

A - Directed by OurWinnipeg

Winnipeg's Municipal Development Plan

A vision document to guide and regulate development.

Working together to create a vibrant inclusive and sustainable Winnipeg

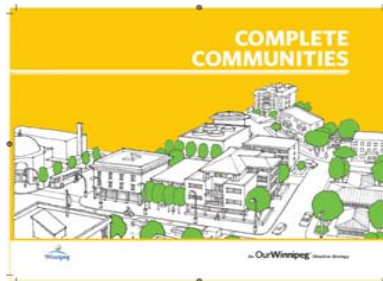
➡ An approved Item in the Call to Action

City Building

• New Parks Strategy

Involve the community in a strategic plan for the sustainable development and management of Winnipeg's parks, public places and open spaces.

➡ Aligns with the Complete Communities Direction Strategy



- one of 4 integrated direction setting strategies of **OurWinnipeg**
- guides land use and development
- describes Winnipeg's physical characteristics and lays a framework for the City's future growth
- promotes a variety of lifestyle choices and provides options for ways to live, work, and play

B - Timely - needed to respond to changes:

• In the City

- Anticipated rapid population growth and change of the urban structure has implications on provision of parks

• Parks Operational Plan

- A parks plan has not been undertaken in over 15 years
- Updated Standards and Guidelines are necessary to better communicate current processes and associated expectations

• Changing public interest, needs + trends

- Expectations of increased community involvement + engagement
- Stronger environmental focus
- Changed lifestyles, interests and trends since the last comprehensive review

Creating Complete Communities

- Parks and open spaces are an important component of the City's Municipal plan
- Satisfaction with parks is a paramount indicator of urban well-being
- In keeping with the focus of OurWinnipeg focus, Parks are seen as:
 - a key element in creating a **city that works**
 - contributing favourably to **quality of life**
 - the 'green' ribbon that knits together our communities and form part of the environmental engine that drives and defines a **Sustainable City**

Strategy Scope:

- **Planning, provision and operation of Parks lands**
 - It does not focus on activity programming or recreation services – this is provided by others (Community Services Department and/or partners)
 - Parks relationship to recreation is primarily as facilitator and sometimes partner
 - providing the space and the amenities for recreation to occur
- **Varied Scales:** Regional, community, neighbourhood, linear
- **All types spaces for broad range of uses:**

Parks Inventory Data (2009)	
Population: 2009 per Stats Can	675,100
City Land Area - Hectares (Ha)	47557
Park and Open Space land area - Hectares (Ha)	3064
Boulevard area maintained - (Ha)	525
# of P+OS properties (* source Parks and Open Space division)	1,128
Sports Fields (soccer, football, baseball)	604
Flower planting : in ground, raised beds + baskets - (m2)	21,200
Trees removed (DED + Non-DED)	4969/1935
Trees planted (annually)	1458
Playgrounds (incl. toboggan slides)	529
Park pathways/walkways maintained (lin. Km)	239

As well as: community + recreation centre sites, plazas, specialty parks, hard surface court areas, ice rinks

