



# DETAILED PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDED SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENTS

## A CIVIC SQUARE SHOWCASING THE BEST OF MISSISSAUGA

The City Hall Square and Library Square will function as one place—a cohesive Civic Square and year-round destination. The spaces around each building will include amenities and activities that strengthen the sense of place and identity of the city centre district.



### BASIC AMENITIES

- Necessary infrastructure to host events (electricity, sound, water source, a portable stage, etc.) should be provided in several places.
- Amenities to encourage people to use the plaza should be installed and grouped together wherever possible to create mini-destinations. These include:
  - Seating and tables with umbrellas to encourage people to sit and spend time in these plazas
  - Shade trees, awnings, tent/canopy structures and propane heaters, which would help make these places comfortable in every season





- Colorful planters, artwork and interactive sculpture, banners
- Better lighting
- Vendors, kiosks and an international newsstand
- More and better signage, providing information about offices in City Hall, the garden and amphitheatre, and the City's other destinations, including parklands
- Prominent bus stops connected to interesting activities



- Covered, weather-protected bike racks located where they can be easily monitored by management staff
- Tent boutiques – all summer and fall – staffed by existing retailers and civic associations.





**AROUND CITY HALL**

Participants in the Placemaking workshops liked the architecture and landscaping around City Hall, and the library, fountain and sculpture. The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Garden and trellises were praised for their shade, quiet, and comfort. Participants also enjoyed the tables and chairs on the plaza, and the many activities, such as ice skating and Canada Day celebrations that are currently accommodated. Their vision for improving this plaza was to help expand its

capacity as a civic place where business, recreation, and ceremony overlap – where downtown employees, visitors and residents can enjoy some of the city’s best assets.

**SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Highlight the northwest entrance of City Hall as a more pronounced main entrance to the building. Add benches and bike racks or bike lockers to the corner of Princess Royal and Living Arts Drives. Incorporate an information kiosk in the plaza area outside this entrance.
- Rebuild and expand the skating rink (remove the existing tree planting pits to allow for the expansion); remove the existing reflecting pool and create a useable paved surface incorporating water jets that will animate the square during summer months but which can be turned off if there is a festival or other activity occupying the space.
- Remove a section of the colonnade against the City Hall building to improve visual and physical access to the existing daycare play area and make this activity more a part of the square.
- Add hanging flower baskets from the pillars of the colonnades.
- Open up the west wall of the existing Jubilee Garden from the street. Maintain its sense of enclosure by adding windows to its exterior walls.





- An outdoor wedding “chapel” adjoining the plaza and garden should be integrated into the colonnade. In the short term, the amphitheater could be used for outdoor weddings and serve in this capacity until the chapel is built.
- Make the public activity inside City Hall more visible from the plaza, move all public uses to the ground floor of City Hall and move more functions outside. In good weather, set up temporary express booths where people can transact City Hall business: pay taxes and tickets, submit job applications, birth and marriage registrations, apply for permits and business licenses.
- Operate outdoor vending carts at lunchtime.
- Incorporate more moveable tables and chairs into the square to create seating opportunities.
- Add retail stores through lease arrangements with the private entities facing Princess Royal Drive. Incorporate awnings over these new spaces to animate the street and to create a comfortable pedestrian environment.
- Make the colonnade more active by adding canopies and garage-type doors to create interior market spaces or cafes and to extend the seasonal use of these spaces into the winter months.

#### WINTER USES

- A temporary concession pavilion where people can rent skates or a locker, and sit and watch the skating with a hot drink and a snack should be considered for the site.
- Also related to the rink, the following events could take place.
  - A Christmas market on the plaza
  - Ice sculptures as part of a Winterlude festival
  - Winter fashion shows
  - Christmas Tree decorating contest

#### LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- All the walls around the plaza that hide the plaza from the street should be removed where they have no apparent function. The wall at the south end of the square adjacent to City Centre Drive should be lowered or removed and replaced with steps to extend the Civic Square visually into the Library Square to the south. The one exception is the walls around the garden, which help shelter the garden from wind and maintain it as a quiet space.
- Relocate the Art Gallery of Mississauga to a more visible location. One idea would be to build a new structure on the vacant site on the east side of the library plaza. This new gallery space could have indoor and outdoor exhibition space. The indoor





spaces should be located on the ground floor with windows out onto the plaza.

