

# **WATERLOO PARK MASTER PLAN 2009**

## **APPENDIX 1.3**

### **NEWSLETTERS**

# Guiding Principles

The guiding principles are the core values that direct the master planning process in pursuit of the vision statement. The Waterloo Park Committee offers the following guiding principles for consideration. The Waterloo Park Master Plan Update will:

- Respect and honour the natural environment and enhance the significant landscape features of Waterloo Park,
- Seek to commemorate the rich cultural and historical heritage associated with the City of Waterloo,
- Incorporate sound and sustainable environmental practices that directly respond to the City of Waterloo's Environment First Policy,
- Promote uses/activities that:
  - promote healthy living and allow for leisure and relaxation,
  - harmoniously facilitate the needs of diverse age groups (youth, adult, elderly),
  - incorporate local art and culture (music, drama, dance, etc.),
  - accommodate year round use of the Park,
  - provide educational opportunities,
  - address accessibility,
  - reflect demographic trends, and
  - are financially sustainable
- Integrate a unifying theme that is reflective of the Park's Victorian origins,
- Generate safe, flexible and dynamic spaces that offer a variety of spatial experiences from small intimate to large interactive spaces,
- Facilitate safe movement of park users and give priority to the pedestrian experience,
- Profile water as a common design element, and
- Resist the incorporation of "for profit" enterprises or organizations; the Park will continue to be supported from the tax base.



Eby Farm House, East Facade

Study related documents can be viewed at the project office identified below. Please phone the number listed below to arrange for viewing of study material. The City has also developed a Waterloo Park Master Plan Update webpage where you will find a digital copy of valuable study material and where you can complete a quick online opinion survey. Community members also have the option of registering their name to ensure that they are notified of upcoming newsletters and study related venues. Please register using one of the following methods:

- Web page: [www.waterloo.ca](http://www.waterloo.ca)
- Tel. 519-747-8622
- Fax 519-886-5788

For more information about the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update or to register for the April 21st Workshop, please contact:

**Eckhard Pastrik, O.A.L.A., C.S.L.A., Project Manager**  
City of Waterloo Service Centre  
265 Lexington Court, Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8  
Tel. 519-747-8622  
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## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1

MARCH 19, 2007



Original Plan for West Side Park.

### Summary

- What changes would you make to the form and function of Waterloo Park?
- Urban context surrounding Waterloo Park changing as a result of redevelopment
- How to contribute to defining the future of Waterloo Park via study survey
- Waterloo Park Committee has outlined initial Vision/ Guiding Principles

### Upcoming Events

- Public Consultation Workshop, Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, Hauser Haus, Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

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# Waterloo Park

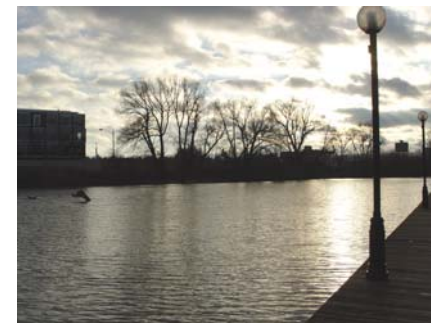
## MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

The City of Waterloo is initiating a Waterloo Park Master Plan Update, which will be used to guide the future development of Waterloo Park, along with its trails, recreation facilities, programs and events. And, the City is looking for input from you. The aim is to gather members of the community to collectively define the role Waterloo Park should play within the urban context of the City of Waterloo. Over the coming months, City staff will be asking the public for their thoughts and opinions about Waterloo Park. What types of recreation, leisure, culture services, programs or facilities would you like to see in Waterloo Park? What changes to the current infrastructure would better address your needs and the needs of your community?

### WHY CHANGE ANYTHING?

Over time, Waterloo Park has evolved into an eclectic open space accommodating a variety of passive and active uses. The urban context enveloping the Park has and continues to be dramatically transformed primarily through redevelopment in the area. With this evolution in development surrounding the Park, it's a good time to ask pertinent questions about the use of the Park. As the demographic changes, the Park's programs and infrastructure may also need to change to keep current with the needs of the community. This Master Plan Update is an opportunity to ask pertinent questions and make sure we are on the right track.



Silhouette of Silver Lake and Boardwalk

### HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE...

Staff at the City of Waterloo will be hosting a public consultation workshop to collect opinions and thoughts on the future of Waterloo Park. At the workshop we will:

- show you examples of successful park redevelopments,
- discuss key elements of a successful park design and how community involvement can shape the planning and design process, and
- discuss the degree to which workshop attendees would like to be involved in the planning process for the park

To be part of this important kick-off planning session, please register using the contact information on the back page of this newsletter. Mark your calendars for this date and location:

**Waterloo Park Master Plan Update**  
**Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex**  
**101 Father David Bauer Drive**  
**Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4A8**

### SHARE YOUR OPINION THROUGH A SURVEY

If you cannot attend the workshop, or have some thoughts you would like to share with us now, visit our website to complete a quick survey. Please see the back page of this newsletter for more details.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Waterloo Park Committee, a committee established by the Waterloo City Council, developed a preliminary vision statement and guiding principles for the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update.

