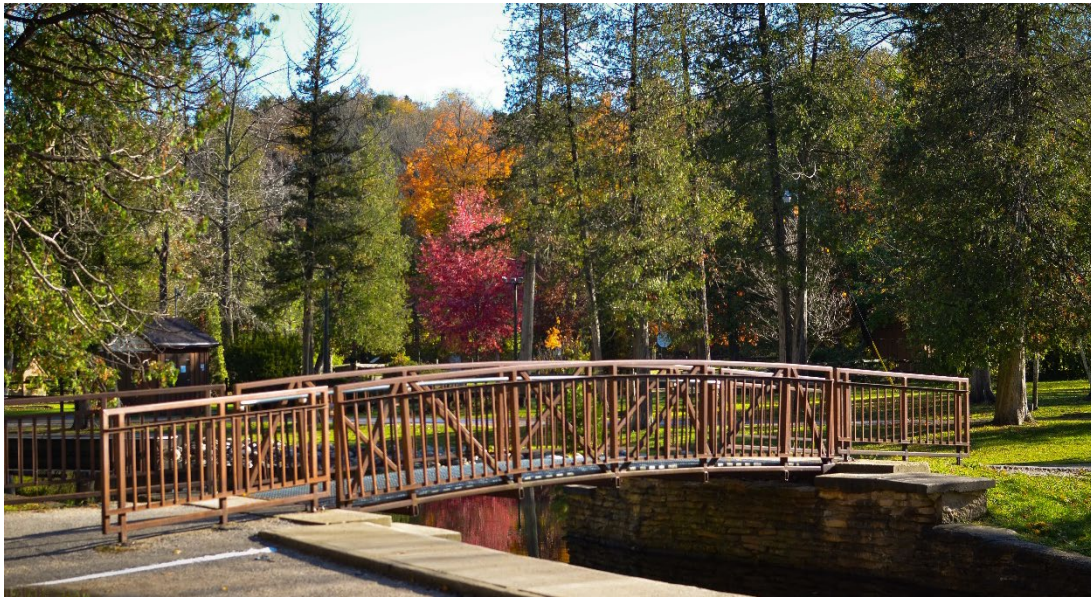


Spring 2024

# Harrison Park Master Plan



City of Owen Sound  
Approved by Council May 27, 2024



## 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.

## Acknowledgments

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1. Excerpt from 1912 Agreement to Acquire Harrison Park
2. Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan Excerpts Relevant to Harrison Park
3. Tree Inventory Harrison Park Species
4. Harrison Park 9 Functional Areas
5. Harrison Park Rental Summary
6. Harrison Park Lease Agreements and Revenue (Harrison Park Inn and Putt N Paddle)
7. Trail Counter and Road Counter Data
8. 2002 Harrison Park Master Plan - Status of Recommendations
9. List of Projects Completed Outside of the Master Plan
10. Summary of Public Feedback
11. Summary of Survey Feedback
12. Top Five Themes of Public Input – Service, Amenity or Feature
13. Designation of Harrison Park as a Cultural Heritage Landscape, By-Law 2012-103
14. Committee Feedback on Draft Recommendations
15. Background and Recommendation Regarding Avian Influenza

# 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.

The public survey included a question on the future of the waterfowl and avian area. Although there is significant public support for re-establishing the waterfowl and avian area, the longer-term viability of this area in its most recent 'form' is of greater concern as per expert advice regarding waterfowl and avian areas provided by Canadian Wildlife. Expert advice was sought to help inform the recommendations for the future of this space.

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



## 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 throughout 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) and classified as a City Park. The Park 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 in North America.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 helps 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. The OurCity Platform was used to make the community aware. Additionally, there were media releases, signs in the Park and other public spaces, and social media.

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 they 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 structures (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.

