



B4 NATURAL HERITAGE, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Brampton Plan acknowledges the importance of Natural Heritage, Parks and Open Space as fundamental building blocks of a complete and Green Community. It speaks of monitoring, maintaining and improving Natural Assets as valuable resources and accessing well designed, quality Parks and Open Space as essential to a healthy community.

Together, Natural Heritage, Parks and Open Space provide opportunities for social interaction, a range of active and passive recreation and active transportation.

Brampton Eco Park is a strategy aimed at creating and connecting a network of sustainable urban / green spaces, referred to as 'Eco Spaces'.

The majority of Brampton's 2500 hectares of Natural Heritage System (NHS) forms the backbone of Brampton Eco Park. From this foundation, Brampton Eco Park is envisioned to expand and evolve to include parks, urban parks, streetscapes, grey and green infrastructure, utility corridors, school grounds, and open space on private lands to eventually form a comprehensive green framework overlaying the city.

Brampton Eco Park is intended to foster local stewardship and pride, encourage active and connected communities, and help build attractive neighbourhoods, while strengthening connections between people and nature. Brampton's Eco Park strategy will help protect and support City infrastructure while conserving, enhancing, and celebrating its natural landscapes.



CRITERIA FOR ECO SPACES

- Enhance and maintain healthy natural systems and processes.
- Integrate opportunities for meaningful social and environmental interactions and experiences.
- Actively strive to incorporate the seven guiding Eco Park principles.

ECO PARK PRINCIPLES

- 1 Maximize ecological value.
- 2 Provide opportunities for social services.
- 3 Make nature visible.
- 4 Design with nature.
- 5 Integrate with the surrounding community.
- 6 Support innovation.
- 7 Reflect local identity.

**B4.1
NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM (N)**

The Natural Heritage System (NHS) is a key element of the City's structure (see Brampton Plan Natural Heritage System Schedules) and important to helping mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Brampton's NHS is part of the regional and provincial natural heritage system, with connections to Lake Ontario, the Niagara Escarpment, and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The NHS includes wetlands, woodlands, valleylands, watercourses, areas of natural and scientific interest, environmentally sensitive and significant areas, habitats of threatened or endangered species, fish habitats, and significant wildlife habitat, along with the water resources system.

Through Brampton Plan, the City aims to protect, enhance and restore the NHS to ensure it is preserved for future generations. Parks and Open Space complement and may provide connections and linkages to support the NHS.



Where NHS features are present, they should form one of the ordering elements of the community structure.

- 1 Integrate the NHS as a key structural element of all neighbourhoods by providing for a range of development interfaces that create opportunities for public vistas and connections to the NHS (e.g. terminal views at the end of prominent streets). 
- 2 Connect and integrate components of the NHS with the Parks and Open Space Network and the local and regional trail systems.
- 3 Any development should avoid encroaching on the NHS, including dumping, unauthorized access, and light spillage. Outdoor lighting should be designed to minimize light spillage and maintain dark sky conditions to protect ecosystems.
- 4 Where appropriate, provide opportunities for passive recreation adjacent to the NHS.
- 5 Where appropriate, provide frequent access points and significant street frontage adjacent to the NHS to promote views and accessibility. 
- 6 Provide native and regenerative plantings in areas adjacent to the NHS.



**B4.2
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES / NATURALIZED CHANNELS (S)**

Stormwater Management (SWM) Facilities and Naturalized Channels are elements of the open space system that help to manage rainfall, snow melt, and stormwater runoff.

They provide potential habitat for fish and wildlife, enhance the resilience and bio-diversity of the community and contribute to the naturalization of open spaces. They should be designed to provide opportunities for passive recreational and nature interpretive.

- 1 Locate stormwater management ponds adjacent to and integrated within the Open Space Network.
- 2 Provide significant public visibility and access to SWM facilities by way of the street/block pattern (minimum 2 public frontages - street, park and/or open space frontages).
- 3 Implement a comprehensive rainwater and groundwater recharge strategy as part of the stormwater management treatment train;
- 4 Implement a Low Impact Design (LID) strategy to emphasize the use of bioswales, innovative stormwater practices, constructed wetlands, and alternative filtration systems, such as treatment trains and water conservation measures. 
- 5 Consider on-site treatment of stormwater through the use of green infrastructure such as bioswales, at source infiltration, and permeable pavement. 



