



JANUARY 2017

PARK STRATEGY

Acknowledgements

The Park Strategy was prepared by City of Prince George staff.

We would like to thank the many residents, park stakeholder groups, Community Associations, Committees of Council, and City staff who provided input throughout the development of this strategy. We would also like to thank senior administration and Mayor and Council for their support to develop a strategy that will help advance park investment.



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January 11, 2017

Transmitted by email: dave.dyer@princegeorge.ca

Dave Dyer, General Manager of Engineering and Public Works
City of Prince George

At the City of Prince George regular Council meeting held January 9, 2017, Council gave consideration to the proposed 2017 Park Strategy and Action Plan. The following is a certified copy of the section of minutes pertaining to this item:

Regular Council Minutes – January 9, 2017

Agenda Item D.8 | 2017 Park Strategy

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

Moved by Councillor McConnachie, seconded by Councillor Krause, that Council APPROVES the 2017 Park Strategy as attached to the report dated December 28, 2016 from the General Manager of Engineering and Public Works.

Carried Unanimously

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Koehler, that Council APPROVES the Park Strategy Action Plan as attached to the report dated December 28, 2016 from the General Manager of Engineering and Public Works.

Carried Unanimously

The undersigned hereby certifies the above resolution to be a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by the Council of the City of Prince George on January 9, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Connelly".

Maureen Connelly
Deputy Corporate Officer

Cc: Laurie-Ann Kosec, Strategic Parks Planner
Tammy Stever, City Records Clerk

Executive Summary

Prince George has an exceptional network of parks and trails that help make this a great community. Residents of Prince George value their parks and want to see improvements. Council has also identified the need to prioritize park infrastructure investment. From these, the need for a Park Strategy was born.

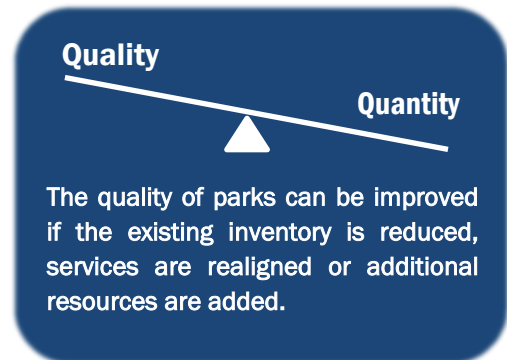
Prince George parks are great but they need improvement!

The Park Strategy will look at what we have, what we need to improve, and how we can prioritize investment to make our parks the best that they can be.

The City of Prince George is challenged to keep up with a number of growing demands that are competing for park resources:

- Trails, bike/skate parks and riverfront access
- Larger destination parks such as Duchess Park
- Additional park development
- Replacement of aging park infrastructure

There are also a number of gaps in service delivery such as trail maintenance, urban forestry and visitor services. These increasing demands for service delivery, along with a growing inventory of parks, are placing further pressure on a system which is already at capacity.



The strategy will identify efficient ways to build and maintain these beautiful spaces while balancing financial resources and meeting the many demands for park investment.



Park Assessment

An assessment of parks was conducted in order to understand what we have, how they measure up to standards, how they meet emerging community demands, and any challenges and opportunities for investment.

The Park Strategy assessed the Parks and Open Space System and included a re-classification of parks into six (6) classifications that are in addition to open space areas as follows:

- **Major Parks** which are the premier parks in the City;
- **Athletic Parks** that accommodate sports groups with athletic facilities;
- **Nature Parks** that provide access to significant natural areas;
- **Downtown Parks** with public spaces or plazas in the downtown core;
- **Community Parks** serving each of the five (5) community areas; and,
- **Neighbourhood Parks** that serve residents within the neighbourhood area.

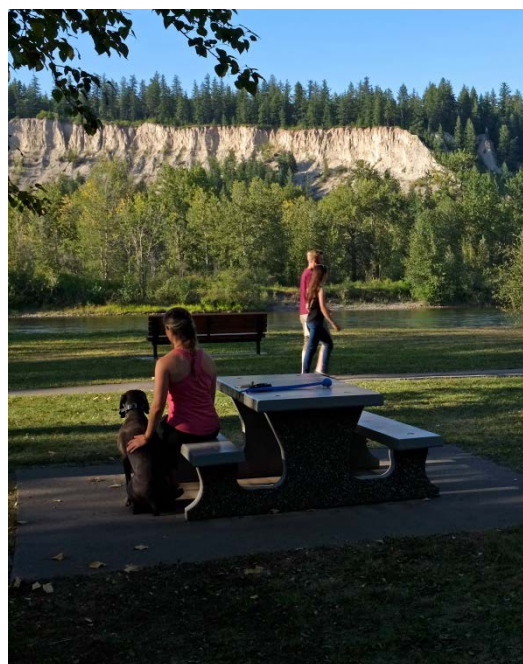
A comprehensive audit was conducted on a total of 109 parks and with a key focus on the smaller parks within neighbourhoods given their large quantity and unbalanced distribution. The assessment findings and potential priorities are represented as Individual Park Assessment Cards as well as Neighbourhood Assessment Cards.

Community Engagement

Residents were invited this past Spring to view the assessment findings and provide their input into a number of potential priorities. Close to 500 people provided their feedback through a series of public meetings, stakeholder discussions and online through the City's website. Four key themes emerged from this engagement and are aligned with much of the input received in past community discussions:

Four Key Themes:

- Riverfront Parks and Trails**
- Neighbourhood Park Improvements**
- Destination Parks**
- Trail Connectivity**

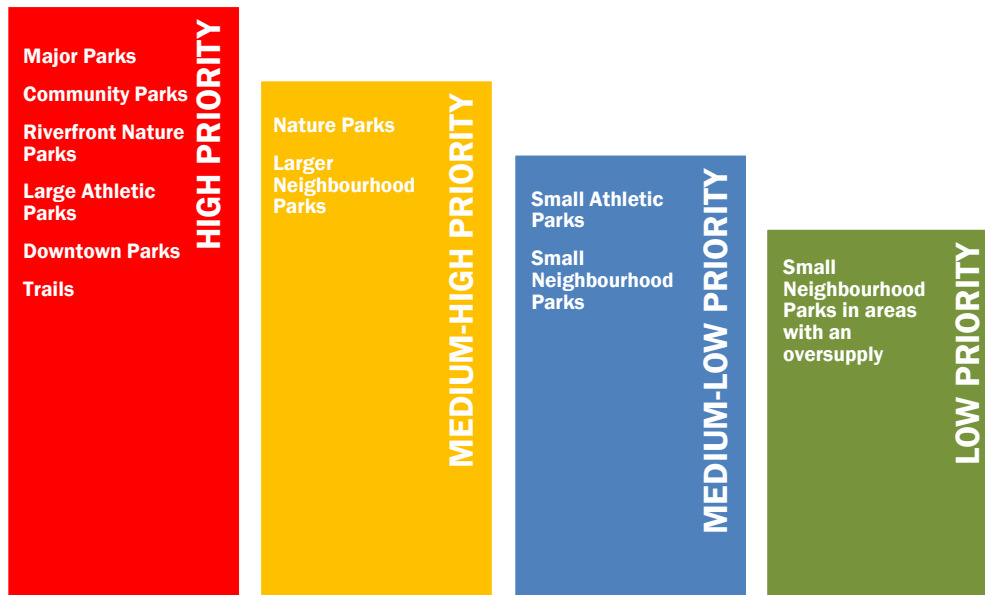


Setting Priorities

The priority setting exercise began by first identifying a park's value as a strategic investment site. Each park was considered in relation to the key themes identified from the community engagement:

- destinations such as major parks or riverfront areas;
- multi-use, multi-generational sites; and,
- central, accessible locations within high density areas.

The ranked strategic investment sites are illustrated below in relation to the six (6) park classifications. Potential investments for park facilities, land acquisition and trails have been identified and prioritized for each of these park classifications in the Draft Park Strategy.



Potential Scenarios and Options

The Draft Park Strategy identifies a number of creative solutions that could be explored in the strategic investment of park priorities. These scenarios and options recognize the need to strike a balance between working within existing financial resources while attempting to meet the demands for park resources. Examples include a realignment or redistribution of resources, repurposing parks, give and takes with no net loss, as well as adding financial resources.

Actions

The following page outlines the ten (10) key actions that have been identified in the Draft Park Strategy to advance the investment of parks.

Next Steps

Residents are invited to attend one of the five Talktober sessions in October 2016 or visit the City's website to view the Draft Park Strategy and provide their feedback. This feedback will be considered in a final Park Strategy that would be presented to Council for potential adoption in early 2017.

"I think some parks are in good condition while others need improvement. I believe green space is an integral part of a City and parks should be in each neighbourhood. There is so much research on brain development and the healthy impacts of people being out in nature. I think that natural spaces should be a priority. And if some playground equipment needs to be removed that's OK as the area can be developed as a natural trail."

Source: Park Strategy Online Feedback

OPERATIONAL PLAN



Align the identified priorities with levels of service, find efficiencies and explore alternative solutions to service delivery.

VISITOR SERVICES



Pursue enhanced signage, communication, and amenities in support of park use and events.

PARK RE-INVESTMENT



Repurpose redundant parks to alternative uses and decommission underutilized facilities to free up operational resources.

PARTNERSHIPS



Pursue the enhancement of Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nations and explore synergies through other partnerships.

URBAN FORESTRY AND TRAILS



Determine levels of service and allocate resources in support of proactive operations to meet the growing demands.

ACCESSIBILITY



Develop universal design and accessibility standards with audits to guide park improvements and connections to and from parks.

RIVERFRONT



Make riverfront areas a priority focus for investment with parks and trails that connect residents to the rivers.

BEAUTIFICATION



Explore opportunities and creative solutions for street trees, weed control, and beautification of parks and urban spaces.

PLAYGROUNDS



Pursue a playground replacement program with annual investment and decommissioning that is aligned with priorities and levels of service.

DESTINATION PARKS



Pursue the acquisition and development of Community Parks like Duchess Park and quality enhancements at the larger City Parks.

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Background Documents - available at www.princegeorge.ca:

- Individual Park Scorecards
- Neighbourhood Assessment Cards
- Park Strategy Community Engagement

1.0 Introduction

The Park Strategy is being developed as a tool to help provide direction and guide decision-making towards prioritized park investment. The overarching vision of the Park Strategy is to both create and maintain strong neighbourhoods with great park spaces, by striking a balance between meeting community demands and allocating the City's resources efficiently.

Prince George parks are great but they need improvement!

The Park Strategy will look at what we have, what we need to improve, and how we can prioritize investment to make our parks the best that they can be.

The Park Strategy is being pursued for three key reasons as:

- we have heard from residents that they value parks and would like to see improvement;
- there are a number of policies that identify the need to prioritize parks service delivery and infrastructure; and,
- existing park operations and capital budgets are challenged to keep up with the growing demands for service delivery.



Duchess Park accessible playground

The development of the Park Strategy began in the fall of 2015 with assessment and community engagement phases that comprised the critical first steps in the creation of this Draft Park Strategy document. This draft will be subject to public review and input during the Talktober sessions scheduled for October 2015. The feedback received during this consultation will be considered in a final Park Strategy document for Council’s potential adoption in late 2016/early 2017.



2.0 Prince George Parks – The Current Reality

Great Parks make Great Cities!

The City of Prince George is a vibrant 'City in Nature' where park and open spaces provide a wide range of amenities and services in a unique and beautiful natural environment. The diversity of parks add beauty to our City, provide a respite from our busy lives, and help us connect with nature. Residents of Prince George have indicated through a number of community engagement sessions that some of the most cherished areas in the City include parks, trails, and riverfront natural areas for their contribution to the overall quality of life in the city.



DID YOU KNOW?

PG park and open space areas total **19km²** which is almost equal to **5 Stanley Parks**

Over 90 km of maintained trails - this is close to the distance from Prince George to Vanderhoof

Roughly 2/3 of parks consists of small neighbourhood parks and represents 6.5% of the City's total area of park and open spaces

Service Provision

City of Prince George parks are generally funded through an **Operating Budget** for park maintenance and a **Capital Budget** for replacement or new park infrastructure such as playgrounds and trails.

Park service delivery is challenged with competing priorities such as balancing budgets while maintaining the existing inventory, or upgrading old infrastructure while trying to meet emerging community demands. An overview of these challenges and budget sources is provided below and explored in further detail in Appendix B of this document.



The Parks Operations expenditures were close to 4 million in 2015 and represented approximately 2.8% of the City's overall Operational Budget.

Parks Operations

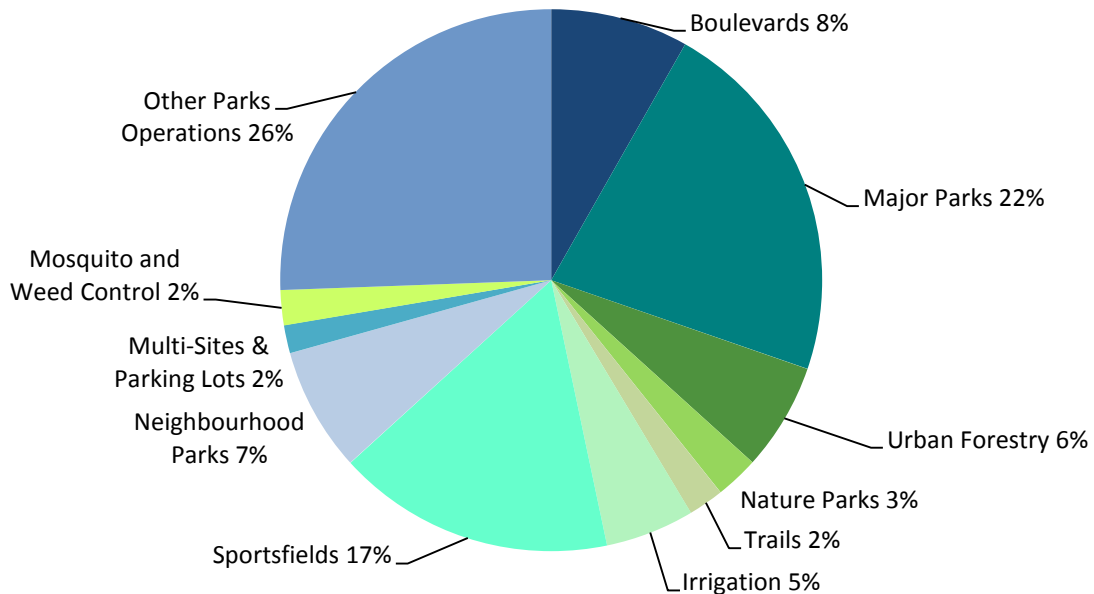
In 2015, the annual Parks Operations expenses totaled close to four (4) million and covered day to day park maintenance such as turf maintenance, irrigation, facility repairs, gardens, tree maintenance, special events, parking lots and litter control. The 2015 annual park expenses by park operational area are illustrated in a pie chart on the following page and summarized as follows:

- High profile sites such as major parks, sports fields, gardens, boulevards and parking lots account for close to 50% of park expenses.
- Around 11% is utilized for nature parks, urban forestry, and trail operations.
- Over 7% of expenses are dedicated to neighbourhood park operations while an additional 5% are for irrigation.
- Mosquito and weed control (IPM) expenses amount to a combined total of 2%.
- The remaining 25% covers parks operations such as contracted services, equipment, fleet, and general labour costs.



Photo courtesy of PG Citizen

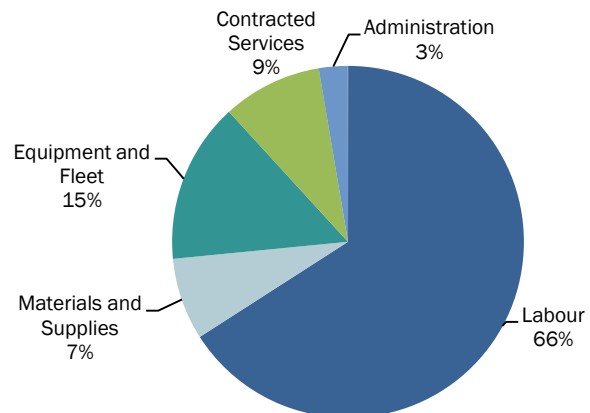
2015 Parks Operational Expenses by Activity



The table below provides some of the total annual operational expenses for specific parks or activity area in 2015. The following pie chart also provides a breakdown of the total annual parks operation expenses in 2015 by category with two-thirds of the total expenses represented by labour costs. The expenses relating to materials and supplies represent a variety of items such as plant material, growing medium, fertilizer, irrigation parts, and fencing.

2015 Annual Operational Expenses by Park Area or Activity	
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	\$185,000
Connaught Hill Park	\$115,000
Rainbow Park	\$115,000
Mosquito Control	\$80,000
PG Youth Soccer Fields	\$65,000
Masich Place Stadium	\$50,000
Duchess Park	\$40,000
Citizen Field	\$20,000
Canada Games Plaza	\$20,000
Weed Control (hard surfaces)	\$20,000
Watrous Park Lawn Bowling	\$10,000
Nature Park (average)	\$5,000
Neighbourhood Park (average)	\$3,000

2015 Parks Operating Breakdown by Category



Parks Capital Projects

During the past ten (10) years, Parks has received an average of \$933,000 annually for capital projects which accounts for about 3% of the City’s total capital budget. Typical parks capital projects include playground upgrades, new trails and other recreation infrastructure. Parks capital budgets are often leveraged by third party funding sources such as grant funding, with some recent examples that include:

- Duchess Park
- Gladstone Trail System
- Hart Skate Park
- Masich/PGSS Recreation Facility
- Neighbourhood playgrounds
- UNBC Trail Connector System



The City of Prince George relies on annual capital budgets to replace aging park infrastructure. The 2013 Prince George Financial and Asset Management Plan projected that a minimum of \$750,000 would be required annually over a twenty-five (25) year period in order to keep up with the replacement of aging park infrastructure. If this funding formula was applied and the average annual parks capital budget remains at \$933,000, a total of \$185,000 would be available for new park construction.



Typical Development Costs for New Park Facilities ¹	
Community Park (e.g. Duchess)	\$1,250,000
Sports Field	\$500,000
Neighbourhood Park	\$250,000
1 km. paved trail (3m wide)	\$200,000
Tennis Courts (2 court)	\$140,000
Playground	\$75,000

Both the Parks capital and operating budgets are challenged to keep up with the growing demands for service delivery and increasing construction costs. **New park facilities, improvement areas or emerging priorities can often strain the Parks operating budget and reduce service provision in other areas of parks.**

When Prince George residents were asked which city services they would like to see increased, **Parks and Recreation** facilities ranked as the **#4 priority** after road rehabilitation, snow control and garbage collection

Source: 2015 Residents Budget & Service Study, City of Prince George, Mustel Group

¹ The table represents the average planning, design, and construction costs for a new park. Land acquisition is not included.

How Do We Compare?

The following comparison of peer communities highlights some of the challenges associated with park service delivery in Prince George.



The Challenges

The City of Prince George has built up an exceptional system of parks that are currently challenged with a number of competing demands for park resources.



Growth in Unstructured Recreation: Recreation is changing nationwide with a growing demand for recreation facilities like trails that support walking and cycling, as well as bike parks and skate parks.

Aging Infrastructure: Many of the City's parks were developed during the rapid community growth of the 1970s and many of these facilities do not meet current standards or are at the end of their useful life.

Community Demands: Smaller Neighbourhood Parks were once in higher demand during the 1970s and served as essential community gathering areas and play spaces. Lifestyles have changed with an increased demand for larger destination parks like City Parks or Community Parks.

Park Deficiencies: Neighbourhood and Community level parks in Prince George have an unbalanced supply and a number of parks also remain undeveloped.

