Winnipeg Recreation & Parks Strategies





Workshop agenda

Welcome and introductions

Overview of the Recreation & Parks Strategies

Questions

Instructions for small group discussions

Small group discussion

Topic 1: How can the City better support you and your household in being active and healthy through recreation and parks?

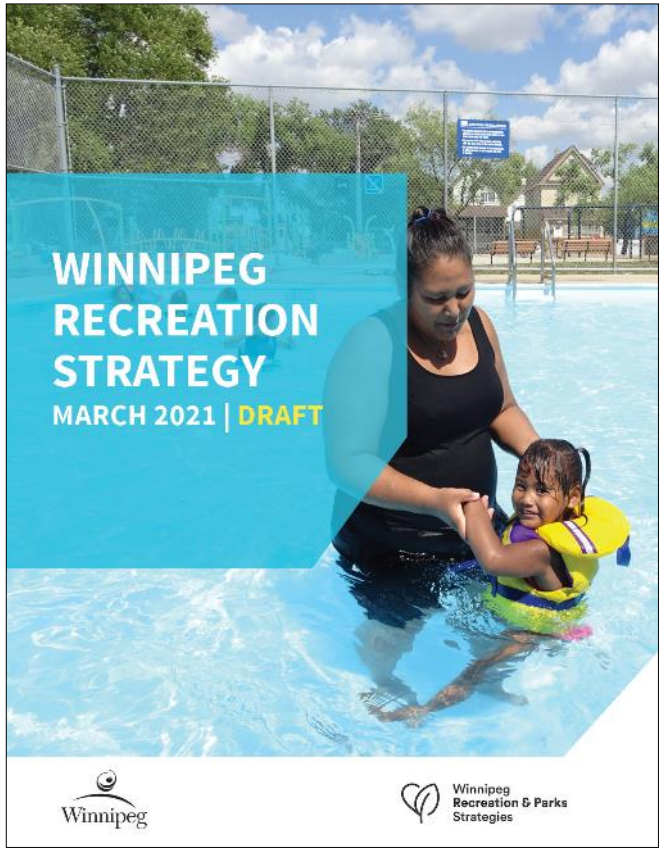
Topic 2: How do we balance preservation with the public use of our natural features?

Topic 3: How would investing in regional parks and recreation complexes change your use?

Wrap-up

Development of the Recreation & Parks Strategies







Why the strategies are important

Need for a strategic approach to service delivery which:

- Enables transformation of services and assets to meet current and future needs
- Responds to unprecedented growth
- Supports a changing city
- Fosters reconciliation
- Encourages collaboration and coordination
- Improves health and social equity
- Builds resilience