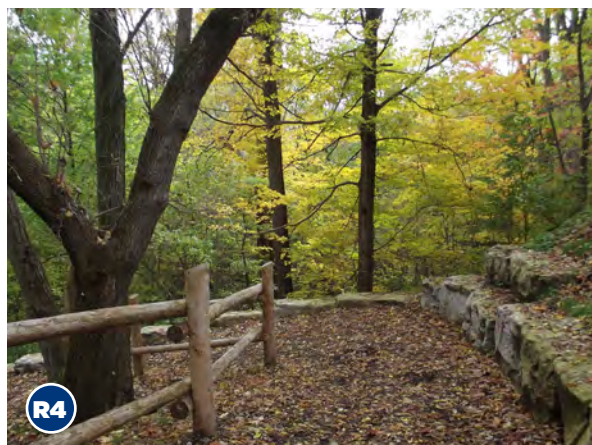
- 6 Design ponds to blend with the natural landscape. Where feasible, conceal inlet and outlet structures using a combination of planting, grading, and natural stone.
- 7 Discourage the fencing of ponds except where warranted by safety considerations, such as along the rear or flankage of adjacent residential properties or school sites.
- 8 Provide opportunities for passive recreation with particular attention paid to safety and access.
- 9 Co-ordinate the design of landscape components, including look-outs, seating areas, shade structures, site furnishings as part of the overall character of the community.
- 10 Provide a planting strategy (including canopy trees) that enhances the City's urban forest and promotes the objectives of the Urban Forest Management Plan and Brampton Plan policies 3.2.5.10 to 3.2.5.15.
- 11 Ensure engineered channels are naturalized and support subwatershed / stormwater management functions.



B4.3 RECREATIONAL TRAILS (R)

Recreational trails are identified in Brampton Plan Schedule 3A - Active Transportation Network. Their design shall be guided by the standards defined in the City's ATMP and the Recreational Trails Guidelines (that are currently being drafted). In addition, the following shall also apply:

- 1 Incorporate the trail network, including within Parks and Open Space, and adjacent to or within the Natural Heritage System, where appropriate and supported by an impact study.
- 2 Connect trails to the sidewalk, to residential, commercial, employment and institutional areas as well as to other open space trails. 🌿
- 3 Design trail entrances to incorporate pedestrian/cyclist amenities such as lighting, seating, waste/recycling bins and bicycle parking, where appropriate. Lighting is discouraged along trails adjacent to or within the Natural Heritage System due to impact on wildlife and vegetation. 🌿



- 4 Design trails to support year-round and all-weather use, where appropriate.
- 5 Ensure pedestrian trails in environmentally sensitive areas use low-impact materials, such as woodchips or limestone screenings, and incorporate mitigation measures recommended by environmental impact studies.
- 6 Avoid locating trails in hazardous lands (e.g., floodplains, slopes, areas prone to erosion) and wetlands.
- 7 Ensure trails are minimum 2.4m to 3m wide.
- 8 For trails adjacent to or within the Natural Heritage System, widths may vary based on available space and environmental considerations; a recommended width of 2m may be appropriate in these contexts.
- 9 Incorporate signage and interpretive/educational features along trails to effectively direct users, highlight destinations within walking or biking distance, and serve as branding for the trail itself.
- 10 Provide pedestrian amenities such as water dispensers and cooling/misting stations, where appropriate.



B4.4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Brampton Plan recognizes the development of Parks and Open Space as a key city-wide priority within the Health and Wellness City-Wide Building Block. The new Official Plan supports “rethinking” of the existing parks hierarchy including consideration of Urban Parks, Linear Connectors and Privately Owned Public Space (POPS).

Parks and open spaces are valuable community assets that provide opportunities for social interaction, recreation, programmed activities, as well as areas for quiet contemplation and relaxation. There is a well-documented association between mental health and natural environments; immersive exposure to nature through parks and open spaces can positively impact the overall mental well-being of the community. These spaces provide mental health and social connection benefits, while also supporting ecological functions such as enhancing biodiversity and helping to both mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Ensuring access to high-quality parks and open spaces that are well designed, offer a range of opportunities for individual or community activities, and are broadly accessible to residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities is a key foundation for a healthy city.

