



MacLEOD PARK

CONCEPT PLAN | AUGUST 2025



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1.0 BACKGROUND

MacLeod Park is a 16-hectare community park located in Cannington, Ontario. Situated along the Beaver River and Trans Canada Trail, the park offers important social gathering space for the Township of Brock and is the community's focal point for cultural and recreational opportunities.

A MacLeod Park Plan was developed in 2014 by a Landscape Architecture student from the University of Guelph. The design plan featured many amenity improvements and presented an effective new vision for the park.

In December 2023, a 10-year Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan was adopted by Council. The Master Plan provides strategic guidance for decisions related to municipal parks and recreation facilities, highlighting the values and needs of the community. A key recommendation within the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan was the development of a new site-specific master plan for MacLeod Park that reflects current community interests.

Following this recommendation, two high-level park design concepts were prepared to illustrate different programming and spatial strategies. These concepts were presented to the community at a Public Open House on October 24, 2024, to gather feedback and better understand residents' and stakeholders' preferences and concerns.

This Concept Plan serves to build upon the vision of the 2014 MacLeod Park Plan, incorporating the recommendations and implementation strategies of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan, together with input received from the Open House. It is intended as a visioning document for discussion purposes only, to guide future detailed design and decision-making.



- Baseball Diamonds revitalized; second field repositioned for park space maximization
- New Pathways establish better connections throughout the park
- Beaver River Trail
- Proposed Multi - Use Playing Field
- Seating Area
- Canteen & Washroom Facilities
- Covered Seating
- Proposed BMX / Mountain Bike Skills Track
- Existing Skateboard Park
- Proposed Splash Pad with Covered Seating nearby
- Existing Playground with Covered Seating
- Cannington Historical Society's Centennial Museum
- Tennis Courts relocated and revitalized
- Proposed Stage Area to accommodate outdoor performances and events
- Updated Pedestrian Bridge to establish better connection between the parks
- Accessible Playground
- Expanded Parking for Lawn Bowling Club and MacLeod Park users
- Animal Shelter
- Ex. Parking
- Curling Club
- Community Centre
- Ex. Parking
- Peace Street
- Basketball Court relocated and extended from a half to a full court
- Proposed Washroom Facilities
- Claire Hardy Park Entry Signage
- Royal Canadian Legion
- MacLeod Park Entry Signage

The Recreational Heart of Cannington - MacLeod & Claire Hardy Parks Master Plan by Justin Whalen, 2014.

2.0 ANALYSIS

2.1 MacLEOD PARK PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES (2014)

In 2014, Justin Whalen, a student from the University of Guelph's Landscape Architecture program, prepared a proposed MacLeod Park Plan for Council's consideration. This plan was developed in response to the recommendations of the 2012 Recreation Master Plan and sought to address the following goals and objectives:

Goals:

- To utilize the Recreational Master Plan recommendations for municipal parkland use to address the recreational needs of Cannington residents and guide future development of parkland in order to achieve a larger, more cohesive park experience that offers maximum benefit for the well-being of both individuals and the community.
- To create a site that has the capacity to provide recreational, leisure and entertainment opportunities for various age groups and ability levels within the community.

Objectives:

- Expand the Claire Hardy Park Trail System to form a continuous loop
- Build a covered seating shelter for skateboard park patrons in Claire Hardy Park
- Construct a BMX bike course adjacent to the skateboard park as a complementary amenity to that facility
- Install new accessible playground equipment with barrier-free features in MacLeod Park
- Construct a new splash-pad in Claire Hardy Park
- Rejuvenate the aging picnic pavilion in MacLeod Park
- Build a stage in MacLeod Park to accommodate outdoor entertainment

- Install consistently designed wayfinding signage throughout both parks
- Construct new washrooms in Claire Hardy Park
- Revitalization initiatives must accommodate existing park festivals and celebration

2.2 PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MASTER PLAN (2023)

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan is a framework for the Township of Brock to manage and sustain trails, open spaces, and parks as well as recreation and leisure programs, facilities, and amenities over a 10-year period to 2033. Highlights of the Master Plan's site-specific recommendations are as follows:

- After introducing 1 pickleball court in MacLeod Park on the existing skatepark pad, plan to provide additional courts in this park within the next three years. Anticipate providing one additional court by 2033, for which need will be verified through monitoring actual use of all courts.
- Implement budgeted tennis court improvements
- Continue to provide/add more washrooms and drinking water fountains to public parks
- Provide pedestrian-scale walkway lighting in a park in each community
- Decrease mowing in parks and create naturalized planting areas in suitable locations
- Promote accessibility and ensure new parks and trails meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards
- Prioritization of the following improvements from the 2014 MacLeod Park Plan: winterized accessible washrooms, paved multi-use walking track, and tree planting

2.3 KEY UPDATES

The MacLeod Park Concept Plan retains the key foundational elements of the 2014 MacLeod Park Plan, including a commitment to cohesive and accessible design through the provision and revitalization of park amenities.

In addition to maintaining the overall vision and foundational elements established in the 2014 MacLeod Park Plan, the updated plan concept retains much of the proposed amenities and facilities including an expanded multi-use trail, an accessible playground and splash-pad, and consistent signage at the gateways of the park.

As a result of the recommendations in the recent Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan, the key change to the plan is an updated layout of proposed amenities to better reflect current community interests. The conceptual layout strives to create a discernible park gateway and subsequent 'hubs' of activity while maintaining open space for passive recreation. By expanding on ideas to reinforce cohesive place-making design, the updated concept improves upon the original design of MacLeod Park.



CONCEPT 1



CONCEPT 2

3.0 PRELIMINARY CONCEPT COMPARISONS

3.1 OVERVIEW

As part of the effort to update and build upon the 2014 MacLeod Park Plan, two high-level concept designs were developed to explore alternative approaches for enhancing the park’s programming, circulation, and landscape character. Informed by the recommendations of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan and a detailed analysis of existing site conditions, these concepts presented distinct visions for how the park could better serve current and future community needs.

3.2 COMPARISON OF CONCEPTS

Two concept designs were developed to explore different approaches to updating the park and addressing community needs.

Concept 1 emphasizes providing essential recreational facilities while prioritizing accessibility for all visitors. This design supports a diverse range of activities within a cost-effective framework by revitalizing many of the park’s existing features, including the asphalt pads for basketball and pickleball, as well as the tennis courts. It strikes a balance between functionality and inclusivity to create a welcoming environment for the entire community.

In contrast, Concept 2 adopts a hub-oriented design strategy that organizes the park into distinct zones for passive and active recreation. This concept presents a identifiable entrance that transitions to active recreational facilities. Notably, this design proposes a reduction in parking capacity and the repositioning of the ball diamond to prioritize central open green space for flexible use, passive recreation, and enhanced vistas.

The following comparison chart summarizes the key differences between the two concepts, highlighting variations in programming, features, and spatial organization. Together, these concepts provided a foundation for public engagement, allowing the community to express preferences that informed the development of the refined concept.

Both concepts included:

- North park improvements (accessible playground, walking paths, tennis / pickleball courts, benches, parking, picnic shelter)
- Updated pedestrian bridge
- Basketball court
- Pickleball courts
- Tennis courts
- Splash pad
- Pump track
- Baseball diamonds
- Multi-purpose sports field
- Dog park
- Seating
- Accessible pedestrian pathways with lighting
- Washroom facilities and water fountain
- Planting beds and trees

AMENITY / FEATURE	CONCEPT 1	CONCEPT 2
Entrance Gateway	Open Plaza	Covered Picnic Pavilion
Bandstand	No	Yes
Revitalized Parking Lot	No	Yes
Accessible Central Picnic Pavilion	No	Yes
Naturalized Planting Areas	Plazas and trailheads	Plaza Walkway



MEADOW GARDENS **MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS FIELD** WASHROOMS

VISIBILITY WELLHEAD PROTECTION **COMMUNITY SPORTS**

SECURITY **ACCESSIBLE WALKWAYS**

YOUTH SAFETY ALTERNATIVE PAVING RUGBY HEART OF ONTARIO

DEFINED PARKING **REDUCED MOWING** **OPEN SPACE**

CLEAR ENTRANCE **LOCALLY SOURCED** LIGHTING

NATIVE TREE PLANTING **PARK SIGNAGE**



4.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY – WHAT WE HEARD

4.1 OVERVIEW

To ensure the MacLeod Park design reflects the evolving needs of the community, two design concepts were developed to build on the foundation of the 2014 MacLeod Park Plan. These concepts were informed by public input gathered through the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan engagement process and were presented for feedback as part of a targeted consultation effort.

