These vehicular roads are shared by pedestrians and some are maintained in the winter for pedestrian usage.

At the north end of this section is the campground registration booth and firewood storage shed. Within the campground area, there are several buildings that support the campground, including 3 washrooms (2 with showers), a laundry building and the heritage cabin.







The area is bounded at the south end by the park's south boundary and a steep slope to the residential subdivision above the hill. The east boundary is formed by the west bank of the Sydenham River. There is a gate that prevents vehicular access to the pool, however, pedestrian connection to this area is provided.













There is a small play area in the south section of the campground adjacent to Weaver's Creek.

Each camp site has a water service and either a 30 amp or 50 amp electrical service. Each campsite has a picnic table and a fire ring.












Sanitary and water service run into the campground with individual water and electrical service to each campsite.


9.6.1 Campground (C) Operational/Maintenance (O/M) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
C-OM-001	Investigate and implement a system of online check-ins for campers.		
C-OM-xxx	Remove playground from campground and develop a plan to effectively utilize this space.	  	
C-OM-xxx	Implement a system of wristbands for campers for swimming access that helps identify campers and minimizes abuse of camper swimming access.		
C-OM-xxx	Amend campground rules and regulations for check-in and check-out times to ensure each site receives		

	maintenance and a safety inspection between uses.		
C-OM-xxx	Undertake high priority tree and stump removals each year prior to camping season.		
C-OM-xxx	Undertake regular maintenance and grading of campground roads using appropriate granular material.	 	
C-OM-xxx	Update campground rules and regulations to ensure maximum one car per site, no parking on roadway. Work with security to ensure consistent and effective enforcement. Add signage regarding no visitor parking.		
C-OM-xxx	Remove outdoor storage of parks items on the south side of Parks Operations storage building visible from camping sites.		
C-OM-xxx	Support ongoing naturalization of Weaver's Creek through campground.		
C-OM-xxx	Update Campground and Cabin Rules and ensure consistent enforcement.	 	
C-OM-xxx	Update Campground and Cabin refund policy to optimize bookings and discourage cancellation.	 	
C-OM-xxx	Include information on maximum electrical loads at campsites to minimize overloading.	 	

9.6.2 Campground (C) Capital (C) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
C-C-001	Develop a business case to repurpose heritage laundry building to overnight accessible cabin including a washroom (building has an existing sanitary connection).		
C-C-xxx	Explore opportunity to relocate sewage pump out.	 	
C-C-xxx	Develop a plan to increase the safety and security of the Parks Operations Shop and Yard.	 	
C-C-xxx	Improve drainage by regrading camp sites that are wet or have ponding water.		
C-C-xxx	Explore relocation of campground registration function to Seniors Building.		
C-C-xxx	<p>Develop a plan to reforest the steep ravine sections that have been negatively impacted by pedestrian use and rain/meltwater.</p> <p>Install signage restricting access in these sensitive sloped areas that are prone to erosion.</p>		
C-C-xxx	<p>Include the replacement of footbridges in the capital plan.</p> <p>Develop a regular inspection program for the pedestrian bridges and a proactive approach to maintenance.</p> <p>Establish operating and capital support for asset replacement when required.</p>	  	

C-C-xxx	Update Interpretive plaques in campground and replace as part of the City's Interpretive Plaque Refresh (DEI focus).		
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9.7 Bird and Waterfowl Area and Parks Operations/Office (BWO)

The 10,432 square metre (2.6 acre) area extends from the pond at the north end of the waterfowl area to the Parks Operations area which includes the Shop and Park Supervisor office and utility storage buildings. The Parks Operation building includes a 2-bay shop (east side), 2-bay shop (west side), staff lockers, lunchroom, and staff washrooms, and the office of the Parks Supervisor. This area is located at the north end of the campground and is bounded on its east side by the banks of the Sydenham River.

Outbound campground traffic travels through the Park's Operations Yard. Weaver's Creek travels through a box culvert under the roadway and supplies the waterfowl area with water.






The Parks Operations yard is fenced with chain link fencing and the storage yard can be locked overnight. This area includes park fuel tanks with dyed and clear diesel.


The bird and waterfowl area includes a barn (hatchery) with outdoor pens, a central building with pens and a fenced waterfowl area. The swan area and waterfowl area have a bubbler that ensures water doesn't freeze. The pedestrian access to the bird and waterfowl area is a footbridge over a culvert and there is a walking path that exits near the parks operations buildings.

Attachment 14 includes background respecting Avian Influenza and the outbreak that occurred at Harrison Park in 2022.






Also included are the recommendations of Christopher Sharp, Population Management Biologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada for this area.



9.7.1 Bird and Waterfowl Area and Parks Operations/Office (BWO) Operational/Maintenance Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
BWO-OM-001	Optimize existing storage space and sell outdated or redundant equipment/items.		
BWO-OM-xxx	Install urinals in Parks staff washrooms (1).	 	
BWO-OM-xxx	In winter months, include parks staff washroom in city cleaning contract a minimum of 1 time per week.	 	

BWO-OM-xxx	Minimize/eliminate outdoor storage in public facing spaces around the shop		

9.7.2 Bird and Waterfowl Area and Parks Operations/Office (BWO) Capital Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
BWO-C-001	Bird recommendation from Canadian Wildlife. Forgo reintroducing any captive birds (poultry or swans) and naturalize the site to encourage use by native species. This option eliminates any risk of HPAI that would require depopulation and allows residents of Owen Sound an accessible park to interact with nature. See attachment 14.		
BWO-C-xxx	Naturalize bird and waterfowl area to include bird boxes, bat boxes, with native habitat and plantings to encourage diverse native species and plantings.		
BWO-C-xxx	Explore partnerships with organizations to support naturalizing the bird and waterfowl area.		
BWO-C-xxx	Repurpose existing bird barn to provide indoor storage for parks equipment.		
BWO-C-xxx	Explore alternatives to expand park storage for equipment.		

BWO-C-xxx	Improve security of Parks shop building and yard area restricting public access.		
BWO-C-xxx	Demolish hazardous bird building that has not been used for several years.		

9.8 The Mile Drive (MD)

The Mile Drive trail was previously a vehicular driveway. With increasing conflicts between pedestrians and cars and deteriorating road base conditions, the Mile Drive was closed to vehicular traffic and is now dedicated to pedestrian use. The trail was repaved in 2019 as a 3.0 metre wide multi use asphalt trail.








This 46, 201 square metre (11.4 acre) area features a steep slope of mature trees on its east side that forms the east park boundary to private property on the top of the escarpment. The Mile Drive has 2 bridges, the north and south Mile Drive bridges and gates control vehicular access.





A portion of this hard-surfaced pedestrian trail is used in the winter months for snowmobiling.

The west boundary of the Mile Drive trail includes the Sydenham River.








There are several benches located along the length of the Mile Drive. There is a drainage channel that was improved at the same time as the trail was paved in 2019 that captures and directs stormwater from the steep ravine slopes.

9.8.1 The Mile Drive (MD) Operational/Maintenance Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
MD-OM-001	Expand inventory of trees in this area and undertake high priority removals.		
MD-OM-xxx	Paint center line of mile drive trail and plan for regular painting.	 	
MD-OM-xxx	Develop a trail inspection program and undertake regular maintenance of issues caused by storm water drainage.	 	
MD-OM-xxx	Develop a regular maintenance program for the stormwater ditches in this area to minimize washouts.		
MD-OM-xxx	Place obstacles where pedestrians and cyclists are removing rip rap disrupting drainage and stabilization efforts to access natural area.	 	

MD-OM-xxx	Maintain the edge of the paved trail with a minimum of 0.3 m of level space adjacent to trail.	 	
MD-OM-xxx	Undertake bridge inspections as required together with City bridges/structures engineered inspection and develop a plan to implement recommended maintenance and capital from these inspections to extend the life of the asset.	 	

9.8.2 The Mile Drive (MD) Capital (C) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
MD-C-001	Investigate a commemorative program of carving the stumps of trees adjacent to the trail and creating a walking tour .		
MD-C-xxx	Maintain the edge of the paved trail with a minimum of 0.3 m of level space adjacent to trail.		
MD-C-xxx	Improve wayfinding and signage and coordination with linkages to the GSCA and Bruce Trail trails adjacent to this area.	 	
MD-C-xxx	Add Commemorative Benches along trial.		
MD-C-xxx	Modify existing benches to improve accessibility from trail extending the hard surface.	 	

9.9 Toboggan Hill, Commemorative Forest Grove, Fitness Trail, and Northeast Woodland

This 304,336 square metre (75.2 acre) area begins at the entry from 4th Street East which is a municipal street that then provides vehicular access to a small gravel parking area.

On the east slope, there is a major city storm water outfall that was reconstructed in 2014.

The gravel parking area provides access to a small canoe and kayak launch point.

A gate signals the end of the shared pedestrian/vehicular roadway with a gravel trail that meanders through the Sydenham River Valley, through treed areas with ravine slopes on the east side. This is the east park boundary with residential development that backs onto the park. The west boundary of this area is the east bank of the Sydenham River. The River enters the City through the park and winds its way further north beyond the park where it outlets into the Harbour and Georgian Bay.

This trail was historically called the Fitness Trail and featured fitness equipment that had been constructed by YMCA members. This equipment was removed more than a decade ago. This area features no hydro or other infrastructure, and the trail is a gravel/stone dust surface that accommodates a variety of users, summer, and winter, from cyclists, walkers and runners to skiers and snowshoers.
















The Fitness Trail opens into a meadow space and an area that contains several Commemorative Trees with markers.

In 2021/22 the Boley Family donated and constructed a memorial arbour in the meadow on the east side of the river, below the toboggan hill.

A second gate beyond the toboggan hill restricts vehicular access from the gravel parking area that serves as overflow for the park and campground area. There is winter maintenance of the parking area but no winter maintenance of the trail.













Some of the lands within this area are in the municipality of Georgian Bluffs and NEC development control applies in a small part of this area.

9.9.1 Toboggan Hill, Commemorative Forest Grove, Fitness Trail, and Northeast Woodland (TCFFT) Operational/Maintenance (OM) Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
TCFFT-OM-001	Undertake regular trail surface maintenance .	 	
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Address washouts on trail and install drainage where washouts occur.	 	
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Develop a regular trail inspection program.	 	
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Monitor and address invasives and noxious weeds in this area, spraying as required with public signage.	 	
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Expand tree inventory of areas proximate (within 20 m) to public use areas and trails.	 	
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Undertake high priority tree and stump removals	 	
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Include Boley harbour a space that can be rented with an appropriate fee for events such as weddings etc.		
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Install signage at 4 th Street East entrance and install “P” gates to indicate no winter maintenance of trail or winter car access .		
TCFFT-OM-xxx	Develop a regular maintenance plan for grading of gravel parking lot.		












TCFFT-OM-xxx			
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9.9.2 Toboggan Hill, Commemorative Forest Grove, Fitness Trail, and Northeast Woodland (TCFFT) Capital (C) Recommendations





No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
TCFFT-C-001	Install commemorative benches along the Fitness Trail ensuring accessibility.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Consider a capital plan to place fitness stations along the Fitness trail.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Install additional guard rails along Fitness Trail in areas proximate to steep slopes.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Improve wayfinding signage.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Improve trail connection and signage to Parkview Park and Bruce Trail.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Install trailhead signage and incorporate with small craft launch signage if possible.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Install stabilizing type mat (Ecoraster) at small craft launch to prevent erosion and improve launch.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Complete side trail connection to Boley harbour.	 	
TCFFT-C-xxx	Address trail washouts installing drainage culverts to address low areas and washout prone areas	 	
TCFFT-C-xxx	Pave Fitness Trail and investigate opportunity to leave an adjacent section for winter use (snowshoe/ski).		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Install gates to restrict winter access at north end.		
TCFFT-C-xxx	Replace bollards in parking area.		

9.10 Global (G) Recommendations

This section identifies projects that may apply across the park from an operational/maintenance perspective or capital that are not unique to one of the functional areas but apply across the park.

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Priority
G-xx1	Consider a public art program for Harrison Park that incorporates the photographs of Harrison Park installed in the current location of the “spot” the original photo was taken by Tom Thomson.		
G-xxx	Update the Parks Bylaw . Ensure the Bylaw update includes a review of Emergency Fire Routes and implement necessary signage for enforcement. Reduce vehicular use of non-vehicular areas throughout the park.	 	
G-xxx	As parking areas are re-lined or updated, ensure that the size of all spaces and the size and ratio of accessible spaces is in accordance with the City’s Zoning Bylaw.		
G-xxx	In the annual budget, consider allocating the 50% portion of MAT revenue collected from Harrison Park campground to park projects.		
G-xxx	Develop and implement a best management forestry program aimed at proactive pruning and removals.	 	
G-xxx	Complete the tree inventory in high priority public spaces (within 20 m) and undertake high priority ash and other removals.	 	
G-xxx	Develop a classification system and service level for the playgrounds within Harrison Park.		
G-xxx	Reinstall pedestrian and automobile counters to provide reliable data to support decision making.		

G-xxx	Undertake a building condition assessment for all 19 buildings located in Harrison Park.	 	
G-xxx	Working with City Events and Activation Facilitator and Facility booking, expand ‘events and activation’ in Harrison Park. Market and promote the park as a suitable location		
G-xxxx	Reposition benches and modify concrete base design to include mobility device seating in accordance with Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation.		
G-xxx	Repoint, repair heritage garden walls.	 	
G-xxx	Undertake bridge inspections as required together with City bridges/structures Engineering assessment and develop a plan to implement recommended maintenance and capital from these inspections to extend the life of the asset. Rationalize the number of bridges looking at safety and pedestrian routes.		
G-xxx	Develop a plan to reforest steep ravine sections that have been negatively impacted by pedestrian use and rain/meltwater and install signage restricting public access in these areas.	  	
G-xxx	As part of the City’s Fleet Management strategy investigate the business case for owning vs. rental of certain fleet that would allow staff to undertake maintenance and capital work in an effective manner – “right tools for the job”.		
G-xxx	Develop a naming system of parks buildings, structures, and assets		

	as part of the asset management inventory to standardize naming.		
G-xxx	Develop a standard for park bench installation in accordance with Integrated Accessibility Standard.		
G-xxx	Adopt the Harrison Park brand used for the Master Plan and utilize it for park branding.		
G-xxx	Develop a Wayfinding strategy within the Park utilizing RT07 standard and include signage in the 5-year capital plan.		
G-xxx	Strengthen connection to Bruce Trail and GSCA trails within Harrison Park.		