- Open a new restaurant in the Art Gallery’s existing City Hall space, with outdoor seating areas on the main plaza and on the sculpture court.
- Develop new buildings with ground floor public uses and services on the site of the amphitheatre, with frontage on the plaza and onto Duke of York Boulevard.
- Create a new main door into the Civic Centre in the centre of the civic square through the existing atrium space. This will create a central definable access point into the Civic Centre’s Grand Hall and visually link the Library Square and Civic Square to the Living Art Centre and it’s surrounding park.
- Redesign Civic Centre Drive as a pedestrian-priority zone without curbs and using bollards to delineate traffic lanes.

**LIBRARY PLAZA**

Participants liked the spaciousness of the plaza and many of the amenities provided there, such as the grass, paving, fountain, and views. The water buffalo sculpture received mixed reviews in terms of subject matter and execution, but the idea of having sculpture on the site was generally well received. Many people pointed out that the slope of the lawn prevented it from being used more as an event space.

The plaza was envisioned as a place where library activities could spill out and create a fun place, especially for families and children, a vibrant mixture of games, art, learning, and retail.

**SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- An outdoor reading room should be created outside the library entrance, with a café, sofas and chairs, and popular library book racks. An authors’ reading series could take place here.
- A pavilion structure should be installed to help house children’s programs, exhibits, and host outdoor receptions. In order to support all types of programs and events, it could be outfitted with a very small kitchen and storage area or space where small art exhibits could take place or be stored when not on display on the plaza, storage for game pieces, and possibly public restrooms.
  - An international newsstand could also be incorporated into one end of the pavilion structure.
  - A temporary stage for programs (puppet shows, educational programs, outdoor movies) would be set up near the pavilion
- Establish an active games area in the plaza for activities for all ages, such as bocce, chess and checker tables, shuffleboard. These would be protected from the weather as much as possible.



- The lawn and plaza spaces can also be used for larger scale spectator sports events, such as tournaments, skateboarding demonstrations, and so on.
- Child-friendly and interactive sculpture could be placed at various points along the plaza edge near the library
- Extensive information on the library's programs and offerings could be provided on a large community bulletin board. Upcoming events could be announced on larger banners installed at the entrances or along the Burnhamthorpe side of the building.
- Remove the inside row of planters closest to the library to increase the space for festivals and other events.

### **SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

- Book fairs, author readings, and other events
- Outdoor movies, on a portable screen. The screen could be tested in a number of locations, including the library plaza, the western wall of the LAC, etc. to determine which location is ideal.
- Outdoor children's programming, such as storytelling, puppets, chalk drawing, Easter egg hunts, sidewalk chalk painting
- Outdoor vending and markets in the plaza: food/produce vendors, arts and craft markets, group yard sales for apartment dwellers, and book or magazine exchanges.



- On weekends, the square could be used by different cultural groups or provide permanent promotion space for local associations and community service programs.
- Tai chi or fitness classes in the square.
- Seasonal and holiday events.
- Opportunities for musicians and other street performers to perform in the plaza.
- Outdoor lectures presented by University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) faculty and students.



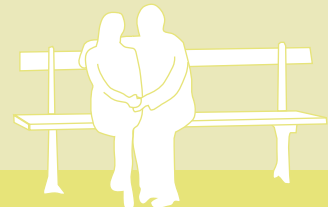


### LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- New buildings should be constructed on the eastern edge of the library plaza on what is now a rectangular sloping lawn. This development would fulfill the original master plan for this space. Suggested uses for these buildings are:
  - A new space for the Art Gallery of Mississauga
  - Ground floor commercial or retail uses
  - Cultural uses
  - A year-round, enclosed daily farmer's market
- Part of the library's eastern wall could be rebuilt with a glass storefront to bring the library out to the plaza, with a possible library retail shop. More space for retail activity could be added to the atrium and in kiosks.
- The east and west entrances to the Library need to be redesigned to make them more visible. The stairwell from the underground garage visually blocks the view to the front doors and makes the entrance hard to find. The overall effect is to make the area in front of the library feel dark, cramped and uninviting. Circulation through this area, from the plaza into and out of the building, can be quite difficult when groups of users try to get into the building at once.

