Shape the Future of Prospect Park

June 4, 2026, from
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Eastwood Collegiate Institute

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Territorial Acknowledgement

The City of Kitchener is situated on the traditional territory of the Chonnonton, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples. Through stormwater management projects, we recognize our responsibility to serve as stewards for the land and waters and honour the original caretakers who came before us. We're committed to understanding and responding to the priorities we've heard from First Nations rights holders and urban Indigenous Peoples including:

- Considering future generations by addressing climate change and protecting water
- Improving the water quality and aquatic habitat of creeks and rivers
- Bringing more wild back to Kitchener parks by planting native plants, shrubs and trees
- Creating opportunities for land connection and land-based education

Open House Purpose

- Provide context from the Integrated Stormwater Master Plan and how it led to the Prospect Park project.
- Share what we have learned from technical studies and community feedback to date.
- Explain how input from engagement #1 has informed ongoing design development.
- Present the current design for proposed stormwater measures and park upgrades in Prospect Park.
- Gather feedback on the current design to help inform the next phase of design development.
- Outline the final phase of engagement, including a future open house at the 90% design stage (anticipated in 2027).

Project Background

The City of Kitchener approved a city-wide Stormwater Master Plan in 2016.

75% of Kitchener has no stormwater management facilities – including neighbourhoods around Prospect Park.

Prospect Park is one of twelve locations identified for potential stormwater management retrofit opportunities.

With this project, we will make changes in Prospect Park to:



Protect and improve water quality



Respond to community needs

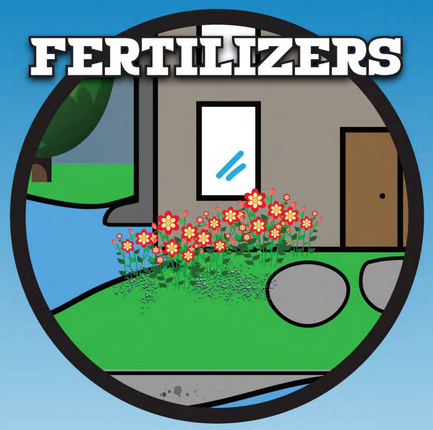
Canada

For more information about the City of Kitchener's partnership with the Government of Canada through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), visit kitchener.ca/Stormwater

Locating Stormwater Infrastructure: Criteria from the Master Plan

Master Plan Criteria	Prospect Park
Space available > 1 hectare	Prospect Park is 1.8 hectares
Land is not privately owned	Prospect Park is owned by the City of Kitchener
Catchment area large enough	51.2 hectares drains to Prospect Park and doesn't currently receive water quality treatment
Site does not have significant treed areas or wetland	There is some wooded space and some open area at Prospect Park
Possible to meet water quality criteria (DMAF Funding Criteria)	A facility at Prospect Park could remove 70% of suspended solids in the runoff over the long term

STORMWATER 101











With the impacts of climate change, we're in for more intense weather. We'll also see rapid winter thaws more often. This means Kitchener will see an increase in the number of storm and flooding events.

Stormwater is rainwater or melted snow that cannot soak into the ground. This runoff water flows across land and hard surfaces before it enters storm sewers. As it flows, it picks up pollutants along the way. This polluted runoff then enters creeks and ponds and, eventually, the Grand River.

Stormwater management slows and cleans runoff before it enters local creeks. We need more stormwater management features in Kitchener to prepare for climate change. Adding ponds and restoring creeks reduces flood risks, protects people and property, and improves water quality.

LEARN MORE ABOUT STORMWATER HERE:

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KITCHENER.CA/STORMWATER

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Why are we improving stormwater management?

Impervious surfaces in cities create more runoff

Rainfall is expected to increase

Most of Kitchener has no stormwater controls

Naturalized creeks and stormwater ponds:

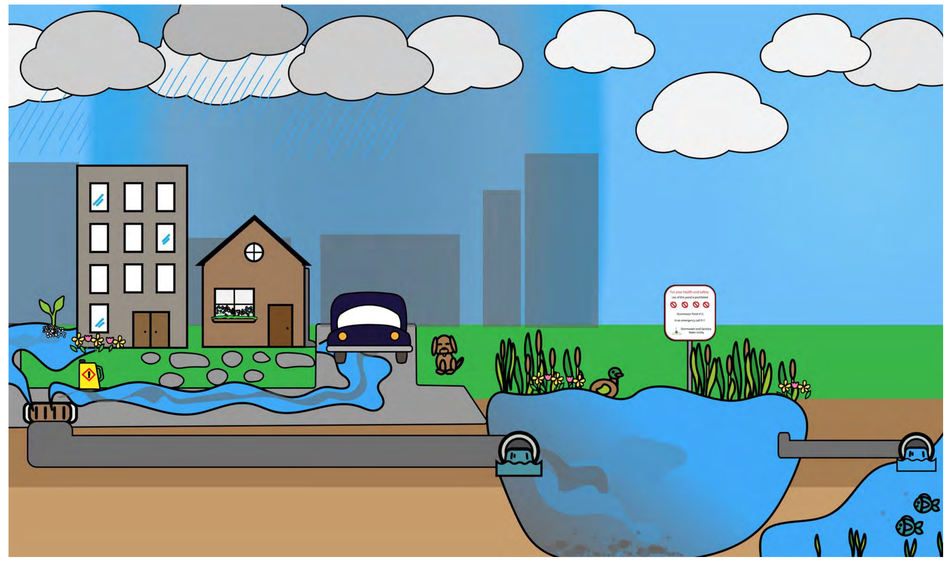
Slow water down
Allow for more infiltration
Clean pollutants from stormwater
Create habitats for fish and birds

How do we manage stormwater?