Attachment 1 Excerpt from the 1912 Agreement to Acquire Harrison Park

The Agreement to Acquire Harrison Park

The following excerpt from the agreement to acquire Harrison Park is reprinted from *Harrison Park: Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada 1875-1950* by Arthur Pratt Harrison. It was agreed to on March 21, 1911, drawn on April 11, 1912, and signed and registered on July 9, 1912:

THIS INDENTURE made the Nineteenth day of April, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve In Pursuance of the Short Forms of Conveyances Act.

BETWEEN:

JOHN HARRISON & SONS COMPANY LIMITED
Hereinafter called the Grantors, of the First Part,
and

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF OWEN SOUND
Hereinafter called the Grantees, of the Second Part.

WHEREAS a valuation of Ten Thousand dollars has been placed on the lands hereinafter described, and the Grantees of the Second Part have accepted the said valuation as a fair and reasonable price for the said lands.

AND WHEREAS the Grantors of the First Part agreed to sell and convey the said lands to the said Corporation for park and recreation purposes at or for price or sum of Five Thousand Dollars, being half of the valuation thereof.

WITNESSETH that in consideration of Five

Thousand Dollars of lawful money of Canada now paid by the Grantees to the Grantors, the Receipt whereof is hereby by them acknowledged, they, the said Grantors, do grant unto the said Grantees in fee simple all and singular those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Township of Derby, and in the Town of Owen Sound, in the County of Grey and Province of Ontario, containing by admeasurement Eighty acres be the same more or less [there follows the legal description of the property].

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said Grantees, their successors and assigns, to and for their sole and only use forever, subject nevertheless to the reservations, limitations, provisos and conditions expressed in the original grant thereof from the Crown and Subject also to the following reservations, limitations, provisions and conditions, namely:

(1) That the above described parcel of land shall be held by the said Grantees as a park or recreation ground only and that the same shall be known as "Harrison Park"

(2) That the said Grantees shall build a good substantial fence along the Eas.erly limit of the lands

herein described and shall at all times hereafter maintain said fence.

(3) That the said Grantees will from time to time and at all times hereafter take all necessary steps for the suitable and necessary maintenance of the above described lands as a park and shall specially make provisions prohibiting the use of or the carrying of fire-arms or weapons of any kind within the limits of said park lands and shall make provision for the protections of birds and animals within the limit of said park.

THE said Grantors covenant with the said Grantees that they have the right to convey the said lands to the said Grantees notwithstanding any act of the said Grantors.

AND that the said Grantees shall have quiet possession of the said land free from all encumbrances save the restrictions hereinbefore provided.

AND the said Grantors covenant with the said Grantees that they will execute such further assurances of the said lands as may be requisite.

AND the Grantors covenant with the said Grantees that they have done no act to encumber the said lands.

AND the Grantors release to the said Grantees all their claims upon the said lands.

AND the Grantees for themselves, their successors and assigns hereby covenant and agree to and with the Grantors, their successors and assigns that they will establish the lands herein described as a public park and recreation grounds to be known as "Harrison Park"; that the Grantees will build a good and substantial fence along the Easterly limit of the lands herein described and shall at all times hereafter maintain the said fence, and the Grantees will from time to time and at all times hereafter take necessary steps for the suitable and necessary maintenance of the above described lands as a park and shall make provisions for prohibiting the use or carrying of fire arms or weapons of any kind within the limits of said Park and shall make provision for the protection of birds and animals within the limit of said Park and that they, the said Grantees, shall not at any time hereafter grant to any party or parties the exclusive rights of fishing within the limits of said Park.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said parties have hereunto affixed their Corporate seals.

Attachment 2 Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan Excerpts Relevant to Harrison Park

1.0 Accessibility and Affordability
GOAL: To ensure community facilities, services and procedures enhance accessibility for all.

ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
f) Coordinate with existing organizations (E.g. Teen Advisory Group at the Owen Sound Library) to ensure recreational facilities, parks and trails remain relevant and consistent with changing trends and address the barriers to access and participation. City and community service partners should explore new ways to increase unstructured and drop-in activities for teens. The City should continue to provide activities such as free swims, as well as the skate and Bike Park and outdoor rink.	Community Services Department and relevant partners (E.g. Teen Advisory Group)	Short
m) Continue to avoid single use amenities when updating or planning for new spaces or facilities.	Community Services Department	Ongoing
n) Through facility updates, continue to encourage an atmosphere that feels welcoming by creating spaces for non-structured social and community engagement (E.g. more modular seating).	Community Services Department and service provider partners	Ongoing
o) Ensure that City-owned lands are protected for future community use to maintain livability and walkability.	Community Services Department	Ongoing
p) Ensure that City-owned lands are protected for future community use to maintain livability and walkability.	Community Services Department	Ongoing

2.0 Marketing & Communications
GOAL: Be a leader in user retention and growth through the implementation of strategic communication efforts.

ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
k) Introduce an online booking system for all recreational facilities, including online transactions and registration. Ensure system is accessible through smartphones and tablets and information provided is consistent for all facilities (Include rates, contact, hours of operations, etc.). Identify ways to encourage resident/customer use of online transactions/bookings.	All departments, led by Community Services Department	Short

3.0 Partnership & Collaborations GOAL: Build capacity and promote healthy lifestyles for all ages through partnerships and collaboration.		
ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
a) Continue to strategically explore and utilize both private and not-for-profit partnerships to deliver facilities and services wherever financially viable while ensuring standards of quality are being met.	Community Services Department and relevant partners (Business organizations and potential partners such as Family YMCA and Minor Soccer)	Ongoing
c) Conduct regular evaluation of the City's partnership with the other service providers and partners.	Community Services Department and recreational service providers	Short
i) Strengthen stewardship activities and programming within parks by collaborating with a variety of community partners that demonstrate a long-term commitment to stewardship activities.	Community Services Department	Ongoing/Short

5.0 Parkland Requirements & Acquisition GOAL: Update parkland policies to be consistent with the current policy framework and continue to monitor parkland needs in the future.		
ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
b) Update Parkland Policies in the Official Plan based on recommendations of Section 6.4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifically, Policies 7.5.1.3, 7.5.2 and 7.5.3 as part of Five Year Review 	Community Services Department	Short-Medium
n) The online inventory of municipal parks, open space, trails and facilities should continue to be updated to reflect capital improvements and enhancements over the Master Plans period (5 years).	Community Services Department	Ongoing
p) Continue to provide play structure parks throughout City that are within 500 metres walking distance (unimpeded by arterial roads or natural barriers). Parks to consider for adding play structures include; Timber McArthur Park, Stoney Orchard, Harrison Field, and Stobbe Park.	Community Services Department	Ongoing

6.0 Recreational Asset Improvements

GOAL: An integrated parks, trails and open space system that connects the community and creates recreation opportunities for all.

ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
<p>a) The Trails Master Plan should be reviewed and updated based on this updated Master Plan. Key priority areas for improvements should be confirmed. Trails that were highlighted as requiring enhancements and updates in the Trail Master Plan should be reviewed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harrison Park<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Trail link across Greenwood Cemetery into Harrison Parkii. Addition of a new loop(s) on eastern edge of Harrison Park (Ski Hill area east of the Fitness Trail)iii. Paving the Fitness Trail (Strong demand from stakeholders)iv. Construction of single track, hard earth loop along either east or west side of park – has this pilot project trail happened yet?	Community Services Department	Short-Medium
<p>b) As part of the updated Trails Master Plan, a Trails Implementation Strategy should be prepared to assist in identifying options and priorities for developing a comprehensive trails system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The document should include consultation with the public and affected stakeholders and include a phases plan for upgrading existing trails and infrastructure, acquiring new linkages, and developing new neighbourhood and community trails and routes.• The scope of the Strategy should address not only multi-use trails, but also cycling routes/bike lanes, snowmobile trails, cross-country skiing trails and historic walking tours, with consideration being given to support infrastructure, design standards, promotion and marketing, funding/partnership opportunities and cost implications.	Community Services Department through consultation with trail users	Short-Medium
<p>c) Through the process of updating the Trails Master Plan, consideration should be given to laying asphalt along the Spine trail that links to the Harbour Trail and to Harrison Park.</p>	Community Services Department	Short-Medium

<p>e) Existing and future trails should be appropriately signed, with trail entry and access points identified. Local trails should be promoted through various means such as publications, brochures and websites. Direction relating to these aspects should be addressed in the proposed Trails Implementation Strategy.</p>	<p>Community Services Department</p>	<p>Ongoing/Short</p>
<p>f) Opportunities to include bike lanes or multi-modal linkages to arterial roads should be a priority for enhancing the active transportation network in Owen Sound.</p>	<p>Community Services Department</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>h) All park plans (Harrison Park, Victoria Park and Kelso Beach Park) should be reviewed and updated to ensure they are still relevant. Older plans (Harrison Park Master Plan) should be reviewed first.</p>	<p>Community Services Department</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>k) The City should continue to operate the outdoor pool at Harrison Park and continue to offer open swims.</p>	<p>Community Services Department</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>o) The City should develop outdoor pickleball courts to reduce conflicts with tennis courts at Harrison Park. The City should also consider working with school boards to access tennis courts for pickleball usage (E.g. OSDSS and the City have an agreement to permit pickleball usage). Improvements to the tennis court/pickleball court at Harrison Park should also be considered.</p>	<p>Community Services Department through consultation with users and school board</p>	<p>Short-Medium</p>
<p>r) Continue to implement the recommendations in the Harrison Park Master Plan with respect to campground improvements, as resources permit.</p>	<p>Community Services Department</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

7.0 Programming GOAL Support effective program delivery by facilitating partnerships and collaboration with community service providers and key stakeholders.		
ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
a) The City should continue to be involved as a direct programmer in areas where introductory level skills, instruction/training, broad appeal and affordability are key criteria and where there are no suitable non-municipal providers available to offer the services. This is the current approach to delivering soccer and hockey skills, and power skate. Effort should be made to avoid duplicating existing service provision.	Community Services Department	Ongoing
f) The City should work with Seniors Groups and ensure continued support through facility provision. To reduce duplication of efforts, consideration should be given to combining both groups (Bayshore Community Centre and Harrison Park Seniors Drop-In Centre).	Community Services Department	Ongoing

8.0 Service Delivery & Monitoring GOAL To deliver efficient services through effective management, policies, and partnership frameworks while continually monitoring the success of the Master Plan.		
ACTIONS	Responsibility	Timing (O/S/M/L)
i) The City should continue to set aside 3% of revenues from facility rentals for capital projects and improvements.	Community Services Department	Ongoing

Attachment 3 Tree Inventory Harrison Park Species

Species	FREQUENCY
American Beech	67
American mountain ash	1
Amur Maple	1
Apple	17
Austrian Pine	5
Balsam Fir	3
Balsam Poplar	47
Basswood	69
Black Ash	8
Black Cherry	62
Black Locust	35
Black Walnut	53
Black Willow	3
Blue Bleech	1
Blue Spruce	1
Bur Oak	6
Choke Cherry	4
Colorado Blue Spruce	9
Crab Apple	3
Crack Willow	15
Crimson King Norway Maple	11
Cypress	1
English Oak	47
European Beech	1
European buckthorn	6
European Mountain Ash	1
European Weeping Birch	1
Freeman Maple	49
Gingko	2
Green Ash	188
Hawthorn	1
Hemlock	49
Honey Locust	2
Horse Chestnut	2
Ironwood	32
Ivory Silk Lilac	8
Largetooth Aspen	13
Little Leaf Linden	10
London Planetree	10
Magnolia	9
Manitoba Maple	20
Northern Catalpa	2
Norway Maple	83

Norway Spruce	175
Oak Leaf Mountain Ash	1
Pagoda dogwood	1
Pear	1
Prunus sp	1
Red Cedar	7
Red Maple	38
Red Oak	30
Red pine	48
Scots pine	3
Service Berry	6
Silver Maple	26
Snag	1
Sugar Maple	363
Swamp white oak	1
Sycamore	3
Tamarack	12
Trembling Aspen	41
Tulip Tree	7
Weeping Willow	1
White Ash	217
White Birch	25
White Cedar	309
White Elm	28
White Oak	9
White Pine	91
White Spruce	93
Yellow Birch	17

1. West Park Entry



This area is 34, 203 square metres (8.45 acres) in area and extends from the park entry at the stone gates from the road access from 2nd Avenue East and 1st Street E. it includes 2-lane, 2 way roadway along with a portion of the Freedom trail that runs slightly below and parallel to the park entrance road. This section terminates at the small parking area and bridge to the Kiwanis Accessible Playground.

The sanitary sewer system that services the Park enters from 3rd Avenue East to the north and through this section to service the Park.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	34, 203 square metres (8.45 acres)
Trails	366 m
Side trail	50 m
Road	605 m
Sanitary	359 m
Watermain	0 m
Stormwater	Adjacent to entry road, catch basins and storm
Streetlights	23 Split between roadside (8) lighting and lighting along section of Freedom Trail (15)
Signage	Trailhead signage, Regulatory road signage Harrison Park Entrance Signage
Waste receptacles	X
Benches	X
Trees	110 inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	Provincial – Bill Davis
Retaining walls	Along edge of road with guard rail
Gardens	At main entrance Garden at edge of the road near footbridge to picnic shelter
Hydro infrastructure	Hydro main switch and transformer
Trailhead and other trail signage	Trailhead signage
Other Features	P gates at Freedom Trail
	Stone entrance gates and lights
	Memorial tree area with plaques



2. West Woodland Escarpment Lands



The West Woodland area is 115, 307 square metres (28.5 acres) and includes the forested ravine that extends from the west edge of the Harrison Park entrance road, extending west to the east side of the 2nd Avenue E right of way starting from the north HP entrance south to the top of the Cemetery Hill (2nd Ave E, GR 5). At the base of the ravine, this area extends to and includes the treed area and a portion of Weaver’s Creek west of the outdoor pool. There are a number of homes fronting 2nd Ave E, S within the municipality of Georgian Bluffs that form the west boundary.

The predominant feature is a tree-covered ravine, the Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk and Creek.

There is one area at approximately midpoint with access from the entrance road that was used for organic debris including trees removed from Parks.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	115, 307 square metres (28.5 acres)
Trails	0 m
Side trail	0 m
Road	None.
Sanitary	None.
Watermain	111m
Stormwater	None.
Streetlights	None.
Signage	None.
Waste receptacles	None.
Benches	None.
Trees	22 inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	None.
Retaining walls	None.
Gardens	None.
Hydro infrastructure	None.
Trailhead and other trail signage	None.
Other Features	X m of Weaver’s Creek accessed via a boardwalk from the paved area and walkway adjacent to the pool.
	X m boardwalk and viewing area to the Weaver’s Creek Falls. The falls are not located within the park boundary.
	The existing boardwalk has failed.
	The main water service to the park comes from 2 nd Avenue East, above the bluff, across the treed ravine and to service the Park.



