

September 2023

**Kennedy Park-Ionview**

# **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

**BACKGROUND REPORT**

Parks, Forestry & Recreation

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# Executive Summary

## Purpose

This Background Report has been prepared as part of the first phase of work for the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study, led by the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division. This report summarizes the existing conditions of the parks and open space system serving the Kennedy Park-Ionview community. It provides contextual information on current and historical development patterns, demographics, planning frameworks and mobility networks which have helped to shape this area. The findings and observations presented in this report will provide the foundation for the next phase of work to identify needs and gaps in parkland provision and opportunities to address these.

## Undertaking a Local Parkland Study

The [City of Toronto Parkland Strategy was adopted by City Council in November 2019](#). The Parkland Strategy is a 20-year plan that will guide long-term planning for new parks and expansion and improved access to existing parks. It supports the decision-making and prioritization of investment in parkland across the city. Through the Parkland Strategy, Areas of Parkland Need are identified based on a number of factors including local park provision levels, anticipated impacts of growth and percentage of low income residents. The Kennedy Park and Ionview neighbourhoods contain many Areas of Parkland Need and have been prioritized for further study. The Study Area has also been shaped to consider the boundaries of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas. Through this Parkland Study, a Kennedy Park-Ionview Local Parks Plan will be developed and will include specific recommendations to guide future improvements into the park system. The recommendations will be informed by background analysis and public engagement.

## Context Highlights

To set the context for the parkland study process a general history about the Study Area, a demographic profile, current land use, development activity, and an idea of how people get to and around the Study Area are highlighted below and described in further detail in Chapter 4.

- Approximately 62,000 people live in the Study Area.
- Most of the population identify as visible minorities.
- Apartment buildings and renters comprise half of the dwelling types in the Study Area.
- Almost a third of the population are in low income households.
- Modest residential growth is anticipated in the area.
- Significant investment in transit infrastructure is planned, including the Eglinton Crosstown LRT.
- Some nearby areas are anticipated to experience high growth (e.g. Golden Mile, Scarborough Junction), which may impact local park use.

## The Existing Parks and Open Space System

There are 23 City-owned or operated parks that range in size and function, and contain various outdoor park facilities and amenities, which are listed below. Much of the parks system consists of manicured green spaces, although there are a few ravines and Natural Heritage Areas within the Study Area that present a more naturalized state. Further information on these parks is included in Chapter 5 of this report.

### Scarborough Southwest (Ward 20)

- Anson Park
- Corvette Park
- Eglinton Ravine Park
- Farlinger Ravine
- Glen Sheppard Park
- Greystone Park
- Horton Park
- Jeanette Park
- Kitchener Park
- Maywood Tot Lot
- McCowan District Park

### Scarborough Centre (Ward 21)

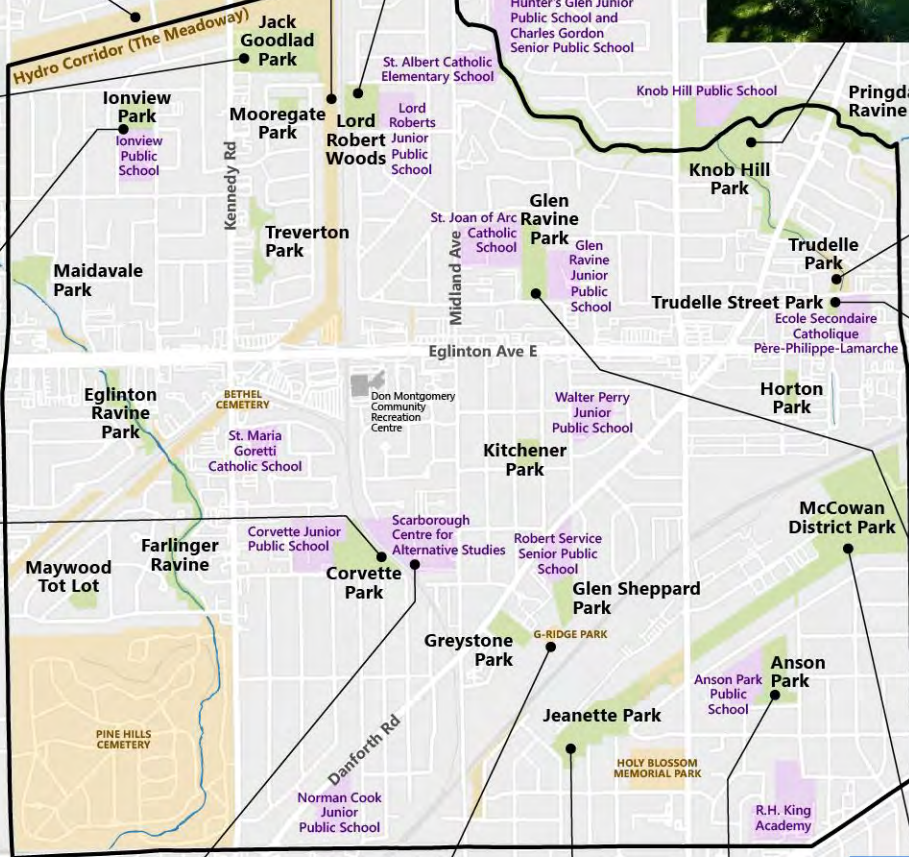
- Glen Ravine Park
- Hunters Glen Park
- Ionview Park
- Jack Goodlad Park
- Knob Hill Park
- Lord Robert Woods
- Maidavale Park
- Mooregate Park
- Pringdale Ravine
- Treverton Park
- Trudelle Park
- Trudelle Street Park

The Study Area also includes other open spaces that are privately owned but can be accessed by the public. Notable open spaces include the Hydro Corridor (i.e. The Meadoway), Pine Hills Cemetery and Gordonridge (G-Ridge) Park.

Building on the guiding principles of the Parkland Strategy, this study will focus on identifying opportunities to expand the parks system; improve existing parks by enhancing the function, features or facilities of these spaces; and establish connections between green spaces to create a seamless network and experience. Input and ideas from the local community will be centered in the planning process in order to understand needs, priorities and visions for their local parks system.

## What's Next?

This Background Report represents an important initial step in the study process, and will serve as a basis for further analysis and engagement. The next phase of work will focus on identifying needs and gaps and how these can best be addressed through investments in the local parks and open spaces system. The study website ([www.toronto.ca/kennedyionview](http://www.toronto.ca/kennedyionview)) will be updated throughout the study process with further information and reports as these become available.



- Kennedy Park-Ionview Local Parkland Study Area
- City-owned or operated Parks
- Other Open Space
- Schools

Danforth Ave

Kingston Rd

Clonmore Dr

# 1 Toronto's Parkland Strategy

Public parks and open spaces perform a variety of critical functions that improve and maintain community and environmental health. They offer recreation opportunities to support active lifestyles, tranquil spaces for rest, spaces for social events and gatherings, and natural infrastructure for vital ecosystem services and the mitigation of climate change effects. An abundant and connected system of good-quality parks contributes to more healthy, liveable and complete communities.

The supply and quality of parkland varies throughout Toronto. Accordingly, the [City of Toronto Parkland Strategy](#), adopted by City Council in November 2019, was created to guide long-term parks planning, prioritization, and investment throughout the city in order to ensure the equitable expansion and enhancement of the parks system. The Parkland Strategy identifies "Areas of Parkland Need", which are determined based on factors including low parkland provision per person, low total park supply, low income population, and anticipated high population growth. Areas of Parkland Need are prioritized for park planning and acquisitions efforts.

The Parkland Strategy identifies the area in and around the Kennedy Park and Ionview neighbourhoods as an "Area of Parkland Need" primarily due to low levels of existing parkland and low income (Figure 1). This area also contains notable "Parkland Walkability Gaps" (Figure 2), where residents do not have access to parkland within 500 metres of their home (approximately a 5 to 10 minute walk). Given these park gaps, Kennedy Park-Ionview is considered a priority area for new and improved parkland and was identified for further study.

Figure 1: Areas of Parkland Need

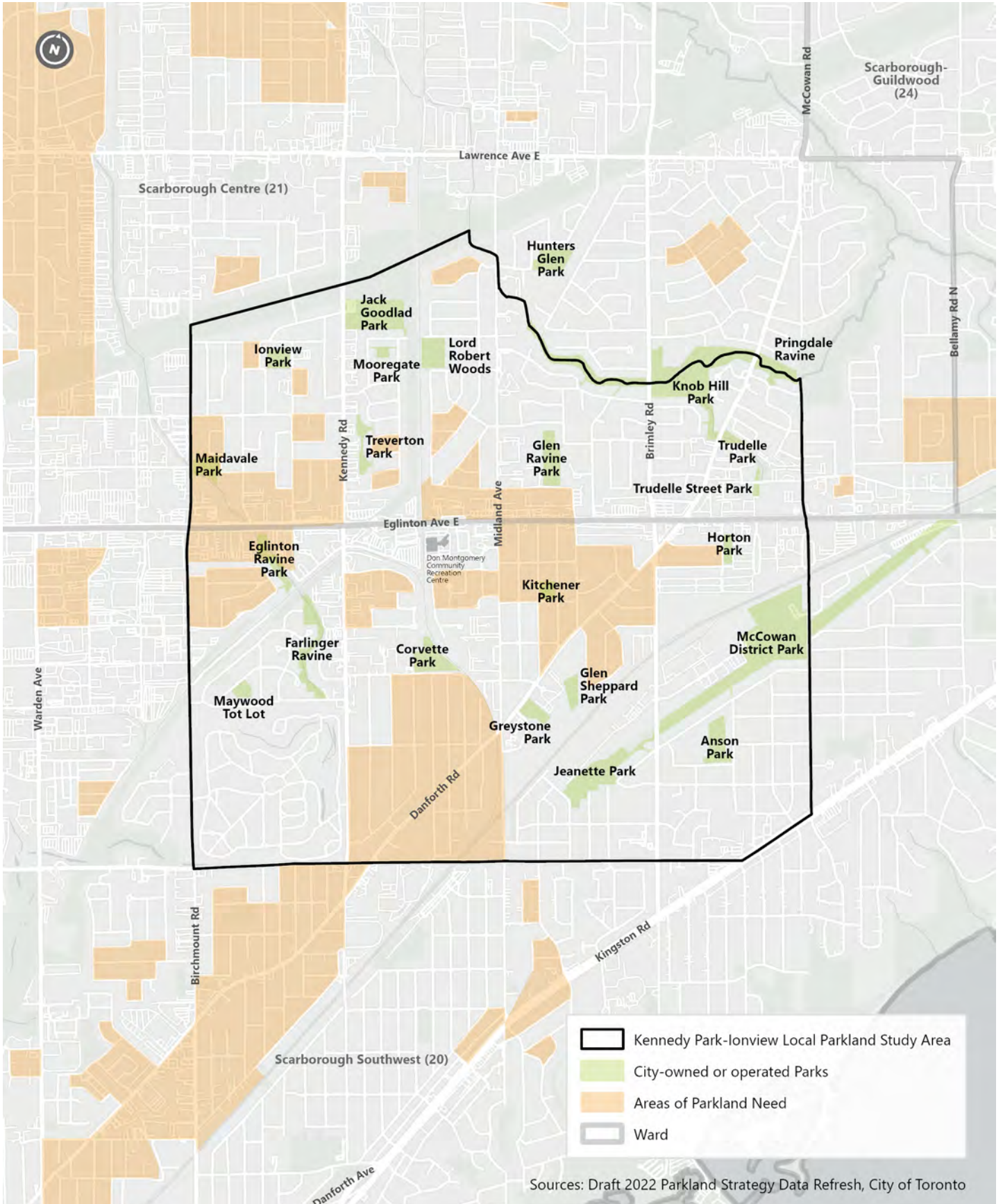
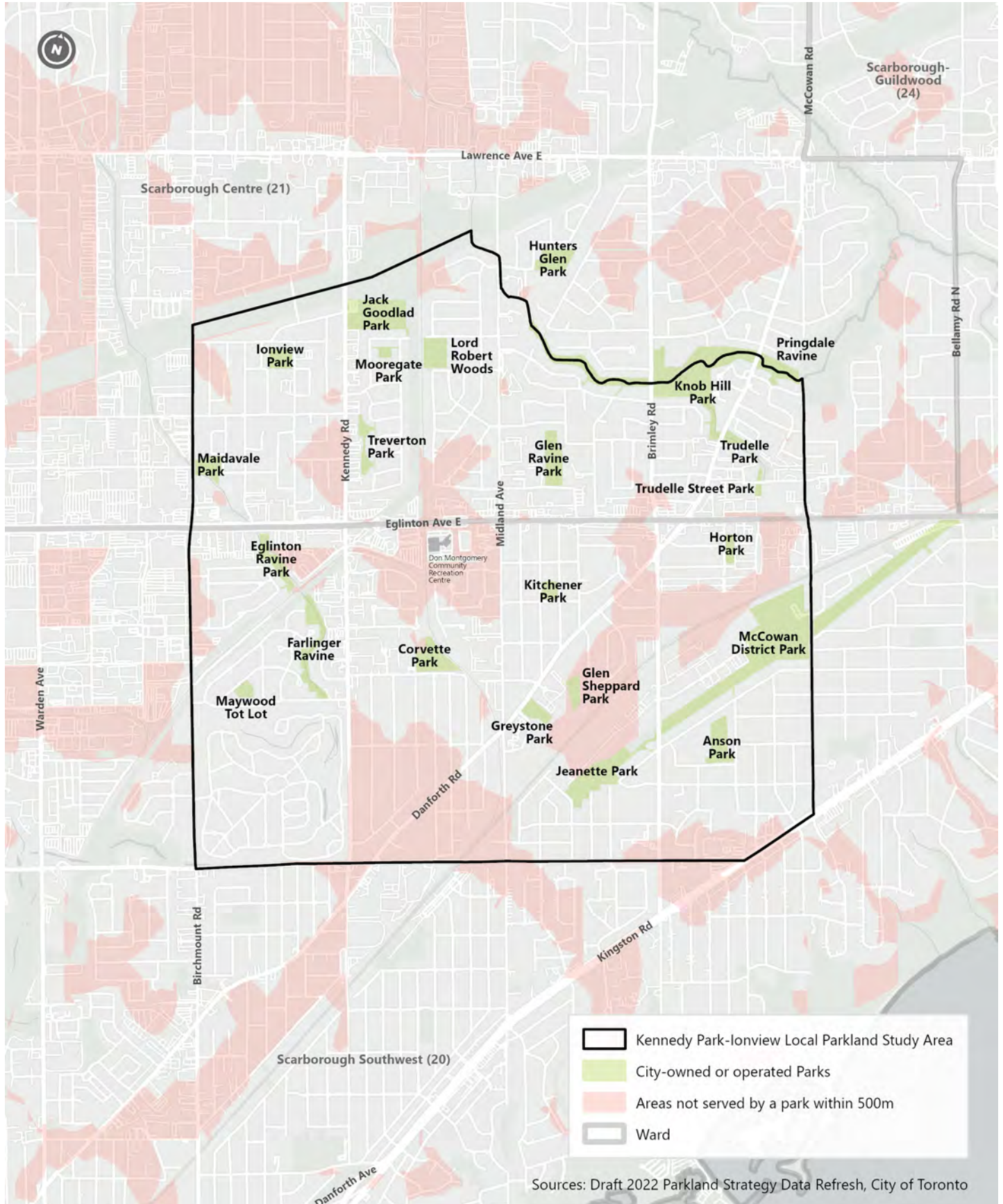