Parks and Open Space provide opportunities for the integration of arts and culture (Brampton Culture Master Plan 2018), including public art

(Public Art Strategy 2024), which has proven to have a positive and meaningful impact on communities and audiences.

The Parks and Open Space Network consists of:

- City Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Urban Parks
- Linear Connectors

Brampton Plan (3.5.1 Parks and Open Space), the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) and the Parks Plan (2041), promote parks that are diverse, well distributed and well designed to support and serve the needs of the community. This includes:



City Destination Park - Chinguacousy Park Children's Play Area



City Destination Park - Chinguacousy Park Building



City Destination Park - Chinguacousy Park Skating



Cassie Campbell Community Centre, Brampton



Springdale Community Park, Brampton



Neighbourhood Park, Brampton

A. CITY PARKS

City Parks are destination parks that are intended to provide green space and recreation opportunities at the city scale, and in some cases support regional park needs.

They are typically larger than Community Parks and may vary in size as well as in shape, depending on the constraints of surrounding properties and specific programs for the park. Variation in shape may also be the result of historical land assembly practices, a process of land assembly, which involves combining adjacent parcels of land to form a single property.

B. COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are located throughout the city and are intended to provide a range of opportunities for outdoor active and passive recreation on a smaller scale than City parks.

Community Parks vary in size from 10 to 12 hectares and serve between 15,000 to 20,000 residents within a 3-kilometre radius. These parks may include:

- Playgrounds and splash pads.
- Multi-purpose courts and open play areas.
- Sports facilities and flood lighting
- Shade structures and seating areas.
- Walkways and landscaping.
- Parking.

C. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Neighbourhood Parks are smaller than community parks and are intended to provide opportunities and experiences for outdoor active and passive recreation within suburban residential neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhood Parks vary in size from 0.8 to 1.2 hectares and serve between 4,000 to 5,000 residents within a 5-minute walk (400m radius).

These parks may include:

- Playgrounds and splash pads.
- Multi-purpose courts and open play areas.
- Sports facilities and flood lighting.
- Shade structures and seating areas.
- Walkways and landscaping.

D. URBAN PARKS

Urban Parks are specialized parks located within the City's Urban Centres, Boulevards, Corridors, and higher-density neighbourhoods. These parks are expected to be acquired, owned, developed, and maintained by the City. However, in some cases, private ownership may be suitable for Urban Squares, Promenades, and Pocket Parks. This could include privately owned parks with arrangements in place to allow public access and use (see Section 3.5 - Ownership Models).

The Urban Park Hierarchy consists of the following:

- Urban Squares
- Public Commons
- Promenades
- Pocket Parks

URBAN SQUARES / PLAZAS

Urban Squares or Plazas are intended to serve community users who are generally within a 5-minute walking distance (approximately 400m), and support neighbourhood-oriented social opportunities, as well as city-wide entertainment and cultural events depending on their size and location.

Urban Squares are a moderately scaled urban park typology, approximately 0.25 to 1 hectare in size. Urban Squares are commonly associated with commercial and residential land uses.

Urban Squares may include public art, small outdoor game areas, seating areas and places to eat, as well as street- related activities such as vendor and exhibit space.

For guidelines on Urban Parks design refer to the Parks Plan 2041 - Appendix I Parkland Design Guidelines.



Urban Square - Berczy Park, Toronto

PUBLIC COMMONS

Public Commons are intended to serve community members who are generally within a 10-minute walking distance (approximately 800m) and to provide social and recreational focal points in urban neighbourhoods.

Public Commons are the largest urban park typology, approximately 0.75 to 2.0 hectares in size. Public Common spaces are the social and recreational focal points of a neighbourhood. They typically meet the needs of the local community, and in some instances, accommodate city-wide facilities. Public Common spaces support a balance of active and passive uses.

Public Common spaces should accommodate special features that add visual interest and contribute to placemaking, including space for public art.

For guidelines on Urban Parks design refer to the Parks Plan 2041 - Appendix I Parkland Design Guidelines.



