



Implementing the 2022 Parks Plan

Accessibility Advisory Committee

November 2, 2023

Park and Natural Heritage Planning





Agenda



1. **2022 Parks Plan**
(approved June 22, 2022)
2. **Mill Pond Park Revitalization Master Plan** (on-going)
3. **Richmond Green Master Plan**
(targeting initiating in 2024)



Balancing Growth and Green



The City initiated the review of the Parks Plan, Recreation Plan and Culture Plan in 2020 to aid in achieving the Corporate goal of **balancing growth and green**. The City's Capital Sustainability Committee directed that this review consider the following:

1. That the review of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Plans be advanced to 2020, **utilizing an integrated lifecycle planning approach**;
2. That the review of the Parks Plan include consideration of:
 - a. Understanding the park and recreation needs of residents in higher density developments;
 - b. Investigating the use of linear parks in high density developments to direct residents to established parks; and
 - c. Designing and building more cost effective parks.



A multi-disciplinary consulting team was retained by the City to aid with this review.





How the City delivers Parks

Department

Corporate and Financial Services

- Capital Budget

Planning & Building Services

- Secure Land & Analyze Facility Needs



Infrastructure & Engineering Services

- Design & Construction



Community Services

- Maintenance & Operations



Legislative Requirements



- Municipal parkland provision rates are set by the Province in the *Planning Act*
 - **Parkland** - maximum of 5% of low-density residential lands to be developed (all municipalities take this amount); 1 ha. per 600 units for higher-density residential lands to a maximum of 10% where the lands to be developed/redeveloped are less than 5 ha. and 15% where the lands to be developed/redeveloped are greater than 5 ha. (prior to Bill 23, this was formerly 1 ha. Per 300 units with no cap)
 - **Cash-in-Lieu** – maximum of 1 ha. per 600 units (formerly 1 ha. per 300 units) or such lesser rate as established by By-law
- Municipal obligation to identify, remove and/or prevent barriers to full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in parks is included in the Design for Public Spaces Standard (one of the 5 Standards within the AODA)
 - Parks built prior to 2015 are often not accessible (unless they have been retrofitted since the time they were built, or were built to be accessible like Crosby Park was in the mid-2000s)
 - Parks built after 2016 are required to be accessible per Section 80.5 of the Design for Public Spaces Std



Bill 23 Funding Implications

- In addition to reducing the amount of land a municipality can secure for parkland purposes, as was noted in Staff Report SRPI.23.018 (Special Council, January 30, 2023), Bill 23 results in significant revenue losses to the City in growth-related funding tools (i.e. Development Charges, Community Benefits Charges and Parkland Dedication):

Revenue Tool	Overall Revenue Loss	Reduction in Forecasted Revenue
Development Charges	\$87.7 million	32%
Community Benefits Charges	\$3.9 million	25%
Parkland Dedication	\$238.2 million	61%
Total Revenue Loss	\$329.8 million	49%

Note: The estimates in the Table above are preliminary and high-level based on the information available at the time of SRPI.23.018.





Parks Plan, Recreation Plan & Culture Plan Review Timeline

Spring-Fall 2021

Background Research & Analysis

Public Survey,
Stakeholder &
Councillor
Interviews

Fall 2021-Winter 2022

Key Directions Report Endorsed by Council

March 9, 2022

Spring 2022

Draft Parks Plan released

Virtual Open
House

Summer/Fall 2022

Plan Approvals

June 22, 2022

Parks Plan
December, 2022

Recreation &
Culture Plan

By Sept. 18, 2022

By-law Approvals

Parkland
Dedication
By-law

1,169

responses!