Service Delivery: The growing inventory of parks and the demands for park service delivery are placing further pressure on a system which is already at capacity.

Walking and hiking were identified as top recreation activity for adults and seniors in Prince George.

Source: Community Recreation Services Plan 2014

Gaps in Service Delivery

There are a number of gaps in park service delivery that require specific focus to determine how services can be increased or enhanced in order to keep up with the increasing demands.



Facility Upgrades – Many park facilities such as playgrounds, hard surface courts, and buildings are either at or beyond their expected service life. The facility re-investment must be prioritized given the budget shortfalls for replacement.



Trails and Urban Forestry – The existing budgets for trails and urban forestry limit operations to a reactive approach with minimal trail maintenance and hazard tree removal. Additional resources are required in order to provide levels of service for quality trail experiences, robust trees and weed control in high profile locations.



Riverfront Access – Parks provide riverfront access which is highly valued by Prince George residents. A number of existing riverfront parks have been acquired but remain undeveloped. These parks, along with new opportunities for riverfront park and trail development, need to become a high priority focus for investment.



Visitor Services – A visitor service program is required to accommodate park users with cohesive signage, universal design, active transportation links and amenities that support multi-season use and special events. Enhanced park promotions and communications are also required to highlight recreational opportunities, events and current projects under development.



Partnerships – Partnership opportunities should be explored further to ensure that the social, cultural, and historic fabric of Prince George is enhanced in parks. Examples include collaboration with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation for enhancements to Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park, exploring efficiencies in Exclusive Use Agreements, and identifying heritage opportunities through the Heritage Commission².



Quality

Quantity

The quality of parks can be improved if the existing inventory is reduced, services are realigned or additional resources are added.

² A number of natural environments and regionally or locally distinctive landscapes in Prince George have strong heritage values that should be protected and promoted within the Parks and Open Space System.



Rotaract Waterpark at Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park

3.0 Assessment

A parks assessment was conducted in order to understand what we have, how they measure up to standards, how they meet emerging community demands, and both the challenges and opportunities for future investment.

Parks and Open Space System

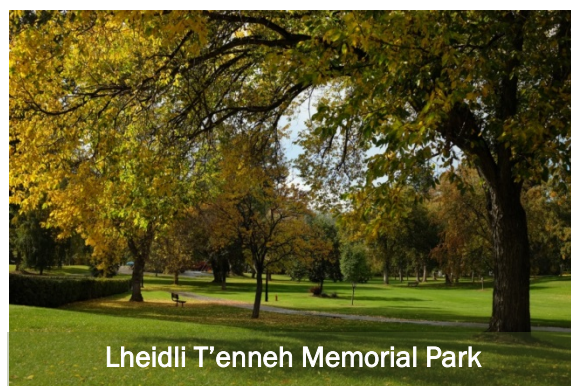
Prince George parks are delivered through a Parks and Open Space System that provides classifications and standards for developed parks. The 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan defined parks through three (3) main classifications that include City, District and Neighbourhood Parks. The Park Strategy recommends a new classification system to clearly reflect the identity of Prince George parks and provide a reference that is easy to understand. The new park classifications are outlined below with further details on the re-classification provided in Appendix C.

A reclassification is recommended for the Parks and Open Space System and includes six (6) classifications for developed parks as follows:

- **Major Parks** which are the premier parks in the City,
- **Athletic Parks** that accommodate sports groups with athletic facilities,
- **Nature Parks** that provide access to significant natural areas,
- **Downtown Parks** with public spaces or plazas in the downtown core,
- **Community Parks** serving each of the five (5) community areas, and
- **Neighbourhood Parks** that serve residents within the neighbourhood area.

Open space includes a broad range of other public land such as green spaces, boulevards, and school grounds.

The remainder of this section provides a summary of the comprehensive parks assessment that was conducted by the City of Prince George. This assessment focusses primarily on Neighbourhood Parks given their large quantity and unbalanced distribution. All other park classifications have also been assessed and recommendations have been identified for their investment. Additional park assessment details are included in Appendix C with mapping of each park classification in Appendix J.

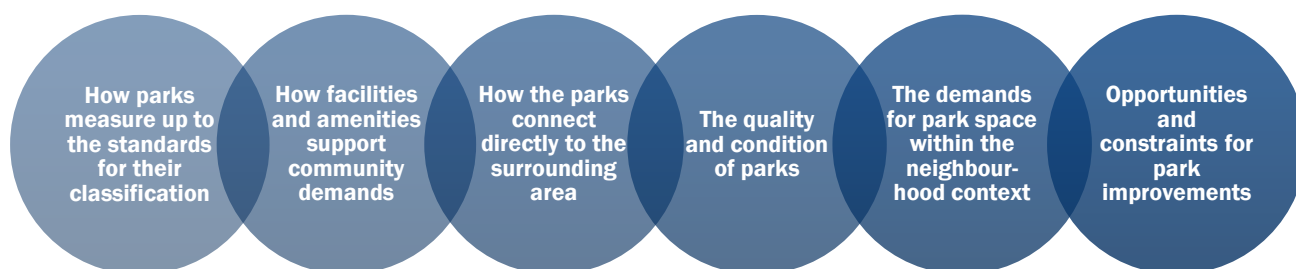


Neighbourhood Park Assessment

Prince George has a large number of smaller, dispersed parks that represent 2/3 of the City's total inventory of parks. However, the supply of Neighbourhood Parks is unbalanced and a number of parks remain undeveloped.

A comprehensive assessment of neighbourhood parks was conducted in order to understand the quality and quantity of parks within neighbourhoods. This assessment covered a total of 109 parks which included all of the **Neighbourhood Parks** and **Community Parks**. A number of smaller **Athletic Parks** and green space areas were also included in the assessment to determine their potential to meet neighbourhood needs for park development.

A number of factors were included in this assessment to best determine:



The assessment used GIS and park inventory data to create tools such as maps and tabular data for the analysis. This spatial analysis provided vital information on park development, amenities, and contextual elements like a park's connection to the greater neighbourhood or active transportation network. Each park was analyzed and scored on features such as trails, playgrounds, sports fields, barriers to access, nature access, transit, and utilities.

This data served as a basis to conduct individual park assessments as well as assessments by neighbourhood area.

Individual Park Assessment

The 109 parks were evaluated and scored against a set of criteria to determine how each park measures up to standards and to understand their capacity to meet community demands. The resulting scores provided a useful measure of each park's character, relationship to the surrounding neighbourhood, and opportunity for improvement.

The **Individual Park Scorecards** are available as a background document³ and include information on each park's score, location, infrastructure and amenities.



³ The 'Individual Park Scorecards' background document is available online at www.princegeorge.ca

Assessment by Neighbourhood

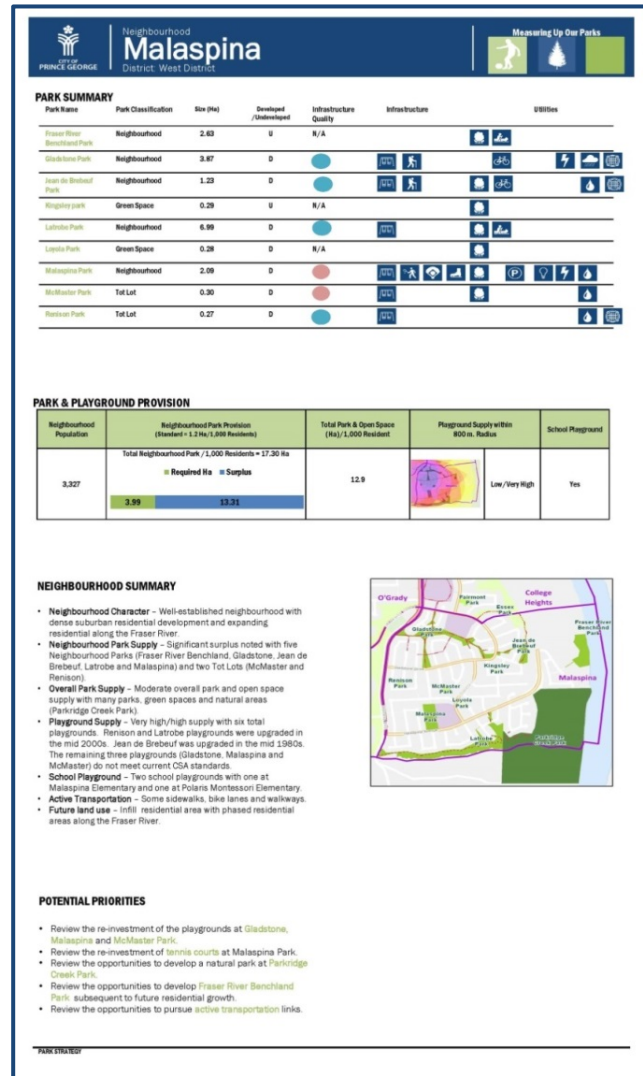
Each neighbourhood area was assessed in order to understand the parks and open space opportunities available to area residents. Each neighbourhood is comprised of roughly 1,000 to 3,000 residents with boundaries that follow census blocks and neighbourhood barriers such as major roads, rivers or escarpments.

The assessment considered factors such as the urban character of the neighbourhood and the available parks and open space areas. Parks were also measured against the following provisional standards:

- Neighbourhood Park Provision of 1.2 hectares/1,000 residents⁴
- One playground within a maximum 800 metre radius of residents (10 minute walk)

The assessment confirmed that there are a number of surpluses and deficiencies in the provision of neighbourhood parks and playgrounds. A total of eighteen (18) of the forty-one (41) neighbourhoods have a substantial Neighbourhood Park deficiency of more than 1.0 hectares and seven (7) of these neighbourhoods have deficiencies of 2.0 hectares or more⁵. This exercise also provided a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges for park and recreation facilities within each neighbourhood.

This assessment is presented in a series of **Neighbourhood Assessment Cards** that provide a communication tool to help inform residents, administration and Council about the representation of parks and open spaces within Prince George neighbourhoods. Potential priorities were also identified within the neighbourhood assessment and were presented to residents through the engagement sessions.



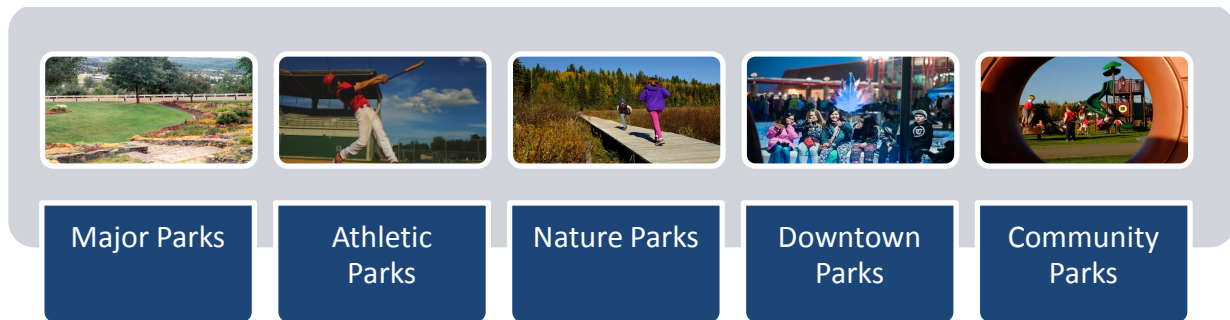
The **Neighbourhood Assessment Cards** are available as a background document⁶.

⁴ The park provisional standards are based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards and were adopted by the City of Prince George through the 2008 PG Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

⁵ The Neighbourhood Park deficiencies are not identified for rural or semi-rural areas given the lower residential densities.

⁶ The 'Neighbourhood Assessment Cards' background document is available online at www.princegeorge.ca

The remainder of this section provides a summary of the assessment and recommendations for all of the other park classifications listed below. Further details on these park classifications are provided in Appendix C of this document.



Major Park Assessment

The City's three Major Parks represent the premier park destinations in Prince George. Ongoing investment into Major Parks is essential and should be a top priority.

Major Parks represent some of the most cherished parks in the community and are the jewels of the Prince George parks and open space system. There are a total of three (3) Major Parks within the City (see map in Appendix J) and each park area provides a unique experience as follows:

- **Connaught Hill Park** – This park is situated on a hill close to the downtown and offers an urban oasis with beautiful gardens, mature trees, and a 360 panoramic view of the City.
- **Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park** – This former village site of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation is situated along the river and features multiple amenities for recreation and events.
- **Rainbow Park** – This park situated within a glacial kettle and features floral displays and open lawns within a native forest that is popular for picnics and weddings.

Major Parks are popular destinations for both residents and visitors to Prince George. A significant amount of resources are required for the ongoing investment and operations of these parks in order to keep up with the growing demands for upgrades and enhancements. The various Major Park investment priorities are listed in Appendix E of this document and are supported by the **Major Parks recommendation** provided below.



Major Parks - Pursue upgrades and consider enhancements to the three Major Parks that include Connaught Hill Park, Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park, and Rainbow Park.

Athletic Park Assessment

Athletic Parks provide recreation facilities for local sports groups and major tournaments that can draw people from as far as across the nation.

Athletic Parks provide recreational facilities such as ball diamonds and sports fields for seasonal use as well as major tournaments or national championships. These parks are few in quantity but represent a significant investment of ongoing resources to accommodate sports groups. There are three larger Athletic Parks in the City that include the following:

- **Carrie Jane Gray Park** – This park includes six (6) ball diamonds and a variety of other recreation facilities such as hard surface courts, BMX track, and a skate park.
- **Exhibition Park** – This location is home to thirteen (13) sports fields that are managed exclusively by three soccer leagues through rental agreements with the City.
- **Masich Place Stadium** – This track and field facility represents the City’s premier spectator sports facility and will be upgraded in 2017 with improvements such as a synthetic turf field.

These parks are typically centrally located and require a large land base in order to accommodate the multiple facilities that are required for tournament hosting. A number of small Athletic Parks are located throughout the community in the Bowl area (Freeman Park and Nechako Park) as well as the Hart (Balsum Park and Volunteer Park). Most of these smaller Athletic Parks do not meet the growing community demands for tournament hosting due to limitations associated with their size or location.



Many of the City’s ball diamonds and sports fields are used exclusively by sports groups through rental agreements with the City. Other ball diamond and sports field facilities within the City are located on school grounds and are available for community use through a Shared Use Agreement with School District 57. A small number of sports facilities are also located in other developed parks such as Lheidli T’enneh Memorial Park.

The supply of ball diamonds and sports fields requires further exploration to identify potential efficiencies and enhancements that could benefit user groups and increase their ability to host large tournaments. The following **Athletic Parks recommendation** has been provided to address this issue.

Athletic Parks - Pursue a Ball Diamond and Sports Field Strategy to explore the demands, utilization, and potential efficiencies associated with the supply of these facilities.

Nature Park Assessment

Many Nature Parks provide riverfront access and trails which represent some of the highest community demands for parks and should be a high priority for investment.

The City's Nature Parks represent significant natural areas that balance the need to accommodate public access while preserving habitats. The City is blessed with a large inventory of land within Nature Parks that help characterize Prince George as a City in nature. Most of these parks are located along the Nechako and Fraser River and provide popular destinations to appreciate the natural environment and river valley. Some of the more commonly known Nature Parks include the following:

- **Cottonwood Island Park** – This premier destination is at the confluence of the two rivers and features critical riparian habitat and connects to the Heritage River Trail System.
- **Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve** – This natural area in the Hart provides a quiet destination with a lakeside trail system along with boardwalks and a fishing dock.
- **Forests for the World Park** – This location provides education opportunities on forest management and features a large trail system as well as Shane Lake that is popular for fishing.
- **Moore's Meadow Park** – This park is situated within a glacial kettle that features a meadow area and a trail system that migrates through a number of microclimates that support a variety of wildlife.



There are a number of investment priorities relating to Nature Parks. A number of riverfront sites have been acquired for Nature Park development but remain undeveloped. Much of the infrastructure within existing Nature Parks requires replacement due to age or natural factors such as erosion or flooding at Cottonwood Island Park and the Heritage River Trail System. There is also a desire to acquire additional land primarily along the rivers given the strong community demand and the low cost/high benefit ratio of Nature Parks. The following **Nature Parks recommendation** considers these various investment priorities.

Nature Parks - Pursue required upgrades to existing Nature Parks in addition to the acquisition and development of new parks that provide riverfront access.

Downtown Park Assessment

Downtown Parks provide important gathering spaces and event hosting areas within the built-up urban environment.

Downtown Parks represent a number of urban parks or plazas located in the downtown. These parks are developed at high profile locations and feature a visual attraction with gardens and amenities for community gatherings. Both the supply and quantity of such parks are limited given the significant investment of resources. Some of the more commonly used Downtown Parks include the following:

- **Canada Games Plaza** – This plaza is a featured event space in the downtown that is central to the Civic Centre, Public Library and Four Seasons Leisure Pool and is also supported by Community Foundation Park and the Public Library’s Knowledge Garden.
- **Veteran’s Plaza** – This plaza in front of City Hall is home to the Cenotaph and the Royal Canadian Legion memorial events along with many other community events.



The demands for additional Downtown Parks are increasing with policy direction and community demands that support revitalization of the downtown. Much of this revitalization can include greening of underutilized spaces as well as beautification of streetscapes with trees, lighting and planting beds to support a comfortable and attractive downtown core throughout the seasons. Additional elements can include heritage recognition and cultural features to support events and use of Downtown Parks.

The following **Downtown Parks recommendation** considers the growing demands for park investment.

Downtown Parks - Pursue enhancements to existing Downtown Parks and consider other beautification efforts in support of downtown revitalization.

Community Park Assessment

Prince George residents want more Community Parks like Duchess Park within each of their community areas of the City.

Community Parks provide area residents with a number of leisure opportunities to support community gathering and recreation. Each community area represents roughly 8,000 residents who are bounded by major highways or physical barriers such as rivers. There are five (5) community areas throughout the City that are listed below along with the Community Parks located within these areas:



Blackburn	College Heights/ Beaverly	East Bowl	Hart/ North Nechako	West Bowl
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackburn Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duchess Park Strathcona Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park Heather Road Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a

An assessment was conducted on each of the five (5) community areas in order to understand the provision of Community Parks. Each community area was measured against the **Community Park provisional standard of 1.0 hectares/1,000 residents**⁷ with the following results:

Community Park Surplus/Deficiency						
Community Area	Quantity of Community Parks	Existing Hectares (Ha)	Population ⁸	Provisional Standard (Ha/1,000 residents)	Required Hectares (Ha)	Surplus/Deficiency
Blackburn	1	4.06	2,064	1.0	2.06	2.00
College Hts./Beaverly	0	0.00	13,504	1.0	13.50	-13.50
East Bowl	2	10.56	16,300	1.0	16.30	-5.73
Hart/North Nechako	2	8.57	16,257	1.0	16.26	-7.69
West Bowl	0	0.00	23,849	1.0	23.85	-23.85

⁷ The park provisional standards are based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards and were adopted by the City of Prince George through the 2008 PG Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

⁸ Source: Stats Canada 2011.

The quantitative assessment of Community Parks concluded that there are significant deficiencies in the College Heights/Beaverly and West Bowl community areas given that there are no available Community Parks. Both the East Bowl and Hart/North Nechako are also deficient in Community Parks given the limited availability of this park type. Only the community area in Blackburn has a surplus of Community Parks to meet the community.

The following provides a more detailed assessment of the existing Community Parks along with the opportunities and challenges to meet the demands within each community area.

Blackburn

The Blackburn community area is largely characterized as a rural area with some industrial land uses such as the airport and residential areas clustered around the area's only Community Park (Blackburn Park). Blackburn has a smaller population of 2,064 but is considered a community area due to its large geographic area and separation from the City by the Fraser River and major highways.



