



Harrison Park Master Plan Final Draft


May 15, 2024

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Harrison Park Master Plan



- CS-23-030 - Background and Project Approach
- Our City Page 
- CS-23-130 - Summary of Public Feedback
- CS-24-032 – Draft Recommendations
- CS-24-041 – Final Draft Plan



The approach to the Master Plan includes 5 phases:

1. Define Purpose and Objective,
2. Identify Issues and Opportunities,
3. Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Workshops,
4. Action Planning and Recommendation Development, and;
5. Master Plan Framework and Implementation Plan.



Synthesis of Information and Public Input





Draft Master Plan Vision

Inspired by a rich cultural heritage and diverse natural environment, we envision a vibrant space that fosters community connections and 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.

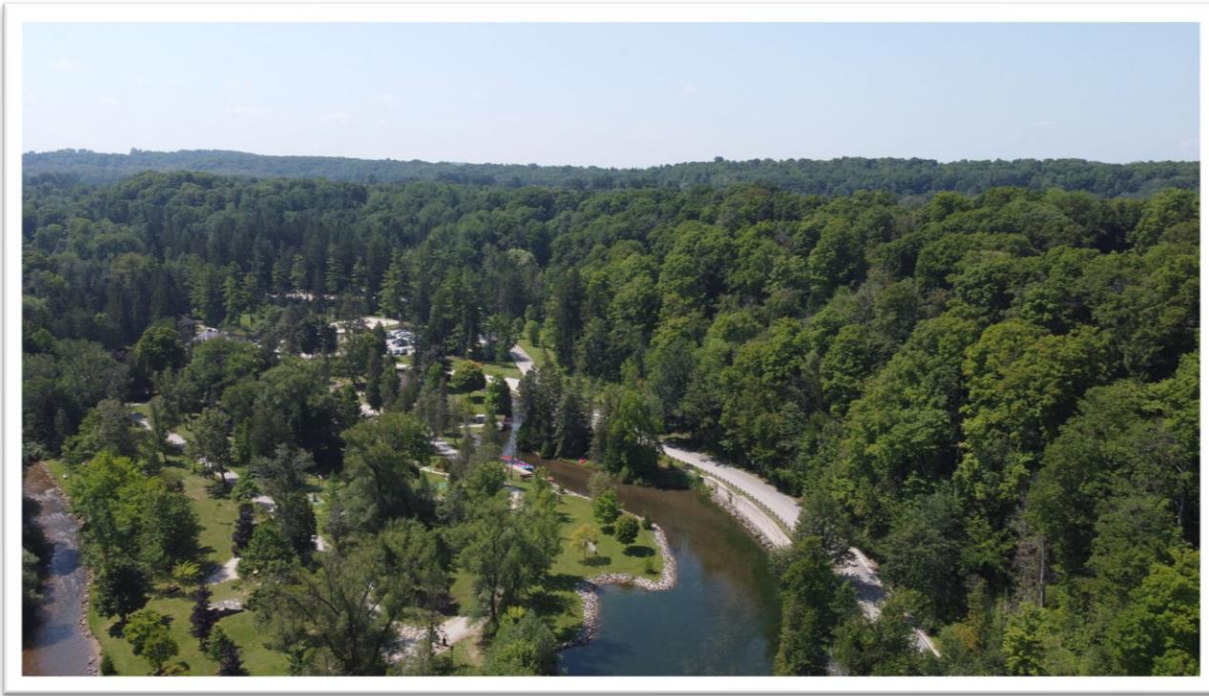




1. Conflicting and Competing Use/Overuse
2. Natural Amenities and Slopes
3. Accessibility and Inclusion
4. Cultural Heritage Landscape
5. Asset Renewal and Rationalization









Park Sections



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, 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.



Section 9 – Themes and Recommendations

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	



Section 9 – Themes and Recommendations

West Park Entry (WPE)
Operational/Maintenance
(OM) Recommendations
Capital
(C) Recommendations
WPE-OM-001; or
WPE-C-001