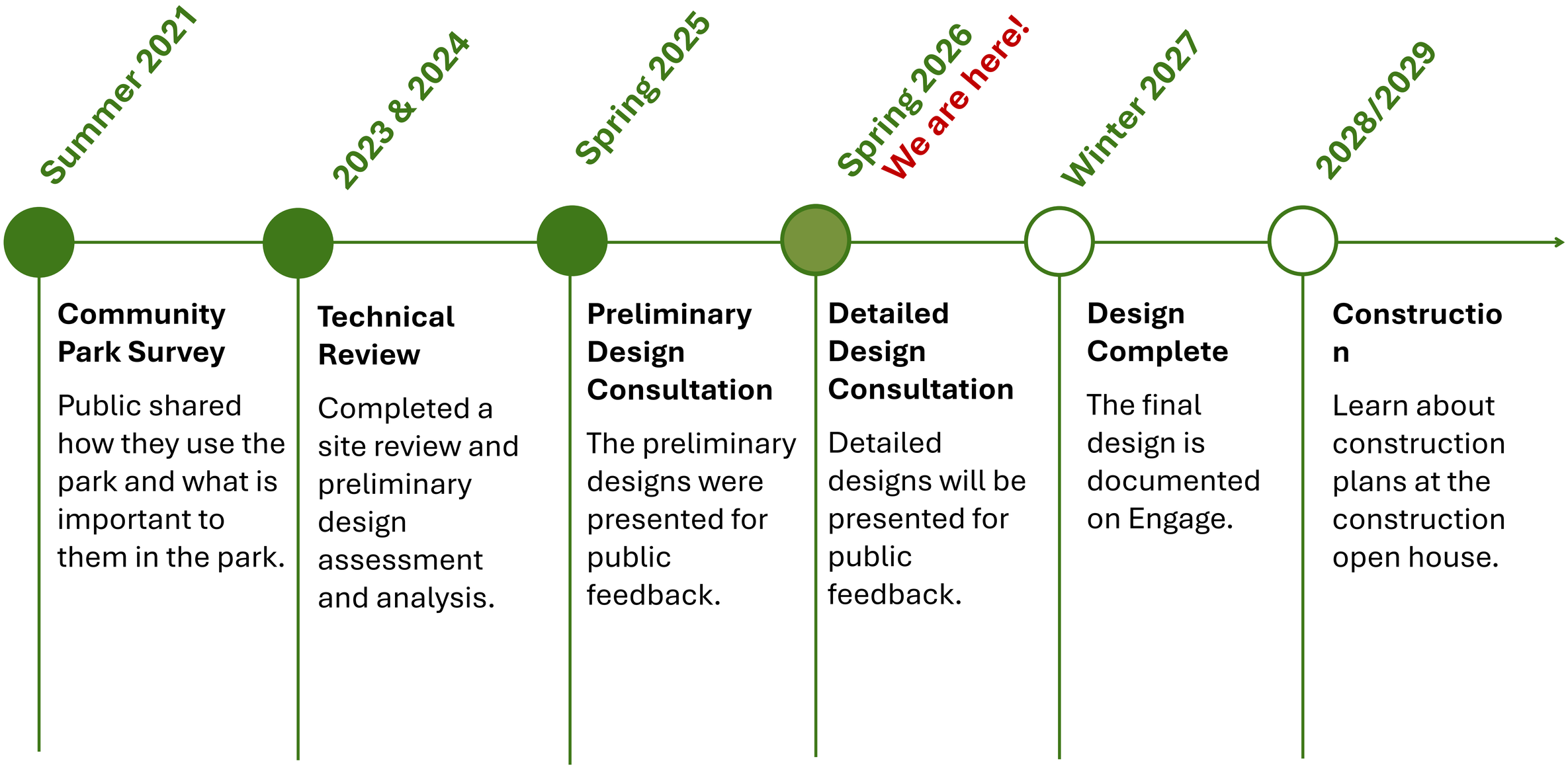
Stormwater is managed in three ways:

- Property-specific things like rain barrels, downspouts and cisterns.
    - Reep Green Solutions provides residents assistance with ways to do this on private property.
- Conveying stormwater with storm drains and sewers.
- End-of-pipe collection systems like stormwater management ponds.





Timeline


Summer 2021
2023 & 2024
Spring 2025
Spring 2026
We are here!
Winter 2027
2028/2029
Community Park Survey
Public shared how they use the park and what is important to them in the park.
Technical Review
Completed a site review and preliminary design assessment and analysis.
Preliminary Design Consultation
The preliminary designs were presented for public feedback.
Detailed Design Consultation
Detailed designs will be presented for public feedback.
Design Complete
The final design is documented on Engage.
Constructio n
Learn about construction plans at the construction open house.