Figure 2: Walkability Gaps





## 2 Undertaking a Local Parkland Study

The objective of a Parkland Study is to take a strategic approach to creating and improving parkland in the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Area. The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) will assess the existing conditions of the parks and open space network and identify opportunities to:

- Create new parkland;
- Improve existing parks by enhancing functionality, features and facilities;
- Make parks more inclusive and welcoming spaces; and
- Improve access to and connections between parks and other publicly-accessible open spaces.

The outcome of a Parkland Study will be a Local Parks Plan that presents a long-term vision and recommendations to guide decision-making and resource allocation primarily for parks related initiatives led by PFR, such as:

- Parkland acquisitions;
- Parkland dedications from development;
- Internal transfers of City-owned land;
- Delivery of new park facilities and amenities; and
- Improvements to park facilities and amenities.

In addition to long-term recommendations, the Local Parks Plan will identify more immediate opportunities that could be delivered in the short-term. These could include, but are not limited to, improvements to signage and lighting, increased tree plantings and other landscape elements, public art opportunities, and better connections to and within the parks and open space network.

The plan will also be used to support and inform collaboration with partners such as other City divisions and agencies, and school boards, which play an important role in the creation and maintenance of the parks and public realm network.

The first phase of the Parkland Study is to undertake Background Review & Analysis to understand the existing conditions in the local parks system (Figure 3). The first phase is complete and the outcomes are detailed in this report. This review, along with community engagement activities which are planned throughout the study process, are essential for the identification of needs, gaps, and opportunities which are then summarized in a final Local Parks Plan.

**Figure 3: Parkland Study Phases**



## 3 Study Area

The Kennedy Park – Ionview Parkland Study Area is bounded by Birchmount Rd (to the west), the Hydro Corridor and West Highland Creek (to the north), McCowan Rd (to the east), and St. Clair Ave E (to the south), as shown in Figure 4. The Study Area falls within the Scarborough Southwest (20) and Scarborough Centre (21) Wards. The Study Area boundary has been shaped by Areas of Park Land Need and the boundaries of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) – Ionview, Kennedy Park and Eglinton East.

### 3.1 Related City Strategies, Studies, and Plans

The [Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan \(FMP\)](#) is a city-wide 20-year plan to build and renew facilities in order to meet recreation needs in a changing Toronto. It was adopted by City Council in November 2017 and subsequently followed by an Implementation Strategy, adopted by Council in October 2019. The recommendations set out in the FMP and associated Implementation Strategy will be key inputs to this Parkland Study, and will help to inform directions on new and enhanced recreational facilities serving the area.

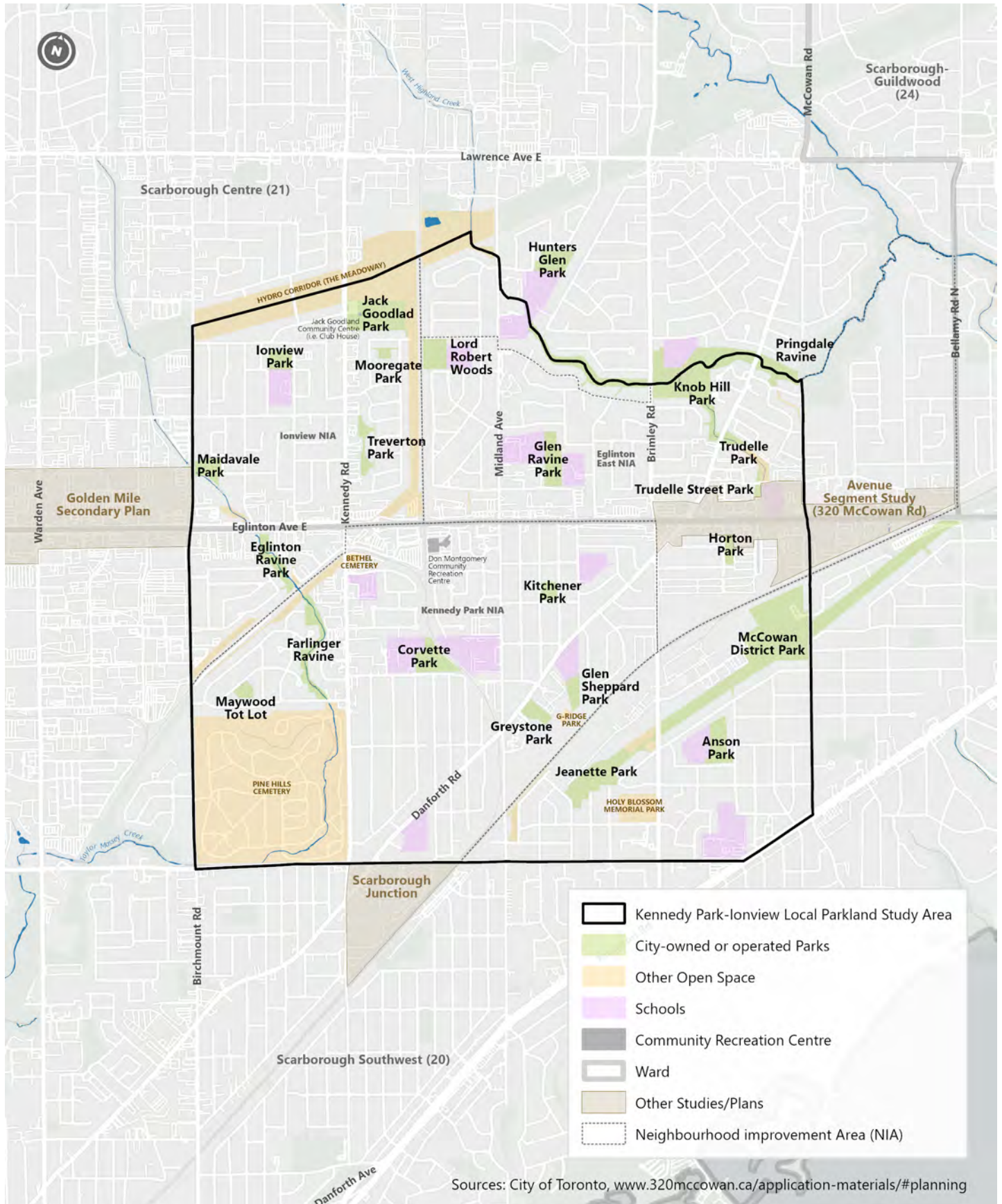
This study will also take into consideration the guiding principles and actions in the [Toronto Ravine Strategy](#). The Ravine Strategy provides a framework to guide the management of the ravines and ensure the protection of these irreplaceable lands is balanced with their use and enjoyment.

The [Golden Mile Secondary Plan Area](#) is located west of Birchmount Rd and abuts the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Area. A separate study was undertaken by the City of Toronto to develop a vision and comprehensive planning framework for the Golden Mile Area. As a part of the study, a Public Realm Plan was established where new and conceptual park locations were identified to help serve the anticipated future growth in the Golden Mile Area.

A master planning exercise is currently underway for a future new mixed-used community – known as "[Scarborough Junction](#)" – located south of the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Area. It is approximately bounded by St. Clair Ave E, Kennedy Rd and the rail corridor. Parkland dedications being considered through the development review process will help serve the areas of low parkland provision within the Study Area, north of St. Clair Ave E and west of Midland Ave.

In order to support the development review process for the application at 320 McCowan Rd, a [draft Avenue Segment Study](#) was prepared by the applicant as part of their planning rationale. The study does not currently contemplate an approach to parkland. City Council on February 2, 2022, directed City Planning to initiate a Planning Study along the same segment of Eglinton Ave E. which also surrounds the development application at 2956 to 2990 Eglinton Ave E. Given the significant scale of the development proposals, their proximity to Eglinton GO Station, as well as their potential to set a precedent for the area, a Planning Study will allow the opportunity to update the Planning Framework to accommodate anticipated growth. This City-led study is under development.