Photo Credit: Gerry Kopelow | Stantec Architecture + Engineering

Background & context

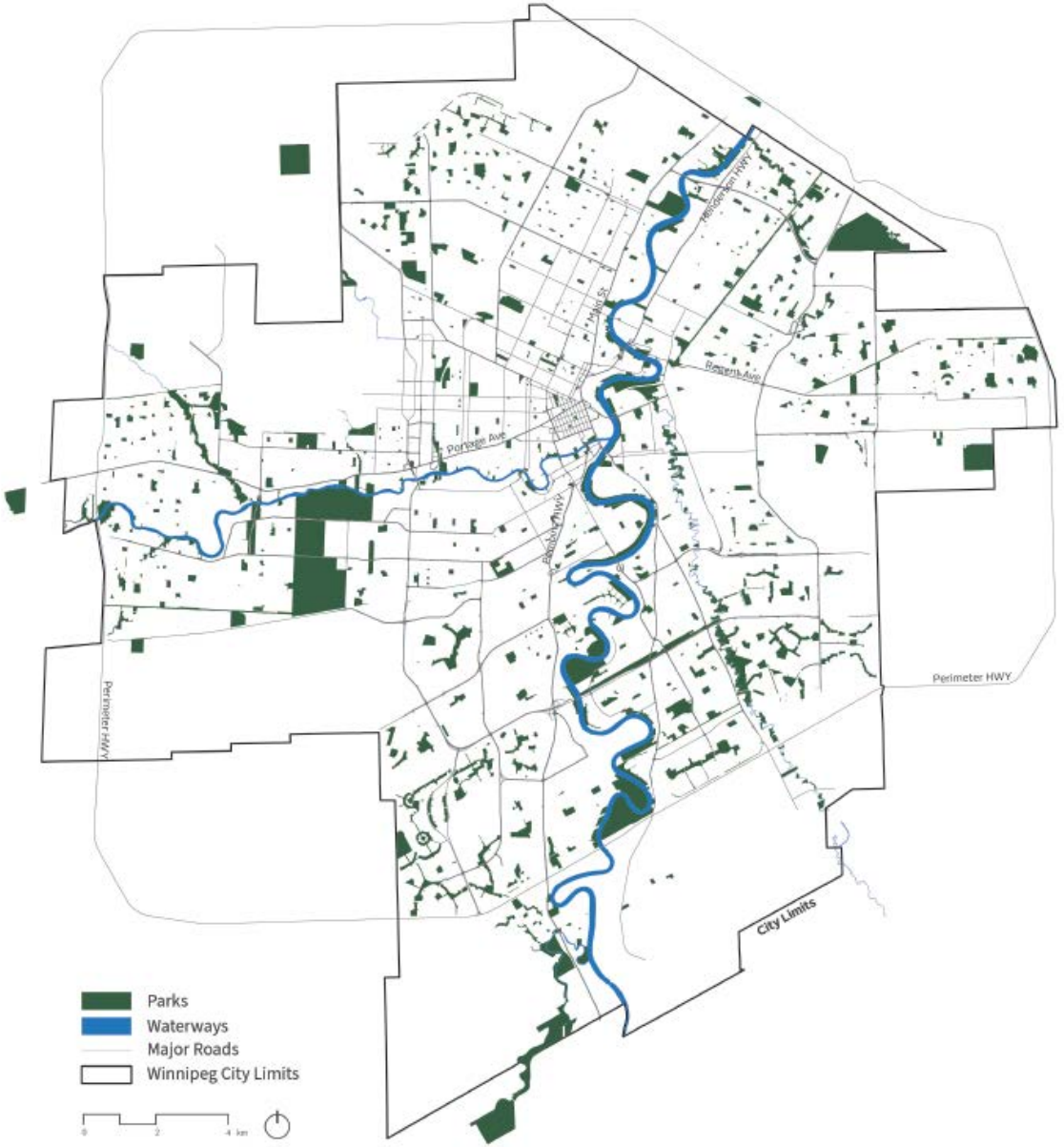
City of Winnipeg parks

Winnipeg has over 1,200 parks covering an area greater than 3,500 hectares

Park Classification	Count	Total Hectares*
City	1	163
Regional & regional sport	11	607
Community	216	1,102
Neighbourhood	454	363
Nature	43	462
Linkage	246	631

**plus* buffers and fragments

1 hectare ~ size of football field





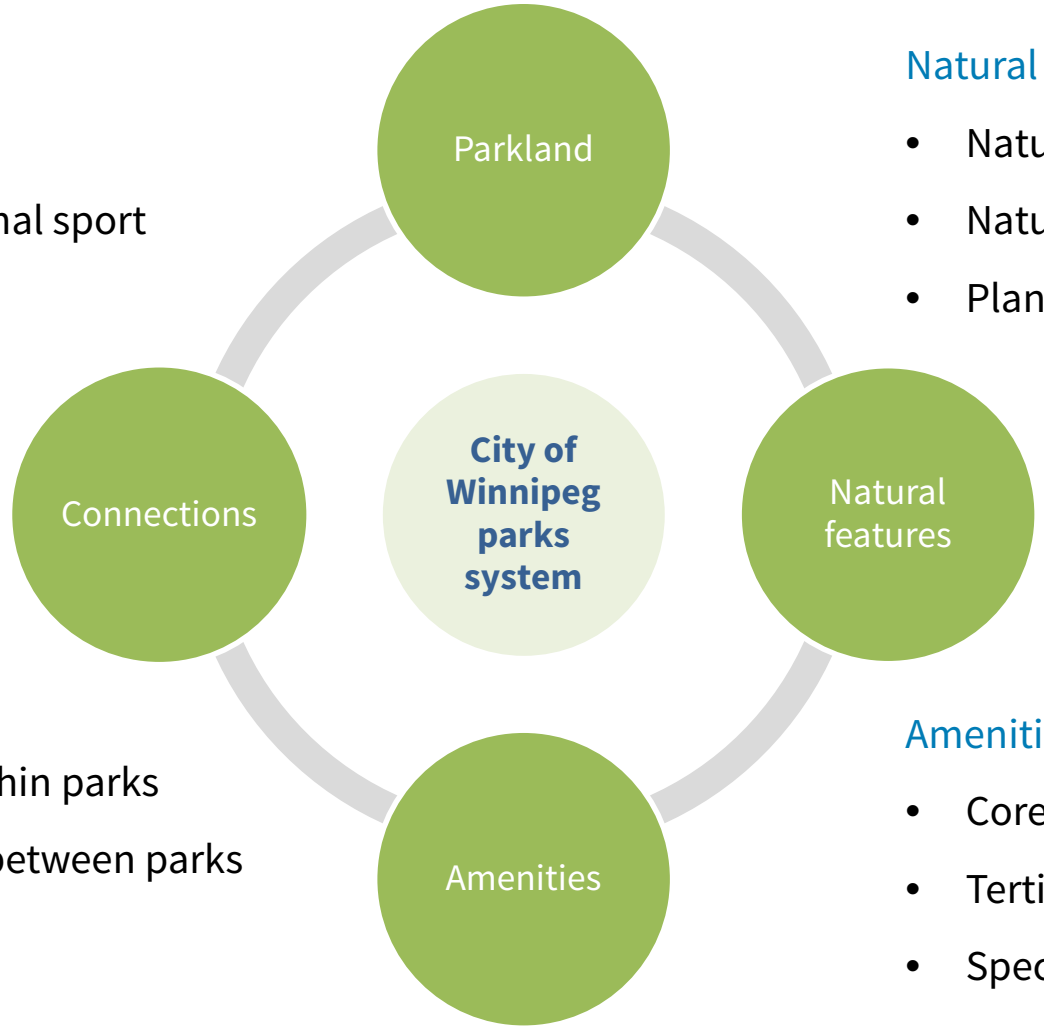
Parks system components

Parkland:

- City
- Regional & regional sport
- Community
- Neighbourhood
- Nature
- Linkage

Connections:

- Paths & trails within parks
- Multi-use paths between parks



Natural features:

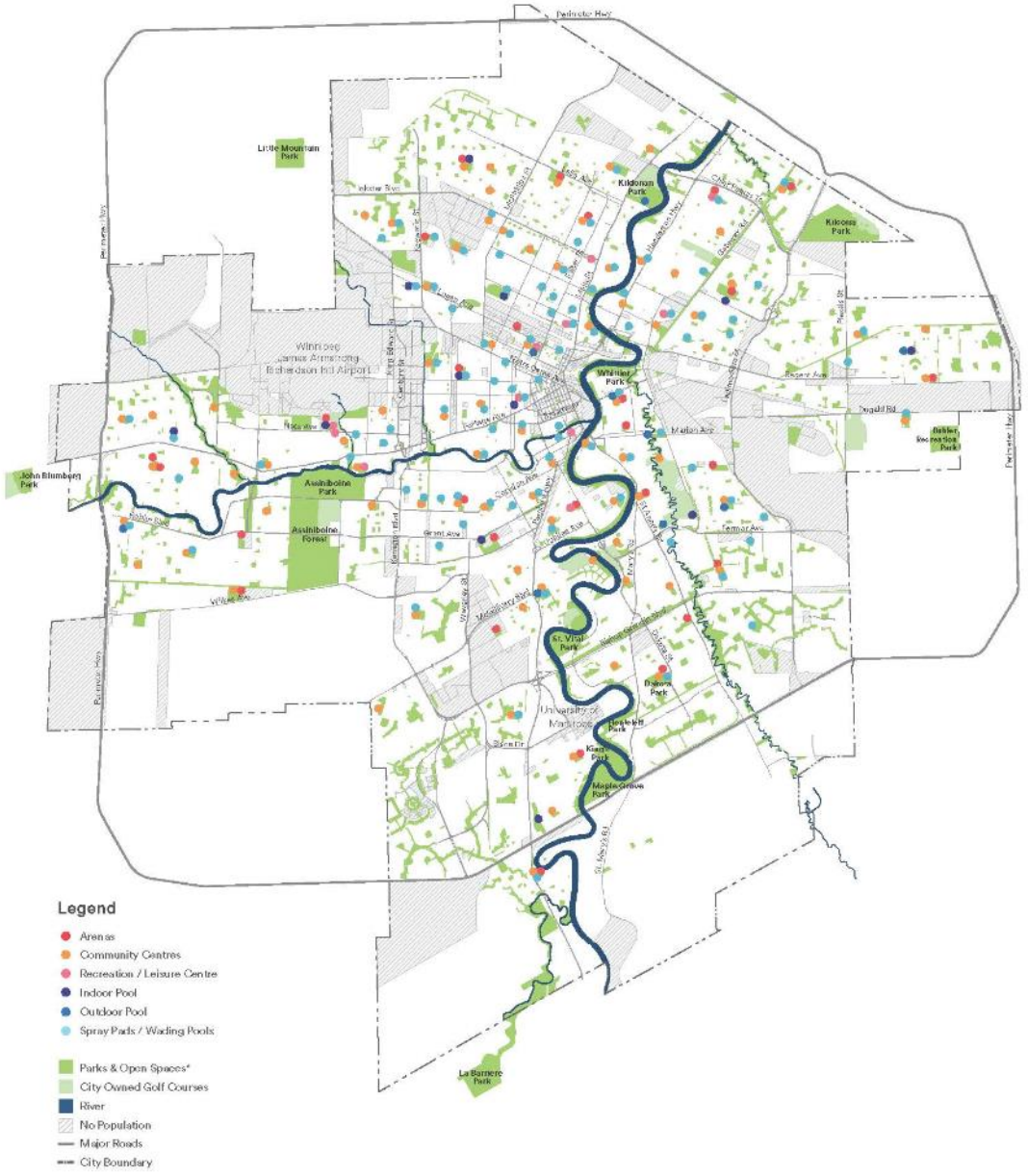
- Natural areas
- Naturalized areas
- Planted stands of trees

Amenities:

- Core & secondary
- Tertiary
- Specialty
- Supportive

Existing City of Winnipeg recreation facilities

- 81 wading pools
- 21 spray pads
- 12 indoor pools
- 9 outdoor pools
- 34 indoor ice sheets
- 8 recreation & leisure centres
- 63 community centres operating:
  - 81 locations
  - 130+ outdoor rinks



Recreation system components

Partnerships & agreements:

- Infrastructure programs & cost sharing agreements
- Grants
- Joint-use agreements
- Leases
- Loan guarantees
- Management & operating agreements
- Community centre model

Parks:

- Parks services, components, and amenities are addressed in the draft Parks Strategy



Programs & services:

- Physical literacy & skill development
- Fitness, active living & well-being
- Community sport
- Social inclusion & community connection
- Leadership development

Facilities:

- Aquatic & recreation centres
- Community centres & neighbourhood recreation centres
- Arenas & indoor ice sheets
- Outdoor pools
- Spray pads & wading pools



Phase 1 public engagement

Goal was to identify current use, challenges, opportunities, barriers to participation, and visions for the future.