The vision statement articulates what Waterloo Park will become at the end of the master plan process. The vision statement answers the question, "Where do we want to go?" The Waterloo Park Committee offers the following vision statement for consideration.

*"Waterloo Park, the "Jewel of the City", will be the City's premier open green space that is visually and physically integrated into the urban fabric of Uptown Waterloo. The Park will be a people oriented place that appeals to all ages. The Park will provide a variety of experiences ranging from quiet contemplation, to passive and active recreational activities, to the celebration of community based cultural events. The Park will find opportunities to demonstrate the rich cultural and historical heritage of Waterloo for future generations to enjoy."*



## LIST OF AMENITIES

### Park Facilities (East Side)

- 1 Park Inn
- 2 Eby Farm
- 3 Lion's Lagoon Splash Pad
- 4 School House
- 5 Eby Farmhouse
- 6 Oval
- 7 Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery
- 8 Perimeter Institute
- 9 Waterloo Tennis Club
- 10 Rink in the Park
- 11 Waterloo Park Promenade
- 12 Visitor and Heritage Information Centre

### Park Facilities (West Side)

- 13 Waterloo Park Service Centre
- 14 Hospitality Centre
- 15 Band Shell

### Park Entrances

- A Seagram Drive
- B Westmount Road
- C Young Street
- D Spring Street
- E Central Street

## W A T E R L O O P A R K — T o d a y



LAUREL CREEK



PLAYGROUND



THE BOARDWALK



MEDIEVAL FAIRE



GAZEBO



LION'S LAGOON



SILVER LAKE

# Design Objectives

The following list outlines the main design objectives that apply to aspects of the entire park. The full list of objectives can be found at the Waterloo Park Master Plan website.

- Create a premier City-wide park with a variety of open space opportunities that are diverse and appeal to the evolving interests/needs of the community.
- Establish venues with a focus on arts, culture, heritage, learning, children's and youth play.
- Give priority to the pedestrian experience and limit vehicular access and parking to strategic locations near activity areas.
- Improve internal connections between east and west side as well as between the proposed activity areas.
- Improve linkages to the surrounding context, such as links to Father David Bauer Drive, UW Campus and Uptown.
- Improve the visual character of the Park edge by creating visually appealing, well defined, recognizable Park frontages.
- Explore opportunities for more unstructured/free leisure play areas by creating multi-use spaces that can accommodate a variety of unstructured play activities.
- Create an urban park environment composed of a variety of landscape settings and develop an Environmental Management Strategy to establish, integrate and maintain target landscape environments.
- Enhance and protect the ecological function and increase the profile of existing natural features in the Park in a managed and sensitive manner (Silver Lake, Laurel Creek, wetlands, and woodlot stands).
- Create versatile dynamic 'places' that are able to accommodate several complementary uses.
- Integrate broader and longer range planning initiatives. (Rapid Transit Initiative, Barrel Yards Development, Balsillie School, Perimeter Institute Expansion, UW Master Plan, Urban Intensification Study, Official Plan Update, etc...)
- Phase out City-wide maintenance activities that are coordinated out of the Service Centre in the Park if and when an alternative location on the west side of the City becomes available.
- Provide amenities that support and improve the viability of park uses (i.e. washrooms, concession booths/buildings, drinking fountains, seating, etc...).

Study related documents can be viewed at the project office identified below. Please phone the number listed below to arrange for viewing of study material. The City has also developed a Waterloo Park Master Plan Update webpage where you will find a digital copy of valuable study material. Community members also have the option of registering their name to ensure that they are notified of upcoming newsletters and study related venues. Please register using one of the following methods:

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## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2

MARCH 23, 2009



Original 1891 Plan for West Side Park.

### Next Steps

The next steps of the master plan will involve the following primary activities:

- Prepare a preliminary concept plan based on the preferred concept layout,
- Host a public open house to solicit input on the preliminary concept plan and associated proposed activity areas, and
- Develop an implementation strategy based on a prioritized list of project initiatives.

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# Waterloo Park

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE

### INTRODUCTION

The City of Waterloo initiated the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update in 2007. The Waterloo Park Master Plan Special Project Task Force (Task Force) was established from volunteer members of the public in December 2007. Since the establishment of the Task Force, City staff in collaboration with the University of Waterloo Planning Department have been working with the Task Force on the following tasks:

- Review and synthesis of relevant background information,
- Solicit the public's thoughts and opinions about Waterloo Park through a survey, public open houses and stakeholder interviews.
- Develop design objectives that outline preferred uses/activities for the Park (refer to page 4), and
- Develop and evaluate preliminary concept layouts for the Park.