Promenade - 39 - 41 Roehampton Avenue, Toronto



Pocket Park - Lee Lifeson Art Park, Toronto

PROMENADES

Promenades are intended to enhance the pedestrian experience along with highly activated at-grade retail spaces.

Promenades are substantial linear spaces that are located between adjacent building facades and the adjacent road right-of-way.

For guidelines on Urban Parks design refer to the Parks Plan 2041 - Appendix I Parkland Design Guidelines.

POCKET PARKS

Pocket Parks are intended to serve a local community that is generally within a 2.5 to 5-minute walk of residents, visitors and businesses.

Pocket Parks are small public spaces designed to a very high standard to support intensified use and to accommodate socializing in dense urban areas. Pocket Parks are destinations unto themselves, animated by outdoor seating and active restaurant or retail frontages.

For guidelines on Urban Parks design refer to the Parks Plan 2041 - Appendix I Parkland Design Guidelines.

E. LINEAR CONNECTOR

Linear Connectors reflect lands that are oriented to off-road recreational trails and other connecting links between parkland or major community destinations and form part of the broader Active Transportation Network.

They are intended to advance active transportation as a key component of the overall mobility.



Linear Connector - The 'Meadoway' Toronto

B4.5 OWNERSHIP MODELS

POPS and Strata Parks, as per the City Parkland Dedication By-Law, are to be located within MTSA/Urban Growth Centers/Intensification Areas.

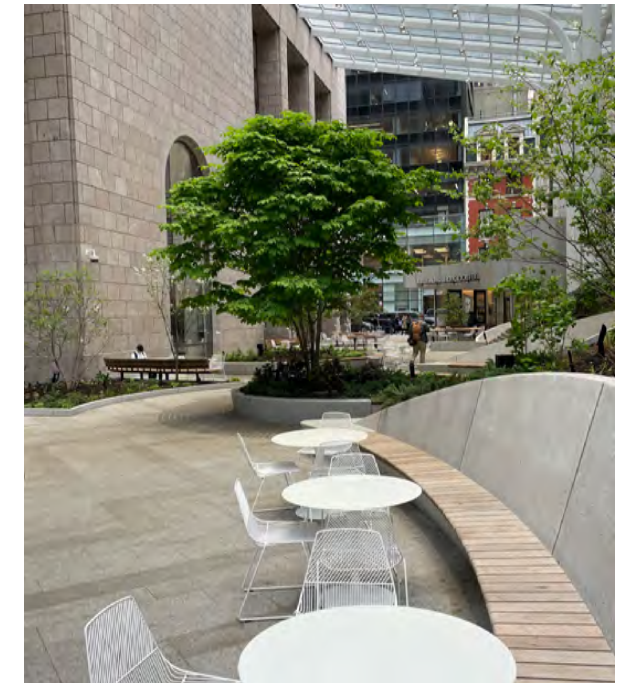
A. PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACE (POPS)

Privately Owned Public Space (POPS) are open spaces located within private property which are made publicly accessible via legal agreements between the property owner and the municipality. They are privately operated and maintained.

POPS serve an important public function in enhancing pedestrian connectivity in urban communities and on occasion, providing passive recreation opportunities.

B. STRATA PARKS

Strata (stratified title agreement) parkland is a public park developed above private infrastructure, typically parking garages. It is publicly owned and typically publicly operated, whereas the underlying infrastructure is maintained within private ownership.



