



Recommendations formalized in this Parks Master Plan that are initiated or are underway as part of Council-approved initiatives or legislated requirements.

No.	Recommendation	Description	Initiative	Implementation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A vision for Grand River Park	Continue with the Grand River Park strategy as identified in the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.	Kitchener's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grow the urban tree canopy	Use parks and open spaces to help implement the Sustainable Urban Forest Strategy tree canopy targets.	Tree planting initiatives in parks and open spaces	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engagement-informed design	Tailor park experiences and amenities to the communities that use them and as supported through equitable community engagement.	Indigenous placemaking projects in Victoria Park and Huron Natural Area	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walter Bean Trail support	Support the pursuit of a continuous Walter Bean Grand River Trail and complete the feasibility study of the entire corridor to determine the long-term viability of the trail.	Walter Bean Trail feasibility study	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consider water conservation systems for splashpads	Design all splashpads as single-use systems with the option to become recirculation or hybrid systems where applicable. Include water conservation features such as isolated timers, motion sensors, and lower volume play features.	Chandler Mowat Community Centre splashpad, 2025	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan whole play spaces	Resource new and renovated playground projects to provide suitable play experiences and supporting amenities such as seating, shade, playground curbing, and barrier-free infrastructure that support play, caregiving, and maintenance activities.	Future playground renovations	Near-term

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acquire floodplain lots for open space network	Continue or initiate active pursuit of properties in targeted floodplain areas.	City of Kitchener Official Plan: A Complete & Healthy Kitchener, 2014	Near-term through site plan review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue strategic master planning for select parks	Create development plans for identified parks or park networks impacted by multiple connected strategies, initiatives, asset needs, and future recreational opportunities.	Gzowski Park Kaufman Park Laurentian Park (and network) Lions Park Rosenberg Park Schaefer Park, Weber Park	Near-term
			Heritage Park Budd Park Queensmount Park (and network)	Mid-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faster playground replacement	Resource a sustained increase in the playground replacement rate at priority locations to address the current backlog.	Future park networks	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue Grand River access improvements	Prioritize and improve Grand River canoe launch access points to established standards.	Feasibility study for the Bridgeport area	Near-term
			Stanley Park Optimist Natural Area Access Point	Mid-term
			Freeport Access Point	Long-term

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduce a revised dedication program	Proposed program to include a memorial forest program and rework of the park bench and tree dedication program.	New Tree and Bench Dedication Program, 2025	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	More shade and seating in parks	Establish standards to support an increase in seating and shade options in parks.	Park renovation projects; Tree planting initiatives in parks	Near-term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Long term plans	Initiate or update existing strategic and asset management plans for each Signature and Feature park, including Victoria Park (underway), Huron Natural Area (underway), McLennan Park (underway), Rockway Gardens, Kiwanis Park, and RBJ Schlegel Park.	Victoria Park, Huron Natural Area, McLennan Park	Near-term
			Rockway Gardens	Mid-term
			Kiwanis Park RBJ Schlegel Park	Long-term
01	Prioritize parkland as a use of current City-owned properties	For suitable City-owned lands located in areas identified in Spaces as High or Critical Needs, prioritize parkland when considering land-use modification to compensate for reduced parkland acquisition tools and to support parkland provision targets when assessed in accordance with the City-Owned Land Disposition Framework (DSD-2024-044).		
02	Create a park washroom and hydration strategy	Develop a strategy to assess existing inventory, renovations, adaptations, future growth, alternative delivery methods, operating and staffing needs, all rooted in inclusive and accessible design at the lowest lifecycle cost.	Assessment of current service levels city-wide	Near-term
03	Review existing Parks By-Law	Establish a cross-departmental team to complete a review and update of the existing Parks By-Law.	Review of Chapter 270 Parks By-Law	Near-term

04	Alternative spaces	Pursue opportunities for recreation beyond park property boundaries. Continue cross-departmental re-imagination and adaptation of spaces such as roads and laneways to support and integrate with the parks system downtown.		Near-term
05	Public drinking water in parks	Support a pilot project to provide public drinking water at three locations and monitor their use, cost, and staff time implications. Incorporate findings from public drinking water pilot project into the park washroom and hydration strategy.	Three locations to be determined	Near-term
06	Change the way we play	Establish play design standards for new and renovated parks that describe fun and play for all ages and abilities, and that allow a responsive approach to evolving local and broader trends.		Near-term
07	Local park networks	Design local parks as networks of unique and complementary park experiences to deliver a variety of services while avoiding redundancies.		
08	Park lighting standards	Establish park lighting criteria and policies to determine park eligibility and standards for pedestrian lighting.		Near-term
09	Public use of outdoor sportsfields facility program	Support the development of a public drop-in program for outdoor bookable sport facilities within public park settings.		
10	Increase biodiversity in parks	Using an asset management approach, identify strategic parkland areas that can be transitioned to naturalized areas through park renovation projects. Design plantings to mimic nature as much as possible in species diversification.		
11	Resource relationship-building	Resource engagement for and in-between projects and in alignment with the outcomes of the corporate engagement review.		Near-term
12	Ensure community gardens are barrier-free	Expand the Corporate Accessibility Fund mandate and budget to enable grant projects to meet accessibility requirements identified by Inclusion Services and the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC).		