# 10<sup>+</sup> Things to Do in the Civic & Library Squares

- Sit and watch the fountain
- People watch
- Have a snack or coffee
- Walk through the fountain in your bare feet
- Play chess or checkers at one of the café tables
- Sit in the Jubilee Gardens and enjoy the flowers
- Come out to the Farmers & Carassauga market.
- Play street hockey on designated evenings throughout the summer on City Centre Drive
- Play badminton on the square on designated evenings throughout the summer
- Take in scheduled musical performances in the square
- Hear the latest Garage Band perform on selected evenings during the summer
- Come out to enjoy a great rib dinner at Ribfest in late July
- Enjoy browsing the selection of vintage cars on selected evenings in July and August
- Enjoy Canada Day in the Square
- Hear our great symphony at "Symphony Under the Stars" on designated evenings in July and August
- Skate throughout the winter months
- Ring in the New Year



Visit [www.mississauga.ca](http://www.mississauga.ca)  
for a full listing of events  
throughout the year.





## LIVING ARTS CENTRE: A DESTINATION FOR THE ARTS

This facility has great potential to bring more life into downtown's public spaces. Its location at the corner of Princess Royal and Duke of York places the LAC at the key, easternmost entry point to the city centre and the Parklands.

### SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

- Creative installations of interactive art, either temporary or permanent on the building and grounds to encourage people to experience the place from all angles and sides. For example, a children's interactive art park with sculpture, surrounded by shaded seating areas could be built. Public art could be used to link destinations within the city centre and connect them to the parklands.
- Program events and informal performances outside, including musical performances, lunchtime concerts, buskers, art markets, and cultural festivals on the southern edge of the LAC site, along Princess Royal between Duke of York and Living Arts Drive. These events are one way of linking the city centre area to Square One as activities visible from Duke of York could draw people to and from the Mall.
- Mississauga's artists can be hired to create many of the icons, artworks and decorative art features that are being recommended for placement throughout the City Centre to brand the area and give it a sense of cohesiveness (for example, creative installations of amenities such as artist-made benches, chairs, tables, and umbrellas).
- Prune up existing trees to make the space more visible from the street.
- Add park signage and bulletin boards at the north-eastern and southwestern corner of the site.
- Utilize the existing space, on the north side of the building, as an outdoor area where sculptors can work on large-scale pieces. This was the purpose this space was designed to serve as part of the overall park design and public space program for the LAC.
- Incorporate portable shade structures along the east façade of the glass curtain wall to make the space useable throughout the hot summer months.
- Re-grade the LAC lawn as necessary to provide space for the activities described above, and to expose the fountain and interior spaces from the street.
- Add outdoor café seating on the LAC plaza for the existing ground floor restaurant.



### LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

Redesigning the outdoor public spaces around the LAC so that they are active, useable, comfortable, and visible will be key to the building's future success. However, planning should proceed in partnership with LAC management and stakeholders to get to a common vision for how this can happen.

- New artists' spaces could be located along the ground floor, with workshops, studios, and classrooms open to the public and large windows opening out onto the plaza and walkway. Alternatively or in addition, a pavilion or partially enclosed structure with columns could be built on the lawn area in front of the LAC that could be used for artist and artisanal demonstrations, temporary outdoor studio and gallery space, art classes (e.g. winter ice sculpture classes) and displays of artwork by community artisans from all cultures. This space could be heated in winter and lit up at night.
- Use the west wall of the main theatre for a projection surface or paint this surface with a mural to animate it.

