

Make a Place for People

PATERSON PARK, THUNDER BAY





Make a Place for People

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8-80 Cities is a non-profit organization based in Toronto, Canada. We are dedicated to contributing to the transformation of cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transit, and visit vibrant parks and public places.

Our approach is to engage communities at all levels and across multiple sectors to inspire the creation of cities that are easily accessible, safe, and enjoyable for everyone. We have working experience in urban areas across Canada, the United States, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Why 8-80?

We are convinced that if everything we did in our public spaces was great for everyone from 8 years old to 80 years old, we would end up with healthy and vibrant communities for all.



1 Think of a child you love



2 Think of an older adult you care about



3 Would you send them out together for a walk or ride to the park?

✓ If you would, it's safe enough.

✗ If you wouldn't, it needs to be improved.



OUR PARTNERS



This project is partially funded by the Ontario Government's Healthy Communities Fund.

The Make a Place for People Project

Make a Place for People is a project based on the idea that community participation is key to the creation of vibrant and healthy public spaces.

The overall goal of the project is to inject new life into currently under-performing public spaces in order to encourage physical activity and promote mental health, while also contributing to creating more sustainable and people-friendly communities.

CITIES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES



How to use this report

By working closely with local partners in identifying community stakeholders, 8-80 Cities has endeavored to tap into the imagination of the diverse people who use or would like to use the space. This document is the culmination of those efforts.

The recommendations and visualizations are a representation of what we heard from the various stakeholders we engaged.

We see this report as a tool for community members, elected officials, and public sector staff alike to generate action and to help sustain community participation in the space.

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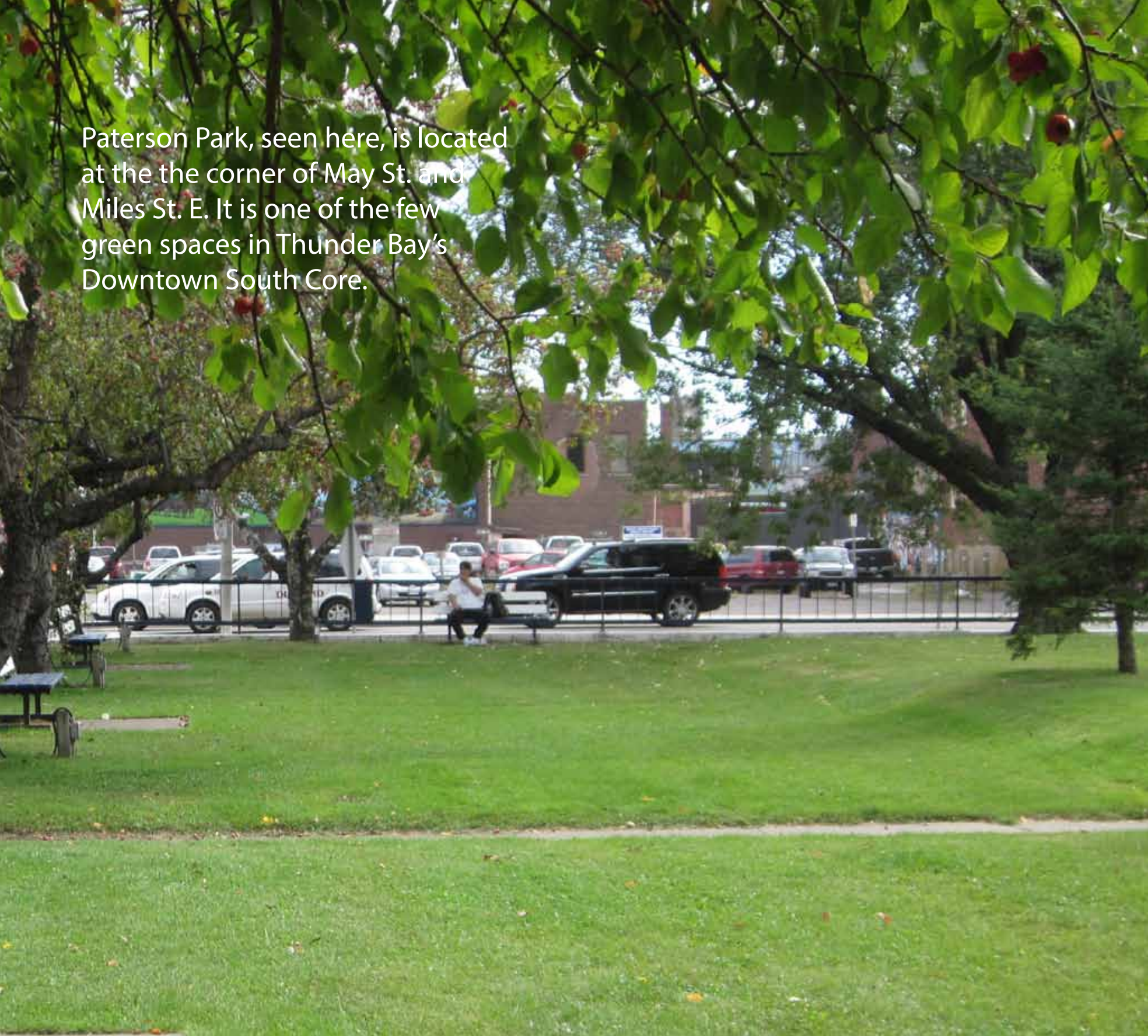
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1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides a description of the Make a Place for People project methodology, as well as an overview of Paterson Park.



Paterson Park, seen here, is located at the the corner of May St. and Miles St. E. It is one of the few green spaces in Thunder Bay's Downtown South Core.



What is the Make a Place for People Project?

We know that parks and public spaces play an vital role in our communities; they create nodes where people meet, relax, and play. But many parks and public spaces in Ontario are underperforming, with very few uses and activities, and lack funding, management, and community participation.

The goal of the Make a Place for People project is to educate and empower communities across the province with the tools to transform underperforming parks and public spaces into vibrant and active destinations that promote social interaction, mental health, and well being for all.

Our Goal is to develop vibrant public spaces that encourage physical activity and promote mental health while contributing to more sustainable and people-friendly communities.



Thorncliffe Park, Toronto



Washington Sq., NYC



Guadalajara, Mexico

Our Partners: The City of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay, Ontario, is located on the northern shore of Lake Superior, and with a population of 108,359 has become northwest Ontario's regional service and cultural centre. Thunder Bay was incorporated as a city in 1970, when the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur, as well as the adjacent townships of Neebing and McIntyre, were amalgamated.

Paterson Park, located in the city's South Core (formerly Fort William), was selected for 8-80 Cities' Make a Place for People project.



Paterson Park, Thunder Bay



"My overall impression of the area was that it was extremely busy and will be more busy once the court house opens up. We have a very exciting opportunity to change the culture of the park with the new court house opening."

Paterson Park, Thunder Bay

Paterson Park Overview

Paterson Park is currently very underused, with many city residents viewing the park as “undesirable”. Its use is passive in nature, with few programmed activities taking place. The exception to this is that the Victoria Avenue Business Improvement Association has been purchasing, installing and maintaining a holiday lights display for the last 17 years. The park is slightly rectangular in shape and approximately 64 x 55 metres in size, or about 0.34 ha. It is designated as a Community Park by the City of Thunder Bay.

The focal point of the park is a monument with a 12 x 12 metre water pool and fountain that operates seasonally. The majority of the site consists of maintained turf terraces leading up to the central fountain. Four axial concrete walkways bisect the site into four equal quadrants. The park is lined with mature deciduous canopy trees on three sides, and has a painted metal and concrete fence separating the park from the street on all four sides. Currently the amenities for users include benches, litter containers, and site lighting.

Paterson Park - Surrounded by Roads

May Street North forms the eastern border of the park and is four lanes with high traffic volumes, as it is a major north/south artery connecting two downtown cores. It has been identified as an “Image Route” by the City, and would receive extra resources when scheduled for redesign. There is a general sense that people walk and drive past the park on May Street without even noticing it. The May/Leith street intersection has no traffic calming or pedestrian infrastructure. The May/Miles intersection has high traffic volumes and is a full signalized intersection.



“I feel like the park is closed off by the fence and that the locations of the openings are detrimental to entering the park.”

Voices from the
Community



PATERSON PARK

Strengths

RARE GREEN SPACE

Paterson Park is one of the only easily accessible public green spaces located in Thunder Bay's Downtown South Core.



CENTRAL LOCATION

The park has an excellent location. It's a short walk from many Thunder Bay services (City Hall, the Library, the new court house, other government services) and a large residential population.



CONNECTION TO THE PAST

Many people have positive memories of Paterson Park's heyday, when it featured lovely landscaping and flowers, and played host to weekly bagpipers.



ATTACHMENT TO THE PARK

Lots of community members feel truly passionately about improving Paterson Park. The energy of these local champions needs to be harnessed and used to create a better future for Paterson Park.



Weaknesses

SHOWING WEAR & TEAR

The park infrastructure is in bad shape. Much of the infrastructure (benches, garbage bins, fence, fountain) is either outdated or in need of repair and/or maintenance.



UNDERUSED

Considering its prime location, and the lack of green space in the area, the park is seriously underused. It is not uncommon to see no one using the park during the day.



BAD REPUTATION

Unfortunately, there is no other way to put it—Paterson Park has a bad reputation. Currently, people see the park as unsafe, unattractive, and a place where people hang out and drink alcohol.



UNDERPROGRAMMED

Other than the Victoriaville BIA's tree lighting ceremony, there are almost no consistent events, activities, or programs available at Paterson Park.



DIFFICULT TO ACCESS

Surrounded by wide roads and an unwelcoming fence, Paterson Park is difficult to access. The roads and design of the park inhibit people from using it.



"You can't even get into the park using a wheelchair."

"A huge number of people walk by the park, but no one stops by."



Community members and frequent park users were asked to share 'a wish' for Paterson Park on fabric flags. What were their wishes? A children's play area, art that reflects the identity of the community, neighbours involved in gardening, and more activities for families.



The 'My Wish for Paterson Park' banner was hung on the park's fence to be read by passersby and inspire people to re-imagine Paterson Park.

The Make a Place for People process aims to tap into the imagination of the diverse people who use a public space in order to create a vision and cultivate a culture of community participation.

The process involves 3 phases:

1. Participatory Planning

Working with the local project partner to identify stakeholders to be involved in the project and develop a strategy for engagement.





2. Site Assessment and Community Engagement

Assessments of the existing site including both "hardware" (physical infrastructure) and "software" (uses, activities, and management). Community engagement with diverse stakeholders through a variety of activities such as workshops, focus groups, interviews, and on-site conversations.

3. Vision Development and Action Planning

Data collection and analysis to inform the creation of the Make a Place for People report. Reporting and action planning synthesizes the data collected into a user-friendly format that reflects the community's vision of the space.

Paterson Park Project Time Line - 2012

1 Planning		2 Site Assessment & Community Engagement			3 Vision & Action Plan	
AUG		SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identification of community stakeholders.- Site research, photo documentation, and context assessment.- Volunteer training and site assessment.- Development of schedule and coordination of events logistics for first on-site visit.- Outreach and promotion of events and activities for first on-site visit.- Development of content and materials for community engagement		<p>1st On-Site Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continuation of site assessment and photo documentation.- Various community engagement sessions.- Collection of data from community engagement sessions.- Public forum with presentation by 8-80 Cities.- Debrief of first on-site visit and planning for 2nd on-site visit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analysis of data and documentation of initial findings.- Development of schedule and coordination of logistics for 2nd on-site visit.- Outreach and promotion of events and activities for 2nd on-site visit.- Development of content and materials for second on-site community engagement sessions based on 1st on-site visit.	<p>2nd On-Site Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Various community engagement sessions.- Media engagement.- Review of findings from previous on-site sessions and site assessment.- Collection of data from community engagement sessions.- Public workshop.- Debrief of 2nd on-site visit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analysis of data and document findings from community engagement and site assessments.- Develop initial vision and recommendations for the site.- Draft report issued to local partner.- Feedback incorporated into final report.- Launch of final report.	
						