Blackburn Park has a popular seasonal ice rink that is maintained by community volunteers

The Blackburn area has a **Community Park surplus of 2.0 hectares**. Blackburn Park is centrally located adjacent to Blackburn Elementary School and Bittner Park, which functions as a recreation cluster and destination for the community with the variety of recreation amenities. A number of community demands have emerged for Blackburn Park that could provide new recreation opportunities for youth and families.

College Heights/Beaverly

The College Heights/Beaverly community area represents a total population of 13,504 residents who predominantly reside in College Heights. This community area has grown rapidly with a larger commercial centre and continued residential development in University Heights and in College Heights. Much of the remaining area within Cranbrook Hill and south of Parkridge Creek are rural with large tracts of open space.

The College Heights/Beaverly community area has a **Community Park deficiency of 13.50 hectares** and no available Community Parks. Forests for the World and the Cranbrook Hill Greenway represent the larger destination parks within this community area. The park system within College Heights area is characterized with a large number of neighbourhood parks and trail systems that provide the bulk of the community's parks. College Heights Secondary School contains a trail system and recreation facilities that provide a community destination similar to a Community Park.



College Heights Secondary tennis courts a popular outdoor ice rink in the winter

The acquisition of lands for future Community Park are essential to alleviate this deficiency and

could be realized in part with the acquisition and redevelopment of Kode Pit as a Community Park. Additional Community Parkland could also be pursued through continued development in University Heights.

East Bowl

The East Bowl community area is located in the most established area of the City near the downtown. This community area has a high population of 16,300 residents and features some of the City's most prominent destination parks such as Carrie Jane Gray Park, Connaught Hill Park, Cottonwood Island Park and Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park. There are two Community Parks that include Duchess Park and Strathcona Park. Duchess Park is the City's newest Community Park and features a combination of recreation facilities to serve both residents and the adjacent secondary school. Strathcona Park is another Community Park in the East Bowl and is central to the VLA neighbourhood and features multiple amenities for the surround community. Other parks within this community area include Freeman Park and Ron Brent Park that was recently subdivided to accommodate a seniors' housing development.



Duchess Park is the City's newest Community Park

The East Bowl has a **Community Park deficiency of 5.73 hectares**. The opportunity to acquire additional land to alleviate the Community Park deficiency is limited given the intensive development of land within the area. Other improvements are suggested in the form of quality investments at Strathcona Park and other existing park sites to alleviate this deficiency.

Hart/North Nechako

The Hart/North Nechako community area represents the largest geographical area with a population of 16,257 residents who reside north of the Nechako River. This community area was predominantly incorporated into the City in 1975 and many of the residential areas are characterized by suburban development with some rural areas towards the east. Most of the parkland in this community area is smaller and dispersed while much of the surrounding land consists of large tracts of open space.



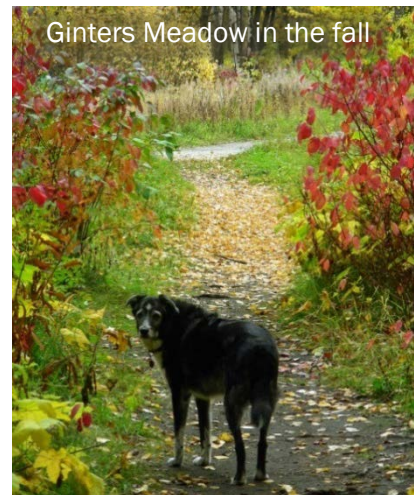
The Hart/North Nechako community area has a **Community Park deficiency of 7.69 hectares**. The existing Community Parks include Heather Road Park and Corporal Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park. Heather Road Park includes an indoor ice arena (Elksentre) along

with a number of ball diamonds that were recently decommissioned and present an opportunity to repurpose the park as an off leash area. Corporal Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park was recently redeveloped with a newly constructed skate park and additional improvements are proposed to create a multi-generational Community Park. Austin Road is a closed school site that presents an opportunity to acquire lands for a future Community Park to help meet the deficiency.

West Bowl

The West Bowl community area represents one-third of the City's population with 23,849 residents. The West Bowl is well established with a higher density residential and suburban development. Many of the City's destination parks are located within this community area and include Exhibition Park, Ginter's Meadow, Moore's Meadow Park, Rainbow Park and Wilson Park.

The West Bowl has a substantial **Community Park deficiency of 23.85 hectares** with no available Community Parks. The acquisition of additional community parkland is limited given the extent of development within this community area. Exhibition Park contains additional lands that could be considered for redevelopment to help alleviate the Community Park deficiency. Rainbow Park also provides a community destination with leisure opportunities that could be improved to help meet area needs. There are also opportunities to invest in the larger school sites such as DP Todd/Heritage and John McGinnis/Peden Hill with trail systems and recreation improvements similar to College Heights Secondary School.



The various opportunities and challenges associated with the provision of Community Parks were considered in the following **Community Park recommendations** for each of the 5 community areas as follows:

Blackburn – Pursue a toddler playground and skate/bike park at Blackburn Park to meet community demands.

College Hts./Beaverly - Pursue the acquisition and development of a Community Park at Kode Pit as well as a Community Park within University Heights in response to future growth.

East Bowl – Re-invest in Ron Brent Park with proceeds from the land sale and pursue enhancements at Strathcona Park and other destination parks and schools in the East Bowl.

Hart/North Nechako - Pursue improvements to Corporal Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park, repurpose Heather Road Park as a Dog Park and pursue the future acquisition of the Austin Road former school for a Community Park.

West Bowl – Pursue improvements at other destination parks such as Exhibition Park, Rainbow Park and at schools to alleviate the Community Park deficiency.



Mini-Bike Park at Duchess Park

4.0 Community Engagement

Feedback was gathered from residents and stakeholders throughout the development of the Park Strategy in order to provide some clear direction on community demands for parks. The community engagement was conducted in two phases which included a presentation of the assessment findings in the Spring of 2016 and the Draft Park Strategy in the Fall of 2016. Each consultation phase included a series of public meetings, stakeholder discussions, and an online feedback form. Details on the **Community Engagement** consultation plan and feedback results are available as a background document⁹ with a summary provided in this section.

A number of key themes emerged during the first consultation phase for the Park Strategy in the Spring of 2016. These themes are aligned with much of the feedback that was received from the 1,830 individuals who participated in the development of the 2014 Community Recreation Services Plan, in addition to those who participated in the 2010 Active Transportation Plan and previous trail plans. The four (4) key themes from the Park Strategy consultation are as follows:



These key themes have informed the identification of priorities in the following section and are also addressed as key focus areas in Section 7.0 of this document.

80% of residents surveyed agree that the City generally needs to improve parks.

Source: 2016 Park Strategy Feedback Form

The Draft Park Strategy was presented for review and comment on the City's website and through the five (5) public meetings held during the 2016 Talktober community conversations. The feedback from these discussions identified that the investment priorities and key focus areas are aligned with the community demands, which helped to inform the development of the Final Park Strategy.

⁹ The 'Community Engagement' background document is available online at www.princegeorge.ca

The following are some of the highlights from the first phase of consultation in the Spring of 2016.



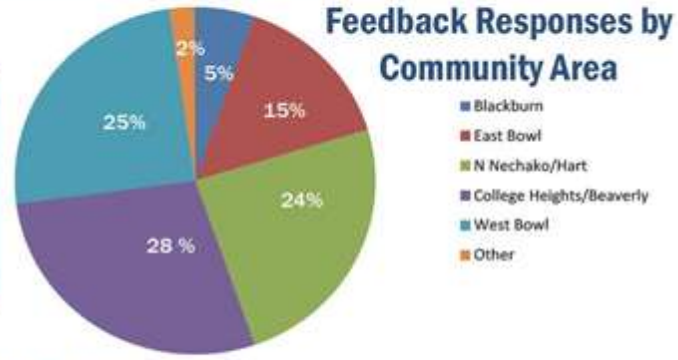
2016 PARK STRATEGY

WHAT WE DID & WHAT WE HEARD

The City and residents of Prince George are creating a Park Strategy that supports Prince George's future as well as healthy and active living.

Public input is key to making a long-term Park Strategy that will help guide City decision making. From April through June 2016, we collected feedback and ideas from close to 500 Prince George residents through six public engagement sessions and special events. Over 260 people also participated by completing an online feedback form and another 1,544 visited our Park Strategy App. This information will be used to develop a strategy to guide the City's park investment priorities.

We heard from Citizens from every neighbourhood in the City! People support City parks and a Park Strategy.



- ### Feedback Highlights
- **80%** of residents surveyed AGREE that the City generally needs to improve its parks
 - **66%** AGREE with the potential priorities identified for the parks in their community
 - **61%** improved their understanding of issues relating to Prince George parks through the Park Strategy
 - **Top themes included** focus on riverfront parks and trails, improvements for neighbourhood parks and a desire for a connected city wide trail system.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

During the summer, City administration will develop a draft Park Strategy to be presented during the Talktober neighbourhood conversations in October 2016. The final Park Strategy will go to City Council in early 2017.

5.0 Priorities

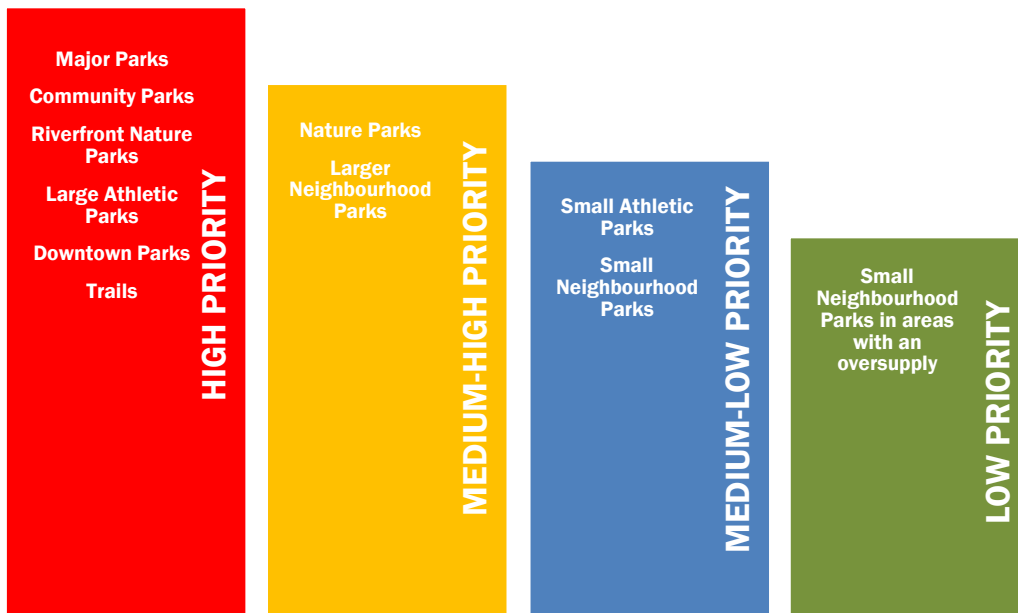
Strategic Investment Sites

The determination of strategic park investment sites was undertaken in order to align potential resource allocation for parks with policy direction, the assessment findings, and community demands. Each park was considered in relation to their ability to meet one or more of the following:

- destinations such as major parks or riverfront areas;
- multi-use, multi-generational sites; and
- central, accessible locations within high density areas.



By understanding how parks are used within neighbourhood and community areas, we can strategically invest in desired destinations and reduce our investment overall at lower use areas. The following diagram identifies the priorities for investment by the various park classifications:



The identification of strategic investment sites provides direction for the allocation of park operational and capital resources.



The strategic investment priorities are listed in the following appendices and summarized in the remainder of this section with mapping available in Appendix J.

- Appendix D Priorities by Neighbourhood
- Appendix E Priorities by Facility Type
- Appendix F Playgrounds Priorities
- Appendix G Hard Surface Court Priorities
- Appendix H Parkland Acquisition and Trails Priorities

Park Priority Score Sheet

Park investment priorities were identified and scored against a set of criteria. The criteria considers the strategic investment site prioritization in addition to factors such as emerging trends, inventory assessment findings, public input, social development¹⁰, and policy direction from key plans such as the 2014 Community Recreation Services Plan and 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The following Park Priority Score Sheet was used to score each potential park investment.

Park Priority Score Sheet		
Criteria	Description	Max. Score
Socio Demographic Trends	Meets populations of seniors and/or youth, as well as accessibility and inclusivity of the larger population.	3
Recreation Trends	Participation (physical activity, unstructured recreation, etc.), multiple use and connection to parks/nature).	3
Community Demand	The extent that the community has identified the service.	3
Service Gaps	There is a community need due to high use or limited capacity.	3
Conditions	There is a conditional need in order to meet service requirements or need to make it usable.	3
Cost Efficiency	Using capital and operation resources efficiently as the biggest bang for your buck.	3
Partnerships	There are community partnerships or alternative funding sources.	3
TOTAL		21

Each priority was categorized according to their investment potential as follows:



Priorities by Neighbourhood Area

Parks were assessed within each of the forty-one (41) neighbourhood areas to identify potential priorities that could help meet residents' needs. The priorities for each neighbourhood have been listed in Appendix D of this document and are also summarized within the [Neighbourhood Assessment Cards](#) that are available as a background document¹¹.

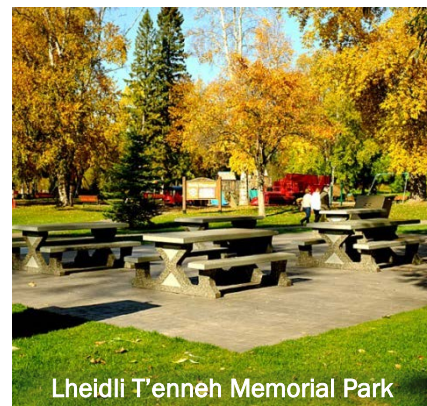
¹⁰ Social development factors include areas such as age inclusivity, accessibility, social connections, and improved health.

¹¹ The 'Neighbourhood Assessment Cards' background document is available online at www.princegeorge.ca

Priorities by Facility Type

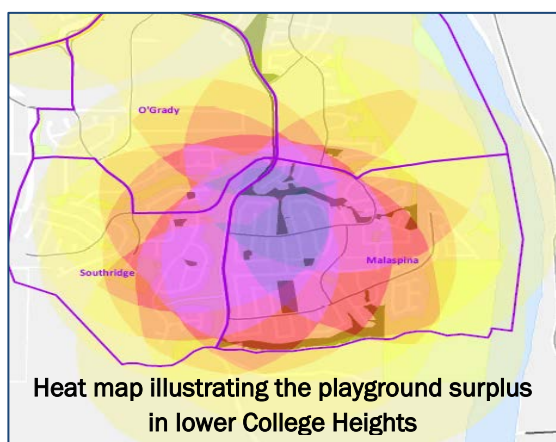
Various facility improvements such as playgrounds, hard surface courts, skate parks, dog parks, and washrooms have been identified and prioritized for most of the park classifications such as Major Parks, Nature Parks, Community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks.

A list of the detailed facility priorities is available in Appendix E. The prioritization of playgrounds and hard surface courts are listed separately and discussed further in this section given the larger quantity of these facilities and a number of considerations with their provision.



Playgrounds

The City of Prince George maintains sixty-six (66) playgrounds that are distributed throughout the community within Major Parks, Community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks. The prioritization of playground investment considers factors such as playground distribution, provisional standards, condition assessments and the health of area children¹².



Playground provision is measured against a standard of **one (1) playground within a maximum 800m radius of residents**. A review of this measurement confirmed a number of surpluses and deficiencies within higher density neighbourhoods that are represented in a heat map (see Appendix F).

A Playground Audit was conducted in 2016 to determine the compliance of the City's playgrounds to the National Canadian Standards Association (CSA) playground standards. The Audit recommended the complete removal of thirty-one (31) playgrounds based on non-standard equipment, age, and overall condition. These Audit findings helped to inform priority setting for playgrounds. The ultimate replacement of playgrounds requires careful consideration as the typical playground replacement costs an average of \$75,000 and the complete replacement of thirty-one (31) playgrounds would be in the order of \$2.5 million.

The playground priorities are listed in Appendix F with a map available in Appendix J.

A new Neighbourhood Park playground costs an average of \$75,000 installed while the large accessible playground at Duchess Park is an average of \$250,000.

¹² Playground prioritization considered the early and middle development indicator scores (EDI and MDI) through the Human Early Learning Partnership (Source: UBC, School of Population Health, May 2015).

Hard Surface Courts

The City of Prince George maintains hard surface courts in parks throughout the community and also at a number of school locations through a Shared Use Agreement with School District 57.

The City's hard surface courts include tennis courts at both park and school locations, as well as a number of basketball courts within parks.

The higher priority investment sites for hard surface courts include the larger and central destination parks, neighbourhood parks, and schools that also use these facilities as seasonal ice rinks. Lower priority sites include hard surface courts that are not maintained regularly as a seasonal ice rink.

The seasonal ice rinks are maintained annually by community volunteers in Prince George with support from Community Associations and the City. Volunteer commitment can vary each year and so do the associated ice rinks in and around the City.

The hard surface court priorities are listed in Appendix G with a map available in Appendix J.



Priorities for Parkland Acquisition



Direction for parkland acquisition has been identified in a number of policy documents such as the 2011 Official Community Plan Bylaw 8383, 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan, and various neighbourhood plans. These plans provide policy direction for acquisition of all levels of park provision.

The proposed acquisition sites have been prioritized in the Park Strategy primarily on their ability to meet community demands and to alleviate parkland deficiencies associated with higher densities. The higher priority locations generally include lands

proposed for Nature Park riverfront access and trails, Community Park developments (e.g. Kode Pit), and city-wide trail connections.

The parkland acquisition priorities are listed in Appendix H with a map available in Appendix J.

Priorities for Trails

Trails are a high priority for residents overall given the community demands for age-friendly infrastructure that provides informal recreation opportunities. Priorities for trail development have been previously identified through plans such as the 2010 Active Transportation Plan and the 1998 City-Wide Trail System Master Plan. These plans provide policy direction for the city-wide trail system as well as neighbourhood linkages that connect with the active transportation network of sidewalks, walkways and bike lanes.

Key trail investment sites include riverfront areas and trails that provide vital linkages throughout the community with complete, accessible trail systems. The Park Strategy does not prioritize specific trail linkages other than providing some direction towards the investment of trails within existing parks, as identified in Appendix H of this document. A map of the city-wide trail priorities is available in Appendix J.

Trails are a high priority overall with key investment sites located along the rivers or in areas that provide vital trail linkages throughout the community.



Trails at Cottonwood Island Park along the river

6.0 Potential Scenarios and Options

There are a number of scenarios and options that could be explored in order to advance the investment priorities identified in the Park Strategy. Creative solutions are suggested below along with some possible scenarios and options that are cognizant of the need to balance the competing demands for park services with the fiscal realities associated with limited resources.

“Reshuffle the Deck” – Review the existing park service delivery and budget allocations to find efficiencies and determine where service delivery could be reduced, while increasing resources in areas that are underserved.

E.g. Reduce the supply of playgrounds by 20-30% and reallocate the operational resources to trail maintenance.

“Redistribution” – Review the Parks operational budget and service delivery along with other departments of the City to explore options such as a reallocation of budget or resources to parks with a redistribution of park services to other departments.

E.g. Reallocate a percentage of another operational department’s budget to park operational priorities.

E.g. Redistribute some of the existing park services to other departments who could also deliver these services within their available resource base, thereby freeing resources towards other park operational priorities.

“Repurpose” – Consider repurposing underutilized or redundant park facilities to an alternative, higher priority use, or one that reduces service delivery requirements.

