

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members
Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and
Community Wide Services

Subject: Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2026 Update

Date: September 8, 2026

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services the following actions be taken with respect to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2026 Update:

- a) The new recommendations attached as Appendix 'A', and the updated asset inventory and provision targets, attached as Appendix 'B' **BE APPROVED**;
- b) The Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with integrating Appendix A and B into the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan document along with updates to population projections, background information, and housekeeping of existing recommendations; and,
- c) The Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with the continued implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, it being noted that implementation will be subject to funding approval through future Development Charges Background Studies and Multi-Year Budget Processes.

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan - 2026 Update provides a refresh of the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan and ensures London's parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces continue to meet the needs of a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population, projected to reach approximately 593,500 residents by 2042. Initiated in 2025, the update aligns with, and will contribute to, future Development Charges Background Studies and Multi-Year Budget processes.

The updated recommendations and provision targets, attached as Appendix A and B respectively, modernize parkland policies, establish new provision targets for emerging recreational amenities, and identify strategies to improve equity, accessibility, sustainability, and climate resilience across the parks and recreation system. The update also provides a long-term framework to guide future capital investment, partnership opportunities, and growth-related funding decisions through 2042.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is aligned with the following Strategic Areas of Focus and outcomes in the City of London's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan:

- Reconciliation, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion – The City of London is a leader in becoming an equitable and inclusive community.
- Wellbeing and Safety – London has safe, vibrant, and healthy neighbourhoods and communities.
- Climate Action and Sustainable Growth – London's infrastructure and systems are built, maintained, and operated to meet the long-term needs of the community.

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update – 2026 Update – Preliminary Findings](#) (CPSC: April 13, 2026)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Annual Report](#) (CPSC: February 17, 2026)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update](#) (CPSC: November 11, 2024)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Annual Report](#) (CPSC: March 18, 2024)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Annual Report](#) (CPSC: January 31, 2023)
- [City of London Corporate Growth Projections 2021-2051](#) (SPPC: December 6, 2022)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Annual Report](#) (CPSC: March 29, 2022)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update](#) (CPSC: June 17, 2019)

1.2 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Background

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides an overall vision, direction, and guidance for prioritizing investment and making decisions about parks, recreation programs, sport services, and facilities. It is informed by public input and is aligned to strategies and best practices, trends, demographic shifts, and growth forecasts. The Master Plan typically has a timeframe of ten (10) years, although it is informed by a longer-term outlook for major capital projects.

A Master Plan helps to identify broad needs and strategies based on best practices, public input, and local demand factors. Evidence-based decisions are crucial to making the best use of public funds and the Plan seeks to identify the most pressing objectives and opportunities for achieving them in a financially sustainable manner. In doing so, the Plan prepares the City in its search for external funding, partnerships, and alignment with related initiatives.

The purpose of this report is to outline the steps taken to develop new recommendations related to parkland needs and associated amenities, and the impact of approved population projections on future facility and amenity needs. This report also outlines the next steps in incorporating updates into the final Parks and Recreation Master Plan document.

1.3 Update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The current, 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, recommends the following:

Recommendation #119. Reassess the direction, priorities, and accomplishments of the Master Plan at approximately five-year intervals to inform growth related planning and funding strategies and/or Multi-Year Budget.

This is an important step to align the update to future Multi-Year Budget processes and Development Charges Background Studies.

As reported to Council in November 2024, the update intended to review the following:

- i. projected city-wide population growth and the geographic distribution of future users of park and recreation services;
- ii. a forecast of parkland needs;
- iii. park types, definitions and servicing areas;
- iv. equity and inclusion strategies and opportunities;
- v. strategies and standards to provide mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change;
- vi. municipal park infrastructure provision best practices (demographics, trends, types of amenities, etc.);
- vii. quality and quantity standards for parkland and park amenities;
- viii. quality and quantity standards for pathways, park system linkages and open space lands;
- ix. the confirmation of provision targets and service standards for pickleball, cricket, community gardens, dog parks, community gathering spaces, public washrooms, and the provision of potable water;

- x. infrastructure requirements for parks located near intensified growth areas;
- xi. opportunities for service provision partnerships, including school boards and businesses;
- xii. identification of policies, strategies and action plans to guide Master Plan implementation; and,
- xiii. 15-year forecast for park infrastructure needs to inform updates to the capital budget and growth needs for the 2028 Development Charges Background Study.

