

Aboriginal Park

Commonly known as:	Aboriginal Park
Former/other names:	Indian Memorial Park
Location:	Northwood near E.C. Row Expressway
Property Acquired:	1972
Acreage:	2.9
Official designation:	Community park

During the construction of the E.C. Row Expressway, Indian artefacts were discovered and moved to this site. A portion of the park is a memorial for indigenous peoples and is left in a natural state. The other portion of the park has been developed with a basketball key and playground equipment in co-operation with the developer for the surrounding residences.

Adstoll Park and Arena

Commonly known as:	Adstoll Park, Adstoll Arena
Former/other names:	none
Location:	at Grand Marais and Pillette Roads
Property acquired:	1965
Acreage:	4.35
Official designation:	Community park

Although Adstoll Park was officially established in 1965, it was not until 1967, when Mayor John Wheelton performed the ground-breaking ceremonies for a new outdoor arena, that the park site began physically demonstrating its vast recreational potential. The outdoor arena, built at a cost of nearly \$90,000, was specially designed to allow for the installation of a roof at some point in the future.

That future arrived sooner than many area residents expected; in 1973, the City financed the complete enclosure of the rink, spending \$435,000 on the project. Just three years later, two tennis courts were installed at the park.

Today, tennis courts and an assortment of playground equipment, including a creative play unit are located at the park, but it is during the winter when children and adults of all ages hit the ice surface, that Adstoll Arena really comes alive.

In 2000, an additional piece of land was acquired in the area.

AKO Park

Commonly known as:	AKO Park
Former/other names:	Rossini Park
Location:	between Reginald and Milloy Streets off Bernard and Tourangeau Roads
Property acquired:	1951
Acreage:	15.91
Official designation:	Community park

Originally established as Rossini Park in 1951, the Alpha Kai Omega fraternity began exploring the possibility of becoming involved in the future development of the park in 1952, when the City was constructing an athletic building on the site. Dedicated to the sponsorship of junior sports since World War II, AKO teams used the park and facility frequently for training. In 1954, additional property was purchased and the AKO group was approached to seriously discuss the official sponsorship of the next stage of the park's development.

In 1961, the fraternity donated \$30,000 of the estimated \$80,000 needed to construct the AKO Neighbourhood Centre, the first facility in Windsor to be designed specifically for use as a community centre. Needs of user groups were carefully considered, space allotments and layout concepts were developed. It was a design that would become a fundamental component of subsequent centre in the area. Located within 16-acre AKO Park, the centre offers east side residents high quality, all-season recreational facilities.

Outdoors, AKO Park provides such diverse facilities as a football and soccer field, hardball and softball diamonds, a wade pool, plus a wide assortment of playground equipment. During the winter months, area children enjoy the park's small sledding hill.

Alexander Park

Commonly known as:	Alexander Park
Former/other names:	East Windsor Bathing Beach
Location:	North side of Riverside Drive East between Strabane Avenue and Rossini Boulevard
Property acquired:	1950
Acreage:	13.99
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

Alexander Park has changed dramatically since the early 1930s, when the site was commonly known as the East Windsor Bathing Beach. During the late 1920s, the Ford City (East Windsor) Planning Department initiated a major land reclamation project at the site, an undertaking that ultimately led to the establishment of a sandy, public beach along the more than 200-feet of waterfront parkland.

The City acquired the property for Alexander Park in several stages during the 1950s. Various single lots were purchased, but the majority of the land was obtained from two sources: the David Meretsky estate and the Ursuline Order of the Diocese of London, Ontario.

Named in honour of Viscount Alexander of Tunis, then Canada's Governor General, the park was officially dedicated in 1959 with a tree-planting ceremony. Alexander Park is also the site of a plaque honouring Oscar Fleming, the last Mayor of the Town of Windsor (1891) and the City of Windsor's first Mayor (1892).

Today, Alexander Park is no longer used as a beach for local swimmers but a passive, tranquil park where one may go to simply relax. Located across from Detroit's 1000-acre Belle Isle, its natural riverfront beauty is accentuated each summer by gardens containing hundreds of colourful rose bushes, making Alexander Park an ideal setting for outdoor weddings.