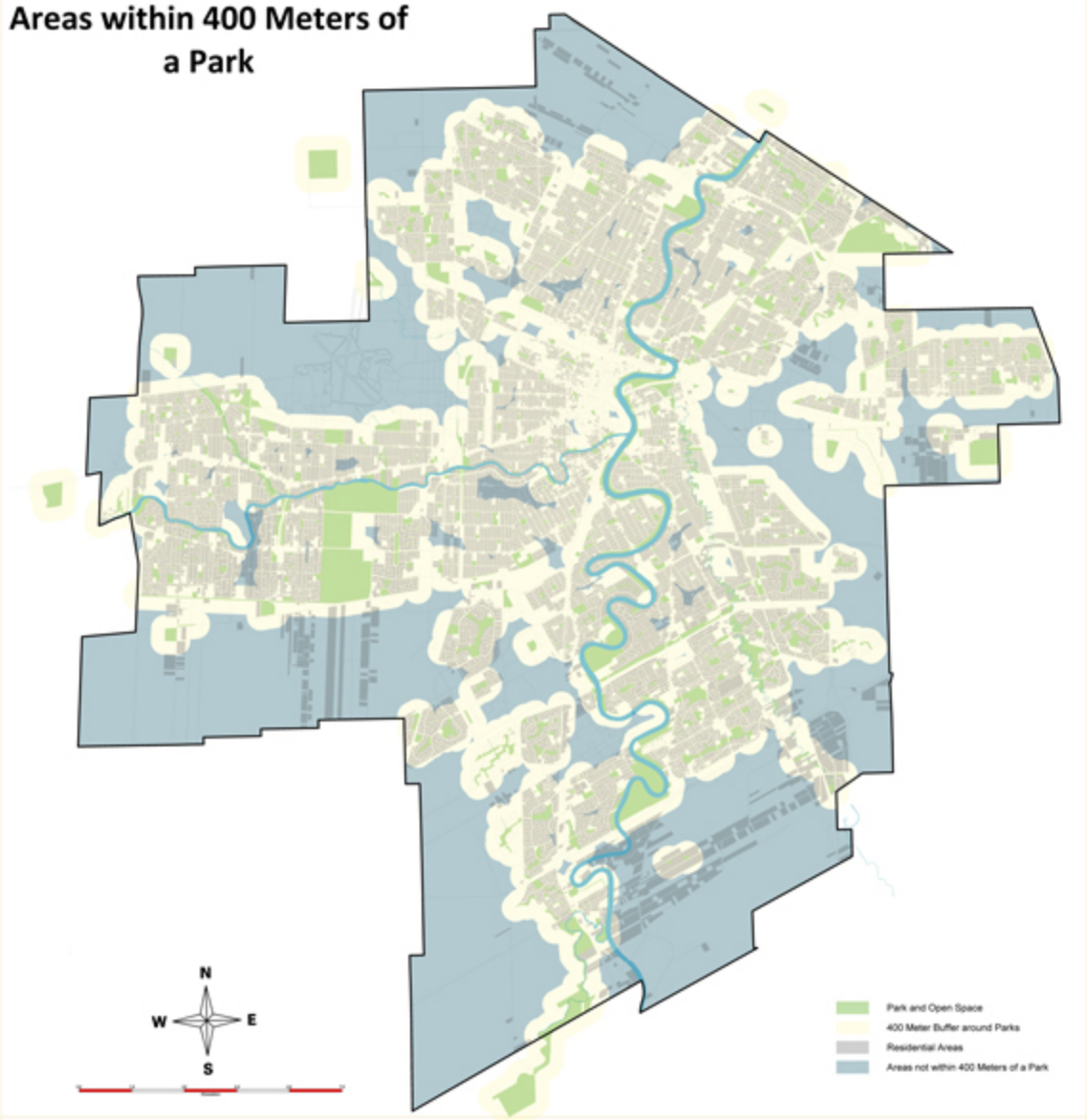
- **Support and maintain associated amenities:**
Site furnishings, sport fields structures, picnic areas, toboggan slides, skateboard parks, lighting, basketball/tennis courts, ice rinks, boat docks
- **Park Service responsibilities for:**
Urban forest management; weed control; park security, regional street boulevard maintenance, landscape development