2022 Parks Plan

Chapter Organization

Implementing the
Parks PLAN

Chapter 1



Introduction

2



Planning
Context

3



Existing
System

4



Outdoor
Facilities

5



Parkland
Needs

6



Improving
& Enhancing
the System

7



Implementation



2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 1 - Introduction



- **Richmond Hill** has been successful in acquiring the lands to plan and develop an exceptional park system
- As the City urbanizes, a key direction of the draft Parks Plan is **to enhance the City's park system**. This includes:
 - Building new parks and revitalizing our aging parks to serve our growing community and addressing changes to our climate,
 - Creating more connections linking different neighbourhoods, and
 - Expanding the ways people can travel within our City.
- These enhancements will help **improve the lives of residents as the City grows by offering more opportunities to recreate and get around**



2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Guiding Principles:



Expand

the parks system to
continue to create a
livable, diverse
Richmond Hill



Improve

the function of existing
parks



Connect

parks and enhanced
streetscapes to trails
and the larger
Greenway System



Design

for flexible, multi-use
parks that support year-
round use for all

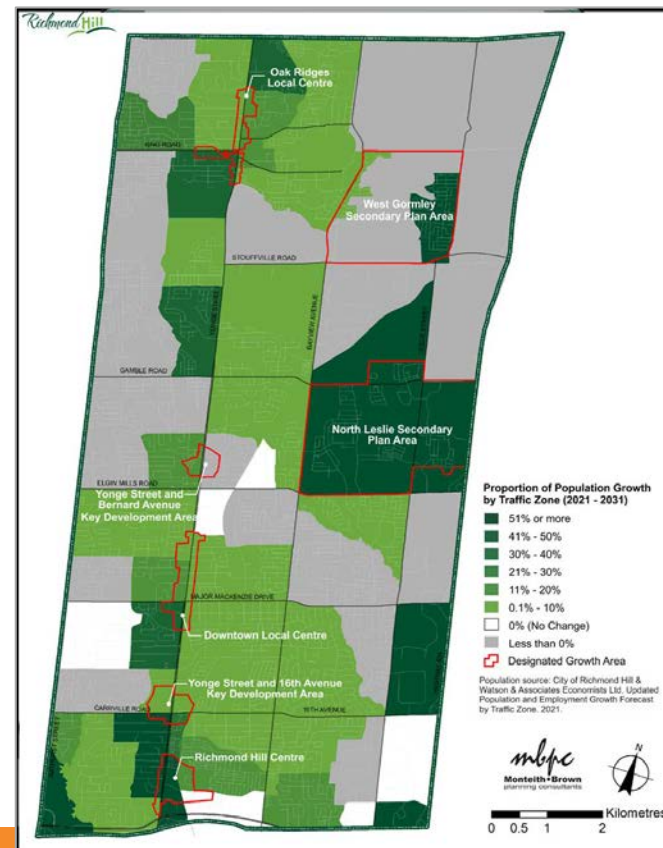


2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 2 – Richmond Hill's Park Planning Context

Implementing the
Parks PLAN

- Population growth has slowed, but will likely resume;
- Richmond Hill's current population is 214,00 and is projected to increase to 253,00 by 2031;
- The geographic distribution of growth will continue to shift toward intensification and infill – particularly in the centres and corridors;
- Aging population will drive increased demands for services geared towards adults age 55+;
- The large commuter population (presuming it resumes post-pandemic) will continue to place **pressure on prime-time and self-scheduled activities**, although this trend appears to be shifting as a result of on-going work from home arrangements, which the City will continue to monitor.