E.g. Repurpose an underutilized ball diamond into a fenced dog park.

E.g. Decommission playground equipment at a park location and maintain the park as an open lawn or naturalized area.

“Give and Takes” – Consider reallocating resources from a lower priority park to a higher priority investment with a goal of no net loss of recreational opportunities.

E.g. Consider the sale of all or a portion of redundant or underutilized park space in exchange for higher priority improvements to parks within the affected neighbourhood area.



Trails are in high demand and require increased resources in order to provide quality service delivery



Malaspina Park has an underutilized ball diamond that could be repurposed into an off leash dog park in College Heights

“Add to the Pot” – Explore the impacts of modest budget increases for capital and operating that are aligned with the need for increased park service delivery.

E.g. Determine the level of service delivery that could be provided for urban forestry with an increase in the annual operating budget.

E.g. Develop a five (5) to ten (10) year park infrastructure plan that identifies the rehabilitation and development of higher priority investments, accompanied with the required increases to the annual capital budget.

“Economies of Scale” – Review existing fees and charges to determine if modest increases would be reasonable in relation to service delivery increases.

E.g. Consider an annual fee in the exclusive user agreements that is proportionate to the number of participants versus a flat annual fee.



Riverfront parks and trails are highly valued in Prince George

7.0 Key Focus Areas

There are a number of key focus areas that should be pursued to help advance the priorities identified in the Park Strategy. The following ten (10) focus areas represent broad activities along with suggested tasks to help guide this investment. **These focus areas are not listed in order of importance** and each area should be revisited annually in order to monitor progress and consider any new or emerging priorities.

OPERATIONAL PLAN



- Review existing levels of service and realign resource allocation with priorities and gaps that require increased services.
- Explore opportunities for alternative service delivery.
- Review and refine processes to increase quality service delivery and find efficiencies from within.
- Decommission underutilized facilities and reallocate operational resources to gaps in park service delivery.

PARK RE-INVESTMENT



- Develop a facility replacement program that considers the investment priorities and life cycle replacement.
- Repurpose redundant or underutilized park spaces to an alternative use that is in higher demand.
- Develop a parkland disbursement policy and pursue the sale of some redundant or underutilized parks to fund higher priority park investments.

URBAN FORESTRY AND TRAILS



- Determine the level of service and resources required to provide a proactive vs. reactive approach to urban forestry and trail operations.
- Explore various tools in support of urban forestry initiatives such as a tree protection and heritage tree bylaws.
- Identify approaches to deal with the liabilities associated with an urban forestry.

RIVERFRONT



- Review opportunities to advance riverfront access through parkland acquisition and development.
- Advance land use policies, environmental protection and destinations that connect residents to the rivers.
- Provide scenic access and celebrate the natural, cultural and aboriginal heritage of the rivers.
- Connect the Downtown to the rivers through parks and trails.

PLAYGROUNDS



- Create an annual plan for playground replacement and decommissioning.
- Revisit the playground inspection and maintenance program to ensure it is aligned with the CSA standards.
- Consider a tiered approach for playground investment with standards for enhanced vs. a base level of service.

VISITOR SERVICES



- Develop a signage program for parks and trails.
- Explore potential enhancements to park amenities in support of park use such as activation of programs, bookings, events, and sports tourism.
- Pursue enhanced promotions to inform residents and visitors about park and recreation opportunities.
- Communicate information on current or upcoming project development at park locations.

PARTNERSHIPS



- Collaborate with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation on enhancements to Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park.
- Develop a Ball Diamond and Sports Field Strategy that explores the delivery of these facilities and potential efficiencies.
- Explore synergies through other partnerships to help advance park investment and stewardship.

ACCESSIBILITY



- Develop guidelines and standards for universal design within parks.
- Conduct accessibility audits on parks and explore opportunities to advance accessibility improvements.
- Improve the transportation links to and from parks through a review and enhancements to the active transportation network.

BEAUTIFICATION



- Review opportunities to advance the beautification of parks, major boulevards, and the downtown.
- Revisit the downtown street tree plan to develop suitable approaches that support tree health.
- Explore opportunities for public art, heritage, cultural recognition as well as four-season design.
- Explore opportunities to expand tree plantings at larger destination parks and playground areas.

DESTINATION PARKS



- Pursue the acquisition and development of Community Parks, including opportunities to advance the quality of facilities at other parks and schools where parkland acquisition is not feasible.
- Pursue upgrades and developments at the city-wide destination parks identified as higher priority strategic investment sites.

Appendices

List of Appendices:

Appendix A	Policies and Principles
Appendix B	Parks Service Delivery and Asset Management
Appendix C	Park Assessment
Appendix D	Priorities by Neighbourhood
Appendix E	Priorities by Facility Type
Appendix F	Playground Priorities
Appendix G	Hard Surface Court Priorities
Appendix H	Parkland Acquisition and Trail Priorities
Appendix I	Tools & Guidelines
Appendix J	Maps



Appendix A: Policies and Principles

The Park Strategy is aligned with the 2015 City of Prince George Council Priorities, primarily as it relates to the myPG goals for:

- City Government to ‘set a path for infrastructure needs and infrastructure investment’, and
- City of Prince George communications in ‘fostering a service culture and reconnecting with citizens’.



Event in Veteran's Plaza at City Hill

The 2014 Community Recreation Service Plan (CRSP) and the 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan (POSMP) provide direction for park and recreation facility investment. The CRSP identified that community demands and efficient resource allocation could be realized by strategic investment at key multi-use destinations. The POSMP provides standards and recommendations for park acquisition, development, and disbursement such as:

- Analyzing community demand and the need for infrastructure development
- Parkland acquisition and development in strategic locations
- Adoption a parkland disbursement policy

The Park Strategy also builds upon the policy direction provided in a number of City plans as follows:



Park Principles

A number of park principles have been developed to help guide the overall vision for parks and open spaces. These principles are derived from objectives identified in the **Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 8383 (OCP)** and the communities' **myPG Integrated Community Sustainability Plan**. The words in bold relate to key goals that further the continuity of the plans within the Parks Strategy.



We promote **connectivity** within parks and open spaces, trails, natural areas, waterfronts and other destinations while encouraging **active transportation**.

We foster parks and open spaces as places that support **healthy** and **active** lifestyle for all members of the community.

We work towards a **safe community** with parks and open spaces that offer comfort and security for all users.



We advocate for our parks and open spaces to be **healthy** and **sustainable** and strive to ensure future generations have similar opportunities to appreciate parks as we do today.

We embrace a symbiotic relationship with the **environment** and advocate for best practices in ecosystem management that protect and enhance sensitive environmental areas while balancing accommodations for public access.

We value Prince George as a **green city** with parks and open spaces being places that have **clean air** and **clean water**



We feel that parks and open spaces are vital components of the City's **infrastructure** that help shape the City's **identity** and should be **maintained** to high standards.

We see parks and open spaces as **beautiful**, esthetically appealing places that enhance our civic **pride**.

We practice **fiscal responsibility** to ensure the City is financially sustainable with the necessary and adequate resources to support the development and operations of parks and open spaces.



We incorporate a service-oriented culture into parks and open spaces by providing **equitable** and **inclusive** opportunities with diverse recreation experiences for all age and ability levels.

We encourage parks and open spaces to be **cultural** centres and places for celebrations and events in the community. We take **pride** in our **heritage** which has influenced the development of our parkland.

We respect the **diverse** uses of parks and open spaces and develop these spaces with a welcoming atmosphere that fosters a **supportive** and **engaged** community.

Appendix B: Parks Service Delivery and Asset Management

Parks Service Delivery

The City of Prince George parks operations has a peak seasonal workforce during the summer with roughly fifty-six (56) employees. Of those employees who spend their summers working in Parks, twenty-three (23) remain in Parks Division over the winter months providing snow removal at civic facilities or working at the Cemetery.

The various areas of responsibility for parks operational staff include:

- **Urban Forestry** – The planting and maintenance of the City of Prince George urban forest including all of the trees within parks, boulevards, downtown and nature parks areas like Forest for the World, Ferguson Lake, Cottonwood Island, in addition to the community forest and green space areas.
- **Horticulture** – This includes the planting and maintenance of all flower beds and planters throughout the downtown and exterior of all civic facilities and parks. Locations include the RCMP detachment, fire halls, Canada Games Plaza, CN Centre, Aquatic Centre, Four Seasons Pool, Community Foundation Park, PG Playhouse, the Gateway area, and Public Library in addition to other areas. This area of responsibility also includes Integrated Pest Management activities like mosquito control and weed treatments in hard surface areas.
- **Major Parks** – The maintenance and operation of major parks includes Rainbow Park, Duchess Park, Connaught Hill Park, Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park, Veterans Plaza at City Hall and the Memorial Park Cemetery. This includes set-up and clean-up of over 120 special events booked in parks in 2015.
- **Irrigation** – Parks staff maintain a large network of irrigated boulevards, sports fields, and planting beds. Most of the City's irrigation is controlled by a state of the art computer software program that monitors precipitation rates and adjusts watering times accordingly.
- **Sports Fields** – This includes turf maintenance and the operation of the City's thirty-five (35) sports and community fields. Turf maintenance activities consist of mowing, aerating, fertilizing, top dressing and over seeding of all turfed playing surfaces.
- **Facilities** – This includes the maintenance and operation of club houses, bleachers, tennis courts, concessions, dug outs, fencing, field lighting, outhouses, washrooms, drinking fountains, and garbage

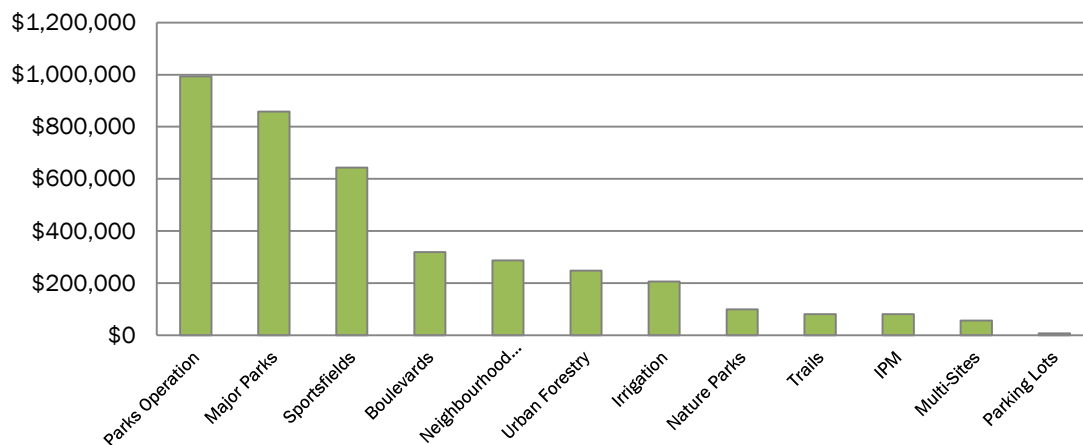


removal. Locations include Citizen Field, Masich Place Stadium, Rotary Youth Soccer Fields, North Nechako Slo-Pitch Fields, Carrie Jane Gray Park, and Volunteer Stadium, in addition to forty-two (42) tennis courts, thirty-eight (38) basketball courts and twenty (20) seasonal ice rinks.

- **Neighbourhood Parks** – The maintenance and operation of neighbourhood and tot lot parks including mowing, trimming, litter collection, garbage removal, playground inspection, and repairing any damaged or vandalized play equipment or park furnishings.
- **Trails** – The maintenance of the City’s extensive ninety (90) plus km trail network of paved, granular and rustic trails like the Heritage River Trails, LC Gunn, Forests for the World, Gladstone, Tyner, Moore’s Meadow, Ginters Meadow, McMillan Creek Fishing Park, and Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve etc.
- **Parking Lots** – This includes surfacing, line painting and lighting of all civic facility parking lots at all four (4) fire halls, RCMP detachment, arenas, pools, library, Exploration Place, seniors’ centres, PG Playhouse, Exhibition Park, and North Cariboo Senior Men’s Soccer amongst others. Parks staff also maintain all of the parking lots at sports field facilities and all parks.
- **Customer Service** – Parks staff responded to over a thousand (1,000) service requests in 2015 that originated from residents’ calls. A large majority of these calls relate to urban forestry amongst other maintenance issues.



2015 Annual Park Operational Expenses



The addition of new park assets, improvement areas or emerging priority projects are usually not accompanied with an increase to operational budgets. These additional maintenance and operational expenses are typically assimilated into the existing budgets which can reduce the service provision for parks in other areas. Parks operations can also incur additional expenses through existing partnership agreements when third party volunteer resources are limited or special events occur. All of which can reduce the overall quality of service provision in parks and open spaces.

Asset Management

The 2013 City of Prince George Financial and Asset Management Plan identified some key considerations for City infrastructure such as parks. Park assets are worth over \$56 million and the replacement of assets is generally funded through capital budgets along with a portion of the operational budget. Each asset has an expected service life (ESL) that can be an average of thirty (30) years for playground equipment and fencing, forty (40) years for buildings and fifty (50) years for irrigation.



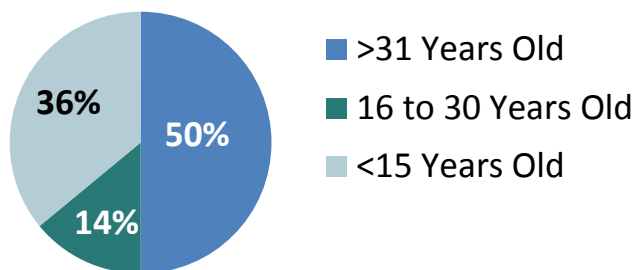
Malaspina Park playground

A Spotlight on Playgrounds

Ever wonder why playgrounds cost so much to upgrade?

Everyone likes a new playground. What you may not know is that the cost of a new playground is high as it must meet the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) playground standards. Any new installations must include CSA approved playground equipment that is accompanied by large protective surface areas to provide the safest play experience. Additional costs include edging treatments, disposal of existing playground equipment, and shade trees.

Age of Prince George Playgrounds



Average playground cost

\$75,000

Duchess Park Accessible Playground

\$250,000

There are over 30 playgrounds that are over 30 years old and require replacement to meet the CSA playground standards. At an average cost of \$75,000 per playground, the total replacement value of these playgrounds is around \$2.5 million. There are also a number of other playgrounds that require replacements or enhancements to bring them up to the current playground standards.

Appendix C: Park Re-Classification

The Park Strategy includes a re-classification of the Parks and Open Space System with a total of six (6) classifications for developed parks that include:

- **Major Parks** which are the premier parks in the City;
- **Athletic Parks** that accommodate sports groups with athletic facilities;
- **Nature Parks** that provide access to significant natural areas;
- **Downtown Parks** that include public spaces or plazas in the downtown core;
- **Community Parks** serving each of the five (5) community areas; and,
- **Neighbourhood Parks** that serve residents within the neighbourhood area.

Open space includes a broad range of other public land such as green spaces, boulevards, and special purpose areas that are not developed for overall park use.

An inventory of the new park classifications is provided below with maps of each park classification available in Appendix J.

Park Classification	# of Parks	Hectares	Examples
Major Parks	3	45.71	Connaught Hill, Lheidli T'enneh Memorial
Athletic Parks	7	85.29	Carrie Jane Gray Park, Masich Place Stadium
Nature Parks	13	849.82	Cottonwood Island, Forests for the World
Downtown Parks	4	1.95	Canada Games Plaza, Veteran's Plaza
Community Parks	4	23.19	Duchess Park
Neighbourhood Parks	66	97.72	Baker Park, Eaglenest Park
TOTALS	97¹	1,103.68²	

1. The total # of Parks does not include Open Space Areas that amount to an additional 261 areas for a total of 358 Park and Open Space areas.
2. The total Hectares of Parks does not include Open Space Areas that amount to an additional 841 hectares for a total of 1,945 Hectares of Parks and Open Spaces.

Previous Park Classifications (2008)

The new park classifications represent a slight departure from the 2008 Parks and Open Space System along with some changes to parkland provisional standards. The 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan defined parks largely by the area they serve as follows:

- **City-wide** – Includes four sub-categories of Aesthetic, Athletic, Natural and Passive Park.
- **District** – A park serving one of the five (5) district areas within the City.
- **Neighbourhood** – A park serving a neighbourhood area and may be in the form of a smaller Tot Lot Park.

This park classification system was originally introduced in the 1986 Parks Plan and was adopted through the 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The development of the Park Strategy

incorporated a review of this classification system and determined that the categories can be confusing and do not fully represent the identity of parks in Prince George. These classifications also do not align with operations and are often ineffective in the promotions of parks.

The re-classification of parks included a review of park classification systems for peer communities. The existing parkland provisional standards were also assessed in order to determine their feasibility in the provision of parks in Prince George. The following table represents a comparison of the new Parks and Open Space System in relation to the 2008 categories along with the changes to the parkland classification and provisional standards.

New Park Classification	2008 Park Classification	New Description	Provisional Standard (Ha/1,000 residents)	Changes
Major	City Passive	Showcase park that provides a City-wide destination with multiple amenities and activities for all ages	n/a	Provisional standard of 0.80 Ha/1,000 eliminated ¹³ .
Athletic	City Athletic	Outdoor recreation destinations with sports fields or ball diamonds accommodating sports groups and major tournaments	n/a	Includes the smaller Athletic Parks originally classified as District Parks.
Nature	City Natural	Natural areas such as riverfronts, significant habitat areas or greenways with some facility development to accommodate access.	n/a	Provisional standard of 1.50 Ha/1,000 eliminated ¹⁴ .
Downtown	City Aesthetic	Destinations in the Downtown core such as parks or plazas that provide a gathering place or event area	n/a	Specific to parks that are only provided in the downtown.
Community	District	Serves a community area with multiple amenities and activities on a smaller scale than a City-Wide Park	1.0 Ha/1,000	Redefined as 'district' is not commonly used or identifiable to many.
Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood or Tot Lot	Serves an immediate neighbourhood area with recreation amenities. Includes smaller pocket parks within neighbourhoods.	1.2 Ha/1,000	Incorporates both the Neighbourhood and Tot Lot Park classifications under one category.

¹³ This provisional standard was eliminated as the provision of additional Major Parks is neither required nor feasible as they represent the most significant investment of park resources.

¹⁴ This provisional standard was eliminated as there is a significant amount of Nature Parks and natural areas will continue to be acquired given the community demand and low cost/high benefit ratio associated with their supply.

Appendix D: Priorities by Neighbourhood

This appendix includes a list of the priorities by neighbourhood area. A list of priorities by facility type is available in Appendix E.