An Open House was held on October 24, 2024, where approximately 25 individuals—residents, community group representatives, and sports league members—attended to review the proposed designs and share their thoughts. In addition to in-person engagement, formal written feedback was accepted via email until November 11th, 2024, resulting in 53 responses.

This consultation phase aimed to identify which features resonated most with the community, explore preferences between the two concepts, and gather suggestions to shape the final direction of the park design.

4.2 SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES

The feedback collected during this consultation revealed a diverse range of perspectives and priorities. While both concepts were generally well-received, participants offered valuable input on specific design elements and programming preferences. Several recurring themes emerged that helped inform the development of the refined concept:

Support for Multi-Purpose Sports Field

Many respondents expressed strong support for the construction of a multi-purpose sports field. This feature was viewed as a valuable opportunity to accommodate a range of organized sports and community programming. The refined concept incorporates a flexible open field space that can accommodate a variety of sport and recreation activities.

Defined Entrance and Improved Parking

Feedback highlighted the need for a more clearly defined entrance to the park, with enhanced wayfinding and a welcoming sense of arrival. Defined parking areas and consistent gateway signage were noted as priorities to improve orientation and flow for visitors, while reinforcing the park's identity. These elements have been addressed in the refined plan through a legible arrival sequence and integration of signage and open green space at the main central entrance.

Improved Accessibility

Ensuring barrier-free access across the site was a consistent priority. Respondents requested accessible pathways to and between key amenities, as well as design considerations that support users of all ages and abilities. The refined concept includes accessible trails on both sides of the Beaver River and prioritizes inclusive design across gathering spaces and recreation areas.

Environmental Considerations

Respondents encouraged sustainable park development through environmental enhancements such as the planting of native trees, expanding pollinator gardens, reducing mowing areas, and considering alternative paving materials. Protection of the wellhead areas was also identified as a key concern. In response, the refined concept incorporates additional naturalized planting areas and adjusts the layout of park facilities, such as the dog park, to respect wellhead protection zones, helping to safeguard local drinking water resources.

Safety and Security Measures

A desire for improved safety and security emerged, including continued use of timber bollards to limit vehicular access and the addition of appropriate lighting throughout the park. In response, the refined concept proposes replacing the existing timber bollards with a combination of tree planting and pedestrian-scale bollard lighting. This approach maintains a clear delineation between pedestrian and vehicular areas while enhancing safety and visual appeal. Bollard lighting is also proposed throughout the park to support safe evening use, encourage passive surveillance, and promote a welcoming environment after dark. Solar-powered fixtures may be considered to support sustainability goals.

Additionally, the proposed pump track has been relocated to a more central and visible area of the park to address youth safety concerns and enhance casual surveillance.

