Parks Plan
2013-2017

TORONTO Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Disability Issues Committee | June 14, 2013

Parks Plan: 5 year vision

Welcoming, well-maintained, safe and sustainable parks

- Sets priorities for the development, management and operation of parkland

- Will result in noticeable improvements to parks across the city

Toronto's parks system

1,600 parks

300 km major multi-use trails
300+ km natural environment trails

8,000 hectares parkland
12.7% of city land area

Parks system snapshot   2012

150,000 permit bookings

1.2 million ferry passengers

3.5 million trees

3,000 ha maintained turf

40 ha horticulture

636 tennis courts

22 beaches

858 playgrounds

676 sports fields

Broad issues facing the parks system

- **Growing population on a fixed land base**

- **Changing ideas and expectations about parks**

- **Increasing requests and proposals for park use**

- **High demand to support community involvement**

- **Need to make parks more accessible for people with disabilities**

- **Impact of increasing recreational use of natural areas**

- **Climate change impacts**

Broad issues facing the parks system

Recreational pressures on parkland - examples

Queen's Park –heavy use

High Park - unsanctioned biking

Broad issues facing the parks system

Extreme weather e.g. Edwards Gardens (Wilket Creek)

2005 – storm damage

2007- restored
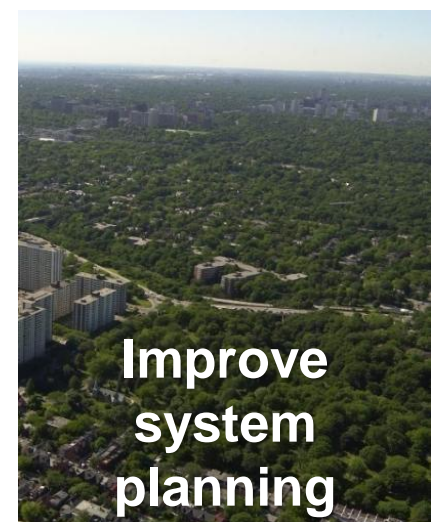
2008

2012

Parks Plan consultation

4,000 participants

3,754 surveys, 9 meetings and 7 focus groups

14,708 individual comments and survey data

Results show that Torontonians value their parks:

- **Nature in the city is important**

- **Vital city infrastructure**

- **Important parts of their neighbourhood**

- **Important city attraction**

Parks Plan themes

Communicate & connect with users

Preserve & promote nature

Maintain quality parks

Improve system planning

Communicate & connect with users

1. **Improve communications and outreach**

2. **Increase opportunities for resident, group & stakeholder involvement**

3. **Improve the permitting system to enhance park use**

Draft concept model:
parks listing webpage

Preserve & promote nature

4. **Improve the management of natural areas**

5. **Improve natural environment trails**

6. **Integrate emerging trends and technologies into parks operations**

Maintain quality parks

7. **Advance the quality and consistency of parks and trails**

8. **Improve park spaces**

9. **Demonstrate, educate, and inspire through horticulture and urban agriculture**
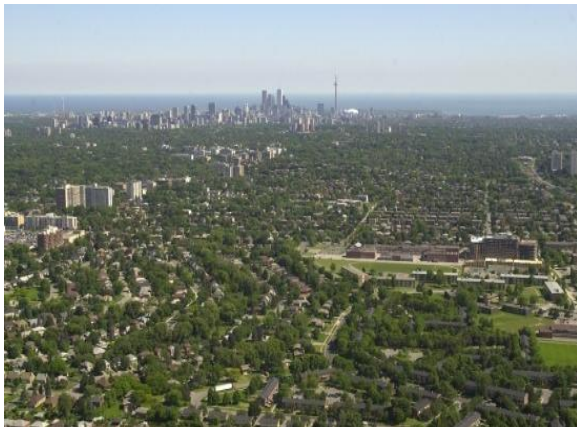
Maintain quality parks

Social gathering spaces – examples

Improve system planning

10. **Develop a plan to guide facility provision and land acquisition**

11. **Develop tools to guide and enhance the use of parkland**

12. **Continue to increase accessibility**

Parks classification system

The five parks types are:

1) **Parkette**

2) **Neighbourhood Park**

3) **Community Park**

4) **District Park**

5) **City Park**

Classification:

- **Provides hierarchy of park 'types' with associated roles and characteristics**

- **Is a tool for parks planning, management, and operations**

- **Promotes a shared understanding of the park system**

Approval

- ✓ **Approved by P & E Committee on April 22, 2013**

- ✓ **Approved by Council on May 7, 2013**

Next steps

- **Begin implementation of initiatives not requiring funding**

- **Report through 2014 budget process with financial requirements for approval**

- **Implement additional initiatives based on approved funding**

The Parks Plan will…

- **Connect people and communities with parks and trails**

- **Advance greening and environmental sustainability**

- **Improve the quality of parks and trails across the city**

- **Build a stronger park system that is a legacy for Toronto**