It being noted that operational service delivery standards and detailed lifecycle renewal needs are outside of the scope of a Master Plan.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Development of the Update

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd. was retained as the lead consultant along with O2 Planning and Design Inc. and Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. to complete the update.

Since May 2025, the consultant team has been working with staff to prepare materials that can be used to update the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and inform the future Development Charges Background Studies and Multi-Year Budget processes. Three phases of work were completed that are described in the following sections:

- Planning Context and Background;
- Public Engagement;
- Development/confirmation of Needs and Strategies; and
- Parks and Recreation component for the 2028 Development Charges Background Study

Together, these phases informed the development of the new recommendations and provision targets and will inform the overall update of the Master Plan document.

2.2 Planning Context and Background

Background research was undertaken by the consultants and included:

- Review of progress since the last update in 2019;
- Policy context and alignment;
- Funding review;
- Community profile and growth outlook;
- Inventories of London's parks and recreation system;
- Trends review; and,
- Confirmation of benefits, vision, and goals.

The current vision in the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is aligned with the Framework for Recreation and Parks in Canada and remains relevant and responsive to the current context. It was developed in consultation with the community through previous update processes.

Vision

In London, all residents – regardless of age, ability, culture, gender, income, or where they live – have the opportunity to participate and share in meaningful and accessible parks, recreation, and sport experiences.

The five goals in the 2019 Plan also remain relevant and will continue to form the basis of the organization of the final Master Plan document:

1. Active Living
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Connecting People and Nature
4. Supportive Environments
5. Recreation Capacity

2.3 Public Engagement – What We Heard

Through 2025 and 2026, the City promoted the update through a “Let’s Talk Parks” campaign that engaged:

- 2,400 Londoners that completed surveys,
- 314,000 impressions and 8,400 engagements on social media, and
- more than 8,000 webpage and video views.

Input was provided at open houses, pop-ups, surveys, direct outreach, and meetings where they discussed the future of London’s parks and open spaces. The project team also engaged the Community Advisory Committees about the update.

A summary of the feedback was presented to the Community and Protective Service Committee (CPSC) on April 13, 2026. The report, presentation, and summary of findings can be found at: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/talk-parks>. Key themes heard throughout the initial 2025 campaign included:

- Strong support for parks, pathways, and natural areas;
- Desire for additional community gathering and event spaces;
- Support for expanded pickleball courts, cricket facilities, community gardens, and dog off-leash parks and areas;
- Continued investment in accessibility, inclusion, and equity;
- Improved provision of washrooms, drinking fountains, seating, shade, and comfort amenities;
- Interest in year-round park use and winter accessibility;
- Greater emphasis on climate resilience and environmental sustainability; and,
- Interest in partnerships with schools, conservation authorities, and community organizations.

In spring 2026, staff launched a second “Let’s Talk Parks” campaign introducing the preliminary findings. As well as outreach to all residents, there was targeted outreach to the Indigenous community, school-aged children and youth, and the Advisory Committees. This additional engagement contributed to the refinement and strengthening of the emerging directions and helped identify any gaps or considerations that may have been missed. Feedback confirmed satisfaction with the overall findings and was in line with results from the first campaign.

2.4 Development/Confirmation of Needs and Strategies

The third step in the development of the update built on the research and community input and focussed on:

- Modernizing parkland policies and standards by updating how the City classifies and manages different types of parks as well as how to maximize parkland acquisition to keep pace with growth;
- Designing inclusive, sustainable, and adaptable parks by updating how parks are designed to support all Londoners, to align with current environmental and climate goals, and to prioritize equity and access for underserved communities; and,
- Confirming and establishing parks and recreation facility priorities to keep pace with London’s rapid population growth and the evolving demand for emerging facility and amenity types, as well as expanding parks and facility capacity across the city.