Alton C. Parker Park

Commonly known as:	Parker Park
Former/other names:	Broadhead Park
Location:	400 block of Broadhead Street
Property acquired:	1915
Acreage:	1.63
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

When Alton C. Parker died in the spring of 1989, he left behind a record of selfless, self-motivated public service, which, sadly, has not yet been thoroughly chronicled or fully appreciated. Although such records are not formally kept, it is probably safe to say that no Windsor native has been honoured with more prestigious national, provincial and local awards than Alton Parker. He received the Order of Canada, the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, and the Ontario Bravery Medal. He was also named Person of the Year by the North American Black Historical Museum and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Windsor.

His career began in 1942, when he became the first black officer on the Windsor Police Force. In 1953, Parker was promoted, and he became the first black detective in Canada. To help put these twin accomplishments into their proper historical perspective, consider that Parker was already a five-year veteran on the police force when Jackie Robinson broke major league baseball's colour barrier in 1947. Quite simply, it was no easy job to be a black police officer in 1942.

Retirement meant only a change of jobs for the versatile Parker. He launched into a second career as a party-giver for disadvantaged youngsters. Uncle Al Parker, as he was affectionately known, became the host of Uncle Al's Annual Kid's Party, an event that continued to be organized by Parker's family for 25 years. As a police officer for more than 25 years and as the host of the annual party for 22 years, Alton C. Parker was able to reach thousands of children. At the time of his death in 1989, The Windsor Star printed a caricatured sketch of a smiling Uncle Al Parker being met at heaven's pearly gates by a group of young child-angels. In 1976, the City of Windsor formally recognized Alton C. Parker's outstanding contributions to the community. Broadhead Park, the site each year of Uncle Al's Annual Kid's Party, was officially renamed Alton C. Parker Park.

Today, the site is well equipped with playground equipment, a spray pool, junior and senior swing sets, a basketball court and picnic tables. In 1991, \$25,000 in private donations were combined with city monies to develop a water play feature at the park.

In memory of Alton Parker, a statue of a policeman holding the hand of a child sits in the park. The statue was placed there by the Alton C. Parker Foundation and is inscribed with words from Alton C. Parker: "A lot of people talk about doing something for these kids. I don't just talk. I want to do it."

Ambassador Park

Commonly known as: Ambassador Park
Former/other names: Assumption Park, Heppenstal Park
Location: Riverside Drive
Property acquired: Owned by Ambassador Bridge. The area directly below bridge
Acreage: 2.89
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional Park.

This park, which begins at the Ambassador Bridge, is now the western boundary for the Odette Sculpture Park. Separate walking and cycling trails connect Ambassador Park to Assumption and Centennial Parks providing a seamless link in the developing riverfront parklands.

Assumption Park

Commonly known as: Assumption Park
Former/other names: Ambassador Park or Assumption/Centennial
Location: north and south of Riverside Drive West between Rankin Avenue and Huron Church Road
Property acquired: North 1915, South 1990
Acreage: 27.97
Official designation: City-Wide/ Regional park

In 1990, after eight years of protracted negotiations, the City of Windsor officially acquired land from the Basilian Fathers to add to Assumption Park. A \$208,000 Wintario grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications totally financed the purchase. In 1989, when the City began intensifying efforts to purchase the property, The Ontario Heritage Foundation, a branch of the Ministry of Culture and Communications, designated Assumption Park as a “property of historical and/or architectural significance,” thus virtually guaranteeing that the site would never be used for anything other than a public park. Today, the park is protected under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Not surprisingly, the park site has a long and rich history. In 1728, two Jesuit priests, Fathers Armand de la Richardie and Father Potier, established an Indian mission at present-day Detroit. A few years later, the Basilian Fathers moved the mission to Boblo Island, but in 1748 they were forced to relocate once again, settling finally at Montreal Point, site of the North side of today's Assumption Park. In 1749, the Basilian Fathers constructed the Assumption Rectory, and in 1782 the Huron Indians officially gave the property to the Church. Safe in the knowledge that the local Natives would not interfere, the Fathers built the Assumption Parish in 1787, the first Roman Catholic Parish west of Montreal. 100 years later, the Vatican agreed to lease the site to the Basilian Fathers for 500 years.