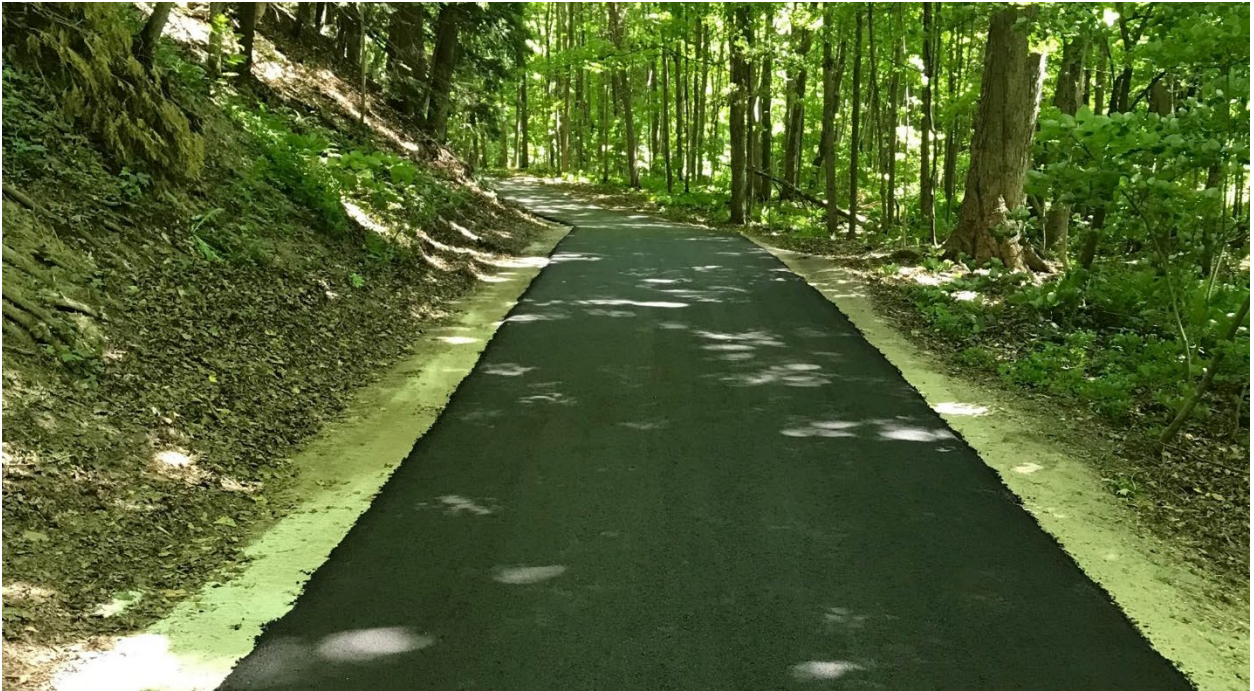
The recommendations of the Master Plan recognize the importance of protecting and enhancing the parks natural amenities, waterways, and slopes.



### 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 |  |

The Recommendations have been prioritized in the following 4 categories: Short term (1-5 years), Medium term (6-10 years) and Long term (11-15 years) and ELP, meaning the priority extends for the life of the plan. An additional category is “Extends over Life of the Plan” (ELP) for initiatives that require ongoing effort.





## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.  |    | Short term |
| WPE/OM-002 | Install warning signage for pedestrians and cyclists northbound on Freedom Trail approaching the intersection with roadway of vehicles ahead                               |  | Short term |
| WPE/OM-003 | Amend the traffic bylaw prohibiting overnight parking in the small parking lot from main entrance<br><br>At time of amendment, consider prohibition in winter months only. |  | Short term |
| WPE/OM-004 | Offer benches that are not sponsored as part of the Commemorative Bench Program and move existing benches to other less popular areas                                      |  | ELP        |

|            |   |  |            |
|------------|---|--|------------|
| WPE/OM-005 | Alter grading adjacent to Freedom Trail to create a level platform (a minimum of 0.3 m) adjacent to the trail |   | Short term |
| WPE/OM-006 | Install trail signage warning cyclists of sharp turns   |   | Short term |
| WPE/OM-007 | Include main park entrance road in City's pavement condition index report                                     |    | Short term |

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

| No.       | Recommendation   | Rationale   | Priority   |
|-----------|--|---|------------|
| WPE-C-001 | Repair/replace roadway pavement that has failed  |   | Short term |
| WPE-C-002 | Install the Commemorative Forest Monument in a location on the west side of the trail approximately 30 m south of the trailhead                                  |    | Short term |
| WPE-C-003 | Consider optimizing the layout of the north parking lot to maximize parking and integrate a minimum of one accessible parking space.                             |    | Medium     |
| WPE-C-004 | Add park standard bollards and signage on the west side of the entry road adjacent to sensitive areas to prohibit parking<br><br>Amend Streets Bylaw as required |    | Medium     |
| WPE-C-005 | Add railing as required on the east side of the Freedom Trail where  |    | Short term |

|           |  |   |        |
|-----------|--|---|--------|
|           | drop-off exceeds 1.0 m with a minimum of 0.5 m or less of level platform adjacent to the trail.  |   |        |
| WPE-C-006 | Add benches along trail in the meadow to provide quiet spaces for people in compliance with AODA connected with an accessible path of travel |  | ELP    |
| WPE-C-007 | Update and modify signage at Park entrance to allow for upcoming or current events to be posted  |  | Medium |
|           |  |   |        |








## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East right of way starting from the north Harrison Park entrance south to the top of the Cemetery Hill (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  |    | Short term<br>ELP |
| WWE-OM-002 | Remove high-priority ash trees adjacent to trail and roadway   |   | Short term        |
| WWE-OM-003 | Enhance vegetation and trees by planting on slopes in areas with less cover  |    | ELP               |
| WWE-OM-004 | Consider signage to restrict public access in areas that may be dangerous or have a significant negative impact on natural environment |    | Short term        |



|            |  |   |        |
|------------|--|---|--------|
| WWE-OM-005 | Remove historic debris on west side of entrance road |  | Medium |
|------------|--|---|--------|



## 9.2.2 West Woodland Escarpment (WWE) Capital Recommendations

| No.       | Recommendation   | Theme   | Priority   |
|-----------|--|---|------------|
| WWE-C-001 | <p>Develop a plan for consideration by Committee and Council with alternatives to address the failed Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk.</p> <p>Consideration to a slightly modified approach that may be more affordable by potentially realigning out of sensitive riparian environment to reduce costs, extend life of the asset, and minimize environmental impact.</p> <p>Modify the capital budget for consideration by Council as required to support the completion of this high-priority project.</p> |    | Short term |
| WWE-C-002 | <p>Improve Wayfinding Signage for the Weaver’s Creek Boardwalk</p>   |  | Short term |

### 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.  |    | Short term |
| IPG-OM-002 | Fill in small holes adjacent to channel walls that have sunk and create a hazard.  |    | Short term |
| IPG-OM-003 | Maintain operating agreement for the Putt N Paddle focusing on maintenance and capital investment by operator to minimize capital and operating support from City. |    | Medium     |
| IPG-OM-004 | Given intense use, develop an SOP for an elevated level of routine   |   | Short term |

|            |  |   |             |
|------------|--|---|-------------|
|            | of inspections and maintenance of playground and replace broken or outdated parts  |   |             |
| IPG-OM-005 | Ensure engineered wood fibre in playground 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. |    | ELP         |
| IPG-OM-006 | Regular removal of weeds and litter in and under playground equipment.   |    | ELP         |
| IPG-OM-007 | Establish operating and capital support for wall maintenance and major asset replacement as required.  |    | Medium term |
| IPG-OM-008 | Undertake annual clean-out of debris in the man-made portions of the channel.  |  | ELP         |
| IPG-OM-009 | Remove park donation box and develop an on-line platform for donations to Harrison Park.   |  | Short term  |
| IPG-OM-010 | Undertake water testing in channel.  |  | Short term  |
| IPG-OM-011 | Update and add signage prohibiting swimming/wading in the man-made channel.  |  | Medium term |
| IPG-OM-012 | Investigate the use of subterranean waste receptacle(s) or other larger volume waste   |  | Short term  |

|            |   |   |             |
|------------|---|---|-------------|
|            | collection system on the Island to reduce the frequency of pick up and avoid overflowing waste receptacles.   |   |             |
| IPG-OM-013 | 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. |    | ELP         |
| IPG-OM-014 | Monitor bank stability along edge of island where rip rap has been added for stability. Address issues as they are identified.  |    | ELP         |
| IPG-OM-015 | Treat mold/moss on sides of building chemically prior to painting and on an annual basis.   |   | ELP         |
| IPG-OM-016 | Remove and replace wooden planter at Island washroom (south side).  |  | Medium term |
| IPG-OM-017 | Regrade low turf areas adjacent to trails where water ponds and creates maintenance issues.   |  | Medium term |
| IPG-OM-018 | Modify trail and improve connection between Freedom Trail and trail to Black History Cairn.   |  | Medium term |