Priorities by Neighbourhood						
Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Aberdeen	Aberdeen Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park development (deficiency)
Aberdeen	Clearwood Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Aberdeen	Northwood Pulp Mill Rd.- wetland	Nature	Parkland Acquisition	New	MED LOW	Acquire and preserve wetland along Northwood Pulp Mill Road - McMillan Creek
Blackburn	LC Gunn Trail	Nature	Parkland Acquisition	New	MED LOW	Parkland acquisition for the existing LC Gunn Trail
Blackburn	Blackburn Park	Community	Ball Diamond	Upgrade	LOW	Upgrades to 2 ball diamonds
Blackburn	Blackburn Park	Community	Bike/Skate Park	New	MED LOW	No skate/bike park in Blackburn
Blackburn	Blackburn Park	Community	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Blackburn	Blackburn Park	Community	Playground	New	MED HIGH	No toddler playground in Blackburn
Blackburn	Blackburn Park	Community	Washrooms	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Washroom upgrade
Central Ft. George	Central Fort George School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Central Ft. George	Hammond Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Central Ft. George	Hammond Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
College Heights	Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	Develop a riverfront park and trail between Parkridge Creek and Cowart Road
College Heights	College Heights Secondary School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Good condition.
College Heights	Fairmont Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Fair condition
College Heights	North College Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED LOW	Ice rink in winter. Good condition.
College Heights	North College Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Fair condition
Cran. Hill / Beverly	Forests for the World	Nature	Picnic Shelter	Upgrade	HIGH	Two Picnic Shelters

Priorities by Neighbourhood						
Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Cran. Hill / Beverly	Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	Acquisition and development of riverfront park north of Otway Ski Centre
Cran. Hill / Beverly	Chief Memorial Park	Green Space	Trail	New	MED LOW	Trail development
Cranbrook Hill / Beverly	Forests for the World	Nature	Outhouses	Upgrade	HIGH	Outhouse upgrades
Cranbrook Hill / Beverly	Forests for the World	Nature	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Cranbrook Hill / Beverly	Forests for the World	Nature	Viewing Structure	Upgrade	HIGH	Lookout - dock Lookout - timber
Crescents	Watrous Park	Neighbourhood	Lawn Bowling	New	LOW	Relocate to multi-use seniors activity area
Crescents	Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	Klein Pit Land acquisition at the confluence
Crescents	Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Outhouses	Upgrade	HIGH	3 outhouse upgrades
Crescents	Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Picnic Shelter	Upgrade	HIGH	2 shelter upgrades
Crescents	Heritage River Trail System	Nature	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Crescents	Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Viewing Structure	Upgrade	HIGH	Lookouts along river
Crescents	Watrous Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Croft	Croft Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood Park deficiency - includes acquisition and park development
Croft	Balsum Park	Athletic	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
Edgewood	Edgewood Park	Neighbourhood	Ball Diamond	Upgrade	LOW	Ball diamond receives limited to no use
Edgewood	Fairburn Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Edgewood	Nechako Park	Athletic	Ball Diamond	New	LOW	User group demand for 2 ball diamonds for tournament hosting and increased capacity
Edgewood	Nechako Riverside Park	Nature	Parkland Development	New	MED HIGH	Riverfront park and trail development
Edgewood	Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	Riverfront park and trail acquisition and development east of Foothills Bridge
Ferguson / Chief Lake	Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve	Nature	Outhouses	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Completed 2016
Ferguson / Chief Lake	Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve	Nature	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail and boardwalk upgrades

Priorities by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Foothills	Antler Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Foothills	Azure Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Foothills	Eaglenest Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Foothills	Eaglenest Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition
Foothills	Exhibition Park	Athletic	Parkland Acquisition	New	MED LOW	Acquisition to accommodate Exhibition Park expansion
Foothills	Jackpine Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Foothills	Ochakwin Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Glenview	Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	Dog Park	New	MED HIGH	Fenced Dog Park in the ball diamond
Glenview	Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	Hard Surface Court - Other	New	MED LOW	Hard surface court upgrades
Glenview	Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	Parkland Development	New	MED HIGH	Other (landscaping, picnic, interpretive, etc.)
Glenview	Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	Playground	New	MED HIGH	New toddler playground
Glenview	Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	Trail	New	MED HIGH	New trails
Glenview	Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	Washrooms	New	MED HIGH	New washroom facility
Hart Highlands	Austin Road School	School District	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	Acquisition and development as a District Park
Hart Highlands	Stauble Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood Park deficiency - includes park and trail development
Harwin	Harper Park	Neighbourhood	Ball Diamond	Upgrade	LOW	Ball diamond receives little use
Harwin	Harwin Elementary	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	LOW	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Heather Road	Heather Road Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Wessner Hts. Neigh. Plan)
Heather Road	Heather Road Park	Community	Dog Park	New	MED HIGH	Redevelopment as an off leash dog park
Heather Road	Kelly Road Secondary School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
Heather Road	Volunteer Park	Athletic	Parkland Acquisition	New	LOW	Parkland acquisition for the existing Volunteer Park

Priorities by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Heather Road	Snowdrop Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Heritage North	Corless Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Heritage North	Moore's Meadow Park	Nature	Outhouses	Upgrade	MED HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Heritage North	Moore's Meadow Park	Nature	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Heritage North	Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Development	New	MED HIGH	Parkland development of Klein Pit between Fish Traps Island and Wilson Park
Heritage North	Zimmaro Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Heritage South	DP Todd Secondary School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
Heritage South	Freimuller Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Highland / Highglen	Blair Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Highland / Highglen	Gordon Bryant Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Lakewood	Lac des Bois Elem. School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Good condition.
Lakewood	Punchaw Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Lower Peden Hill	Peden Hill Elem. School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Good condition.
Lower Peden Hill	Sanderson Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition
Malaspina	Fraser River Benchland Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park development (F. River Benchlands Neigh. Plan)
Malaspina	Gladstone Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Malaspina	Jean de Brebeuf	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Fair condition
Malaspina	Latrobe Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Fair condition
Malaspina	Parkridge Creek Park	Nature	Parkland Development	New	MED HIGH	Riverfront park and trail development
Malaspina	Malaspina Park	Neighbourhood	Dog Park	New	MED HIGH	Fenced Dog Park in the ball diamond
Malaspina	Malaspina Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Poor condition.
Malaspina	Malaspina Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Malaspina	McMaster Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
Millar Addition	Ingledew Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition

Priorities by Neighbourhood						
Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Millar Addition	Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Bandshell	Upgrade	HIGH	Poor condition
Millar Addition	Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Picnic Shelter	Upgrade	HIGH	Replace the shelter structure
Millar Addition	Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Playground	Upgrade	HIGH	Fair condition
Millar Addition	Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Sand Volleyball Courts	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Millar Addition	Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Millar Addition	Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Washrooms	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition
Nordic	Nordic Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Glenview Cres. Neigh. Plan)
North Nechako	Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED LOW	Riverfront park and trail development west of Foothills Blvd.
North Nechako	North Nechako Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Riverfront park development
O'Grady	St. John Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Parkridge Heights	Vanway Elementary School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
Pinewood / Pinecone	Campbell Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Pinewood / Pinecone	Christopher Park	Neighbourhood	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood Park development
Quinson	Kelly Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Quinson	Wilson Park	Nature	Outhouses	Upgrade	HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Quinson	Wilson Park	Nature	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Quinson	Quinson Elementary School	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Quinson	Quinson Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition
Ridgeview	Carlisle Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood Park development
Ridgeview	Ridgeview Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Good condition.
Ridgeview	Ridgeview Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition
Ron Brent	Connaught Hill Park	Major	Outhouses	Upgrade	HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Ron Brent	Ron Brent Park	Neighbourhood	Parkland Development	New	MED HIGH	Neighbourhood Park development as a condition of the land sale
Seymour	Masich Place Stadium	Athletic	Clubhouse	New	MED HIGH	Shared clubhouse facility

Priorities by Neighbourhood						
Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Seymour	Masich Place Stadium	Athletic	Grandstand	Upgrade	HIGH	Grandstand structure upgrades
Seymour	Seymour Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
South Fort George	Jasper Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
South Fort George	Paddlewheel Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Fair condition
South Fort George	Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	Acquire and develop riverfront lands north of Paddlewheel Park
South Fort George	S. Ft. George Family Res. Centre	Special Purpose	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
South Fort George	S. Ft. George Family Resource Centre	Special Purpose	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Southridge	Glen Lyon Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park development with expanded future residential growth
Southridge	Kode Pit Lands	Community	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED HIGH	District park acquisition and development
Southridge	Southridge Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Other	Upgrade	MED LOW	Ice rink in winter. Poor condition
Southridge	St. Mary Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED LOW	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Southridge	St. Mary Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Fair condition
Southridge	St. Mathew Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Spruceland	Harry Loder Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Poor condition.
Spruceland	Harry Loder Park	Neighbourhood	Horseshoe Pits	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Spruceland	Harry Loder Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Spruceland	Rainbow Park	Major	Outhouses	Upgrade	HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Spruceland	Rainbow Park	Major	Parking Lot	New	HIGH	No on-site park
Spruceland	Rainbow Park	Major	Playground	Upgrade	HIGH	Poor condition
Spruceland	Rainbow Park	Major	Trail	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Univ. Hts./Charella	Charella Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Univ. Hts./Charella	Univ. Hts./Charella Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Univ. Hts. Neigh. Plan)

Priorities by Neighbourhood						
Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Upper Peden Hill	Prudente Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	LOW	Good condition
Upper Peden Hill	Starlane Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Upper Peden Hill	Starlane Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
Valleyview / Seton	Owl Lake	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED LOW	Natural park and trail acquisition and development
Valleyview / Seton	Seton Park	Green Space	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park development
Valleyview / Seton	Valleyview Reserve	Green Space	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	MED LOW	Natural park and trail acquisition and development
Valleyview / Seton	Valleyview/ Seton Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood Park with future residential growth
Van Bien	Perry Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Van Bien	Perry Park/Van Bien School	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Ice rink in winter. Fair condition.
Van Bien	Sinclair Park	Neighbourhood	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
VLA	Moosehart Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
VLA	Pine Centre Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Pine Centre Neigh. Plan)
VLA	Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	HIGH	Poor condition
VLA	Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	HIGH	Poor condition
VLA	Strathcona Park	Community	Ball Diamond	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
VLA	Strathcona Park	Community	Hard Surface Court - Basketball	Upgrade	MED LOW	Poor condition
VLA	Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Playground	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition
VLA	Hudson's Bay Wetland Nature Park	Nature	Trail	New	HIGH	Trail development
VLA	Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Washrooms	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Two washrooms in poor condition.

Priorities by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	Priorities by Facility Type	New/ Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Westgate	Westgate Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Ospika S. Neigh. Plan)
Westwood	Byng Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Westwood	Lorne Park	Neighbourhood	Playground	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
Westwood	Lorne Park	Neighbourhood	Trail	Upgrade	MED LOW	Trail upgrade
Westwood	Vanier Park	Neighbourhood	Parkland Development	New	LOW	Neighbourhood park development
Westwood	Westwood Elementary	School District	Hard Surface Court - Tennis	Upgrade	MED LOW	Ice rink in winter. Poor condition.

Appendix E: Priorities by Facility Type

This Appendix includes an alphabetized list of all facility priorities, with the exception of Playground and Hard Surface Court priorities which are listed in Appendix F and G respectively. Section 5.0 of this document outlines the scoring process that was used to prioritize the park facilities.

Priorities by Facility Type				
Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority	Comments
BALL DIAMOND¹⁵				
Blackburn Park	Community	Upgrade	LOW	Upgrades to 2 ball diamonds
Edgewood Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW	Ball diamond receives limited to no use
Harper Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW	Ball diamond receives limited to no use
Nechako Park	Athletic	New	LOW	User group demand for 2 ball diamonds for tournament hosting and increased capacity
Strathcona Park	Community	Upgrade	LOW	Fair condition
BANDSHELL				
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH	Poor condition
BIKE/SKATE PARK				
Blackburn Park	Community	New	MED LOW	No skate/bike park in Blackburn
CLUBHOUSE				
Masich Place Stadium	Athletic	New	MED HIGH	Shared clubhouse facility
DOG PARK				
Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	New	MED HIGH	Fenced Dog Park in the ball diamond
Heather Road Park	Community	New	MED HIGH	Redevelopment as an off leash dog park
Malaspina Park	Neighbourhood	New	MED HIGH	Fenced Dog Park in the ball diamond
GRANDSTAND				
Masich Place Stadium	Athletic	Upgrade	HIGH	Grandstand structure upgrades
HORSESHOE PITs				
Harry Loder Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition

¹⁵ The City's existing ball diamonds and sports fields are generally not included in this prioritization as a separate and more comprehensive review and assessment is recommended through a Ball Diamond and Sports Field Strategy.

Priorities by Facility Type				
Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority	Comments
LAWNBOWLING				
Watrous Park	Neighbourhood	New	LOW	Relocate to multi-use seniors activity area
OUTHOUSE				
Connaught Hill Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	3 outhouse upgrades
Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve	Nature	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Completed 2016
Forests for the World	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Outhouse upgrades
Moore's Meadow Park	Nature	Upgrade	MED HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Rainbow Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
Wilson Park	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	2 outhouse upgrades
PARKING LOT				
Rainbow Park	Major	New	HIGH	No on-site parking
PICNIC SHELTER				
Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	2 shelter upgrades
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH	Replace the shelter structure
Forests for the World	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Two Picnic Shelters
SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS				
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Upgrade	LOW	Poor condition
TRAILS				
Chief Memorial Park	Green Space	New	MED LOW	Trail development
Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	New	MED HIGH	New trails

Priorities by Facility Type				
Park, School or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail and boardwalk upgrades
Forests for the World	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Heritage River Trail System	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Hudson's Bay Wetland Nature Park	Nature	New	HIGH	Trail development
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Lorne Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW	Trail upgrades
Moore's Meadow Park	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Rainbow Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
Wilson Park	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Trail upgrades
VIEWING STRUCTURE				
Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Lookouts along river
Forests for the World	Nature	Upgrade	HIGH	Lookout - dock Lookout - timber
WASHROOMS				
Blackburn Park	Community	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Washroom upgrade
Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Two washrooms. Poor condition.
Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	New	MED HIGH	New washroom facility
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Upgrade	MED HIGH	Poor condition

Appendix F: Playground Priorities

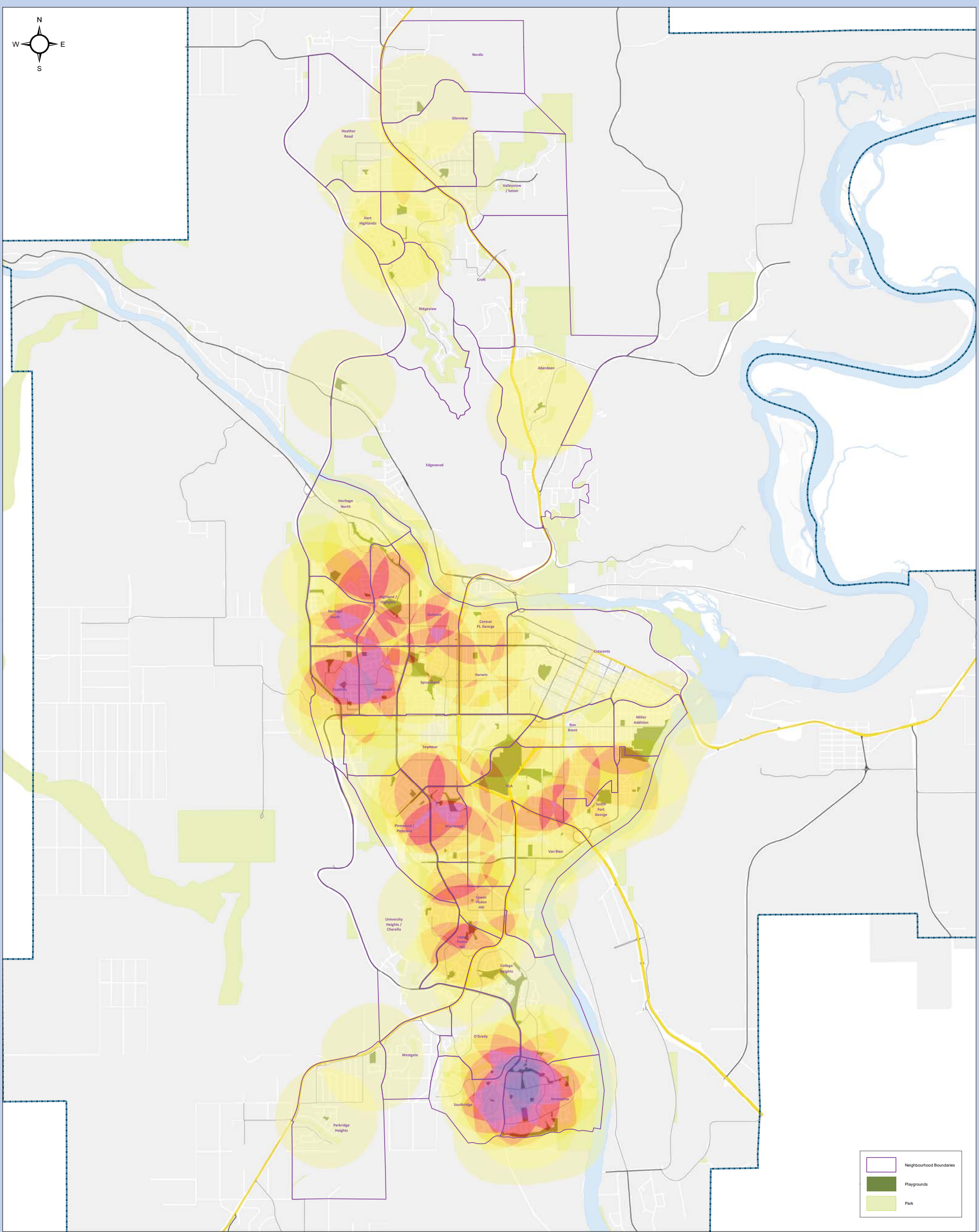
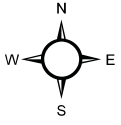
This Appendix includes an alphabetized list of all the playground priorities. This list does not include any recently installed playgrounds that do not require improvements. A map of the playground priorities is available in Appendix J.

This appendix also includes a heat map that illustrates the existing playground provision based on the provisional standard of one (1) playground within a maximum 800m radius of residents.

Playground Priorities			
Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority
Rainbow Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park	Major	Upgrade	HIGH
Blackburn Park	Community	New	MED HIGH
Byng Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED HIGH
Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Upgrade	MED HIGH
Corporal Darren Fitz. Bravery Park	Community	New	MED HIGH
Eaglenest Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED HIGH
North College Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED HIGH
Quinson Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED HIGH
Ridgeview Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED HIGH
Sanderson Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED HIGH
Clapperton Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Fairmont Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Gladstone Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Hammond Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Jackpine Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Jean de Brebeuf Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Latrobe Park (south)	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Moosehart Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Paddlewheel Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
S. Ft. George Family Resource Centre	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Seymour Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Snowdrop Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
St. John Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
St. Mary Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Watrous Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	MED LOW
Antler Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Azure Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Antler Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW

Playground Priorities

Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority
Balsum Park	Athletic	Upgrade	LOW
Blair Park	Green Space	Upgrade	LOW
Campbell Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Corless Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Freimuller Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Harry Loder Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Ingledeew Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Jasper Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Kelly Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Latrobe Park (north)	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Lorne Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Malaspina Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
McMaster Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Ochakwin Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Perry Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Punchaw Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
St. Mathew Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW
Starlane Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	LOW



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Playground Provision City of Prince George



Appendix G: Hard Surface Courts

A map of the hard surface court priorities is available in Appendix J.

Hard Surface Court Priorities - Basketball				
Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Seasonal Ice Rink	Priority
Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Upgrade		HIGH
Charella Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Hammond Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Harry Loder Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade		MED HIGH
Starlane Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Zimmaro Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Clearwood Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade		MED LOW
Gordon Bryant Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade		MED LOW
St. Mary Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED LOW
Strathcona Park	Community	Upgrade		MED LOW
Prudente Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade		LOW
Sinclair Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade		LOW

Hard Surface Court Priorities - Tennis				
Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Seasonal Ice Rink	Priority
Carrie Jane Gray Park	Athletic	Upgrade		HIGH
Blackburn Park	Community	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
College Heights Secondary School	School District	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Eaglenest Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Fairburn Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Lac des Bois Elem. School	School District	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Malaspina Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Peden Hill Elem. School	School District	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Perry Park/Van Bien School	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
Ridgeview Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED HIGH
North College Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED LOW
Quinson Elementary School	School District	Upgrade		MED LOW
Westwood Elementary	School District	Upgrade		MED LOW

Hard Surface Court Priorities - Tennis

Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Seasonal Ice Rink	Priority
Central Fort George School	School District	Upgrade		LOW
DP Todd Secondary School	School District	Upgrade		LOW
Harwin Elementary	School District	Upgrade		LOW
Kelly Road Secondary School	School District	Upgrade		LOW
S. Ft. George Family Res. Centre	Neighbourhood	Upgrade		LOW
Vanway Elementary School	School District	Upgrade		LOW

Hard Surface Court Priorities - Other

Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Seasonal Ice Rink	Priority
Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Community	New		MED LOW
Southridge Park	Neighbourhood	Upgrade	YES	MED LOW

Appendix H: Parkland Acquisition and Trail Priorities

This appendix includes a list of parkland acquisition priorities along with a map of both parkland acquisition and trail priorities. Trail priorities are not listed but are all considered a high priority for investment given the community demands and trends in recreation.