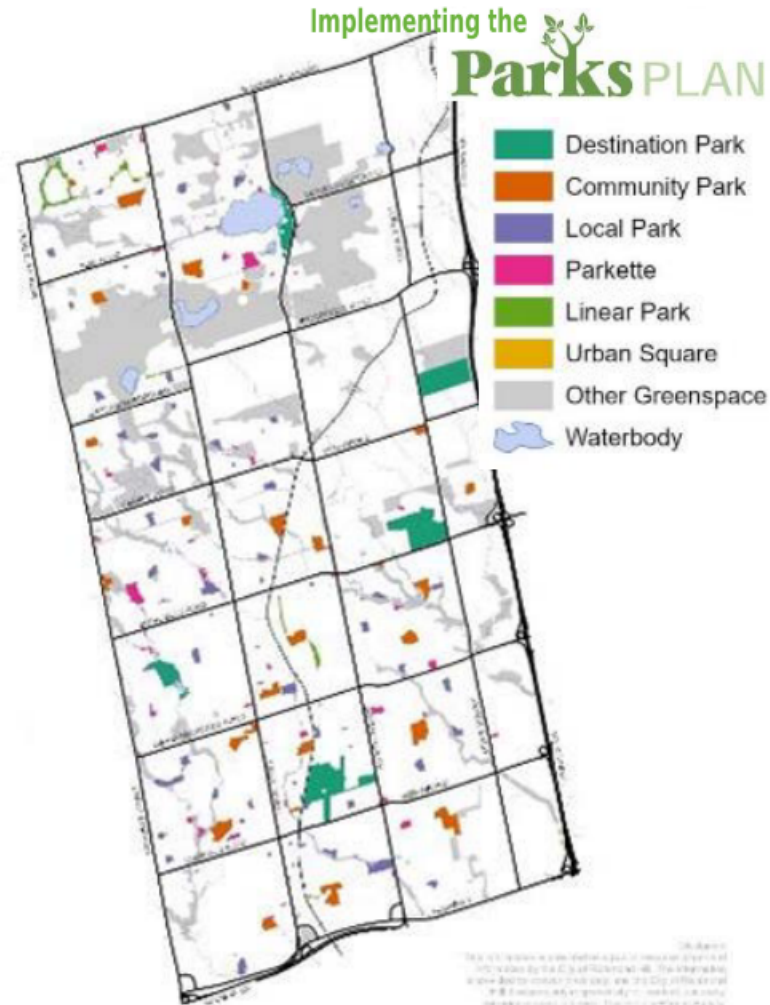




2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 3 – The Existing Park System

- The City's existing municipal park system contains a total of approximately **358 hectares of active parkland** (August 2021 data), which is **classified into a parkland hierarchy** as shown on the map at right
- The parks system has a **relatively even geographic distribution**, given the lengthy era of low-density greenfield development which saw similar population densities spread equally across the City.





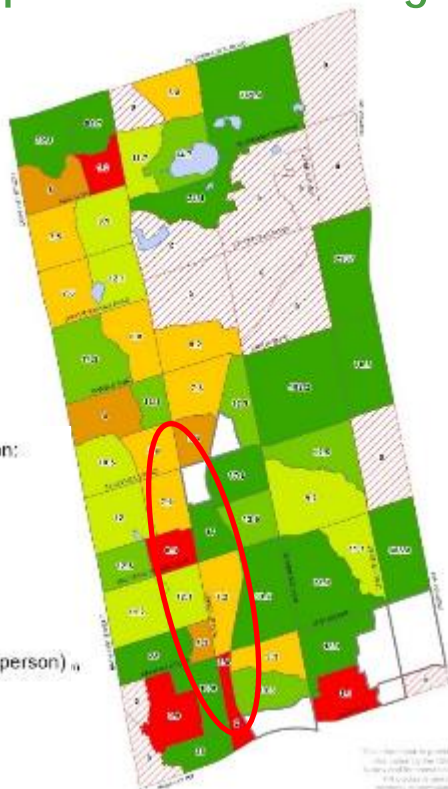
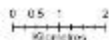
2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 3 – The Existing Park System

2021

**Average Park Area
Per Person: 15.6 m²**

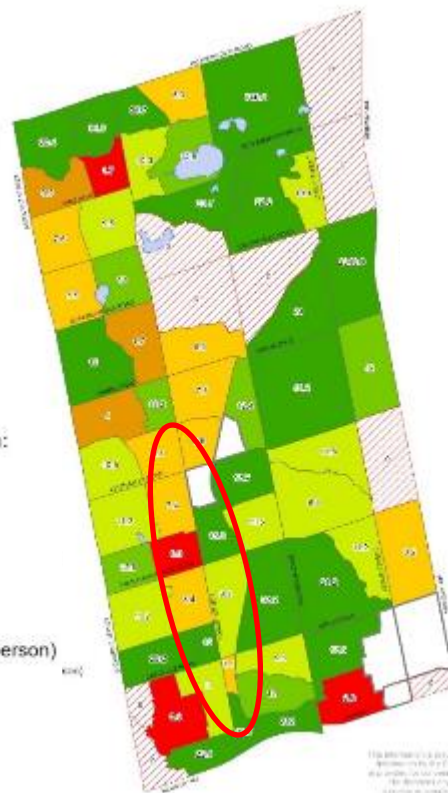
Total Park Area (m²) Per Person:



2031

**Average Park Area
Per Person: 14.8 m²**

Total Park Area (m²) Per Person:





2022 Parks Plan

Implementing the
Parks PLAN

Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The draft Plan recommends that the service levels for certain outdoor recreation facilities be maintained to respond to trends/demand



- Splash pads
- Playgrounds
- Skateboard/BMX facilities
- Outdoor fitness equipment



- Tennis courts
- Soccer fields
- Baseball diamonds
- Basketball or multi-sport courts
- Bocce courts



- Community allotment & Collective gardens
- Picnic shelters
- Off-leash dog areas

Richmond Hill



2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The draft Plan recommends that the service levels for certain outdoor recreation facilities be increased to respond to trends/demand



- Pickleball courts
- Smaller off-leash dog areas
- Smaller outdoor fitness stations

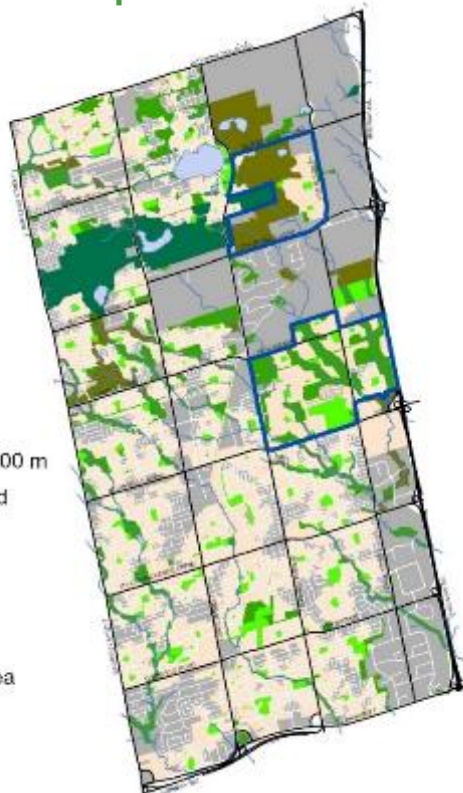


- Outdoor skating areas
- Small-scale splash spots
- Small-scale skate spots



2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 5 – Parkland Needs



Based on maintaining the City's 2013 approved parkland provision rate of 1.37 hectares per 1,000 people and a total population growth projection of 39,100 people to 2031, the 2022 Parkland Needs are as follows:

Destination Parks	1.26 hectares
Community Parks	19.1 hectares
Neighbourhood Parks	20 hectares (Local Parks) 6.1 hectares (Parkettes)
Urban & Linear Parks	3.15 hectares (Richmond Hill Centre) 2.91 hectares (16th KDA) 1 hectare (Bernard KDA)
Total Parkland Need:	53.56 hectares
Parkland Secured:	24.23 hectares (North Leslie, West Gormley)
Total Parkland to be Secured to 2031:	29.33 hectares