### 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.                              |       | Short term                        |
| IPG-C-002 | At the time of replacing playground, consider upgrading the surface to the fully accessible rubberized surface.  |    | Short term                        |
| IPG-C-003 | Update Black History Plaques near the Cairn and replace as part of the City's Interpretive Plaque Refresh (DEI focus)  |       | Short term                        |
| IPG-C-004 | Replace large spinner in the Kiwanis Accessible playground.  |    | Short term<br>(subject to supply) |
| IPG-C-005 | 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. |    | Short term                        |
| IPG-C-006 | Inventory and replace utility covers.  |   | Short term                        |
| IPG-C-007 | Add bike racks on Island.  |    | Medium term                       |
| IPG-C-008 | Investigate restoring the fountain to reflect the original fountain – removing stone circle  |    | Long term                         |

|           |  |  |   |
|-----------|--|--|---|
|           | and pedestrian path that impede water flow.  |  |   |
| IPG-C-009 | Rationalize and prioritize pedestrian crossings to the island and develop a plan to identify crossings with signage and pavement markings.   |     | Medium term                             |
| IPG-C-010 | Develop a plan to re-point Black History Cairn and undertake reconstruction of base where the tiles are cracking (due to unstable base).   |     | Medium term                             |
| IPG-C-011 | 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.<br><br>Invest in regular maintenance to extend the life of the asset. |     | Short term                              |
| IPG-C-012 | Add channel wall replacement in City's 5 and 10-year capital plans.<br><br>Give priority to investment in maintenance to avoid large capital replacement requirement.  |  | Subject to results of inspection report |

## 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.                     |   | Short term |
| IRMB-OM-002 | Raise branches on the large spruce tree blocking the view of the bandstand from the parking area. |    | Short term |
| IRMB-OM-003 | Eliminate parking on the east side of the restaurant and emphasize the                            |    | Short term |


















|             |  |   |                |
|-------------|--|---|----------------|
|             | pedestrian connection through this space.  |   |                |
| IRMB-OM-004 | 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.                          |       | Medium term    |
| IRMB-OM-005 | Line painting of parking scheduled as required and coordinated with other City line painting.  |    | ELP            |
| IRMB-OM-006 | Remove all wooden benches (tipping hazard).  |    | Short term     |
| IRMB-OM-007 | Develop a standardized stone dust trail cross section and top up trail system on an annual basis and undertake regular inspection and maintenance.   |     | Medium and ELP |
| IRMB-OM-008 | 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. |   | Medium term    |
| IRMB-OM-009 | Remove cotoneaster planting from around Inn and replace with   |   | Medium term    |

|             |  |   |             |
|-------------|--|---|-------------|
|             | appropriate, low maintenance plant material in conjunction with repair of north patio.   |   |             |
| IRMB-OM-010 | Improve traffic directional signage.   |   | Medium term |
| IRMB-OM-011 | Update Hall rental costs as part of City's Fees and Charges review.<br>Review conditions of use relating to the use of the facility and implement for all rentals.       |   | Short term  |
| IRMB-OM-012 | Install full rink boards in 2024/25 (winter months only).<br>Assess install, operational impacts and engage public for further feedback with a subsequent report to CSC. |    | Short term  |



## 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.  |    | Medium term<br>(subject to partnership with Inn Operator) |
| IRMB-C-002 | 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.  |       | Short term  |
| IRMB-C-003 | 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.  |    | Short term  |
| IRMB-C-004 | 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. |     | Short term  |
| IRMB-C-005 | Undertake a scoped Traffic Impact Study to rationalize roads and   |     | Short term  |

|            |   |   |                |
|------------|---|---|----------------|
|            | ensure pedestrian safety. Optimize parking and internal road network and develop a strategy for dedicated pedestrian pathways.  |   |                |
| IRMB-C-006 | Repair the failed section of the 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. |    | Short term     |
| IRMB-C-007 | Remove and re-construct horseshoe pit area with seating ensuring proper distance and protection from roadway.   |    | Medium term    |
| IRMB-C-008 | Install bollards to protect areas not suitable for parking adjacent to roadways and sign these areas to permit enforcement.   |   | Medium and ELP |
| IRMB-C-009 | Replace or refinish heritage streetlights and replace fixtures with LED fixtures (dark sky compliant and consistent with heritage character)                                    |  | Short term     |