Between 1806 and 1851, the north part of the site was used as a cemetery, a fact not lost on modern day anthropologists. It was not until 1952, a full century later, that Assumption College, forerunner of the University of Windsor, was given title to the property. Between 1952 and 1990, the City of Windsor leased the property for \$1 per year, maintaining the historically rich site as a public park. A Russian cannon, used in 1855 during the Crimean Wars, is prominently displayed at the park. As well, a memorial cenotaph and plaque, erected by the Baby Chapter I.O.D.E. (Imperial Order

Daughters of the Empire) in memory of the men of Sandwich who gave their lives for humanity in the Great War (1914-1918), and in honour of those who, daring to die, survived, is a centrepiece at the park.

Assumption Park on the north side of Riverside Drive is popular year round with joggers, cyclers, and anglers, and offers a pleasant view of the river and Detroit.

In 1985 the Environmental Assessment for the shoreline improvements to the north side Centennial/Assumption Park was approved. The improvements were constructed in three phases from 1986 to 1994. The shoreline improvements include the provision of fishing decks, fish habitat rehabilitation, a riverside walking promenade through the beautiful Odette Sculpture Park, a cycle path plus other amenities.

Ernest Atkinson Park

Commonly known as:	Atkinson Park
Former/other names:	Shore Acres Park
Location:	University Avenue West between Rankin and Bridge Avenues
Property acquired:	1949
Acreage:	6.15
Official designation:	Community park

Atkinson Park, overlooking the Detroit River on the south side of Riverside Drive West between Bridge and Rankin Avenues, was once the site of Colonel Arthur Rankin's family home. Rankin built the dwelling in 1842 and lived there until his death in 1893. In 1925, the building was destroyed by fire.

Years later, in the 1930s and 1940s, the Shore Acres Hotel stood on the property. It was during this time that area youngsters began using a vacant lot adjacent to the hotel for informal baseball games. In the mid-1940s, the B. Segal Company, owners of the hotel, began exploring the possibility of closing the hotel and opening a new business in another area of the City. Late in 1949, shortly after the Ontario Liquor License Board approved the Segal Company's application for a liquor license at their new location at Partington Avenue and London (University Avenue) Street, the City purchased the site of today's Atkinson Park for \$40,000.

Ernest Atkinson was an instrumental figure in the acquisition of the park site in 1949. Along with Elis Shames, manager of the Shore Acres Hotel, Atkinson spearheaded negotiations with the Segal Company. In the late 1940s, Atkinson was a veteran of both the Second World War and the backroom political wars at City Hall. First elected to the Windsor Board of Education in 1932, Atkinson served the City in various capacities until 1958. Except for a two year period of military service (1944-46), Atkinson's tenure as an elected municipal official was uninterrupted for 26 years.

In 1953, the City of Windsor and the Windsor Rotary Club undertook an ambitious project to construct a swimming pool at the former site of the hotel. Primarily the brainchild of Windsor Mayor Arthur Reaume, the swimming pool project was completed in 1954, though the price, then

an astounding \$135,000 – surely turned some heads. The bulk of the financing was provided by the Windsor Rotary Club, while the City, the Ontario government, and private contributors also provided some funding.

In 1961, three years after his formal retirement from public life, the City formally acknowledged Ernest Atkinson's many contributions to the quality of life in Windsor, and named the park in his honour. In 1973, the Archaeological and Historic Sites Advisory Board recommended that a plaque acknowledging the Rankin family's contributions to life in early Windsor be installed at the park. In 1975, just such a plaque was installed at Atkinson Park.

During the summer months, Atkinson Park is a busy, vibrant recreational facility. Little League baseball teams, which began using Atkinson Park in 1967, can be seen and heard on the ball diamond nearly every night during the summer months. More than 30 years after it was first installed, the outdoor swimming pool is still an extremely popular spot for young splashers looking for some summer time fun. Playground equipment and a creative play unit are also available at Atkinson Park. Atkinson Pool was refurbished in 1995.

Avon Court Park

Commonly known as: Avon Court
Former/other names: none
Location: just north of St. Clair College
Property Acquired: 1957
Acreage: 0.63
Official Designation: Neighbourhood park

Economy Home Builders Ltd. dedicated this small park to the City of Windsor in 1957 as part of the development agreement. Playground equipment was installed in 1994.

Avondale Play Lot

Commonly known as: Avondale Play Lot
Former/other names: none
Location: Grand Marais and Avondale
Property acquired: 1998
Acreage: 2.37
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

This neighbourhood park is owned by the Public Works Department and was originally left untouched with plans for future expansion of the E.C. Row Expressway's Dougall interchange. This expansion may still be possible therefore the park remains quite small. A creative play unit has been installed at Avondale Play Lot and is maintained by the City.