In May 2008, three concept layouts were developed to explore a variety of configurations/relationships for the proposed activity areas. The activity areas were derived from a list of desirable historical uses and new community interests. Common aspects of each concept included at least one location for the proposed activity areas, the incorporation of a main pedestrian loop in the interior of the Park and the redevelopment of the TransCanada Trail/Promenade parallel to the proposed Rapid Transit Initiative corridor (complete with an additional east-west crossing of the rail corridor and a transit stop). Aspects that varied by concept centred around the location of the proposed activity areas, the level of vehicular access into the Park, and the use of the existing buildings in the Park (Service Centre/Park Operations building and the Eby Farmhouse).

The public was invited to attend two Public Input Sessions in June 2008 to comment on the design objectives and provide input on the concept layouts. Feedback was very favourable and there was strong support expressed for the creation of a pedestrian friendly park supported by a continuous pedestrian loop within the interior of the Park, the strategic placement of parking lots around the outside perimeter of the Park and reducing the need for roads in the core of the Park. Please refer to the project website (see below) for a description of the three concept layouts and a complete summary of the public input.

After the public input the Task Force proceeded to evaluate the concept layouts to establish a preferred layout that identified the most appropriate location of each proposed activity area. As part of the evaluation process, evaluation criteria was developed that centred around the following primary categories: accessibility, adjacency, environmental impact, safety, serviceability and visibility. The preferred concept layout and some of the rationale for the preferred location and spatial relationship is outlined on the inside face of the Newsletter. For a detailed summary of the evaluation process please refer to the project website.

Go to [www.waterloo.ca](http://www.waterloo.ca) click on Master Plans In Review; Waterloo Park Master Plan

# P R E F E R R E D C O N C E P T L A Y O U T

## FESTIVAL AREA

West Side, opposite Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex (WMRC) on Father David Bauer Drive

- situated in the highest profile location with maximum street frontage exposure along Father David Bauer Drive,
- strong visual connection to Uptown along Father David Bauer Drive,
- situated within close proximity to WMRC (shared parking for large festival events), and
- situated within close proximity to historical band shell location.

## ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AREA

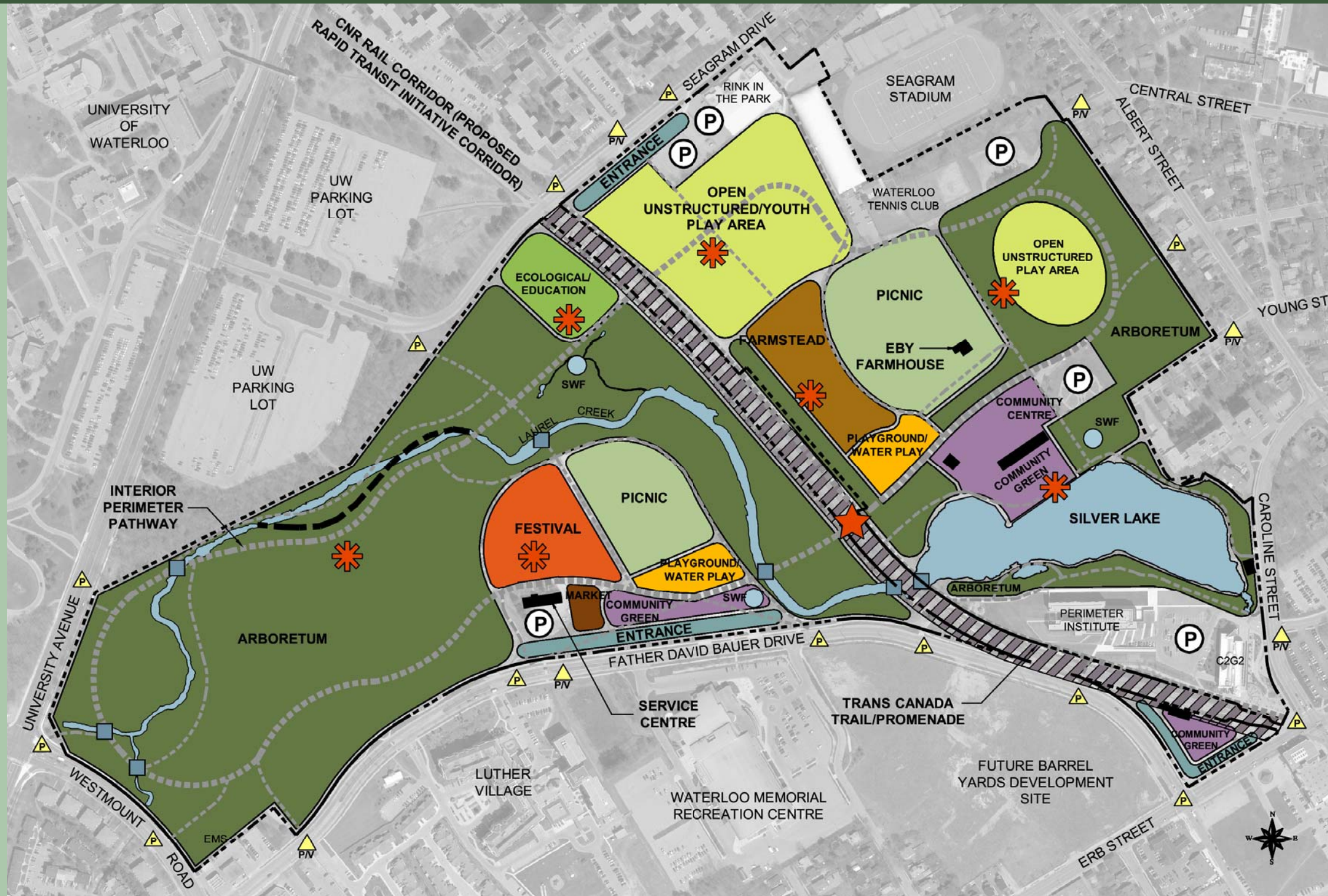
West Side, off of Seagram Drive

- strong street frontage presence along Seagram Drive,
- situated along the interior perimeter walkway,
- visible from future rapid transit initiative corridor, and
- situated in close proximity to large wooded areas and floodplain.

## ARBORETUM

Throughout the Park

- encompasses natural areas associated with Laurel Creek and Silver Lake, and
- builds upon existing high profile horticultural areas on the east side.



## OPEN UNSTRUCTURED /YOUTH PLAY AREA

East Side, off of Seagram Drive along TransCanada Trail/Laurel Trail/ Promenade

- situated along Seagram Drive with strong street frontage presence,
- high profile along TransCanada Trail/Laurel Trail/Promenade and proposed future Rapid Transit (RT) Initiative corridor,
- close proximity to universities, and
- is an adequate distance from residential areas to mitigate potential noise conflict.

## FARMSTEAD

East Side, along TransCanada Trail/ Laurel Trail/Promenade

- situated in existing location with high profile presence along TransCanada Trail/Laurel Trail/ Promenade and proposed future RT Initiative corridor,
- situated within close proximity to the proposed RT stop location, and
- situated outside of the floodplain.

## COMMUNITY GREEN

East Side, along the north shores of Silver Lake

- takes advantage of the best views over Silver Lake,
- situated along the interior perimeter walkway, and
- situated within close proximity to the proposed RT stop location.

# L E G E N D

EXISTING BUILDING	ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AREA	MARKET AREA	RAIL CORRIDOR RIGHT-OF-WAY	SILVER LAKE/LAUREL CREEK	PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
PROPERTY BOUNDARY (WATERLOO PARK)	ENTRANCE FEATURE AREA	OPEN UNSTRUCTURED/YOUTH PLAY AREA	PERFORMANCE SPACE	LAUREL CREEK NATURALIZATION	VEHICULAR ROAD
ARBORETUM AREA	FARMSTEAD AREA	PICNIC AREA	PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	STORMWATER FACILITY	PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE
COMMUNITY GREEN AREA	FESTIVAL AREA	PLAYGROUND/WATER PLAY AREA	POTENTIAL RAPID TRANSIT STOP LOCATION	PARKING AREA	VEHICULAR ENTRANCE

# Waterloo Park

JUNE 12, 2009

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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**Next Steps**

The next steps of the master plan will involve the following primary activities:

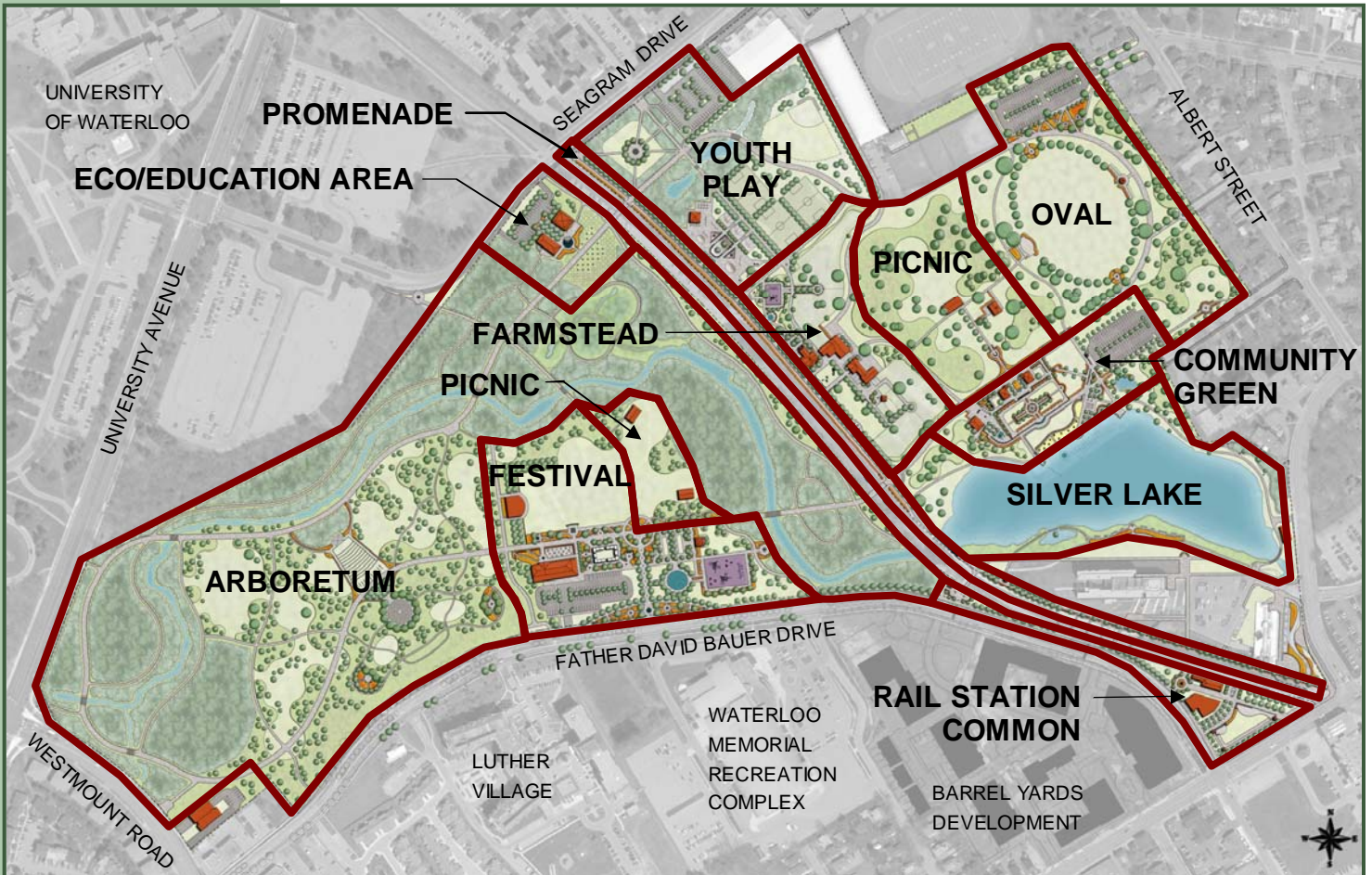
- Public Open Houses in June
- Finalizing the Concept Plan
- Finalizing Council Report
- Seeking Council Approval

**PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN**

The Waterloo Park Master Plan Update Special Project Task Force (Task Force) in collaboration with the University of Waterloo and City staff have invested a significant amount of time and effort working towards a long term vision for Waterloo Park – “The Jewel of our City.” An extensive amount of information has been gathered to allow the Task Force to make informed decisions about the future of the Park that addresses the trends, needs and interests of our community. The information outlined in this newsletter is the culmination of the Task Force’s efforts in defining a preliminary preferred concept plan (concept plan) for Waterloo Park.

A series of drawings have been generated to illustrate the design context of the proposed activity areas that make up the concept plan. The first two drawings look at the entire park and identify the location of the proposed activity areas, the internal circulation system and the external linkages that connect the surrounding urban context to Waterloo Park. The subsequent drawings focus on illustrating the design context specific to the activity areas.

**PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN—ACTIVITY AREAS**



# CIRCULATION AND LINKAGES

The internal circulation system is organized around a pedestrian only **interior perimeter walkway** that is approximately 2.8 kilometers in length. It takes full advantage of the entire park and links the various activity areas to one another. It will improve the connectivity between the east and west sides by providing two well defined crossings over the rail corridor. The pathway will be able to accommodate emergency service vehicles.

The **Promenade** is the principal north-south link connecting Uptown to the University Lands - see orange arrows on the map below. The proposed enhancements will involve the creation of a paved pathway with dedicated pedestrian and bicycle lanes separated by a tree lined landscaped median. The Promenade may be impacted by the Regional Rapid Transit Initiative (RTI) which will utilize the CNR rail corridor through the Park. The Task Force is proposing the integration of the Promenade with the RTI and the inclusion of a “non-peak hour” stop in the Park.