## 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 | Undertake high-priority tree removals in this area.  |   | Short term |
| HTMP-OM-002 | Include this area and roads/pedestrian routes in the scoped Traffic Impact Study.  |    | Short term |
| HTMP-OM-003 | 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). |    | Short term |
| HTMP-OM-004 | Review conditions of use with Forest Schools and consider impact of these rentals on park assets and natural areas.  |   | Short term |

### 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.       |    | Short term  |
| HTMP-C-002 | Pave one way in pool road as either a pedestrian route or one-way road subject to the outcome of scoped |    | Medium term |

|            |  |   |             |
|------------|--|---|-------------|
|            | Traffic Impact Study in IRMB-C-xxx.  |   |             |
| HTMP-C-003 | 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. |    | Medium term |
| HTMP-C-004 | Replace lights at tennis courts with energy efficient solution on timer.   |    | Medium term |
| HTMP-C-005 | Remove shuffleboard  |    | Medium term |
| HTMP-C-006 | Install parking bumpers at pool for safety.  |    | Short term  |
| HTMP-C-007 | Undertake line painting of parking at the pool on a regular basis.   |  | ELP         |
| HTMP-C-008 | 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.                   |  | ELP         |
| HTMP-C-009 | Regrade, repair, and reinstate turf areas proximate to the Community Hall.   |  | Short term  |
| HTMP-C-010 | Install eavestroughs on Community Hall with gutter guards and outlet downspouts to minimize erosion and ponding of water and   |  | Short term  |

|            |  |  |            |
|------------|--|--|------------|
|            | connect roof drains on Community Hall to storm sewer.  |  |            |
| HTMP-C-011 | <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> |  | Short term |





## 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.                          |   | Short term |
| C-OM-002 | Remove playground from campground and develop a plan to effectively utilize this space.      |    | Short term |
| C-OM-003 | Implement a system of wristbands for campers for swimming access that helps identify campers |   | Short term |












|          |  |   |            |
|----------|--|---|------------|
|          | and minimizes abuse of camper swimming access.   |   |            |
| C-OM-004 | Amend campground rules and regulations for check-in and check-out times to ensure each site receives maintenance and a safety inspection between uses.   |    | Short term |
| C-OM-005 | Undertake high-priority tree and stump removals each year prior to camping season.   |    | ELP        |
| C-OM-006 | Undertake regular maintenance and grading of campground roads using appropriate granular material.   |    | ELP        |
| C-OM-007 | 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.<br><br>Add signage regarding no visitor parking. |   | Short term |
| C-OM-008 | Remove outdoor storage of parks items on the south side of Parks Operations storage building visible from camping sites.   |  | Short term |
| C-OM-009 | Support ongoing naturalization of Weaver's Creek through campground.   |  | ELP        |

|          |   |   |                    |
|----------|---|---|--------------------|
| C-OM-010 | Update Campground and Cabin Rules and ensure consistent enforcement.                        |  | Short term and ELP |
| C-OM-011 | Update Campground and Cabin refund policy to optimize bookings and discourage cancellation. |  | Short term         |
| C-OM-012 | Include information on maximum electrical loads at campsites to minimize overloading.       |  | Short term         |



### 9.6.2 Campground (C) Capital (C) Recommendations

| No.     | Recommendation   | Theme   | Priority   |
|---------|--|---|------------|
| C-C-001 | Develop a business case to repurpose the heritage laundry building to an overnight accessible cabin including a washroom (building has an existing sanitary connection). |  | Short term |

|         |  |  |             |
|---------|--|--|-------------|
| C-C-002 | Explore opportunity to relocate sewage pump out.   |    | Medium term |
| C-C-003 | Develop a plan to increase the safety and security of the Parks Operations Shop and Yard.  |    | Long term   |
| C-C-004 | Improve drainage by regrading camp sites that are wet or have ponding water.   |   | Short term  |
| C-C-005 | <p>Explore other uses for the Senior’s building through Community Services Committee including uses such as the campground registration.</p> <p>This would include a business case and report through Committee.</p>   |   | Medium term |
| C-C-006 | <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> |    | Medium term |
| C-C-007 | Update Interpretive plaques in campground and replace as part of the City’s Interpretive Plaque Refresh (DEI focus).   |    | Short term  |