2.5 Parks and Recreation Component of Development Charges Background Study

Considerable work was undertaken by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. along with Civic Administration, to develop the 15-year historical service level justification, growth-related capital program, and allocation methodologies to support the City’s Parks and Recreation component of the 2028 Development Charges Background Study and 2028-2031 Multi-Year Budget. This work included:

- **Historical Service Levels Assessment** – This assessment identified infrastructure eligible for development charge recovery and documented the historical inventory of such infrastructure, both in terms of quantity and quality, with quality measured based on replacement value, for the period from 2013 to 2027. It also calculated the average historical level of service on a per-capita basis over the same period. The resulting analysis establishes the statutory service-level ceiling used to determine the extent to which additional infrastructure and service requirements arising from growth may be funded through development charges.
- **Development of Growth-Related Capital Program** – This analysis identified the capital projects and associated costs required to accommodate the Council-approved growth projections, together with the anticipated timing of the related capital expenditures. The resulting capital program provides the basis for determining the growth-related infrastructure requirements and associated costs considered for recovery through development charges.
- **Allocation of Growth-Related Capital Costs** – For each project included in the growth-related capital program, the analysis identified and allocated the share of capital costs attributable to growth within the 2028-2042 planning horizon as well as the share associated with growth occurring beyond the 2042 planning horizon. The allocation methodologies, assumptions, and supporting rationale applied in determining these shares were documented to ensure that only the portion of capital costs attributable to growth within the development charges forecast period is considered for recovery.
- **External Information-Sharing** – Prepared supporting materials to facilitate meaningful information-sharing with key development industry and community partners and assisted Civic Administration in addressing technical inquiries.

3.0 Parks and Recreation Master Plan – 2026 Update Results

Following the three phases of work, new recommendations (Appendix A) and updated Facility Inventories, Provision Targets, and Needs (Appendix B) were developed. These recommendations and provision targets, along with relevant sections and existing recommendations of the 2019 Plan, will ensure the City is set up to respond to a future population of 593,500 residents by 2042.

Notable directions coming out of this update include:

- In response to demonstrated demand, new provision targets have been established for emerging recreational activities: pickleball, cricket, disc golf, adult exercise stations, community gardens, and dog off-leash areas;
- New community gathering and event space provision targets as well as improved access to parks washrooms and potable water;
- Updated parkland classification hierarchy and targets, as well as strategies for supplying parks and recreation spaces in a growing City;
- Separating park amenity needs from parkland costs to better track development charge funding and provide flexibility to deliver amenities through new facilities, park upgrades, or public/private partnerships;
- Capturing equipment necessary to support maintenance of Development Charge projects;
- Considerations for supporting climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and the Natural Heritage System; and,
- Confirmed support for existing recommendations in the 2019 Plan such as: need for more shade within parks, consideration of accessibility (AODA) through design processes, support for inclusion and access in all program planning and delivery, strengthened data informed decision making, public engagement including intentional youth and Indigenous consultation, and environmental health and stewardship.

4.0 Next Steps

Upon City Council approval of Appendix A and Appendix B, the new recommendations and provision targets respectively, Civic Administration will integrate these into the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan document. Updates to the final Plan will also include:

- Updated Sections 1, 2 and 3 – description of the current update process including community consultation, updating the socio-demographic profile and growth outlook, trends, and linkages to current strategic plans and strategies.
- Updated Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 – integration of new recommendations, removal of completed recommendations, and minor edits to language to reflect current planning context.

A final updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be presented as part of the annual update to Council in early 2027. The final Master Plan will also be made available online at that time.

5.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

Delivering high-quality parks and recreation system requires strong financial stewardship and diversified funding strategies. In many cases, the action items identified in the Master Plan can be accomplished within existing approved operating and capital budgets. In other cases, additional resources may be required that will inform future growth-related parks and recreation infrastructure investments contained in Development Charges Background Studies, operational service delivery reviews, and Multi-Year Budget processes. Implementation timelines and funding requirements will be evaluated through these future budget processes.

Conclusion

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan - 2026 Update responds to London's rapid growth and evolving community needs while reaffirming the important role parks and recreation play in supporting healthy, connected, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

The recommendations contained in the update are informed by technical analysis, industry best practices, extensive public engagement, and Council direction. They provide a roadmap for future investment, policy development, and service delivery through 2042 while helping ensure London's parks and recreation system continues to meet the needs of current and future residents.