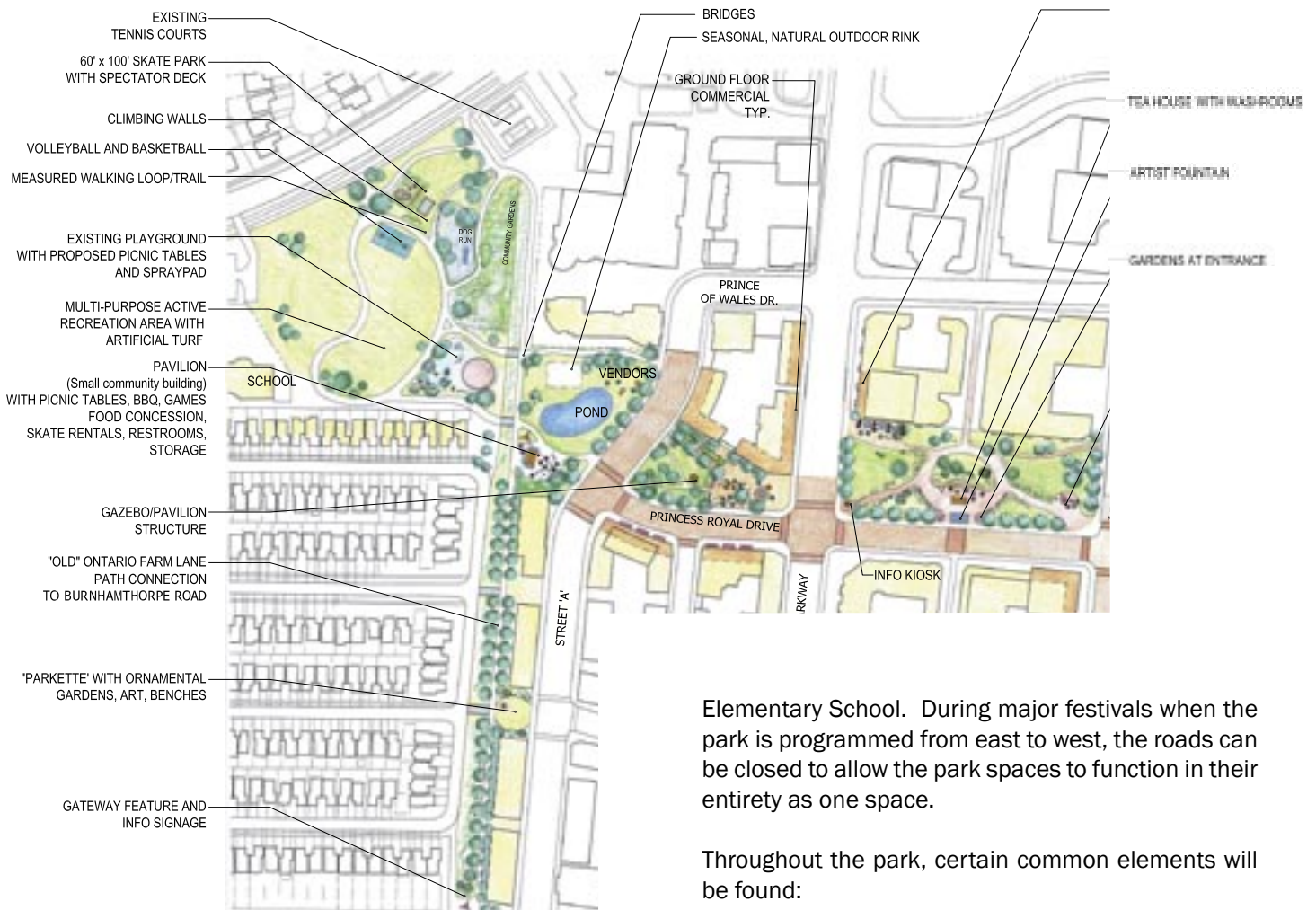
In both the short and long term there should be an emphasis on utilizing and programming the site for a wide variety of arts activities such as: art shows, performance art, horticultural art/display gardens and more sculpture. If many of these recommendations are acted upon, the Living Art Centre and the surrounding park will truly become the centre of Arts for Mississauga.

## 10<sup>+</sup> Things to Do at the Living Arts Park

- Sit, watch the fountain and identify as many of the different fonts in the "Pool of Knowledge" as possible
- People watch
- Have a snack or coffee at the outdoor patio
- Walk through the fountain in your bare feet
- Play chess or checkers at one of the café tables
- Participate in the Children's Festival in June
- Sunbathe on the open lawn
- Enjoy the sculpture
- Enjoy Canada Day festivities
- Enjoy performance art
- Enjoy music in the park
- Ring in the New Year







Elementary School. During major festivals when the park is programmed from east to west, the roads can be closed to allow the park spaces to function in their entirety as one space.

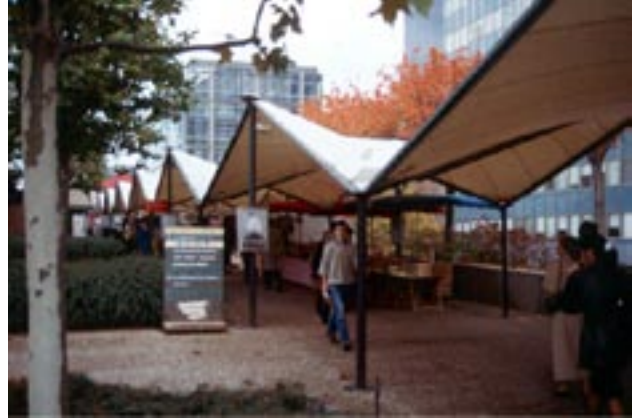
Throughout the park, certain common elements will be found:

### CITY CENTRE'S NEW PARKLANDS

There is significant enthusiasm for making this new multi-sectioned park a world-class place: a year-round destination that will attract the full diversity of ages and cultures in Mississauga and from around the region. Although different groups had different ideas of what this might mean, the ideas they put forth were often complementary. Instead of segregating uses according to age, such as keeping the basketball hoops away from the shuffleboard, they should be clustered, or “triangulated,” to attract the greatest mix of users. After all, seniors tend to want a place where young and old are both engaged; seniors and families with children requested shaded seating and public facilities; and teenagers always like to be where “the action is” and where things are happening. We believe that Mississauga’s new core parklands CAN be all things to all people.

Although the parklands will be developed in stages and bisected by roads during the week, they will be planned as one continuous park stretching from the west side of the Living Arts Centre through to Rathburn Road at the boundary to Corpus Christi

- Walking, health and “movement” will serve as underlying principles that shape the design and location of attractions throughout the park. The path system that links destinations will become an attraction in and of itself. There could be multi-use and interconnected trails/pathways for walking, running, biking, and in-line skating that are linked to larger regional trail networks and to the existing transport infrastructure. Distances would be marked and loops created specifically to cater to runners’ training and competitions. Seniors are especially concerned about being able to walk in the park and desire covered, lighted walkways and structures. The paths could also be lined with flags, banners or art works.
- Special intersection and roadway treatments should be used throughout the city centre area to link public spaces and favor pedestrians over vehicles. Princess Royal, City Centre Drive and Prince of Wales should function more as pedestrian promenades that link the Square One Mall on the east to the parklands to the west. Intersections along Princess Royal (between Duke of York and Prince of Wales) should be designed as gateways,



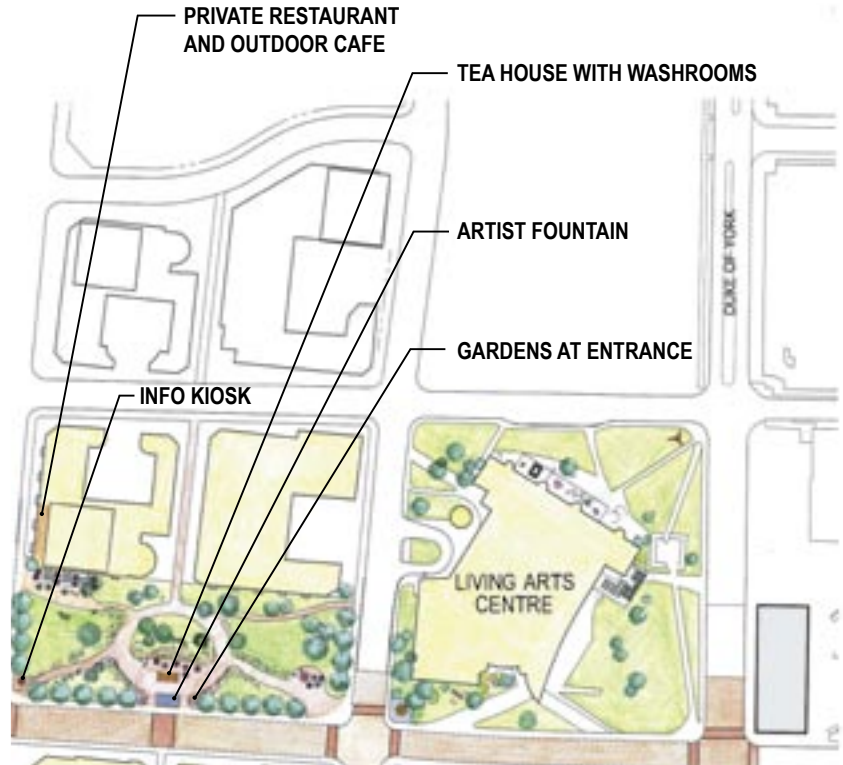
where amenities (like public art, light fixtures, seating, plantings, directional signage, banners, trees, buskers and vendors) are concentrated.