<p>Paterson Park selected as project site by 8-80 Cities through project application process.</p>		<p>Sept. 8th: Community members share their ideas about how to improve Paterson Park on a sunny Saturday afternoon at Riverfest.</p>		<p>Nov. 21st: Winter site visit and photo documentation with 8-80 Cities and The City of Thunder Bay.</p>		<p>Data analysis and report development</p> <p>639 ideas collected </p>
						
<p>The 8-80 Cities team discusses the project at Paterson Park.</p>		<p>Sept. 6th: During a public forum, father and daughter use reference photos to imagine what Paterson Park could be in the future.</p>		<p>Nov. 24th: Tea time and community engagement with seniors at the apartment building overlooking Paterson Park.</p>		<p>The 8-80 Cities team brainstorms ideas for the project report.</p>

2. PLACES FOR PEOPLE

This section includes international research, evidence, and tools to support improving parks and public spaces in Ontario.

We hope that the people of Thunder Bay and beyond will be inspired to use this report to help “make the case” for improving parks, squares, and streets so that we can create healthier, happier, and more sustainable neighbourhoods across the province.





GREAT PLACES HEALTHY COMMUNITIES HAPPY PEOPLE, VIBRANT CITIES

Parks and public spaces define our greatest cities and shape our most vibrant communities. Imagine Ottawa without the Rideau Canal, Montreal without the cobblestone streets of the Old Port, Toronto without the St. Lawrence Market, or Vancouver without the seawall at Stanley Park.

Putting the public back in public space

Public spaces are our community's most valuable assets, and they belong to all of us. We have a right and a responsibility to be involved in decisions related to their use, management, and design. But in many cases the public has been left out of this decision-making process, and we've stopped asking to be involved.

Our experience shows that the best parks and public spaces have a high level of community involvement, foster a sense of stewardship and ownership, and are sensitive to the changing needs and desires of the community they serve.

1. The idea for NYC's renowned Highline Park was originally conceived by two community members who objected to the destruction of the elevated rail bed where the park now stands.
2. While not technically a park, Guadalajara's weekly open streets program "Via Recreativa" was spearheaded by three successful business leaders that are now known as the NGO "Guadalajara 20/20". Every week the program sees more than 300,000 people use the city streets to bike, run, walk, and play.
3. Dufferin Grove Park in Toronto is one of the city's unique and most successful public spaces, thanks to the ongoing coordination and partnership between the "Friends of Dufferin Grove" and the City of Toronto.





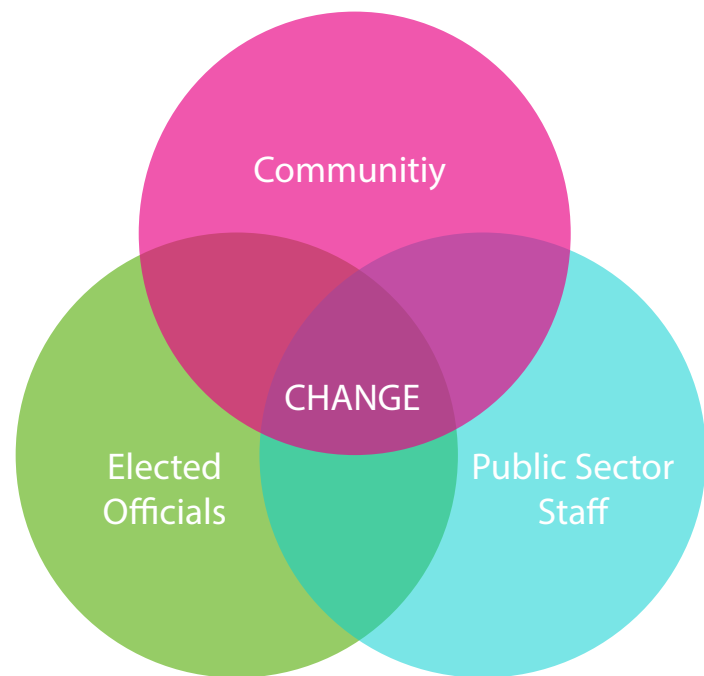
TAPPING THE COLLECTIVE BRAIN

Engaging people in decisions related to their parks and public spaces is what 8-80 Cities strives to do. We never cease to be impressed by the creativity, knowledge, and know-how community members possess about their communities. The great diversity of people and perspectives in any community is its greatest resource. Finding creative ways to “tap the collective brain” is the first step in creating public places that are people-focused, and people-friendly.

By understanding what the community wants and needs, decision makers can work together to offer appropriate programming, infrastructure, and design.

THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL

The most effective management of parks and public spaces involves what we call “the three-legged stool”—a balanced combination of elected officials, public sector staff, and the local community (including residents, businesses, non-profit organizations and community groups).



8-80 Cities works to bridge the gap between these actors to facilitate a process of meaningful and successful change. We use reports like this one to articulate the community’s vision and work with decision makers to develop strategies for implementation.

FOCUS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE

Often it's the people who have the most to gain from parks and public spaces that are the most removed from the decision-making process. Children, older adults, newcomers, and people of low-income often need to be given special attention in the engagement process.

While they may not be the loudest voices in the room, their opinions and ideas are no less valuable. We need to move beyond the idea that an evening public meeting hosted at the local city hall is sufficient public consultation – we need to be more creative!

HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY?

Use social media to connect with people in their living rooms.

Get kids to draw a picture of what they would like to do in their park.

Talk one-on-one with older adults about what they need in the park.

Meet with a small group of newcomers and find out what they think makes a successful place.

Use cameras to help youth show you what they like and don't like in the park.

Host an idea sharing session in a park. Free food always draws a crowd!



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN PATERSON PARK



Making the Case for Parks

Too often our parks and public spaces are undervalued by decision makers and community members alike, and this is reflected in the state of many parks and public spaces across Ontario.

Did you know that, according to a recent report by Parks and Recreation Ontario about the state of recreational facilities in Ontario, more than 50% of public recreation facilities in municipalities of all sizes are more than 50 years old? The vast majority of community recreation and sports facilities were built between 1956 and 1980, during a time when there was dedicated funding for municipal sport and recreation facilities.* This is indicative of the general state of parks and recreation services in Ontario – we have lost sight of the important role these public facilities play in our communities, and they seem to be sliding farther down the political priorities list year after year.

We need to talk about how great places do more than just provide a nice place to spend a sunny afternoon; they play a vital role in the health of our economy, environment, society, our bodies, and our minds.

ACCORDING TO A STUDY CONDUCTED BY PARKS AND RECREATION ONTARIO IN 2009, 67% OF ONTARIANS WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY MORE FOR IMPROVED LOCAL SERVICES.

*Parks and Recreation Ontario. Investing in Healthy and Active Ontarians through Recreation and Parks Infrastructure



Breakwater Park, Kingston



Berczy Park, Toronto



Flemingdon Park, Toronto

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2007, a study conducted in Philadelphia, where there are more than 100 “friends of parks” groups estimated that the total value of volunteer hours donated to parks in the city was \$8, 600,000.***

According to American Forests, trees in Atlanta remove 19 million pounds of pollutants annually, a service worth \$47 million.**

In Fort Worth, Texas, crime dropped by 28% within a 1.6km radius of community centres with a midnight basketball program. During the same period, in areas around five other community centres where the programs were not offered, crime rose an average of 39% during the same period.****

New York City’s Highline Park is predicted to bring \$4 billion in private investment and \$900 million in revenues to the city over the next 30 years. *

* The New York Times. *Taking a Stroll Along the Highline*. November 28, 2008

** The Trust for Public Land. *The Health Benefits of Parks*

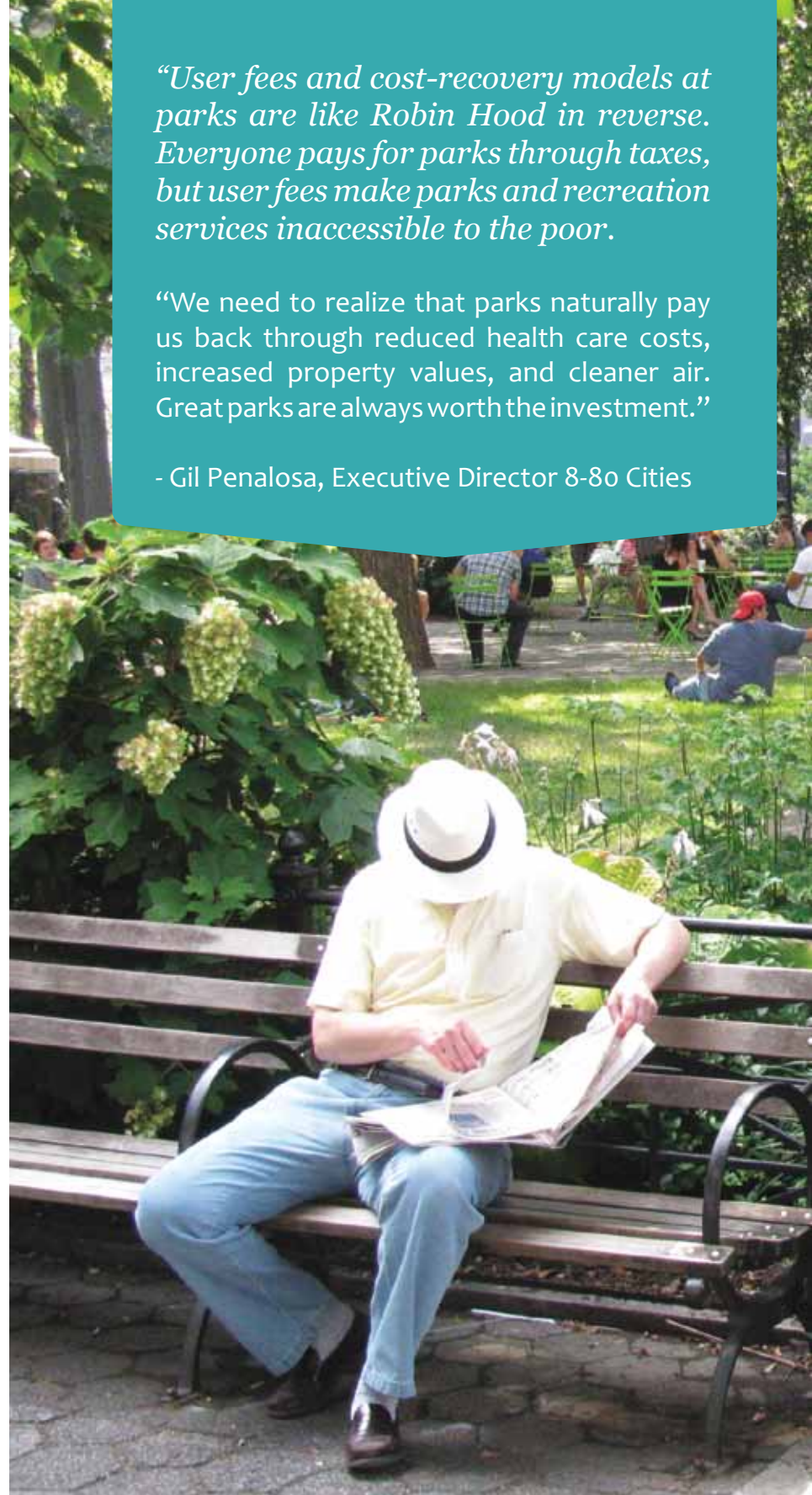
***The Trust for Public Land. *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System*

**** The Trust for Public Land. *The Benefits of Parks*

“User fees and cost-recovery models at parks are like Robin Hood in reverse. Everyone pays for parks through taxes, but user fees make parks and recreation services inaccessible to the poor.”