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Appendix A: New/Updated Recommendations

New/Updated Recommendations to be Integrated into Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Park Classification Structure

1. **Park Classifications:** Consider the following revisions to the Park Classification System:
 - a. Consolidate smaller urban park classifications (Urban Parks, Civic Spaces, and Facility Parks) into a unified Urban Space park classification.
 - b. Formally introduce 'Regional Parks' as a park classification, alongside Neighbourhood Parks, District Parks, Sports Parks, City-wide Parks, and Urban Spaces.
 - c. Revise the existing 'Woodlands' classification to 'Natural Open Space' and the existing 'Open Space' classification to 'Linear Open Space' to better reflect their intended functions. Add an 'Other Open Space' classification for publicly accessible lands supporting special purpose functions.
 - d. Reassess park classifications every five years to confirm they meet intended roles.
2. **Inventory:** Update and align the parks and recreation inventory across all business units (e.g., GIS, asset management, etc.) to streamline future reviews and improve accuracy. Translate the parks classification system into the City's inventory database and related materials (e.g., Design and Specifications Requirements Manual).
3. **Maintenance Strategy:** Further refine levels of maintenance to align with the updated park classifications, with consideration for required budgets and demonstrated use and demand data.
4. **Park Amenities:** Define core park amenities (e.g., barrier-free trails, seating, shade, washrooms, parking) and their appropriate locations within each park classification. Where appropriate, support picnic areas, event space, and compatible commercial uses.

Parkland Needs

5. **Parkland Provision:** Seek to maintain a new city-wide target of 1.8 hectares of parkland per 1,000 people. Update the parkland dedication assumptions annually to recalibrate the anticipated amount of land to be acquired through the development process.
6. **Parkland Distribution:** Apply an 800-metre catchment to any park, supporting a 10-minute walk for approximately 94% of the population and continue to prioritize parkland in areas with gaps in walkable park access and concentrations of equity-denied communities.
7. **Land Eligible for Parks:** Use Sections 42 and 51.1 of the Planning Act for the dedication of lands to be used only for Regional Parks, City-wide Parks, Sports Parks, District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Urban Spaces. Consider the acquisition of Open Spaces, including woodlots, through other provisions and policies.
8. **Alternative Dedication Rate:** Update the parkland dedication by-law to include the alternative parkland rates for residential development to support maximization of parkland conveyance.
9. **Open Space Planning and Acquisition:** Integrate open spaces into secondary planning, land acquisition strategies, and long-term capital plans, proactively identifying and securing parcels for connectivity and protection. This includes prioritizing land along rivers, creeks, natural heritage network gaps, and riverfront areas, as well as engaging landholders to expand public access and strengthen the open space network.

Equity and Inclusion

10. **Inclusive Cultural Representation:** Support inclusive naming, public art, signage, and heritage interpretation that recognize and celebrate the diverse communities, identities, histories, and cultural landscapes that have shaped London.
11. **Safety for Women, Girls, Gender-diverse, and Trans People:** Design, plan, and manage parks and open spaces to prioritize the safety and inclusion of women, girls, gender-diverse, and trans individuals, informed by trauma and violence-informed approaches. Collaborate with community-based organizations, leaders, survivors, and Indigenous partners to identify risks and implement preventative measures.
12. **Youth Consultation:** Regularly engage youth to inform park design, amenities, and capital investment decisions, reflecting youth-specific needs for social interaction, independence, and age-appropriate challenge.

Indigenous Relationship Building

13. **Park System Collaboration:** Continue to engage with Indigenous communities and organizations on long-range park system planning in alignment with the 2025–2035 ReconciliAction Plan.

Natural Heritage

14. **Natural Features:** Existing natural heritage features may be present within any park classification. Identify, manage, and steward natural heritage features through feature delineation and management zones that distinguish areas intended for active park uses from areas intended for long-term conservation. New natural heritage features may be established in appropriate locations with community support.
15. **Amenities in Natural Heritage Features:** Passive recreational uses including pathways and trails may be provided through Natural Heritage features so long as they are designed, constructed and managed to protect the natural features and their functions.
16. **Natural Heritage Maintenance:** Manage and steward naturalization areas and natural heritage features in a manner that protects and enhances their ecological functions and long-term resilience.
17. **Ecological Connectivity:** Treat parks and open spaces as part of a connected ecological network by leveraging parks to connect gaps within floodplains and between natural heritage areas. Further enhance ecological connectivity by integrating woodlands and other natural features within parks and open spaces, when appropriate based on community amenity needs, park space and local access to nature.

