

# Park Acquisition Program

Environmental Action Committee

November 3, 2020

# Park Planning

## Parks, Forestry & Environment Division

- Long term park & park amenity planning
- Leads public engagement processes for parks
- Review impacts to the City's parks and natural areas and recommends measures to protect, enhance and expand these assets
- Contributes to the development application process with an emphasis on protection of parkland/natural heritage system, parkland/greenland dedication and Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland
- Leads strategic land acquisitions for parkland

# Parkland Acquisition

## Guided by Policy and Master Plans

### **Mississauga Official Plan**

- Parkland provision targets and policies
- Expand the Green System for the benefit of existing and future generations
- Acquisition of parkland to provide public access to and protection of the waterfront

### **2019 Parks and Forestry Master Plan**

- Update evaluation criteria acquisition factors to identify and rank properties to secure for parks
- Target 1.2 ha of parkland per 1000 residents for residential districts
- Target 12% minimum parkland for urban character areas
- Achieve park distribution to allow for public playgrounds within a 10 minute walk for every resident

# Parkland Acquisition

## Guided by Policy and Master Plans

### **Waterfront Parks Strategy**

- Secure continuous public access along the edge of Lake Ontario
- Protect, enhance and expand natural heritage areas
- Expand parkland through acquisition along the shoreline

### **Credit River Parks Strategy**

- Expand the area of publicly owned parkland within the Credit River Valley
- Acquire lands to address missing links in the trail system and to protect and enhance natural areas

### **Natural Heritage & Urban Forest Strategy**

- Expand the natural heritage system and urban forest through acquisition

# Park Acquisition Evaluation Criteria

## 2019 Parks and Forestry Master Plan

1. Supports a healthy environment
2. Expands and connects trail systems
3. Park design and development potential
4. Supports population growth
5. Provides for recreational program and facilities

# Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland (CIL)

## Funding Acquisitions

- The Planning Act empowers the City to require the conveyance of parkland or Cash-in-Lieu of parkland through the development process
- Funding for the purchase of parkland comes from accumulated monies in the City's Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve
- Increased cost of land makes parkland acquisition challenging within current cash-in-lieu (CIL) of parkland revenue collection practices
- Increased CIL revenue is needed to sustain current service levels and execute long-term parkland acquisition strategies

# Park Acquisition Program

## Current Status

- The City has 505 parks and 3100 ha (7660 acres) of parkland and open space
- Parks include 26 waterfront parks along the City's 22 kilometre Lake Ontario shoreline
- Parks include over 300 publicly owned woodlands and natural areas covering 1124 hectares (2777 acres)
- The current city-wide per capita supply of parkland is 2.36 hectares per 1000 residents



Culham Trail, Mississauga  
Photo Credit: City of Mississauga

# Park Acquisition Program

## Achievements

- In the last five years, approximately **33 hectares (81 acres)** have been acquired for parkland purposes – of that total, **21 hectares (53 acres)** have been greenlands
- In 2018 the Ninth Line parkland consolidation was completed resulting in cohesive City owned parkland within the corridor
- New parkland in the amount of approximately **25 hectares (62 acres)** is recommended for dedication through active major waterfront developments
- The Cooksville Parkland Acquisition project identified 31 properties totaling **10 ha (25 acres)** to acquire for parkland purposes. 15 properties have already been secured and negotiations are ongoing
- In 2009 and 2016 the expansion of Credit Meadows was completed with **62 ha (153 acres)** of new parkland being added to Credit Meadows



# Credit Meadows Expansion

Formerly Harris Farm



## 62.2 Hectares

- Acquisition through direct purchase
- Park amenities and trail system
- Meadow regeneration
- Forest regeneration
- Natural area protection, expansion and enhancement

# Addition to Fletcher's Flats

## Greenlands



# 3.49 Hectares

- Gratuitous dedication
- Potential trail network expansion
- Natural area protection, expansion and enhancement

# Credit River Flats

## Greenlands



**3.36** Hectares

- Natural area protection, expansion and enhancement
- Protection of Credit River shoreline

# Park Acquisition Program

## Future Acquisitions

- Continue with the **Cooksville Parkland Acquisition** project which when complete will add **10 ha (25 acres)** of new parkland in an area of the City currently facing a parkland deficit. The new parkland will be added to existing parks within the Cooksville Creek corridor creating a cohesive and connected park system with urban park spaces, trail connections, and natural feature enhancement.
- Build on the Credit Meadows expansion success where **62 ha (153 acres)** of park was added the **Credit River Valley** system by working towards acquisition of additional key properties identified in the Credit River Parks Strategy to address missing trail system links and further enhance natural areas.
- Continue to expand parkland through acquisition along the **Lake Ontario shoreline** through purchase and dedication.
- Continue to identify and pursue properties of interest for parkland purposes in order to ensure **equitable City-wide distribution of parkland** as well as **expansion of the natural heritage system and urban forest**.