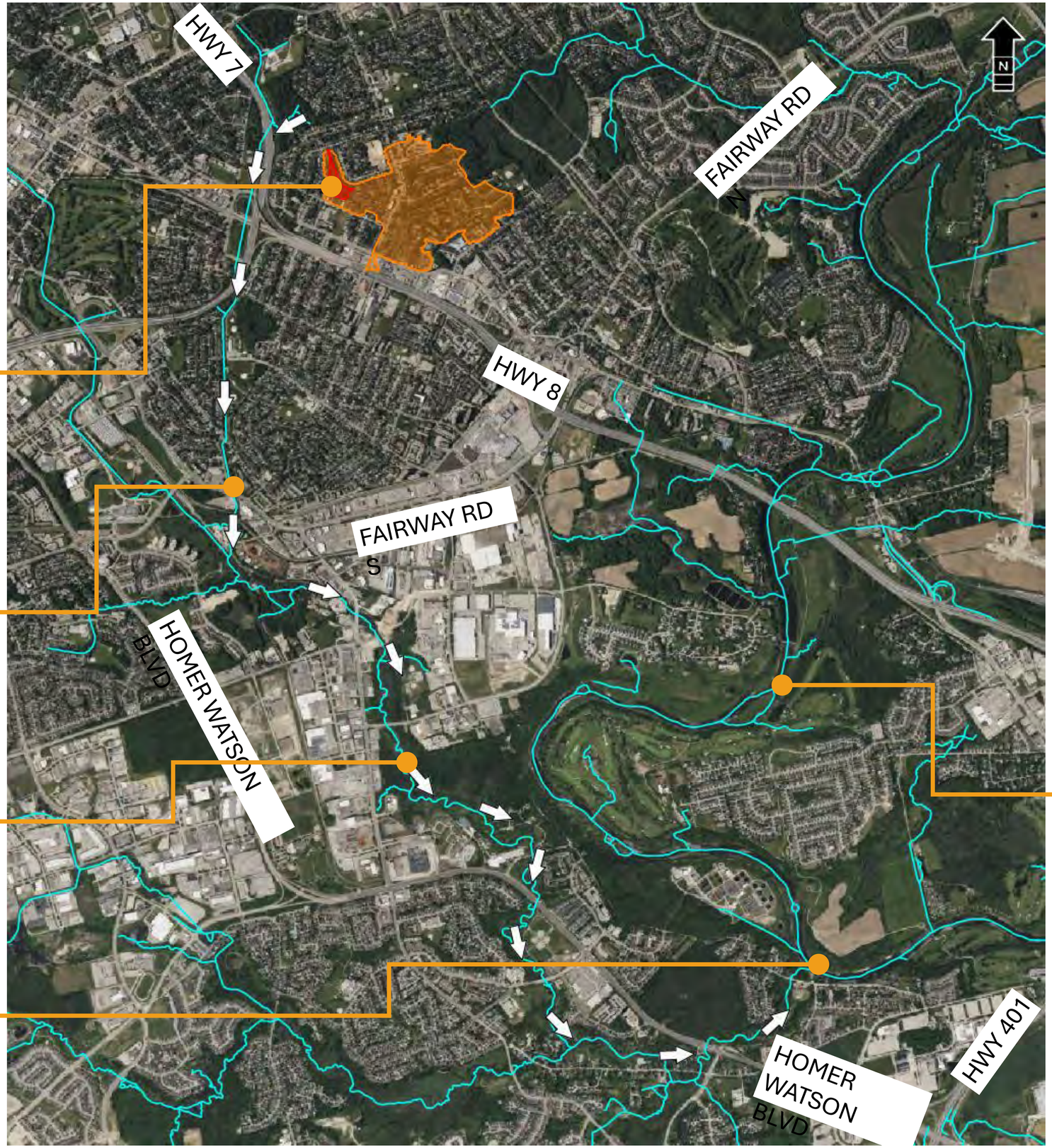
Where does our stormwater go?

