



Building Parks Together

Overview of the Opportunity

The City of Kitchener is working to improve some of our parks and open spaces so that they better meet the needs of the community. This includes creating a strategy for parks and open spaces, developing a master plan for Victoria Park, and planning improvements for specific neighbourhood parks. We are looking for a diverse group of individuals who want to provide feedback and share ideas and information about Kitchener parks and open spaces, including:

- how they are used and how residents want to use them,
- how it feels to be in these spaces and how residents want to feel when using them,
- what improvements can be made, and
- what kinds of amenities are desired.

Individuals would become part of a group of volunteers who are invited to participate in a variety of engagement opportunities, all with the goal of helping us create safe and welcoming parks and open spaces in Kitchener.

Key Responsibilities or Tasks

- You will have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of ways, including:
 - completing online surveys on a variety of topics;
 - reviewing, and providing feedback on, concepts, plans, designs, drawings, and related documents;
 - participating in one-on-one interviews with City staff on a variety of topics related to parks and open spaces (in-person, online or over the phone);
 - participating in online or in-person focus groups or design labs to test the public's response to preliminary concepts, plans, drawings, and ideas;
 - participating in online or in-person small group discussions to provide feedback, brainstorm ideas or problem-solve around emerging issues; and
 - participating in virtual or in-person site walks/site visits, which includes discussions regarding how the space might be used.
- Volunteers will be notified as opportunities arise and will have the option to participate based on their interests and availability.

Skills, Experience and/or Requirements

- Must live, work, or play in Waterloo Region.
- An interest in Kitchener parks and open spaces in an asset.
- Intermediate proficiency in listening, reading, writing, and speaking in English (CLBPT 6).
- A willingness to participate and share ideas/feedback in a positive and constructive way.

- An ability to listen to, and be respectful of, the ideas of others, recognizing that they differ from your own.
- Ability to work positively in a collaborative team environment.
- Access to a computer/tablet/smartphone and reliable internet connection will be required for most activities that take place during the pandemic.
- Some engagement opportunities require a beginner level understanding of map-reading.
- Some engagement opportunities will require a knowledge of, or experience with, Brubacher Green, Westwood Park, Shoemaker Greenway Parkette, Alpine Park, Victoria Park, Fergus, Oaten, Kinzie, Schlegel Park, Idlewood, Centerville Chicopee, or the Vanier, Wilson, Traynor park network.
- Having representation from diverse groups who bring a variety of lived experiences and perspectives is key for the success of these projects; community members who have been historically under-represented or excluded from these processes are encouraged to apply.
- Applications from Indigenous persons, Black persons, non-Black racialized persons/persons of colour, women, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ persons, persons who have experienced job, housing and/or food insecurities, and others who may contribute to the diversification of ideas and experiences are particularly encouraged.

Time Commitment

- The time commitment will range from approximately 10 minutes to two hours, depending on what is required for the specific task. For example, completing a survey may take 15 minutes whereas participating in a focus group may be scheduled for 1.5 - 2 hours.
- Some opportunities can be completed on your own time (for example, filling out a survey) and others will be scheduled for a specific date and time (for example, attending a focus group).
- Volunteers will select which opportunities they want to participate in based on their interests and availability.
- Engagement opportunities may be offered during the day or in the evening and will take place now and the end of 2022.

Benefits

- Be part of a team that will assist us in creating safe and welcoming parks and open spaces in Kitchener.
- Network with other passionate community members and staff.
- Learn more about the City's approach to park planning and improvements and have the opportunity to be actively engaged in parks and open spaces planning processes from start to finish.
- Provide input into plans for parks and open spaces that you may use and care about, including the amenities that go into those spaces.
- Small tokens of appreciation may be provided depending on the opportunity.

Additional Details

- The City of Kitchener is committed to diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing opportunities for all members of the community and will do our best to remove barriers to participation. Please let us know of any accommodations needed to assist in your involvement with this opportunity.

Address

- Varies depending on the opportunity, with many opportunities being delivered virtually during the pandemic.

Age Criteria:

- Open to individuals 18 years of age and older. Younger volunteers will be considered if they volunteer along with a parent or guardian.

Next steps:

Complete the online application form.

Contact

Rebecca Roy

Email: Rebecca.roy@kitchener.ca

Phone number: 519-741-2600 x 4151; TTY: 1-866-969-9994