

## Oakwood–St. Clair Parks Plan

### Appendix 4 Planning and Policy Context

This appendix provides an overview of key plans, policies, strategies, and background studies that informed the development of the Oakwood-St. Clair Parks Plan and will continue to inform its implementation. This is not meant to provide an exhaustive review of all applicable policy.

Category	Document	Overview	Key Points for the Parks Plan
City-wide Strategies and Plans	<a href="#">City of Toronto Official Plan (2019)</a>	Establishes a strategic vision and guide for development, land use planning, transit and environmental outcomes across the City of Toronto.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Official Plan provides a number of directions on park acquisitions and park and public realm planning and design that are considered in the Parks Plan and will inform its implementation.</li> </ul>
City-wide Strategies and Plans	<a href="#">Parkland Strategy (2019)</a>	The Parkland Strategy is a 20-year plan that guides long-term planning for new parks and expansion and improved access to existing parks. It aids in the decision-making and prioritization of investment in parkland across Toronto.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By identifying the Oakwood-St. Clair area as a priority area for parkland study and acquisition, the Strategy provided the impetus for the Parks Plan.</li> <li>The Strategy includes analysis – including parkland provision, impact of growth on parkland provision, walkability gaps, etc. useful for the existing conditions analysis for the Parks Plan.</li> <li>The Strategy's four guiding principles – expand, improve, connect, and include – will inform the development of the Parks Plan.</li> </ul>
City-wide Strategies and Plans	<a href="#">Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038 (2017) and Implementation Strategy (2019)</a>	<p>The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a 20-year plan to build and renew facilities in order to meet recreation needs in a changing Toronto. It identified gaps and developed strategic investment priorities for facilities such as community recreation centres, ice rinks, and sports fields based on a principle of equitable distribution across the city.</p> <p>PFR is developing a number of facility-specific strategies to further inform implementation of the FMP. PFR will also begin the first "5-year review" of the overall FMP in 2023 to update it based on progress, current data, and emerging needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FMP recommends facilities at ward, district, and city-wide geographies.</li> <li>Directions identified in the Parks Plan have been informed by FMP facility recommendations and will inform the FMP update and associated strategies in development.</li> </ul>
City-wide Strategies and Plans	<a href="#">The Toronto Ravine Strategy (2017)</a>	With population growth, new development and climate change putting increased pressure on ravines, the Toronto Ravine Strategy will guide future ravine management, use, enhancement and protection. It presents an intentional and coordinated framework, vision and approach to management of Toronto's greatest natural resource through a series of 20 actions under five guiding principles: Protect, Invest, Connect, Partner, and Celebrate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas of EarlsCourt Park, Hillcrest Park, and The Tollkeeper's Park fall under the City's Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law</li> <li>The Ravine and Natural Feature Protection by-law is a tool to protect features (trees and landform) and functions (ecology and hydrology) of the ravine and natural feature system by encouraging environmentally responsible management</li> </ul>

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City-wide Strategies and Plans	<a href="#">2022-2032 Reconciliation Action Plan</a>	<p>The City of Toronto's first Reconciliation Action Plan will guide its actions to advance truth, justice and reconciliation for the next 10 years, from 2022 to 2032. It includes 28 actions across 5 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions to restore truth</li> <li>• Actions to right relations and share power</li> <li>• Actions for justice</li> <li>• Actions to make financial reparations</li> <li>• Actions for the Indigenous Affairs Office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several actions included in the Reconciliation Action Plan have the potential to be furthered through the Oakwood-St. Clair Parks Plan, including those related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensuring that the Indigenous community has access to ceremonial space, gathering places and healing spaces.</li> <li>○ Supporting Indigenous Placekeeping.</li> <li>○ Signage and renaming.</li> <li>○ Improving access to traditional foods and medicines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implementation of the Parks Plan should also consider enhanced Indigenous engagement and returning land and stewardship rights.</li> </ul>
Area Specific Plans	<a href="#">St. Clair Avenue Study (2009)</a>	<p>The Study, adopted by City Council, introduces a vision for this portion of St. Clair Avenue West, including planning frameworks for development, Zoning By-law amendments and urban design guidelines to guide new development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Services and Facilities Review highlighted a lack of park space in the neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Recommendations included examining the feasibility of a tree-lined promenade on Wychwood Avenue south of St. Clair Ave W; investigating opportunities for additional tree plantings along St. Clair Ave W; and improvements to Earls court Park and the JJ Piccininni CRC.</li> <li>• The Urban Design Guidelines recommend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Street trees.</li> <li>○ Bump outs at intersections with north-south streets for plantings.</li> <li>○ Additional parkettes and small open spaces along St. Clair Avenue West.</li> <li>○ Enhancing connections to existing open spaces.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Site and Area Specific Policies	<a href="#">36 – South Side of Glenhurst Avenue, Between Robina Avenue and Winona Drive</a>	<p>Outlines density and land use and other planning requirements for this site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SASP includes the lands making up the No Frills site and Roseneath Park.</li> <li>• Requires a comprehensive design scheme prior to the development of the site which requires a minimum of 0.25 hectares of parkland and a public recreation facility.</li> </ul>
Site and Area Specific Policies	<a href="#">326 - Certain lands to the north and south of and fronting on St. Clair Avenue West between Old Weston Road and Bathurst Street</a>	<p>SASP 326 includes policies to ensure that development along St. Clair Avenue West conforms with the overall vision of the 2009 St. Clair Avenue Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires the use of certain lands behind buildings fronting onto St. Clair Avenue West to be used only to create new or widen existing lanes, parking, or to provide a soft-landscaped strip.</li> <li>• Areas that are not already conveyed or leased to the City will continue to be part of the lots fronting on St. Clair Avenue West.</li> </ul>