Pathways and the Thames Valley Parkway

18. **Connectivity:** Address gaps in the Thames Valley Parkway through expanding the parkway in priority areas such as the Main and South branch gaps.
19. **Pathway Hierarchy:** Continue to develop and refine a three-tiered pathway system centred along the Thames Valley Parkway System which acts as the main pathway connecting to secondary circuits and tertiary pathways.
20. **Active Transportation Integration:** Integrate parks and trail systems with the city's active transportation network by aligning trail and transportation plans to connect on-road and off-road infrastructure. Continue to provide underpasses, overpasses, and on-road trail connections to safely cross major barriers and connect to schools and community destinations.
21. **Capital Planning:** Apply a data-driven approach to identify capacity pressures and prioritize improvements (e.g., pathway widening, mode separation, safety and user experience upgrades).

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

22. **Co-Stewardship Program:** Explore opportunities to grow the Adopt-a-Park program into a co-stewardship model.
23. **Environmental Education:** Encourage environmental education through programming and volunteer initiatives.
24. **Native Planting:** Develop standardized planting specifications, including a list of preferred and prohibited species, for naturalization projects and transition to growing and planting more native species in parks.
25. **Vegetation Management Transparency:** Publish clear, accessible standards of vegetation management to improve the public's understanding of maintenance practices. This can include online information and on-site signage in advance of significantly vegetation alterations (e.g., tree removal, invasive species clearing, etc.).
26. **Naturalization Strategy:** Establish a naturalization strategy that includes clear maintenance standards and public education. Increase public awareness on the environmental benefits of naturalization, no mow zones, and pollinator-friendly areas in parks and open spaces.
27. **Naturalization Priority:** Prioritize naturalization efforts adjacent to existing natural features (and consider operational needs), promoting naturalization as a tool for buffering, wildlife habitat creation, runoff management, and nature-based recreation.

Infrastructure Requirements for Parks Serving Intensified Growth Areas

28. **Land Tools:** Explore a range of land acquisition tools (e.g., purchase, lease, swaps, partnerships, land banking) to secure parkland in areas of intensification.
29. **High Performing, Hard Working Parks:** Plan, design, and maintain parks in areas of intensification to accommodate intensive use while remaining durable, safe, and welcoming. Prioritize multi-functional design, the efficient use of space, and enhanced maintenance. Integrate flexible spaces and amenities that maximize usability across seasons.
30. **One Park Design Approach:** In areas of intensification, design nearby parks to function together as a system of diverse, complementary experiences, minimizing duplication of amenities and maximizing the range of recreation opportunities available to the surrounding community.
31. **Privately Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces:** Establish guidelines for privately owned and non-traditional public spaces to ensure they complement the municipal parks and trails system. Guidelines should address location, design, amenities and play value, accessibility, maintenance, operations and programming.

Community Gardens

32. **New Community Gardens:** Prioritize new community gardens in under-served areas with high risk or demand factors. Parks are preferred locations, but appropriate open space lands, underutilized municipal properties, or partnered sites may also be options where public parkland is at a premium.
33. **Community Garden Improvements:** Continue to optimize existing community garden sites through accessibility improvements, splitting or adding of plots, and expansion where feasible.

Dog Parks and Off-Leash Areas

34. **Off-Leash Area Network:** Develop a tiered classification model to guide off-leash area options based on size and catchment area; e.g., Tier 1 (primary) and Tier 2 (local).

35. **New Off-Leash Areas:** Continue to pursue appropriate sites for off-leash dog areas, including under-utilized and temporary lands, while considering suitable park sites where other options are limited. Encourage developers to incorporate dog-friendly amenity spaces, particularly in higher-density areas.

Cricket Fields

36. **New Cricket Pitch:** Develop a second regulation cricket pitch, ideally in South London.
37. **Cricket Practice Amenities:** Continue to expand practice cricket facilities, such as batting cages and non-regulation spaces that can accommodate modified forms (e.g., tape ball, single-direction cricket) on smaller plots of land.

Pickleball Courts

38. **New Pickleball Courts:** Continue to consider new pickleball courts in park development and redevelopment projects, with a focus on improving geographic gaps and responding to areas of growth and demonstrated demand. Prioritize dedicated courts over shared/overlay courts and locations within appropriate parks that have support amenities (shade, washrooms, nearby parking) and larger residential setbacks.
39. **Court Booking System:** Investigate the potential for establishing self-regulated or formal court booking systems to improve public access to selected court complexes (pickleball and tennis).