Benefits of Parks

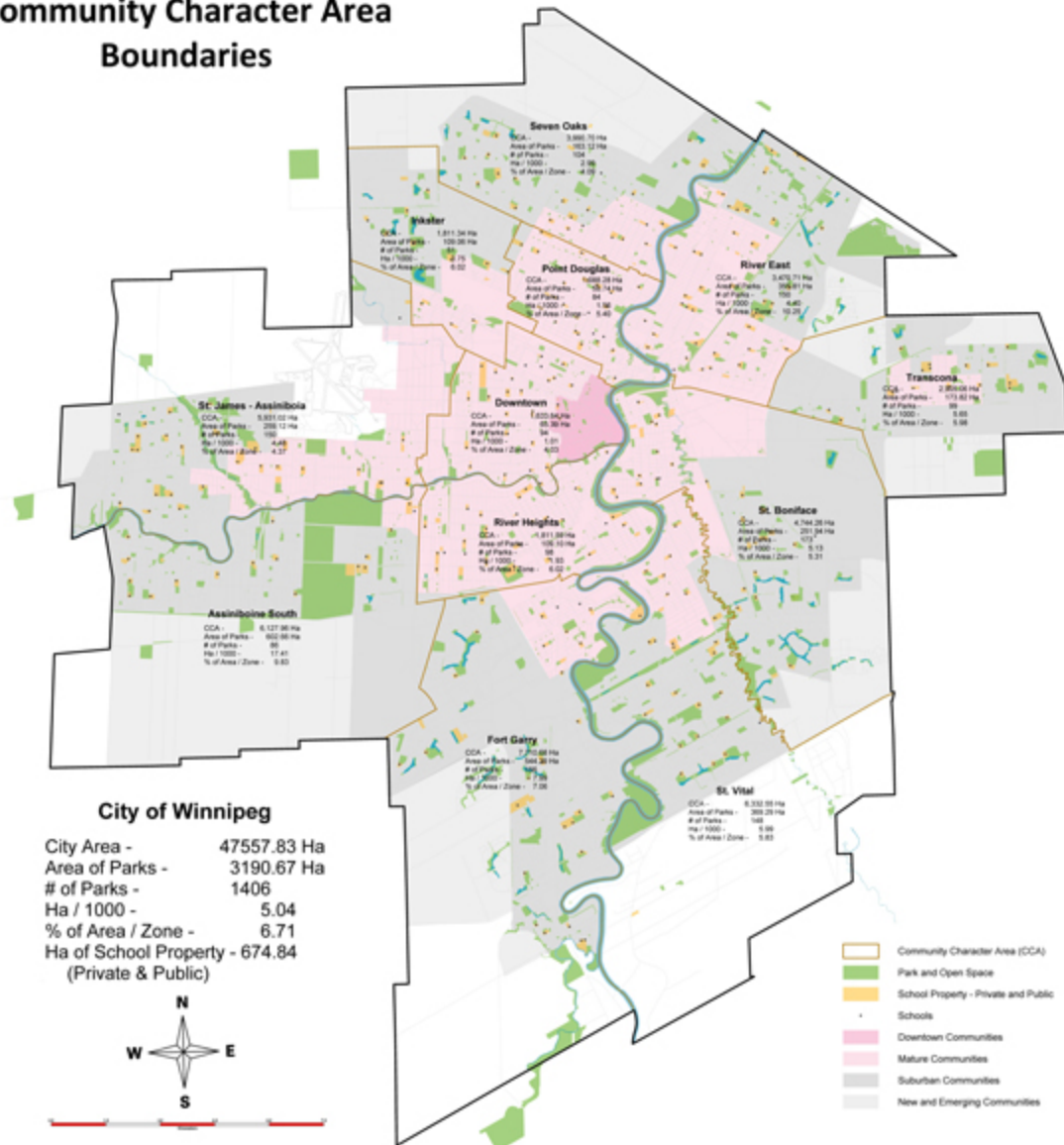
- **Personal (psychological/physical)**
 - Health + wellness – parks contribute to a full + meaningful life
 - Brings beauty to an area while giving people satisfaction and, provides wide open spaces for play
 - Provide recreation opportunities – which can become source of self esteem and position self awareness
- **Social**
 - Social interaction - parks provide a place to meet, engage and celebrate
 - As a focal point or gather space – often the catalyst for building strong communities
 - a source of community pride
 - available to all - promotes social and ethnic harmony
- **Economic**
 - Improves the image and character of the community and city – often used as a marketing tool for new developments
 - Enhances property value
 - Acts as a catalyst for tourism
 - Reduces health care costs - healthy and active people are the best preventative health service
- **Environment**
 - Protects and preserves important habitats and riverbanks
 - Green infrastructure contributes to environmental health of our communities
 - Considered essential and life sustaining (oxygen producing)