A map of the parkland acquisition and trail priorities is available in Appendix J.

Priorities for Parkland Acquisition				
Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Austin Road School	School District	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	Acquisition and development as a District Park
Cottonwood Island Park	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	Klein Pit Land acquisition at the confluence
Kode Pit Lands	Community	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	District park acquisition and development
Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	Develop a riverfront park and trail between Parkridge Creek and Cowart Road
Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	Acquisition and development of riverfront park north of Otway Ski Centre
Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	Riverfront park and trail acquisition and development east of Foothills Bridge
Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED HIGH	Acquire and develop riverfront lands north of Paddlewheel Park
Exhibition Park	Special Purpose	Parkland Acquisition	MED LOW	Acquisition to accommodate Exhibition Park expansion
LC Gunn Trail	Nature	Parkland Acquisition	MED LOW	Parkland acquisition for the existing LC Gunn Trail
Northwood Pulp Mill Rd.- wetland	Nature	Parkland Acquisition	MED LOW	Acquire and preserve wetland along Northwood Pulp Mill Road - McMillan Creek
Owl Lake	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED LOW	Natural park and trail acquisition and development
Riverfront Land	Nature	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED LOW	Riverfront park and trail development west of Foothills Blvd.
Valleyview Reserve	Green Space	Parkland Acquisition & Development	MED LOW	Natural park and trail acquisition and development
Croft Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood Park deficiency - includes acquisition and park development
Heather Road Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Wessner Hts. Neigh. Plan)

Priorities for Parkland Acquisition

Park, School, or Associated Land	Park Classification	New/Upgrade	Priority	Comments
Nordic Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Glenview Cres. Neigh. Plan)
Pine Centre Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Pine Centre Neigh. Plan)
Univ. Hts./Charella Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Univ. Hts. Neigh. Plan)
Valleyview/Seton Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood Park with future residential growth
Volunteer Park	Athletic	Parkland Acquisition	LOW	Parkland acquisition for the existing Volunteer Park
Westgate Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	Parkland Acquisition & Development	LOW	Neighbourhood park acquisition and development (Ospika S. Neigh. Plan)

Appendix I: Tools and Guidelines

A number of tools and guidelines have been identified to help advance the investment of park priorities. These tools and guidelines focus on various aspects related to parkland investment as follows:

- A. **Parkland Acquisition and Development Tools** such as legislation or sources of funding.
- B. **Parkland Acquisition Guidelines** that identify priorities for acquisitions, application of the 5% parkland dedication tool, and special considerations for natural areas, trails and well-established residential areas.
- C. **Parkland Design and Development Guidelines** with standards and design criteria to guide the development of parks.
- D. **Parkland Disbursement Guidelines** that help identify disbursement sites along with a policy and procedure to assist in the disbursement and allocation of funding for parks.
- E. **Partnership Guidelines** that outline a variety of partnership agreements.
- F. **New Park and Facility Proposals** to help prioritize new and emerging proposals with a decision-making framework.
- G. **Community Engagement Guidelines** to help inform, consult, and involve residents and stakeholders in projects or planning processes.



A. Parkland Acquisition and Development Tools

There are a number of tools that are available to help guide and fund the acquisition and development of parks and recreation infrastructure. Many of these tools provide essential funding to help leverage City budget sources and advance the investment in parks. The available tools for parkland acquisition and development include:

- provincial legislation that requires a 5% parkland dedication for new subdivision development and Development Cost Charges that are collected from new developments with funding applied to park development projects;
- land, labour, and materials that can be donated towards parks as well as monies in the form of third party grant funding, fees and charges, or corporate sponsorship;
- land use regulations for density-bonuses and phased development agreements that can increase the land base or amenities for parks; and,
- partnerships with larger organizations that can facilitate the transfer of land or advance project development.

The various parkland acquisition and development tools are outlined in the following table. The Local Government Act (LGA) or other legislative tools should be sourced directly as only a brief summary is provided below.

Acquisition and Development Tools			
Tool	Acquisition /Development	Description	Example
City Budgets	A or D	Capital budgets fund park acquisition or improvements. Operational budgets fund ongoing maintenance.	Most of the City's new or ongoing investment of parkland and infrastructure.
Conservation Covenant	n/a	Land Title Act Section 219 covenant that is registered on title to preserve and conserve land in its natural state.	Privately-owned lands that should be preserved and conserved as natural habitat or to protect scenic values.
Corporate Sponsorship	D	Corporate sponsorship of a park or recreation facility which can include naming rights for the sponsor.	Generally high profile or special interest facilities such as stadiums or bookable spaces.
Development Cost Charges (DCC)	A or D	LGA Sections 558 to 581 enable the City to collect fees from new residential development for park acquisition and new development.	Park investment associated with new growth areas and can include trails, recreation equipment, and a number of other park amenities.
Density-Bonus Transfer	A	LGA Section 482 enables the City to use zoning regulations to obtain park amenities through a density bonus.	Areas where there is a demand for a higher density and it conflicts with growth management goals.
Donation	A or D	In-kind donations of money, labour or equipment from organizations, groups or individuals for park improvements.	Park projects of interest to others or for smaller improvements such as site furniture or vegetation.

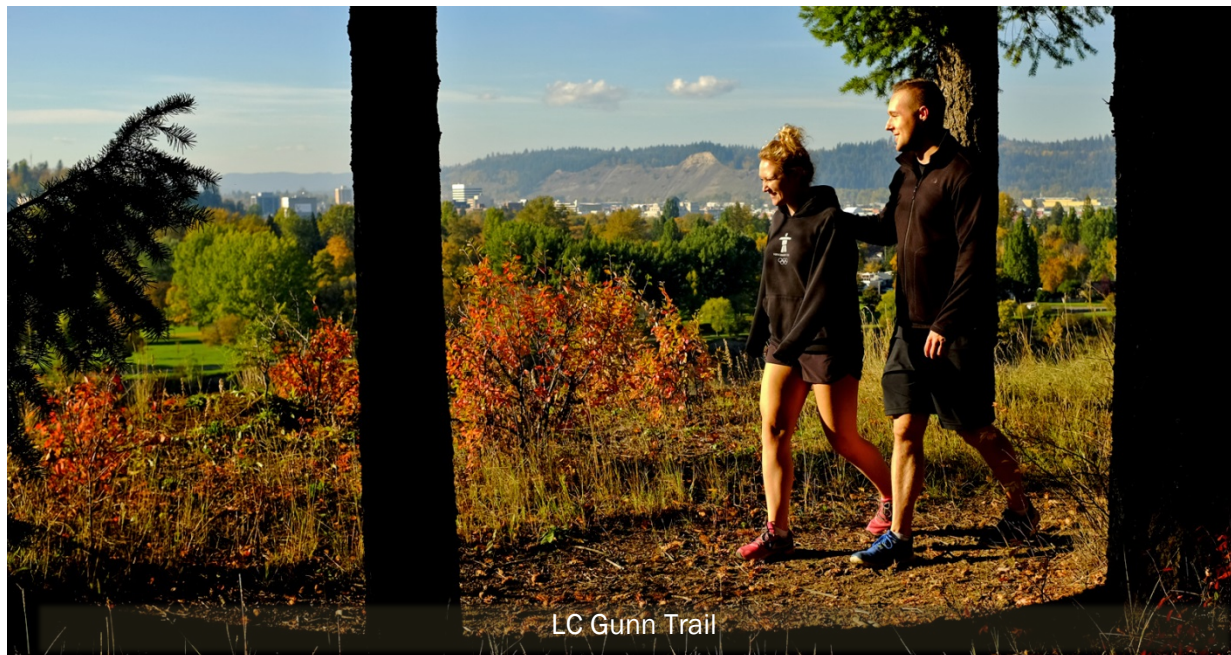
Acquisition and Development Tools			
Tool	Acquisition /Development	Description	Example
EcoGifts	A	Charitable donations of land such as Federal Ecogifts provide income tax benefits beyond regular benefits.	Ecogifts can be considered for ecologically sensitive lands.
Fees and Charges	A or D	Revenues from park user fees and charges that can be used for park maintenance and improvements.	User fees can apply to sports fields, park special events, picnic shelters and other bookable outdoor venues.
Grant Programs	A or D	Federal, provincial or other grant funding with specific requirements for project development or acquisition.	Specific projects or acquisition sites that fit the grant criteria and advance their program goals.
Land Transfer	A	Transfer of private or public land in exchange for City land.	Generally land transfers often with SD57 or the Province of BC.
Land Trust	A	Partnership with an organization such as Nature Trust to preserve or conserve land.	Natural areas of significant environmental value (e.g. Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve).
Lease/License	A	Lease or license of land for park or recreational use.	Usually occurs on Crown land with a third party organization for lands that the City does not outright purchase.
Parkland Dedication	A	LGA Section 510 requires developers of a subdivision to provide a minimum of 5% parkland dedication or equivalency as cash-in-lieu for parkland acquisition.	Applicable to new subdivisions of three (3) or more new lots and usually results in neighbourhood parkland acquisition.
Partnership	A or D	Partnership with a group or organization to acquire, develop, or maintain park or recreation facilities.	Includes various agreements for park investment and ongoing management such as sports fields.
Phased Dev. Agreement	D	LGA Sections 515 to 522 enable the City to obtain park amenities in exchange for zoning security	Areas where downzoning is a perceived risk to long-term project development.
Purchase	A	Fee simple purchase of lands for park.	Any potential parkland that is available for outright purchase.
Sponsored Crown Grant	A	Transfer of Crown land to the City at a low cost.	For Crown Land only and is only granted through Crown sponsorship (Crown ledger debit).
Zoning (Cluster/ Gross Density	A	Gross Density or Cluster Residential zoning provides potential parkland in exchange for higher densities.	For park acquisition beyond the 5% parkland dedication requirement with higher density residential development.

B. Parkland Acquisition Guidelines

Acquisition Priorities

Parkland acquisition would generally be directed by the priorities identified in Section 6.0 of this document, in addition to any new or emerging priorities. The higher priorities for parkland acquisition generally include those that would:

- provide riverfront park and trail access,
- alleviate deficiencies identified through parkland provisional standards,
- align with policy direction provided through neighbourhood, park or trail plans,
- protect and provide access to significant natural, scenic, cultural or heritage sites¹⁶,
- provide connectivity through trail linkages or adjacent complimentary land uses such as existing parks, open spaces and key destinations like school grounds,
- expand an existing park area that is adjacent to a new subdivision development,
- provide opportunities for shared use and the creation of multi-generational spaces, and
- those that arise through partnerships or other opportunities such as land sales to help advance parkland acquisition goals.



¹⁶ Heritage sites can include areas with regionally or locally distinctive landscapes, natural spaces associated with local culture, and environments that represent earlier developments, events or historical figures.

The acquisition of parkland requires a flexible and creative approach that considers the context, changing demands, and emerging opportunities. Parkland acquisitions would generally be aligned with policy direction established through adopted plans, which consider parkland provisional standards in addition to other potential opportunities that enrich the community, social, environmental, and cultural fabric. Each plan must be carefully reviewed to ensure that the policy direction reflects the current demands and available opportunities.

The application of parkland provisional standards provides guidance for acquisition which is best applied to new development areas. The application of these provisional standards must consider other existing park and open space opportunities such as major parks, schools, green spaces. New subdivisions that are adjacent to existing residential areas should be carefully reviewed to determine if strategic acquisition of lands are needed to help alleviate park deficiencies. There may also be opportunities for land-banking towards future park development given the lower cost of raw, un-serviced land that may become available.

Parkland Dedication (5%)

The 5% parkland dedication is a legislative requirement of the Local Government Act that requires developers of new residential subdivisions with more than three lots, to dedicate 5% of developable lands as park as cash-in-lieu. The 5% parkland dedication requirement is typically utilized for smaller park areas such as Neighbourhood Parks. The 5% parkland dedication is based on a gross area calculation of the subdivision which does not include greenbelt or riparian areas, significant slopes, or any other environmentally sensitive areas that are not intended for public access. The 5% parkland requirement could however include these lands as part of the overall land calculation and as part of the developer's contribution, if there is policy direction and a desire from the City to support the development of these lands as City Natural Park (e.g. trails, boardwalks, etc.).

The parkland dedication area is determined through discussions between the developer and the City, and must ultimately be to the satisfaction of the City. Careful consideration of the potential 5% dedication lands is required to ensure that the lands are aligned with the policy direction and do not further strain the limited capital and operational resource base. Lands that would not be considered for the 5% parkland dedication typically include hazardous or undevelopable lands such as the following:

- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Buffer areas
- Conservation areas
- Steep slopes, unstable soil, contaminated or fill sites
- Easements or right-of-ways
- Utility storm ponds or corridors

These lands would be considered as a bonus to the 5% parkland dedication and the City is under no obligation to assume ownership given as these lands can present a potential maintenance or liability concern.

The Local Government Act provides an acceptable alternative to the 5% parkland dedication requirement in the form of cash-in-lieu. The cash-in-lieu option is generally pursued when there is no policy direction in the City's adopted community, neighbourhood, park or trail plans to support the

proposed parkland. The cash-in-lieu must be held in a reserve that is used to fund future parkland acquisition. The calculated value for the cash-in-lieu amount should be equivalent to the 5% overall value of the entire subdivision (i.e. based on all values, high and low). The final cash-in-lieu value should be based on land that is zoned for the permitted use and should be determined by a qualified professional appraiser. Assessed values may however be used as a basis for negotiation between the City and the developer.

The 5% parkland dedication requirement often cannot be relied upon to fulfill much of the identified parkland deficiencies. Additional acquisition tools such as Development Cost Charges (DCCs) or outright purchase would need to be considered to help supplement the 5% parkland dedication.

Natural Areas

The preservation and acquisition of natural areas should be pursued on an opportunity basis in order to connect residents to natural areas throughout the community. These natural areas may include:

- Riparian areas such as buffers, wetlands, and streams,
- Large contiguous habitat areas,
- Sites with functioning ecological systems,
- Wildlife habitat such as nesting areas or winter ungulate habitat, and
- Natural areas that expand existing parks or open spaces.



The higher priorities for natural area acquisition or preservation include those with environmental significance or conserve watershed health such as habitats that are under-protected or under-represented, areas with intact functioning habitats or in strategic locations. Natural areas may be acquired for preservation such as groundwater protection areas or for ecological functions. These and other natural areas may be developed and maintained as park destinations with amenities such as trails and picnic areas. All other natural areas would be classified as green spaces that may be used informally but are not developed or maintained for public use. Natural areas are typically higher in abundance in areas with more development constraints such as river flood plain areas or significant slopes.

The acquisition of natural areas must weigh the inherent management and liability concerns associated with ownership along with the ability of these lands to provide public good. The preservation of natural areas could also be realized through other conservation methods that may not require acquisition. The preservation of natural areas should be pursued for areas where outright acquisition is not feasible in order to maintain ecological functions. Developed parkland can also be naturalized to reduce the reliance on maintenance resources and to provide enhanced habitat value in addition to increased public access to natural areas.

Connectivity and Trails

The acquisition of parkland should include available opportunities to expand existing parks and open space areas, connect parkland with utility corridors and trail systems, enhance multiple-use and connect to the active transportation network. The adopted trail and active transportation plans provide policy direction for trail connectivity within linear parks that provide opportunities to maintain ecological functions as well as buffers from adjacent land uses.



Centennial Trail - 30km loop

Established Areas/High Density Urban

Many of the City's well-established areas have a lower quantity of parkland when measured against the park provisional standards and opportunities to acquire and develop additional parkland within established areas may be impractical or not feasible given the extent of urban development and rising land values. Creative solutions should be explored such as partnerships with other public land agencies (e.g. SD57) or opportunities to increase the quality, function and accessibility of the existing higher priority parks to help alleviate this deficiency. Other open space areas such as school sites and green space areas could also be considered for new or improved developments.

An increase in the quality of park experiences is particularly important in neighbourhoods where densification and infill development is occurring and placing further pressure on existing parks. This increase in quality could include amenities such as new or upgraded trails, playgrounds, and active recreation facilities to support the use of these parks as multi-generational destinations within neighbourhoods. Many functioning and closed school sites are in demand for outdoor recreation and should be considered for acquisition or facility development to advance residents' needs for passive and active recreation within neighbourhood destinations.

C. Parkland Design and Development Guidelines

The priorities for new development would generally be directed by those identified in Section 6.0 of this document. The prioritization of any new or emerging projects can be evaluated through the Parks Decision-Making Framework included later in this section.

Park Classification Standards

The following table provides provisional standards and guidelines for the six (6) park classifications to assist in the acquisition, design, development, and operations of these park spaces.

Park Classification Standards						
Criteria	Major	Athletic	Nature	Downtown	Community	Neighbourhood
Purpose	A premier city-wide destination with multiple amenities	Athletic facilities accommodating sports groups and major tournaments	Significant natural areas with amenities like waterfront access	Downtown parks and plazas for events and community gathering	A destination park for a community area with multiple activities	Serves neighbourhood residents with some recreation amenities
Provision	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	1.0 Ha /1,000 residents	1.2 Ha/1,000 residents
Size	Varies	Varies, but optimally 30 Ha	Varies	Varies – small planting area to plaza	8 Ha optimum including 5 Ha usable land	1 Ha preferred 2 Ha optimum
Location	Central to the City as a whole	Central to the City as a whole	Significant riparian and natural habitat	Downtown, high visibility areas, major entrances	Central to a community area	Central to a neighbourhood
Adjacency	Residential or institutional uses; waterfront	Open spaces, institutional uses	Waterfront areas, escarpments, institutional uses	Civic buildings, institutional or commercial uses	Residential or institutional uses	Residential or institutional uses
Road Frontage	Min. two sides; local, arterial or collector route	Min. two sides; arterial or collector route	Min. 25-50 metre frontage	Min. one side; downtown routes	Min. two sides; local or collector route	Min. two sides; local or collector route
Transit	On a bus route	On a bus route	Varies	Near bus route	On a bus route	Varies
Typical Amenities	Playground, picnic shelter, other recreation facilities, trail, floral display, public art, heritage feature, viewpoints	Sports field, ball diamond, track and field, hard surface court, clubhouse, grandstands, trail, picnic area	Trail, picnic shelter, dock, boardwalks, viewpoints, interpretive signage, outhouse	Urban site furnishings, floral display, public art, heritage feature	Sports field, ball diamond, hard surface court, playground, trail, dog park, picnic area, floral displays	Playground, hard surface court, trails, picnic area
Trails	Multi-Use	Multi-Use	Local/Rustic	Multi-Use	Multi-Use	Multi-Use/Local
Parking	Large paved parking area plus on-street parking	Large paved parking area	Granular parking at trail entrance	On-street parking	Medium to small paved parking area plus on-street parking	On-street parking
Lighting	Trail and recreation facility lighting	Trail, recreation facility and security lighting	No	Trail lighting	Trail and recreation facility lighting	Trail lighting
Washroom	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

Park Design and Development Criteria

The design and development of parks and open spaces should align with a variety of standards, policies, and principles to make parks attractive, safe, and enjoyable for all residents, as well as sustainable over the long-term. The following checklist provides criteria to help ensure that these targets are met. The design and development criterion builds upon the park principles in Section 2.0 of this document as they relate to lifestyle, environmental stewardship, quality and community.