13	Match playgrounds to their parks	Establish standards for traditional playground size and complexity in alignment with park size and classification.		
14	Standard agreements for POPS	Develop a standard policy to outline the public use, design, and maintenance agreements for privately owned public spaces (POPS), consistent with the Park Dedication By-Law and Policy.		
15	Evaluate the playground inventory	Establish data-informed evaluation criteria to create a playground inventory management plan. Invest resources into increasing the size and improving the quality of traditional playgrounds at strategic locations and consolidating playgrounds where supported by engagement.		Near-term
16	Active uses downtown	Encourage the development of active park uses in downtown parks. Consideration should be made for sport, play, activities and games during redevelopment opportunities.		
17	Power in parks	Include publicly available outlets at each new or renovated shade structure, where possible to do so.		
18	Trail surfaces in parks	Establish that all new and renovated park developments include stable, firm surfaces of asphalt or concrete, unless otherwise required to be stonedust for environmental reasons.		
19	Connect operating and life-cycle planning to capital works	All reporting and budget planning for capital park development to include recognition of changes to maintenance procedures and future life-cycling requirements including funding, labour, and equipment needs.		
20	Less intensive turf	Diversify turf species to improve biodiversity and reduce cutting rotations.		
21	Grow a city gardening hub	Explore a cross-departmental pilot program to re-introduce a City-coordinated garden located in an area of need as identified through engagement. Program to support food security through opportunities for gardening, food literacy programming, community gathering, and demonstration.		Near-term

22	Green infrastructure integration in existing parks	Establish integrated design and development standards and criteria for retrofit stormwater management adaptations, natural assets, and low-impact development (LID) in park spaces.		
23	Comprehensive court strategy	Conduct a complete asset management review and demand analysis for all sport courts in parks to inform the strategic renovation, replacement, or addition of sport courts.		Near-term
24	Consider exercise equipment in parks	Monitor existing exercise equipment locations for usage rates to determine if infrastructure should be expanded.		Near-term
25	Install permanent waste receptacles	Establish a suite of standard above-ground and subterranean waste receptacles appropriate to park classifications, uses, and need. Prioritize locations for the installation of preferred waste management improvements.		Near-term
26	Refrigerated skating area	Conduct a feasibility study for a public outdoor refrigerated skating area in a park space with city-wide access.	Feasibility Study	Mid-term
27	Data-driven capital forecasting	Employ evaluation criteria to prioritize park renovations. Criteria to include community priority, park asset conditions, and accessibility.		
28	Align new grant infrastructure with park capital planning	Where possible, align grant-led placemaking projects in parks with capital project forecasts to optimize budgets and infrastructure that support their implementation and maintenance.		
29	More splashpads	Develop three new local splashpads in alignment with the Outdoor Pool Strategy.	Locations to be determined based on engagement	Near-, Mid-, Long-term
30	Review existing dog facilities	Audit existing fenced dog parks to assess accessibility needs, waste management, and general improvements to user experiences.		Mid-term

31	Expand small-scale commercial licensing in parks	Permit occasional, small-scale commercial use of park space.		Mid-term
32	Rubberized surfacing in each ward	Identify and resource one playground per ward to receive rubberized surfacing in a location with greatest access in the community.	Seven locations to be determined through engagement	Mid-term
33	Pilot off-leash areas	Create a pilot project to use select hydro corridors and park space as designated off-leash areas. Establish permanent off-leash areas throughout Kitchener informed by the results of the pilot project.	Hydro corridor location	Mid-term
34	Strategic locations for sportsfield lighting	Continue or support future initiatives to install sportsfield lighting in parks that enable increased programming. Priority given to City Wide classified parks with available parking and meaningful separation from residences.		
35	Build a south-end dog park	Establish an off-leash dog facility located in one of the southern residential communities sized to accommodate the projected 20-year population growth in the area.	Location to be determined through engagement	Long-term
36	Dogs in community parks	Support “micro” dog parks in Community class parks, where brought forward by grassroots initiatives, grant programs, or supported by local consultation, and balanced with other recreational interests.		
37	Artificial turf for sportsfields	Continue to invest in the conversion of eligible natural turf sportsfields to artificial turf, subject to future demand analysis.		