Washrooms and Water Bottle Filling Stations

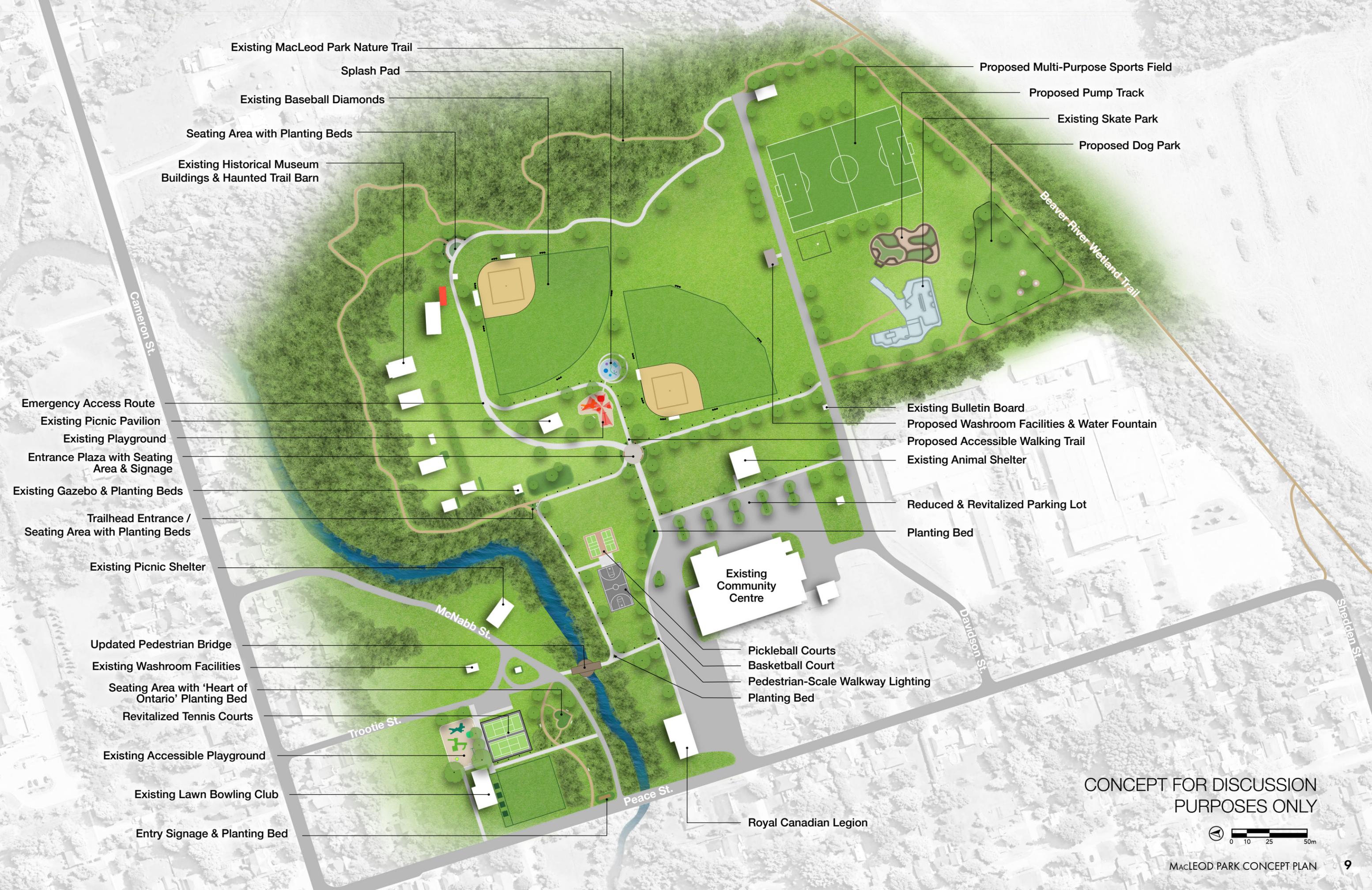
Participants emphasized the importance of providing accessible public washrooms and access to drinking water. These amenities were highlighted as critical infrastructure to support daily use as well as large community events. In response, the refined concept includes a centrally located washroom facility and water bottle refill station to ensure these essential needs are met for all park visitors.

The feedback gathered through the consultation process played a vital role in shaping the refined concept. Community insights, ranging from programming preferences to safety, accessibility, and environmental priorities, have been thoughtfully considered and balanced with operational feasibility and long-term sustainability. The result is a park concept that reflects local values and aspirations, aiming to serve a broad range of users while enhancing the site's role as a welcoming, inclusive, and resilient public space for years to come.

5.0 REFINED CONCEPT

The Refined Concept for MacLeod Park blends key features from the initial Concept 1 and Concept 2, combining the most valued elements into a cohesive, community-focused design. It reuses and revitalizes existing features, preserving functional infrastructure while enhancing the park's overall character. Sustainability is central to the vision, with expanded tree planting and naturalized planting areas supporting ecological health and long-term resilience.