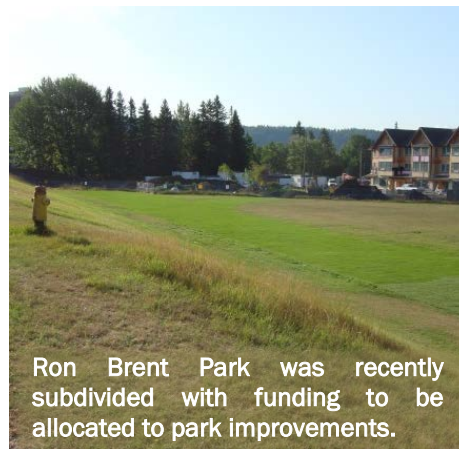
Lifestyle	
Healthy and Active	Are there opportunities to advance healthy and active lifestyles?
Active transportation	Are there pedestrian, cycling, and transit linkages to connect users to, from and through the park?
Universal design	Do the access routes, buildings, and other infrastructure accommodate the various accessibility challenges of users?
Location and context	Is the location central and adjacent to compatible land uses such as green spaces, schools, and institutional uses?
Safety/Security	Is the space safe, welcoming, and aligned with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles?
Environmental Stewardship	
Nature Access	Is there access to a variety of natural habitats?
Interpretation	Are there opportunities to accommodate interpretation of natural systems?
Vegetation	Does the vegetation support ecological habitats and provide multi-season interest?
Waterfront/Ecological significance	Are there waterfront areas or other ecologically significant habitat areas?
Quality	
Attractive Spaces/Design	Is the space designed and configured in a comfortable and visually pleasing manner?
Shape and Size	Is the size, configuration, topography, and street frontage adequate to support the use?
Contemporary facilities	Do the facilities meet the current demands for active or passive recreation?

Protection from elements	Does the layout and facilities provide shelter from inclement weather?
Seasonal Use	Does the design, layout, and vegetation make the space attractive and usable throughout the seasons?
Infrastructure Conditions	Is the infrastructure maintained and in good condition?
Levels of Service	Are resources available to support the ongoing operations and maintenance?
Life Cycle replacement	Will resources be available to upgrade or replace facilities towards the end of their life cycle?
Coordination	Are there opportunities to coordinate the development with other concurrent projects such as infrastructure or utility projects?
Community	
Multiple use	Are there passive and active activities for all ages and ability levels?
Adaptability/Flexibility	Is there flexibility or adaptability for a variety of uses or throughout the seasons?
Gathering Spaces	Are there attractive and comfortable gathering spaces?
Utilities	Are utilities available to support the role and function of the park?
Heritage/culture	Are there heritage or cultural elements to protect and promote within the park?
Legibility	Is the ownership and use of the park clearly identified?
Community Involvement	Is there an opportunity for community involvement in the development, operations, and ongoing stewardship of the park?

D. Parkland Disbursement Guidelines

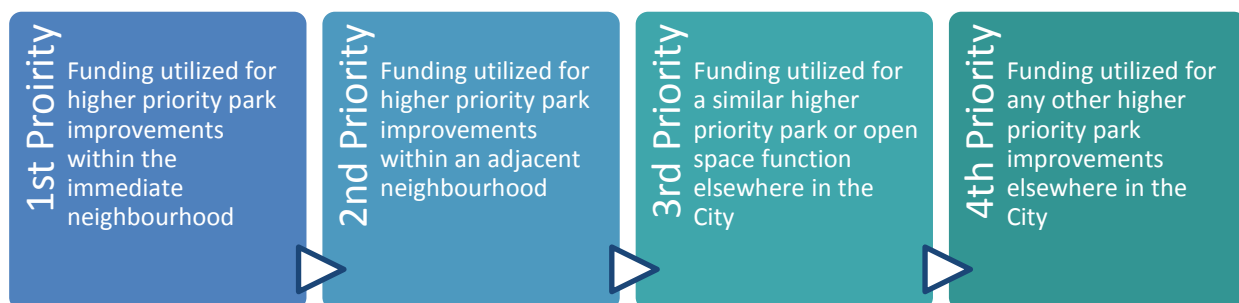
Over the years the City has accumulated a number of park and open space areas that may no longer be serving an essential park function, or have remained undeveloped, have a limited capacity for recreation or ecosystem habit, have a very limited capacity to provide recreation opportunities. Meanwhile these spaces require park and open operational and capital resources that could be made available for higher priority parks or facility development.

The determination of whether a parcel should be retained or disbursed should consider various factors. Lower priority park sites may be determined as surplus subsequent to an evaluation which considers their ability to contribute to the park and open space system, protect and enhance natural habitat, and provide recreational opportunities. **Sites that meet the following criteria should be retained** in order to provide a range of recreational opportunities and accommodate future park development as needs arise and as funding is made available:



- meets the park classification standards and guidelines;
- serves future neighbourhood or population growth where development potential exists;
- contributes to neighbourhood linkages through park and trail systems;
- protects a significant natural environmental feature or habitat function;
- protects heritage sites such as regional or locally distinctive landscapes; and,
- provides waterfront access.

The 2008 Parks and Open Space Master Plan recommended the adoption of a Parkland Disbursement Policy to ensure that full funding generated from the sale of parkland would be held in a Parkland Revenue Fund and returned directly into parkland development or acquisition priorities. The allocation of funding would follow this priority system:



The Parkland Disbursement Policy would also incorporate a process with community consultation, a formal rezoning with a public hearing, land sale and funding allocation.

E. Partnership Guidelines

Park service delivery can be expanded through partnerships that create synergies and build upon each partner's resource base. The Shared Use Agreement between the School District 57 and City of Prince George creates efficiencies through the shared community and school use of each other's recreation facilities. Partnerships with non-profit organizations can also provide access to funding sources that are unavailable to municipalities, along with volunteer labour, expertise, commitment, and an ability to gather community support. Overall, successful partnerships are the result of:

- an ongoing commitment and support from the affected organizations;
- a framework to work within;
- available resources;
- clear roles, and responsibilities; and,
- open and regular communication.



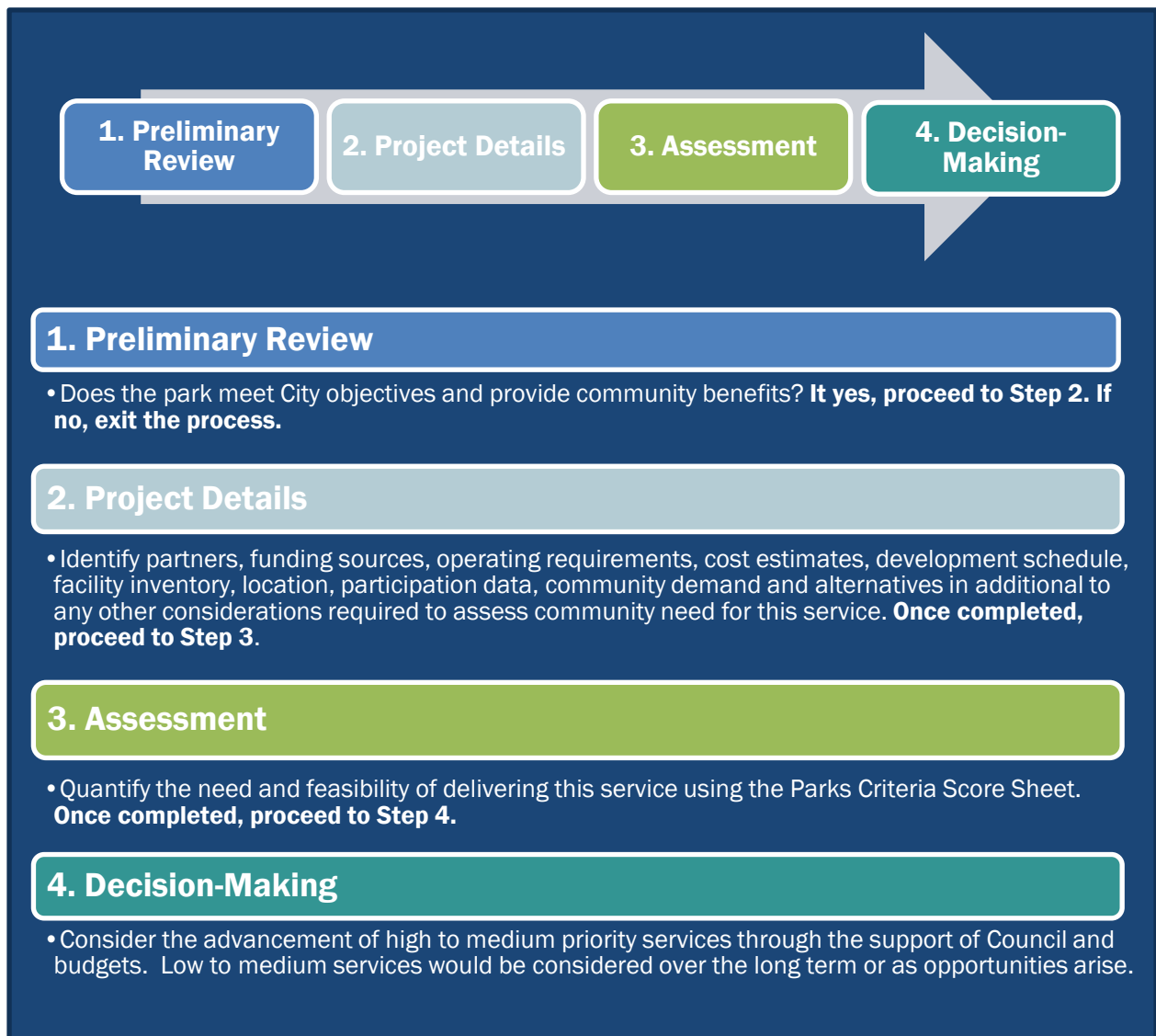
Partnerships can evolve through the development or ongoing maintenance of park investments. These partnerships require agreements that identify roles and responsibilities for each party. There are a number of agreements that can provide a framework to support partnerships with third party organizations as follows:

- A **Memorandum of Understanding** can be used for any partnership agreement amongst two (2) or more parties where roles and responsibilities are defined for a transfer of lands, services or other similar arrangement.
- **Maintenance Agreements** are required when a third party organization is involved in the development and maintenance of infrastructure or amenities on City lands, thereby requiring clearly defined maintenance roles, responsibilities, resource allocation, and liabilities amongst the various parties.
- **Service Agreements** allow organizations the ability to manage facilities on City land in support of their organizations.
- **Stewardship Agreements** are suitable for conservation groups or service agencies with a strong volunteer base and desire for stewardship of parks and open spaces.

F. New Park and Facility Proposals

Parks Decision-Making Framework (DMF)

The prioritization of new and emerging park proposals requires a thorough assessment in order to determine how it is aligned with community demands and service delivery. This objective can be achieved through the use of a Parks Decision-Making Framework (DMF) that provides a methodology to prioritize the City's investment in parks. The Park DMF includes an evaluation of park proposals using a four-step process as follows:



The Parks DMF incorporates the use of a scoring system to evaluate park proposals and determine its potential feasibility and benefit to the community. This scoring system incorporates parks criteria that consider the park principles listed in Appendix A of this document, along with community demands, trends, and policy direction. Other considerations such as facility conditions, efficiencies, and partnerships are included to determine the feasibility of meeting these needs. The following chart provides a description of the Parks Criteria Score Sheet along with the associated scoring value that would apply if the criteria are met.

Parks Criteria Score Sheet

Recreation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Description	Scoring Value
Socio-Demographic Trends	Seniors	The population of seniors is growing and generally have more leisure time	None = 0 1 criteria = 1 2 criteria = 2 3 criteria = 3
	Youth	The population of youth in PG is larger than the provincial average despite a decline locally in recent years	
	Inclusivity & Accessibility	The financial gap is growing along with the population of visible minorities and people with special needs	
Recreation Trends	Participation	Physical Activity – The need for increased physical activity is growing given sedentary lifestyles and restrictions of time	None = 0 Yes (at least one of the following) = 1
		Unstructured Activity – Rates of unstructured activities are growing and meet a variety of community needs	
		Organized Sport – Many youth and adult organized sports are declining	
		Sport Growth – There is a growing need for non-traditional activities and some organized sport	
		Social Interaction – The need for social interaction and community building is growing	
		Public Safety – There is a growing need to provide safe and comfortable facilities and environments	
	Multiple-Use	Multiple Generations/Groups – The need to accommodate family, inter-generational or multiple-use is growing	None = 0 Yes = 1
		Infrastructure – Flexible, multi-use infrastructure is growing in need and achieves efficiencies	
	Connection to Parks/nature	Parks & Riverfront – Parks and riverfront access are growing in importance for outdoor recreation	None = 0 Yes = 1
		Nature Deficit – There is a growing need to connect people with nature through green spaces, stewardship and education	
Community Demand	The extent that the community has identified the service		None = 0 Low = 1 Medium = 2 High = 3
Service Gap	There is a community need due to high use or limited capacity		
Conditions/Functionality	There is a conditional or functional need in order to meet service requirements. Conditions/function indicate a need to make it usable, i.e. replacement = 3		
Cost Efficiency	The service uses capital and operational resources efficiency. The biggest bang for your buck.		
Partnerships/Alternatives	There are community partnerships or alternative funding sources.		

G. Community Engagement Guidelines

The City of Prince George is committed to meaningful public engagement and transparency to ensure that community demands are understood and projects are successful.

Community Engagement is comprised of one or more strategies to inform, consult and involve residents and stakeholders. Each strategy has a specific goal and a set of methodologies as follows:



Strategy 1: Inform

Provide appropriate information on governance and decision making mechanisms, services, events, projects and any associated issues with methodology that can include:

- Understanding of how the community prefers to receive information
- Provision of up-to-date information
- Use of media
- In-house publications
- Online information – website, email lists, social networks, open data

Strategy 2: Consult

Capture community input on strategic plans, directions, issues, priorities and projects with methodologies that can include:

- Community conversations
- Surveys or questionnaires
- Focus groups
- Interviews
- Consultative workshops
- Online feedback – active listening, blogs, forums and other participatory sites

Strategy 3: Involve

Work on an ongoing basis with the community to ensure that community ideas, concerns and aspirations are listened to and understood. Methodologies can include:

- Consultative or working groups
- User groups or liaison groups
- Volunteer groups
- Online involvement – Wikis, open data, blogs, social networks etc.

Appendix J: Maps

List of Maps:

City-Wide Parks

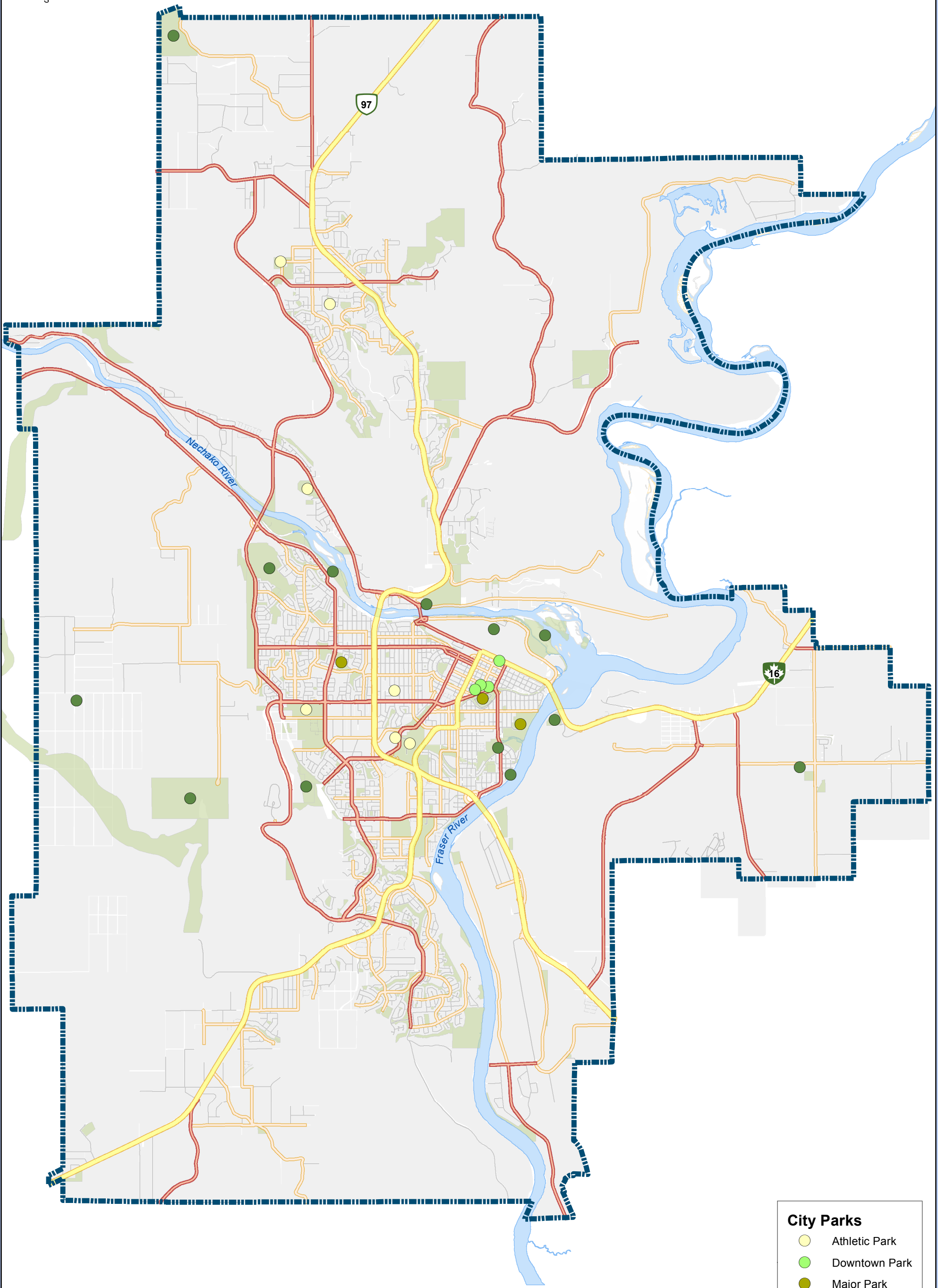
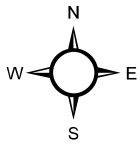
Community Parks