“We need to realize that parks naturally pay us back through reduced health care costs, increased property values, and cleaner air. Great parks are always worth the investment.”

- Gil Penalosa, Executive Director 8-80 Cities



Active Places, Healthy People

According to the 2012 Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services known as the Drummond Report, Ontario's health care system needs to be dramatically reformed.

Health care is the Ontario government's single biggest spending program. In 2010-11, the province spent \$44.77 billion on health. This is equivalent to 40.3% of its total spending on programs, and health care costs are only projected to increase in the future.* Nevertheless, even with massive investment in health care, Ontarians are only getting sicker. We are more overweight, less active, and more susceptible to chronic disease than ever before.*

It is also important to note that, as a nation, we don't seem to be spending our health care dollars very wisely. According to the Fraser Institute, Canada spends more on health care than any other industrialized country in the OECD save Iceland and Switzerland, but ranks seventeenth in the percentage of total life expectancy that will be lived in full health. It is clear we need a new approach to creating healthy communities that focuses on keeping people healthy, rather than fixing them after they are sick.

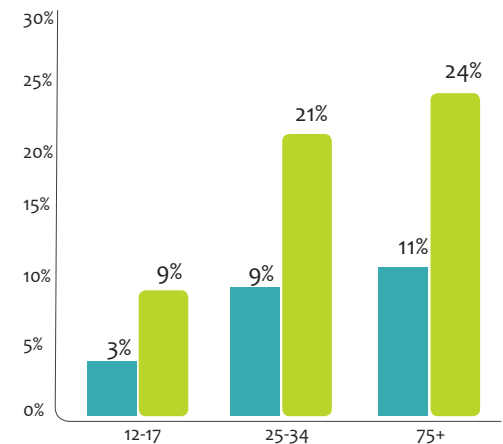


Bogota, Columbia

**"HEALTH IS
MUCH MORE
THAN PATCHING
UP PEOPLE ONCE
SOMETHING HAS
GONE WRONG."**

- The Drummond Report

Canadian Obesity Rates on the Rise



According to Statistics Canada, obesity rates have increased dramatically in the past 25 years. The chart above represents results from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), which directly measured the height and weight of respondents.**

* Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, 2012
 ** Statistics Canada. The Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2009

PARKS PRESCRIPTIONS PROVIDE EXERCISE AND REDUCE STRESS!



Improvements in neighbourhood design, combined with health promotion and programming, are gaining traction internationally among health professionals and patients alike. In the U.S., health care providers have begun to partner with parks and are issuing “park prescriptions” to get people walking, biking, hiking, and swimming in nature more often. These prescriptions are also combined with incentive programs that include lower user-fees, fitness classes, and guided walking tours.

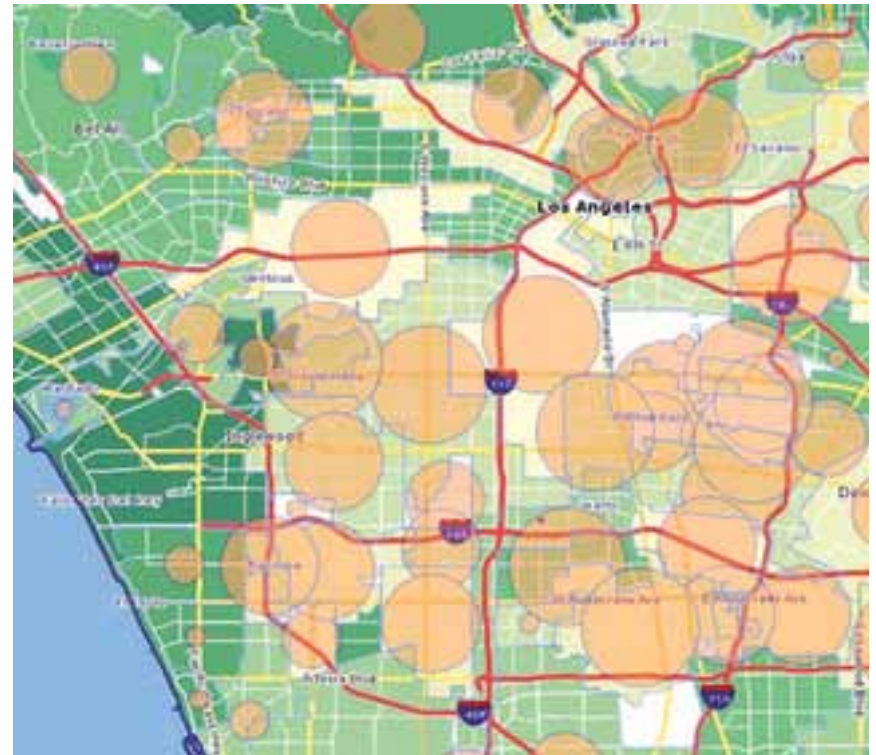
The value of parks and a quality public realm for exercise is conclusive. Good quality public spaces encourage people to make short journeys on foot or by bike; they also encourage participation in physical activity and help to reduce stress.* A study by the UK organization CABI also showed that improving the quality of neighbourhood green spaces will encourage more active use and exercise. Overall, the study found that if parks were made more pleasant, people would use them more.*

Despite their extensive value, parks are often the first item on the chopping block when budget time comes. Short-sighted, siloed planning has relegated parks to a “nice to have” feature of communities rather than a “must have” element of any healthy and sustainable community.

*CABI, *Using Community Green Spaces to Tackle Inequality and Improve Health*

**The Economist. *Mapping a Better World*, 2009

LOS ANGELES
STUDY: AREAS
WITH FEWER
PARKS (LIGHTER
GREEN) HAVE
HIGHER RATES
OF CHILDHOOD
OBESITY (LARGER
CIRCLES)**

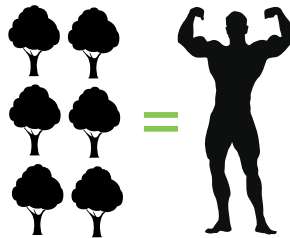


ACTIVE PLACES, HEALTHY PEOPLE FACT SHEET



ELDERLY AND YOUTH

in large cities seem to benefit more from the presence of green areas in their living environment than any other group.*



“Health inequalities” refers to the general trend that people living in poorer areas are more likely to be unhealthy, and die earlier. Researchers found that living near parks, woodland, or other open spaces helps to reduce health inequalities.**

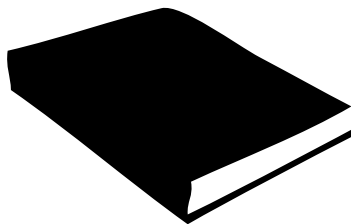


Children with Attention Deficit Disorder can concentrate better than usual after taking part in activities in a green setting, such as walking or playing in a park.***

Research shows that residents of neighbourhoods with greenery in common spaces are more likely to enjoy stronger social ties than those who live surrounded by barren concrete.***



A study in Japan showed that seniors living in cities with access to walkable green spaces live longer regardless of socioeconomic status.*



Studies show that when people can’t access parks, they often go without exercise. This is especially true of low-income people, who often can’t afford gym memberships.***

* CABE, *Using Community Green Spaces to Tackle Inequality and Improve Health*

** Mitchel & Popham, *The Lancet. Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities: an observational population study*

*** The Trust for Public Land. *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System*

"HAVE DOCTORS
ADDRESS DIET
AND EXERCISE
ISSUES BEFORE
REACHING FOR
THE PRESCRIPTION
PAD WHEN
DEALING WITH
HEALTH ISSUES
SUCH AS
CARDIOVASCULAR
DISEASE AND
LATE-ONSET TYPE
2 DIABETES."

- A RECOMMENDATION FROM
THE DRUMMOND REPORT



3. SITE ASSESSMENT

This section includes a summary of the results of the site assessment for Paterson Park.

www.8-8ocities.org > Resources > 8-8o Tools > Community Reports





Paterson Park, Thunder Bay

Results Overview

Collecting information about how public spaces are used is critical to their improvement. Understanding who is using the space and, often, more importantly, who's not using the space, helps to shed light on what improvements need to be made. Data helps to build the case for investments, and creates a "baseline" of information from which you can measure your success.

Paterson Park Site Observations

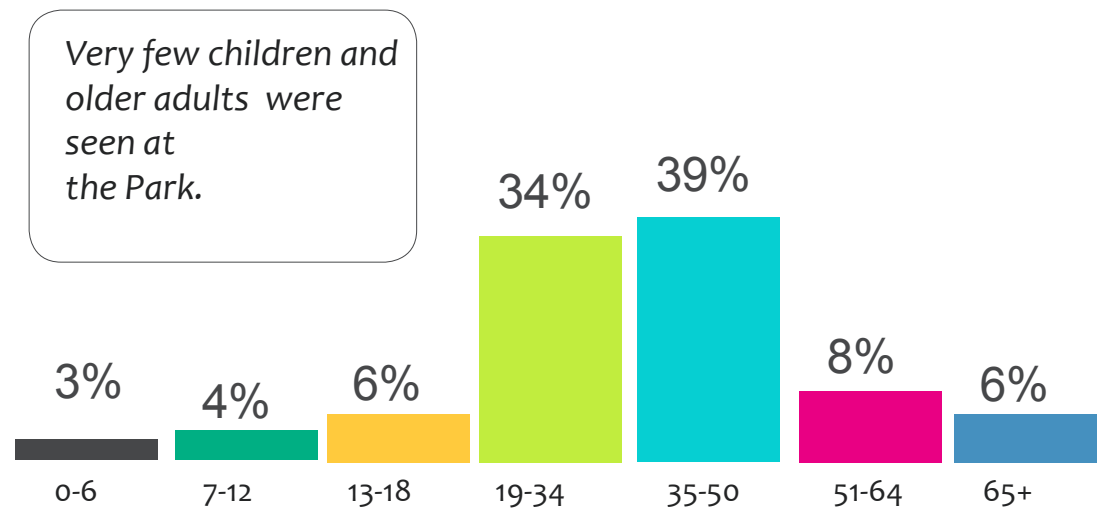
With the help of community volunteers, site observations were conducted in and around Paterson Park, and more than 850 users were recorded. A simple social observation chart (which is available in the Toolbox section of this report) was used to record who uses the square, how they use it, and when.

Users

During the site assessments, 8-80 Cities estimated the age of users in and around Paterson Park*. Compared with demographic data from Thunder Bay, the most underrepresented user groups were children and youth under 18yrs, and people over the age of 50.

While people over 50yrs make up approximately 40%** of the population in Thunder Bay, they represent less than 14% of users at Paterson Park. Children and youth represent almost 20%** of the population in Thunder Bay, yet only compose 13% of the users at Paterson Park.

THE LACK OF OLDER ADULTS, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN AT PATERSON PARK IS EVIDENCE THAT IT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED.



Number of Users Observed in the park

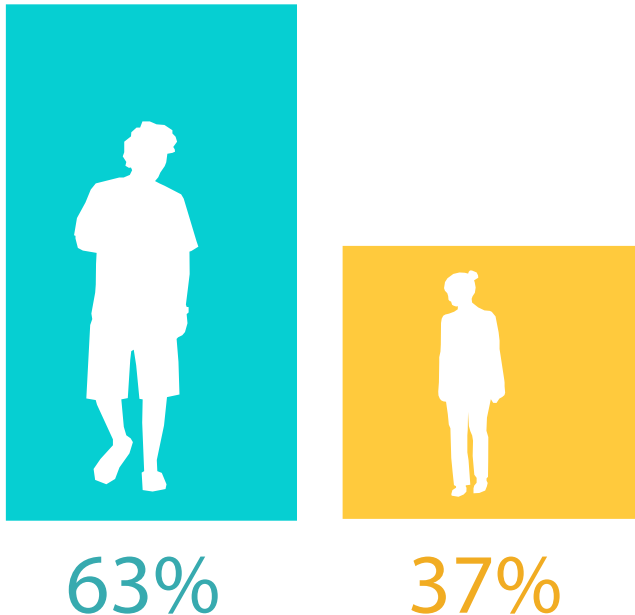
* For the purpose of the assessment, 'in and around Paterson Park' included Paterson Park and the sidewalks directly adjacent to the park.

