

Park Master Plan Background

Public space is vital to community health and social development, and parks and trails are two of the most visible and accessible elements of public space. High quality parks facilitate social interaction, community cohesion and allow neighbours to get to know each other. Through the many community events, sporting activities and cultural landscapes, Amherstburg's parks are a critical community asset.

In 2018, the Amherstburg Council approved the Parks Master Plan, a document that outlined the vision for improvements, uses, acquisitions and planning of parks projects. It provides a framework for identifying and evaluating future park projects, including new opportunities and the redevelopment of existing assets. The Town is updating this Plan to reflect the work that has been completed or in progress as well as develop future capital improvements to the park system and lay the groundwork for future planning, policy development and grant securement.



Park Classification Background

Guiding principles and strong policies are fundamental in creating a cohesive and consistent park development and redevelopment strategy. The core element of park planning is the parkland classification system. This system defines the range of characteristics found in municipal parks, such as their size, form, function and/or level of amenity. Such definition encourages a broad range of park types and facility combinations that enables a consistent management approach that can be tailored to respond to community needs.

The identification of common elements also helps to ensure compatibility with neighbouring land uses, while providing the community, developers and planners with an understanding of what new or redeveloped parks may include.



Park Classifications

A total of seven (7) classifications have been designed for Amherstburg. These include:

- Destination
- Athletic
- Leisure
- Civic
- Historical
- Linear
- Natural

Slides throughout the summit will explain each classification.



Destination Classification



Parks that are heavily used by residents and tourists for community events, festivals and passive recreation. May contain pathways, pavilions, and/or unique elements (excluding athletic features) that make the park a “destination”.

The following parks are classified “destination”:

- Austin ‘Toddy’ Jones Park
- Belle Vue House
- King’s Navy Yard Park
- King Navy Yard Park Extension (former Duffy’s)



Athletic Classification

Developed parks containing a variety of athletic amenities for organized recreation, such as multiple sports fields, field houses, and community or Town-wide recreation amenities. Many parks support tournament or large community events and may be co-located with indoor sport or community facilities. The typical size is 4 hectares or larger.

The following parks are classified “athletic”:

- H. Murray Smith Centennial Park
- Co-An Park (jointly owned with Town of Essex)
- Libro Credit Union / Larry Bauer Park
- Malden Centre Park
- River Canard Park (operated by Town of LaSalle)



Leisure Classification

Local-level parks primarily supporting children's play activities. May contain amenities found in Destination and Athletic parks (e.g. pathways, sports fields, courts, etc.) but at a smaller quantity and scale. Often situated within subdivisions. Typical size is from .5 – 2 hectares.

*Note: Golfview is classified as both a leisure and natural park.

The following parks are classified "leisure":

- Anderdon
- Bar Point
- Beaudoin
- Bill Wigle
- Briar Ridge
- Jack Purdie
- K. Walter Ranta Memorial
- Pat Thrasher
- Scodeller
- Warren Mickle



Heritage / Civic Classification

Heritage parks are with historical or cultural significance that are of Town-wide importance. May contain elements of Leisure or Civic Parks as secondary functions of the site.

At this time, Amherstburg does not have a park classified as “Heritage”.

Civic Parks and spaces are often located in gateways or the downtown core that support the Town’s social and cultural fabric and create a sense of place. Typically characterized by a mix of floral gardens and hardscape areas that can be programmed for various uses. May include small-scale event space, public art, seating areas, outdoor skating and related civic uses. Typical size is 1 hectare or less.

The following parks are classified “civic”:

- Alma West Lookout
- North Gateway
- Seagram’s Garden
- South Gateway



Linear Classification

Linear corridors (such as trails or greenways) that provide connections within the open space system (for habitat) and between local points of interest (for pedestrians and/or cyclists). Consist largely of unimproved open space and/or trail/greenway infrastructure. May be Town-owned or controlled (e.g. easement, agreement, etc.) and may include waterfront access points. Variable size however there is a minimum 5 m width.

The following parks are classified “linear”:

- Alma West Lookout
- Angstrom



Natural Classification

Municipal open space and natural properties used for conservation and/or passive recreational activities (e.g. walking, nature appreciation, education). Lands will be largely undeveloped and contain open space or natural heritage features such as woodlots, wetlands, conservation habitat, etc. Public access restrictions may apply.

The following parks/areas are classified “natural”:

- Golfview Park Wetlands and Trail
- Kingsbridge Natural Areas
- Canard Estates Wetlands and Trail



Additional Open Spaces

Amherstburg residents benefit from parks and open spaces provided by other organizations such as:

- Cypher Systems Group Greenway trail (ERCA, 22km)
- Big Creek and Holiday Beach Conservation Area (ERCA, 81.1 ha)
- Crystal Bay and White Sands Conservation Area (ERCA, 14.5 ha)
- Fort Malden National Historic Site (Parks Canada, 6.5 ha)

