Classifying Parks

Categorizing park spaces within any city is a common tool for taking stock of the City's current inventory of land, and aiding in managing the vast amount of park space the City is responsible for. More importantly for Spaces, it is critical in answering the question "how much park space do we need?"

The Parks Strategic Plan (2010) provided a framework using **Natural Areas, City Parks, District Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Urban Greens and Greenways** as the foundation of classification. Each category represents a combination of park type, size and function. Updating these categories will provide a simpler framework, better suited for assessing Planned parks needs:

Planned

Traditional park space created, constructed and managed with intent to serve as a recreational amenity.

Passive	No active programming present or possible. Typically trail corridors or greenways.
Neighbourhood	Various outdoor active uses with direct connection to immediate neighbourhood.
Community	Enhanced outdoor features, community gathering facilities and amenities.
City	High intensity programming for City and Region wide activities (e.g. pools, arenas, stadiums)
Legacy	Unique landscapes with significant natural, cultural, or heritage value.

Resource

Land with a primary function of resource management, typically stormwater ponds and engineered creek channels.

Natural

Undeveloped land for the purpose of preserving and protecting natural features and ecological habitats.

Micro	Parkette	Small	Medium	Large	Vast
< 0.1 ha	0.1 - 0.5 ha	0.5 - 1.5 ha	1.5 - 3.0 ha	3.0 - 10.0 ha	> 10.0 ha

Classifying Parks



Many Kitchener parks, regardless of classification, can be seen as unique or significant, or simply don't fit neatly into each category. These categories should be thought of as an improved way to measure the City's park inventory and provision levels rather than a rigid organization.