** Census Profile 2011, Statistics Canada

Women are an “indicator species”

When it comes to assessing public spaces, women are an excellent indicator of how well a place is working. Women tend to be more discriminating and have a lower level of tolerance for spaces that are disorderly, dirty, or unsafe.

At Paterson Park we observed a significantly disproportionate number of men, which is a cause for concern. It provides evidence to support the perception that the park is viewed as unsafe and unwelcoming. Continued monitoring of the age and gender user share is an important tool for measuring the success of a space and any future changes that should be made to the site.



Average percent of men and women in and around Paterson Park (579 people observed)

Did you know...

In NYC's Bryant Park, staff takes a daily count of users of the park. If they observe less than 50% females, they take action. Some strategies used to attract women include offering immaculate public washrooms, with fresh-cut flowers, yoga classes, and knitting classes.



Bryant Park, NYC

What are people doing inside the park?

8-80 Cities and dedicated local volunteers observed over 20 hours of park activity in both the summer and winter. The overwhelming results of the findings indicated that the park is extremely underused, and very little healthy activity takes place in the park.



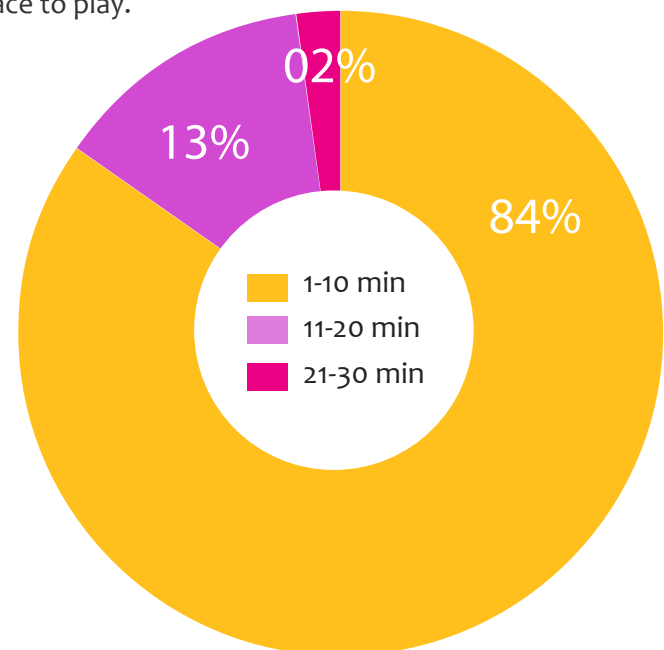
Too few seating possibilities

31% of the staying activity that takes place in Paterson Park is sitting. The park needs to offer a greater variety of seating options such as moveable tables and chairs, group-seating, child-friendly seating, and secondary seating.

“A GOOD PUBLIC SPACE IS LIKE A GOOD PARTY, YOU STAY LONGER THAN YOU INTENDED TO.”
 - JAN GEHL

Time spent in the Park

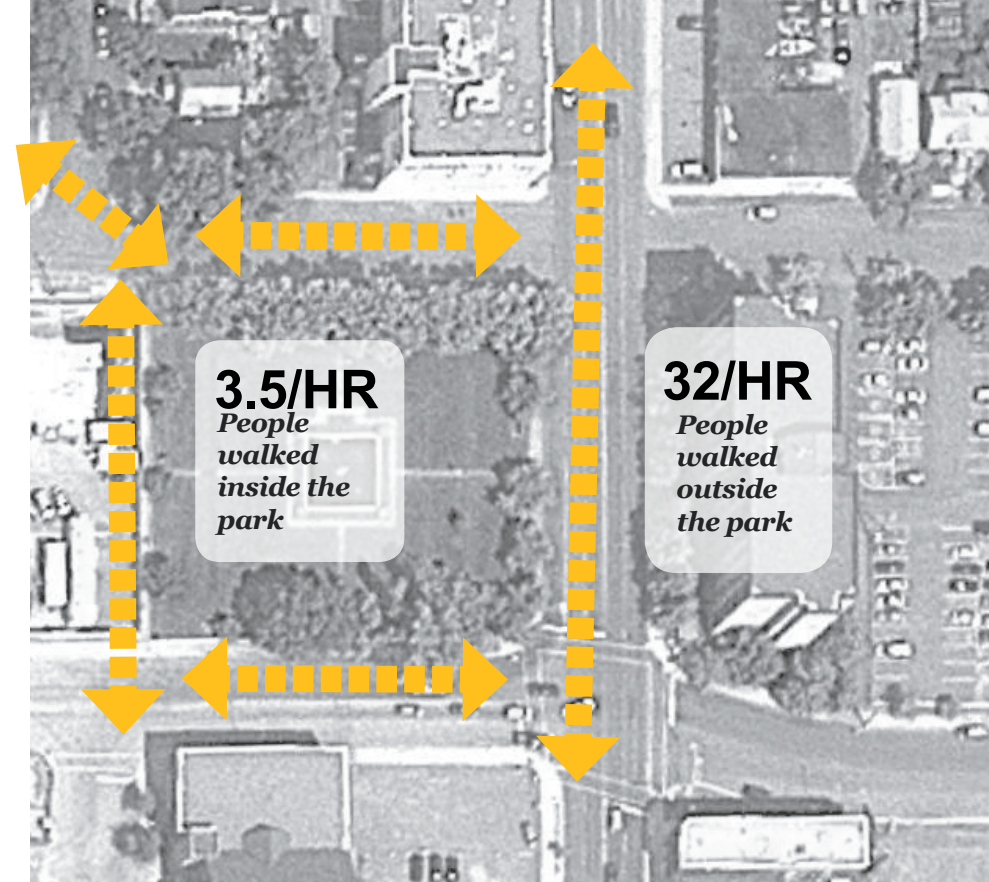
A great public space is somewhere that people want stay and linger. At the park, over 84% of visitors stayed less than 10 minutes. People would be encouraged to stay longer if there were more things to do, such as events or activities to participate in, public art to admire, music to listen to, or a place to play.



THE PARK PEOPLE WALK BY

One of the significant findings of the site assessment was the fact that most people simply walk by Paterson Park. While other parks act as hubs of activity that attract passerby into the space, Paterson Park seems to act almost as a deterrent -- as if people purposefully avoid going through it.

There are many factors that contribute to this, including the inconvenient layout of the pathways and fountain, the fence that circles the entire periphery of the park and only has four entrances, and the fact that many people perceive the park as unwelcoming and unsafe.



Pedestrian traffic outside versus inside the park

The diagram above is an example of how pedestrian traffic tends to flow around the park, rather than through the park. Because of the fence and lack of access, the park is physically and mentally cut off from the surrounding neighbourhood.



WHAT'S WORKING? WHAT'S NOT?

8-8o Cities conducted site assessments and worked with community members to identify what's working in the park and what's not. Overall, there are a few small features that 'work' but the space as a whole functions poorly.

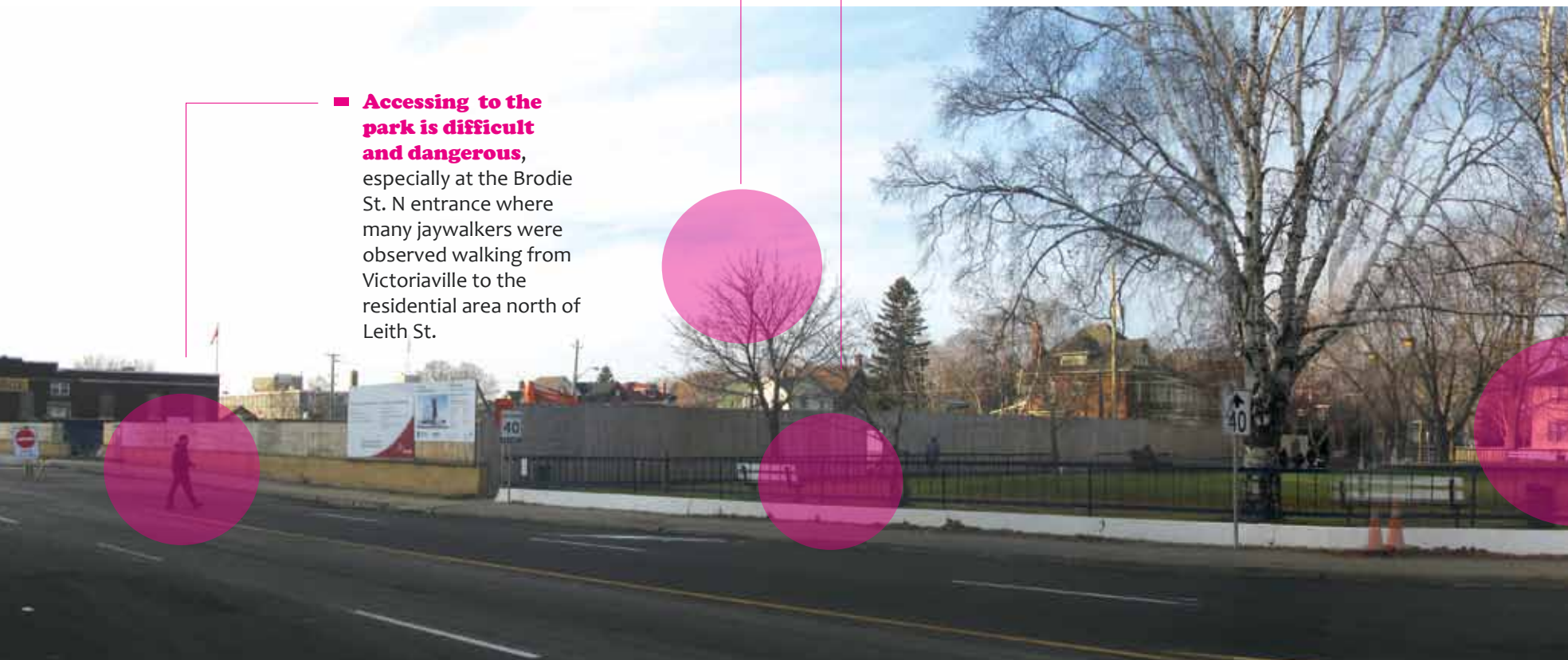
- NOT WORKING
+ WORKS

+ As one of the few green spaces in the downtown south core, **people cherish** the trees, flowers, and grass in Paterson Park.

■ Even when the **fountain** is working, it takes up a huge amount of space in the small park and cuts off the flow of people walking through the park. Many people also expressed concerns about the safety of the fountain, which is more than a metre in depth.

■ There are very **few seating** possibilities at Paterson Park. The benches that are available are in poor condition and impractical locations.

■ **Accessing to the park is difficult and dangerous**, especially at the Brodie St. N entrance where many jaywalkers were observed walking from Victoriaville to the residential area north of Leith St.



■ The **infrastructure and amenities**, such as litter bins, the fence, benches and fountain, are **outdated** and in poor repair. This sends the message that the park is uncared for and not important.

■ A few unattractive lamp posts provide very little light in the park and do nothing to enhance the ambiance in the evening.

■ Due to steps at the entrances and along pathways, as well as the terraced design, **the park is completely inaccessible** to people with mobility devices and strollers.

+ At holiday time the Victoriaville **BIA decorates the park** and hosts an annual tree lighting ceremony. Community members recognized this event as a highlight of Paterson Park!

+ The **location of the park is excellent**. It is convenient for families and office workers, and the apartment building access the street provides excellent 'eyes on the street'.

■ **The fence** is one of the most significant barriers to people using the park. With only four inconvenient entrance points, many people hop the fence or avoid going through the park completely.



4. RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Basket ball court
Play ground
Skateing rink
Brandon

We
Love
you's

Basketball
court. Kyle

-Pic-Nic
Table
-Splash Pad
Rose

My wish ...
ONCE A WEEK
HAVE KIDS PLAY
DAY. MUST HAVE
ICE CREAM TRUCK
THERE.

-Community
Board
~~Gate~~ Mural
"ROSE"

Ave MORE
FUN + GAMES
for children.

•GRAFFITI WALL
FOR COMMUNITY
•NICE STONE FIRE
PIT / BBQ with someone
to keep an eye on it.
DAVID

- COMFY SEATING - a
ROUND BENCH TO CUDDLE
ON!

Restore
the
fountain...

-Schedule
For activities

CHILDREN
PLAY GROUND
CHILDREN
PLAY - MAZE

-More Flowers
-Playground
"Potsy"

-More
Security

9 MOVIE
NIGHT!

Tear down old
fountain + make a
new more shallow
safer one. ♥

make
Ti
w
Dayle

It's time to raise expectations

At 8-80 Cities, we couldn't tell you the number of times we've heard the phrase "we're worried about raising expectations". And, our response usually is "well, that's the whole idea". If we continue to have low expectations for our parks and public spaces, we will continue to have public spaces that are poorly managed, underfunded, and underused.



Nicar
skating
garden
monthly activities

Pat

Great public spaces don't have to be complicated. A fancy design cannot make up for a space that's boring, inaccessible, uncared for or unsafe.

By categorizing the more than 600 ideas collected during the project into broad themes, we can see that more than a third of the ideas were related to community events and activities.

This is an important reminder that the park will have to be consistently programmed with events and activities for the space to reflect the vision of the community and be truly successful.



356

IDEAS RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE

Local piece of art/sculpture - Splash Pad - Kids' Playground - Keep the green! - Dog friendly - Sculptural fountain made by local artisans - Children's area - Kids' activity days - Water park for kids - Playground - Skating rink - A display area to showcase local artists and crafts people - More kid-friendly structures



189

IDEAS RELATED TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENT

Put bubbles in a basket - Music and movies in the park - Saturday morning market - Somewhere to buy coffee and muffins for workers and residents - Farmer's market - Evening activities - Movie nights - Healthy activities - More sports and games - Community cooking -



80

IDEAS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE

Clear sidewalks more often from apple drop - Repair the fountain - Clean the needles and glass on the ground - Repair the broken benches - Clear the sidewalk and pathway in the winter - At least 5 to 6 recycling and garbage stations - Fence around fountain to prevent people (children) from possibly falling into fountain



50

IDEAS RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY

Safe way for seniors to get across the street - Easier access - Allee connection from parking lot to park - Blur boundaries - Wheelchair accessibility - Blend the edges of the park with sidewalk, street and parking lot - Welcome signs - Accessible play equipment - Make sidewalks wheelchair accessible

PATERSON PARK PLAN

By analyzing the community information collected through the engagement process, 8-80 Cities was able to identified six key themes that were identified by community members. These themes will be explored in the following pages.

1. ACCESS

2. EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

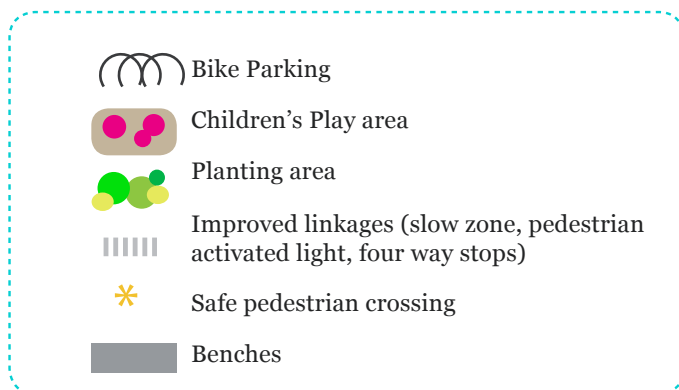
3. HISTORY AND CULTURE

3.1. WINTER

4. GREEN & COMFORTABLE

5. COMMUNITY FOCUSED DESIGN

6. CHANGING PERCEPTIONS



1. SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

People were observed jaywalking across May St. at the Leith St. intersection. It is unlikely the City can stop this behavior because the signalized crossing at May St. and Miles St., while only a short walk away, is a detour. A better option is to make pedestrians safer at May St. & Leith St. by implementing traffic calming measures or a controlled intersection.

2. A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Many community members expressed the need for a children's play area on the northwest corner of the Park. This is one of the most important recommendations in the report. The addition of a play structure would change the identity of the park by welcoming children and families.

3. A FLEXIBLE PARKING LOT?

Through a collaboration with the parking authority and the new court house, the space on the west side of Paterson Park could be used to extend the park --- it could be used as a parking lot during the weekdays and as a hard-surface recreational area during the evening and the weekends. It would be an efficient use of resources, and an excellent opportunity for the new court house to give back to the community in an easy and affordable way.

4. THE FOUNTAIN AND SITTING AREA AS A NATURAL GATHERING SPOT

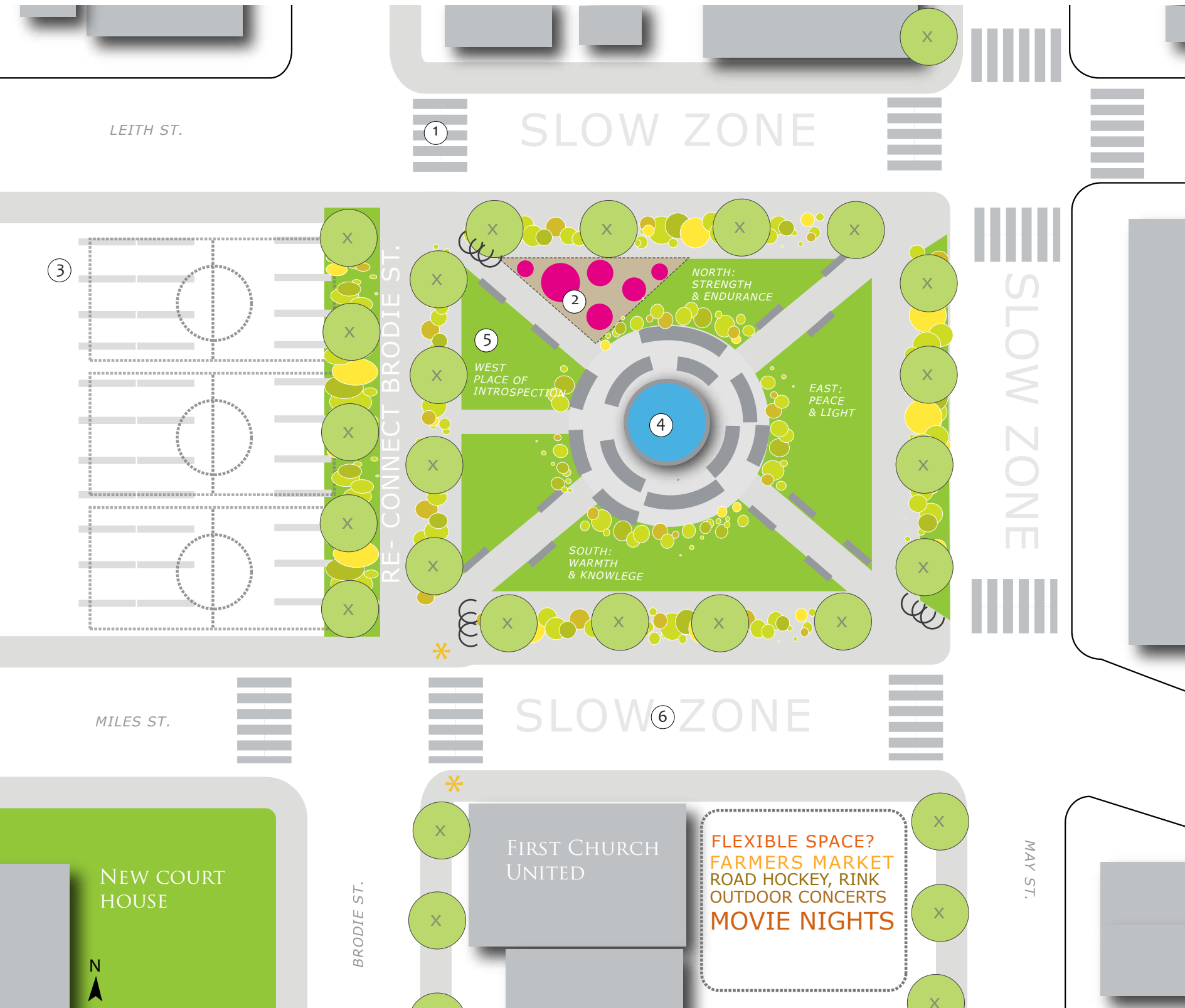
Most residents expressed the desire to have a safe and interactive water feature at the centre of the park. The central area should be a welcoming gathering space with different seating options to encourage social interaction.

5. REFERENCE TO ABORIGINAL CULTURAL

Throughout our engagement activities, many community members expressed their wish to see more references to aboriginal culture through the design and programming of the park. There were many ideas related to a traditional planting, murals, and to a circular design referencing the medicine wheel or the four powers.

6. REDUCE SPEED AROUND THE PARK

Implement traffic calming measures such as pedestrian-activated crosswalks, bold pedestrian crossing markings, speed humps, narrowed roadways, and other traffic calming measures to lower vehicle speeds below 30km/hr around Paterson Park.



1. ACCESS

- > Remove the fence around the periphery of the park. *
- > Use paint to transform intersections and access points to the park in the short term.
- > Add pedestrian-activated crossings at the intersection of Brodie N and Miles Street, and Brodie N and Leith St.
- > Add a traffic light, pedestrain-activated signal, or four-way stop at the corner of Leith St. and May St.
- > Use traffic calming measures on May St. between Cumming St. and Aurthur St., as well as on Leith St. and Miles St. E. near the park, to slow down traffic below 30km/hr.
- > Add attractive signage to welcome and attract people to the park. *
- > Create park entrances and pathways that allow people to walk diagonally through the park.
- > Beautify and extend the sidewalks on May St., Miles St., and Leith St.
- > Add bicycle parking in the park close to May St. as well as at the east end of the court house parking lot.
- > Use an attractive textured surface treatment along May St. and at the intersection of Broadie and Miles St. to visually connect the park to surrounding areas.
- > Add a physically separated bicycle lane on May St. S. connecting the Downtown South Core with Intercity Shopping Area and the Downtown South Core.

* *Don't wait, some of the recommendations can be implemented as soon as this summer!*

35 IDEAS TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY!



Pedestrians crossing to Paterson Park at the corner of May St. North and Leith St.

There are no visual cues in the area around Paterson Park indicating that it is a special space where pedestrians are prioritized. In the short term, the area can be transformed by getting the community involved in painting intersections and roadways with murals that enhance pedestrian safety and tell a story about the community.



Intersection repair mural in Los Angeles Eco-Village



In the longer-term, traffic calming should be used to increase safety around the park, especially near the residential area north of Leith St. In Odense, Denmark, a 'play street' has been created using low-cost materials. The traffic calming humps and narrowed street not only slow cars down, but also add a fun visual play element to the space. The street is further enhanced with concrete bollards, which act as fun stools for children, and permanent game tables.

"The residents of Paterson Court feel they cannot access the park due to poor accessibility. With better access they would act as some more eyes in the park."

There are many barriers in Paterson Park that make it inaccessible to people with wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, or limited mobility. By creating wide, smooth pathways, and accessible infrastructure such as play equipment, benches, and drinking fountains, the park will be able to welcome all users equally.



The Highline Park, New York City

POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Mayor,

I was happy to visit Paterson Park and find that it now features more outdoor seating, better lighting, and easier and safer access. A very important project!

POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

For this activity participants were asked to write a 'postcard from the future' for Paterson Park. This activity is used to help people imagine what Paterson Park would be like in the future if all of their dreams for the park were fulfilled.