Prospect Park watershed

Montgomery Creek

Schneider Creek

Outlet to Grand River



Grand River

Prospect Park Drainage Area



Prospect Park

Land use: 48% hard surfaces

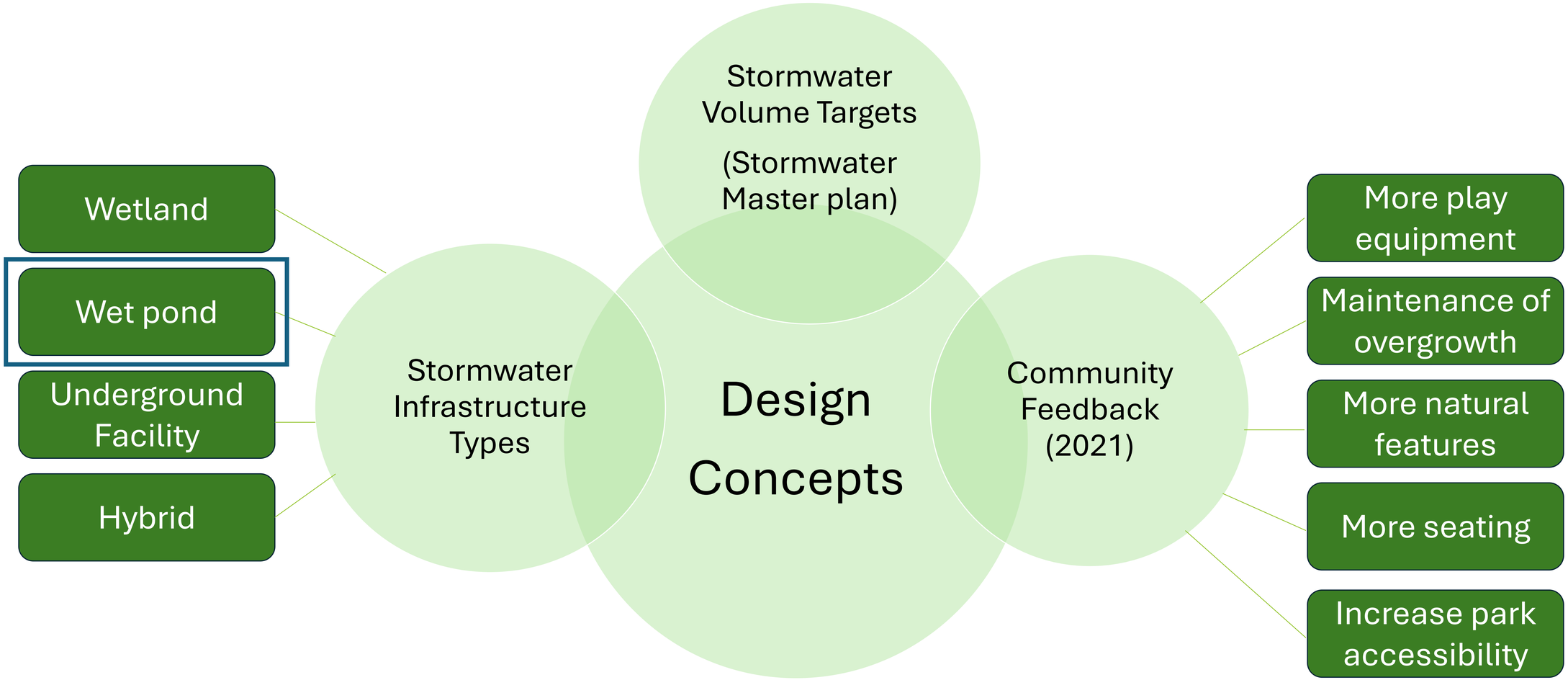
Drainage area is 51.2 hectares

Green lines are storm sewers leading into Prospect Park

Majority of the cemetery directed towards Prospect Park

Arrows indicate stormwater flow direction

Design Development Process



Pond Safety Features



Safety Pools/Aquatic Shelves

Warning Signage

Sewer Safety Grate

Walkable Slopes & Vegetated Barrier

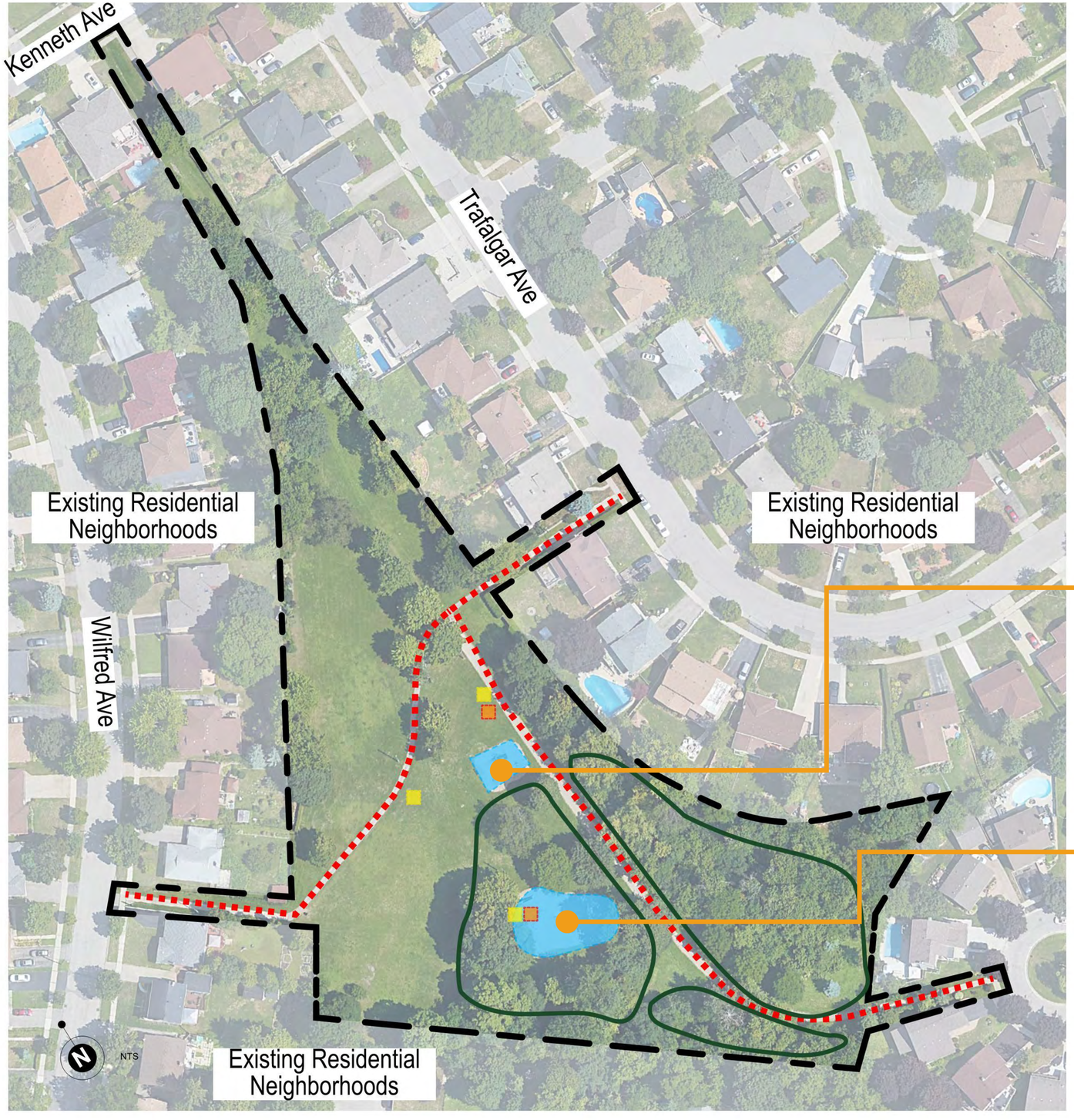
Paved Trails



Armour Stone



Prospect Park Existing Removals



LEGEND

- Existing pathways to be removed and upgraded
- Existing playgrounds to be removed to accommodate new stormwater management pond
- Existing hydro amenities to be removed (Concept 1)
- Existing hydro amenities to be removed (Concept 2)
- Existing Trees to be removed





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Tree removal and replacement

Trees are important to your community, and they're important to the City of Kitchener. We're committed to responsible urban development, maintaining a balance between infrastructure needs and environmental sustainability.