Included:

- 9,400+ surveys submitted
- 11,700+ comments
- 188,000+ data points
- 3 open houses
- 2 stakeholder workshops

Phase 1 public engagement – What we heard

Quality & supply:
Increase the number and improve the quality of recreation facilities and parks

Natural preservation:
Restore and increase natural areas, maintain existing parks, and limit land development

Access & transportation:
Increase the ease of access to parks and amenities by various modes and create connections via active transportation routes

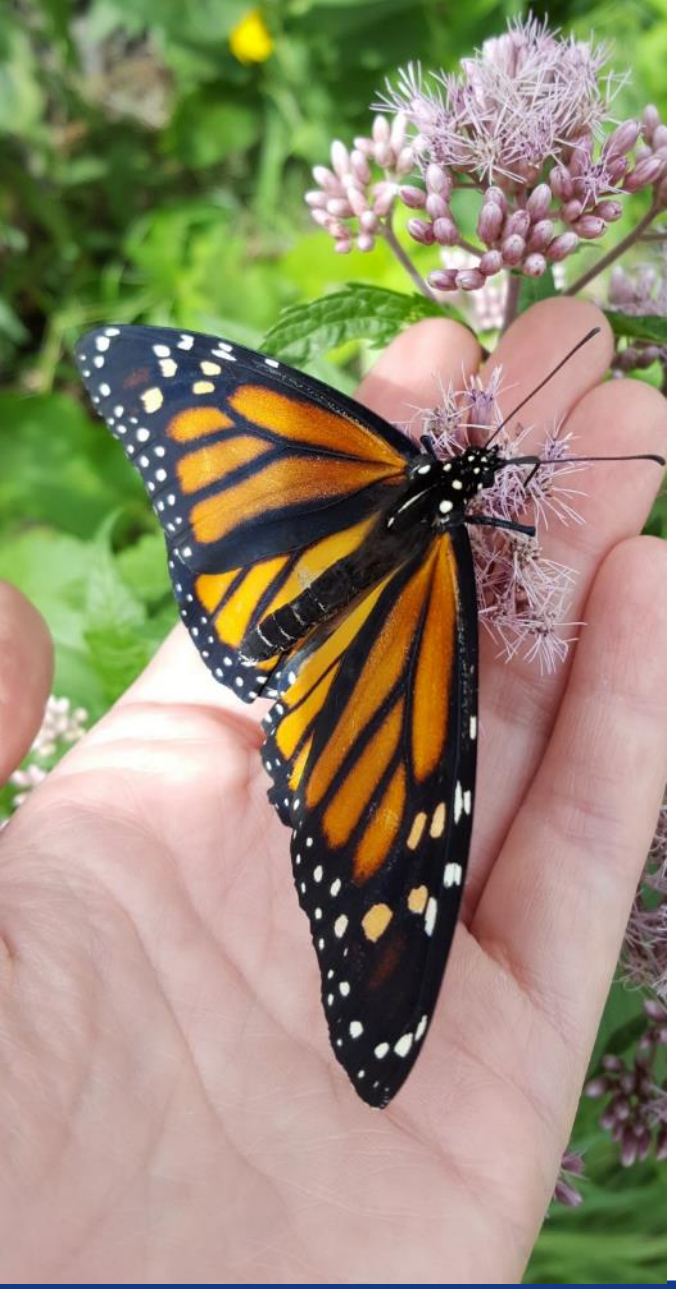
Community & inclusivity:
Ensure amenities are accessible, welcoming, and safe for everyone to gather

Services & programming:
Improve the operations of recreation and parks

Funding:
Invest in recreation and parks and provide funding for maintenance and operations