Areas within 400 Meters of
a Park

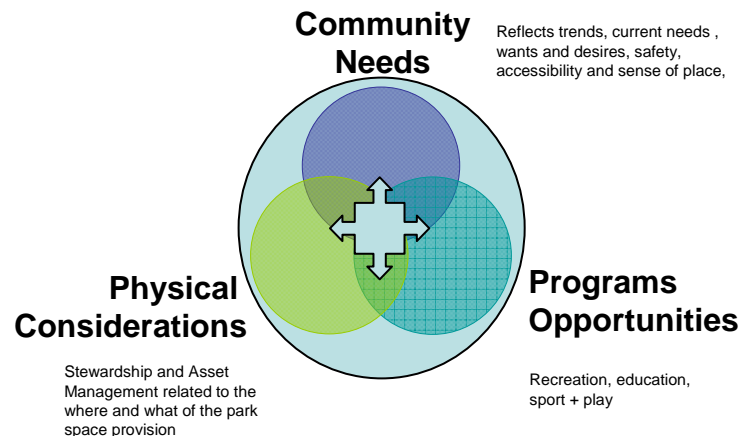


Community Character Area Boundaries



Intent of a Park Strategic Plan

- To respond to current needs and anticipate and plan for change
- To create a Framework Document to set Direction and Policy
 - Guides acquisition, design, construction, maintenance and use of Winnipeg's parks and open spaces.
 - Provides long term direction (15-25 years) for community, city, and joint-use school ground land use planning,
 - Provides short term (2-5 year) priorities for implementation
 - Outlines the management principles for the city and its development partners including: not-for-profit; community-based organizations; and for-profit developers.
- In the context of Complete Communities and the Urban Structure, helps define where we live, work and play
- The plan links 3 distinct areas of focus and imbeds the common goals and directions within our organization



Process to date

Input Opportunities:

- Mayor's Symposium on Sustainability - April 2009
- Urban Design Charrette – June 2009
- SpeakUp Winnipeg - April 2009 – July 2010
 - 2 weeks - feature on Parks - July
- Parks Survey – August – September 2009
 - 1000 Household Phone Survey – Aug
 - Web Survey - Sept
- Parks Focused Input Sessions - Sept '09 – Jan '10.
 - Listening / Sharing / Seeking inputs towards issues identification, Vision, Principles, Strategy + Goals
 - 1. Stakeholder – Special interest Groups – Sept.
Specific and geographically focused groups (Seniors Community Gardens, Dog Parks, Resident Associations, Adopt-a-Park Groups)
 - 2. Staff Session – Oct.
Front line staff to Management from Various Depts.
 - 3. Stakeholders Facilitated Sessions – Nov. – Jan.
 - Business Improvement Zones (BIZ) Groups
 - GCWCC – Greater Council of Winnipeg Community Centres
 - Assiniboine Park Enterprises
 - Stewardship Groups
 - Trails Organizations
 - Sport Manitoba

Research – October 2009 – September 2010

- Cross jurisdictional review
- Literature review

Parks Inventory + Mapping

- Update GIS Mapping of Parks for analysis

Draft Key Directions + Strategies – May – Sept. 2010

- Initiate Preliminary Inputs and Background Document
- Develop Park Design and Development Guidelines

Vision

*To be a vibrant, world renowned, 'green' city
... a prairie oasis.*



Mission

Ensure parks contribution to quality of life, sustainability and complete communities through:

- *facilitation of healthy and active living;*
- *promotion of environmental and cultural resources sensitivities; and*
- *financial and economic responsibility.*

Principles:

“Principles are tenets that provide a framework for thinking and decision making. While strategies and actions need to adjust to changing circumstance, principles continue to provide the foundation of sound choice” the City Building Charrette Draft Report,-- Place Makers

The provision of parks and park related services will be successful when a commitment is made to the following key principles/ values:

– Benefits based outcomes

- contributes to health and wellness, economic development, environmental sustainability, community cohesion and superior quality of life

– Responsiveness / accountability

- will seek to engage the community in a meaningful and transparent way, recognizing need and wants, but with an understanding of responsibility

– Variety + choice

- provide a balanced blend/array of opportunities to meet the ever varied and changing needs and aspirations of users

– Availability/inclusiveness

- encouraging and facilitating participation in a fair and inclusive manner for all residents and visitors, across all ages, abilities, cultural, economic and geographic perspectives
- affordable and physically accessible: year round, inter-generational

– Quality

- provide quality services and continually evaluate as to benefit, value, effectiveness of desired outcomes as an indicator of pride and as a contributor to positive urban form.

– Safety

- strive for an absence of fear, sense of security, stability and well being

– Leadership

- environmental protection and long term viability

What are we responding to?

- ➡ **Winnipeg is changing**
 - **Population increase** (174,000 more people expected in 25 yrs)
 - **Land availability questions** (anticipate infill + densification)
 - **Demographic shift** (larger immigrant mix, increased aboriginal population + aging society)
- ➡ **Wipeggers value and identify with our Urban Forest and Riverbanks**
- ➡ **More options for active transportation and passive recreation desired**
- ➡ **People want to participate and have a voice on parks**
- ➡ **Increased interest in dog parks and community gardens**
- ➡ **Balancing legitimate yet mutually competing interests**
- ➡ **More communication needed to clarify expectations and as a basis for accountability**
- ➡ **Expressed need for evaluation of athletic field management and practices**
- ➡ **Continued Environmental Leadership**
 - Environmental Protection/ Preservation
 - Green Processes /Practices