Figure 4: Study Area



# 4 Context

## 4.1 History Overview

The land covered by the Study Area is on the traditional territories of many first nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. There are numerous archaeological sites in Scarborough that show evidence of pre-contact and early-contact history. For example, Tabor Hill, though not directly within the Study Area, is located at Lawrence Ave E and Bellamy Rd. It is a site known for the discovery of ossuaries/mass graves and markings indicating early European contact.<sup>1</sup> Through the City of Toronto's Archaeological Management Plan, other Areas of Archaeological Potential were identified across the city to protect possible locations of historical interest and significance. There are numerous Areas of Archeological Potential within the Study Area (Figure 5).

European settlements, followed by colonial, economic and military activity, eventually resulted in a treaty making process between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Canada. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 led to the need for land agreements between the British Crown and First Nations.<sup>2</sup> The Study Area is covered by the Johnson-Butler Purchase of 1788. This agreement is also named as the “Gunshot Treaty”, referring to a boundary of the lands being surrendered having been determined as the distance a person could hear a gunshot from the edge of Lake Ontario.<sup>3</sup> These lands eventually became part of the 1923 Williams Treaty which cover a vast area beyond Scarborough.<sup>3</sup> In 2015, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation submitted the Rouge River Valley Tract Land Claim to the governments of Ontario and Canada for their unsurrendered traditional lands covering all of Scarborough.<sup>4</sup>

Prior to the signing of the Williams Treaties in 1923, pioneer families have been known to emerge in Scarborough as early as the 1850s. Some of the major roads intersecting the Study Area, such as Ionview Rd, Kennedy Rd, and McCowan Rd, are named after these farming families.<sup>1</sup> Crossroads communities containing farms, churches and various businesses gave way to larger settlements.<sup>1</sup> Further settlement was encouraged by the construction of the two major railways that established the Scarborough Junction Community (which intersects with the Kennedy Park census neighbourhood).<sup>1</sup> The Grand Trunk Railway was built in 1856 and the Toronto & Nipissing Railway at Scarborough Junction was built in 1873.<sup>5</sup> These railways are now known as the Canadian National Railway (CNR) on which GO Train service currently runs.

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<sup>1</sup> *Scarborough Historical Society*

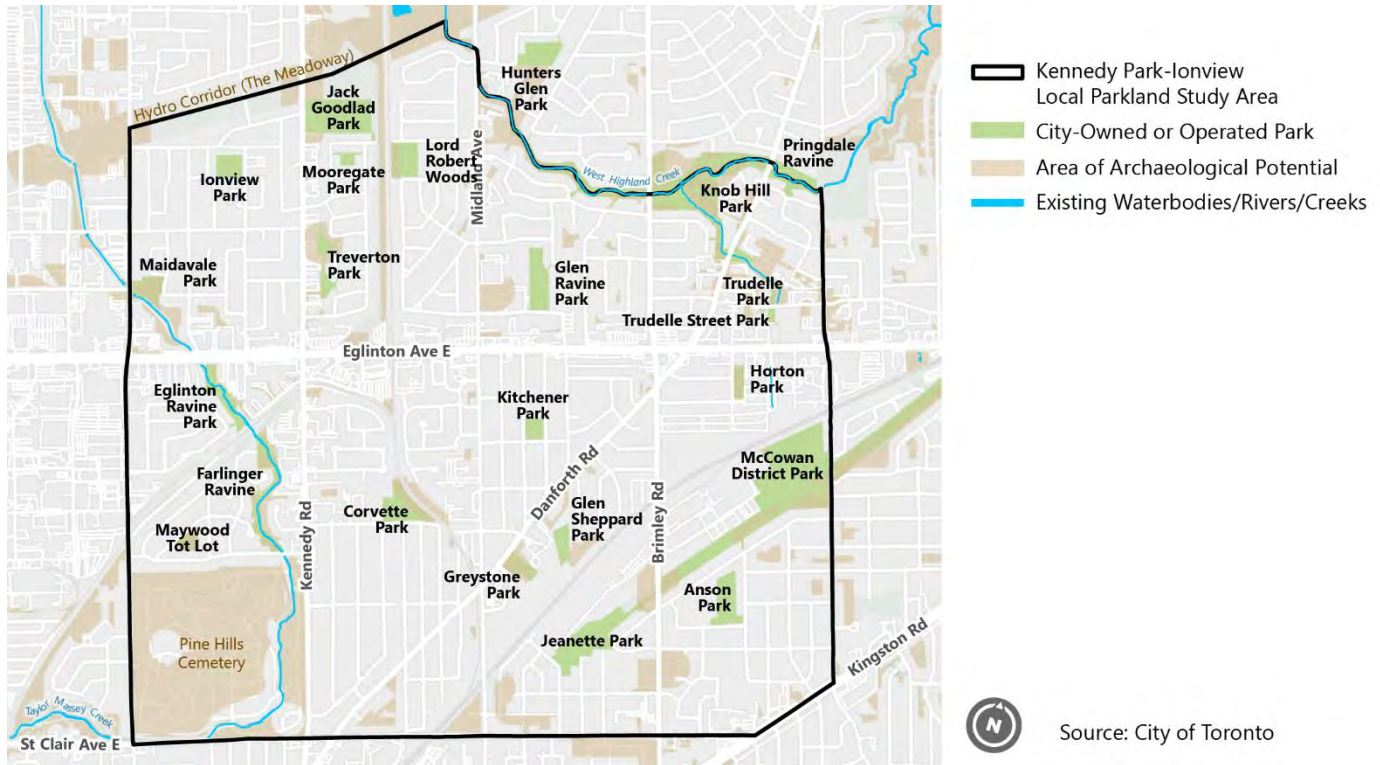
<sup>2</sup> *Surtees, 1986*

<sup>3</sup> *Boileau, 2020*

<sup>4</sup> *Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2015*

<sup>5</sup> *Toronto Railway History Historical Association, 2023*

**Figure 5: Areas of Archaeological Potential**



To support World War II efforts, The General Engineering Company of Ontario (GECO) began the construction of a munitions plant in 1941 around the area of Eglinton Ave E and Warden Ave. The facility drew factory employment into this area of Scarborough.<sup>1</sup> The workforce was comprised largely of women who are now popularly referred to as the "Bomb Girls". In the post war period, the factory was no longer in production, however it gave way to the development and urbanization of its surrounding area in Scarborough.

Many of the planned parks and open spaces in the Study Area were established around the 1950's up until the early 2000s. Schools opened in the 1950s, such as Anson Park Public School, were named after the existing adjacent parks. Jack Goodlad Park was a former a drive-in movie theater purchased by the City and converted into parkland in 1980s. McCowan District Park was a former public works yard that was later converted into parkland in 2006. The Hydro Corridors were created when hydroelectric power was first distributed to the City in the early 1900s. The Meadow Project was eventually introduced in 2012 to rethink the existing corridor to better support connections across communities and contribute to the city's ecosystem. Pine Hills Cemetery first opened in 1928 and remains under private ownership – its paths and lush trees can be enjoyed by visitors. Figures 6 and 7 show the current parks and open space system in the Study Area compared with aerial imagery from 1939 and 1965. In addition to the planned parks and open space system, portions of the Taylor Massey Creek and West Highland Creek ravine systems, including historical rivers that have been buried and disappeared overtime, make up the natural heritage of the Study Area.

<sup>1</sup> *Heritage Toronto, 2020*

Figure 6: Kennedy Park-Ionview, 1939

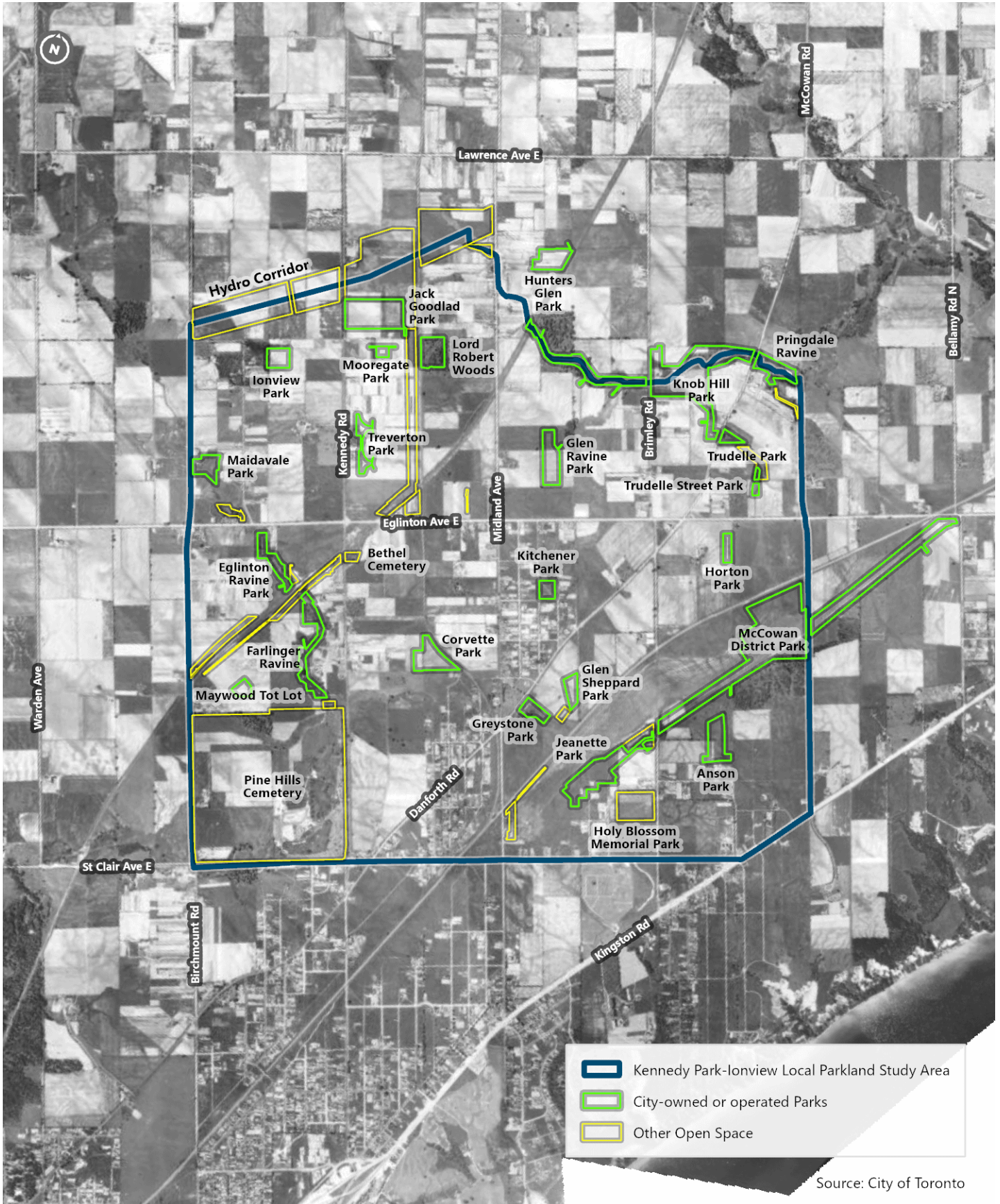


Figure 7: Kennedy Park-Ionview, 1965





## 4.2 Demographic Profile

Based on the Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population, approximately 61,582 people live in the Study Area. Three quarters of the population identify as visible minority. Half of the residents are renters and half of the dwellings within the Study Area are made up of apartment buildings.

Income data from the 2021 Census was impacted by COVID-19 income support programs. The 2021 census indicates that the Study Area had similar levels to the rest of the City in terms of the population falling in the Low-Income Measure After Taxes (LIM-AT) category. However, low income rates are suspected to be much higher within the Study Area. Based on 2018 Census Family Low Income Measure After Tax (CFLIM-AT) from tax filer data, the Study Area's low-income population is around 27%, while the City overall had 23% of the population in low-income.