Short-term: 1-5 years

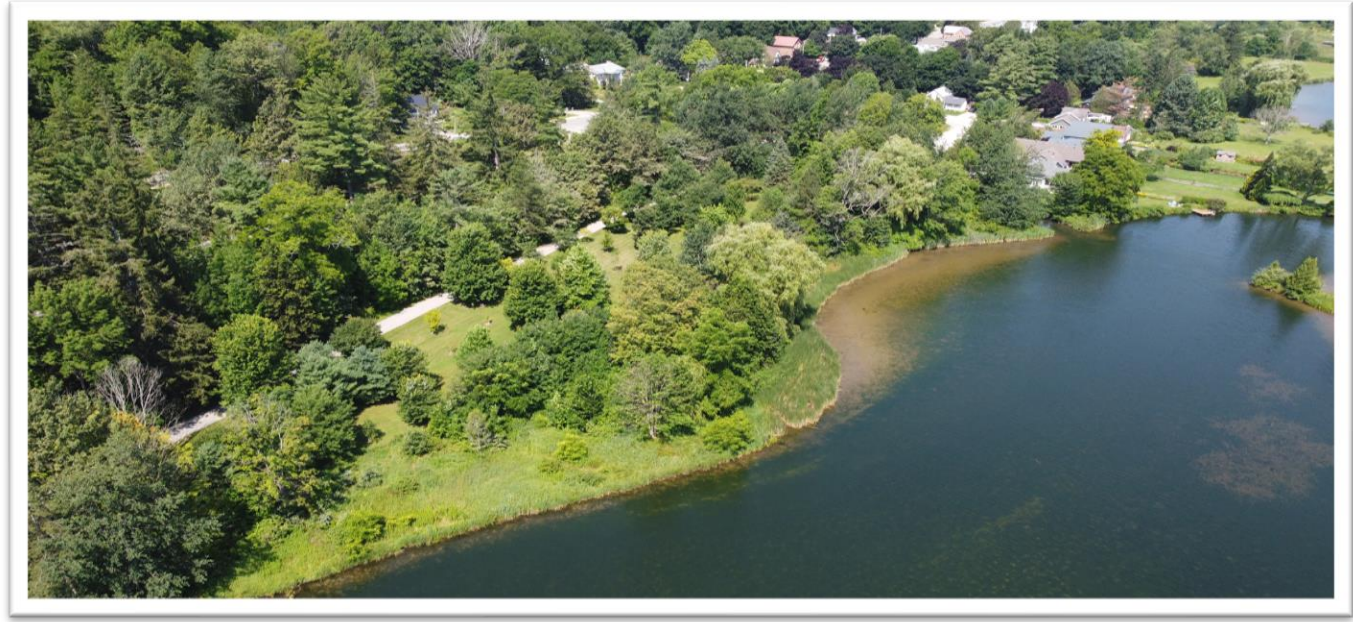
Medium-term: 6-10 years

Long-term: 11-15 years




ELT: Extend over the Life
of the Plan




- Shifted recommendations to Global (apply across the park)
- Rink Boards – winter only
- Signage – QR code – report a concern and donations
- Explore revenue generation




Red Dot...Green Dot

No.	Recommendation	Theme	Input from Committee	Response or change
WPE-OM-002	Install warning signage for pedestrians and cyclists northbound on Freedom Trail approaching intersection with roadway of vehicles ahead		2 <u>red</u> 5 green	This is a low-cost (\$250 sign, post and <u>install</u> by staff) investment around a public safety initiative and is recommended to remain.
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.	 	6 green 1 red	By investing in an overall inspection, areas of potential concern and failure can be identified for maintenance or capital repair. This should avoid the complete failure of wall sections. Regular inspection and proactive maintenance and repair or reconstruction should extend the life of the asset at a much lower cost than global replacement of failed sections.




IPG-OM-00x	Update and add signage prohibiting swimming/wading in the man-made channel.		3 Red 0 green (only if necessary)	<p>Allowing children to wade or “puddle” in the <u>man made</u> channel has been discouraged given water quality concerns and potential for illness (E coli etc).</p> <p>This recommendation has been modified to say that if water quality testing would indicate the water quality is appropriate, this signage could be removed.</p>
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<p>IPG-C-00x</p>	<p><u>At the time of replacing</u> playground, consider upgrading the surface to the fully accessible rubberized surface.</p>		<p>5 green 3 red</p>	<p>In 2008 when the playground was constructed, it met accessibility standards.</p> <p>The <u>City</u> has 6 City Parks, and 3 of these have playgrounds. As City parks, at a time when the playground is upgraded, efforts to maximize accessibility focused on these 3 city parks would have a significant benefit.</p> <p>As part of the Service Review exercise, the <u>parks</u> inventory is being updated with service levels.</p> <p>This recommendation does not require it to be rubberized, but rather that it be considered. It may not be affordable but if grants were available, it would be a significant benefit to accessibility.</p>
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IPG-C-00x	Inventory and replace utility covers.		2 <u>red</u>	<p>As part of the City's required inventory of all parks assets as required by the <u>Province</u>, it will include utility covers.</p> <p>In many instances, these are missing or broken and represent a significant hazard that should be addressed.</p>
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IPG-C-00x

Add channel wall replacement in City's 5 and 10-year capital plans.