Basis for Key directions



HEALTHY + VIBRANT

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE

ENVIRONMENTALLY FOCUSED

INTER-CONNECTED

UNDERSTANDABLE

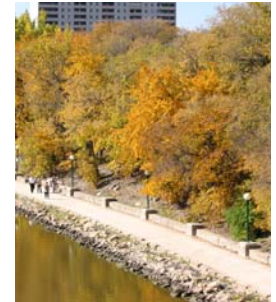


Key Directions + Strategies

3 Main Directions

1 VIBRANT + HEALTHY
Ensure parks contribute to wellness and active living by focusing on community needs.

- a) Provide parks recreation, sport and leisure opportunities at the neighbourhood, community and regional levels.
- b) Shape and support city character by creating dynamic parks that attract residents and meet a range of diverse community needs.
- c) Provide varied recreation spaces that incorporate passive/active uses and promote social interaction.
- d) Parks must be accessible, available and inclusive implementing the principles of Universal Design, affordability, and physical proximity.
- e) Respond to changing needs and trends in recreation through regular community engagements.
- f) Design, develop and maintain parks to meet or exceed safety standards, and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.



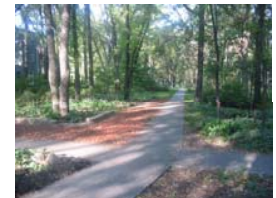
2 ECONOMICALLY VIABLE
Ensure parks support economic development and are managed in a financially sustainable, innovative manner.

- a) Foster partnerships and pursue others to encourage sharing and contributions of labour and financing that will support maintaining and enhancing the park system.
- b) Collaborate to provide and maintain parks using direct and partnered management and delivery strategies.
- c) Ensure the parks network supports economic development and tourism by promote the City's urban image, enhancing and marketing of destination parks and encouraging use for major events.
- d) Efficiently and effectively allocate resources for optimal service delivery.
- e) Provide sound municipal management through the development and maintenance of an Asset Management Strategy that reinvests in parks infrastructure, on a 20 year cycle



3 ENVIRONMENTALLY FOCUSED
Demonstrate the value of our environmental and cultural capital by protecting, enhancing and restoring those park resources that are recognized as having historical, ecological or aesthetic value.

- a) Provide environmental leadership and advocacy to ensure parks contribute to air, water, environmental and aesthetic quality.
- b) Protect and enhance the urban forest, recognizing it's contribution towards the development and operation of an environmentally sustainable city.
- c) Focus on preserving and conserving habitats designated through the Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy.
- d) Promote and expand biodiversity consistent with the local natural ecosystem, not only within the urban forest and designated 'natural areas', but in all parks and open spaces.
- e) Collaborate with environmental and stewardship organizations on shared best practices, implementation strategies, programs, education and research.
- f) Enhancing sense of place by identifying heritage and culturally significant landscapes and features and by celebrating them in meaningful ways.
- g) Demonstrate safe and effective pest and weed control through management and public education.



2 Supporting Directions

4 INTER-CONNECTED Promote active mobility and pedestrian connectivity.

- a) Support the Active Transportation Study by coordinating to provide a safe, accessible, continuous and integrated linear parkway networks.
- b) Continue to develop and improve a city wide pedestrian and non-motorized path network that connects neighbourhoods, communities and the river system to provide ecological, recreational and transport benefits.
- c) Complement and support the active transportation network by promoting the planning, provision and development of linear parks paths and trails.