3. Island and Pleasure Grounds



The HP Island and Pleasure Grounds are 30,967 square metres (7.6 acres) of area and are highly developed.

The island was developed as a man-made channel was developed to alleviate flooding in this area.

This area is bounded by the man-made stone walled channel on the west to the west edge of the Sydenham River on the east edge. North to south, the area includes the Rainbow Bridge and a portion of the Freedom Trail with the man-made channel along this area's south boundary. There is a small water fountain that has been decommissioned for public use that sits adjacent to the picnic shelter.

The picnic shelter offers an excellent facility and central location for gatherings of all kinds. This area also includes the Kiwanis accessible playground and Putt N Paddle. With all the recreational amenities, trails, and infrastructure, this area of the park is highly developed and sees significant use.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	30,967 square metres (7.6 acres)
Trails	686 m of paved Freedom Trail
Side trail	
Road	None.
Sanitary	319 m of Sanitary
Watermain	110 m of Watermain
Stormwater	None.
Streetlights	6
Signage	5 Interpretive plaques, sign for playground
Waste receptacles	X
Benches	X
Trees	263 inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	X Black history cairn and interpretive plaques
Retaining walls	Man-made, stone-sided channel
Gardens	At Island washroom
Hydro infrastructure	Hydro is available
Trailhead and other trail signage	Trail markers
Other Features	Public Art, Tom Canoe
	Harrison Park Kiwanis Accessible Playground
	Pedestrian bridge near playground
	Pedestrian bridge at fountain
	Pedestrian bridge east of fountain
	Culvert crossing with trail over man-made channel
	Memorial trees on the west edge of the Sydenham River
	Watercourse edge rip rap protection



4. Inn, Good Cheer Rink, Meadow and Bandshell



This 29,777 square metres (7.35 acres) section is located in the mid-section of the Park.

It includes the large majority of the asphalt parking and includes some of the main one-way roads that provide for multi-modal transit (cars, pedestrians, bikes).

The area extends from the south side of the man-made stone-walled channel and includes one-way sections of the main park access road that is separated by a landscaped area between in and outbound traffic. On the south side, this area includes the one-way road located on the south side of the open space and includes the one-way road that extends north adjacent to the river and waterfowl/bird area.

The sanitary service for the park traverses the midpoint of this area from the island and extends south to the campground area.

The space includes the Inn Restaurant and during the spring, summer, and fall, the area proximate to the takeout window sees significant pedestrian use together with the tot lot.

Several of the larger park buildings are located in this area including the Seniors building, Harrison Park Inn, Bandshell, as well as the artificial outdoor rink/basketball courts.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	29,777 square metres (7.35 acres)
Trails	278 m
Side trail	None
Road	210 m
Sanitary	X Sanitary
Watermain	X Watermain
Stormwater	X Stormwater
Streetlights	19 street lights
Signage	X Signage
Waste receptacles	X Waste Receptacles
Benches	X benches
Trees	169 Inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	X interpretive plaques (City), GSCA plaque re trout/salmon migration
Retaining walls	None
Gardens	None
Hydro infrastructure	HP Inn (restaurant and take-out window) and patio (2)
Trailhead and other trail signage	None.
Other Features	Tot lot playground with a black fence around
	Black fence around playground
	Seniors building
	4 basketball nets
	Planting bed, Comm r Ette raised stone planting bed
	Canada flag bed
	X parking spaces including x accessible spaces



5. Community Hall, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Upper Meadow and Pool



This 27,891 square metre (6.9 acre) area forms the south west portion of the park.

It extends from the south boundary of the east west park road and includes 2 roads, one south bound road that provides mixed pedestrian/vehicle access to the pool and hall as well as north bound one way road that exits the pool to the EW park road located in area 4. To the west of the south bound drive there is a small watercourse. The in and outbound roads are divided by a natural treed area.

The area includes a small parking area adjacent to the Tennis/Pickle Ball area and open space meadow that is used for overflow camping. There is a historic shuffle board close to the Tennis court one way north bound road.

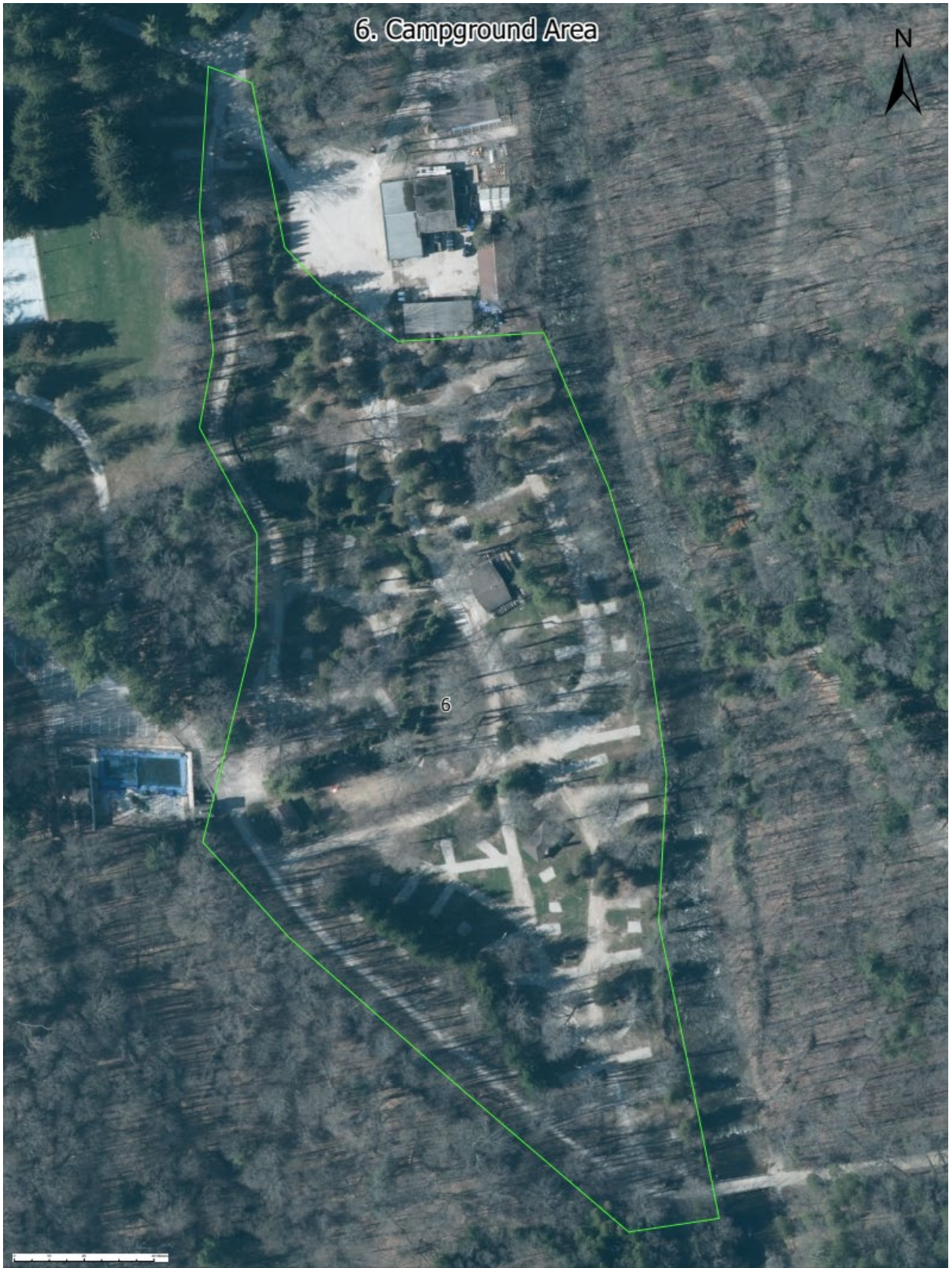
The campground is the east boundary of this section. At the southern end of section 5 is the Harrison Park Outdoor pool, and pool buildings and associated parking area. This area provides pedestrian access to Weaver's Creek and the boardwalk.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	27,891 square metre (6.9 acre)
Trails	550 m (may include some roadway)
Side trail	None.
Road	0 m, One way road sections x m south and x m north
Sanitary	128 m
Watermain	None.
Stormwater	None.
Streetlights	3 streetlights
Signage	None.
Waste receptacles	None.
Benches	X benches
Trees	149 inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	None.
Retaining walls	None.
Gardens	None.
Hydro infrastructure	None.
Trailhead and other trail signage	None.
Other Features	X parking spaces including x accessible spaces
	Bollards in lot
	Meadow/overflow camping area
	Accessible heated pool
	Pool change house and showers, heater and chemical building
	2 large shade sails on the deck adjacent to the pool
	2 full sized tennis/pickleball courts and fencing



6. Campground Area



This 27,139 square metre (6.7 acre) area includes the 97-site Harrison Park Family Campground. The area has a series of one-way, compacted narrow granular driveways that provide access to the campsites. These vehicular roads are shared by pedestrians.

At the north end of this section is the campground registration booth and firewood storage shed. Within the campground area, there are several buildings that support the campground including 3 washrooms (2 with showers), a laundry building, and the heritage cabin.

The area is bounded at the south end by the park's south boundary and a steep slope to the residential subdivision above the hill. The east boundary is formed by the west bank of the Sydenham River. There is a gate that prevents vehicular access to the pool however, a pedestrian connection to this area is provided.

There is a small play area in the south section of the campground adjacent to Weaver's Creek.

Each campsite has a water service and either a 30 amp or 50 amp electrical service. Each campsite has a picnic table and a fire ring.

Sanitary and water service run into the campground with individual water and electrical service to each campsite.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	27,139 square metre (6.7 acre)
Trails	2407 m of trails (incl roads in camp)
Side trail	None.
Road	None.
Sanitary	Sanitary pump out, waste enclosure, washrooms, Washroom/shower building
Watermain	None.
Stormwater	None.
Streetlights	15 lights
Signage	None.
Waste receptacles	None.
Benches	None.
Trees	200 inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	None.
Retaining walls	None.
Gardens	None.
Hydro infrastructure	30 and 50 amp service
Trailhead and other trail signage	None.
Other Features	98 camping sites in campground and a Cabin
	2 pedestrian foot bridges crossing Weaver's Creek
	X m of Weaver's Creek- naturalized along most westerly driveway
	X m of one way hard packed granular drive ways



7. Bird and Waterfowl Area and Park Operations Shop/Offices



The 10,432 square metre (2.6 acre) area stretches from the pond at the north end of the waterfowl area to the parks operations area which includes the shop and park supervisor office and utility storage buildings. The parks operation building includes a 2-bay shop (east side), 2-bay shop (west side), staff lockers, lunchroom and staff washrooms, and the office of the Parks Supervisor. This area is located at the north end of the campground and is bounded on its east side by the banks of the Sydenham River.

Outbound campground traffic travels through the park's operations yard. Weaver's Creek travels through a culvert under the roadway and supplies the waterfowl area with water.

The Parks Operations yard is fenced with chain link fencing and the storage yard can be locked overnight. This area includes park fuel tanks with dyed diesel and clear diesel.

The bird and waterfowl area includes a barn (hatchery) with outdoor pens, a central building with pens, and a fenced waterfowl area. The swan area and waterfowl area have a bubbler that ensures the water doesn't freeze. The pedestrian access to the bird and waterfowl area is a footbridge over a culvert and there is a walking path that exits near the parks operations buildings.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	10,432 square metre (2.6 acre)
Trails	100 m
Side trail	None.
Road	0 m roads
Sanitary	63 m
Watermain	45 m
Stormwater	None.
Streetlights	1 streetlight
Signage	None.
Waste receptacles	None.
Benches	None.
Trees	53 inventoried
Interpretive or other plaques	x
Retaining walls	None.
Gardens	None.
Hydro infrastructure	None.
Trailhead and other trail signage	None.
Other Features	Waterfowl fencing
	Small dam relating to waterfowl pond
	Footbridge to waterfowl area
	Bird barn and outdoor pens
	Central bird building and outdoor pens
	In water bubbler
	Parks operations building and office and outdoor storage buildings (2)
	Corn machine
	Park Fuel tanks



8. The Mile Drive



The Mile Drive trail was previously a vehicular driveway. With increasing conflicts between pedestrians and cars and deteriorating road base conditions, the Mile Drive was closed to vehicular traffic and is now dedicated to pedestrian use. The trail was repaved in 2019.

This 46, 201 square metre (11.4 acre) area features a steep slope of mature trees on its east side that forms the east park boundary to private property on the top of the escarpment. The Mile Drive has 2 bridges, the north and south Mile Drive bridges and gates control vehicular access.

A portion of this hard-surfaced pedestrian trail is used in the winter months for snowmobiling.

The west boundary of the Mile Drive trail includes the Sydenham River.

There are several benches located along the length of the Mile Drive. There is a drainage channel that was improved at the same time as the trail was paved in 2019 that captures and directs stormwater from the steep ravine slopes.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	46, 201 square metre (11.4 acre)
Trails	584 m
Side trail	X m dirt side trail
Road	0 m
Sanitary	0 m
Watermain	0 m
Stormwater	0 streetlights
Streetlights	None.
Signage	None.
Waste receptacles	None.
Benches	X benches
Trees	13 inventoried trees
Interpretive or other plaques	None.
Retaining walls	None.
Gardens	None.
Hydro infrastructure	None.
Trailhead and other trail signage	None.
Other Features	South Mile Drive Bridge
	North Mile Drive Bridge
	Sydenham River



9. Toboggan Hill, Commemorative Forest Grove, Fitness Trail and Northeast Woodland



This 304,336 square metre (75.2 acre) area begins at the entry from 4th Street East which is a municipal street that then provides vehicular access to a small gravel parking area.

On the east slope, there is a major city stormwater outfall that was reconstructed in 2014.

The gravel parking area provides access to a small canoe and kayak launch point.

A gate signals the end of the shared pedestrian/vehicular roadway with a gravel trail that meanders through the Sydenham River Valley, through treed areas with ravine slopes on the east side. This is the east park boundary with residential development that backs onto the park. The west boundary of this area is the east bank of the Sydenham River. The River enters the City through the park and winds its way further north beyond the park where it outlets into the Harbour and Georgian Bay.

This trail has historically been called the Fitness Trail and featured fitness equipment that had been constructed by Y members. This equipment was removed more than a decade ago. This area features no hydro or other infrastructure and the trail is a gravel surface that accommodates a variety of users, summer and winter from cyclists, to walkers and runners to skiers and snowshoers.

The Fitness trail opens into a meadow space and an area that contains several commemorative trees with markers. This area is the proposed location for the commemorative forest monument.

In 20xx the Boley Family donated and constructed a memorial arbour in the meadow on the east side of the river, below the toboggan hill.