Many of the Study Area's key Census variables measure as slightly above the City-wide rate, including children, seniors, black population, population born outside of Canada and recent immigrants, and low income.

**Table 1: Demographic Profile**

Variable	Study Area	City-wide
Population	61,582	2,794,356
Dwellings that are apartment buildings	56%	61%
Dwellings that are 5+ storey apartment buildings	51%	47%
Renters	54%	48%
Owners	46%	52%
Children (0-12 years)	14%	12%
Youth (13-24 years)	15%	13%
Seniors (65+ years)	16%	17%
Visible minority	75%	55%
Black	14%	10%
Indigenous identity	1%	1%
Born outside of Canada	54%	46%
Recent immigrants <i>2016-2021 immigration period</i>	8%	7%
In low income (LIM-AT) <i>Income data was impacted by COVID-19 income support programs, which boosted income levels unevenly across the population.</i>	14%	13%

Source:

Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population by Census Tract

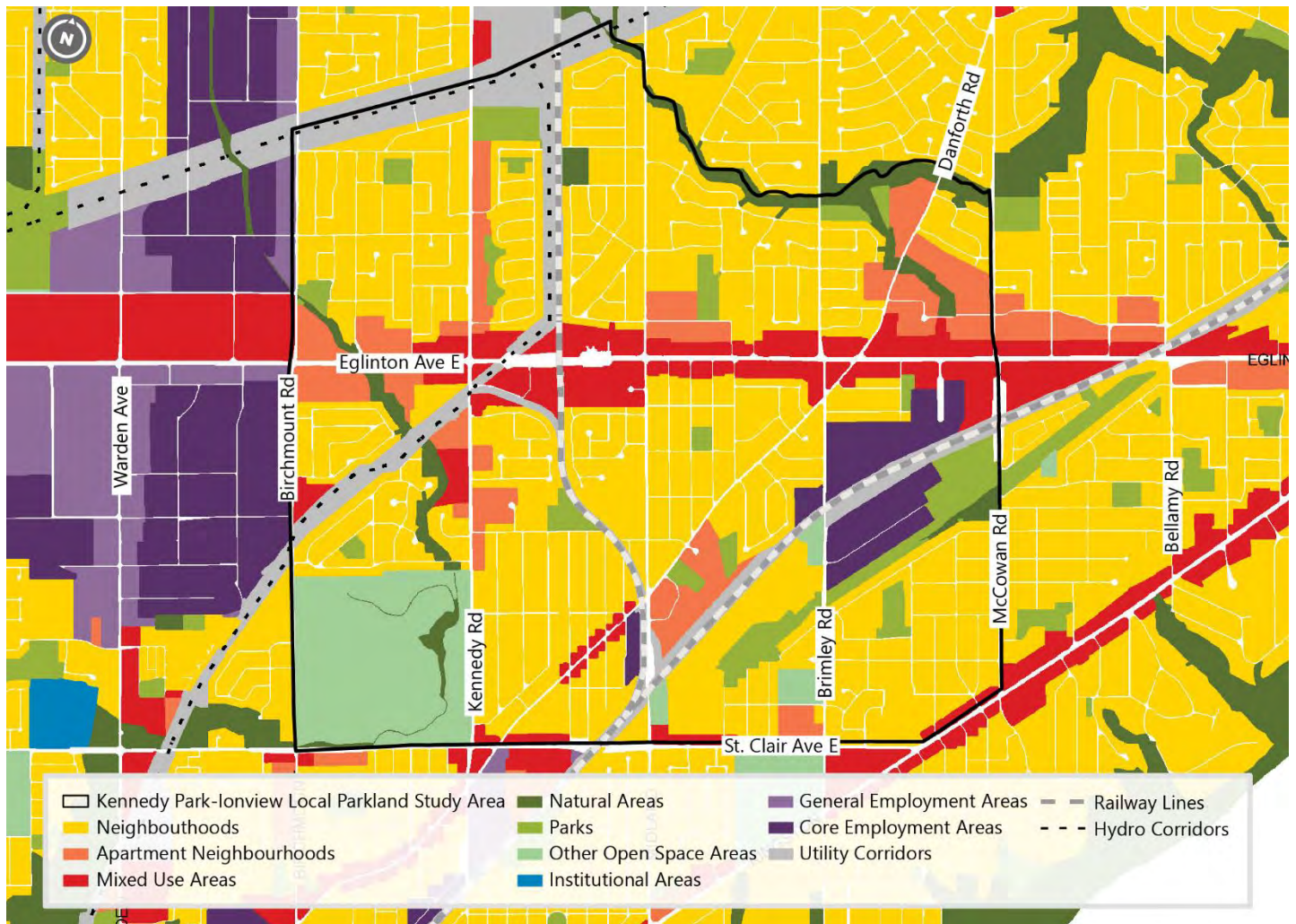
Methodology:

Calculated by assessing the Census Tracts that intersect the boundary of or fall within the Study Area.

### 4.3 Official Plan Land Use

Toronto’s Official Plan is a blueprint for how the city will grow over the next 30 years and is prepared in consultation with residents to reflect a community vision for future change. It provides direction on the location of new housing, employment uses, industry, parks, office and retail areas, community services and other land uses. Chapter 4 of the Official Plan defines and maps land use designations which is a planning tool to help direct and manage growth across the city. The Map 20 Land Use Plan identifies the wide range of land use designations which fall within the Study Area (as shown in Figure 8). This includes lands designated as *Natural Areas*, *Parks*, and *Other Open Space Areas* which collectively comprised the City’s *Green Space System*. Lands designated as *Utility Corridors* are another significant feature that include the Hydro and rail corridors which intersect the Study Area. Although more than half of dwelling units in this area are found in apartment buildings, the majority of lands are designated as *Neighbourhoods*, which are dominated by lower scale residential buildings. Lands designated as *Apartment Neighbourhood* with higher density residences, are typically located along major roads. Eglinton Ave E is bordered by *Mixed Use Areas* – it is a major Avenue that contains businesses, residences, community facilities/services and major transit stations. The Official Plan also identifies some portions of the Study Area as falling within the Natural Heritage System. Further description of these natural features and relevant policy direction is provided in Chapter 8 of this report.

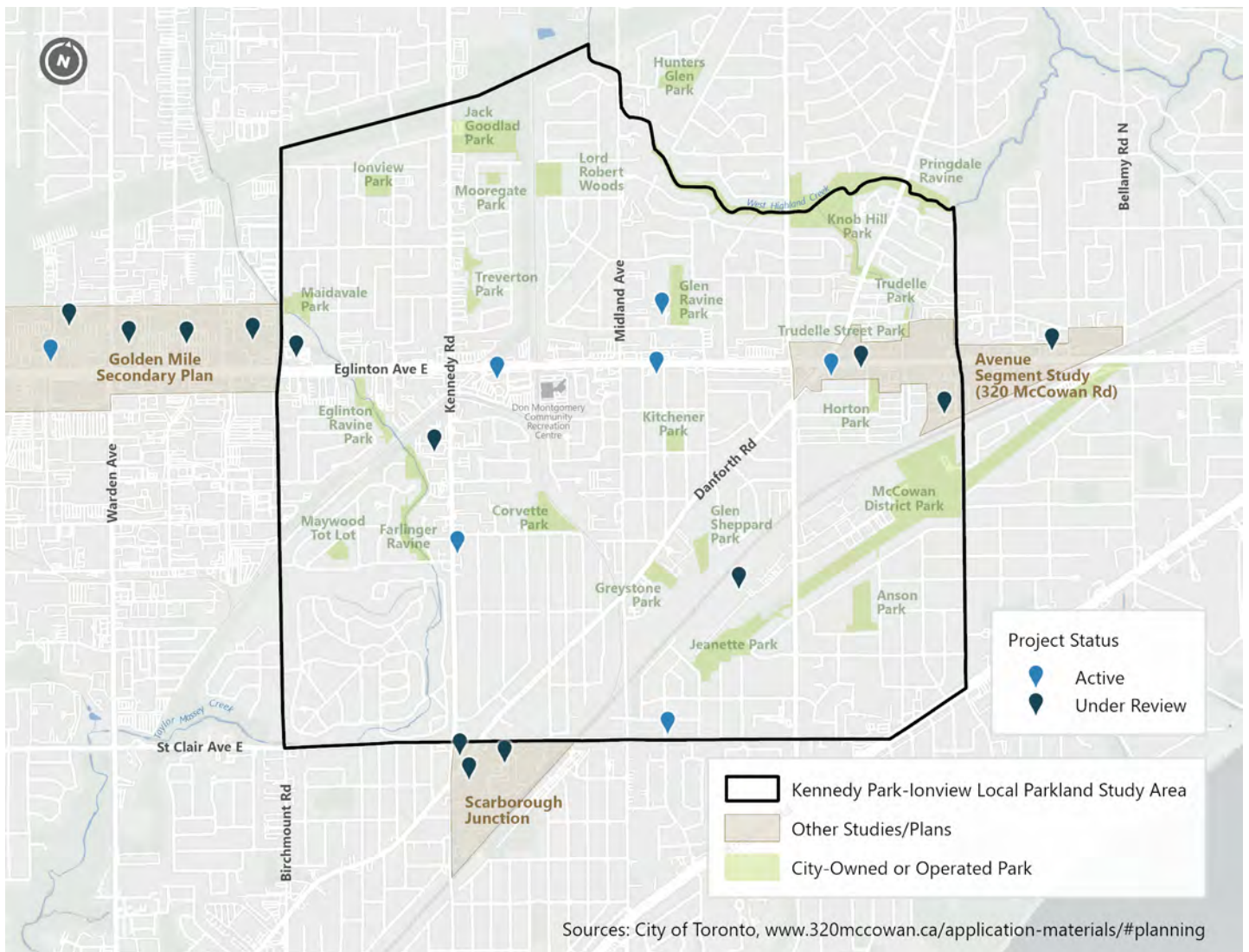
**Figure 8: Land Use Designations**



## 4.4 Development Activity

Based on 2021 Census Tracts, the existing population in the Study Area is 61,582 people. The 2022 Q2 Development Pipeline Data, comprised of development projects with activity between July 2017 and June 2022, contains over 3,300 residential units proposed in the Study Area. The proposed developments could result in an estimated population growth of over 8,000 new residents. While the Study Area is experiencing growth, it is not currently considered to be a high growth area. However there are adjacent high growth areas including Golden Mile, Scarborough Junction and areas along Eglinton Ave E. These surrounding high growth areas in combination with new transit infrastructure and anticipated development projects in the area will increase demand and pressure on parks in the area. Figure 9 identifies the location of residential development projects and neighbouring high-growth areas. Projects under review have not yet been approved and active projects are those which have been approved by City Council, for which building permits have been applied for or have been issued.

**Figure 9: Location of Current Development Projects**



## 4.5 Mobility

Kennedy TTC Subway Station is the only existing rapid transit station within the Study Area. It functions as a major mobility hub with connections to Kennedy GO Train Station and several bus routes including the 903 Kennedy-Scarborough Centre Express Route. All the major roads intersecting the Study Area contain multiple lanes to accommodate significant vehicular traffic, including bus service (with some routes operating on the 10 minute service or better network). Much of the existing cycling network in the Study Area are contained within parks or open spaces and tend to serve as recreational routes as opposed to commuter routes. There are multi-use trails available in the Hydro Corridors, Jack Goodlad Park, McCowan District Park, and Knob Hill Park. Cycling routes are not yet offered on any of the major roads; however, potential and future bikeways for Midland Ave, Brimley Rd, and Eglinton Ave E are shown in the 2022 – 2024 Near-Term Implementation Program of the [City's Cycling Network Plan](#). Significant transit improvements are underway or proposed for Eglinton Ave E. These include the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, Scarborough Subway Extension, and improvements at Scarborough and Eglinton GO Train Stations. Figure 10 illustrates the existing and planned mobility network in the Study Area.