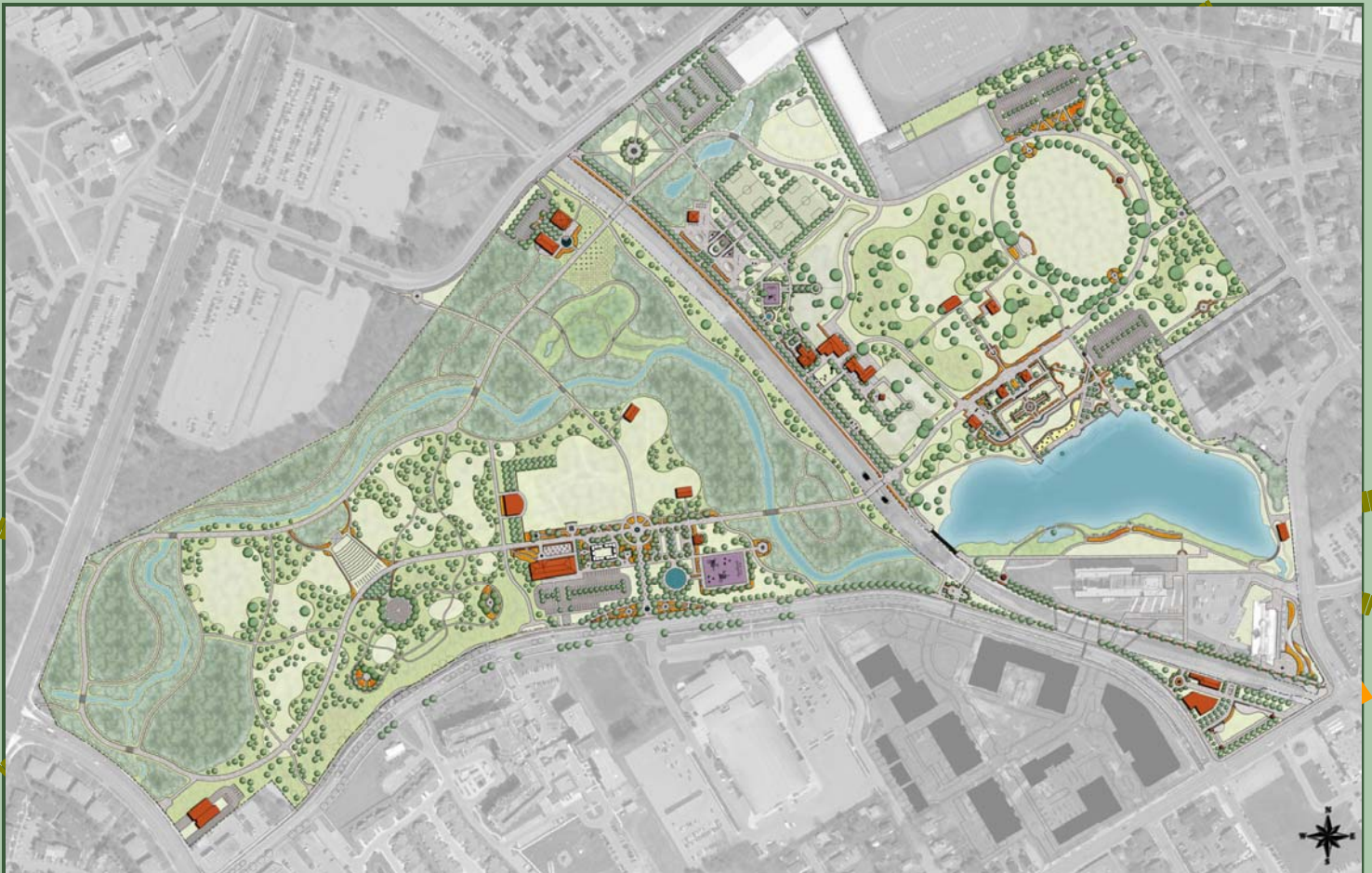
A new **multi-use trail** is proposed along Father David Bauer Drive. The off-street pathway will extend along the entire park frontage from Erb Street to Westmount Road. The pathway would also provide an alternate access route to Uptown via Father David Bauer Drive.

A new **multi-use trail** is proposed for the west side of the CNR rail corridor, parallel to the tracks. The paved pathway would provide a direct connection for commuters travelling between the residential area to the south of the Park and the University Lands to the north without having them cross the rail corridor.

A dedicated **Service Entrance** would accommodate vehicular access for maintenance and operation purposes.

We have also identified access points to the surrounding urban context that retain historical connections, tie into proposed development projects and improve connections from Westmount Road and University Ave— see green arrows.

## PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN—CIRCULATION AND LINKAGES



# FESTIVAL GROUNDS



## Suggested Uses:

1. Street Frontage (horticultural gardens, seating, feature fountain)
2. Entrance Way (kiosk/sign, sculpture, seating, lights, banners)
3. Festival Promenade along interior perimeter walkway (games, seating, gazebo, lights, fountain)
4. Accessibility Playground/ Waterplay with washrooms
5. Parking Lot
6. Restaurant/Café and Courtyard (seating area, horticultural garden, bicycle rental)
7. Market Courtyard and Games Area
8. Festival Field
9. Permanent Stage with Storage, Interior Seating and Washrooms
10. Spillover Area (in Picnic Area)

# COMMUNITY GREEN

## Suggested Uses:

1. Upper Terrace (washrooms, info kiosk/ bike rental, seating, horticultural gardens)
2. Park Inn Concession and Patio (deck)
3. Middle Terrace (seating, horticultural gardens, gazebo)
4. Lower Terrace (fountain, reading room, concession and patio, sand beach)
5. Pier (seating, miniature boat sailing)
6. Stormwater Pond
7. Parking Lot
8. Potential Site for Future Cultural Centre/ Exhibition Space

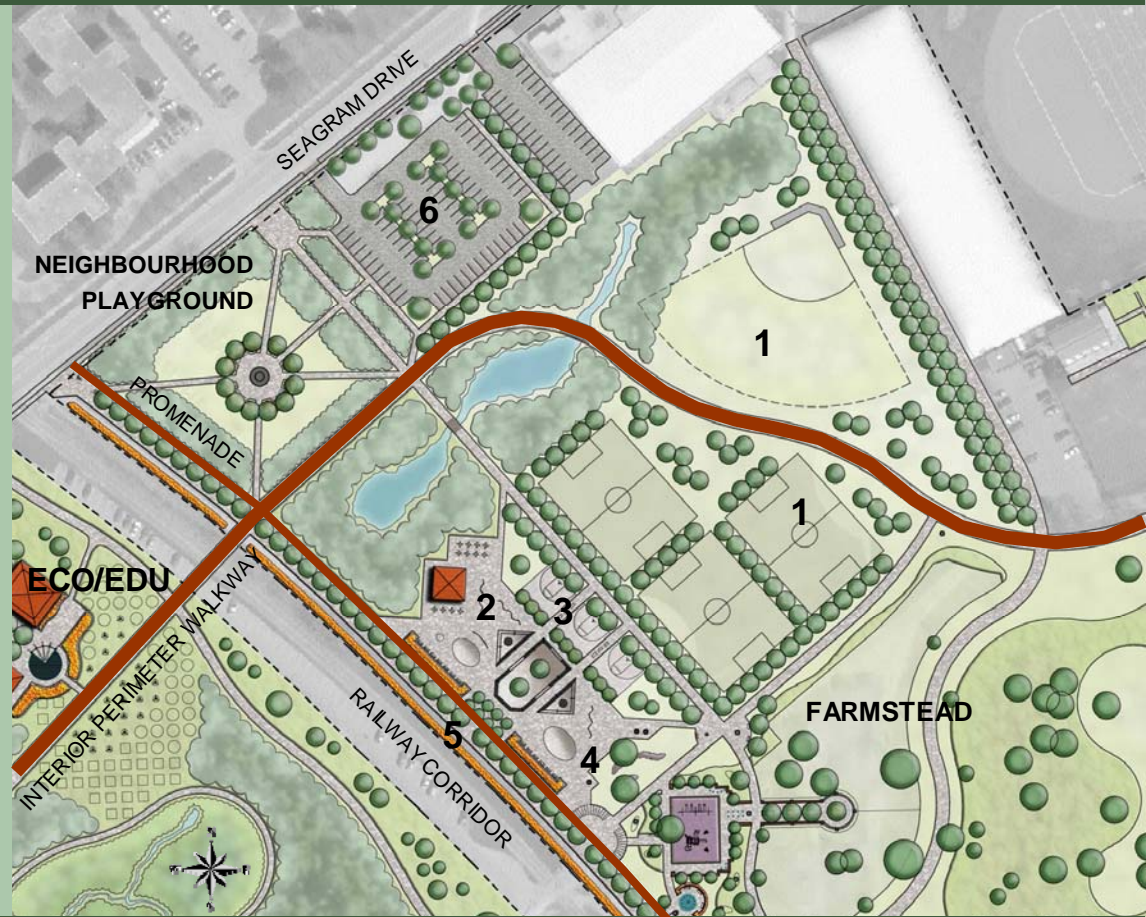




# YOUTH PLAY AREA

## Suggested Uses:

1. Open-Play Fields (soccer, baseball, frisbee, etc...)
2. Skate Board Plaza with concession and washrooms
3. Basketball Courts
4. Rock Climbing Walls
5. Entrance/Gathering Area off of Promenade (seating, signage)
6. Parking