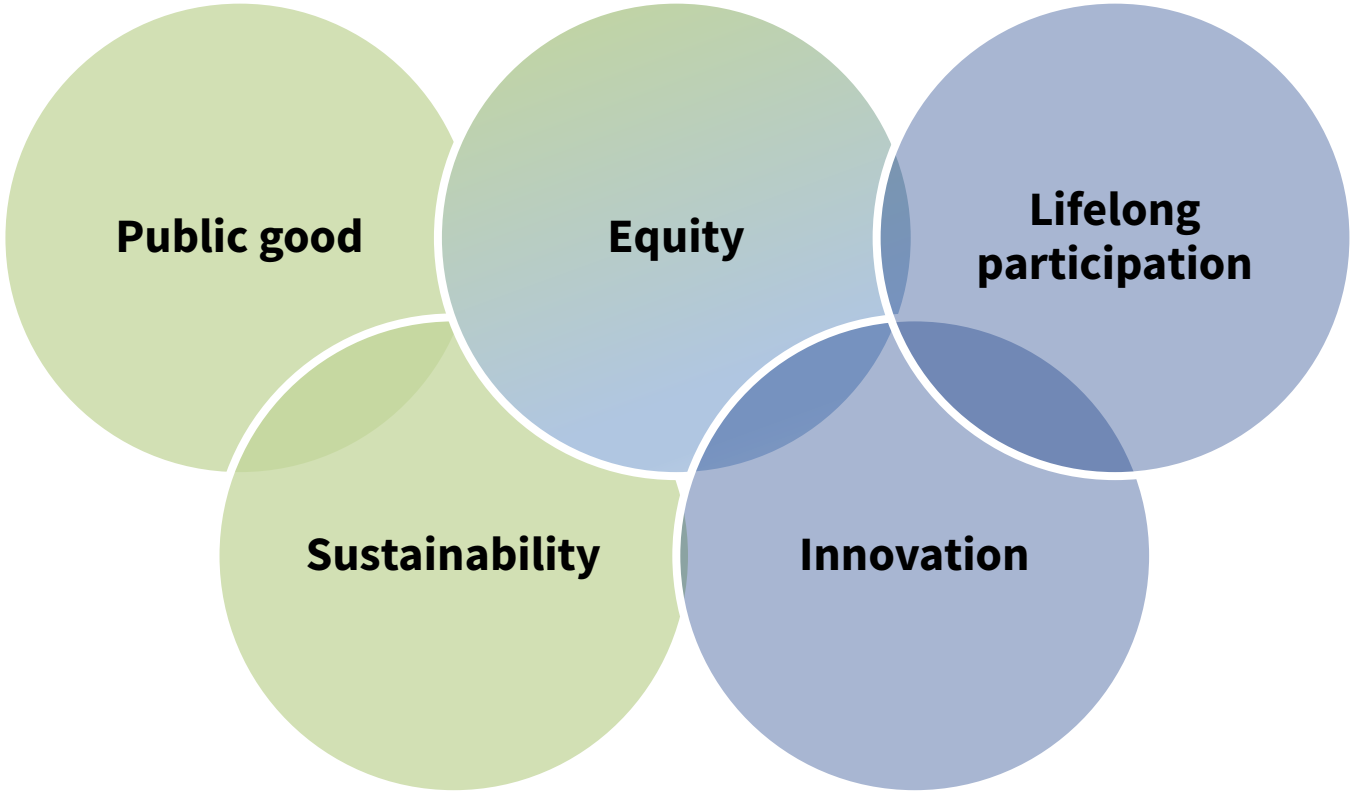


Key aspects of the strategies



Shared vision and values

Winnipeg's recreation and parks systems foster the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and natural environments by enabling all to engage in meaningful, accessible experiences and activities.





Shared goals

Active living

Winnipeggers of all ages and abilities have opportunities for physical recreation, leisure, play, sport, and active transportation.

Inclusion and access

Individual and community access and participation to recreation and parks is not limited by physical, social, economic, or environmental barriers.

Connecting people with nature

People connect with nature in their communities and have opportunities to learn and value ecological systems and the functions they provide.

Supportive environments

Recreation and parks spaces, services, and facilities work to connect people by fostering socialization and participation to build strong, caring communities.

Capacity building

The recreation and parks systems are sustainable, able to support growth, adapt to changing needs, enable collaboration, increase resilience and community capacity.

Parks service categories



Outdoor play



Leisure & gathering



Outdoor sport



Nature experience



Trail-based recreation

Recreation facility hierarchy

Scale	Facility type	Example
City-wide	Major competitive aquatic sport venue	Pan Am Pool
Regional 2-6 km	Regional recreation complexes	Proposed East of the Red RecPlex
	District community centres	Dakota Community Centre
	Destination outdoor pools	Transcona Aquatic Park
Community 2-4 km	Community multi-use recreation centres	Sgt. Tommy Prince Place
	Community centres	Sturgeon Heights Community Centre
	Arenas & indoor ice sheets	Seven Oaks Arena
	Community outdoor pool	Freight House Outdoor Pool
	Community spray pads	Gateway Community Centre Spray Pad
Neighbourhood <2 km	Neighbourhood community centres	Ralph Brown Community Centre
	Neighbourhood recreation centres	Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre
	Neighbourhood spray pads	Fort Rouge Park Spray Pad



Policies & levels of service

Policies are aligned to the goals of:

- Active living
- Inclusion & access
- Connecting people & nature
- Supportive environments
- Capacity building

Levels of service:

- Are defined by facility type or parks service
- Include current and target levels of service
- Strategies to achieve target levels of service



Photo Credit: HTFC Planning & Design, Jacqueline Young Stationpoint Photographic

Implementation



Parks strategic objectives

1. Meeting community needs
2. Building partnerships
3. Adapting to change
4. Improving access
5. Formalizing service delivery approach

Parks Strategy – Policy & implementation recommendations

Parkland

- Ensure all Winnipeggers have access to parks within walking distance:
  - *Prioritize acquisition of new parkland in response to increasing population & community needs*
- Ensure land designated for public parks is sufficient to provide all Winnipeggers ample year-round opportunities to key services:
  - *Create a cohesive, balanced park system by providing a range of park types, and scales to accommodate a variety of spaces, uses, and levels of intensity*

Natural Features

- Ensure all Winnipeggers have access to natural features within walking distance:
  - *Focus protection and preservation of existing natural areas, and continuous forest patches >0.5ha*
  - *Naturalize park areas, where appropriate, to address service gaps*
  - *Restore degraded habitats*
- Provide interpretive opportunities to learn about natural processes
- Update the *Ecologically Significant Lands Strategy & Policy*

Connections

- Provide linkages between parks and routes established in *Winnipeg Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies*
- Facilitate year-round trail-based activity through pathway snow clearing and tracking of ski trails
- Improve wayfinding:
  - *Implement a consistent signage and mapping identity across the parks system*
  - *Explore digital opportunities for remote site exploration, and on-site interpretation*
- Expand the network of public riverbank lands for active transportation & recreation