Tree removal is sometimes necessary to allow for essential construction and municipal projects. As part of construction for our stormwater projects, we will need to remove trees. We work to preserve as many trees as possible, and we're committed to replacing each tree we remove.



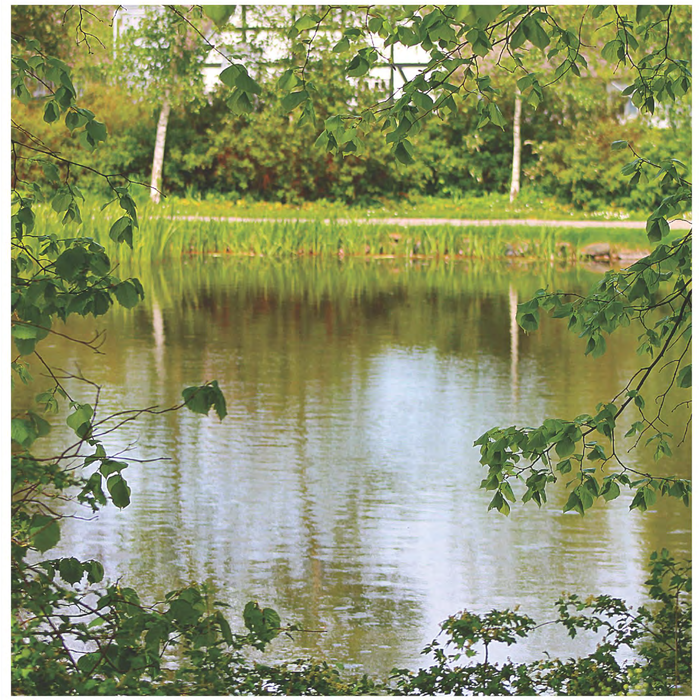


Why do we remove trees?

Before construction, we examine each tree to determine whether it would survive construction work. A tree might be removed if:

- too close to the construction site and may become unstable, posing a risk of falling and endangering workers and public safety.
- roots interfere with water lines, sewer systems and electrical conduits, necessitating removal to prevent costly damage and service disruptions.
- it will be damaged by construction.
- roots will be damaged by construction, making the tree unhealthy.
- already unhealthy.





Tree replacement

- We plant smaller saplings and older trees to promote a natural balance of different tree ages.
- We plant a mix of fast-growing trees and slow-growing trees to rebuild a healthy tree canopy.

Where space permits, we will plant more trees and shrubs than what was removed. When planting new trees, we work to restore natural habitats and biodiversity.

The images shown are conceptual only and do not represent what will occur in real life.

