

Types of Plans that can be applied to a Park

1 NATURAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The objective of a Natural Area Management Plan is to review and define the boundaries of the natural areas within a park and develop strategies to manage, protect, restore, and enhance the ecological elements within the park.

A Natural Areas Management Plan would include the following:

- Background and History
- Inventory and Assessment of park (including ecological function and human use)
- Restoration Plan for the park
- Management strategies with regard to invasive species, park visitors, and volunteers
- Mapping

2 MANAGEMENT PLAN

A park management plan is a document that sets the direction for the future. It outlines a park's vision, purpose, goals and long-term strategies to preserve the natural environment and provide relevant and appropriate recreational opportunities for the community. Management decisions related to park use and programming are made based on the approved Park Management Plan. Ideally, management plans are updated every 10 to 15 years and take into consideration legislation and zoning including the Official Community Plan and Local Area plans. Current research, economics and societal attitudes will also influence various iterations of a park management plan. Management plans are always prepared in consultation with the community.

A Park Management Plan would include the following:

- Background, History and Context
- Guiding Documents
- Inventory and Assessment of the park (Natural Areas, Park Use, Values and Roles, Stakeholders and Partnerships)
- Key Management Issues
- Vision, Goals
- Principal Management Strategies/Directions/Goals which relate to the following broad topics:
 - I. Conserving and managing the natural environment
 - II. Managing the cultural heritage
 - III. Managing recreational activities, trails and community use
 - IV. Ensuring safety and security
- Guiding Principles for working with the community
- Resourcing and implementation of the plan
- Mapping

3 MASTER PLAN

A Master Plan (also called a comprehensive plan), is a general plan for the future layout of a park, helping to guide park development. A Master Plan can be prepared either for the improvement of an existing park or for the development of a new park. Among other issues, the Master Plan typically identifies the following:

- i. Appropriate use of the parkland
- ii. Suitable locations and spatial requirements for natural areas, recreation amenities, trails and other activities approved for the park
- iii. Opportunities for pedestrian and cycling connections within the park and with the surrounding community

A Master Plan helps to restrict haphazard and unplanned development within the boundaries of the park and places park functions in a physical relationship with each other in order to avoid conflicts.

A Master Plan would include the following:

- Aerial Photos, maps, and spatial diagrams
- Conceptual Plans
- Reports to support the concept plan

A Master Plan has a direct relationship to park users and neighbours, obtained through a thorough public engagement process.

4 PRECINCT PLAN OR SITE SPECIFIC PLAN

A Precinct or Site Specific Plan formulates proposals and designs for a specific area within a park.

Key components of a Precinct or Site Specific Plan would include:

- Appropriate use for the site (if not already determined through a Management or Master Plan)
- View studies (if appropriate)
- Opportunities and constraints for the site
- Infrastructure requirements
- Review of the natural and cultural heritage aspects of the site
- Spatial layout of the precinct/site including; pedestrian and cycling connections, recreations amenities, trails, natural areas, location and massing of buildings (if appropriate) and landscape plans or guidelines
- Budgets
- Phasing for future development

A Precinct or Site Specific Plan would reflect community values and expectations through a series of public engagement sessions.