Parks Strategy – Policy & implementation recommendations

Amenities

- Prioritize investments based on established hierarchy of amenity categories, and demonstrated community needs
- Strive to align the provision of amenities to the park classification structure
- Provide access to amenities in accordance with the target levels of service for provision, access, and quality:
  - *Distance from amenity*
  - *Amenity per defined population*
  - *Minimum percent amenities in poor condition*

Design

- Consider all park components (parkland, natural features, connections, and amenities), and key services in a holistic manner
- Design parks to accommodate a multi-use space that can provide a variety of year-round recreational experiences
- Ensure inclusive access to parks and their amenities by applying the principles of universal design
- Design parks, and associated infrastructure with ecological principles in mind

Operations & Management

- Implement a robust, transparent, and defensible process to evaluate, prioritize, and promote parks
- Ensure all capital expenditures are supported by a lifecycle assessment
- Adhere to a standardized and transparent set of operating & maintenance requirements for each park classification
- Explore the implementation of *Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan* recommendations for parks
- Foster partnerships to support parks operations, and maintenance



Recreation Strategy prioritizes

1. Investing in flexible, multi-use, and inter-generational facilities
2. Facilities at four scales - neighbourhoods, communities, regions, and the entire city; travel distances are used to determine service areas
3. Collaboration and partnerships
4. Equity-based planning approach
5. Supporting and increasing climate resiliency
6. Optimizing facilities to ensure the system is sustainable

Recreation Strategy - Key implementation recommendations

Indoor Aquatic & Recreation Centres

- Develop new regional recreation complexes (that serve areas 4-6 km in size) to facilitate the transition from older, single-purpose pools to new multi-use facilities that support diverse use
- Focus renewal funds on community multi-use recreation centres that provide a variety of program opportunities for all ages
- Focus on improving both functionality and quality

Community Centres

- Fund an update of General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres Plan 2025 to facilitate the next generation of investment and optimization
- Reinstitute the Community Centre Investment Fund to leverage transformation of older centres to contemporary facilities through amalgamation and redevelopment of existing assets

Neighbourhood Recreation Centres

- Enable inclusive and equitable services through focused investment in neighbourhood facilities that support geographic areas of higher poverty
- Address renewal needs to improve both functionality and quality
- Look for collaboration and partnership opportunities to provide programming that maximize the use of existing public assets

Recreation Strategy - Implementation recommendations cont.

Arenas & Indoor Ice Sheets

- Continue to operate the Ab McDonald Memorial & Sam Southern arenas which are part of City-operated multi-use facilities
- Continue to operate the Charlie Gardiner Areana to support ease of access within the inner city and areas of higher poverty
- Issue a request for proposal to explore partnership opportunities for the operation of existing City-operated arenas and development of new multi-pad arenas

Outdoor Pools

- Provide a larger, destination outdoor pools serving regions of 4-6 km, supplemented by smaller community pools to support geographic areas of higher poverty
- Focus limited maintenance funds on existing outdoor pools that have no alternative facility within their catchment

Spray Pads & Wading Pools

- Shift from wading pools to spray pads which provide more play value, an expanded season and longer operating hours
- As new spray pads are constructed, close wading pools within the catchment area and reinvest in those park sites to provide alternate amenities



Questions?