This beautiful three dimensional sign at LA's Grand Park reads 'Grand Park - The Park for Everyone' and features the words 'the park for everyone' in languages from around the world. This is a perfect example of how signage does much more than simply tell people where they are -- it sets the tone for the park, adds an element of beauty, and reminds people that a public space is for all people and welcomes one and all.

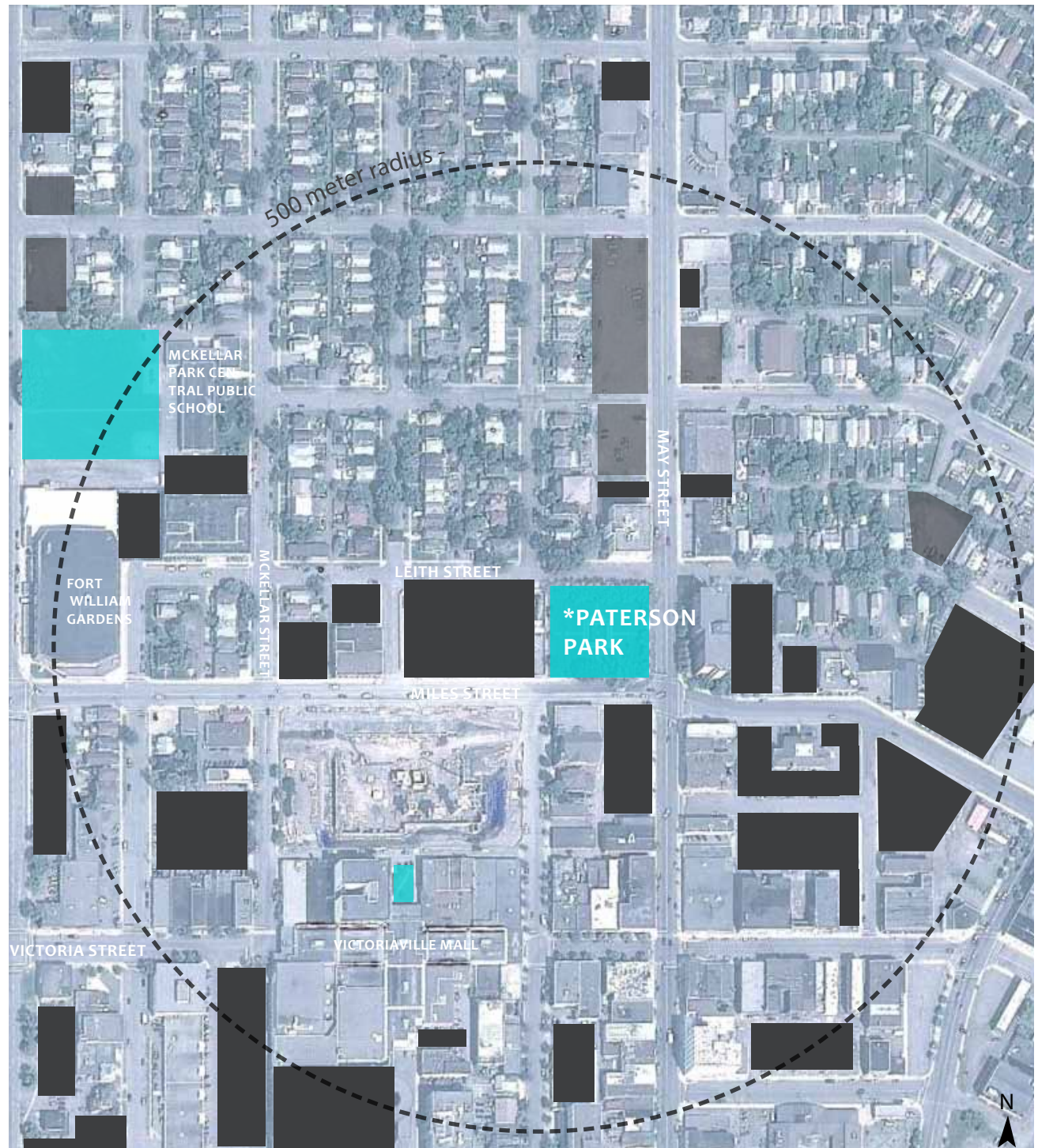
CAN WE FIND A BETTER BALANCE?

Many community members suggested temporarily or permanently using part of the court house or church parking lot as a public space, but concerns were raised about access to parking. This informal map represents parking areas within a 10 minute walk of the park and does not including on-street parking. It's clear that a significant amount of space is dedicated to parking in the South core -- is there a way to find a better balance and to create more public space?

“Why don’t we extend the park into the parking lot? There’s tons of parking around here. At least we should use the parking lot on the weekends or something.”

Public space versus parking area within 500 meters of Paterson Park

- Parking area
- Public Space
- Vacant lots/ Potential Public Space





2. EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Paterson Park should be a place that facilitates social interaction and encourages healthy lifestyles. One of the most popular ideas among community members was to use events and activities to animate the park, promote physical activity, provide learning opportunities, and bring community members together to share in positive experiences. One of the best aspects of events and activities is that most can be implemented before any physical changes are made to the park. While the City should be proactive in animating the park, community groups, service providers, and local champions can also play an important role in organizing events and activities.

- > Set up a Paterson Park working group or 'Friends of Paterson Park' to develop consistent, year-round programming. *
- > Simplify the permit process. Make permit acquisition information available at the park by using positive and encouraging communication.
- > Focus on activities that contribute to healthy lifestyles.
- > Use social media to promote events at the park. *
- > Encourage trusted local service providers to host events and activities in the park that attract people from a wide range of backgrounds.

189 ideas!
To have more
community
events and
activities

37 ideas!
Related to
physical
activity



Learn from what works. The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony put on by the Fort William Business District draws crowds from around the Downtown South Core. It is a fun-filled, family oriented event that celebrates community and the holiday season.

Don't Underestimate the Impact of Your Event

After the 2012 Tree Lighting Ceremony had finished in Paterson Park, 8-80 Cities conducted a site assessment from 7:30-8:30pm to see who was in and around Paterson Park. We compared this information with a 'normal' winter evening at the same time. We found that there was a marked difference between the number of people, and the types of people, in the area on the evening of the tree lighting ceremony versus an average night.

People in and around Paterson Park from 7:30-8:30pm

44 People Total:
53% female
54% children & youth



One Hour After
Tree Lighting Ceremony

18 People Total:
27% women
16% children & youth



Normal Winter Night

“We should have evening activities; the whole area south shuts down when people finish work and I have the perception that the area is unsafe.”



No idea is too small or too silly! Test different types of events and activities and don't be afraid to try something new. Who would have guessed that a 'water-war' in Dundonald Park in Ottawa would be such a success that it would make national news!

Community events have multiple positive impacts!

They immediately animate the park and bring people together; they bring more people into the general area and encourage people to take a stroll or visit local shops; and they help to improve the safety of the entire neighbourhood by having more 'eyes on the street.'

POSTCARDS FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Catherine,

Finally, there's a farmer's market at the old Paterson Park. You should come down and see it with me!

- Mary

Dear Nora,

Just took a great yoga class at Paterson Park - tomorrow night - tango!!! I love it.



Dance lessons are an excellent way to animate a public space because they bring together physical activity, music, culture, and social interaction. Dancing is also enjoyable for a range of ages and is a perfect 'spectator sport'.



A Community board is an effective communication strategy to inform community members about upcoming activities and events.

3. CULTURE & HISTORY

Finding ways to celebrate the unique and diverse culture of Thunder Bay and the downtown south core will be key to making Paterson Park a unique and special place. Parks are a wonderful place to teach people about history and culture, as they provide a safe, welcoming, informal environment for all users.

- > Use design elements, such as an updated water feature in the central area of the park, to reflect the history of Paterson Park and the gift of the Paterson Family.
- > Introduce culture in creative ways. Use plantings to reflect Thunder Bay's natural heritage.
- > Work with local groups, to bring the story of the community to life at the park to through artwork, events, activities and interactive displays. *
- > Develop events that celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Thunder Bay.
- > Bring food to the park! Use food focused events to bring people together.

17 ideas!
Related to
bringing history,
culture and art to
the park.



There are an unlimited number of ways you can bring culture and history to Paterson Park. An idea we heard a number of times was to use plants to introduce an element of First Nations culture. Community members suggesting incorporating traditional medicines into the plantings and gardens. Examples include: yarrow (seen above), sage, labrador tea, shepherd's purse, lamb's quarters, wild bergamot. Plants are a special way to introduce cultural learning as they can appeal to our many senses: touch, smell, see, taste.



Food is an area of common ground for all of us, and it is one of the best ways to bring people together. Preparing food in parks over an open fire or in a bake oven is a wonderful community activity. It can incorporate healthy eating education and cultural experience. It is also an wonderful way to animate a park, as the fire adds light, warmth, and aromas to entice people walking by.



Most people agreed that the fountain at Paterson Park is in need of a major overhall. However, almost everyone still wanted to see some type of water feature that was visible from a distance and reflected the history of the fountain as a central element of Paterson Park.

Cultural experiences can begin at a very young age, and parks are a wonderful place to develop this knowledge. Use arts and crafts activities and performance art to introduce children to culture in an interactive and playful way.



POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Mom,

People from the court house are bag lunching-it and enjoying the local music, while families take part in crafts, and youth hang out under the trees.

“Dancing and singing and drumming is an integral part to what we do.”

Use regularly scheduled small scale performance arts events to showcase local talent, teach traditions, share culture, and animate the park. Music is a wonderful way to bring people together, and was featured many times in the ideas and recommendations made by community members.



3.1. CELEBRATE WINTER!

Community members felt confident that with a little creative thinking and can-do attitude, Paterson Park could be a vibrant place in all seasons, including the cold days of winter.

- > Extend the seasons by creating heat using an outdoor fire-pit.
- > Use an attractive lighting strategy to create an inviting space during the short days of winter.
- > Ensure sidewalks leading to the park, and paths within the park, are clear of snow and ice to encourage winter use. *
- > Focus on programs that get people outside and socializing in the winter. Suggestions include tai chi lessons, winter ornament making, maple syrup tasting, or ice carving demonstrations.
- > Investigate the feasibility of a pleasure-skating rink.
- > Work towards a diversity of shops and restaurants that attract patrons in all seasons.

27 ideas!
Specifically
related to winter

We need to put a greater effort into creating great public spaces that are attractive in the winter and entice people out of their homes with activities and events

Number of Users Per Hour

In Summer

10



In Winter

< 3



> CREATE EXCITEMENT!

Many people suggested incorporating an outdoor rink at Paterson Park. Inspired by the success of the rink at Prince Arthur's landing, people thought an pleasure-skating rink would be an exciting element of healthy activity for the people in the downtown south core during the cold winter months.



> CREATE ENERGY!

Getting people out, active, and energized in the cold weather can be challenging. Physical activities like tai chi can still be safe and enjoyable in the winter months.



> CREATE WARMTH!

Few things create a warm feeling like a cup of hot cocoa in the wintertime. Focus on events and activities that play to people's positive emotions about winter. Invite a local service club to sponsor a hot chocolate fundraiser or maple syrup day.

POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Andrea,

I'm sitting in Paterson Park sipping a hot chocolate while I watch the skates moving along a skating rink lit with beautiful old fashioned lights. You would totally love it! Hard to believe it's the same place.



> CREATE EXCITEMENT!

It can be done! This public fire pit at Dufferin Grove Park in Toronto has become of the park's most popular features. People use it to roast marshmallows, grill hot dogs and host sing-alongs. It has also added an element of safety to the park by increasing evening usage and adding light.