Community Gathering and Event Spaces

40. **Classifying Event Spaces:** Update the classification of gathering and event spaces (e.g., large/signature event spaces, neighbourhood event spaces, and local gathering spaces). Integrate these terms into the City park classifications and establish appropriate amenity options and maintenance standards for each.
41. **Local Gathering Spaces:** Through park development and redevelopment projects, increase the number of local gathering spaces to accommodate growing demand for socialization within London's parks system.
42. **Neighbourhood Event Spaces:** Identify one neighbourhood event space (permitted events) within each planning district and prioritize infrastructure improvements (e.g., electrical, water) over time. Clearly designate these spaces and communicate their locations.
43. **Additional Signature Event Site:** Identify options for the establishment of an additional special event space that can support signature (large) events.

Park Washrooms

44. **Park Washroom Strategy:** Develop prioritization criteria to prepare a Park Washroom Strategy to evaluate park washroom design, accessibility, provision, operations, year-round access, maintenance standards, priorities, public awareness, etc. with a view toward improving access for all park users.

Fieldhouses

45. **Fieldhouse Provision:** Develop criteria to inform the provision of fieldhouses by applying the basic and premium building types recommended in this Master Plan.

Potable Water in Parks

46. **Potable Water in Existing Parks:** Evaluate potential locations for potable water in parks and off-leash areas with a focus on Regional, City-Wide, Sports Parks, or District parks.
47. **Potable Water in New and Redeveloped Parks:** Continue to provide drinking fountains and bottle fill stations in any new or redeveloped park washroom and fieldhouse buildings.

Rectangular Sports Fields

- 48. **Rectangular Sports Fields:** Continue to increase the supply and capacity of fields through improvements to existing fields (lighting, irrigation, regulation fields, etc.), new park development and redevelopment projects, underutilized lands, and increasing access to non-municipally owned spaces (especially school board lands, some of which may be candidates for artificial turf).

Ball Diamonds

- 49. Continue to increase the supply and capacity of diamonds through improvements to existing fields (lighting, irrigation, regulation fields, etc.), new park development and redevelopment projects, underutilized lands, and increasing access to non-municipally owned spaces.

Tennis Courts

- 50. **New Tennis Courts:** Continue to consider new tennis courts in park development and redevelopment projects, with a focus on improving geographic gaps and responding to areas of growth and demonstrated demand.
- 51. **Tennis Court Renewal:** Continue to prioritize lifecycle renewal projects to address the demand for better quality courts. Consider building courts to a higher standard, with a minimum of two courts per site.

Basketball Courts and Multi-Use Pads

- 52. **New Basketball and Multi-Use Pads:** Continue to consider new outdoor basketball courts and multi-use pads in park development and redevelopment projects, with a focus on improving geographic gaps and responding to growth areas.

Skate and Bike Parks

- 53. **Updated All Wheels Strategy:** Prepare an update to the Outdoor Skateboard Park Implementation Strategy, which defines skate park typologies, design standards, site selection criteria, etc. Consider needs and strategies for “all wheels” infrastructure (including mountain bike parks and BMX pump tracks) through this study.
- 54. **New All Wheels Parks:** Continue to consider all wheels/skate features in appropriate park development and redevelopment projects, with a focus on improving geographic gaps, serving growth areas, and responding to community requests.

Playgrounds

- 55. **New Playgrounds:** Continue to consider new playgrounds in park development and redevelopment projects, with a focus on improving geographic gaps and responding to growth areas. District-level playgrounds (which offer a higher level of accessibility, separation of age groups, and specialty features/designs) should account for approximately 1 out of every 7 new playgrounds (totalling 5 over the projection period).

Spray Pads

- 56. **New Spray Pads:** Continue to consider new spray pads in appropriate park development and redevelopment projects. Explore opportunities to minimize water consumption and improve environmental sustainability.

Disc Golf Courses

- 57. **New Disc Golf Course:** Establish a new 9-hole disc golf course to serve future growth. Formalize location criteria.

Community Centres

- 58. **Community Centre Models:** Review and update the community centre classification system (e.g., large, mid-size, neighbourhood centres) and provision targets, with

consideration of adopting a blended area-based target (square metres per capita) for future community centres.