# FARMSTEAD

## Suggested Uses:

1. Entrance and Courtyard off of Promenade (sculpture, drinking fountain)
2. Animal Barns and Operations Office
3. Learning Area/Animal Petting Area
4. Farm House (concession and washrooms, patio, horticultural gardens)
5. Playground/Waterplay Area (themed to farm setting)
6. Animal Enclosures
7. Open Animal Pen (horseback riding)
8. Sculpture Garden



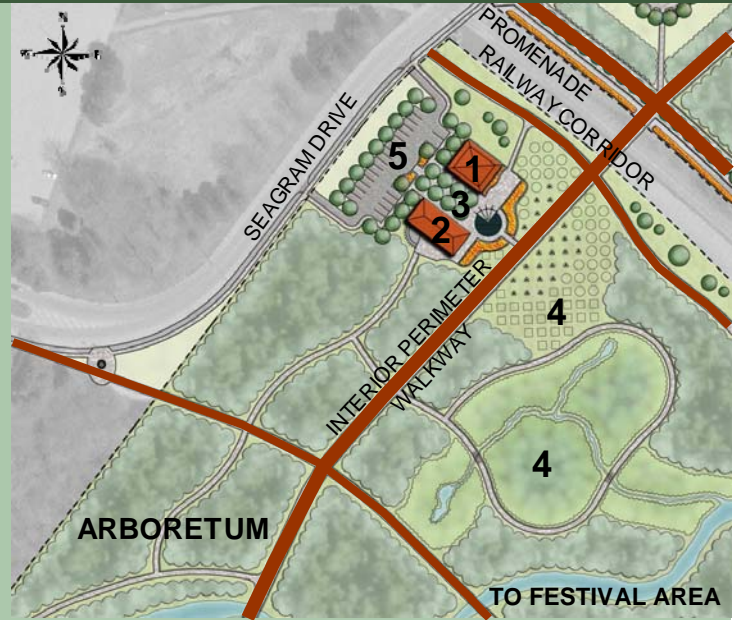
# THE OVAL



## Suggested Uses:

1. Open-Play field
2. Performance Area (platform for a temporary stage)
3. Horticultural Displays
4. Gazebo and Horticultural Displays
5. Parking Lot

# ECO/EDUCATION



## Suggested Uses:

1. Eco Centre Building (demonstration/learning room)
2. Outdoor Classroom
3. Interpretation/Demonstration Area (various installations highlighting ecological principles, carbon footprint, weather station, ecological principles)
4. Eco Gardens (science focus, solar/wind power, etc...)
5. Parking Lot

# ARBORETUM



# Implementation Strategy

The preliminary preferred concept plan illustrates a long term vision for Waterloo Park that will extend far beyond the 20-year term of this master plan update. The concept plan allows the City to work toward one unified vision for the park and concentrate any capital, maintenance and operational initiatives associated with Waterloo Park toward that end. The implementation strategy is divided into three streams:

**Stream 1** is a list of proposed project initiatives that will utilize the currently available funding allocated to the Implementation of the Master Plan between 2009 and 2017. The project initiatives in this stream are the ones that the Task Force identified as high priority that focus on: establishing components of the Festival Area, creating the section of the interior perimeter walkway that connects the Promenade to the Festival Area and the redevelopment of the Promenade.

**Stream 2** is a list of project initiatives linked to other City/Regional projects that may occur before 2017 that impact the Park but do not have sufficient capital funding allocated. The project initiatives are specific to the Region of Waterloo Rapid Transit Initiative and the impact it might have on Waterloo Park, as well as the Recreation and Leisure Services Master Plan that references splash pads and a skate board plaza being proposed by the Task Force for Waterloo Park.

**Stream 3** is a list of project initiatives to be implemented as future capital funds come available beyond the current 10-year capital budget/forecast window or if additional funding can be secured.

The Task Force is suggesting that alternate funding avenues be pursued to supplement the current approved capital budget amounts. The alternate funding avenues may include but are not necessarily limited to: exploring partnerships, organizing fundraising efforts, applying for provincial/federal infrastructure money, and/or securing some additional City of Waterloo funds.

## HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE...

Staff at the City of Waterloo will be hosting two **Public Input Sessions** in June to collect opinions and thoughts on the Preliminary Concept Plan and the Implementation Strategy. Please drop in at one of these two sessions and voice your opinion:

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009

2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at  
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex – Room 200  
101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 4A8

### THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009

2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at  
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex – Room 202  
101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 4A8

We will also have a booth set up at the Waterloo Arts Festival on Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th. Please come see us there.

Additional information is available online at [www.waterloo.ca/WaterlooParkMasterPlan](http://www.waterloo.ca/WaterlooParkMasterPlan). See Council Report dated June 1, 2009 in Document *tab* for specific details on Preliminary Concept Plan and Implementation Strategy. All other inquiries regarding the Waterloo Park Master Plan Update can be directed to:

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