

OUTDOOR SKATE PARK IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



London
CANADA

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BACKGROUND, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan

“The Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan establishes priorities and policies to guide the delivery of recreation and leisure services, parks and open spaces, programs, and facilities within the City of London to the year 2017.”

“Skateboarding, rollerblading, and freestyle BMX biking are some of the fastest growing sports in Canada and the demand for skate parks is high. Skate parks appeal to older teens – an age group that has traditionally been challenging to serve. Skateboarding needs must be recognized within the City’s parks and recreation system.”

Develop skate parks in areas where the youth population approaches or exceeds 5,000.

Develop introductory skate parks as play features in neighbourhood parks.

THE OUTDOOR SKATE PARK SYSTEM

Skate Park Hierarchy of Service

A three tier system shall provide for skateboarding opportunities evenly across the City.

The **City-Wide** skate park is the largest and highest order skate park ($\pm 1800\text{m}^2$ or $\pm 19,400\text{ft}^2$). It is centrally located and attracts users from across the City. The City-Wide skate park will serve users of all skill levels; however emphasis will be on intermediate to advanced skill users. There will be 1 City-Wide skate park.

District skate parks are smaller in size than the City-Wide skate park ($\pm 900\text{m}^2$ or $\pm 9,700\text{ft}^2$). They are ideally located in a district park and/or near a community centre and attract users from larger geographic regions of the City. District skate parks will serve users of all skill levels. There will be 5 District Skate Parks serving different regions of the City.

Neighbourhood skate parks are the smallest in size ($\pm 200\text{m}^2$ or $\pm 2,100\text{ft}^2$). These skate parks are a walk-to facility that focuses on introductory skateboarders and serves only the immediate community that the skate park is located within. The number of Neighbourhood skate parks will be determined on an as-needed basis neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

SITE SELECTION

General Skate parks are considered a common public recreation facility that is of a similar order as an outdoor basketball court or outdoor tennis court. Where possible, skate park development should be included into larger park improvement projects.

Site Selection Process The site selection process for all new skate parks shall be subject to current City Park public consultation policies and practices.

In addition determining the location of any new District skate park or the expansion of an existing City-Wide or District skate park, the **City-Wide/District Skate Park Site Selection Criteria** will be used.

In determining the location of any new neighbourhood skate park, the **Neighbourhood Skate Park Site Selection Criteria** will be used.

*City-Wide /
District Skate
Park
Site Selection
Criteria*

Geographic Location: The location serves the proposed users within the service area. The location is accessible to the proposed users.

Service Area Demographics: There are a sufficient number of users in the service area to warrant the skate park development: Where youth populations approach or exceed 5000.

Supporting Infrastructure: There are public amenities near by that support skate park users. Required support amenities include; public transit, accessible pathways, trees and benches. Within a reasonable distance washrooms and vehicle parking shall be available. Optional support amenities include; community centres. If there is a deficiency in required supporting infrastructure, there shall be ability to construct necessary supporting infrastructure (spatial and funding).

Community and Park Harmony: The skate park is compatible with the existing community and other park uses, as the well as overall area character. The park designated is a district park and/or contains a community centre. If necessary, there are mitigating measures for addressing incompatibility. (I.E. skate park facility design, enhanced setbacks [greater than 30metres] to neighbours and/or other park uses, landscape treatments etc.)

Safety and Security: The principles and practices of "*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*" (CPTED) can be implemented in this location.

Community and Stakeholder Support: There is sufficient support within the serviced community and stakeholders that this is an acceptable location. There may be community / user group funding / in-kind support for enhancements. Other site specific concerns can be addressed.

SITE SELECTION continued

Neighbourhood Skate Park Site Selection Criteria

Geographic Location: The location serves the proposed users. The location is accessible to the proposed users.

Service Area Demographics: There are a sufficient number of users in the service area to warrant the skate park development.

Supporting Infrastructure: There are public amenities near by that support skate park users. Required support amenities include; accessible pathways, trees and benches. Optional support amenities include; parking, public transit, community centre, public washrooms and community centres. If there is a deficiency in required supporting infrastructure, there shall be ability to construct necessary supporting infrastructure (spatial and funding).

Neighbourhood and Park Harmony: The skate park is compatible with the existing neighbourhood and other park uses, as the well as overall character of the area. If necessary, there are mitigating measures for addressing incompatibility. (I.E. skate park facility design, enhanced setbacks [greater than 30metres] to neighbours and/or other park uses, landscape treatments etc.)

Safety and Security: The principles and practices of "*Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*" (CPTED) can be implemented in this location.

Community and Stakeholder Support: There is a general consensus with the serviced community and stakeholders that this is an acceptable location. There may be community / user group funding / in-kind support for enhancements. Other site specific concerns can be addressed.