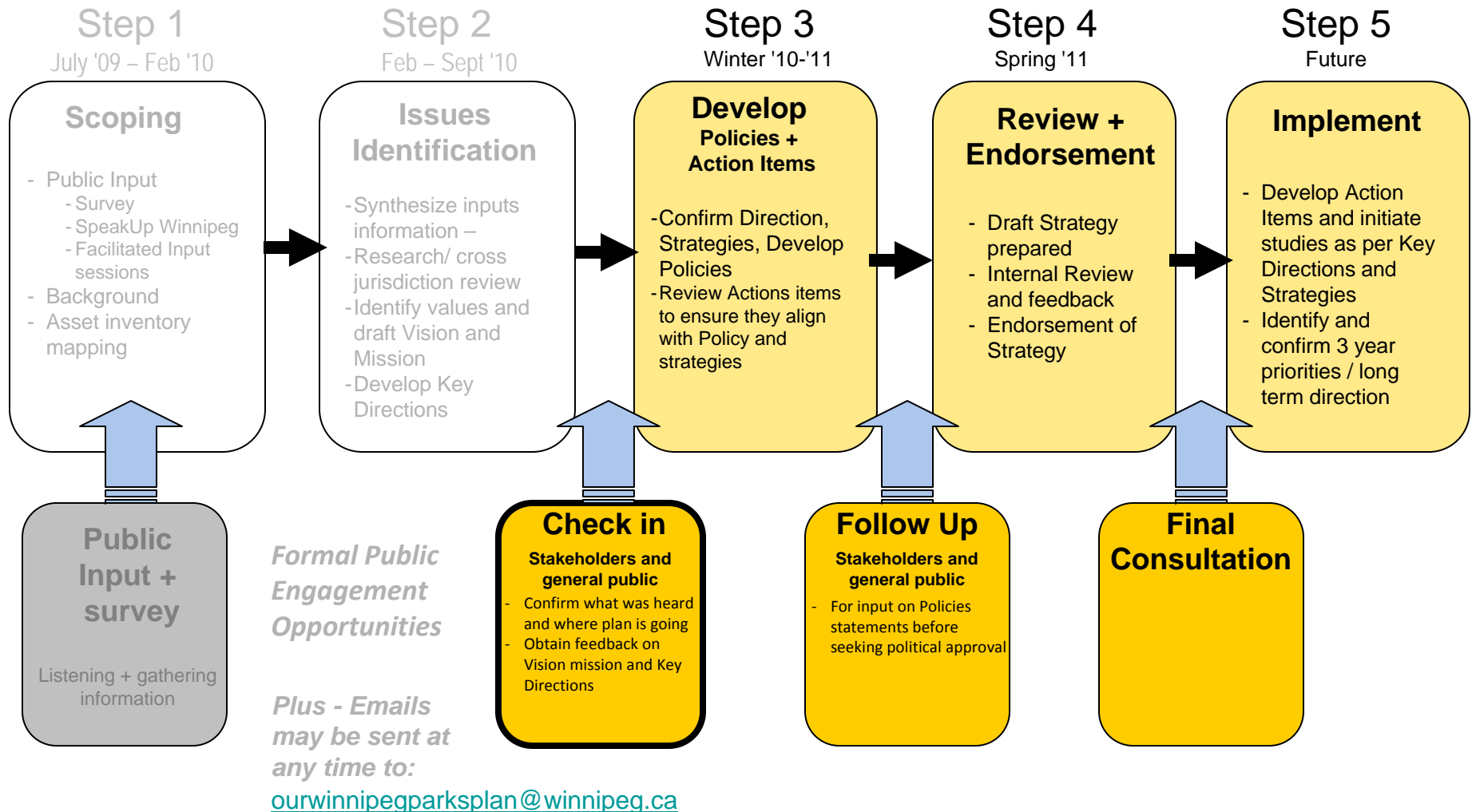


5 UNDERSTANDABLE Maintain relevant standards and guidelines for open space development and management.

- a) Develop parks urban design standards consistent with Complete Communities strategies and broader city policies.
- b) Update the Development Agreement Parameters to support sustainable practices, ecologically significant natural lands, development innovation and the balance of active and passive park spaces.
- c) Update the City's Park classification system to more clearly define the parks system and components within it.
- d) Develop a parks acquisition and surplus land strategy that will evaluate the density, demographics and distance of park lands to meet community needs.



Next Steps



Information and updates will be posted on the SpeakUp Winnipeg Website beginning December 2010

3 Main, 2 Supporting

1

VIBRANT + HEALTHY

Ensure parks contribute to wellness and active living by focusing on community needs.

2

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE

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3

ENVIRONMENTALLY FOCUSED

Demonstrate the value of our environmental and cultural capital by protecting, enhancing and restoring those park resources that are recognized as having historical, ecological or aesthetic value.

4

INTER-CONNECTED

Promote active mobility and pedestrian connectivity.

5

UNDERSTANDABLE

Maintain relevant standards and guidelines for open space development and management.

How and when these proceed will be based on public inputs

- Park and Trail Classification Restructuring
- Urban Forest Management Plan
- Asset Management Strategy
- Sustainable Parks Operations Plan
- Review of ESNL processes and procedure
- Invasive Pest Management Plan
- Athletic Field Operation and Management Plan
- Parks Acquisition and Surplus Lands Strategy – concurrent with Development Agreement Parameters Review