2 red

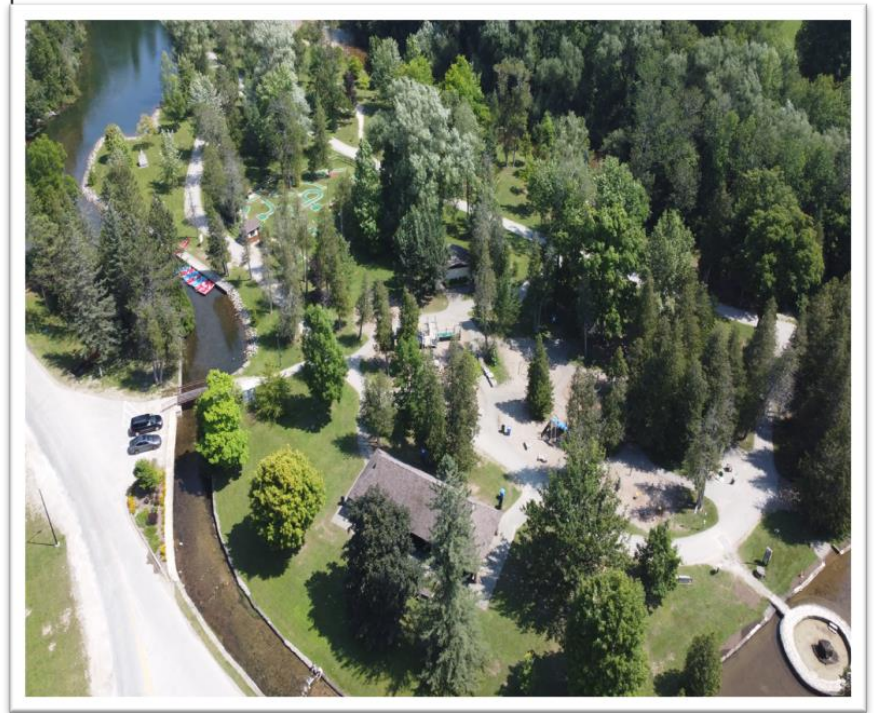
The channel walls are part of Harrison Park's designation as a Cultural Heritage Landscape.

There is another recommendation that addresses the assessment of the walls toward regular investment in maintenance and smaller repairs that will extend the life of the asset and avoid larger costly repair.



Failing to plan for the required capital work will allow for failure and result in much higher expenditure.

It is recommended that this remain.



Any capital expense will be considered by Council as part of the overall 5-year capital budget and not be considered approved by







Red Dot...Green Dot

<p>IRMB-OM-xxx</p>	<p>Raise branches on the large spruce tree blocking the view of the bandstand from the parking area.</p>		<p>4 red 2 <u>green</u> Comment – not the climbing trees</p>	<p>The limbs on one large spruce tree <u>is</u> protruding into the pedestrian path of travel and block sight lines to the bandshell.</p> <p>Using good arboriculture practice the limbs are proposed to be slightly elevated.</p> <p>This is not a tree that would be easily climbable.</p>
<p>IRMB-OM-xxx</p>	<p>Remove cotoneaster planting from around Inn and replace it with appropriate, low-maintenance plant material in conjunction with repair of north patio.</p>		<p>2 <u>red</u> 1 green</p>	<p>This recommendation is an operational <u>type</u> recommendation but should be considered with the capital recommendation around the flagstone patio:</p> <p>Remove <u>existing</u> flagstone on the north side of the Inn restaurant and replace it with a more stable material. Maintain this</p>




<p>IRMB- C-xxx</p>	<p>Replace or refinish heritage streetlights and replace fixtures with LED fixtures.</p>		<p>5 green 1 red</p> <p><u>Concern</u> noted regarding dark sky compliance and heritage.</p>	<p>This has been added as a global recommendation that any new or retrofitted lights would be dark sky compliant.</p> <p><u>As well</u>, some of the green lights are noted in the designation and would be repaired and retrofitted and not replaced.</p>
<p>HTMP- C-xxx</p>	<p>Remove shuffleboard</p>		<p>1 red</p>	<p>This has not been identified through the consultation as an asset people use or that was a priority for renewal.</p> <p>Balancing investing in assets people use, the shuffleboard is not recommended for investment.</p>



<p>C-C-001</p>	<p>Develop a business case to repurpose heritage laundry building to overnight accessible cabin including a washroom (building</p>		<p>1 red 3 green (comment – how much money for what lifespan)</p>	<p>The laundry is a building that is noted in the designation of Harrison Park under the Ontario Heritage Act.</p> <p>Certain costs relating to the building, regardless of the use, are necessary. These costs include roof, repointing etc.</p>	
	<p>has an existing sanitary connection).</p>			<p>The business case will explore costs and <u>opportunity</u> for revenue.</p> <p>One of the most effective ways of preserving cultural heritage <u>resources</u>, is to ensure that they have a meaningful use.</p> <p>The business case will explore the building condition, costs and necessary investment for conversion and opportunity for revenue as a laundry, heritage cabin</p>	 