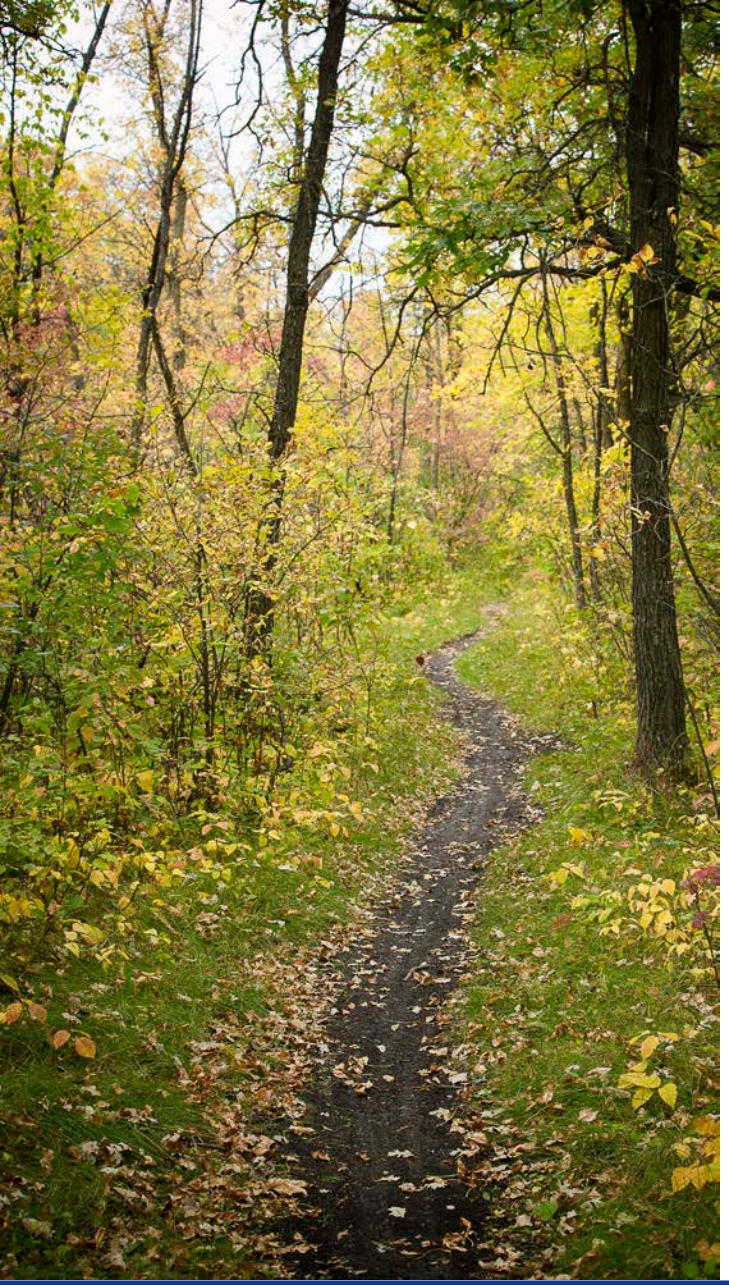
Small group discussion Topic #1

Question #1:

How should the City prioritize spending to make the biggest difference in supporting active and healthy lifestyles?



Small group discussion Topic #2



Winnipeg's natural features

Natural features in parks include:

- *Natural areas with habitat quality of Grade C or above*
- *Continuous patches of planted forest stands >0.5 ha*

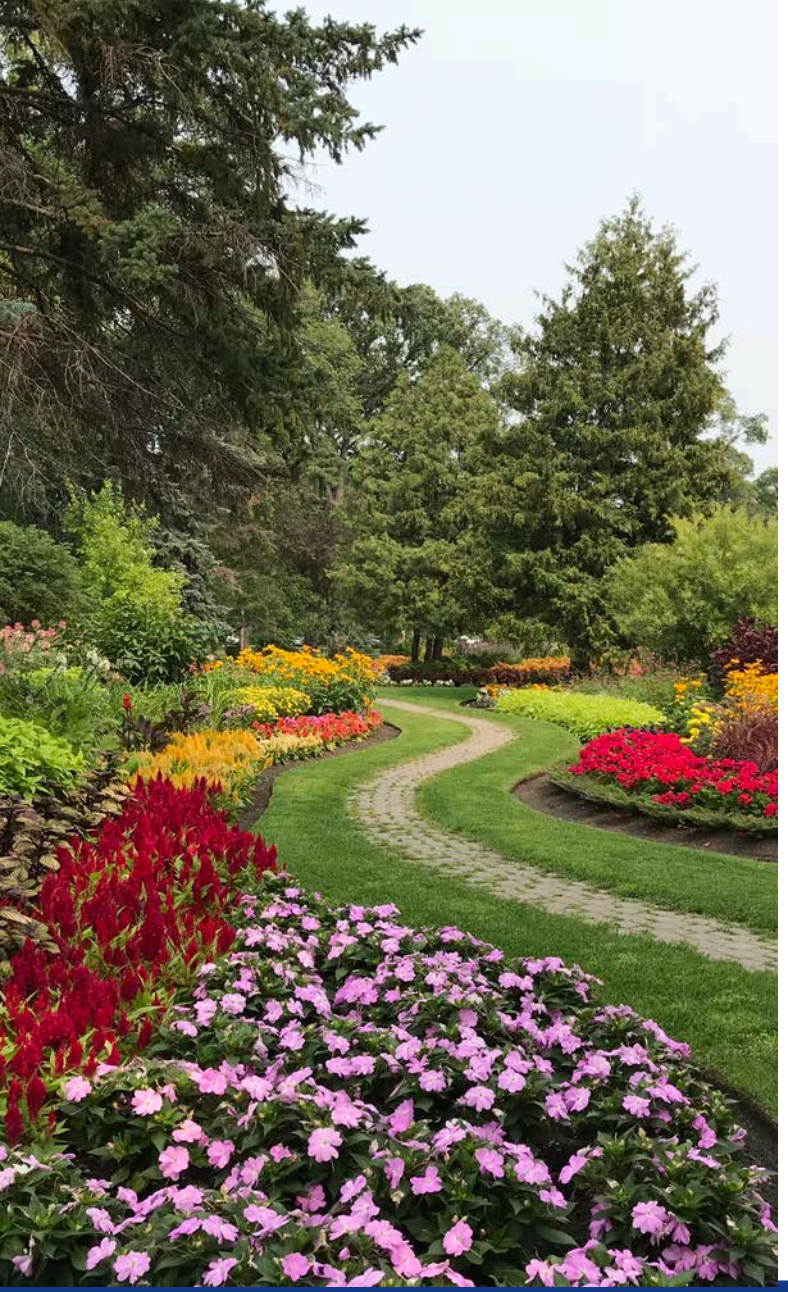
- Winnipeg has significantly more maintained than natural parkland compared other Cities
- 449 publicly accessible natural features are found within the parks system
- 64% of Winnipeggers are within walking distance (10 min or 600 m) of natural features *(2045 target: 80%)*
- Parks with new 'Nature Park' designation *(parks with greater than 80% coverage of natural area with habitat grade above C)*

Question #2:

The City proposes to naturalize areas of existing maintained parkland where gaps in naturalized area have been identified. How would this impact your use and enjoyment of parks?