Tree removal and replacement

Examples of species we may plant

- Silver maple
- Shining willow
- White pine
- Red oak
- Large toothed aspen
- Red osier dogwood









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Trees and stormwater management

Trees are an important part of the creek and pond ecosytem and can help:

- Reduce erosion
- Stabilize creek banks with their roots down in the soil
- Shade creeks and other waterways



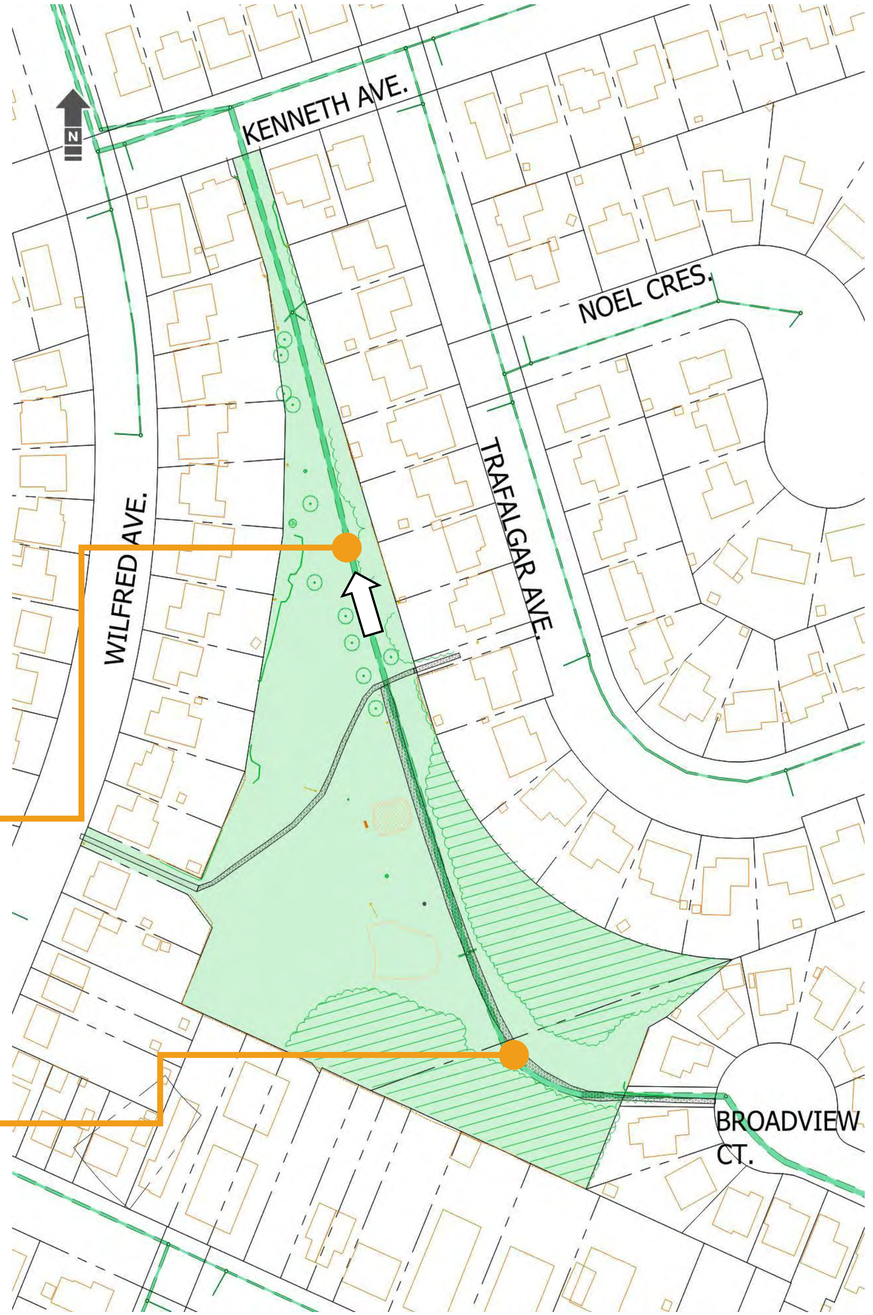
If space permits, we use parts of removed trees to create natural habitats for local wildlife.

Design Constraints within Prospect Park

Technical studies undertaken in 2023 informed the following constraints for the stormwater designs:

- Park elevations range by up to 3.5 metres
- Shallow groundwater 1.5m below ground surface
- A 1350 mm diameter storm sewer runs through the park from the Broadview Court access to the Kenneth Avenue access

These factors constrain what stormwater options are available.



Engagement Overview



Franklin Public School, Kitchener ON

- The first Public Open House was held June 18, 2025 from 5 to 8 pm at Franklin Public School. It was led by the City of Kitchener, Civicplan, and Montrose Environmental.
- A Virtual Open House was available to the public from May 20 through July 6, 2025
- Engagement focused on 30% design concepts for stormwater management and park upgrades
- Participation: 64 total responses received (15 in-person, 49 virtual)

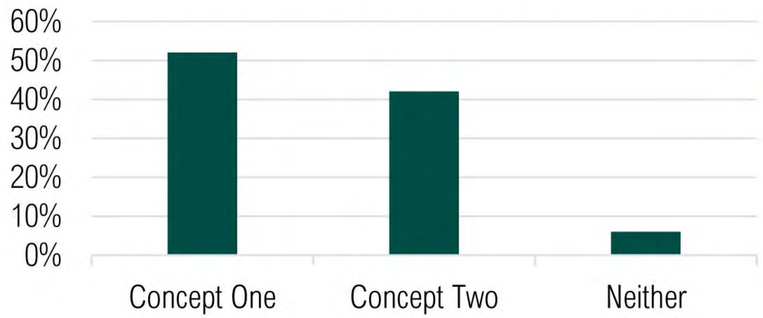
Prospect Park - Stormwater Management and Park Upgrades