Balasma Park

Commonly known as: Balasma Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Dandurand Ave. and Piazza St.

Property acquired: 2003
Acreage: .35
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Begley Park

Commonly known as: Begley Park
Former/other names: London Street Playground
Location: along Assumption Street between Langlois and Pierre Avenues
Property acquired: owned by school board
Acreage: 4.32
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Begley Park's outdoor facilities include a football and soccer field, some playground equipment and a softball diamond.

(Maurice) Belanger Park

Commonly known as: Belanger Park
Former/other names: Malden Park
Location: on Malden Road, west of Huron Church Road
Property acquired: 1959
Acreage: 8.45
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In the late-1950s, the City received a petition from area residents requesting the development of additional parkland in the Malden Road/Huron Church Road vicinity. Consequently, between 1959 and 1960 the City began acquiring lands, and in 1961 Malden Park was officially dedicated. In 1966, Malden Park was renamed in honour of Maurice Belanger, a former Windsor resident who made significant contributions to the development of Mic Mac, Ojibway and Jackson parks. Today, the eight-acre park is equipped with junior and senior swing-sets, playground equipment, picnic shelter and softball diamond.

Bellewood Park

Commonly known as: Bellewood Park
Former/other names: none
Location: adjacent to Bellewood Public School on Labelle Street
Property acquired: 1985-1989
Acreage: 6.39
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Located adjacent to Bellewood Public School and within the Bellewood subdivision community, the property for the park was assembled throughout the 1980s, primarily through land expropriation for neighbourhood development and land exchanges with the Windsor Board of Education. City Council formally declared the site public parkland in 1985. In 1989, development started. Wintario provided just over \$103,000 and the City contributed over \$270,000 to development.

After closing Betts Avenue from Youngstown Street to Labelle Street in early 1990, extensive landscaping began. Trees were planted, tennis courts, basketball court and playground equipment were installed and a high calibre baseball field was established.

Bert Weeks Memorial Gardens

Commonly known as: CNR Riverfront
Former/other names: none
Location: Parent Avenue and Langlois at Riverside Drive
Property acquired: 1994
Acreage: 4.0
Official designation: City-Wide / Regional park

Located to the east of downtown Windsor at the foot of Parent Avenue, Bert Weeks Memorial Gardens will link to the network of existing riverfront parkland including a proposed marina on the west and a naturalized wildflower garden on the east. This two-acre park will feature a magnificent cascading water fountain, spacious plazas, formal and naturalized gardens and trails. The gardens are located in the eastern section of the former C.N.R. riverfront lands.

The Bert Weeks Memorial Gardens are named in honour of the former mayor who worked tirelessly to protect the riverfront from development. At the current time, a volunteer committee and the Windsor Community Foundation is fundraising for the estimated \$2 million cost of the gardens.

Bertha Street Bush

Commonly known as: Bertha Street Bush (part of Little River Corridor)
Former/other names: none
Location: Bertha Street at Little River
Property acquired: 1993
Acreage: 8.64
Official designation: Community park

This property was acquired by the Public Works Department as a buffer to the Little River Pollution Control Plant. Parks and Recreation were able to clean debris from the site and construct trails during the winters in 1993 and 1994 under a Federal Grant. Plans for connecting the trails to the main paths in Little River have been the focus of a number of private companies who wish to donate the materials and labour for a bridge, particularly Zalev Brothers Ltd.

Black Oak Heritage Park

Commonly known as: Black Oak Park
Former/other names: none
Location: between Broadway Street and Cherry Blossom Ave., just west of Ojibway Park
Property acquired: 1989
Acreage: 124.9

Official designation: City-wide/Regional park

Black Oak Heritage Park supports one of the finest stands of black oak in Southwestern Ontario and is home to such nesting birds as Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Bluebird and Cooper's Hawk. Many of the native plants at Black Oak Heritage Park are extremely rare elsewhere in Canada.

In 1989, as part of the City of Windsor's \$2,000,000 purchase of lands from the Canadian Salt Company, a 121-acre portion of the property, valued at \$235,000, was dedicated for parkland. In 1995 the Community Improvement Plan for the Ojibway/Yawkey Area determined that an additional 30+ acres should be added to Black Oak Heritage Park.