59. **Community Centre Partnerships:** Identify and secure land and/or partnerships well in advance of community centre construction. Shared space and co-located facility models will be encouraged, where consistent with municipal standards. More compact and vertical community centre models may be required in areas of higher density.
60. **Community Centre Renewal:** Maintain existing facilities in a state of good repair and evaluate potential for capital upgrades, expansions, or conversions that respond to evolving community needs (such as Silverwood Community Centre redevelopment, underutilized facilities, etc.).

Arenas (Ice Pads)

61. **Arena Strategy:** Prepare an Arena Strategy to confirm long-range needs and options for phasing out or expanding single pad arenas to develop multi-pad facilities with community space supporting year-round use. Continue to monitor facility usage, registration levels, and ice sport trends to inform this strategy.
62. **Arena Partnerships:** Seek opportunities to work with community partners to address future arena needs.

Indoor Pools

63. **Indoor Aquatic Centres:** Design new facilities as multi-tank aquatic complexes, including 25-metre lane pools and warmer-water leisure pools. Feasibility studies should assess specific designs, including number of lanes.

Gymnasiums

64. **New Gymnasiums:** Consider gymnasiums and multi-use activity space as core components of all new and expanded community centres. Ensure that gymnasiums are properly designed for their intended uses. Large spaces are preferred with appropriate flooring and support spaces; consideration may be given to establishing a provision target to guide investment.
65. **Use of School Gymnasiums:** Continue to work with school boards to ensure that school gymnasiums are available for City programming and community use.
66. **Gymnasium Strategy:** Develop a Gymnasium Strategy and Allocation Policy to establish parameters for the provision and use of gymnasiums and indoor sport spaces.

Older Adult Spaces

67. **Senior Satellite Model:** Undertake a review of the senior satellite model prior to establishing new locations.

Appendix B: Updated Facility Inventories, Provision Targets, and Needs

Recreation and Park Facility Supplies, Targets, and Needs (2028 to 2042)

Facility Type	Municipal Supply and Approved Projects (2026-2027)	Changes to Supply Since 2019 Plan	Provision Targets (*new in 2026)	Additional Facilities (2028 to 2042)
Indoor Recreation Facilities				
Multi-Use Recreation Centres	7 centres (2 large and 5 mid-size) StarTech.com CC, Stoney Creek CC, Carling Heights Optimist CC, East Lions CC, Lambeth CC, South London CC, Stronach CRC	No change	1 per 55,000	2
	2 centres approved (NW CC, SE CC)			
Neighbourhood Centres	16 centres Argyle Arena, Boyle Memorial CC, Byron Optimist CC, Carling Recreation Centre, Civic Gardens, Earl Nichols RC, Farquharson Arena, Hamilton Road Seniors CC, Kinsmen RC, Kiwanis Seniors CC, Medway CC, North London Optimist CC, Oakridge Arena, Silverwood Arena, South London Community Pool, Springbank Gardens CC	No change	1 per 25,000	4
	2 centres approved (North CC, Central CC)			
Arenas/Ice Pads	22 ice pads Quad: Western Fair Sports Centre (under agreement) Triple: Earl Nichols Twin: Argyle, StarTech.com, Carling, Farquharson, Kinsmen, Stronach Single: Lambeth, Medway, Oakridge	No change	1 pad per 21,000 (1 per 425 organized youth participants)	4 pads (2 twin pad facilities)
Indoor Pools	6 locations Olympic: Canada Games Aquatic Centre Competition: StarTech.com, CHOCC, East Lions CC, Stoney Creek CC Community: South London	No change	1 per 65,000	2 (within multi-use centres)
	1 approved (NW)			