The design improves accessibility, ensuring that paths and activity areas can be comfortably navigated by a wider range of users. Safety and security are enhanced with improved sightlines, open view corridors, and thoughtful placement of amenities to enhance visibility and encourage a welcoming, secure atmosphere. Parking areas are intentionally reduced in favour of expanded open spaces, accommodating passive recreation, seasonal festivities, and a welcoming, distinguishable entrance that signals arrival. Together, these enhancements create a park that supports daily use while offering a flexible framework for future programming and community events.



Existing MacLeod Park Nature Trail

Splash Pad

Existing Baseball Diamonds

Seating Area with Planting Beds

Existing Historical Museum Buildings & Haunted Trail Barn

Proposed Multi-Purpose Sports Field

Proposed Pump Track

Existing Skate Park

Proposed Dog Park

Beaver River Wetland Trail

Cameron St.

Emergency Access Route

Existing Picnic Pavilion

Existing Playground

Entrance Plaza with Seating Area & Signage

Existing Gazebo & Planting Beds

Trailhead Entrance / Seating Area with Planting Beds

Existing Picnic Shelter

Updated Pedestrian Bridge

Existing Washroom Facilities

Seating Area with 'Heart of Ontario' Planting Bed

Revitalized Tennis Courts

Existing Accessible Playground

Existing Lawn Bowling Club

Entry Signage & Planting Bed

Existing Bulletin Board

Proposed Washroom Facilities & Water Fountain

Proposed Accessible Walking Trail

Existing Animal Shelter

Reduced & Revitalized Parking Lot

Planting Bed

McNabb St.

Trootie St.

Peace St.

Existing Community Centre

Pickleball Courts

Basketball Court

Pedestrian-Scale Walkway Lighting

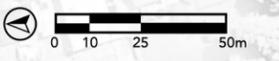
Planting Bed

Davidson St.

Shepley St.

Royal Canadian Legion

CONCEPT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY



6.0 PROGRAMMING AND FEATURES

6.1 OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The refined concept for MacLeod Park proposes a balanced mix of active recreation facilities, passive open spaces, and social gathering areas designed to serve a diverse range of users and activities. Building on community input, operational considerations, and the recommendations of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan, the proposed programming aims to create an inclusive, welcoming, and flexible park environment.

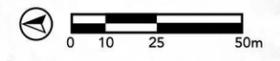
Key priorities reflected in the program include enhancing accessibility for visitors of all ages and abilities, providing opportunities for both structured and informal recreation, and reinforcing the park’s role as a central gathering place within the community.

The following table summarizes the key existing and proposed elements in the refined concept, highlighting their intended role in shaping the overall park experience. These features are shown in the illustrative plan to provide a high-level view of their distribution and relationship within the park.

AMENITY / FEATURE	KEY PURPOSE / ROLE
Multi-Purpose Sports Field, Baseball Diamonds, and Courts	Support organized and informal sports, provide space for community leagues and seasonal recreation
Playgrounds & Splash Pad	Family-friendly play opportunities designed for inclusivity and seasonal use
Pump Track & Skate Park	Offer youth-oriented activity and skill development for bikes and scooters
Dog Park	Dedicated off-leash area supporting pet owners and social interaction
Central Open Green Space	Flexible areas for passive recreation, informal play, and community events
Picnic Shelters	Social hubs and shaded space for year-round gatherings and events
Revitalized Parking Area	Improves access, safety, and operational efficiency for park visitors
Naturalized Planting Areas	Enhance biodiversity, sustainability, and seasonal interest
Trail Network & Pathways	Provide accessible circulation and connect key program areas
Washrooms & Water Bottle Refill Stations	Support comfort, accessibility, and year-round usability
Seating, Lighting, Signage	Improve comfort, safety, and orientation throughout the park



PROGRAMMING





Walking Trail

Beaver River Wetland Trail

Accessible Walking Path

Emergency Vehicle Access

Maintenance Road

Parking

CIRCULATION



Gateway

Viewshed

Lighting

Park Signage

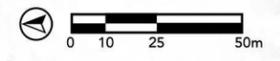
Formal Park Entrance

Gateway

Lighting

Park Signage

EXPERIENTIAL DESIGN



7.0 PROPOSED PHASING PLAN

7.1 OVERVIEW

The implementation of the refined park concept is organized into three phases to balance community needs, budget considerations, and construction feasibility. Phasing allows for gradual improvements, prioritizing high-use areas and existing infrastructure while providing flexibility for future enhancements.