A second gate beyond the toboggan hill restricts vehicular access from the gravel parking area that serves as overflow for the park and campground area. There is winter maintenance of the parking area but no winter maintenance of the trail.

Some of the lands within this area are in the municipality of Georgian Bluffs and NEC development control applies in a small part of this area.

Features

Feature	Description
Area	304,336 square metre (75.2 acre)
Trails	1815 m gravel trails
Side trail	None.
Road	0 m
Sanitary	0 m
Watermain	0 m
Stormwater	None.
Streetlights	1 streetlight
Signage	None.
Waste receptacles	None.
Benches	None.
Trees	None.
Interpretive or other plaques	None.
Retaining walls	None.
Gardens	None.

Hydro infrastructure	None.
Trailhead and other trail signage	Signage at small boat launch
Other Features	Gravel parking area (x cars)
	Park debris area
	Gates (2)
	Boley Arbor
	Toboggan Hill
	X culverts
	Commemorative forest area
	City 4 th Street Storm water outlet, bridge and infrastructure



Attachment 5 Harrison Park Rental Summary

Year	Pavilion rentals	Special Event Rentals	Harrison Park Community Hall and Bandshell
2022	267 Rentals \$6,182.88 Revenue	8 Rentals \$2,541.22 Revenue	253 Rentals \$27,285.41 Revenue
2021	109 Rentals \$1,635.31	6 Rentals \$1,759.86 Revenue	98 Rentals \$7,816.33
2020	141 Rentals \$2,040 Revenue	3 Rentals \$1,118.21	155 Rentals \$11,814.29 Revenue
2019	209 Rentals \$2,994.03 Revenue	9 rentals \$2,004.24 Revenue	274 Rentals \$23,001.33 Revenue

Fees for the rental and use of various facilities and spaces are governed by the Fees and Charges By-law.

**Attachment 6 Harrison Park Lease Agreements and Revenue
(Harrison Park Inn and Putt N Paddle)**

Building and Agreement description	Annual Revenue for City (2023)
<p>The Harrison Park Inn – Currently operating with a 10-year lease that expires in 2029</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant pays utilities • Tenant cleans public washrooms (shared) 	<p>The 2023 base lease rate is \$40,010.87 plus property taxes</p> <p>Waste Collection is a separate fee under the lease with a 2023 base rate of \$7,789.03</p> <p>Both fees are subject to annual Ontario Consumer Price Index increases.</p>
<p>Putt N Paddle – currently operating under an 10 year lease, renewed in March 2022. The operator presented a 5 year capital improvement plan the City with the renewal process where the operation is required to undertake certain capital improvements during the of the lease at their cost</p>	<p>\$8,435.41 plus property taxes</p> <p>Investment by the operator of \$47,800 in capital-type investment over a 10-year term.</p>
<p>Harrison Park Seniors Centre.</p> <p>This lease was established when the seniors group received a trillium grant in 1996. A small group use the facility for games and fellowship, and an annual tax preparation service that is free for qualified seniors to access. The lease does not include expiry or renewal clauses.</p>	<p>This group has in the past made a donation to the City for use.</p> <p>Donations are usually \$500 per year.</p>

Attachment 7 Trail Counter and Road Counter Data

Location	Harrison Park Entrance Road -from 2nd Ave E. (Vehicles)	Freedom Trail 2nd Ave. East Access	Fitness Trail Access from 4th St East
2-year Avg	301,737 (total in and out) Assume 150,868.5 actual vehicles enter the park each year	136,197 143,070 people are tallied by the unit each year average 11,727 people are tallied	89,784 93,066 people are tallied by the unit each year

Location	Harrison Park Entrance Road -from 2nd Ave E. (Vehicles)	Freedom Trail 2nd Ave. East Access	Fitness Trail Access from 4th St East
	On average, 25,920 vehicles enter or exit the park per month 846 vehicles enter or exit the park On average per day the highest monthly total counted 29,335 vehicles enter or exit the park The average monthly total recorded 21,433 vehicles enter or exit the park	by this unit each month The highest monthly total counted was 13,997 The lowest monthly total was 7,861	average 7,644 people are tallied by this unit each month The highest monthly total counted was 10,750 The lowest monthly total was 4,048

Attachment 8 2002 Harrison Park Master Plan - Status of Recommendations

Recommendation	Plan Recommendation Reference
<p>Electrical Upgrades</p> <p>Recommendation A1-1, A1-5, A2-12, A3-1, A3-10, A5-2, A6-1, A6-12, Global Projects 3</p>	<p>Upgraded park electrical distribution system</p> <p>Phase 1</p> <p>2007 – Design phase initiated</p> <p>2008- Upgraded internal park electrical infrastructure to the Pleasure Island, Harrison Park Inn, Seniors Centre and Community Hall</p> <p>2008-2013 – Hydro One process to divest assets in the park to the City</p> <p>2014- phase 1 completed with the installation of a new transformer and switch at the main entrance and primary service in to the Park.</p> <p>2015 - new pad mount transformers were purchased and installed in preparation for phase 3</p> <p>2015-2016 Tender T-15-09, phase 2 was completed including overhead primary power line replacement.</p> <p>2018 - 2019 Phase 3 completed including replacement of the campground water system, building</p>

Recommendation	Plan Recommendation Reference
	electrical service upgrade and campsite electrical servicing
<p>Trail Improvements</p> <p>A1-1, A1-2, A1-3,A1-4, A1-5, A1-6, A2-9,A2-12, A3-10, A5-8, A6-9</p>	<p>Asphalt Freedom trail from park entrance to rainbow bridge and the Island trails</p> <p>Replace the Rainbow Bridge</p> <p>Asphalt the Mile Drive providing accessible access to nature and addressed drainage concerns that impacted trail integrity</p> <p>Improved stone dust Fitness trail surface throughout and drainage at the north entrance</p> <p>Provided seating opportunities throughout the park trail system</p> <p>Make sure it includes freedom trail and new bridge and paving of trails</p>
<p>Hall Improvements</p> <p>A5-5, A5-9,A5-10</p>	<p>Improved parking area</p> <p>Renovated the hall to be fully accessible including accessible washroom and a second washroom</p> <p>New accessible outdoor ramp and push button entrance</p> <p>Indoor ramp to kitchen area</p> <p>Key code entry for rentals</p> <p>Electrical service upgrades</p> <p>Connected to sanitary sewer</p> <p>Upgraded water service</p>

Recommendation	Plan Recommendation Reference
	<p>New roof, soffit and fascia</p> <p>New heating system, gas fireplace</p>
<p>Pool and Pool Building Improvements</p> <p>A5-4</p>	<p>Informed by the 2016 Harrison Park Pool Study</p> <p>Deep tank filled and new leisure deck and shade sails, Accessible pool deck, change room and pool entry constructed in 2018</p> <p>Upgraded filter and circulation system was installed in 2022</p>
<p>Park Bridges Improvements and Maintenance (Pedestrian and Vehicular)</p> <p>A2-1, A2-7, A6-3</p>	<p>Assessment of bridge structures</p>
<p>Retaining Walls and Erosion Control</p> <p>A2-5, A2-6</p>	<p>Constructed a retaining wall on the west channel bank to prevent riparian erosion and avoid undermining the main entrance road</p> <p>Constructed erosion control surrounding the Island and pleasure grounds compatible with fish habitat</p> <p>2008 – major replacement of wall which had failed adjacent to main park entrance road. Rebuilt road and new guard rail</p>

Recommendation	Plan Recommendation Reference
	<p>Bridge replacement of pedestrian bridge near picnic pavilion and reconstruction of channel wall south of bridge</p> <p>Natural reconstruction of south wall of mile drive north bridge</p>
<p>Constructed Island Accessible Play Spaces</p> <p>A2-17</p>	<p>Removed the existing play area and installed two new creative playgrounds in the space south of the mini golf area</p> <p>Done in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound this project received a Trillium Grant and opened in October of 2009</p>
<p>Replace the Tot Lot Playground</p> <p>A3-8</p>	<p>Removed and replaced the Tot Lot playground with new accessible equipment and surfacing</p> <p>Replaced the deteriorated cedar rail fence with heritage fencing, improving separation of the playground from the adjacent parking area</p>

Attachment 9 List of Projects Completed Outside of the Master Plan

Project	Scope
Cultural heritage landscape	Harrison Park is a designated Cultural Heritage landscape under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act
Buildings investment	<p>Ongoing maintenance and repairs to the 19 buildings in the park including roof assessments and replacements as required</p> <p>Interior upgrades to washrooms and shower buildings including accessibility improvements have been completed in all 7 of the parks washrooms.</p> <p>the island washroom was also updated with an accessibility grant in 2011</p>
Cabin	The former "Kitchen" building is currently being renovated to serve as a short term rental accommodation in the campground - preserving a heritage structure and generating revenue for ongoing upkeep through campground revenues
Bridge Condition Assessment	<p>The City conducts a bi-annual bridges and retaining walls study via Public Works and Engineering</p> <p>The South camp bridge was improved with new decking</p>

Project	Scope
	<p>The north mile drive bridge received major maintenance and repairs with naturalization of one abutment</p> <p>Both assets have had their useful lives extended through preventative maintenance</p> <p>Bridge loading studies have been completed for both structures</p>
<p>Black history cairn and interpretive plaques</p>	<p>Unveiled in August 2004 during the annual <u>Emancipation Festival</u> and Picnic at Harrison Park, the cairn is admired for its cultural, historic and artistic qualities. It was designed by Bonita Johnson de Matteis, a local artist with black roots in the community. Jim Hong Louie, another local artist, crafted the quilt codes at the base of the sculpture.</p> <p>There are interpretive plaques near this feature that tell the history associated with the Cairn.</p>
<p>Scenic City Order of Good Cheer Rink</p>	<p>Opened November 12, 2006, funded by the Scenic City Order of Good Cheer, this facility operates as an outdoor ice rink in the winter, and basketball courts and hard surface multi-use activity area in the spring, summer and fall.</p> <p>The rink and summer configuration are free access for everyone.</p>

Project	Scope
	In 2023 boards were added as a gift from Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada.
Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk and Stream naturalization	<p>Completed in 2003, a wood boardwalk was constructed to reduce impacts of hikers on the riparian zone abutting Weavers Creek, and native riparian vegetation was planted to restore the small valley environment.</p> <p>Fish habitat improvement projects were also completed in the portion of Weavers Creek that flows through the Campground area, and the Sydenham River in the section abutting the east side of the campground to provide Stillwater resting spaces for young fry and fingerlings.</p>

Buildings

The City owns and operates 72 buildings. 52 of these buildings are located in parks. Of those, 19 are located at Harrison Park. along with their general location within the property.

There is a diverse range of buildings and structures that serve a variety of purposes. Several are listed as part of the Cultural Heritage Landscape. In 2023, through Corporate Services there will be a building condition assessment completed for all City buildings including Harrison Park.

Attachment 10 Summary of Public Feedback

THEME	TALLY
SERVICES: Accessibility, Maintenance, Signage & Safety, Roads, Parking & Transit, Tourism & Events	
Accessibility:	
More paved and maintained paths for seniors, wheelchair accessibility	7
Better Wi-Fi for Park and Trails	4
QR Codes	1
Outlets Available at Picnic Area	1
Total	13
Maintenance, Signage & Safety:	
Fix fountain water feature and wading area to revive it like it was before	26
Safer park with cameras in the park, campgrounds, on trails, paths and By-law officers to help with issues of homeless and people watching and recording children and family as they play	8
More staff to make the park cleaner and staff who are helpful engaged passionate about the upkeep of the park need to bring back old standards	7
Pollinating plants, Modern, native plants next year	4
Housing for homeless	1
Enforce rules unleashed dogs	2
Weavers creek to be fixed by City not community fundraising	6
Fixing damaged areas of concern trees down, dead trees, rail, plant more trees, make it look nice	14
More snow clearing on fitness trails	4
Clean up more too much goose droppings, pinecones, garbage bins overflowing	17
More signage all over the park designated areas, dog leash signs, directional trail signs historical signage, fitness goals, distance markers, signs of flowers that are pollinators	20
Total	109
Roads, Parking, Transit:	
More Parking at Park, Pedestrian trails, front entrance	9
Non-Resident Paid Parking	2
Free Parking	1
Road bumps to slow traffic	2
Paving more trails, accessibility for seniors and wheelchair, scooter, walker accessible	12
Don't pave more trails	1
Direct Bus from City Terminal to Harrison Park, Shuttles on Sunday's	2
Pool road to be repaved	1
Repave and reopen Mile Drive /and extend Festival of Northern Lights through Mile Drive	3
Make Pool Road 2-way access to close off current exit road to give more room for Tennis and pickleball courts.	1
Total	34
Tourism and Events:	
Gift Shop, campground items, souvenirs, snacks, drinks, tourism and historical information, QR Codes,	49
More events, concerts, nature camps, music in the Park, Performance space/music venue	54
Public Art	1
Update Plaques for Park	2
Outdoor Theatre/Drive In	2
Total	108
AMENITIES: Buildings & Structures, Rentals, Cabins, Restrooms, Bird Sanctuary	
Amenities	
Hall and Senior building need a facelift, more community space	19
More rental spaces, cabins, larger halls, liquor licenses, the senior building to be utilized for the community more, free to use if a resident	30
Year round Camping, Yurts, back country	17
Indoor Play Area for kids	1
Improve Bird Area, more birds, petting zoo, deer, peacocks, butterfly/insect garden area, chickens, feeding station, viewing area	120

More Bathrooms and update current ones,	12
Equipment Rentals - Skis and Poles, Skates, Toboggans, Snowshoes, Kayaks	20
Restaurants to be open all year and Upgrade Inn inside and outside for seating, healthier food choices	14
More restaurants, Food Trucks, Snack Stands, Hot drinks truck	25
Picnic Pavilion update/renovate	2
Bandshell – renovate to get better use out of it and more accessible to all	19

Total	279
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FEATURES: Activities, Campgrounds, Park Grounds, Playgrounds, Trails, Paths, Mile Drive

ACTIVITIES

Outdoor Games and Sport Activities	52
New rink surfaces with or without boards that are year-round use for lacrosse, road hockey, roller ball	1
Cross Country Skiing	10
Lacrosse	1
Toboggan Hill with Designated Lanes	2
Toboggan Hill Lift	6
Cat Show	1
Lawn bowling	1
Indoor warming area to put on skates	2
Train rides through the park	2
Swimming lessons	7
Fishing areas, pier	1
Fishing lookouts for Salmon watching	1

Total	87
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Campgrounds:

Larger sites, all seasons	8
Less Campgrounds	2
Sewer hook ups	2
Gated camps	2

Total	14
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Park Grounds:

Charcoal BBQ's	2
Com. Gardens, fruit trees, green house	10
More shaded areas, more trees	4
Fire Pit Areas	2
More picnic tables, benches, Muskoka chairs	20
Improve horseshoe pits	2
Allow water to flow for fountain and wading area	26
Pool side and upgrade bring back other pool	8
Upgrade drainage at mini putt, more lighting open hours and equipment	16
Workout equipment	3
Off leash dog park, dog splash pad/pool	12
More pickle ball and tennis and clean off courts more, provide a broom	18
Seating near toboggan hill	1
Compostable toilets near toboggan hill	3
Water Fill Stations	19

Total	146
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Playgrounds:

Accessible, fenced playground	7
Playgrounds need updated, newer toys, slides, zip line, climbing ropes, swings child and adult, splash pad, foam ground no chips	120

Total	127
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Trails, Paths, Mile Drive:

Air Bumping Station for Bike Trails	1
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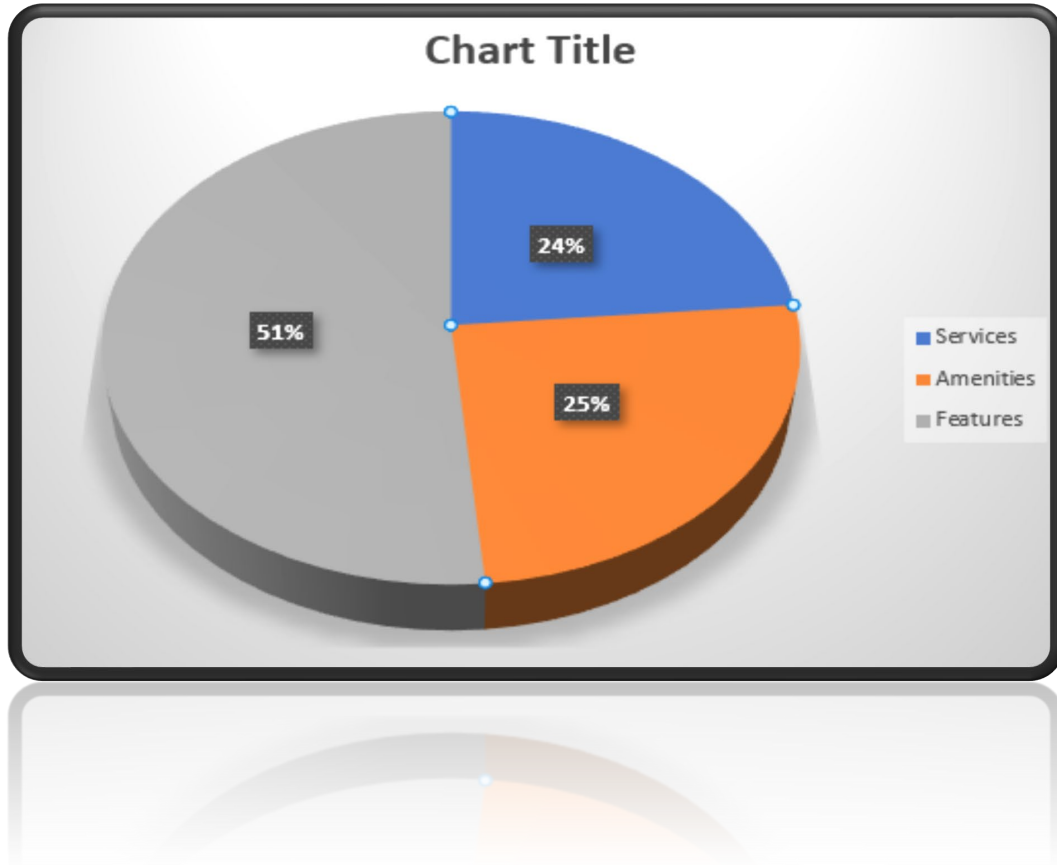
More trails, natural areas, dog-friendly, fitness stations, skating loop, cycling, inline skating, walking, paved, natural trails, mountain biking, sitting areas on trails	49
Lighting on trails and paths	5
Skating path	7
Porter Potty on trails	1
Garbage cans and Litter Pickers for passersby	2

Total	65
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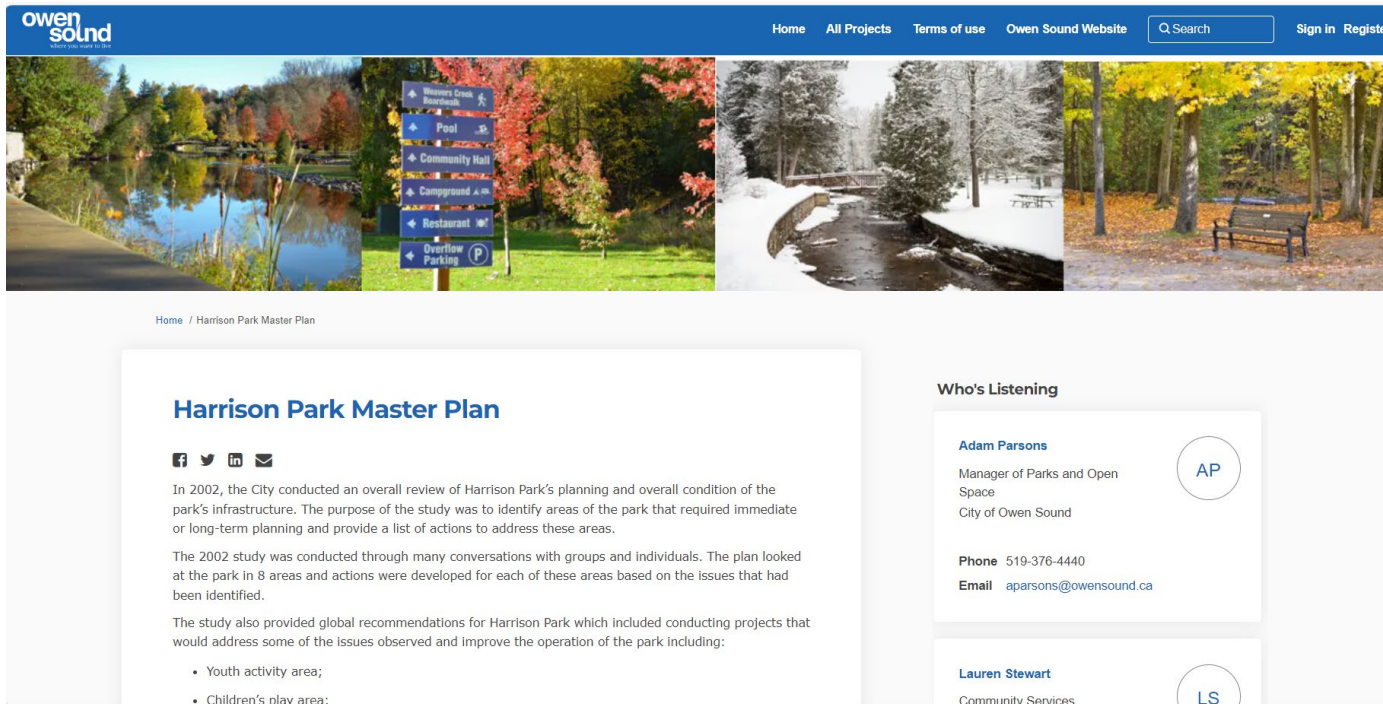
Leave The Park As Is

Total	136
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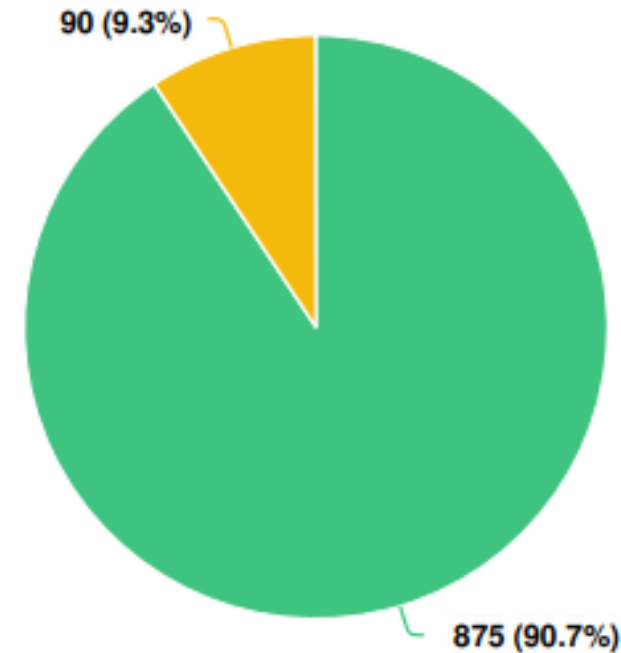
Service, Amenity & Features Feedback Grand Total 1118



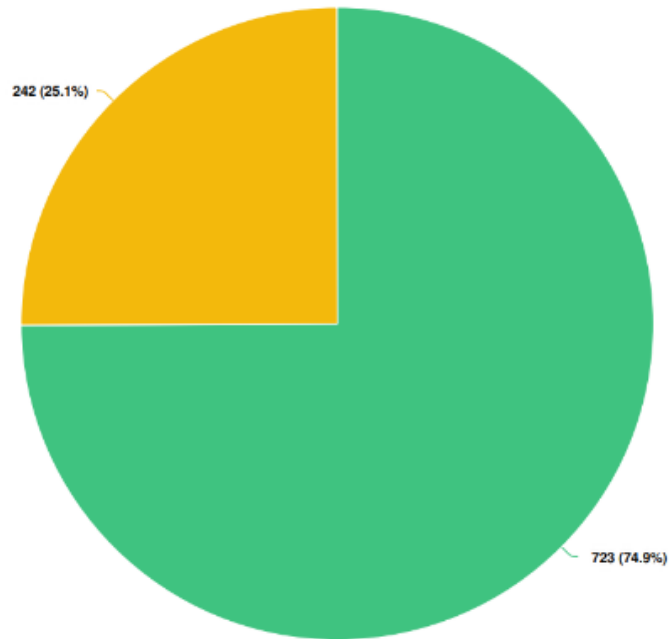
- Survey Input (965)
- Stakeholder Engagement Workshop



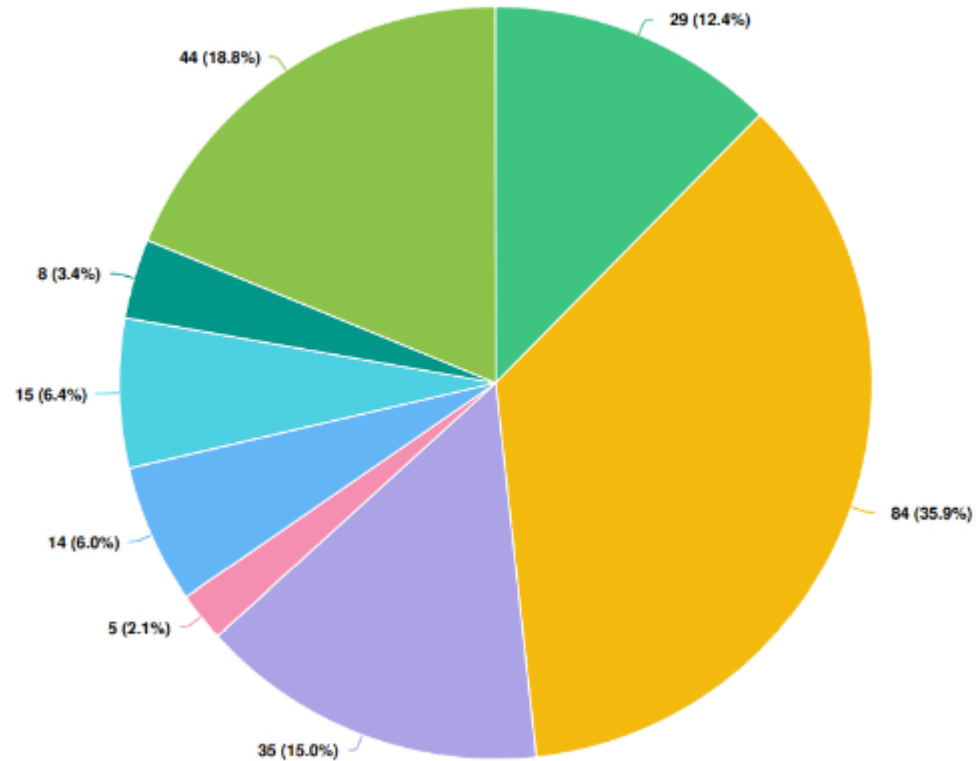
Q1. A Harrison Park Master Plan presentation has been prepared that provides the background information, processes and next steps (link available in survey introduction). Was the website and video presentation helpful?



Q3. Do you live in Owen Sound?



