

Whitchurch-Stouffville Parks Plan & Parkland Dedication By-law Update

Council | June 18, 2025



Stouffville

O2

Watson
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Agenda

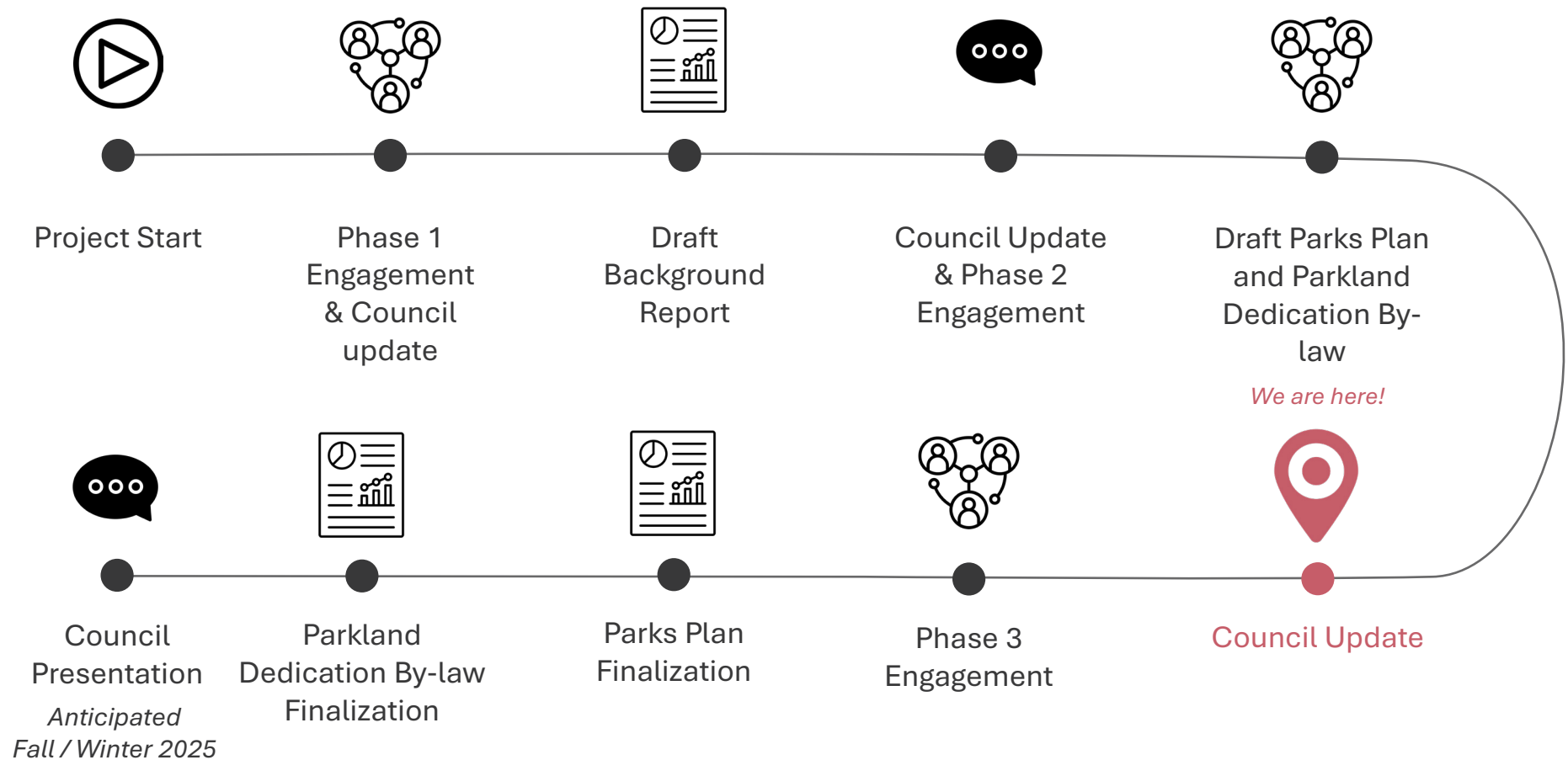
Project update

- + Where we are and where we're going
- + Draft Parks Plan and By-law Update
- + Upcoming engagement
- + Council in Fall / Winter 2025

Overview of Big Moves | Key Recommendations

- + Updated parkland provision target
- + Recommendations on POPS, strata parks and encumbered land
- + A toolkit approach for strategies