Small group discussion Topic #3



Winnipeg's regional parks

- Large and iconic destination parks (typically greater than 40 ha)
- Provide unique experiences
- Serve as gathering places for the City as a whole
- Typically characterized by a significant cultural or environmental feature
- Most are located along waterways or have a significant water element

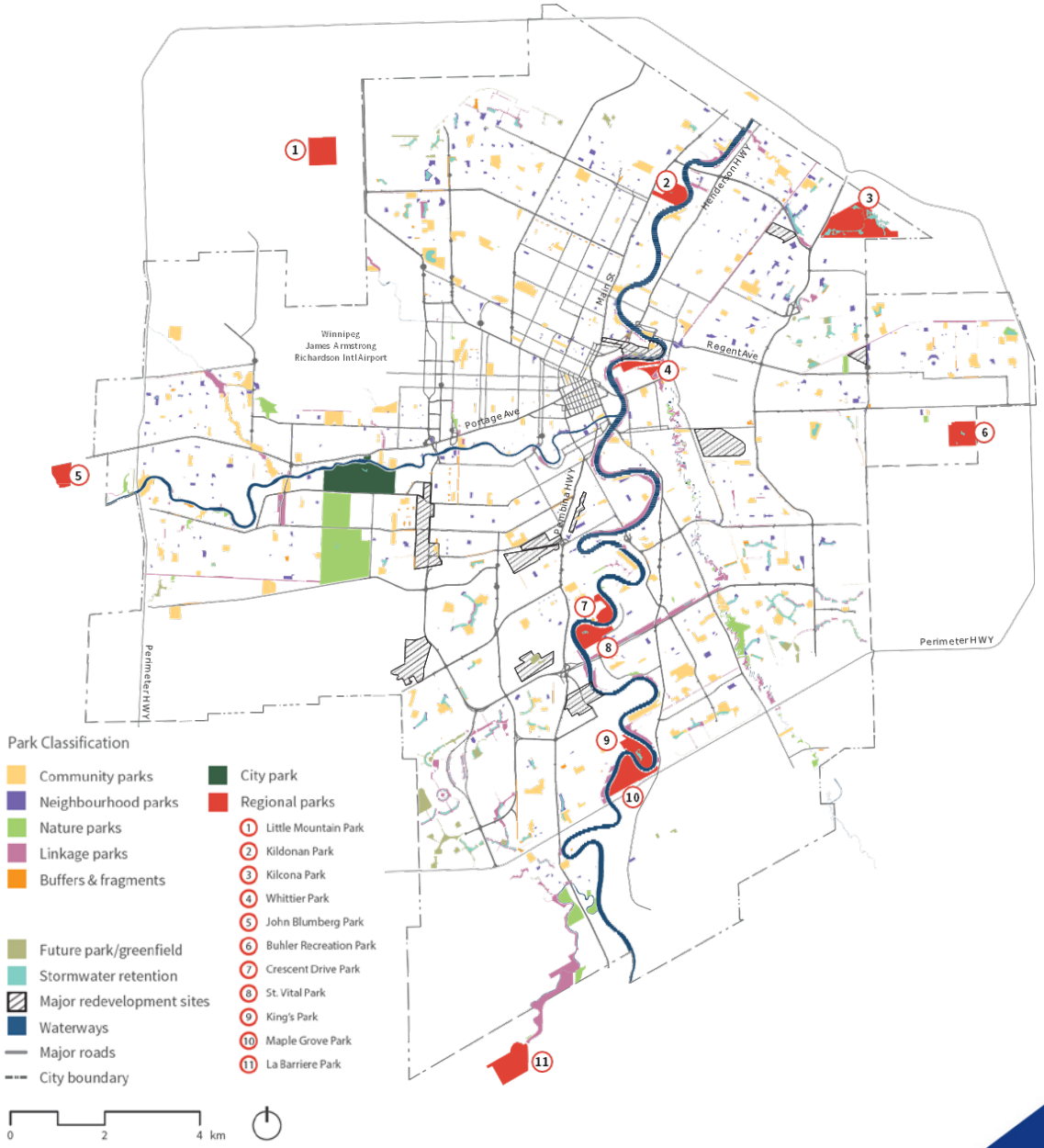
Winnipeg's regional parks

Regional parks

Crescent Drive Park
Kilcona Park
Kildonan Park
King's Park
LaBarriere Park
Little Mountain Park
St. Vital Park
Whittier/Lagimodiere-Gaboury Historic Park

Regional sport parks

Buhler Recreation Park
John Blumberg Park
Maple Grove Park



What is a regional recreation complex?

Arena



Library



Multi-purpose rooms



Public concourse & gathering areas







Different types of studio spaces

Universal, family-friendly change rooms







Multiple gymnasiums

Program & lap pool



Warm water, leisure pool with lazy rivers, family hot pool, slides, sprays





Fitness area & track

Question #3:

How would your experiences with parks and recreation change if the City focused investment in regional parks and recreational complexes?



Report back



Photo Credit: Lisa Hosein