Non-City Park Locations

Where an appropriate skate park site is not available on City park lands within the service area, locations will be explored on other publicly owned lands (I.E. school boards) or privately owned lands. In these situations land acquisition or long-term lease arrangements will be necessary.

EXISTING AND FUTURE SKATE PARKS

City-Wide The Skate Park at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre (CHOCC) was constructed in 1998 as a community project and serves as London's city-wide facility. It is currently undersized for this use and is recommended to be upgraded in the future.

District There is an existing undersized district skate park at White Oaks Optimist Park. Upgrades are necessary to accommodate an increased number of users.

Proposed locations for other district skate parks include; the future North London Community Centre, the future Southwest Community Centre, Kiwanis Park or Argyle Arena and Ray Lanctin Arena/Medway Community Centre.

Neighbourhood Currently there are 3 existing neighbourhood skate parks in the City. They are located at Stronach Park, West Lions Park and Victoria Park. These parks are closest in approximation to the desired neighbourhood standard.

Staff have applied the site selection criteria and prepared a list of candidate parks that that best fit the criteria and provide an equal distribution of facilities in neighbourhoods across the City. It should be noted that the Outdoor Skate Park Implementation Strategy identifies the parks below as *candidate sites* for a neighbourhood skate park and that not every candidate park will receive a neighbourhood skate park.

Ed Blake Park,	Westminster Park,
Hastings Park,	Basil Grover Park,
Plane Tree Park,	Griffith Park,
Stoney Creek Park, (future park in the Stoney Creek Community)	Lambeth Centennial Park,
Virginia Park.	Ralph Hamlyn Park,
Argyle Arena	Riverbend Park
Boyle Park	Southcrest Park,
CNRA Park	Talbot Park, (future park in the Talbot community)
Forest View Park,	Village Green,
Huron Heights Park,	Capulet Park,
St. Julien Park	Coronation Park, (future park in the Hyde Park community)
Glen Cairn Park,	Fox Hollow Park, (future park in the Foxhollow community)
Meadowgate Park, (future park in the Summerside community)	Oak Park,
Mitches Park,	Oakridge Optimist Community Park,
Naiomi Almeida Park,	Nor' West Optimist Park
Paul Haggis Park,	

Other candidate parks may be determined in future.

Final neighbourhood skate park locations will be subject to public consultation.

SKATE PARK DESIGN

- Graffiti* Skate park graffiti tagging is subject to current City by-laws, policies and practices. These by-laws are being updated to a 'zero tolerance' standard. Such graffiti will be actively removed from skate parks.

Graffiti style murals that meet the City's public art policies may be permitted at skate parks.
- Design Consultation* In determining the design of any new skate park or the expansion of an existing skate park, the skateboard community and other stakeholders shall be consulted.
- Design Considerations* Unique skate park elements shall be considered for any new or expanded City-Wide or District skate park.

The size, scale and design of neighbourhood skate parks may vary from location to location based community needs and site compatibility.
- Specific Design Standards* 30 metres is considered the minimum setback required between a skate park and a private residential property.

15 metres is considered the minimum setback required between a skate park and other recreation facilities.

Skate parks should be visible from one or more public streets.

FUNDING SUPPORT

- City Funding* Skate Park funding will be supported through existing park capital programs and subject to yearly City Council budget approval. Each project will receive the standard level of funding for its scope.

Where new skate park development is attributed to growth, development charge funding will be used.
- Other Funding Sources* Projects may be enhanced by other sources of such as donations from private organizations as well as community groups for skate park enhancements. Enhancements become the responsibility of the City to maintain and keep safe so, these supplementary amenities will become the property of the City. Recognition for donations and sponsorships will be subject to the policies of the City.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

City Wide Skate Parks Currently the facility at CHOCC provides our only city-wide level skate park amenity and it does not meet 2008 needs in terms of size or diversity.

Staff will initiate consultations with the public and the skateboarding community before implementing any plans to expand or enhance this facility.

District Level Skate Parks City staff have designated locations around the city as desirable locations for District Level Skate Parks. Determinants of desirable locations include: distribution around the city; set backs from residential areas; available land; compatibility with other planned usages of the parks.

Staff will initiate consultations with the public and the skateboarding community before implementing any plans to build new district level skate parks or to enhance existing district level skate parks.