## 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. |    | ELP        |
| BWO-OM-002 | Install urinals in Parks staff washrooms (1).                                   |   | Short term |

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| BWO-OM-003 | In winter months, include parks staff washroom in city cleaning contract a minimum of 1 time per week. |   | Short term |
| BWO-OM-004 | Minimize/eliminate outdoor storage in public-facing spaces around the shop                             |    | ELP        |
| BWO-OM-005 | Improve connectivity to the Parks staff office.  |    | Short term |



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

| No.       | Recommendation   | Theme   | Priority   |
|-----------|--|---|------------|
| BWO-C-001 | <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</p> |  | Short term |

|           |  |   |             |
|-----------|--|---|-------------|
|           | implementation of this recommendation.   |   |             |
| BWO-C-002 | 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-003 | Explore partnerships with organizations to support naturalizing the bird and waterfowl area.   |       | Medium term |
| BWO-C-004 | Repurpose existing bird barn to provide indoor storage for parks equipment.  |    | Short term  |
| BWO-C-005 | Explore alternatives to expand park storage for equipment.   |   | Short term  |
| BWO-C-006 | Demolish hazardous bird building that has not been used for several years.   |    | Short term  |



## 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 | Develop a trail inspection program and undertake regular maintenance of issues caused by storm water drainage.                            |   | ELP               |
| MD-OM-002 | Develop a regular maintenance program for the stormwater ditches in this area to minimize washouts.                                       |   | ELP               |
| MD-OM-003 | Place obstacles where pedestrians and cyclists are removing rip rap disrupting drainage and stabilization efforts to access natural area. |   | Short term<br>ELP |

|                  |   |   |                    |
|------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| <p>MD-OM-004</p> | <p>Maintain the edge of the paved trail with a minimum of 0.3 m of level space adjacent to trail.</p>   |  | <p>Medium term</p> |
| <p>MD-OM-005</p> | <p>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.</p> |  | <p>ELP</p>         |



## 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 . (Natural Public Art) |    | Long term   |
| MD-C-002 | Improve wayfinding and signage and coordination with linkages to the GSCA and Bruce Trail trails adjacent to this area.                     |   | Medium term |
| MD-C-003 | Add Commemorative Benches along trail.  |    | ELP         |
| MD-C-004 | Modify existing benches to improve accessibility from trail extending the hard surface.   |   | Short term  |

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 .   |       | ELP        |
| TCFFT-OM-002 | Address washouts on trail and install drainage where washouts occur.  |       | ELP        |
| TCFFT-OM-003 | Develop a regular trail inspection program.   |       | Short term |
| TCFFT-OM-004 | Monitor and address invasives and noxious weeds in this area, spraying as required with public signage.   |       | ELP        |
| TCFFT-OM-005 | Expand tree inventory of areas proximate (within 20 m) to public use areas and trails.  |    | ELP        |
| TCFFT-OM-006 | Undertake high priority tree and stump removals   |   | Short term |
| TCFFT-OM-007 | Include Boley arbour space that can be rented with an appropriate fee for events such as weddings etc.  |    | Short term |
| TCFFT-OM-008 | Install signage at 4 <sup>th</sup> Street East entrance and install "P" gates to indicate no winter maintenance of trail or winter vehicle access . |    | Short term |

|              |   |   |            |
|--------------|---|---|------------|
| TCFFT-OM-009 | Develop a regular maintenance plan for grading of gravel parking lot. |    | ELP        |
| TCFFT-OM-010 | Remove debris adjacent to the Toboggan hill parking lot.              |   | Short term |



## 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.   |    | ELP         |
| TCFFT-C-002 | Consider a capital plan to place fitness stations (supported by infrastructure) along the Fitness trail.<br><br>As an option, the stations can be signs with suggested activities that don't require equipment. |   | Long term   |
| TCFFT-C-003 | Install additional guard rails along Fitness Trail in areas proximate to steep slopes.  |   | Short term  |
| TCFFT-C-004 | Improve wayfinding signage.   |   | Medium term |
| TCFFT-C-005 | Improve trail connection and signage to Parkview Park and Bruce Trail.  |    | Medium      |
| TCFFT-C-006 | Install trailhead signage and incorporate with small craft launch signage if possible.  |    | Long term   |
| TCFFT-C-007 | Install stabilizing type mat (Ecoraster) at small craft launch to prevent erosion and improve launch.   |    | Long term   |
| TCFFT-C-008 | Complete side trail connection to Boley harbour.  |   | Short term  |