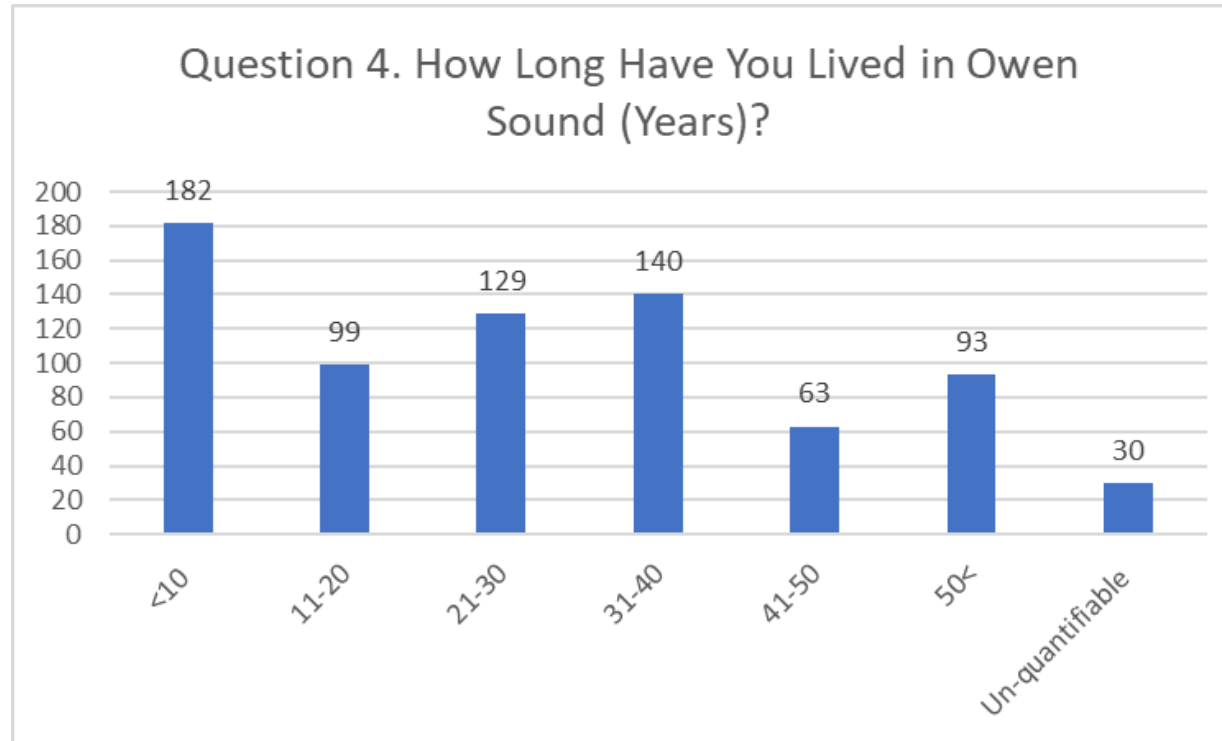
Q5. If you reside outside of Owen Sound,



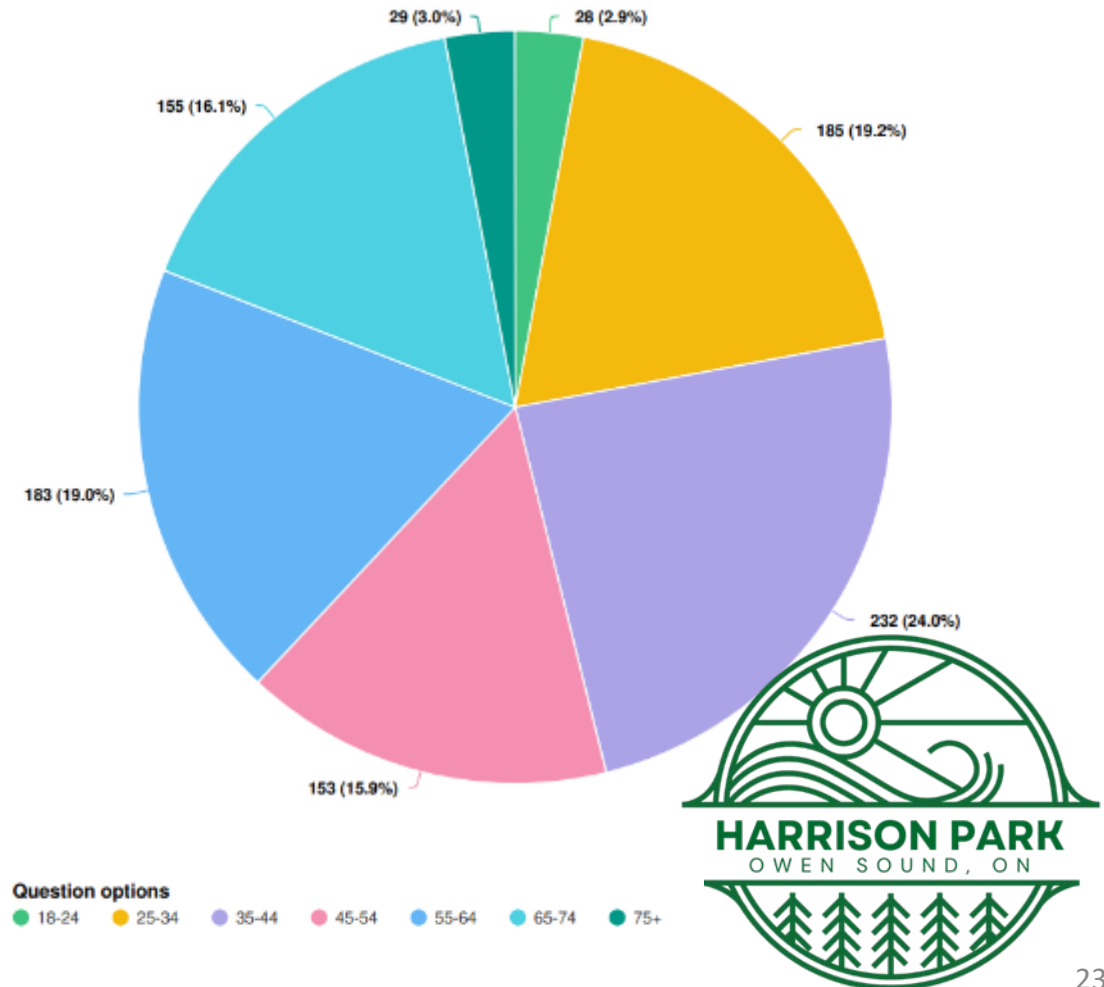
Question options

- Chatsworth
- Georgian Bluffs
- Meaford
- Kitchener/Waterloo
- Saugeen Shores
- Bruce Peninsula
- GTA/Hamilton
- Other

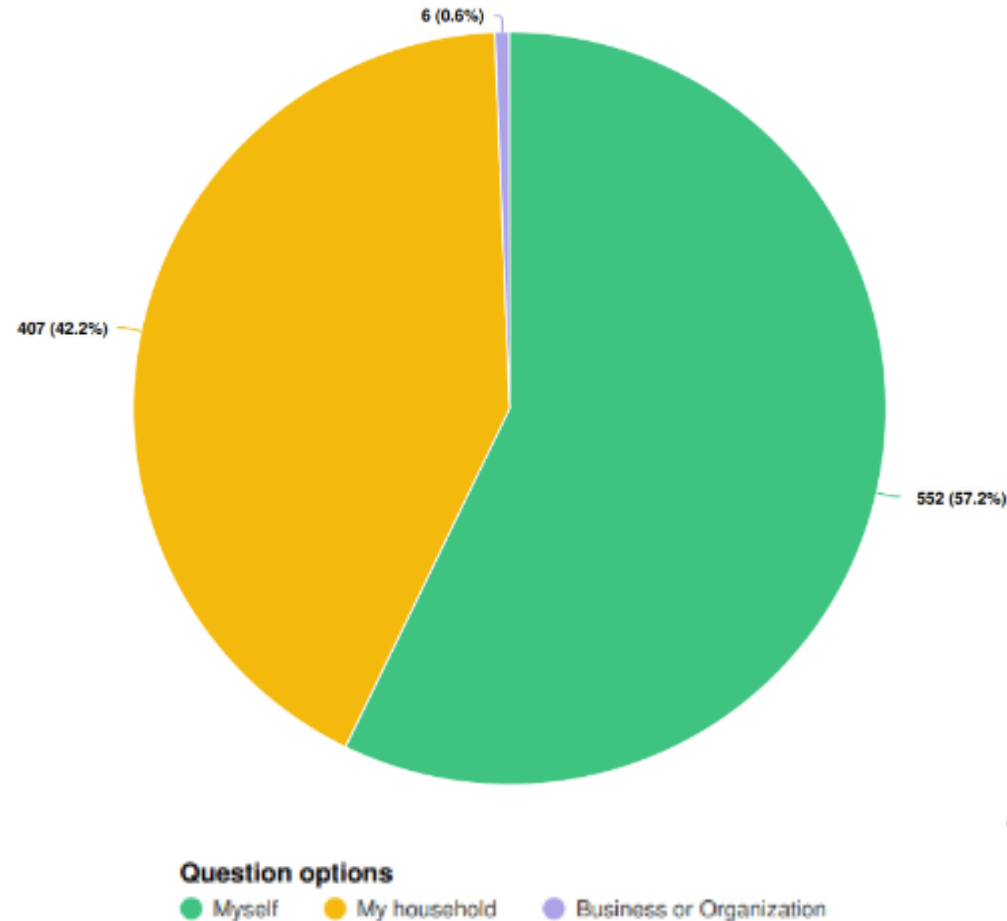




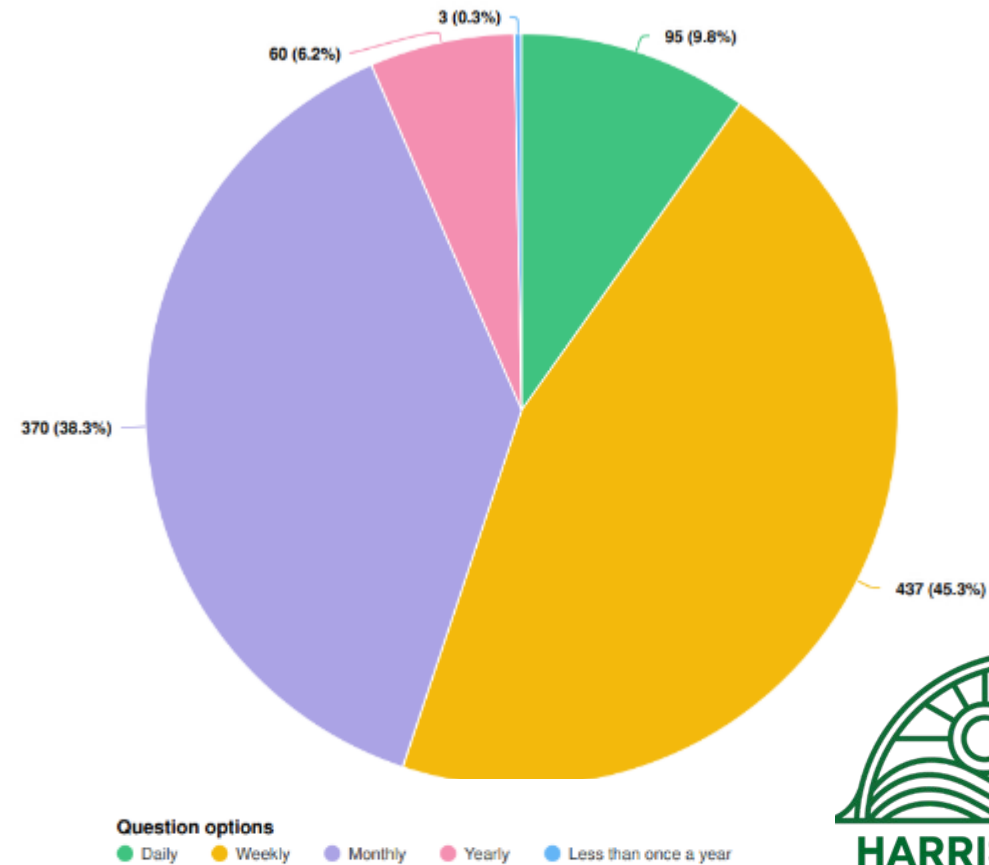
Q6. Age Group
(for the person
completing the
survey)?



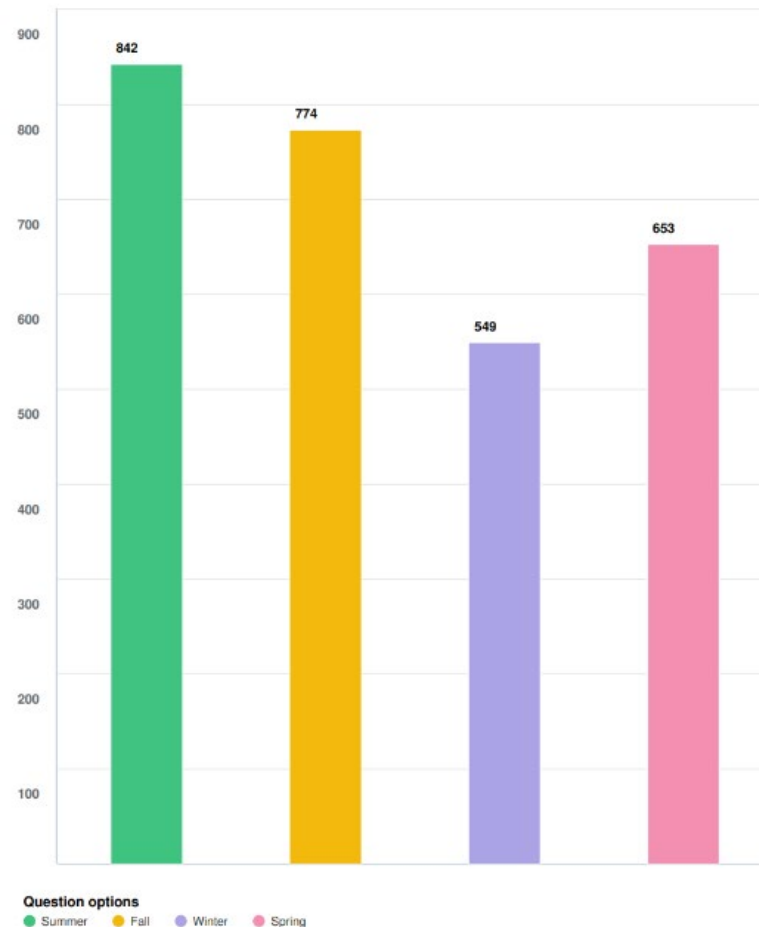
Q7. Who are you completing the survey on behalf of?



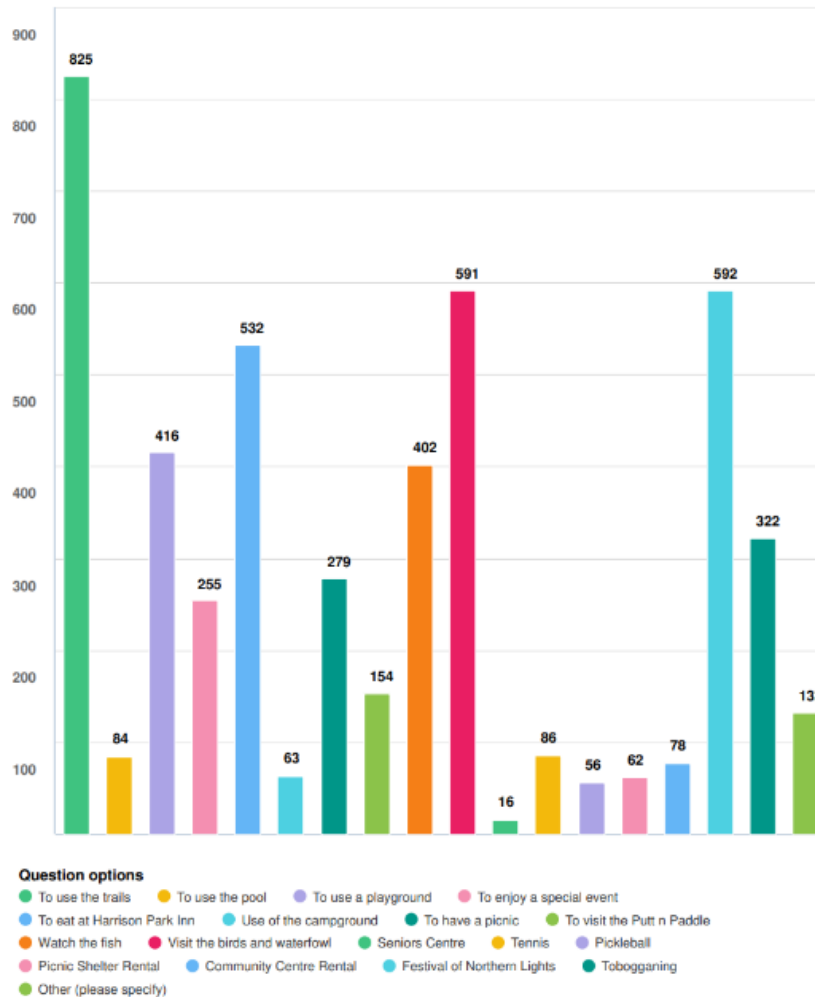
Q8. How often do you visit Harrison Park on average?