**Figure 10: Mobility Network**



## 5 City-Owned and Operated Parks

There are 23 City of Toronto owned and/or operated parks within the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Area (Table 2). The Study Area is approximately 969 ha (2400 acres), of which City parks total 71 hectares (175 acres). Thus, about 7% of the Study Area is comprised of City parkland. In terms of size, four parks fall into the large category, nine parks fall into the medium category, and ten fall into the small park/parkette category. In terms of park function, different amenities and types of spaces are offered in the Study Area that allow for various park uses. Table 2 highlights which of the 3 overarching functions a park mainly falls into:

1. **Sport + Play** describes parks that accommodate programmed sports and active play;
2. **Community** functioning parks encourage social cohesion and interaction; and
3. **Ecological** defines parks that contain significant natural areas and/or allow for lighter more passive outdoor activities such as nature observation.

Most parks in the Study Area have a Sport + Play function, largely based on the presence of a playground or sports field within the park. In addition to active recreation, it is important to recognize that open green spaces are also valued as spaces for passive recreational and leisure – socializing with friends and family, enjoying a picnic, reading outdoors. While not as readily quantifiable, these community functions should continue to be supported within parks. McCowan District Park, Knob Hill Park, and Jack Goodlad Park have specific features that support community function such as picnic tables and shade structures that facilitate gatherings and social interaction. A few parks in the Study Area primarily serve an ecological function as they are within the protected ravine system and do not have any park amenities other than trails/paths (e.g., Farlinger Ravine Park and Eglinton Ravine Park).

Parks can be further categorized into two types of parks: planned and natural. Planned parks are lands that have been manicured and design with the intention for public use. Natural parks are lands that have largely been left in a natural state. Some parks in the Study Area, such as Trudelle Park and Knob Hill Park can be categorized as both. Eight parks are largely in a natural state and therefore about one third of the City-owned and operated parks in the Study Area primarily serve an ecological function.

**Table 2: City-owned Parkland Inventory (Largest to Smallest)**

Park	Area	Parkland Strategy Size Classification	Main Park Function(s)	Park Type	Active Recreational Amenities/Facilities
McCowan District Park	204,512 m <sup>2</sup> (20.5 ha)	Legacy	Sport + Play Community Ecological	Natural Planned	Artificial Ice Rink Skate Trail Multipurpose Field Playground Splash Pad
Knob Hill Park	135,735 m <sup>2</sup> (13.6 ha)	Legacy	Sport + Play Community Ecological	Natural Planned	Playground Ball Hockey Pad Outdoor Pool
Jack Goodlad Park	50,647 m <sup>2</sup> (5.1 ha)	City	Sport + Play Community Ecological	Planned	Community Centre Ball Diamond (4) Bocce (4) Playground Splash Pad Basketball Courts (2)
Jeanette Park	44,444 m <sup>2</sup> (4.4 ha)	Large	Sport + Play Ecological	Natural Planned	Playground
Farlinger Ravine	29,251 m <sup>2</sup> (2.9 ha)	Medium	Ecological	Natural	
Corvette Park	24,927 m <sup>2</sup> (2.5 ha)	Medium	Sport + Play	Planned	Ball Diamond (3) Playground Splash Pad
Glen Ravine Park	24,402 m <sup>2</sup> (2.4 ha)	Medium	Sport + Play	Planned	Soccer Fields (5)
Anson Park	22,732 m <sup>2</sup> (2.3 ha)	Medium	Sport + Play	Planned	Ball Diamond (2)
Lord Roberts Woods	20,464 m <sup>2</sup> (2.1 ha)	Medium	Ecological	Natural	Playground
Pringdale Ravine	19,925 m <sup>2</sup> (2.0 ha)	Medium	Ecological	Natural	
Hunters Glen	19,305 m <sup>2</sup> (1.9 ha)	Medium	Sport + Play	Planned	Playground
Eglinton Ravine Park	17,253 m <sup>2</sup> (1.7 ha)	Medium	Ecological	Natural	

<b>Park</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Parkland Strategy Size Classification</b>	<b>Main Park Function(s)</b>	<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Active Recreational Amenities/Facilities</b>
Maidavale Park	15,046 m <sup>2</sup> ( ha)	Medium	Sport + Play	Planned	Ball Diamond Playground
Ionview Park	12,828 m <sup>2</sup> (1.3 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Playground
Treverton Park	11,884 m <sup>2</sup> (1.2 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Ball Diamond Playground
Greystone Park	10,298 m <sup>2</sup> (1.0 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Basketball Court (2) Playground Splash Pad
Glen Shephard Park	9,978 m <sup>2</sup> (0.9 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Playground Soccer Field
Kitchener Park	8,216 m <sup>2</sup> (0.8 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Ball Diamond Playground
Horton Park	7,184 m <sup>2</sup> (0.7 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Playground Soccer Field
Maywood Tot Lot	6,968 m <sup>2</sup> (0.7 ha)	Small	Sport + Play	Planned	Soccer Field (5) Fitness Equipment Area
Trudelle Park	5,237 m <sup>2</sup> (0.5 ha)	Small	Sport + Play Ecological	Natural	Playground Splash Pad
Mooregate Park	4,427 m <sup>2</sup> (0.4 ha)	Parkette	Sport + Play	Planned	Playground
Trudelle Street Park	2,247 m <sup>2</sup> (0.2 ha)	Parkette	Sport + Play	Planned	Basketball Court (3)



### Figure 11: Images of City-owned or Operated Parks



Knob Hill Park



Lord Robert Woods



Lord Robert Woods



Knob Hill Park



McCowan District Park



Corvette Park



Glen Sheppard Park



Ionview Park



Trudelle Park



Greystone Park



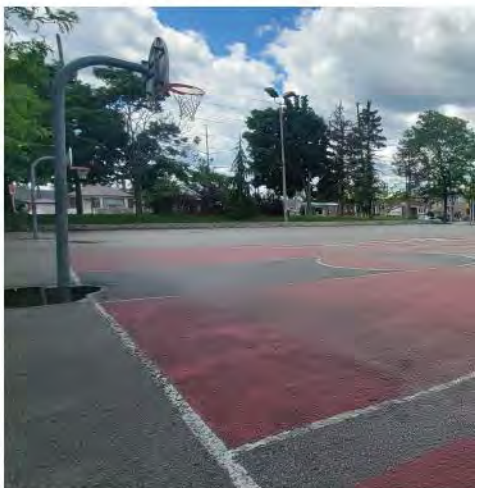
Jack Goodlad Park



Trudelle Street Park



Jeanette Park



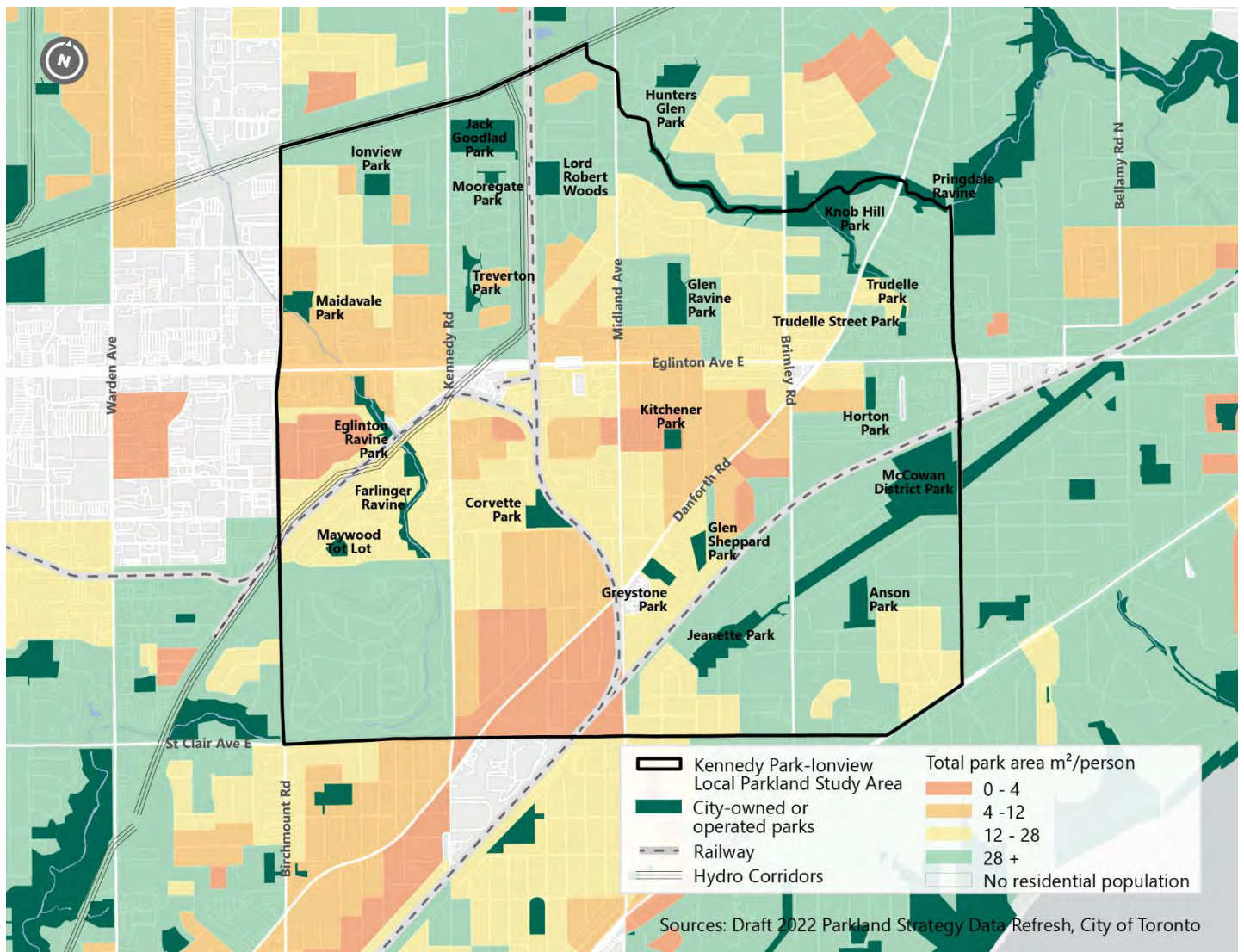
Jack Goodlad Park

## 5.1 Parkland Provision

When total parkland is divided by the number of residents, the average parkland per person is 28.0 m<sup>2</sup> for the City of Toronto, 44.6 m<sup>2</sup> for Scarborough District and 11.5 m<sup>2</sup> for the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study Area. Based on Toronto's Parkland Strategy, provision rates under 12 m<sup>2</sup> per person are considered low. The parkland provision rate of the Study Area is significantly lower compared to the City and Scarborough District rates.

When provision is measured using the Toronto Parkland Strategy Park Catchment Tool, park supply and distribution can be assessed at a larger map scale (Figure 12). Based on this type of parkland provision analysis the current areas of low parkland provision are concentrated in the south-west quadrant of the Study Area or the area bounded by Eglinton Ave E, Birchmount Rd, Pine Hills Cemetery, St. Clair Ave E, Midland Ave, The Railway, and Brimley Road.