7.2 PHASE 1 (YEAR 0 - 4)

Phase 1 focuses on establishing the park's core framework, prioritizing high-use amenities and circulation. Key recreational amenities, such as the multi-purpose sports field, basketball court, and pickleball courts, are prioritized early to generate immediate community recreational use. The introduction of accessible walking paths and new trail connections improves circulation throughout the park, making it easier for all visitors to navigate and enjoy the site.

Spatial organization and park identity are strengthened through the creation of the northeast plaza, the central entrance plaza, and new entrance signage. These elements provide a clear sense of arrival, orientation, and gathering, while the reduction of the parking lot allows valuable space to be reclaimed for passive recreation and seasonal festivities.

The pedestrian bridge is replaced to strengthen its role as both a functional crossing and a defining visual feature of the park. This enhancement transforms the bridge into a landmark element, contributing to the park's identity and offering a more enjoyable experience for visitors.

Utility extensions for future washrooms, the splash pad, and lighting are included at this stage to minimize disruption in future phases, ensuring that essential infrastructure is already in place when those features are implemented. This approach helps manage long-term costs, while setting the stage for more intensive amenities to be added in subsequent phases.

7.3 PHASE 2 (YEAR 4 - 7)

Phase 2 builds on the established framework by introducing a wider range of amenities that diversify recreational opportunities and broaden the park's appeal. A new pump track and dog park diversify programming for all ages, while baseball diamond lighting extends play into the evenings.

Essential infrastructure also takes priority in this phase with the construction of permanent washroom facilities and a drinking water fountain. These amenities directly support comfort, accessibility, and longer stays in the park.

This phase also emphasizes enhancements to the north park area, including upgraded walking paths, tennis courts, benches, parking, and planting. These upgrades ensure that both active and passive users benefit from a more comfortable and better-connected environment.

Tree planting and plaza landscaping become a major focus during this phase. With the construction of plazas, paths, and amenity areas complete, planting can be carried out effectively without risk of damage to young trees. This sequencing allows softscape to be integrated seamlessly into the built framework, enhancing shade, comfort, ecological value, and the overall character of the park. Together, these improvements enrich the park experience while advancing sustainability goals.

7.4 PHASE 3 (YEAR 7 - 10)

The final phase focuses on completing key amenities and infrastructure upgrades that enhance both usability and comfort. A splash pad may be introduced, offering a vibrant, family-friendly feature that encourages seasonal play and attracts a broad range of park users. Pedestrian-scale lighting will be added along key circulation routes, improving visibility, safety, and extending the park's usability into the evening hours.

The existing gravel parking lot is reconfigured into a clearly marked, paved lot with defined circulation and softscape planting islands. These changes improve accessibility and organization, while landscaped areas break up the expanse of pavement, provide shade, and create a greener, more welcoming arrival experience.

By sequencing these investments strategically, the park can continue to grow in a way that builds momentum, maximizes community benefit, and carefully manages resources. Phase 3 completes all major elements, including recreational amenities, comfort features, and circulation improvements, enabling MacLeod Park to serve as a central gathering space that reflects community identity, supports seasonal programming, and accommodates visitors of all ages.



PHASE 1 | Year 0 to 4

- Utility extension for future splash pad, washrooms and lighting
- Multi-purpose sports field
- Basketball court
- Pickleball courts
- Accessible walking paths
- Walking trails
- Updated pedestrian bridge
- Parking lot reduction
- Plazas (northeast plaza and central entrance plaza)
- Entrance signage at Peace Street and central plaza



PHASE 2 | Year 4 to 7

- Pump track
- Dog park
- Washroom facilities / water fountain
- Baseball diamond lighting
- North park improvements (walking paths, tennis courts, benches, planting)
- Tree planting
- Plaza planting



PHASE 3 | Year 7 to 10

- Pedestrian-scale lighting
- Splash pad
- Parking lot revitalization

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY

The concept applies universal design principles to create an inclusive environment accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Paved multi-use trails connect major program areas and amenities, ensuring barrier-free circulation across the park. Accessible play structures, seating nodes, and washroom facilities further support equitable participation. Lighting, seating, and shade structures are also planned with consideration for accessibility, promoting comfort and safety for all visitors.