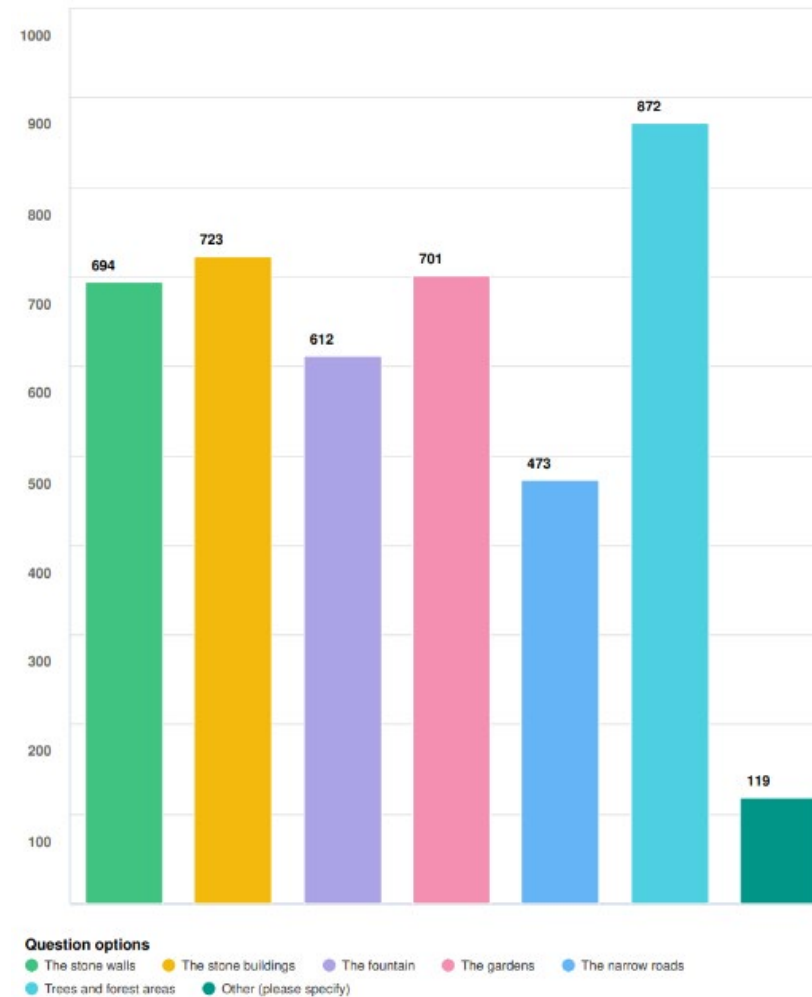
- Q9. What season do you visit the park the most?



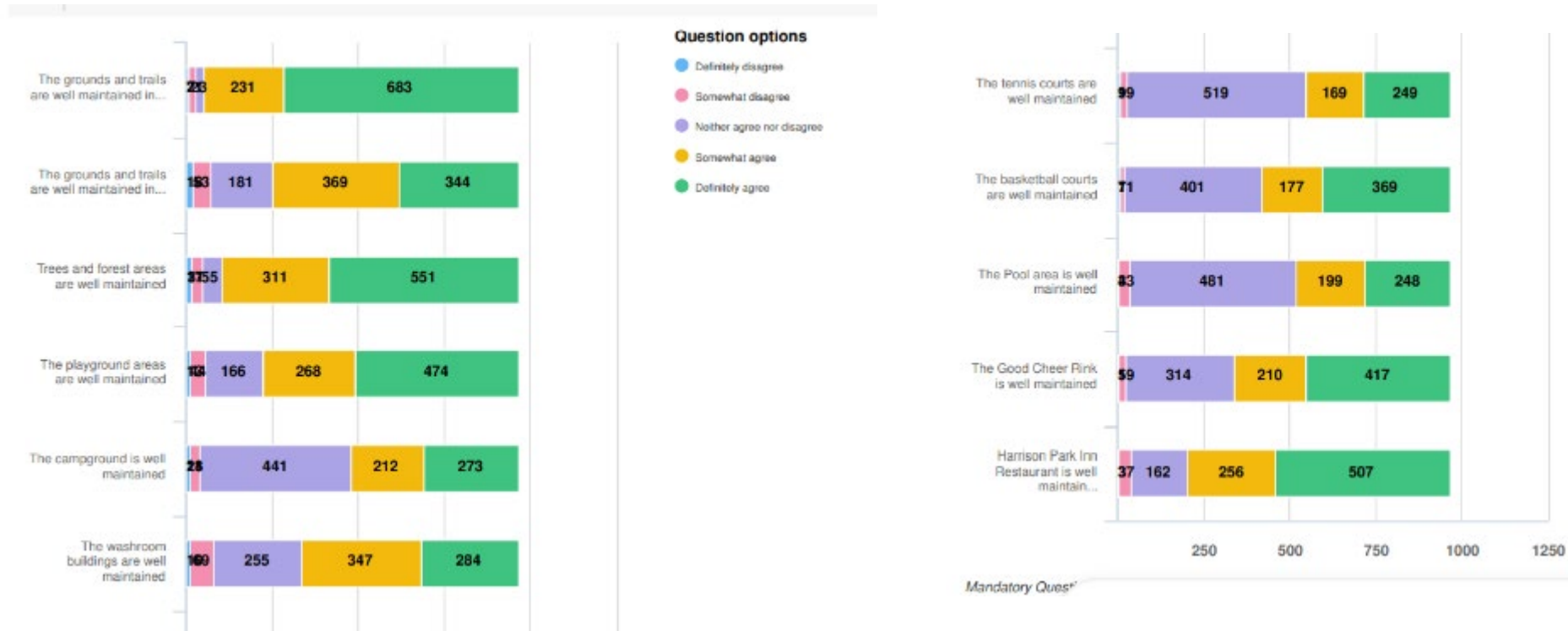
Q10. Why do you visit the park most often?



Q11. What natural and heritage features would you like to see preserved?



Q12. Please rate the following features and amenities at Harrison Park:



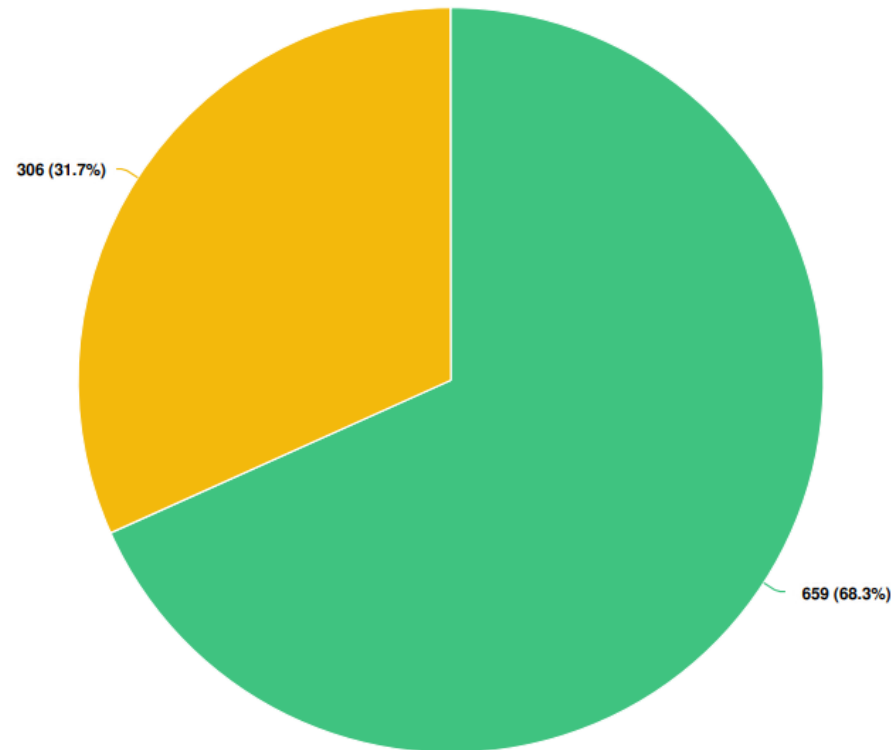
Q13. Is there a service, amenity, or feature you would like to see at Harrison Park? (If more than one than, please list in priority order)

The top five themes include:

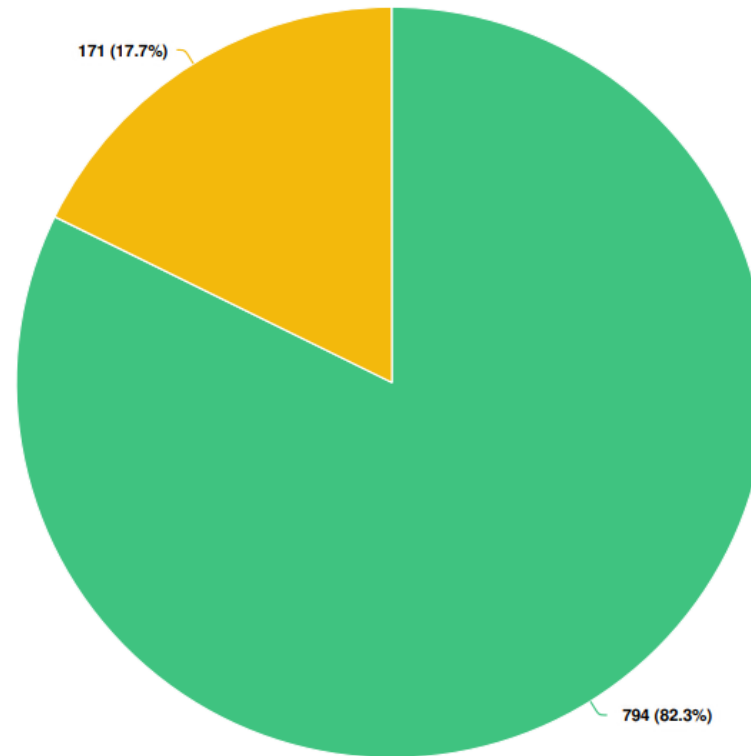
- **Amenities: Buildings, Structures, Rental Cabins, Washrooms and Bird/Waterfowl area**
 - Re-instating/improving waterfowl and bird area
 - Buildings – including noting the use of senior's building
- **Park Grounds**
 - Improve the fountain area
 - More tables, chairs, benches
- **It is great the way it is!**
- **Playgrounds**
 - Desire for splash pad
 - Maintenance of current structures and replacement of outdated (campground)
- **Maintenance, Signage and Safety**
 - Water fountain
 - Improved signage and wayfinding signage



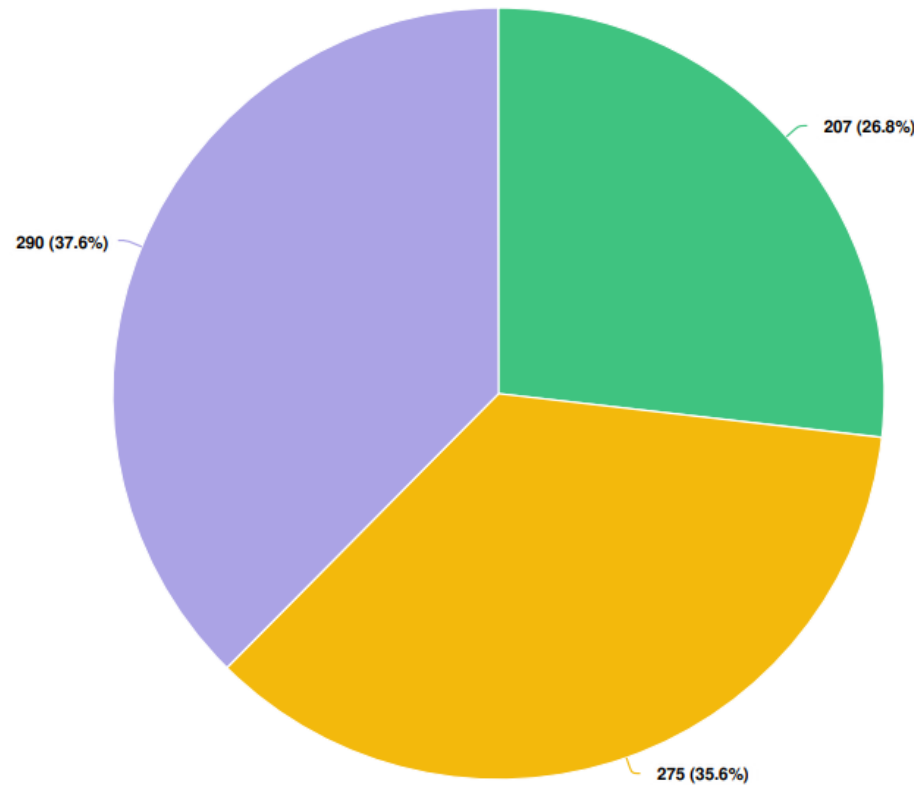
Q14. In 2023, the City renovated a building for use as an overnight cabin. Would you support additional cabins for overnight rentals in the campground area?



Q16. In 2022, the City had an outbreak of avian influenza, a highly contagious disease and all the birds and waterfowl had to be euthanized. Six swans were able to be saved. The area is home to many wild birds. The City is engaging an avian expert as a component of the Master Plan. Would you like to see the City repopulate this area with waterfowl and birds?