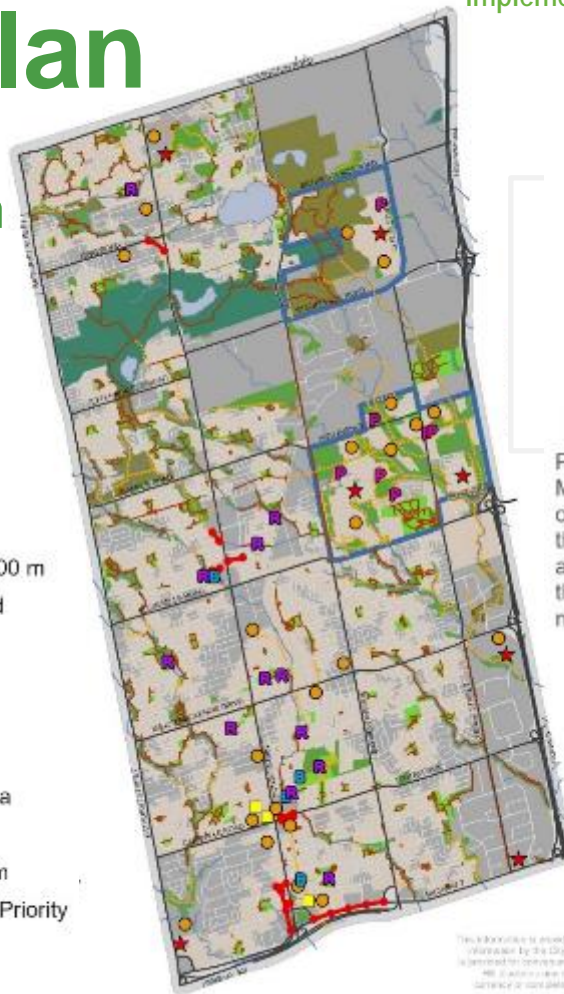


2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 6 – Improving and Enhancing our Parkland System

Implementing the
Parks PLAN

- Property Served - 400 m
- Property Not Served
- Parkland - CRH
- Open Space - CRH
- Provincial Land
- TRCA Land
- Secondary Plan Area
- Waterbody
- Existing Trail System
- Proposed Off Road/Priority Trail System



Future enhancements:

- Community Park
- Local Park
- Parkette
- Urban Square
- Bridge Crossing
- Park Revitalization
- Linear Park

Please Note:
Minor adjustments to the location of parks shown on Figure 6.1 to this Plan shall not require an amendment to this Plan provided that the intent of this Plan is maintained.

Disclaimer:
This information is provided as a guide to resources of general information by the City of Richmond Hill. The information is provided for informational purposes only, and the City of Richmond Hill is not responsible for any errors or omissions, including but not limited to, the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information. This is not a Plan of Survey.



2022 Parks Plan

Chapter 6 – Improving and Enhancing our Parkland System Revitalizing older Parks: Mill Pond Park Revitalization (on-going)



Option A:
Adapting Landscape



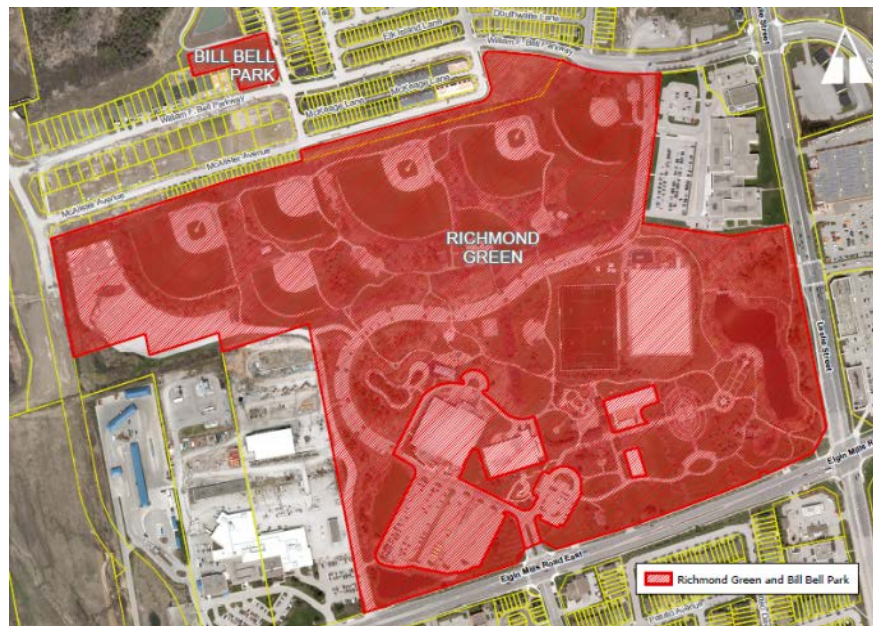
Option B:
Pond Destination Landscape



2022 Parks Plan

Implementing the
Parks PLAN

Chapter 6 – Improving and Enhancing our Parkland System Revitalizing older Parks: Richmond Green Revitalization (2024 initiation)



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Discussion

Upcoming Richmond Green Revitalization Master Plan

Knowing the City's current funding constraints:

- What areas of Richmond Green do you feel could most benefit from accessibility enhancements as part of the Revitalization?



Thank you!