**Figure 12: Parkland Provision, 2021**



## 6 Outdoor Recreation Facilities/Amenities

A range of City-owned and operated outdoor amenities and recreational facilities are offered within the Study Area's parks. Amenities can be understood as smaller design features within a park that enhance the utility, convenience and comfort of these spaces for park visitors. Examples of amenities that are available in the Study Area include trails and paths, picnic tables, canopies, and park benches. Facilities are more significant features that accommodate programming and recreation, and require significantly more planning and investment to build and maintain. Facilities within the Study Area include baseball diamonds, sports fields, ice rinks, basketball courts, bocce courts, an outdoor pool, an outdoor fitness area, playgrounds and splash pads. Since facilities are large investments, needs and gaps analysis for them are considered at a city-wide level in the Facilities Master Plan (FMP). Facility provision is one of the main tools to assess their distribution and is measured in two ways: per capita and geographic. Per capita provision is the total Study Area population divided by the number of facilities and is indicated as a ratio (i.e., 1 facility available per number of people). Geographic provision is whether there is a physical gap of these facilities based on the buffers (as-the-crow-flies) indicated in the FMP. Table 3 details the type and number of facilities evaluated in the FMP and indicates their recommended provision level (if any) as well as their provision level within the Study Area. Figure 13 shows all the types of city-owned and operated outdoor recreation facilities and amenities that currently exist within the Study Area.

In addition to City-owned and operated facilities, recreational facilities may also be available to the public through school yards or private clubs. While these facilities can help to supplement City-owned facilities, public access cannot be guaranteed and are therefore not included in provision levels.

Provision is one of the most helpful ways to assess the equitable and physical distribution of facilities across the City. To support provision analysis, further input will be sought through public consultation to build a more complete understanding of the need and desire for certain facilities. The next phase of the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study will provide opportunities through engagement, for park users to discuss and share ideas about which facilities they are interested in and where they could potentially be implemented.

**Table 3: FMP Facility Provision**

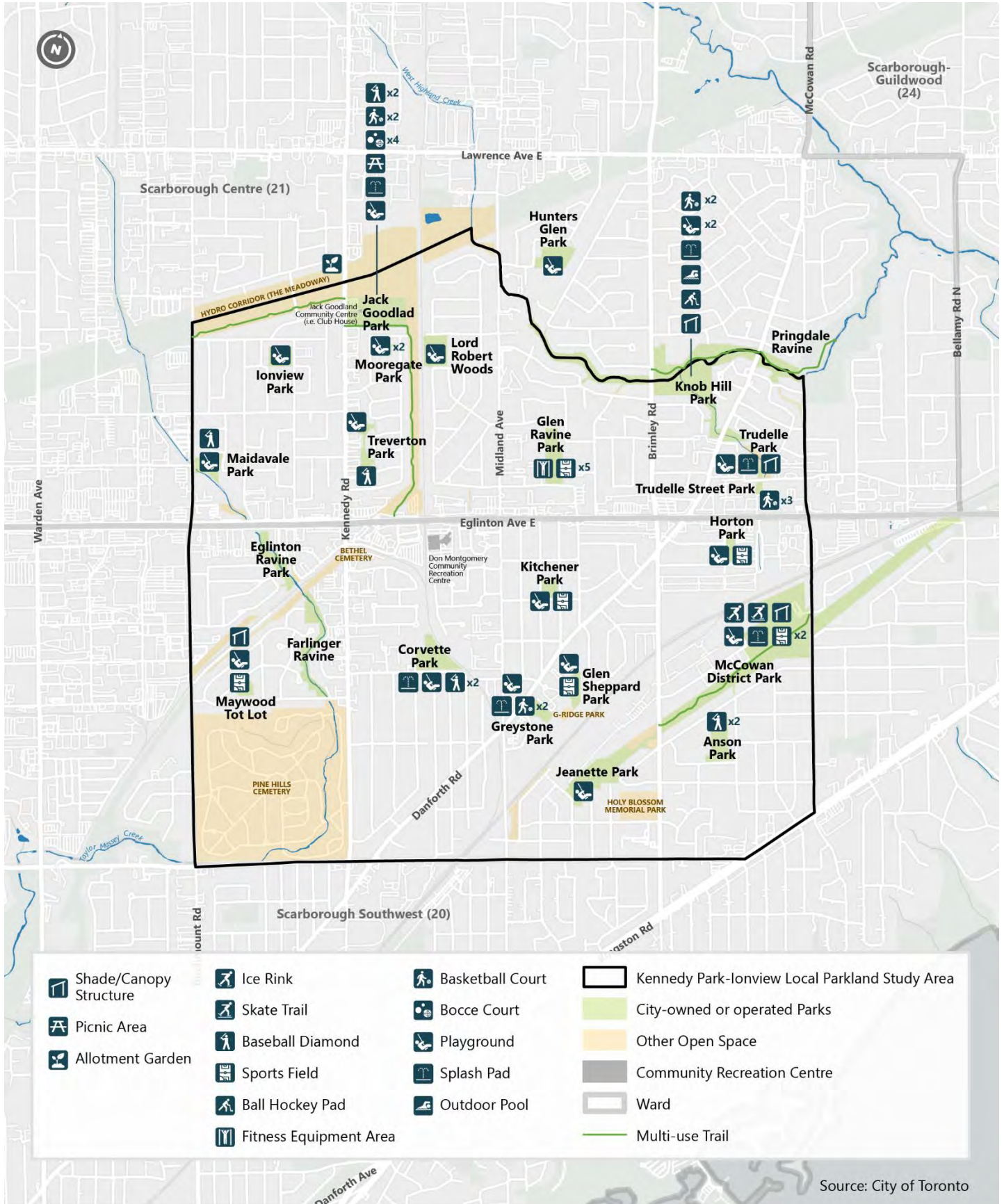
Facility Type	Number of Facilities within Study Area	Recommended Per Capita Provision Rate as indicated in the FMP	Per Capita Provision in the Study Area <sup>1</sup>	Recommended Geographic Provision as Indicated in the FMP	Is there an existing geographic provision gap within the Study Area
Community Recreation Centre (CRC)	1 (Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre)	1:34,000 (large and medium sized CRCs)	1:61,600	2 km (medium CRC) and 2.5 km (large CRC)	No
Clubhouses and Field Houses	1 (Jack Goodlad Community Centre)	FMP recommends further analysis to determine further requirements and reinvesting/repurposing opportunities.	1:61,600	FMP recommends further analysis to determine further requirements and reinvesting/repurposing opportunities.	n/a
Outdoor Pools	1	FMP does not recommend additional facilities	1:61,600	FMP does not recommend additional facilities	Yes
Splash Pads	6	1:24,000	1:10,200	2 km	No
Outdoor Artificial Ice Rink (including Skate Trails)	2	1:100,000	1:30,800	n/a	Yes
Sports Fields (including multi-use and soccer fields)	11	1:10,000	1:5,600	n/a	n/a
Baseball Diamonds	8	FMP does not recommend additional facilities	1:7,700	FMP does not recommend additional facilities	n/a
Basketball Courts	9	1:15,000	1:6,800	2 km	No
Bocce Courts	1	FMP does not recommend additional facilities	1:61,600	FMP does not recommend additional facilities	n/a
Playgrounds <sup>2</sup>	19	n/a	1:3,200	500 m <sup>3</sup>	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Study Area population of 61,582 measured using census tracts.

<sup>2</sup> Playgrounds are not covered in detail in the FMP Strategy since there is a separate Playground Enhancement Program dedicated to improving them across the city.

<sup>3</sup> Playgrounds are one of the most desired and essential features in a park and many parks contain them. A geographic provision of 500 m along the pedestrian accessible network was selected to represent a 5-10 minute walk to help determine if there were any walkability gaps to playgrounds in the Study Area.

Figure 13: Existing Park Amenities and Facilities



Source: City of Toronto

**Figure 14: Images of Outdoor Recreational City Facilities/Amenities**



Fitness Equipment Area (Glen Ravine Park)



Basketball Court (Knob Hill Park)



Outdoor Pool (Knob Hill Park)



Sports Field (McCowan District Park)



Baseball Diamond (Corvette Park)



Bocce Courts (Jack Goodlad Park)



Skate Trail (McCowan District Park)



Shade/Canopy Structure and Splash Pad (Trudelle Park)

## 6.1 FMP Recommendations

The FMP Implementation Strategy contains recommendations that direct investment in existing facilities, address facility gaps and provides a framework to respond to future facility needs. Table 4 is a summary of those facility recommendations that relate the Study Area. Community engagement through the Kennedy Park-Ionview Parkland Study process will help to either validate these recommendations or add to further planning considerations.

**Table 4: Summary of Related FMP Recommendations**

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Area for Implementation/ FMP Recommendation</b>	<b>City Parks within the Study Area that contain this facility</b>
Artificial Ice Rink	2024 – 2028	Ward 21	McCowan District Park
Skating Trail	2029 – 2033	Scarborough	McCowan District Park
Soccer/ Multi-use Fields	2019 – 2038	FMP strives to implement 45 new fields and upgrade 10% of fields city-wide.	McCowan District Park Glen Ravine Park Kitchener Park Horton Park Glen Sheppard Park Maywood Tot Lot
Cricket Pitch	2019 – 2038	FMP aims to deliver 5 new cricket pitches city-wide, which are required most in Toronto East York and Etobicoke York.	
Baseball Diamonds	2019 – 2038	No additions recommended as there is a surplus of baseball diamonds city-wide. FMP recommends upgrading 10% of all diamonds in the city or repurposing based on local need/demand.	Jack Goodlad Park Maidavale Park Treverton Park Corvette Park Anson Park
Wading Pool Conversion into a Splash Pad	2029 – 2033	Ward 21	McCowan District Park Jack Goodlad Park Knob Hill Park Corvette Park Trudelle Park Greystone Park
Tennis and Pickleball Courts	2029 – 2033	Scarborough	
Basketball Courts	2024 – 2028	City-wide	Jack Goodlad Park Knob Hill Park Trudelle Street Park Greystone Park
Skateboard Spots/Parks	2024 - 2028	Ward 20	
Outdoor Pools	TBD	Halbert Pool <sup>1</sup> is identified as a candidate site for redeveloping an existing pool.	Knob Hill Park

<sup>1</sup> Halbert Pool is located in Halbert Park at McCowan Rd and Kingston Rd. It is just outside of the Study Area.

# 7 Other Open Spaces

The City-owned and operated park system is complimented by various other types of open spaces that also encourage active and passive recreational opportunities. Other types of open spaces include Hydro Corridors, cemeteries, school grounds and building grounds. These spaces are not owned by the City but are recognized as important parts of the parks and open space system as a whole. Improving and building connections between parks and open spaces is a foundational parks planning principle in Toronto's Parkland Strategy and makes for a better outdoor urban experience for all of the City's inhabitants.

The Meadoway is an initiative led by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to transform the Hydro Corridor system (owned by Hydro One) in Scarborough into a vibrant 16 km stretch of urban green space and meadowlands running east-west. A 1.8 km stretch of The Meadoway borders the north-west portion of the Study Area. In this section there is an existing allotment garden between Givendale Rd and Kennedy Rd, known as the Givendale Allotment Gardens; ongoing meadow restoration; and a multi-use trail. It is connected to the Loop Trail concept, stemming from Toronto's Ravine Strategy, which will create a connection from the Study Area to the broader ravine systems along the Don River and beyond.

Gatineau Hydro Corridor is another open space property owned by Hydro One that branches off from the Meadoway just east of Jack Goodlad Park. It runs south along the railway, to Eglinton Ave E and contains a multi-use trail.

Pine Hills Cemetery, at 625 Birchmount Rd, is a significant open space area approximately 659,075 m<sup>2</sup> in size. It is in the south-west corner of the Study Area at Birchmount Rd and St. Clair Ave East. Taylor-Massey Creek runs through the cemetery and it contains a road system that accommodates both vehicles and pedestrians.

Gordon Ridge Community Multi-Sport Court also known as "G-ridge Park" is located on Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) lands at 20 Gordonridge Pl (along Danforth Rd) and falls between two City parks, Glen Sheppard Park and Greystone Park. It is a publically accessible space built using philanthropic contributions. It contains a walking loop, multi-sport court, skate dots, seating and a shade canopy feature.