- Traffic calming should be implemented on all streets around and running through the park, with particular attention to the Confederation Parkway intersection at the southwest corner of the park. Techniques could include reducing street widths, widening sidewalks, eliminating curbs on streets that connect park areas so that streets are flush with the sidewalks, and generally providing maximum pedestrian comfort, safety and connection between the park and its edge uses. Access by transit, as well as the provision of transit stops and new transit routes and shuttle bus loops to serve and link the park to other neighborhoods, should be considered. Good connections will be key to generating foot traffic through the area.
- Improving the streets for pedestrians will encourage ground floor tenants in adjacent buildings to spill out onto the park with active uses such as vending and seating.
- High quality amenities will create an attractive and comfortable place for both visitors and the residential community. These amenities include:
  - An information and wayfinding system: Signage and maps at entrances and throughout park, wayfinding at park destinations and edge destinations, historical markers and gateway treatments. Public art, banners, and light fixtures also could

be used to visually link and connect one area to the next

- Banners throughout all the city centre and park spaces. The banners should have an overall consistent look, but could be specialized to delineate and brand each type of space (i.e.: red for civic square; green for park spaces; blue for LAC, etc.)
- Small-scale retail will bring an added level of comfort and interest – especially inexpensive, independent shops and restaurants that reflect the diversity of the city (this was mentioned by every age group), vending carts, and permanent kiosks – located near seating areas and the intersection of major pathways.





- Active recreation will be encouraged, such as basketball, volleyball, skateboarding, play areas, and games areas.
- Quiet spaces will also be provided, such as places to garden and be surrounded by water and nature
- Different types of water features will attract all ages, including a pond, a wetlands area (in the existing swale), and an interactive, computerized fountain.

## DESTINATIONS

Many of these activities can be organized around several major park destinations, each with a somewhat different character: a “Signature Park” on the three-acre Daniels site; a “town square” environment, at the intersection of Princess Royal Drive and Confederation Parkway, with retail and shops; an “urban backyard” area just west of the “town square” area with informal active and passive uses; and an active recreation area more oriented to young people and vigorous uses in the existing Zonta Meadows Park.

### A SIGNATURE PARK (LIVING ARTS DRIVE TO CONFEDERATION PARKWAY)

Since the park developed at the Daniels site will be both a highly visible public space and also a front yard for new residential buildings, it is envisioned as a somewhat formal space – beautiful to look at and appealing to a somewhat more adult crowd. The area would be thematically and visually tied to the LAC, with art interwoven into the space and into the fountain recommended as a centerpiece. The major elements include:

- Generous lawn areas for seating and passive recreation, punctuated by beautiful landscaping and floral displays
- A Tea House, high-quality and appealing to professionals and visitors, but affordable for families. It will have outdoor seating, washrooms, and will be a central gathering place all year round.
- A fountain with a major sculpture as a focal point, located near the sidewalk and also where people at the Tea House can see it.





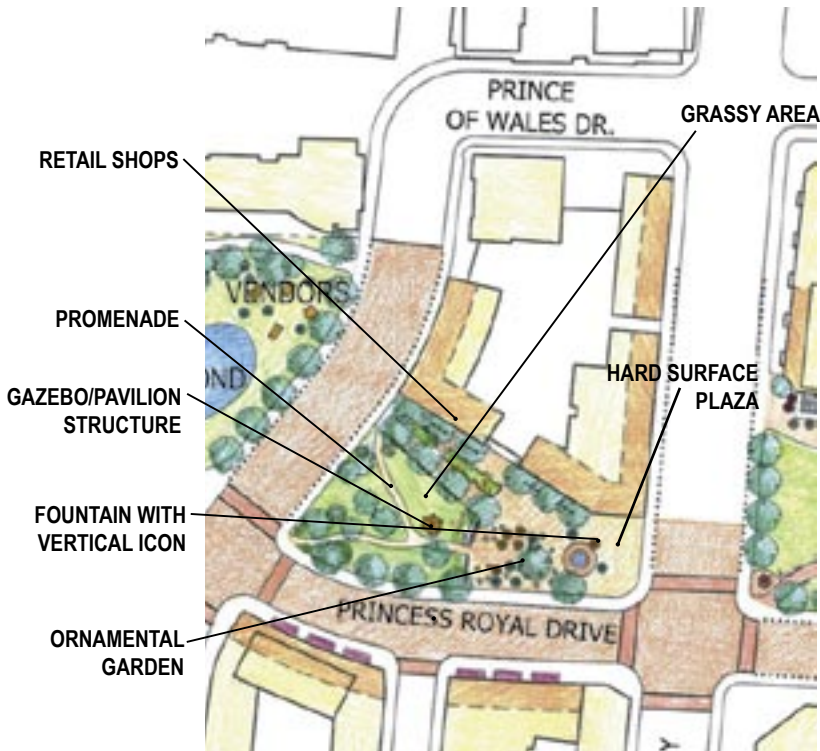
- A café or restaurant at the northwest corner in the Daniels building, with patio seating and game tables.
- Large canopy trees along the perimeter of the park along Princess Royal to strengthen the edge.
- An information kiosk located at the southwestern corner of the site, a central location to serve all areas of the parks.
- A mid-block crossing across Princess Royal Drive lining up with the terminus of the mews road in the development across the street.