Q17. As a part of the Hockey Day in Canada festivities January 18-21 2023, Scotiabank donated rink boards as a marketing tool that were added to the Good Cheer Rink for the event. The Boards cannot be removed once in place and ice is installed, and the boards remained in place until ice was removed in the spring. The boards are not constructed to tolerate installation and removal each season. As such, once installed, they would remain in place permanently, all year round. Should the rink boards:



- Partially installed - the end boards and rounded corners would be installed permanently, and the straight side boards would not.
- Not be installed
- Be installed permanently



Attachment 12 Top Five Themes of Public Input – Service, Amenity or Feature

The top five themes include:

- Amenities: Buildings, Structures, Rental Cabins, Washrooms and Bird/Waterfowl area
 - Re-instating/improving waterfowl and bird area
 - Buildings – including noting the use of senior's building
- Park Grounds
 - Improve the fountain area
 - More tables, chairs, benches
- It is great the way it is!
- Playgrounds
 - Desire for splash pad
 - Maintenance of current structures and replacement of outdated (campground)
- Maintenance, Signage and Safety
 - Water fountain
 - Improved signage and wayfinding signage

BY-LAW NO. 2012-103

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF OWEN SOUND

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE PROPERTY KNOWN AS HARRISON PARK LOCATED AT 75 SECOND AVENUE EAST AS BEING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18, PARAGRAPH 29

WHEREAS Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, Paragraph 29 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-Laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS it has been requested by the owners of Harrison Park located at 75 Second Avenue East and the Community Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee that the said property be designated for cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as 75 Second Avenue East in the City of Owen Sound and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to so designate the said property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF OWEN SOUND HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Property known as Harrison Park is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest, said property being situated municipally at 75 Second Avenue East in the City of Owen Sound, more particularly described as:

PT PARKLT 1-4 RANGE 2 WGR PL OWEN SOUND; PT LT 13-14 CON 1 DERBY; PT LT 14 CON 2 DERBY PT 1, 2 & 3, 16R6263 & AS IN DY5610 EXCEPT LT 32 TO 44 PL 828; BLK A, B, C PL 957; ELK C PL 616 OWEN SOUND; LT 39 E OF POULETT ST, 40 E OF POULETT ST, 41 E OF POULETT ST, 42 E OF POULETT ST, 43 E OF POULETT ST, 44 E OF POULETT ST, 45 E OF POULETT ST, 46 E OF POULETT ST, 47 E OF POULETT ST, 48 E OF POULETT ST, 49 E OF POULETT ST, 50 E OF POULETT ST, 51 E OF POULETT ST, 52 E OF POULETT ST, 53 E OF POULETT ST, 54 E OF POULETT ST, 55 E OF POULETT ST, 56 E OF POULETT ST, 57 E OF POULETT ST, 58 E OF POULETT ST, 59 E OF POULETT ST, 60 E OF POULETT ST, 61 E OF POULETT ST, 62 E OF POULETT ST, 63 E OF POULETT ST, 64 E OF POULETT ST, 65 E OF POULETT ST, 66 E OF POULETT ST, 67 E OF POULETT ST, 68 E OF POULETT ST, 69 E OF POULETT ST, 70 E OF POULETT ST, 71 E OF POULETT ST PL 56 OWEN SOUND; UNNAMED ST PL 56 OWEN SOUND ABUTTING LT 39 TO 71 E OF POULETT ST PL 56; S/T R73652; OWEN SOUND

Being all of PIN 37065-0060.

2. The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and the Description of the Property's Heritage Attributes for designation for the property described in Clause 1 hereof are as follows:

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Harrison Park's cultural heritage value lies in tangible and intangible elements that, together, identify it as a place where significant natural beauty mixes with park design and built heritage, creating areas for community gatherings and recreational activities.

Purchased by early Owen Sound industrialist and community leader John Harrison (1824-1902) in 1875 and transferred to the Town of Owen Sound in 1912, Harrison Park has design or physical value as a good example of early parkland design on the urban-rural fringe. Under Harrison's ownership, roads and walking paths were developed, and thousands of trees planted; with municipal possession came development of the watercourse and pools, main entrance gates, campground, Inn, Bandstand, Community Hall, mini-golf course and swimming pool.

The Park's historical or associative value lies in its relationship with the Harrison Family legacy, particularly John Harrison's dream that these lands remain a place of beauty for all to enjoy, and his family's gift and sale of the lands to the municipality. Town Councillor and Parks Commission member, Edward Brigham was an Owen Sound area contractor and amateur landscape designer who generously donated an enormous amount of time and expertise to the early design and installation of park improvements. The first swans arrived in the park in 1912, a gift from King Edward V to Mayor Elias Lemon; generations of families have enjoyed feeding the swans and waterfowl, and looking at the exotic birds and deer.

The property has contextual value because of its importance in defining the area, and is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as an Owen Sound landmark. Its vistas and views frame places of natural beauty which can be viewed from a variety of vantage points: on foot, on skis, riding bicycles, in a canoe, on a paddleboat or driving a car. Its trails link to regional and provincial trail systems.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the design or physical value of Harrison Park include - see reference map in Appendix 'A':

1. Main Entrance Gate - riverstone/fieldstone gate and walls
2. Black History Cairn
3. Sydenham River Watercourse - to be maintained as a natural riverscape
4. Island
5. North Watercourse
6. Five-globe light standard (near Harrison Park Inn)
7. Bandstand (exterior)
8. Community Hall (exterior)
9. Laundry (exterior)
10. Weaver's Creek watercourse and walking trail
11. Kitchen (exterior)
12. Ruin of inlets for mill or logging
13. Mile Drive
14. South Washroom (exterior)

Key attributes that express the contextual value of Harrison Park include its:

- vistas and views which can be viewed from a variety of vantage points
- relationship to regional and provincial trail systems

3. The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Clause 1 in the proper land registry office.


4. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owners of the property affected by this By-law and on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of the passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

5. This By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

FINALLY PASSED AND ENACTED this 25th day of June, 2012.



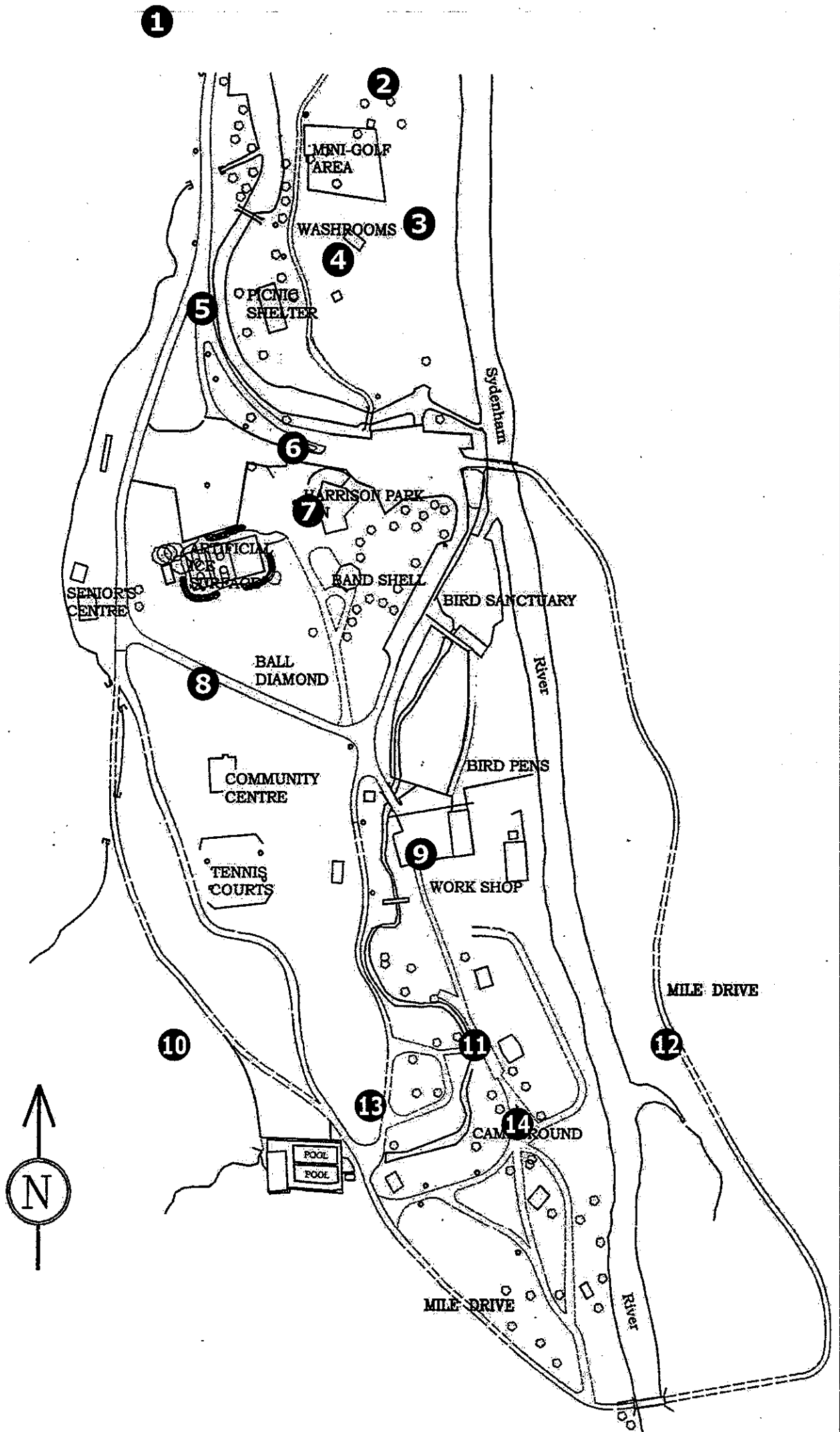
Mayor Deborah A. Haswell



Kristen M. Van Alphen, City Clerk

Appendix 'A'

Map of Heritage Attributes



Attachment 14 Background and Recommendation Regarding Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza – Background

Avian Influenza (AI) is a disease caused by a virus that primarily infects domestic poultry and wild birds such as geese, ducks, and shore birds. Each year, there is a “bird flu” season, and some forms of the “bird flu” are worse than others. Wild birds, especially waterfowl, are a natural reservoir for mild strains of AI. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 is a strain known to kill both wild birds and commercial poultry.

In March 2022, HPAI H5N1 virus was detected in Ontario in wild and commercial poultry. This same strain of the virus has also been found in many other jurisdictions across the world, including in other Canadian provinces and American states. Its spread has been primarily attributed to the migration of infected waterfowl.

The Province of Ontario has been working with local, other provincial, federal, and international authorities to monitor and respond to cases of AI.

- HPAI H5N1 is a strain of avian influenza virus currently affecting domestic poultry and wild waterfowl in several parts of the world. It causes high levels of mortality (death) in some birds, while other birds, such as some waterfowl and shorebirds, can be infected and not show any clinical signs.
- The HPAI H5N1 virus does not easily cross from birds to humans and the current strain has been listed as lower than normal concern for spread to people.
- AI is caused by different virus strains than those that cause seasonal influenza in humans.
- An AI outbreak does not imply that there will be a human outbreak or a pandemic.
- Most people that have been infected in other parts of the world had been in close contact with live or dead infected domestic poultry.
- The risk to the public of catching the HPAI H5N1 virus from domestic poultry or products is very low and there is no need to change food consumption habits or travel plans.

Harrison Park 2022 – History with Avian Influenza

On September 16, 2022, seven (7) dead birds were found in the fenced bird and waterfowl enclosure at Harrison Park. At the time, staff contacted a local veterinarian, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) was contacted.

On September 17, 2022, additional birds were impacted which included both the City’s domestic birds as well as the wild birds and waterfowl.

Staff worked under the direction of the CFIA to manage the area and restrict access by the public until testing could be completed and results returned. A quarantine order was issued for the Park by CFIA. This meant nothing could leave the site and diseased dead birds were held on site.

The City undertook significant efforts to communicate with the public during this time.

On September 19, 2022, Avian Influenza was confirmed in the birds and waterfowl at Harrison Park.

The City was required to provide a complete list of the domestic birds and waterfowl under our care. A destruction order was issued by CFIA for all 96 of the remaining birds and waterfowl.

Based on a request by staff respecting the swans an exception was made to the destroy order on the basis of their cultural heritage (a gift from the King of England in 1912).



After the destruction of the birds was completed, the swans were moved to quarantine.

The CFIA also issued a decontamination order. The bird and waterfowl area had to undergo significant cleaning. The natural state of the area made cleaning and disinfection difficult and certain areas were left fallow for a prescribed time period to ensure the disease was no longer present.

The management of this disease in Harrison Park had a significant public impact. Many people posted on social media and brought flowers to the site. City staff who worked with the birds were also significantly impacted by the outbreak.

The City also incurred costs relating to the management of this disease including significant staff time costs.

The City tracked staff time (not including the Manager, Supervisor, Director, or City Manager time) directly relating to the outbreak. \$44, 259 costs were incurred in staff wages and equipment such as fencing.

This also does not include the significant time and effort spent by Canadian Food Inspection Agency Staff in addressing the outbreak.

The City made a claim to the CFIA for \$32,000 compensation. The City received \$6,200.

The Public Survey asked:

The City is engaging an avian exp as a component of the Master Plan. Would you like to see the City repopulate this area with waterfowl and birds?

82.3% of the respondents (794 people) supported repopulating this area.

Recommendations

Christopher Sharp, Population Management Biologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada has provided the following recommendations for the future of this area.

Recommendations on a Path Forward for Harrison Park, Owen Sound, Ontario, and the Implications of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

- Despite a reduction in mortality in 2023 compared to 2022, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to circulate in Ontario's wild birds at a prevalence similar to what was observed in Fall 2022.
- As a result, interactions with wild birds, especially waterfowl, continue to represent a significant risk of HPAI infection in poultry or avicultural species (captive wild species).
- If the Municipality of Owen decides to repopulation and operate Harrison Park as done historically (intermingling between poultry, captive wild birds, and wild birds), it will likely only be a matter of time before the park has another HPAI outbreak, with similar consequences to Fall 2022. **I strongly recommend against having poultry, captive wild bird and wild birds intermingling on the same site.**
- For me, the options are as follows:
 - 1) **Poultry Focus** - If you are going to have poultry, there can be no intermingling between them and wild birds. I would also indicate that poultry are unlikely not compatible with the captive swans as it would be very difficult to provide sufficient housing for the swans and prevent intermingling with wild birds.
 - 2) **Swan Focus** - If you are going to keep the swans, then I would suggest you **do not have poultry**. I would try to mitigate mingling between the swans and wild birds (ex: feed in an area inaccessible to the wild birds, netting to prevent direct contact, etc).
 - 3) **Wildlife and Native Species Focus** - Forgo reintroducing any captive birds (poultry or swans) and naturalize the site to encourage use by native species. This option eliminates any risk of HPAI that would require depopulation and allows residents of Owen Sound, an accessible park, to interact with nature.

Recommendation:

My recommendation is Option 3. However, if you there is a strong desire to continue to have the swans, I would recommend that you discourage reproduction and once the birds pass away, they are not replaced, and you move towards Option 3.