|             |  |   |            |
|-------------|--|---|------------|
| TCFFT-C-009 | Address trail washouts by installing drainage culverts to address low areas and washout-prone areas  |   | ELP        |
| TCFFT-C-010 | <p>Modify Fitness trail surface to a hard-packed granular surface to improve accessibility.</p> <p>Subject to funding, investigate the opportunity to pave a portion of the trail width leaving a section for winter activities such as snowshoe or ski.</p> |   |            |
| TCFFT-C-011 | Install gates to restrict winter access at north end.  |   | Short term |
| TCFFT-C-012 | Replace bollards in parking area.  |    | Short term |
|             |  |   |            |





















## 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-001 | 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. |    | Long term<br>(unless done by others) |
| G-002 | Update the Parks Bylaw.<br><br>Ensure the Bylaw update includes a review of Emergency Fire Routes and implement necessary signage for enforcement.  |   | Short term                           |

|       |  |   |                    |
|-------|--|---|--------------------|
|       | Reduce vehicular use of non-vehicular areas throughout the park.   |   |                    |
| G-003 | Install signage that allows donations to be done in the park for park infrastructure.  |    | Short term         |
| G-004 | Undertake bridge assessment together with City's bi-annual bridge inspection with other city bridges and structures.<br><br>Ensure any structures not included are added to the inventory. |       | ELP                |
| G-005 | 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.                    |    | ELP                |
| G-006 | In the annual budget, consider allocating the 50% portion of MAT revenue collected from Harrison Park campground to park projects.   |    | Short term         |
| G-007 | Develop and implement a best management forestry program aimed at proactive pruning and removals.  |   | Long term          |
| G-008 | Complete the tree inventory in high priority public spaces (within 20 m) and undertake high priority ash and other removals.   |   | Short term and ELP |

|       |  |   |               |
|-------|--|---|---------------|
| G-009 | Develop a classification system and service level for the playgrounds within Harrison Park.  |    | Short term    |
| G-010 | Reinstall pedestrian and automobile counters in tamper-proof boxes to provide reliable data to support decision making   |       | Short term    |
| G-011 | Undertake a building condition assessment for all 19 buildings located in Harrison Park.   |       | Short term    |
| G-012 | Working with City Events and Activation Facilitator and Facility booking, expand 'events and activation' in Harrison Park.<br><br>Market and promote the park as a suitable location |   | ELP           |
| G-013 | Reposition benches and modify concrete base design to include mobility device seating in accordance with Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation.                               |    | Short and ELP |
| G-014 | Repoint, repair heritage garden walls and entrance walls and pillars.  |   | Medium term   |
| G-015 | Undertake bridge inspections as required together with City bridges/structures Engineering assessment and develop a plan to implement recommended maintenance and capital            |    | Short term    |

|       |  |   |                                 |
|-------|--|---|---------------------------------|
|       | <p>from these inspections to extend the life of the asset.</p> <p>Rationalize the number of bridges looking at safety and pedestrian routes.</p>   |   |                                 |
| G-016 | <p>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.</p>  |   | Medium term                     |
| G-017 | <p>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”.</p> |    | Part of Service Review Project. |
| G-018 | <p>Develop a naming system of parks buildings, structures, and assets as part of the asset management inventory to standardize naming.</p>   |  | Short term                      |
| G-019 | <p>Develop a standard for park bench installation in accordance with Integrated Accessibility Standard.</p>  |  | Short term                      |
| G-020 | <p>Adopt the Harrison Park brand used for the Master Plan and utilize it for park branding.</p>  |  | ELP                             |
| G-021 | <p>Develop a Wayfinding strategy within the Park</p>   |  | Long term                       |

|       |  |   |           |
|-------|--|---|-----------|
|       | utilizing RT07 standard and include signage in the 5-year capital plan.  |   |           |
| G-022 | Strengthen connection to Bruce Trail and GSCA trails within Harrison Park.   |  | Long term |
| G-023 | Paint centre line on the asphalt trail and ensure line painting is part of the annual maintenance program for Harrison Park. |  | ELP       |
| G-024 | Continue to explore opportunities for revenue generation to support Parks.   |  | ELP       |