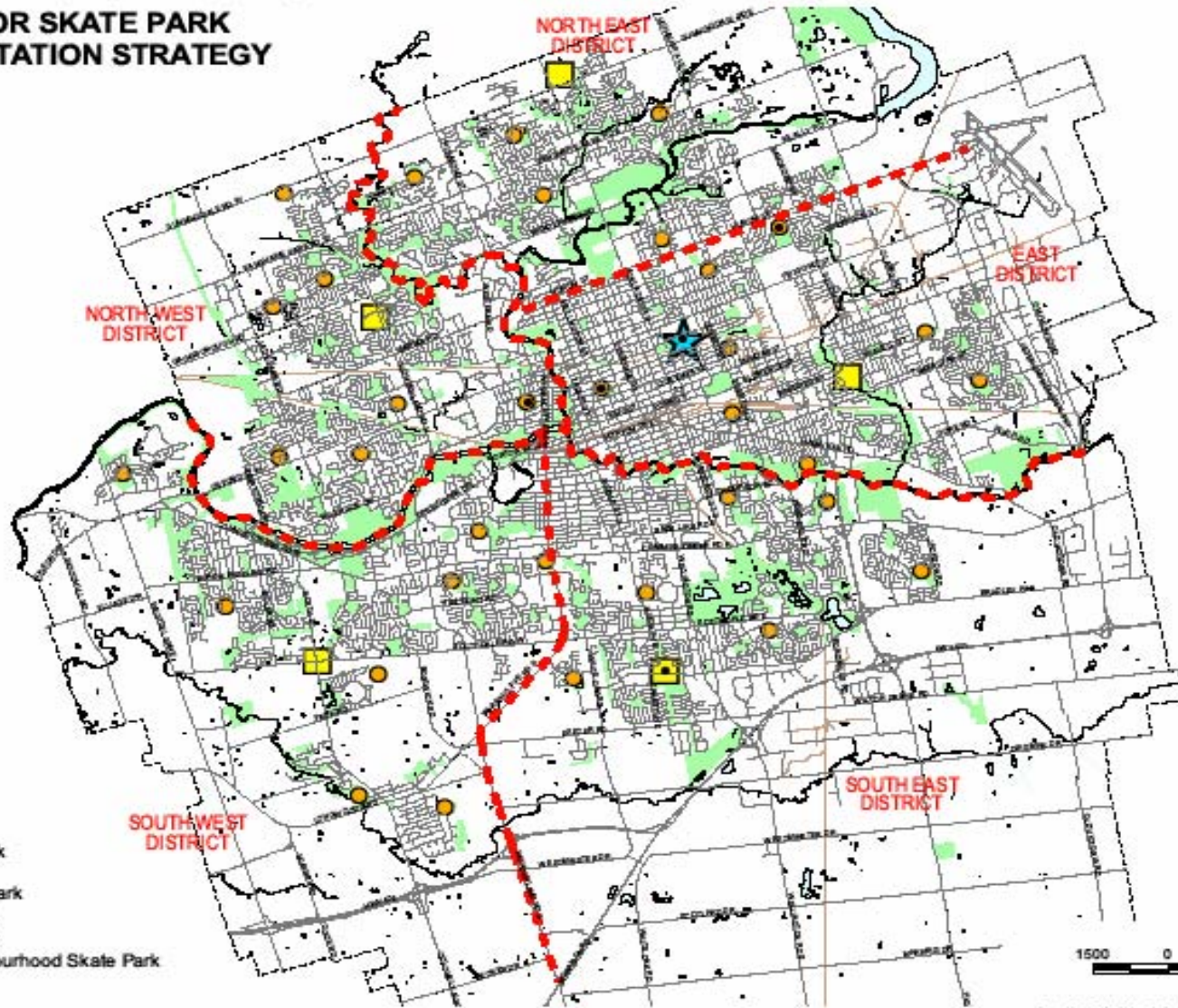
Neighbourhood Level Skate Parks Neighbourhood level amenities would not be built without prior consultation with local residents and planning for neighbourhood level amenities would be initiated only at the invitation of interested parties within that neighbourhood

The Community Consultation process steps will include:

1. *Documentation of expressions of interest from initiating parties within the neighbourhood* to determine the level and degree commitment of community support; reasons for the expressed interest etc.
2. *Assessment of feasibility* to determine whether there are eligible parks in the neighbourhood to host a skate park and whether there is available funding.
3. *Notices to local stakeholders* which describe the request received from community members; outline a recommended site and initial concept plan; and invite community members to a meeting on the proposal.
4. *A Community Meeting* which:
 - allows proponents of the skate park to identify the need for, and benefits of a neighbourhood skate park
 - shows community members how and where a skate park could fit into their neighbourhood
 - provides opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the proposal
5. *A communication to local stakeholders* which lets the community know the intended plans following the community meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN:

**OUTDOOR SKATE PARK
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**



LEGEND

- Existing Skate Park
- ★ City Wide Skate Park
- District Skate Park
- Candidate Neighbourhood Skate Park
- Districts
- Parks

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