8.2 PLACE-MAKING & PARK IDENTITY

The refined concept seeks to strengthen MacLeod Park's identity as a welcoming, recognizable destination that reflects the unique character, history, and values of the community. A clearly defined entrance, framed by tree-lined walkways, cohesive landscaping, and coordinated signage, establishes an immediate sense of arrival and orientation for visitors. Distinct program "hubs" offer varied recreational, cultural, and social opportunities while maintaining visual and physical connections across the site.

Heritage and cultural identity are central to the park's vision. Collaboration with community groups can continue to enrich the park's identity and create meaningful experiences for visitors. Features such as public art installations, heritage storytelling elements, seasonal or pollinator gardens, and other culturally inspired programming can celebrate local history and foster a sense of shared ownership. These elements will not only enhance the visitor experience but also strengthen the park's role as a cultural landmark.

The combination of naturalized landscaping, gathering spaces, and interpretive or cultural features ensures that the park offers both functional recreational opportunities and a strong sense of place. Over time, the park can continue to evolve while maintaining its identity, allowing new programs, installations, or enhancements to be integrated in a way that respects the overall design vision and strengthens its connection to the community.

8.3 SUSTAINABILITY

The refined concept of MacLeod Park incorporates principles of sustainability to support long-term operational efficiency and climate resiliency. Naturalized native planting areas and pollinator gardens are proposed to enhance biodiversity, reduce maintenance requirements, and provide educational opportunities about native species. The reuse and improvement of existing infrastructure, such as revitalized sports courts and parking area, minimizes environmental impact and construction waste.

The concept also considers the potential use of solar-powered bollard lighting along key pathways and gathering areas, improving safety while reducing energy consumption. Where possible, the design should incorporate sustainable building materials and prioritize locally sourced products, reducing environmental impacts and supporting the regional economy. Together, these strategies support the Town's broader sustainability objectives while contributing to the park's overall visual and ecological character.

8.4 SEASONAL & FLEXIBLE USE

A key priority of the refined concept is to ensure the park remains active and inviting throughout the year. The large central green space is designed to host seasonal community events, passive play, and informal gatherings, while the multi-purpose sports field accommodates a variety of athletic activities. Sheltered picnic areas and seating nodes provide year-round places to meet and rest, while features like the trail network and dog park encourage regular use regardless of season. This flexible approach helps the park adapt to changing community needs and programming opportunities over time.

8.5 MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Programming and layout decisions within the refined park concept were informed by maintenance and operational efficiency goals. Grouping active uses near parking and major paths helps reduce wear on open spaces and simplifies upkeep. Revitalizing existing features, rather than fully replacing them, lowers long-term costs and preserves functional infrastructure. The selection of hardy, low-maintenance plantings and durable materials should further support the park's sustainability and operational resilience.

Clear sightlines across key areas will promote natural surveillance and user comfort, while a layout that anticipates snow clearing, waste collection, and repairs will facilitate efficient operations. While maintenance will remain a municipal responsibility, the design allows for potential partnerships and collaborative initiatives to enhance programming, stewardship, and seasonal improvements over time. This adaptable approach positions the park to remain a vibrant, high-quality space that serves both everyday needs and major community events well into the future.



Goldpoint Wildlife Reserve, Oshawa, ON



MBTA Station, Salem, MA



Memorial Park, Lindsay, ON



Dunbar Park, Chicago, IL



Poinsettia Dog Park, Carlsbad, CA



RIM Park Bike Track, Waterloo, ON



Hal McCarney Park, Gananoque, ON



Lake Wilcox Park Splash Pad, Richmond Hill, ON

