

Chapter 11: Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan

Goal: Preservation of designated natural features and provision of park space to serve the recreational needs of Dundas residents.

Background

Dundas has a rather limited supply of parks and open space. Most recreation programs are provided by the City of Northfield except for a summer playground baseball program.

Dundas' inventory of parks space includes Memorial Park, the baseball park (home of the Dundas Dukes), parcels along the Cannon River including the islands, and a two-acre park dedication in the Millstone Addition.

Objectives

Open Space Preservation

Objective: Preservation of existing open space and parks.

Policies:

P 1 The City will not dispose of existing open space that it owns without considering the relative benefit of the new uses of the land versus the continued use of the land as open space.

Riverfront Open Space

Objective: Public ownership and control of riverbanks and land near the Cannon River.

Policies:

P 2 The City will purchase land or obtain easements along the Cannon River so that its entire length through the City is publicly owned or controlled.

P 3 When funds are available, the City will improve the two islands in the river and the area around the mill ruins.

Biking and Hiking Trails

Objective: Continuation and improvement of an integrated trail system.

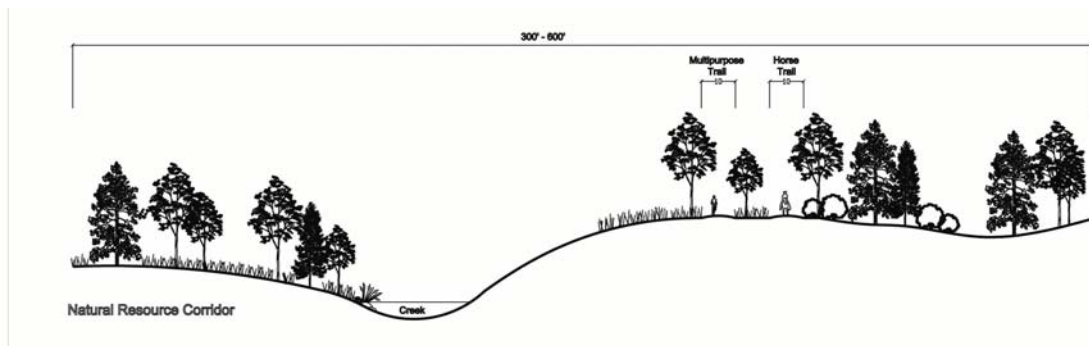
Policies:

P 4 The City will develop or support the development of a hiking and biking trail along the Cannon River.

P 5 The City will develop open space corridors and trail for connecting all parts of the city through the subdivision development process. An emphasis will be placed on connecting parks. The city will guide this development using the following design examples.

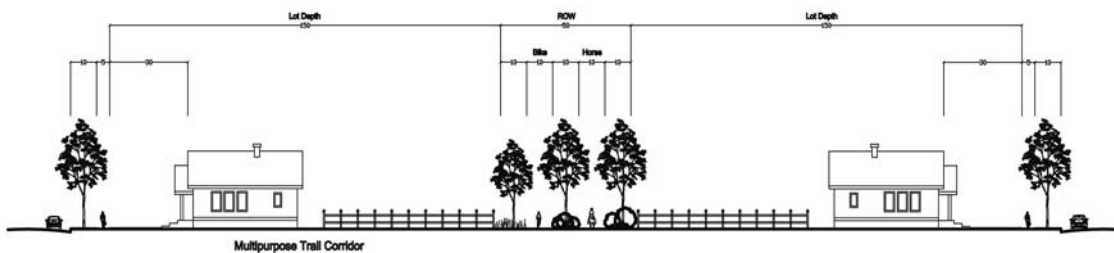
P 6 The City will move toward implementation of the trails shown on the trail map. Note that some trails are included in road corridor types discussed in the Transportation Chapter.

Natural Resource Corridor



This large greenbelt corridor is designed to protect and provide access to corridors with significant environmental value and heightened sensitivity such as Rice and Wolf Creeks.

Multipurpose Trail



This trail example shows how bike and horse trails could co-exist and pass between the rear yards of homes in subdivisions. This type of trail could also connect up with large lot developments that might allow horses and/or large common areas with stables.

Maintenance

Objective: Maintenance of parks.

Policies:

P 7 The City will monitor the condition of park facilities and provide enough operating funds for their maintenance.

P 8 The City will work with civic organizations to “adopt-a-park” for upkeep and beautification.

New Parks

Objective: New park space for an expanding population.

Policies:

P 9 New parks will be developed according to the following National Recreation and Park Association Standards.

Under NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) standard, there are three types of local parks.

Type of Local Park	Typical Facilities	Desirable Size	Area Served and Desirable Site Characteristics
Minipark	Specialized facilities serving a small population or specific group, such as children or senior citizens.	1 acre or less	Neighborhoods within ¼ mile of the park
Neighborhood Park / Playground	Intense recreational activities, such as field games; crafts; skating; wading pool and playground equipment; picnicking.	15+ acres	Neighborhoods within ¼ mile and ½ mile from the park; geographically centered, with safe walking and bike access
Community Park	Diverse recreational activities, including intense activities found in neighborhood parks, as well as athletic complexes and large swimming pools; outdoor recreation.	25+ acres	Several neighborhoods in 1-2 mile radius

Special Use parks are for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities. For local parks, the (NRPA) standard is 6.25-10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

P 10 New properties will not be acquired for open space purposes if the City does not have the projected financial resources to take care of them.

P 11 The City will seek park lands or payments in lieu of land from residential developers to provide for adequate neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Park lands may be provided by the developer and conveyed to the City. Or, the developer may develop open space and assign its control and maintenance to a homeowners association.

P 12 Neighborhood parks/playgrounds will be developed for the areas shown on the accompanying map as population grows in those areas.

P 13 The City will study the feasibility of developing park space in the area near the Cannon River north of the cemetery.

Implementation Directions/Actions

The City or the DNR will have to **acquire the riverbanks** or obtain easements.

The City or DNR will need to find revenue to **improve the islands**.

The City will need to **work with the Mill Towns Trail board** to develop the trail along the river.

The City will have to **designate bikeways** between neighborhood parks. Funds may need to be found to make physical improvements to bikeways.

The City will need to **continue maintenance** in existing parks and dedicate funds to maintain new parks.

New parks will need to be developed through the use of park dedication fees or by developers.

Insert Trails map