Project update



Upcoming Engagement

Phase 1
Setting Priorities
Spring 2024

- + Town Steering Committee
- + Technical Advisory Committee
- + Community Stakeholder Meetings
- + Public Survey

Phase 2
Parks Plan Development
Fall 2024-Winter 2025

- + Town Steering Committee
- + Technical Advisory Committee
- + Community Stakeholder Meeting
- + Public Open House

Phase 3
Parkland Dedication By-law Update
Spring-Summer 2025

- + Town Steering Committee
- + Technical Advisory Committee
- + BILD Engagement Session
- + Members of the public and community stakeholders will be informed of the release of the draft plan

Big Move 1:

Update the Park Provision Target

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville currently has a comparatively smaller provision of active parkland despite its current target of 2 ha.



Big Move 1:

Update the Park Provision Target

The park system needs to grow as the town grows.



Recreation and Leisure Needs

Parkland supply should enable the delivery of the park amenities recommended through Leisure and Community Services Master Plan



Access

Ensure public can conveniently reach the network



Accommodating infill and intensification

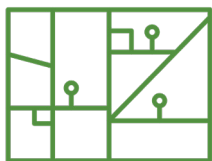
Adapt and grow to serve new residents and more urban development

Big Move 1:

Update the Park Provision Target



It is anticipated the Town will acquire less parkland through development as a result of provincial changes to the Planning Act.



Achieving a higher provision target therefore requires the Town to spend more on acquiring parkland - most likely in areas outside the Settlement Areas and Urban Area.

Several municipalities in Ontario have a target lower than their current provision.

Big Move 1: Update the Park Provision Target



1.65 ha

Existing provision

Maintains status quo
and limits opportunities
in programming needs,
addressing gaps