# 10<sup>+</sup> Things to Do in the New Parklands

- Sit beside the pond and watch the ducks
- Have a snack or coffee
- Bring your children to play on one of the playgrounds
- Let your children climb on the climbing wall
- Go for a power walk around the running/walking loop and measure your distance traveled
- Play chess or checkers
- Play tennis
- Play badminton , volleyball
- Bring your trick bike, rollerblades or skateboard and use the extreme sports facility
- Run through the spray pad
- Rent a bike, ride to the River along the Burnhamthorpe Trail
- Enjoy Canada Day celebration events programmed for the park
- Pleasure skate throughout the winter months on the pond
- Let your dog go for a run with other dogs in the leash-free zone
- Play shinny on the natural ice rink
- Sit and watch the fountain, people watch in summer
- Sit and enjoy the flower displays
- Play Frisbee on the lawn
- Play croquet
- Sunbathe
- Have a picnic
- Build a snowman







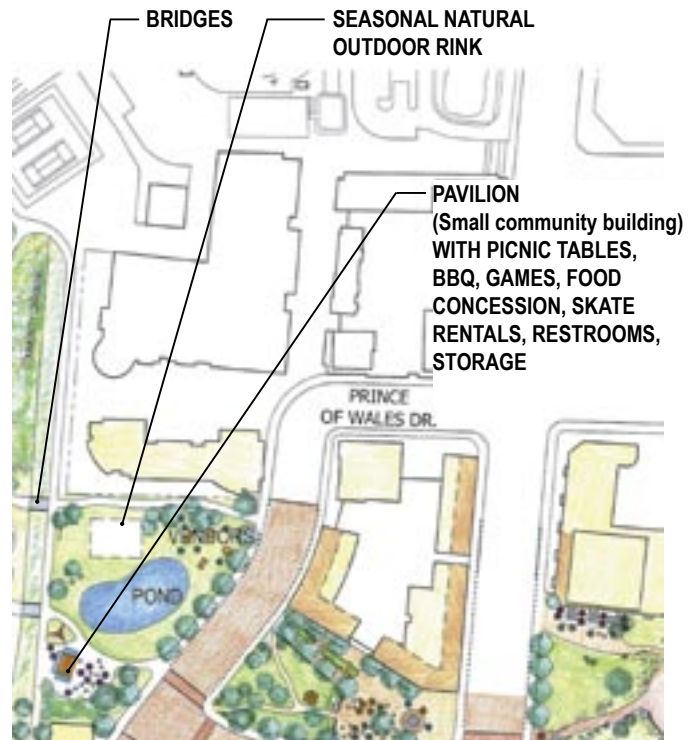
**A TOWN SQUARE (CONFEDERATION PARKWAY TO PRINCE OF WALES)**

A busy, urban environment is envisioned for the public space in front of the planned Amacon Development between Confederation Parkway and Prince of Wales Drive. As the most centrally located and busy place in the park, it would be a place for eating, drinking, meeting people downtown, as well as for hosting receptions, parties, and arts and culture events and performances. There could be more hardscape here, or tightly packed graveled areas to support the idea of a formal town square. Its elements will include:

- Retail shops (such as boutiques, dessert shops, or coffee bars) in the base of the buildings facing the square that could spill out onto it.
- A promenade along the retail edge, with shade trees and seating and ornamental gardens
- A gazebo-type structure that could be used for small performances, receptions, and other activities.