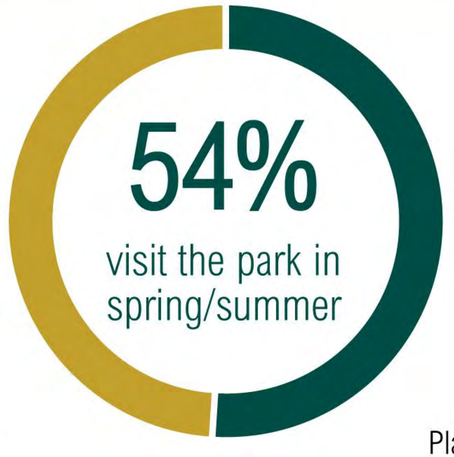
30% Design Phase Engagement Summary



Preferred Park Design

Two designs were presented: Concept one with an active/play theme and Concept two with a passive/nature connection theme.

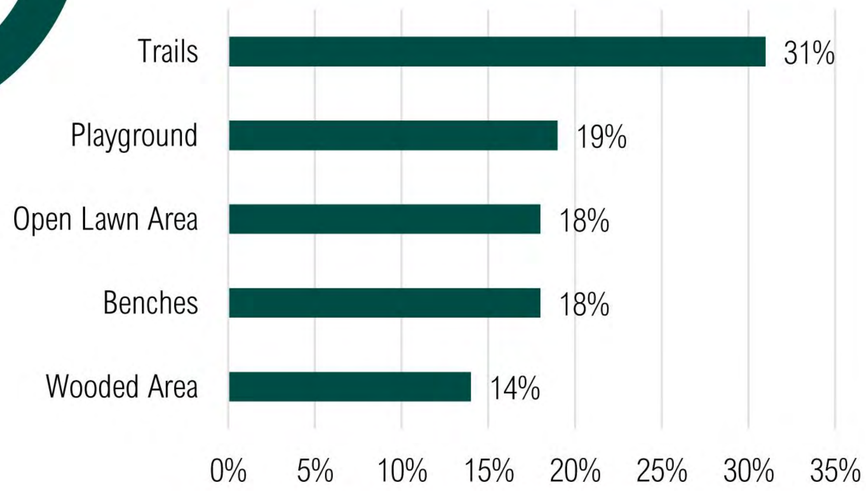




52% Women 40% Men

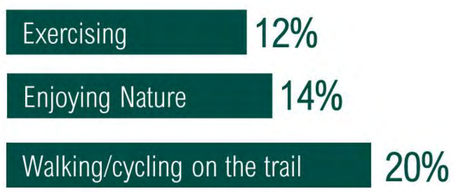
8% of respondents preferred not to answer or chose other.

Top Park Features



Top 3 Activities

people enjoy in Prospect Park



Results based on 64 respondents who participated in engagement events in the Spring/Summer of 2025. 48 respondents shared gender information.

CIVICPLAN
Planning | Engagement | Strategies

What We Heard from Engagement Round #1

Design Preferences

- Strong support for playgrounds that serve children and families
- Strong support for naturalized landscaping and planting, primarily around the wet pond
- Support for flexible green space and open lawn
- Preference for design combining both naturalized features and active play elements



Other Considerations

- Less support for large built amenities, e.g., sports court and amphitheater
- Desire to preserve mature trees & maintain privacy for adjacent homes
- Importance of pond safety and trail accessibility/connectivity



PROSPECT PARK

CONCEPT 1A

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LEGEND

1. Consolidated Play Area (Junior and Senior)
2. Open Lawn Area / Picnic Space
3. Shade Structure
4. Seating / Lookout Node
5. Naturalized Landscape around Pond
6. Armour Stone Retaining Wall

- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees
- 4m Wide Maintenance Access to Pond
- 3m Wide Refurbished Asphalt Trail
- 3m Wide Asphalt Trail
- City Property Boundary Marker
- Molok Waste Receptacle (x1)
- Waste Receptacle (x5)
- Bike Rack (qty. 4) (x2)
- Power Outlet in Shade Structure
- Picnic Tables (Grouped/ Clustered Seating) (x3)
- Bench Seating (x4)
- **Upgraded Park Entrance Block**
  - » Community Park Entrance Sign
  - » Safety Signage (Stop Sign)
  - » Trail Entrance Line Painting
  - » Waste Receptacle
  - » Two Permanent Bollards & One Removable Bollard

* These preliminary concepts are for discussion purposes only. Final designs are likely to vary from what is shown and may combine elements of each concept. The City of Kitchener reserves the right to adjust the proposed locations of items as needed to ensure implementation of the design.

* All site furnishings and pathways to comply with the City of Kitchener Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment Manual (2017)

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CONCEPT 1A ENLARGEMENT

Summary of the playground and park features for Concept 1A:

- **Traditional Play Zones:** Consolidated junior and senior playground areas equipped with colourful, active play elements.
- **Social & Picnic Spaces:** Open lawns and clustered picnic-style seating designed to facilitate community gatherings and social interaction.
- **Shade Structure:** Positioned to overlook the playground, pond, and the broader park area.
- **Strategic Landscaping:** Three terraced armour stone retaining walls that provide pond views from the playground while preserving existing trees and managing site topography.