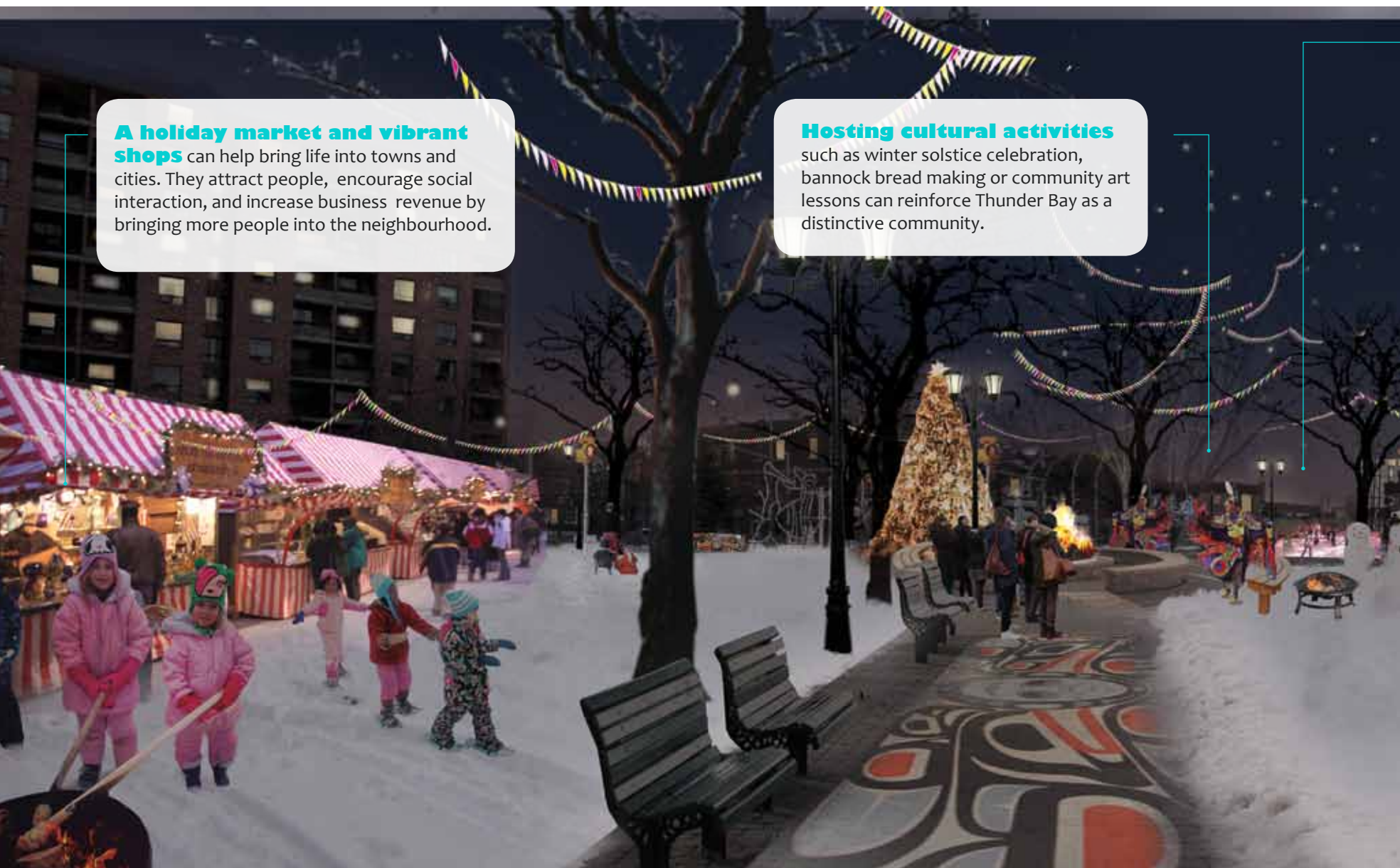
Evidence shows that during the winter people tend to be less physically active and suffer a greater risk of social isolation, especially older adults.

RE-IMAGINE PATERSON PARK AS...

- > ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE
- > PROGRAMMED WITH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ALL YEAR ROUND
- > FILLED WITH HISTORY AND CULTURE REFERENCES
- > VIBRANT IN WINTER

A holiday market and vibrant shops can help bring life into towns and cities. They attract people, encourage social interaction, and increase business revenue by bringing more people into the neighbourhood.

Hosting cultural activities such as winter solstice celebration, bannock bread making or community art lessons can reinforce Thunder Bay as a distinctive community.





Many people suggested an **ice rink** nearby or at Paterson Park. In Canadian cities, a public ice rink tends to be a ‘can’t fail’ way to get people outside and moving in the winter.

Representation of Thunder Bay’s history such as photos, community murals and art could be displayed highlight the **city’s identity!**

Accessibility can make the difference between a successful park and an abandoned public space. **Ensure Paterson Park is accessible for everyone, all year round** by clearing the sidewalks and the pathways during winter, by implementing safe crosswalks and reducing the speed limit on Leith, Miles and May Streets. (See plan on page 33-34.)

Peoples are more susceptible to social isolation during the winter. **Host activities during the cold months** such as sport tournaments, ski lessons, snowman competitions or an igloo festival to bring the community together.

4. GREEN & COMFORTABLE

The original design of Paterson Park included terraced gardens that encircled the central fountain. Over the years, these gardens have been removed and the vivid display of flowers and plants has disappeared, save a few sad concrete planters with marigolds. Community members agreed that the space would be greatly improved by incorporating more greenery and flowers, as well as elements of comfort and beauty.

- > Provide diverse seating options that encourage different uses and activities. This should include traditional benches, as well as moveable tables and chairs, informal seating, and playful sitting areas.
- > Use umbrellas, trees and shade structures to protect people from harsh sun.
- > Use temporary gardens to introduce more flowers and native plantings. *
- > Diverse species of trees and shrubs should be used. Select species that are attractive throughout the seasons. *
- > Basic public facilities, such as public washrooms and drinking fountains, should be available in the park, or within a five-minute walk.
- > Interesting and inviting lighting should be used to create a safe space that is inviting and enchanting.
- > Introduce more plants and trees to the central area of the park.

80 ideas!
To improve
landscaping

55 ideas!
To improve
sitting and
gathering
spaces

COMFORTABLE MEANS ATTRACTIVE, SAFE, WELCOMING, AND ENJOYABLE



High quality and well maintained basic facilities such as public washrooms and drinking fountains make a public space truly welcoming and comfortable. The washrooms in New York City's Bryant Park are meticulously maintained. Fresh cut flowers greet washroom users and send the message that you are a welcome guest, and that this is a place to be treated with care and respect.

POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Mom,

I see people from Shelter House enjoying the peace and quiet of the park -- it's cool and shady, and there are lots of people around. It's a place for everyone!

It should be a place of refuge. There are so few green places downtown.



This amazing temporary project called Public Farm One in NYC was created by Work Architecture Company. The farm's main structural components are cardboard tubes arranged in a honeycomb pattern. Vegetables harvested from the structure will be sold at a weekly market.

Permanent or temporary lighting installations can be used to add visual interest as well as an element of safety. In Montreal, ATOMIC3 created a playful illuminated maze that offered a unique immersive experience to its visitors, and a vibrant display of colour to passersby.



Architects Ralf Erskine and Jan Gehl have studied the significant effect city furniture can have on the sociability of a public space.



As seen above, most of the benches at the Main St. Pedestrian Mall are not positioned to encourage social interaction or conversation.

More flexible seating, like the examples below, encourages conversation and interaction by allowing people to sit face-to-face, stretch out, or get close and cosy. They can also accommodate larger groups of people and families.



5. COMMUNITY FOCUSED DESIGN

Paterson Park is a unique public space. It is located precisely between a large residential population (on the north side of Leith St.) and a large commercial and services hub (on the south side of Miles St. E.). As such, the park should appeal to this diversity of users, both local residents, as well as visitors and office workers. In terms of design, the needs of the community should come first. One of the most important suggestions from community members was to change the overall tone and design of the park to make it less formal and passive, and more functional and active.

- > Focus on creating a park that encourages healthy lifestyles. Look into incorporating an adult fitness zone (perhaps at the east end of the parking lot) that could be used by residents and office workers during their lunch break or after work.
- > Introduce temporary markets such as farmer's markets and healthy food vendors. Invite 'creative retail' into the square --- food carts, bike-mounted fruit stands, etc.
- > Change the overall style of park from being a formal, passive park, to an active, multifunctional park.
- > Replace the old fountain with an interactive water feature that reflects the history of having a water feature, but is attractive to look at, safe for people of all ages, and encourages active play.
- > Add a well designed children's play structure that facilitates active play and physical activity and can be used year-round.

200 ideas!
related to community
programing, events
and activities



Farmer's Markets helps to support local farmers and encourages healthy eating. However, the market is currently located near Intercity, which is difficult to access by foot or by bike. Moving the Farmer's Market to the Paterson Park was a popular idea among community members who felt it would bring vibrancy to the park. Visitors to the market would also be more likely to pick up their goods at the farmers market, then grab a coffee, stop for lunch, or visit the other shops in the Downtown South core.

Food trucks have come along way from offering just french fries and hot-dogs. Due to their flexibility, food trucks and carts are a great way to introduce a healthy, affordable, gourmet experience, and would help to satisfy people's desire for 'something different' at lunchtime in Thunder Bay.



"We have opened The Redhead & The Chef... We live near the park and would be very interested in working with you to make the market come to fruition. The long term goal for us would be a "gourmet kitchen on wheels" other wise known as a food truck. The truck could move through the city or be parked at one location, i.e Paterson Park."



By far, one of the most popular ideas was to add a children's play area to Paterson Park. Community members felt that it was very important to provide kids a place for safe, active play and that it would help to reclaim the park as a family friendly place for people of all ages. A well designed, creative and innovative play-structure can also add an element of beauty and interest to the park.



Gaining popularity in parks across North America, the presence of outdoor fitness equipment is an easy way for cities to promote physical activity that is accessible and affordable. According to the Trust for Public Land, locating the equipment near playgrounds is a great way to encourage physical activity among parents. Providing basic signage about the benefits of physical activity and how to use the equipment will also encourage use. Perhaps these could even be located in the court house parking lot.

DON'T WAIT! WELCOME
CHILDREN THIS SUMMER!



There is lots that can be done in Paterson Park right away. The playground above called the 'Imagination Playground' and comes in a secure box. It can be rolled out for playtime and rolled back in after the kids go home.

Community members expressed strong concerns about the safety of the existing fountain at Paterson Park. But people love having a water feature. Many community members recommend replacing the fountain with a splash pad or interactive water feature.



POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Paisley,
I'm sitting at Paterson Park and having a ball watching the many kids (age 2 to 20) enjoying the splash pad! Good exercise for sure!
- Love, Grandma

6. CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

There is a strong need to change the general perception people have about Paterson Park. Many people view the park as unsafe, rundown, and boring. High visibility events and activities can be used to immediately begin changing people's perceptions of the park, and to help create community support for future investment and improvement at the park.

Furthermore, over the years the neighbourhood around Paterson Park has suffered from a general decline. Many community members expressed a need to improve the overall perception of the Downtown South Core. The park's location at the gateway of the South Core also makes it a perfect place to highlight positive change in the neighbourhood, and an opportunity to create a place that people of the South Core can take great pride in.

- > Organize community events with trusted local organizations to get people re-engaged in Paterson Park. Create a positive experience and memory for people. *
- > Do things people will notice. Use high visibility projects to get people talking about the great things happening at Paterson Park.
- > Build a strong network of supporters. Create a working group or 'Friends of Paterson Park' group to start changing the discourse about Paterson Park from the ground up. *
- > Incorporate physical features that send the message the park is cared for, like temporary community gardens, a mural on the construction wall, re-painting of benches. *
- > Improve maintenance and clean up to show that the park is cared for.
- > Address community safety issues head on.*

21 IDEAS RELATED TO IMPROVING THE NEGATIVE PERCEPTION OF PATERSON PARK AND ITS COMMUNITY

"We should have a 'take down the fence' event. It would represent positive change."