POPS - 550 Madison Ave, New York City



Strata Park - College Park, Toronto

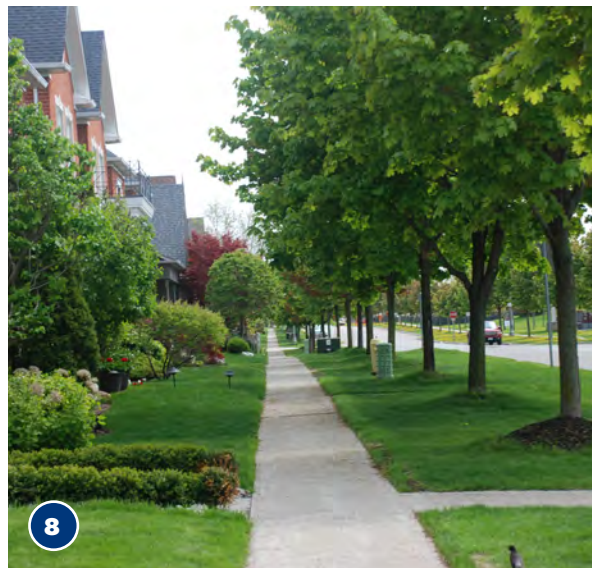
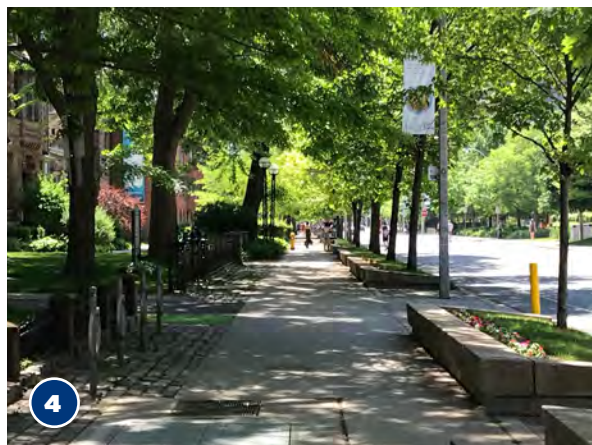
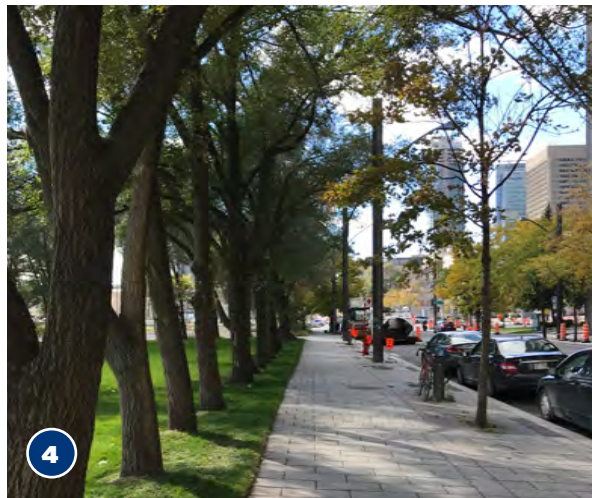
**B4.6
URBAN FOREST**

Urban trees support natural area functions and, at maturity, create a generous canopy which can provide pedestrian shade, shelter, streetscape amenities, and traffic management, promoting safety and creating a pleasant environment.

The intent of the urban forest is to increase the urban tree canopy and support Natural Systems functions while enhancing streetscapes to provide shade, shelter and aesthetically appealing streets and open space amenities.

In addition to Brampton Plan policies and the Urban Forest Management Plan, the following shall apply:

- 1 Provide a diverse and resilient species selection that anticipates climate change conditions and operational constraints.
- 2 Encourage a diversity of tree species along each road, native to the City, non-invasive, drought and salt tolerant, and low maintenance. 🌿
- 3 Select and plant street tree species with large canopies to provide shade over sidewalks, reducing the heat island effect and enhancing pedestrian comfort and safety. Trees should achieve at least 50% shade coverage of the sidewalk or road within a general time-frame of 8 to 15 years. 🌿
- 4 Provide appropriate planting conditions (soil volumes / soil mix) to address summer and winter conditions, and to support the growth of healthy, mature trees with connected canopies on local roads. 🌿
- 5 Consider incorporating a double row (allee) of trees in key areas, such as adjacent to parks and where a wider boulevard exists.
- 6 Design parking lots to incorporate planting of trees to increase tree cover and shading, and to reduce heat island impact.
- 7 Encourage alternative planting strategies (e.g. Silva-cells, sufficient soil medium, continuous planting trenches, etc.) to increase tree soil quantity and quality in high-pedestrian areas. 🌿
- 8 Ensure at least one street tree is planted per residential dwelling unit (excluding multiple dwellings that are subject to Site Plan approval) or spaced at intervals of 8m to 12m on centre. A minimum of two street trees should be provided on each flankage lot, where feasible, subject to considerations such as utility requirements, driveways, street furniture placement, and appropriate tree species.



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