Facility Type	Municipal Supply and Approved Projects (2026-2027)	Changes to Supply Since 2019 Plan	Provision Targets (*new in 2026)	Additional Facilities (2028 to 2042)
Gymnasiums	10 locations StarTech.com CC, Boyle CC, Byron Optimist CC, CHOCC, East Lions CC, Lambeth CC, NLOCC, South London CC, Stoney Creek CC, Stronach CRC	No change	1 per 30,000	up to 6 (within multi-use and neighbourhood centres)
	4 approved (NW, SE, North, Central)			
Older Adult Spaces	11 locations 2 seniors' centres – Hamilton Road and Kiwanis, 9 Senior Satellites	2 Senior Satellite locations	No additional standalone centres	Expansion of satellite model on a case-by-case basis
Outdoor Aquatics				
Outdoor Swimming Pools	10 locations	Removed Thames	No additional facilities recommended	None; some pools may be removed through attrition/ decommissioning
Wading Pools	9 locations (including 3 within pool enclosures)	No change	No additional facilities recommended	None; some pools may be removed through attrition/ decommissioning
Spray Pads	18 locations (not including Storybook Gardens)	2 added	1 per 25,000	4
Sports Fields				
Rectangular Sports Fields	145 fields (plus 2 lit football fields) (152 ULE**)	15 additional fields (ULE**)	1 per 3,000	35 ULE: • 4 artificial turf, • 10 lit, • 12 unlit
	5 full lit approved			
Ball Diamonds	69 fields (78 ULE**)	2 fewer diamonds (ULE**)	1 per 5,100	20 ULE: • 2 lit hardball, • 5 lit softball, • 6 unlit
Cricket Fields	3 fields (1 regulation, 2 practice)	2 added	1 per 100,000	1
*Fieldhouses	35 buildings	2 added	1 per 14,000**	5 basic 2 premium (to support sport field complexes)
	1 building approved			
Playgrounds				
Playgrounds	165 locations (190 play structures, plus additional free-standing swings and components)	25 locations (27 structures) added	1 within 800 m of residential areas	5 district 30 neighbourhood to serve gap and growth areas
	9 locations approved			
Adult Exercise Stations	6 locations	5 new installations	1 per 20,000 (applied to growth)	5 installations (pending site-specific review)

Facility Type	Municipal Supply and Approved Projects (2026-2027)	Changes to Supply Since 2019 Plan	Provision Targets (*new in 2026)	Additional Facilities (2028 to 2042)
Courts				
Tennis Courts	51 courts (40 dedicated, 11 shared)	8 removed or repurposed	1 per 7,000	15
Pickleball Courts	32 courts (20 dedicated, 12 shared)	26 added	1 per 6,000	17
	14 approved			
Basketball Courts (hoops)	95 hoops (32 full, 5 multi-court, 21 half courts)	12 hoops added	1 per 6,600	16 hoops: • 6 full, • 4 half
	4 half to full, 2 half (6 hoop increase) under construction			
Multi-Use Courts	15 courts	3 added	1 per 32,600	3
	1 location approved			
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	15 courts	11 added	No additional facilities recommended	None
Skate and Bike Parks				
Skate Parks	13 locations	No change	1 per 30,000	3 (District), plus neighbourhood parks
BMX/Mountain Bike Parks	None	No change	1 to serve entire City	1
Other Outdoor Sites and Amenities				
Community Gardens	559 plots at 21 locations	5 gardens with 122 plots added	1 plot 875 population	5
	1 location under construction			
Dog Parks and Off-Leash Areas	5	No change	1 per 70,000	2: • 1 Tier 1 primary • 1 Tier 2 local
Disc Golf Courses	2 locations (36 holes), plus practice locations	1 location added	1 hole per 11,700	9 holes (1 course)
Golf Courses	2 locations (72 holes)	Closed River Road (18 holes)	No additional facilities recommended	None
Outdoor Ice Rinks	2 refrigerated plus park sites (neighbourhood led)	No change	No additional facilities recommended	None
Community Gathering and Event Spaces	3 large special event spaces (Victoria Park, Harris Park, Springbank Gardens)	No change	1 large site per 163,000	1 large event space 6 neighbourhood event spaces
	Multiple neighbourhood event spaces		1 neighbourhood per 16,000*	

Facility Type	Municipal Supply and Approved Projects (2026-2027)	Changes to Supply Since 2019 Plan	Provision Targets (*new in 2026)	Additional Facilities (2028 to 2042)
Park Washrooms	43 buildings (including fieldhouses)	2 (in fieldhouses)	1 per 11,400	9 (7 may be included in proposed fieldhouses)
	1 location approved (in fieldhouse)			
Parks with Potable Water	20 parks with drinking fountains	2 (in fieldhouses)	Site-specific analysis required	To be determined

* New Provision Targets established in 2026.

**Unlit equivalents: Each lit rectangular field is equivalent to 1.5 unlit fields; each lit artificial turf field is equivalent to 2.0 unlit fields. Each lit ball diamond is equivalent to 2.0 unlit diamonds.