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Policies	<a href="#">People, Dogs and Parks – Off-leash Policy (2010)</a>	Pertains to the provision of off-leash areas for dogs in City parks and greenspaces. Outlines the process and criteria for considering new off-leash areas, regulations on use, criteria for removal, and dispute resolution and enforcement processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicable to any future DOLAs in the Oakwood-St. Clair study area.</li> <li>• Notes that consideration must be given to balancing the needs and interests of the community, impact on the natural environment and sustainability of the off-leash area.</li> </ul>
Policies	Community Gardens Policy (2010)	Pertains to the provision of community gardens in City parks and greenspaces. Outlines criteria for the location of community gardens, design requirements, group eligibility requirements, conditions of use, roles and responsibilities, and the process for establishing a garden, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicable when considering new Community Gardens in the Oakwood-St. Clair study area, or the expansion of existing ones.</li> <li>• Seeks to ensure that the provision of community gardens balances the needs and interests of the community, impacts on the natural environment, and sustainability of the community gardens.</li> <li>• Clarifies that the process for establishing or expanding a community garden is initiated by the community.</li> </ul>
Economic Development Plans	<a href="#">Oakwood Vaughan Program to Promote Economic Revitalization through Local Capacity Building (2017)</a>	This report, prepared by Economic Development and Culture and provided as background information to Council, focuses on opportunities to improve the Oakwood-Vaughan commercial area. It identifies issues and improvement strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document recommends improvements to Charles Brereton Park and the Oakwood Avenue streetscape.</li> </ul>
Key Plans and Studies in the Vicinity of the Study Area	<a href="#">The Green Line Implementation Report (2019)</a>	The Green Line is a new linear park system in an active hydro-electric corridor that will connect and expand the open space network to the south of the Oakwood-St. Clair study area. The construction and revitalization of new and existing parks in the Green Line are guided by the Green Line Implementation Plan final report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the Oakwood-St. Clair study area considered the work already done on this plan.</li> <li>• Active projects south of the Parks Plan study area include the Geary Avenue Park Expansion and the Geary Avenue Parkette Playground Improvement.</li> </ul>
Key Plans and Studies in the Vicinity of the Study Area	<a href="#">Little Jamaica and the Eglinton West Neighbourhoods Study (ongoing)</a>	The City is undertaking a study that will result in the implementation of culturally responsive tools and policies that support and contribute to the cultural identity and significance of the area, manage growth and development, advance social equity and economic inclusion for current and future residents to grow in place and guide investment in infrastructure and services. The plan will include consideration of the area's parks and public realm network. The study area is currently undefined, but will extend along Eglinton Avenue West roughly between the Allen Expressway and Keele Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parks and open space network to the north of the Oakwood-St. Clair study area will be studied as part of the Little Jamaica and Eglinton West Neighbourhoods Study.</li> </ul>

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Guidelines	<a href="#">Pet Friendly Design Guidelines and Best Practices for New Multi-Unit Buildings (2019)</a>	The Guidelines were created to guide the development of higher density areas of Toronto in a direction that is more supportive of a growing pet population. They are intended to be used to inform the design of new multi-unit buildings and provide guidance at the neighbourhood, building, and unit scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes that research and public engagement shows a 15 minute walk is approximately the furthest pet owners are comfortable going to access a pet amenity without driving, for day-to-day use.</li> <li>• This document can be used to inform the provision of dog-friendly spaces in mid-high rise developments in the Oakwood-St. Clair area to support the public off-leash network</li> </ul>
Guidelines	<a href="#">Complete Streets Guidelines (2017)</a>	The City's Complete Streets Guidelines provide an expanded toolbox of ways to improve Toronto's streets. This approach reinforces that streets should safely accommodate all users and also support and enhance local neighbourhood context and character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This document can be used to inform planning and design for public realm improvements on streets across the study area.</li> </ul>
Background information	<a href="#">"Pup Ups" Summary – City-Wide Summary of Existing Off-Leash Areas (November 2019)</a>	Summary of the results of ten pop up events held in dog off-leash areas across the city to inform PFR's City-Wide study of off-leash areas. One of these events was held at Wychwood Barns Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance is crucial to the success of off-leash areas.</li> <li>• Surfacing materials should promote drainage and be dog-friendly. Concerns raised about pea gravel. No concerns with crushed granite.</li> <li>• Support for additional shade structures that also shelter from rain. Current trellis insufficient.</li> <li>• Support also for accessible seating (not just picnic benches), 5-foot fences, lighting, accessible water features, signage at entrances.</li> <li>• Support for weekly inspections, regular surfacing top-ups.</li> <li>• Support for greater engagement / involvement.</li> <li>• Issue with OLA being closed from 12:00-3:00.</li> </ul>
Background information	Graham Park Community Safety Audit Report Card (2019)	METRAC: Action on Violence is a not-for-profit registered charity that carries out safety audits of the built environment using principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. Several area residents partnered with METRAC to carry out an audit of Graham Park - this report summarizes the findings and recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The four priorities selected by the group pertain to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lighting &amp; Visibility – including the addition of lights</li> <li>○ Park Features – including the need for more seating and interactive features</li> <li>○ Accessibility &amp; Maintenance – including the need for paving repairs and accessible picnic benches</li> <li>○ Beautification – including highlighting the "unappealing" chain-link fence.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>