**Estimated cost to Town to
2051: \$53-72M**



1.75 ha

Adjusted target

Responds to need to
grow beyond population
but balances financial
considerations

**Estimated cost to Town to
2051: \$72-91M**



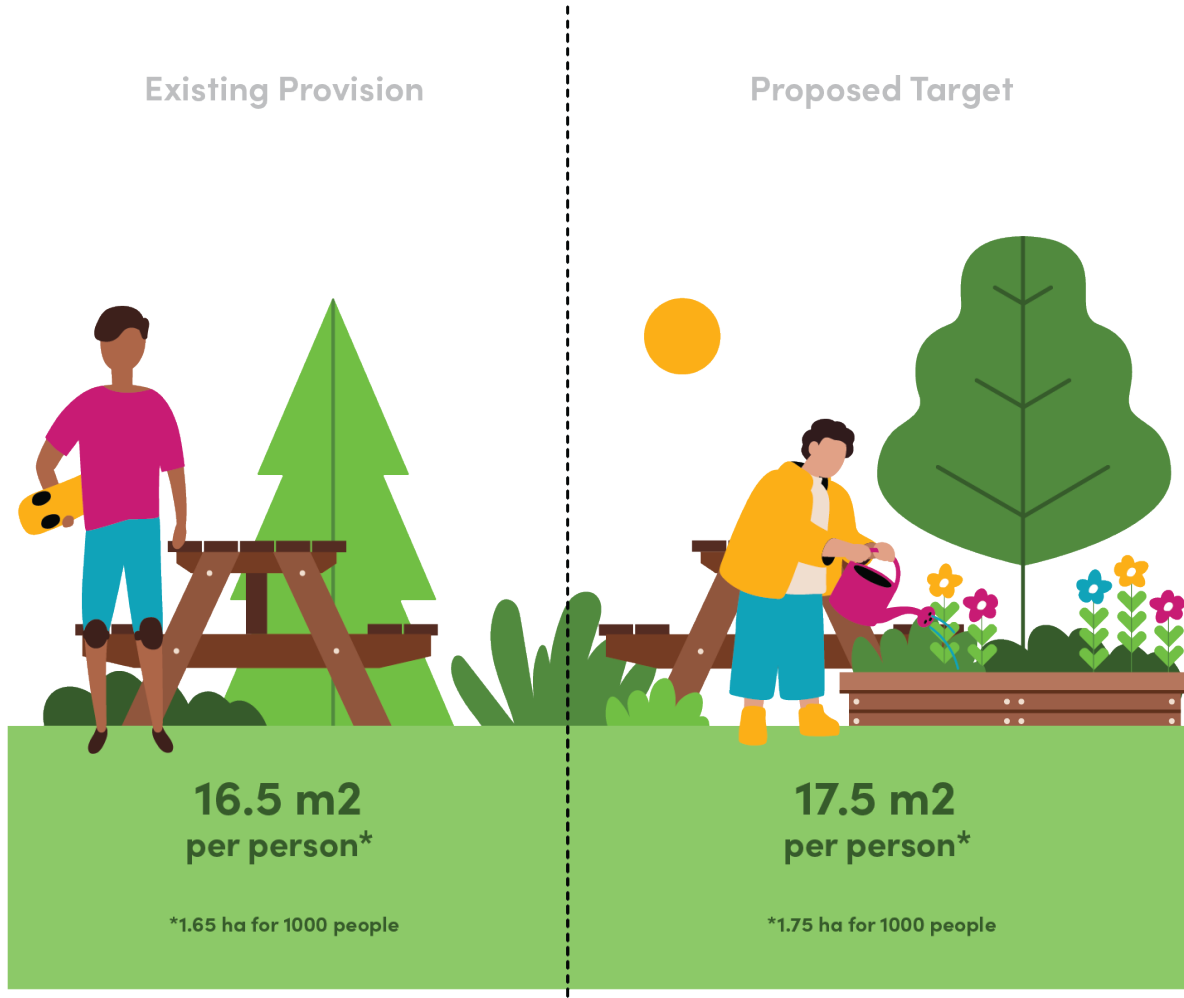
2 ha

Current target

More opportunities
to grow park system
but relies on larger
investment and land
secured from Town

**Estimated cost to Town to
2051: \$120-138M**

Big Move 1: Update the Park Provision Target



- ✓ Population growth
- ✓ Recreation needs
- ✓ Improving access
- ✓ Closer to average
- ✓ Responds to legislative changes

The Big Move 2: Update Typologies

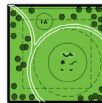
Objectives

- Adjusts sizing based on programming needs
- Identifies priorities based on context
- Provides decision guidance (i.e., frontage)
- Creates direction for adopting urban style parks in strategic growth areas
- Formalizes positions on POPS, strata parks, and encumbered land

Town-wide Park:
3.2+ ha



Parkette:
0.5-1.1 ha



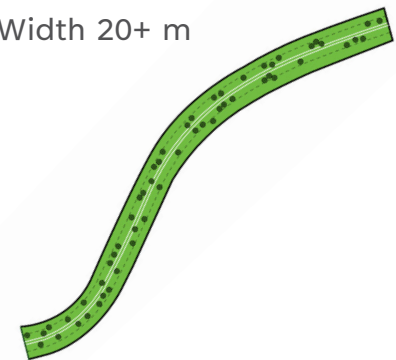
Neighbourhood Park:
1.2-3.1 ha



Natural Open Space:
size varies



Linear Park:
Width 20+ m



The Big Move 2: **POPS**

Pending review
and consultation
under review |
may change



Draft recommendation: POPS may be considered on a case-by-case basis only within Strategic Growth Areas for a maximum of 75% by evaluating the following criteria.

Context:

- + Limitations in programming
- + Challenges in ensuring they feel public in nature
- + Require ongoing management of agreements over time
- + Appearing in other municipalities in particularly in high density environments

- + At grade
- + Shape (and other typology standards)
- + Materials
- + Site plan
- + Agreement and management plan
- + The extent of function provided

The Big Move 2: Strata Parks & Encumbered Land



Context:

- + Challenges in programming and design
- + More frequent lifecycle replacements
- + Increased costs
- + More complex maintenance agreements

Draft recommendation: Strata parks and encumbered land not to be permitted nor creditable for parkland credit.

Pending review
and consultation
under review |
may change

The Big Move 3: The Tools



Financial tools

Direction around
dedication, and
acquisition

Planning tools

Actions for the Town to
support developing and
revitalizing park spaces

Partnering tools

Approaches for the Town
to maintain and grow
partnerships to manage
the park and open space
network

Updating Parkland Dedication By- law

Highlights

- ✓ Alternative rate
- ✓ Alignment with recent provincial legislation
- ✓ Direction on POPS, strata parks (pending legal review and further consultation)
- ✓ Defines in what circumstances Town will accept parkland and cash-in-lieu

Next steps

- + Release of Draft Parks Plan & Parkland Dedication By-law (summer 2025)
- + Phase 3 Engagement (fall 2025)
- + Council endorsement (fall/winter 2025)

Long term

- + Parks Plan and Parkland Dedication By-law will be reviewed again in 3-5 years

Questions + Discussion