For the last four years, Sainte-Catherine Street in Montreal has been closed to vehicular traffic and given back to pedestrians. All summer long, Sainte-Catherine St. is programmed with street festivals, patios, street vendors, and temporary art installations.

Getting the community involved in the physical transformation of the park is very powerful, and gives them the sense that things are changing. This is very important, because many community members feel the park has been neglected for a very long time.





Positive community events go a long way to changing perceptions. In a park like Paterson, where there is a substantial amount of negative use (ie. drinking alcohol), these events can help shift the balance by increasing positive use, and decreasing negative use. This helps community members see the park in a new light.



Simple events like fall cleanup days are easy and affordable to coordinate. They also help to create a sense of ownership over the park and get people used to being in the park. This positive 're-introduction' to Paterson Park is very important, as many people have negative memories or perceptions of the park.


POSTCARD FROM THE FUTURE

Dear Old Friend,
Just taking a break from work to enjoy lunch at Paterson Park. What a difference from when you used to live here. There are old men playing chess with young kids while staff from the court house eat their lunches and cool their feet in the reflecting pond/splash pad. I haven't seen this many kids using the park since I was a kid. The splash pad was a great change.

Every time I buy a sausage from the vendor I think of how much you love 'street meat'. You'll have to include a stop here next time you visit Thunder Bay!
- Richard

RE-IMAGINE PATERSON PARK AS...

- > GREEN & COMFORTABLE
- > COMMUNITY FOCUSED DESIGN
- > CHANGING PERCEPTIONS



Engaging community members in the **transformation** of the park will help create a sense of community stewardship. Implement community activities such as tree planting, mural painting, chalk drawings, or pavement painting this summer!

Many community members felt that a small **children's play space** on the northwest corner of the park would be an important asset.

Focusing on an urban design style that emphasizes the city's **historical and cultural identity** will help create the feeling that the park is the heart of Thunder Bay.

Providing **comfortable benches and tables** for community members to eat lunch will attract workers during their lunch break and residents for an afternoon picnic.

Many ideas to improve the park referred to a **community board**, which would announce upcoming activities and events, as well as provide contact information for relevant city representatives and community organizers.

An at-grade surface would create a flexible space to accommodate a wide range of community events, activities and festivals such as farmer's market, yoga classes, dance lessons or outdoor movie projections.

Healthy urban street trees are greatly valued by people living, working, or shopping in urban areas. They create a feeling of security, provide shade during hot summer days and create more pleasant walking environments.*

BUSINESSES ON TREESCAPED STREETS SHOW 12% HIGHER INCOME STREAMS.*

STREET TREES ARE KNOWN TO REDUCE VEHICULAR SPEED BY CREATING VERTICAL WALLS THAT FRAME THE STREETS.*

Providing **at grade, safe and wide sidewalks and pathways** will ensure universal access to everyone, including people with disabilities.

*, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/22_benefits_208084_7.pdf



What's next?

A successful public place is defined by three key elements; **excellent management, consistent programming, and appropriate infrastructure**. This section provides a list of recommendations that will make Paterson Park a good public space, as well as what can be done to make it a world class park.

1 MANAGEMENT

A GOOD PARK WOULD...

- Establish a working/management group or 'Friends of Paterson Park' group within the next four months with representation from the City of Thunder Bay, the Victoriaville BIA, community-based organizations, police, and local service providers.
 - > Create a six-month implementation strategy for temporary projects, events and activities to animate the space in the short-term.
 - > Develop a two-year implementation strategy for longer-term project such as design and infrastructure upgrades.
- Make the process easier and more accessible for community groups to get a permit for small-scale community events and activities.
- Raise the level of maintenance at Paterson Park based on concerns related to poor maintenance and security. Create a visible daily presence of management and maintenance at the park.
- Identify opportunities for ongoing funding mechanisms for programming and management.
- Communicate with the public. Set up a website, use traditional and social media to promote events and activities at the park.
- Clear the pathways of snow, ice, and debris in all seasons.

BUT, A WORLD CLASS PARK WOULD....

- Develop a longer-term retail and commercial development plan for the area around the park.
- Continue to collect user data to monitor and measure success.
- Create a public space network improvement strategy for the Downtown South Core. Focus on improving linkages between important areas such as City Hall, Victoriaville, the court house, the Public Library and Paterson Park.
- Develop policies to encourage vendors/commercial activity in or beside the park that support healthy lifestyles or animate the park.

- ✓ **MUST: Create a strong management group**
- ✓ **MUST: Make permits easily accessible**

2 PROGRAMMING

A GOOD PARK WOULD...

- Implement low hanging fruit. Start the farmer's market, movie nights, exercise classes, participatory gardening, and children's activities within the first six months. Ensure activities and events appeal to a wide range of ages and users.
- Have a small-scale community based event or activity at least once a week (ie. yoga classes, children's crafts, live music).
- Involve the community in park improvement. Develop a community activity to begin transforming the park this summer (ie. paint the construction staging wall with a mural, paint the benches, host monthly clean-up days).
- Use temporary 'pop-up' projects, like colorful art installations, to transform the space in the short-term.
- Use attractive signage and communication to inform the public about events and activities.

BUT, A WORLD CLASS PARK WOULD....

- Program multiple events and activities per week.
- Develop a long-term funding strategy for programming and activities at Paterson Park.
- Develop a partnership agreement with the courthouse to use a portion of the parking lot permanently for recreation, events, or activities as an extension of the park.

- ✓ **MUST:** Have a small scale event or activity at least once a week.
- ✓ **MUST:** Have activities all year round.

3 INFRASTRUCTURE

A GOOD PARK WOULD...

- Make the park universally accessible.
- Remove the fence. Improve access and user flow through park by changing the layout of the pathways.
- Replace the fountain with an attractive, interactive, and safe water feature.
- Add a children's playground that encourages active play.
- Improve sitting and gathering spaces. Add more seating, and diversify seating options.
- Enhance the space with trees and greenery. Focus on native plantings.
- Improve the lighting throughout the park. Create a lighting strategy that adds to the ambiance and enhances safety.
- Add bicycle parking.
- Add a community events and information board.
- Add a water supply.

BUT, A WORLD CLASS PARK WOULD....

- Provide outdoor heaters and/or a fire pit to improve winter usage.
- Incorporate public art that reflects the history and culture of the community.
- Add a pleasure-skating rink in the winter.
- Add public washrooms and drinking fountains within or next to the park.
- Extend public realm improvements beyond the park. Improve the pedestrian experience on May St., Miles St., Leith St. and Brodie St. by extending sidewalks, adding benches, greenery, and lighting.

- ✓ **MUST:** Add a children's play area.
- ✓ **MUST:** Make the fountain safe.
- ✓ **MUST:** Provide a community information board.

5. PLACE MAKING TOOLS

This section contains a variety of simple tools that can be used by the community to continue assessing and improving Paterson Park.

We also hope the Make a Place for People Project Paterson Park will inspire other communities to use these tools to develop community-led improvement strategies at other parks and public spaces across the province.





• Jungle Gym
• Water Park / Skating Park
★ • Food Stand
★ • Stages and water balloons
• Picnic benches
★ • Comfy and cozy bench
• More flowers! 🌸
• Birdhouses! 🏠
• Gardener!
★ • Elderly Helper 🧓

THE POWER OF 10

10 ways to help the world:

- 1. Plant a tree
- 2. Recycle
- 3. Save water
- 4. Use less electricity
- 5. Use less paper
- 6. Use less plastic
- 7. Use less oil
- 8. Use less gas
- 9. Use less money
- 10. Use less time

Place Survey

Please circle the answer that best describes you. Site: _____



1. Parks and public spaces contribute to my overall

Physical health	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Mental health	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

2. I visit this place...

Never	Once a year	2-5 times a year	More than 5 times a year	On a weekly basis	Every day
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If you answered "never" skip to question 4.

3. This place is...

Safe	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Comfortable	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Well used	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Accessible	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Well programmed (with events/activities)	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Active in the winter	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

4. Gender: Male Female

5. Age: 0-12 13-18 19-34 35-50 51-65 65+



Public Space Observation Table

This tool can be used to assess the people and activities at any park or public space. By analyzing the data, you can begin to identify trends and build a picture of how the space is working.

	Site									Target Area/Sub Unit														
	Name																							
	Date				Time of Arrival							Time of Departure												
	Weather																							
	Directions: Each observation recording session should be no less than 1hr long. Sessions should be conducted in the morning, afternoon, evening and night on both a weekday(s) or weekend. If the site is too large or too busy to observe effectively, the site should be broken into smaller sub-units. If people are in groups, fill in the user information individually then circle the members of the group. Feel free to add new codes in the 'other codes' section if you feel it is important.																							
	Ethnicity Codes: B = black, W = White, A=Asian, SA = South Asian, L=Latino U= undetermined																							
Other Codes: Homeless = H, Disabled = D																								
	Gender		Age							Codes		Activity												
	Male	Fem	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-34	35-50	51-65	65+	Ethni city	Other codes													time spent at public space
1																								
2																								
3																								
4																								
5																								
6																								
7																								
8																								
9																								
10																								



Action Planning Instructions

Creating a doable plan is the key to turning an idea into reality. In your group, come up with a plan for how your idea can be implemented within the next year or two.

The majority of your planning time should be spent on the HOW? question.

1. What?

In the space below briefly explain what your idea is.

2. Why?

Briefly explain why your idea is important.

3. Who?

Who needs to be involved in the project? What partnerships need to be established for it to be successful?

4. When?

When will it be implemented? When will it be used?
How frequently? What season? What day of the week? What hours?

5. Where?

On the map provided indicate where your idea will take place/be located.

6. How?

Without writing anything down, take a few minutes to discuss as a group what needs to be done to implement your idea. After you have discussed your plan, try to break it down into manageable steps. It might be easiest to think in chunks of time, but it is up to you. You can add more steps if necessary, but try to limit yourselves to no more than six steps.

STEP 1


STEP 2


STEP 3





Share an Idea

One of the simplest ways to collect information about a park or public space is by asking community members to “share an idea”. Provide small sheets of paper and a bunch of colourful markers and let the ideas flow!

Share an Idea 

Share an Idea 

Share an Idea 

Share an Idea 



Simple Site Evaluation Tool

When thinking about any park or public space, from a small neighborhood square to a large urban park, ask yourself the questions below. By thinking carefully about how people will get to the place, what they'll do when they get there, what kind of infrastructure exists, and who manages or takes care of the space, you can start to assess what's working, what's not, and what could be improved.

WHO TAKES CARE OF THIS PLACE?

Is there evidence of volunteerism?

Do you see any maintenance workers or staff?

Is there a contact information so you can reach someone in charge of the space?

Is there an active or passive security presence?

WHAT'S THERE TO DO?

Is there a mix of stores and services nearby?

Are there opportunities for people to be physically active?

Are there inviting places for people to rest or relax?

Is there a diversity of people?

Are there activities for people of all ages?

HOW DID I GET HERE?

Is the place visible from a distance?

Is it accessible to wheelchairs and strollers?

Can you easily walk or bike to the place?

Is there a paved path?

Is the path clear of snow, debris, and water?

Are there "desire lines" or beaten paths?

WHAT'S HERE?

Are there comfortable places to sit?

What kind of lighting is there?

Is there a paved or gravel path?

Are there public washrooms? Are they clean and inviting?

Is there somewhere to get a snack or drink?





Software Program Calendar

Use this template to plan an effective range of activities, events, and programming for your public space throughout the year.

Entertainment

Community building

Spontaneous Activities

Formal Activities

8-80 Cities is a non-profit organization based in Toronto, Canada. We are dedicated to contributing to the transformation of cities into places where people can walk, bike, access public transit and visit vibrant parks and public places.

Our approach is to engage communities at all levels and across multiple sectors to inspire the creation of cities that are easily accessible, safe and enjoyable for all.



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