Blue Heron Lake

Commonly known as: Blue Heron Lake
Former/other names: none
Location: within East Riverside Park
Property acquired: 1997
Acreage: N/A
Official designation: Stormwater Pond

Blue Heron Lake was developed as a naturalized lake. The land was provided by the developers of the nearby Lakeview and East Riverside developments with intentions of providing a treatment facility for urban run off which would treat the water to a high level and also fit cosmetically into the East Riverside Park master plan which was drafted in 1996.

Blue Heron Lake is home to many different wetland indigenous plants. The plants plus the complex configuration of the pond serve to provide a higher quality of water in the lake.

Bradley Park

Commonly known as: Bradley Park
Former/other names: Cross Street Playground
Location: between Peter and Cross Streets, just south of Chippawa Street
Property acquired: 1943
Acreage: 2.62
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1961, the Cross Street Playground was renamed in honour of Herbert Bradley, a former President of the Windsor-Sandwich Conservation Association.

In 1972, the City purchased several lots on Peter and Baby Streets to expand the park. Additional lots on Baby Street were acquired in 1978.

Today, the park boasts an array of playground equipment.

Bridges' Bay Park

Commonly known as: Bridges' Bay
 Former/other names: none
 Location: north of Riverside Drive East between Clairview and Eastlawn Streets
 Property acquired: 1970
 Acreage: 1.52
 Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

One of Windsor's smaller waterfront parks, the City purchased the site of today's Bridges' Bay Park from the estate of the late Mrs. Maude Edna Bridges in 1970. After spending \$63,000 to acquire the Bridges' property, the City spent an additional \$102,000 to acquire two adjoining riverfront properties, paving the way for the eventual establishment of Bridges' Bay Park. In 1991, the riverfront was fenced due to the failure of the breakwall so that passive leisure activities could be enjoyed safely.

A council resolution in 1998 approved the expenditure of \$62,000 from the neighbourhood endowment fund to undertake a shoreline protection plan at both Bridges' Bay Park and Goose Bay Park.

Bridgeview Park

Commonly known as: Bridgeview Park
 Former/other names: none
 Location: between Campbell and Partington Avenues at Pelletier Street
 Property acquired: 1953
 Acreage: 3.1
 Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Bridgeview Park was established in 1953 when the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision dedicated several parcels of land to the City for park purposes. Today, the site is equipped with a variety of playground equipment, a softball diamond, picnic tables, and in 1991 a new creative play unit was installed.

Broadway Park

Commonly known as: Broadway Park
 Former/other names: none
 Location: south on Broadway Street between Linsell and Scotten Streets
 Property acquired: 1987
 Acreage: 9.51
 Official designation: Neighbourhood park

After twenty years of leasing the site, the City of Windsor formally purchased Broadway Park from the Morton Chemical Company of Canada in 1987. In anticipation of the land sale, the City exchanged lands with the Dubois family in 1984, acquiring three lots on the south side of Page Street between Reed and Dupont Avenues. Consequently, when the deal with Morton Chemical was consummated, the City was able to significantly consolidate the parkland.

Today, the park provides a recreational centre for the residents of Brighton Beach and parking/entrance for Black Oak Heritage Park. As part of the Ojibway/Yawkey Community Improvement Plan (1995), it has been determined that Broadway will remain as a park while Brighton Beach residents remain, then it will be sold and developed. The entrance to Black Oak Heritage Park will be relocated.

In 2004, a portion of the park was fenced off to provide a leash-free dog zone.

Broadway Drain

Commonly known as: Broadway Drain
Former/other names: none
Location: Sandwich St. and Broadway St.
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: 1.49
Official designation: natural area

Brock Street Park

Commonly known as: Brock Park, Russell Park
Former/other names: Russell Street Park
Location: at the corner of Brock and Russell Streets
Property acquired: 1965
Acreage: 0.9
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Brock Street Park is named in honour of Major General Isaac Brock, a skilled military strategist who led the Upper Canada forces to victory against the Americans in the War of 1812.

A paved bike path, part of the continuing development of the Windsor Trail, was built to link McKee and Brock Street Parks in 1991.

Brookview Park

Commonly known as: Brookview Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Brookview Crescent south of Grand Marais Drain
Property Acquired: 1994
Acreage: 0.36
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The land needed for Brookview Park came as a result of the development of a subdivision nearby and the five percent parkland allotment required of the developer. It is now a fully developed park with swings and a basketball court.