- A programmable fountain, potentially featuring an artwork as its centerpiece, that entices visitors and regular users with its different schemes, night lighting, and cooling mist. It can be turned off to enlarge the usable plaza area for bigger events.
- A hard plaza area to support activities like events and receptions.
- Grassy areas with seating and shade.
- An ornamental garden edge, at the north edge of the space, to provide a buffer between the hard surface promenade and the open green space.
- The corner of Confederation and Princess Royal could feature a vertical icon, such as a clock feature, totem pole or heritage icon, that would create visual interest and draw people north from Burnhamthorpe and westward from the city centre area.



**AN URBAN BACKYARD (WEST OF PRINCE OF WALES, TO ZONTA MEADOWS)**

This less formal area would be a comfortable place for residents and visitors to mingle outside where they can have picnics and barbeques, play with their children, and generally socialize with neighbors. The elements of this yard include:

- A small naturalized lake or pond, large enough for pleasure skating, and the setting for picnics, sunbathing, paddle boats and model boating in the summer, and ice skating in the winter. Some of its edge could be planted with native plants that attract butterflies and birds, but other edges would be grass or pea gravel so visitors could touch and use the water. One idea was to have a small floating stage where performances (live bands, poetry readings/slam poetry contests, Shakespeare readings) could be held during the summer.
- A community house, with patio/dance floor a small kitchen, multi-purpose room, game and equipment storage, and a mechanical room for spray pad and parks maintenance and storage. This house should be designed with very appealing architecture (especially to children); it would be located near the pond and at the terminus of the pathway/lane coming up from Burnhamthorpe Road.
- An amenities centre with public washrooms, changing rooms, vending machines, food concession, bike/rollerblade/skate rentals,





drinking fountains, and picnic tables. This could be a stand-alone facility or part of the community building described above.

- A natural ice rink built on turf, approximately 20 x 30m (65' X 100') in size for shinny hockey and similar games.
- A play area for toddlers and small children.
- Barbeque pits and outdoor furniture to allow residents to cook outside (other areas would be located to the west, next to the existing play ground.)
- A fire pit for community bonfires on chilly evenings (Mexican chimineas were also suggested.)
- Games that can be enjoyed by children and adults, like volleyball, horseshoes, checkers, and chess.
- Portable food vendors of snacks and ice cream.
- Community art projects, such as providing chalk boards or other means for people to write down stories or record a community narrative.

- Birdhouses designed by local artists to attract songbirds in the trees. These could be educational with each birdhouse labeled and studied to see what kinds of birds are occupying them.
- Night lighting for evening use of the above activities.
- High mast canopy trees on the park side of the sidewalk along the street edge.







**AN ACTIVE RECREATION AREA: ZONTA MEADOWS PARK**

This area would have, at its center, a flexible lawn area that could support a variety of activities and unstructured sports and offer many opportunities for residents and young people to engage in physical activity and team sports. A variety of hard surface areas – asphalt for bikes, rollerblades and strollers, with a designated walking loop utilizing a soft synthetic surface - should be considered as part of the paving and pathway design.

The area’s features include:

- A skate park approximately 20 x 30m (65’ X 100’) in size.
- A basketball half court and volleyball courts, which could be co-located with the skate park.
- a designated walking loop (.6 - 1.0 K in length) incorporated into the park.
- A dog run or club-based leash free zone.
- A climbing wall (can be portable/temporary.)
- A (shaded) spectator deck where people could sit and watch all the activity around them.
- An expanded playground for younger kids, building on the existing playground, and including a new spray pad.
- Small picnic areas next to the playground.







- A trail linking the park to Burnhamthorpe Road, the Burnhamthorpe Road bike trail and it's connection to the Credit River Valley Trails, along the existing swale. This swale should be redeveloped in the theme of an old Ontario farm lane with Sugar Maples lining it on both sides. A gateway feature, a transit stop, a bike trailhead, directional signage and postings/information could be sited at the Burnhamthorpe entrance.
- At the midpoint along this Ontario lane, a small park, with ornamental gardens, benches and some form of artistic focal point to terminate City Centre Drive should be developed.
- Community garden plots. People expressed a preference that the gardens should be perennial gardens rather than vegetable gardens. This space could also be programmed for small demonstration gardens, master gardener workshops and neighborhood plant exchanges.



Additional elements that were suggested include:

- Winter festival competitions, such as ice sculpting or snowman building.
- A gateway feature at Rathburn
- A lawn bowling area
- An urban art wall
- An enabling garden for all senses near the existing playground
- A giant portable hot tub
- A sled hill with snowboarding.