## 7.1 Schools

There are 16 school yards within the Study Area, comprising a total area of approximately 44 hectares or 443,539 m<sup>2</sup>. Public access to outdoor school space is generally limited to non-school time hours and or other barriers. Twelve school yards are adjacent to City-Owned or Operated Parks creating a direct connection between the open spaces and/or visually seamless open green space. Table 3 lists all the schools in the Study Area and, if applicable, indicates the park they are adjacent.



**Table 5: Schools**

<b>School</b>	<b>Which park is beside this school?</b>	<b>Is there a direct connection between the school and the park?</b>	<b>School's Outdoor Amenities</b>
Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies	Corvette Park	No – the spaces are separated by a railway with a pedestrian crossing.	Track Field
R.H. King Academy	n/a	n/a	Track Field Tennis Courts
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy	Glen Ravine Park	Yes	Field
Hunter's Glen Junior Public School and Charles Gordon Senior Public School	Hunters Glen Park	Yes	Field Baseball Diamonds
Corvette Junior Public School	Corvette Park	Yes	Field Baseball Diamonds Basketball Court Playground
Norman Cook Junior Public School	n/a	n/a	Field Basketball Court Playground
Ionview Public School	Ionview Park	Yes	Field Basketball Courts Playground
Knob Hill Public School	Knob Hill Park	Yes	Field Baseball Diamond
Anson Park Public School	Anson Park	Yes	Field Playground
Glen Ravine Junior Public School	Glen Ravine Park	Yes	Baseball Diamond Basketball Court Playground
St. Albert Catholic Elementary School	Hunters Glen Park	No – parking lot and paths separate the spaces.	Field

School	Which park is beside this school?	Is there a direct connection between the school and the park?	School's Outdoor Amenities
Robert Service Senior Public School	Glen Sheppard Park	Yes	Field
Walter Perry Junior Public School	n/a	n/a	Field Baseball Diamond Playground
Ecole Secondaire Catholique Père-Philippe-Lamarche	Trudelle Street Park	No – a parking lot separates the spaces.	Field
Lord Roberts Junior Public School	Lord Robert Woods	Yes	Field Basketball Court Playground
St. Maria Goretti Catholic School	n/a	n/a	Basketball Court

**Figure 15: Images of Other Open Spaces**



The Meadowway Meadow Restoration (Hydro Corridor)



Givendale Allotment Garden (Hydro Corridor)



Multi-use Path (Gatineau Hydro Corridor)



Multi-use Path (Gatineau Hydro Corridor)



Track (Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies)



Open Space (Adjacent to Jeanette Park)



Multi-use Court (Gordonridge "G-Ridge" Park)



Skate Spot (Gordonridge "G-Ridge" Park)

# 8 Resilience

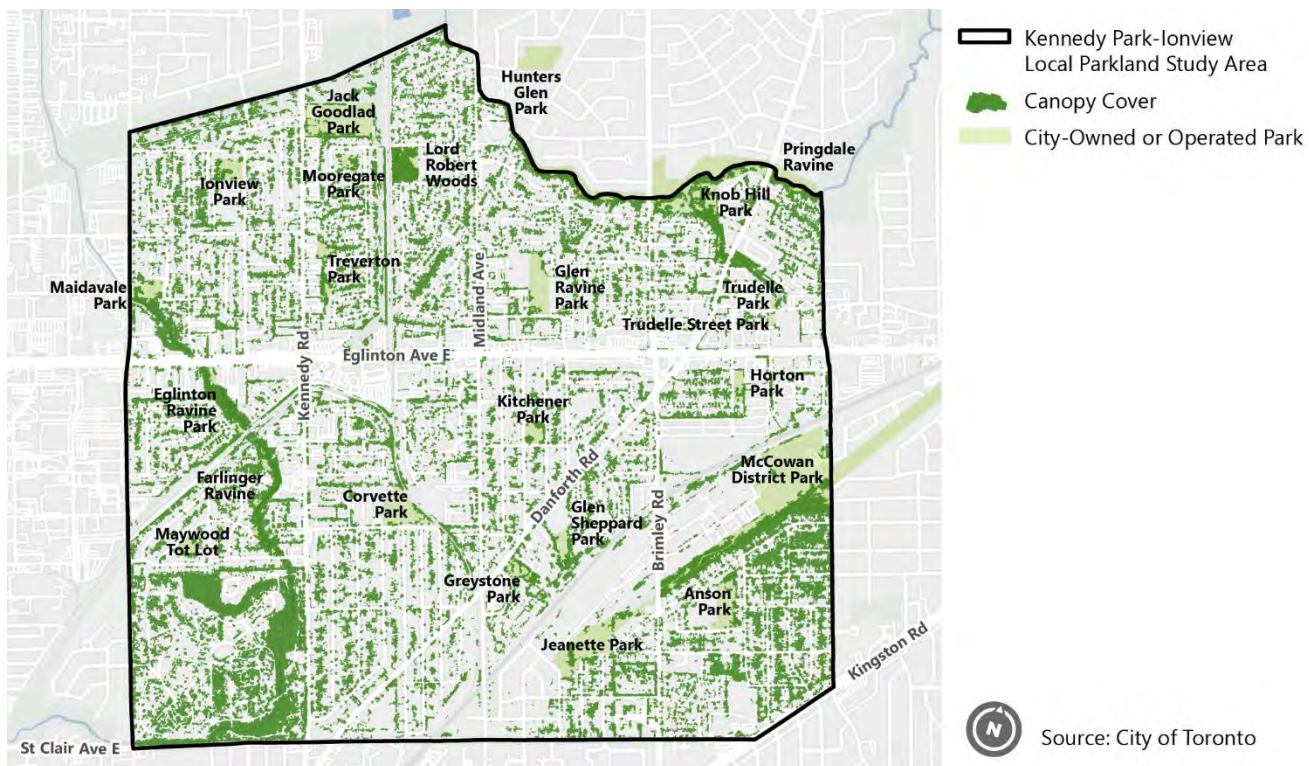
## 8.1 Canopy Cover

Healthy tree canopy cover is a vital asset to support both community and ecological health. The Study Area is 969 ha or 9,688,273 m<sup>2</sup> and based on the 2018 Tree Canopy Study, canopy cover in the Study Area covers about 259 ha or 2,594,368 m<sup>2</sup>. The Study Area has a total canopy cover of 26.8% (Figure 16) which is slightly lower than the City-wide average of 28.4%. Toronto has a target of 40% tree canopy cover by 2050. In the Study Area, tree canopy cover is concentrated in the ravines, Lord Robert Woods Park, McCowan District Park and Pine Hills Cemetery.

### 8.1.1 Tree Equity

The City takes an equity approach to address canopy distribution. The tree equity lens uses land cover classification data together with demographic and socioeconomic data to identify and prioritize opportunities for canopy expansion at the neighbourhood scale. None of the neighbourhoods within the Study Area are amongst the 17 neighbourhoods with significant low tree equity in the city. However, within the Study Area specifically, there are gaps in canopy cover in the area buffering Eglinton Ave E and the commercial areas along the CN Railway running parallel to Danforth Rd (mainly south of the railway).

**Figure 16: Canopy Cover**

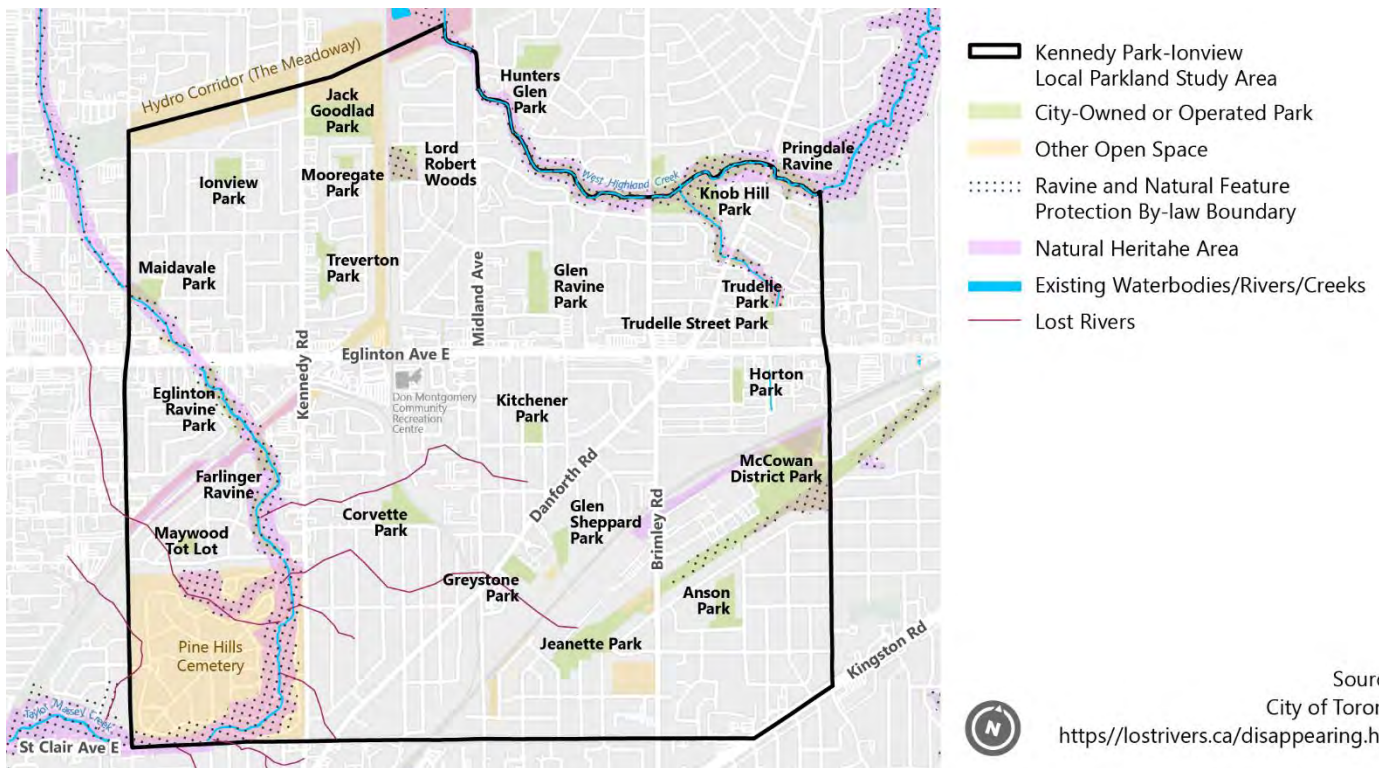


## 8.2 Natural Heritage

Figure 14 identifies the Natural Heritage System in the Study Area as shown on the City's Official Plan Land Use Map 9. These areas are specifically identified because of their significant vegetation, slope, and watercourse features (e.g. Taylor Massey Creek and West Highland Creek). These vital natural features were identified to appropriately respond to any future developments that might impact them. Almost all the Natural Heritage System in the Study Area is also protected by the City's Ravine and Natural Feature Protection (RNFP) By-law. The RNFP By-law requires a permit prior to any undertaking that may injure or destroy a tree. Toronto's Ravine Strategy uses a prioritization framework to focus efforts and investment across the ravine system. This approach recognizes that work cannot be undertaken all at once throughout the entire ravine system. None of the ravine segments intersecting the Study Area are identified as Ravine Priority Investment Areas at this time.