Neighbourhood Parks

Playground Priorities

Hard Surface Court Priorities

Parkland Acquisition and Trail Priorities



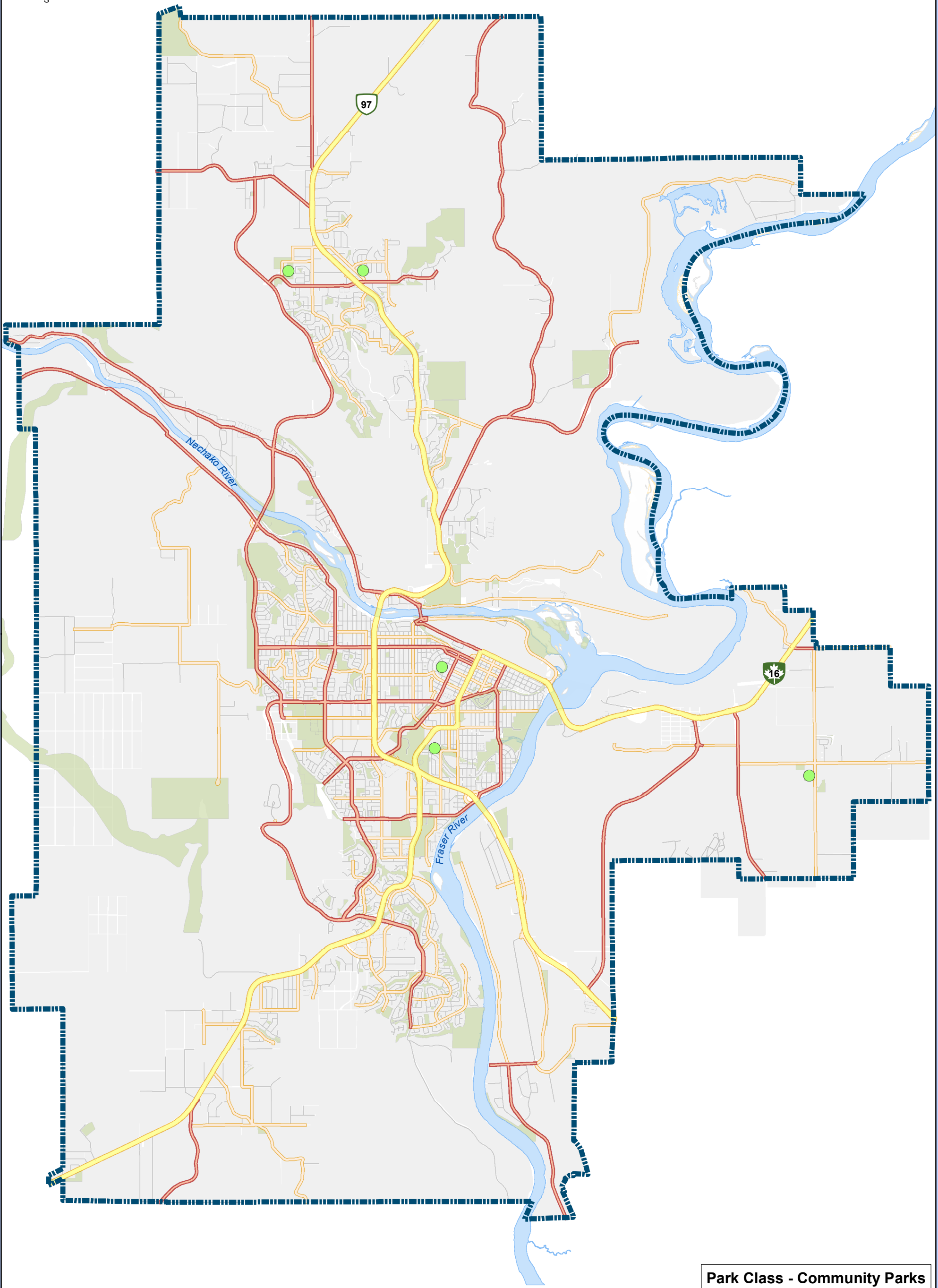
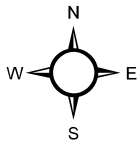
City Parks

- Athletic Park
- Downtown Park
- Major Park
- Nature Park

500 0 500 1,000 Meters
Scale: 1:75000

City of Prince George
City-Wide Parks





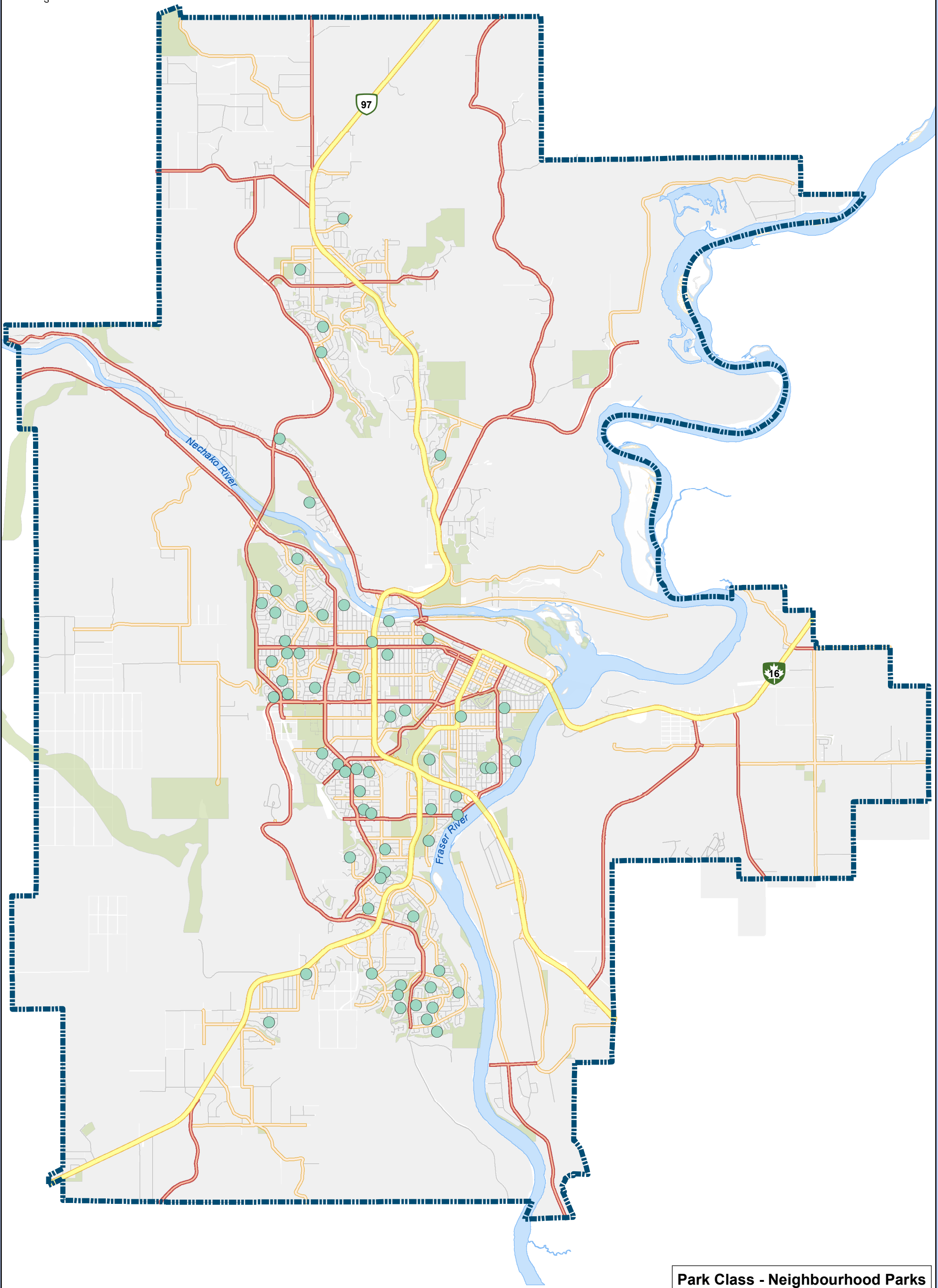
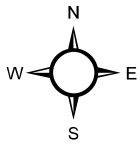
Park Class - Community Parks



500 0 500 1,000 Meters
Coordinate System: NAD 83 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
1:75000

City of Prince George
Community Parks





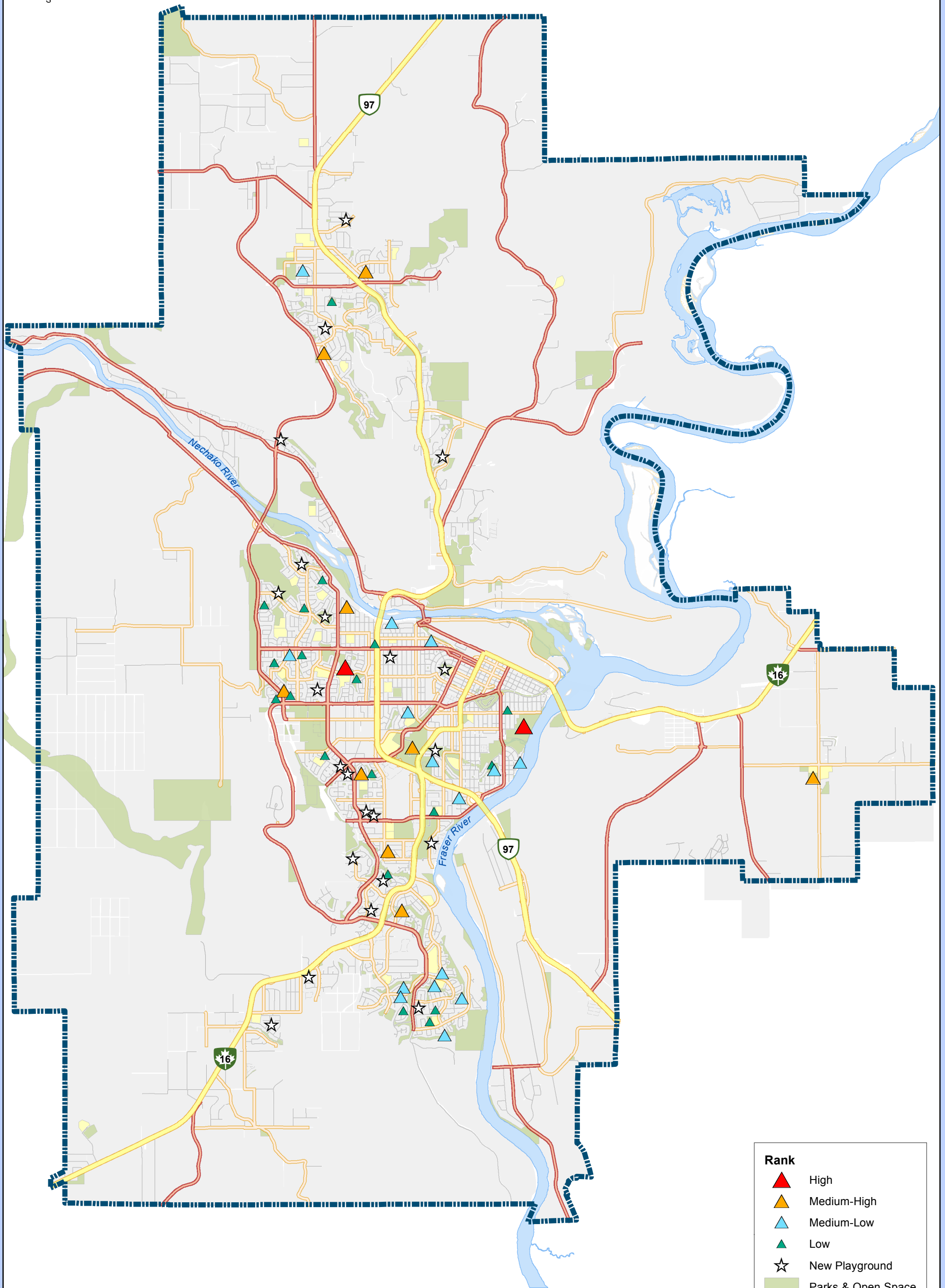
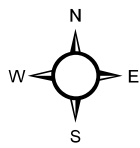
Park Class - Neighbourhood Parks

●

500 0 500 1,000 Meters
Coordinate System: NAD 83 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
1:75000








City of Prince George
Neighbourhood Parks





Note:
This map identifies future investment priorities for City playgrounds only and does not include school playgrounds. Those labelled as 'New Playgrounds' are more recent additions that do not require additional investment.

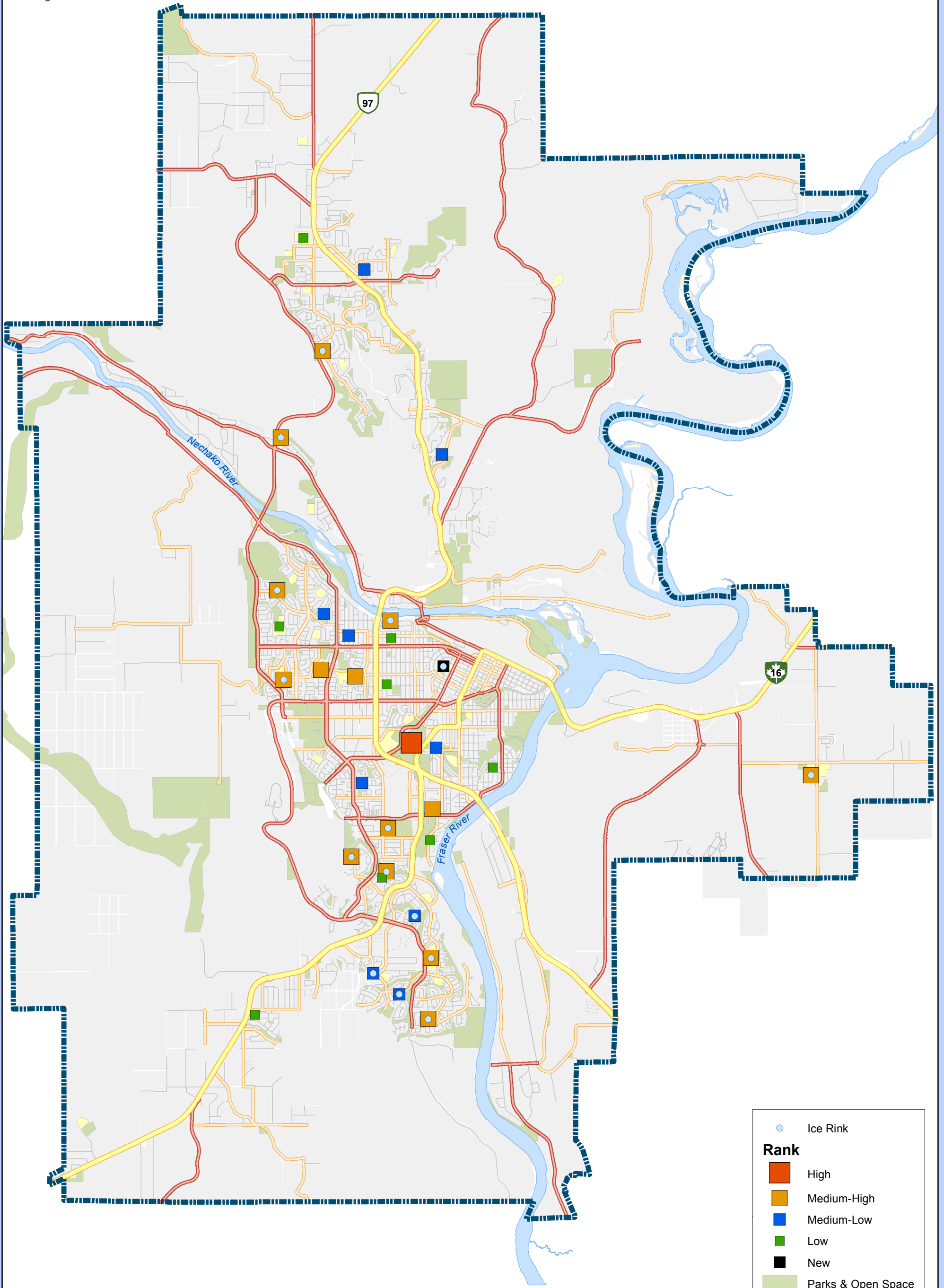
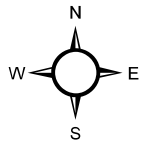
Rank






-  High
-  Medium-High
-  Medium-Low
-  Low
-  New Playground
-  Parks & Open Space
-  School

500 0 500 1,000 Meters
Scale bar showing 0, 500, and 1,000 meters.
1:75000

City of Prince George Playground Priorities



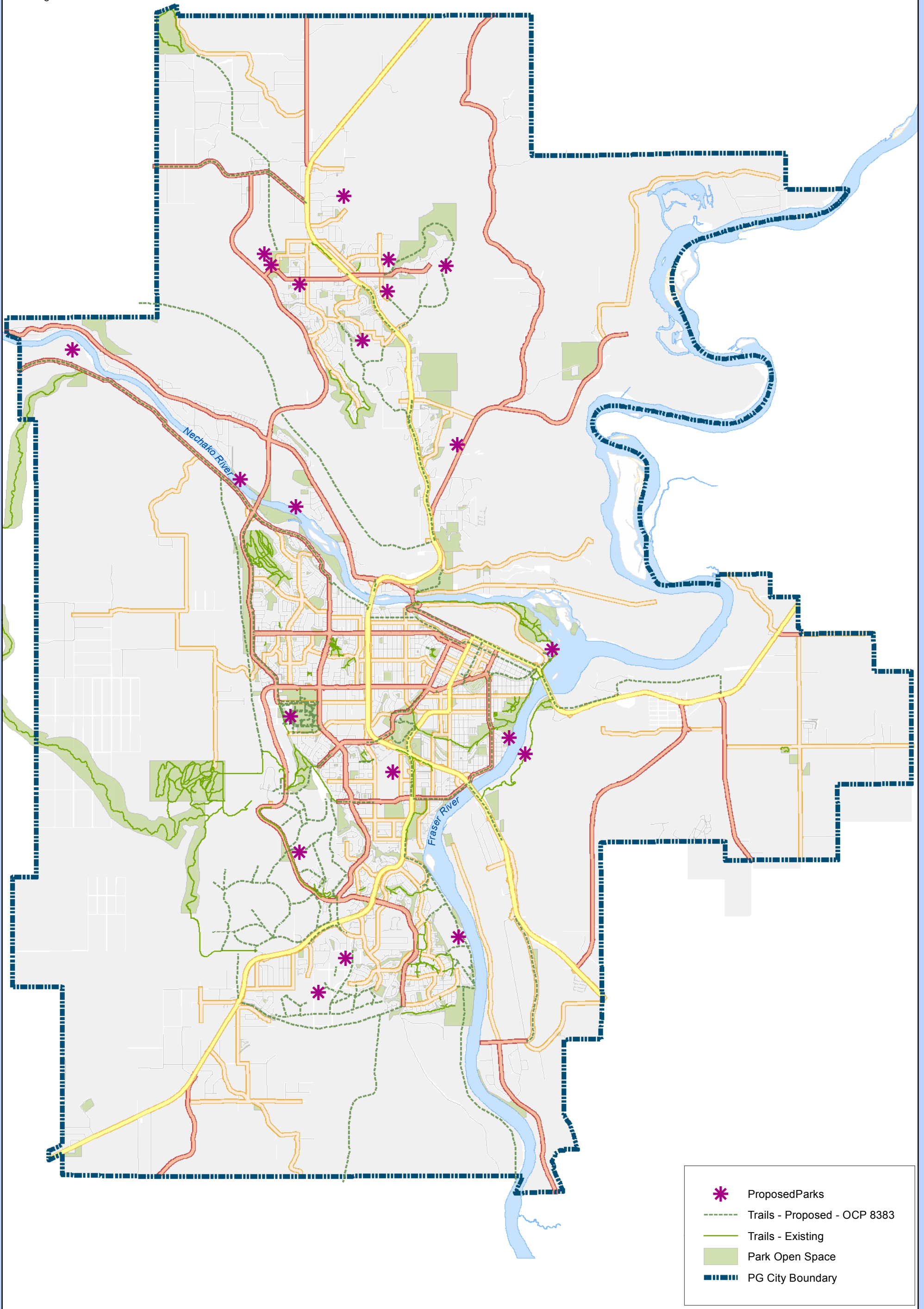
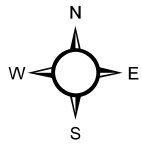







-  Ice Rink
- Rank**
-  High
-  Medium-High
-  Medium-Low
-  Low
-  New
-  Parks & Open Space
-  School

500 0 500 1,000 Meters
Scale: 1:75000

City of Prince George
Hard Surface Court Priorities





-  Proposed Parks
-  Trails - Proposed - OCP 8383
-  Trails - Existing
-  Park Open Space
-  PG City Boundary

500 0 500 1,000
Meters
Scale: 1:75000

City of Prince George Park Acquisition & Trails