Existing Mature Trees to Remain

Open lawn area and picnic space

3.0m wide refurbished asphalt trail

Grouped picnic tables on accessible concrete pad (x2) (Typ.)

Swingset

Accessible playground ramp entry (x2) (Typ.)

Consolidated play spaces with junior and senior structures

Grading marker indicates gradual slope

Existing park entrance block to be upgraded

Proposed tree planting (typ.)

4.0m asphalt maintenance access pathway for pond

Terraced armour stone retaining wall to assist with site topography and grading (Typ.)

Shade structure on accessible concrete pad

Accessible bench seating (lookout) at pond (Typ.)

Naturalized, native landscape planting surrounding pond

Existing park entrance block to be upgraded

Proposed Storm Water Management Pond

Legend
- Waste Receptacle
- Bike Rack
- Power Outlet

SCALE 1:250
0m 2m 4m 10m

N

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PROSPECT PARK

CONCEPT 1B

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LEGEND

1. Separated Play Areas (Junior and Senior)
2. Shade Sail
3. Pollinator Garden with Armour Stone Bench Seating
4. Seating / Lookout Node
5. Naturalized Landscape around Pond and within Park
6. Armour Stone Retaining Wall
7. Open Lawn Area / Picnic Space

- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees
- 4m Wide Maintenance Access to Pond
- 3m Wide Asphalt Trail
- City Property Boundary Marker
- Molok Waste Receptacle (x1)
- Waste Receptacle (x5)
- Bike Rack (qty. 4) (x2)
- Power Outlet
- Picnic Tables (Individual Tables/ Seating) (x5)
- Bench Seating (x7)
- Upgraded Park Entrance Block
  - » Community Park Entrance Sign
  - » Safety Signage (Stop Sign)
  - » Trail Entrance Line Painting
  - » Waste Receptacle
  - » Two Permanent Bollards & One Removable Bollard

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CONCEPT 1B ENLARGEMENT

Summary of the playground and park features for Concept 1B:

- **Nature-Themed Play Zones:** Separated junior and senior areas featuring nature-inspired equipment and active play elements.
- **Reflective Social Spaces:** Enhanced opportunities for nature interaction through natural zones, pollinator gardens, individual seating opportunities, and two dedicated seating nodes with pond views.
- **Sheltered Picnic Area:** A shade sail and picnic space positioned to overlook the playground and create a sense of entry into the park.
- **Tiered Natural Views:** Three tiers of armour stone retaining walls designed to maximize views of the pond and naturalized riparian plantings.

Existing Mature Trees to Remain

Open lawn area and picnic space

Proposed tree planting (typ.)

Individual picnic table on accessible concrete pad (x2) (Typ.)

Swingset

Accessible playground ramp entry (x2) (Typ.)

Nature themed junior & senior play structures

Shade sail on concrete pad with picnic tables (x3)

Existing park entrance block to be upgraded

Pollinator garden with armour stone bench seating (x6)

4.0m asphalt maintenance access pathway for pond

Terraced armour stone retaining wall to assist with site topography and grading (Typ.)

Grading marker indicates gradual slope

Accessible bench seating (lookout) at pond (Typ.)

Naturalized, native landscape planting surrounding pond and throughout park

Proposed Storm Water Management Pond

Existing park entrance block to be upgraded

Accessible bench seating (lookout) at pond (Typ.)

Legend
- Waste Receptacle
- Bike Rack
- Power Outlet

SCALE 1:250
0m 2m 4m 10m

N

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PROSPECT PARK

CONCEPT 1A PRECEDENT IMAGERY




1 Consolidated Play Area (Junior and Senior)




2 Open Lawn Area / Picnic Space




3 Shade Structure




Picnic Table & Bench Seating (Grouped/ Clustered Seating)

CONCEPT 1B PRECEDENT IMAGERY




1 Separated Play Areas (Junior and Senior)




2 Shade Sail




5 6 Naturalized Planting & Tiered Retaining Walls




Armour Stone Bench Seating & Picnic Table (Individual Seating)

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Who is Listening?

- **City of Kitchener Project Manager** – Jean Hao
- **City of Kitchener Stormwater staff** – Sarah Anderson, Samantha Brickman
- **City of Kitchener Parks staff** – Rebecca Roy

- **Montrose Environmental Project Manager** – Jeff Prince
- **Montrose Environmental Stormwater staff** – Katie McNair, Nicholas Krygsman

- **Civicplan Project Manager** – Sonja Macdonald
- **Civicplan Engagement staff** – Paul Shaker

- **Reep Green Solutions** – Taylor Ross

Thank You

Have more ideas? We want to hear from you!

Share your feedback at engagewr.ca/prospectpark or through the Virtual Open House until July 2nd, 2026.

For further project related questions, please contact:

Jean Hao, P. Eng., PMP
Project Manager
City of Kitchener
ProspectParkTeam@kitchener.ca

Jeff Prince, P. Eng.
Project Manager
Montrose Environmental
jprince@montrose-env.ca