C-C-xxx	Explore relocation of campground registration function to seniors building.		1 green	<p>This recommendation is part of another recommendation: <i>IRMB-OM-xxx Work with the Harrison Park Seniors Group to coordinate an amalgamation with the McQuay Tannery/Bayshore groups. Evaluate re-purposing the seniors building based on a report and business case to another use.</i></p> <p>If we can support the merging of the <u>seniors</u> groups, the future use of the space would be subject to further reports and study by staff and a business case.</p> <p>The recommendation has been modified to reflect this change to make it clear that the future use would</p>
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				be subject to study and business case through report to Community Services Committee.
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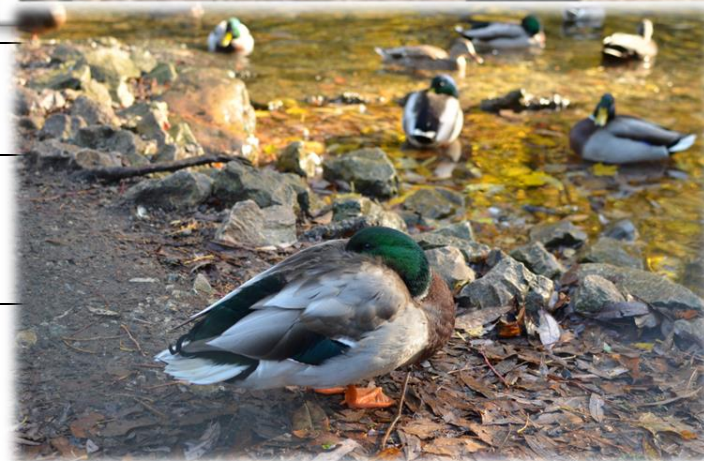
Red Dot...Green Dot


<p>BWO-C-001</p>	<p>Retain an appropriate number of swans based on the habitat area and work to upgrade the housing.</p> <p>Naturalize the remaining area and introduce native plants that will attract pollinators and native birds and other species.</p> <p>Monitor health of swans and track the progress, status and best management practices relating to HPAI.</p> <p>Forgo repopulation of any captive birds.</p> <p>A report would be prepared for CSC with the potential for phased implementation of option 2 toward option 3 (per Attachment 13).</p> <p>Advice is required from an expert regarding habitat area management practices, housing, feeding, public interaction etc. to inform the implementation of this recommendation.</p>		<p>Short term</p>
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Red Dot...Green Dot

BWO-C-xxx	Naturalize bird and waterfowl area (not dedicated to swans) to include bird boxes, bat boxes, with native habitat and plantings to encourage diverse native species and plantings.	 	Medium term
BWO-C-xxx	Explore partnerships with organizations to support naturalizing the bird and waterfowl area.	 	Medium term
BWO-C-xxx	Repurpose existing bird barn to provide indoor storage for parks equipment.		Short term
BWO-C-xxx	Explore alternatives to expand park storage for equipment.	 	Short term
BWO-C-xxx	Demolish hazardous bird building that has not been used for several years.		Short term



TCFFT-C-xxx	Pave fitness trail and investigate opportunity to leave an adjacent section for winter use (snowshoe/ski).		2 red	<p>Paving the fitness trail is identified in the Trails Master Plan and also received significant support through the public engagement.</p> <p><i>(excerpt from Trails Master Plan, 2012)</i></p> <p><i>There have been ongoing discussions about the possibility of paving the popular 'Fitness Trail'. This stretch of stone dust trail is a perfect candidate for an asphalt base. This section of trail is very well used on a regular basis. If paved, this trail would provide a</i></p>	<p><i>hardtop loop in and out of Harrison Park, and would accommodate an increased number of user groups, including those with accessible trail needs.</i></p> <p>Harrison Park also has only one means of vehicular access.</p> <p>Paving this section would not only increase accessibility but also provide alternative emergency access.</p> <p>Plan has been modified to say "subject to grant funding" and clarify that there should remain opportunities for off-trail activities such as snowshoeing and skiing.</p> <p>The Plan also now notes that as an alternative that is more accessible than the current surface is a hard-packed limestone screening surface (stone dust) that receives regular maintenance.</p>
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Red Dot...Green Dot

TCFFT- C-xxx	Consider a capital plan to place fitness stations along the Fitness trail.		2 <u>red</u> 4 <u>green</u>	<p>This was identified by the public in the survey as a service, amenity or feature they would like to see added.</p> <p>Historically, this was a partnership with <u>the Family Y</u>.</p> <p>A fitness station does not need to involve sophisticated equipment.</p>
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“Stations” could be developed in existing small clearings adjacent to the trail. This may include a sign, with some images with exercises that can be done with no equipment or a simple piece that would be affordable.

This clarification has been made to the plan, including that a further report and partnerships may be required to support this initiative.