Flowing water from rivers and creeks have helped create Toronto's intricate ravine system. Many of those rivers and creeks still exist today, however some of those rivers have been lost over time largely due to urbanization. These historical watercourses have cultural and geographical significance. They were used as a means of travel by Indigenous Peoples and have helped shaped the urban fabric. For example park locations, natural areas and street orientation may have been a result of the presence of these water courses. The Study Area contains two existing creeks as well as historical lost rivers that were last seen as late as 1931-32 (Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Natural Features**



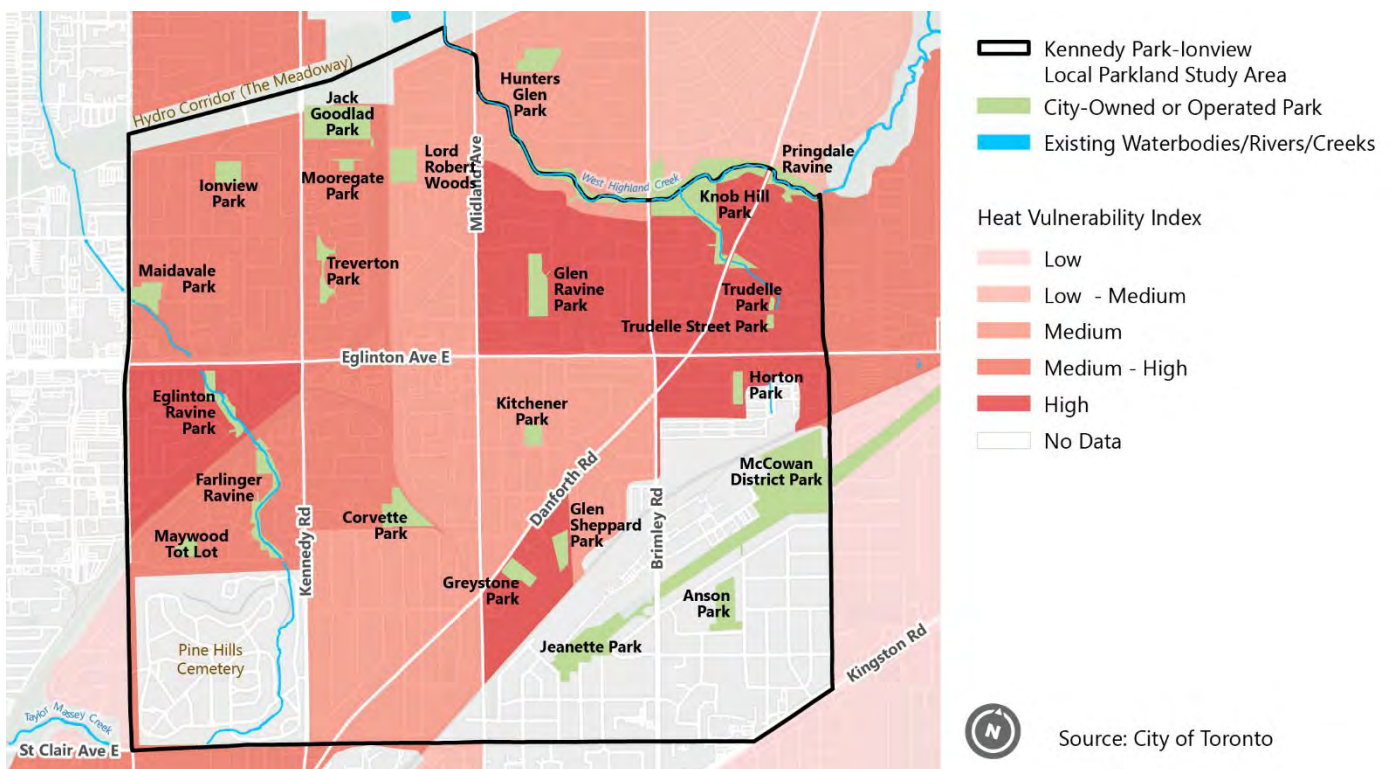
## 8.3 Heat Vulnerability

Heat Vulnerability can be defined as an individual's exposure to heat as well as their sensitivity to it. Exposure to heat can be influenced by several factors such as access to air conditioning and green spaces. Sensitivity refers to a person's ability to cope with hot weather, for example children and seniors can be more sensitive to heat. Toronto Public Health has combined statistics on exposure and sensitivity to create a "Heat Vulnerability Index" by census tract. Figure 18 shows the index scores within the Study Area. A high value (or deep red colour) suggests that population in the area may be more vulnerable to heat. Notable sections of heat vulnerability in the Study Area include the census tracts on both sides of Eglinton Ave E and the TCHC apartment complex between Grey Stone Park and Glen Sheppard Park.

### 8.3.1 Permeable and Impermeable Surfaces

The ability for a surface to absorb water and solar energy can contribute to the amount of heat exposure residents' face. In an urban environment, permeable surfaces are largely found in parks and open spaces or can also be attributed to permeable building materials and green roofs. Approximately half of the Study Area is covered by some type of permeable surface. Roads and buildings account for a large portion of the impermeable surfaces. The most obvious permeable surface gap lies along the Eglinton Ave E., which happens to contain a major canopy cover gap as well.

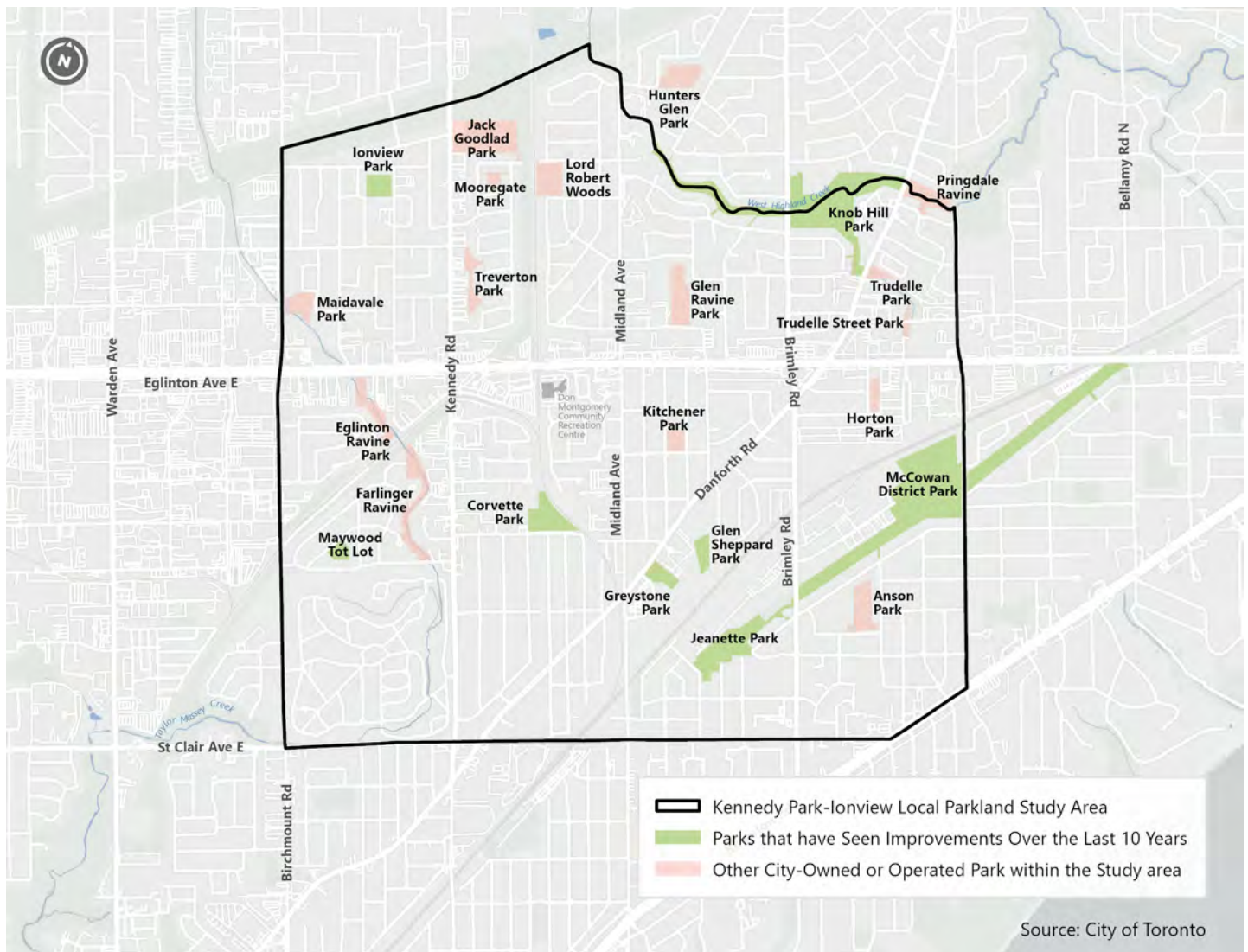
**Figure 18: Heat Vulnerability Index**



## 9 Recent Park Improvements

The condition and quality of park spaces can vary depending on the level of investment and intensity of use. Some spaces are more heavily used than others and have experienced different periods of capital investment. These types of improvements include playground enhancement projects; the addition and expansion of amenities such as seating and shade structures; various state of good repairs such as on trails and parking lots; and improvements to recreational facilities. Further stakeholder engagement will help confirm and validate the existing state of the parks and open space network in the Study Area. Engagement through the study process will also help to determine more opportunities for park improvements and to better understand the local community's long-term vision for their parks system.

**Figure 19: Parks Improved (Capital Plan) Over the Past 10 Years**



# 10 Parkland Study Next Steps

## What This Study Means for the Kennedy Park-Ionview Area

The intended outcome of this study is to create a Parks Plan that will help prioritize and guide investment in the local parks network. Findings from the study process will ensure that the Parks Plan reflects the needs of the Kennedy Park-Ionview communities. The findings and observations contained in this background report help to convey the existing conditions of parks and open spaces in the Study Area and will serve as the basis for further analysis and engagement around gaps and opportunities. Materials and project updates will be shared on the project website ([www.toronto.ca/kennedyionview](http://www.toronto.ca/kennedyionview)) as they become available.

Some key highlights out of this background review include:

- Modest population growth is anticipated in the area which may indicate the need to improve existing parkland.
- Significant development in adjacent areas as well as investments in transit and cycling network is expected to bring increasing pressure on local parks and open spaces.
- Over half of the Study Area's dwelling types are found within apartment buildings which typically have limited access to private green space.
- The majority of the population are visible minorities which should be considered when exploring how parks can become more welcoming and inclusive to all community members.
- The level of canopy cover is comparable to the average condition across the City, however; certain areas are notably lower including along Eglinton Ave E.
- McCowan District Park is the newest park addition to the Study Area and is an example of a major park improvement in the area. However, there are many parks that haven't been the focus of significant capital investment for the past 10 years.
- A number of parks abut school spaces which offers opportunity to support large, contiguous green spaces that can accommodate a range of programs but also requires thoughtful partnership and management.
- Based on provision analysis there are gaps in outdoor recreation facilities in the Study Area – further input from park users will be required to gain a full understanding of local facility needs.



## **Gaining Further Understanding through Engagement**

The information collected through this background analysis provides valuable insight into how the current parks and open space system functions. This research has focused on quantitative measures that begin to shed light on local existing conditions and provide context from a city-wide perspective. These findings will be reviewed and expanded upon through further public engagement that will draw important qualitative insights and observations from park users. Some initial engagement efforts have been conducted to date, including an online interactive map activity and a youth workshop. Summaries of these activities are available on the project website. Planned engagement activities to support future phases of work will include park pop-ups, community workshops, an open house, and an online survey. The details of these upcoming events will be shared on the project website once confirmed. Collectively, the findings from analysis and engagement feedback will help the study team find the gaps in the local park system and pinpoint the opportunities to best address them. Final recommendations will be provided through a Parks Plan to conclude the study process.

## Stay in touch!

Visit our website at [www.toronto.ca/kennedyionview](http://www.toronto.ca/kennedyionview)  
to stay in the loop on public engagements and  
access study reports and documents.

E-mail us at [kennedyionviewparks@toronto.ca](mailto:kennedyionviewparks@toronto.ca).