Bruce Avenue Parkette

Commonly known as: Bruce Park, Bruce Street Park

Former/other names: none
Location: between Bruce Avenue and Church Street at Wyandotte Street West
Property acquired: 1983-1991
Acreage: 3.04
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Officially opened in 1985, Bruce Avenue Park was the eighth City park to receive Ontario Neighbourhood Improvement Program (O.N.I.P.) funding from the Province of Ontario. In the early 1980s, the Bruce Avenue Citizens' Committee began meeting with Parks and Recreation Department officials to discuss the possibility of establishing a new park in the area. Appropriately, various funding avenues were explored, and in 1983 City officials announced that the province had agreed to fund fifty percent of the \$800,000 project.

In 1983, the City began actively purchasing property in the area. The former site of the Windsor Lawn Bowling Club was acquired for \$90,000, and various residential properties on the 700 block of Bruce Avenue were purchased. Throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s, the city acquired and incorporated properties into Bruce Avenue Park. The City continues to acquire properties and incorporate them as funds become available.

Bruce Avenue Parkette also takes part in the Parks Watch program, which helps to protect parks against crime and vandalism.

Currently, this multi-faceted park is equipped with a wide variety of traditional playground equipment, a creative play unit, both basketball and tennis courts, benches, and a shelter. Properties are being acquired on an ongoing basis to complete the park.

Brumpton Park

Commonly known as: Brumpton Park
Former/other names: Westchester Park, Westchester Garden Plots
Location: near the corner of Cedarview Street and Riverdale Avenue
Property acquired: 1979
Acreage: 4.87
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Named in honour of the many contributions made to the city by former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Harry Brumpton and his wife Juanita, the land for Brumpton Park was dedicated by the developer of the Westchester at the Lake apartment complex. The City has been utilizing most of the site as community garden plots since 1979. In 1991, the City spent \$140,000 to acquire a four-acre parcel of land located at the corner of Riverside Drive and Cedarview Avenue and incorporated it into Brumpton Park.

Bush Park

Commonly known as: Bush Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Along Esplanade Road, just south of Ridge Road

Property Acquired: 1972 and 1982 (tax arrears certificate)
Acreage: 5.56
Official designation: Neighbourhood park (passive [natural])

One of the wooded parks in the Forest Glade area, Bush Park is appropriately named. The subdivision developer provided the parcel of land for use as a public park, as part of a subdivision agreement. As a natural park intended for passive enjoyment, Bush Park is equipped with benches, picnic tables, and playground equipment that serves the two adjacent schools.

Cadillac St.

Commonly known as: Cadillac St.
Former/other names: none
Location: Cadillac St. and Wyandotte East
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: .207
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Calderwood Park

Commonly known as: Calderwood Park
Former/other names: Bliss Road Park
Location: Woodward at Calderwood Ave.
Property acquired: 1989
Acreage: 1.68
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The site of Calderwood Park was dedicated as parkland for the surrounding subdivision in 1989, and contains playground equipment, walking trails and an open grass field.

Cameron (South) Woodlots

See South Cameron Woodlots

Former Canadian National Railway Riverfront Lands

Commonly known as: C.N.R. Riverfront Lands
Former/other names: C.N.R. Park, C.N. Park
Location: riverfront between Dieppe Gardens and Great Western Park
Property acquired: 1995
Acreage: 33.0
Official designation: City-wide/Regional park

This 33-acre, 1.2-mile stretch of riverfront property has been instrumental in the growth of Windsor. In 1854, the Great Western Railway completed the Niagara-Windsor rail line forming an important part of the Chicago-New York connection. Commercially, it was vital that freight trains arriving in Windsor could easily transfer their cargo onto waiting barges. However, the railroad tracks occupied just a small portion of the total land. In 1895, the Grand Trunk Railway (which absorbed the Great Western Railway in 1882) began leasing a portion of the property east of

present day Dieppe Park to the City for just \$1 per year. Between 1895 and 1906, the City established a public park on the site, planting trees and shrubs and installing park benches.

When the Department of Parks and Recreation was established in 1906, the City attempted to officially acquire the riverfront parkland. Instead of a formal offer to purchase the land, the City presented the Grand Trunk Railway with a revised tax assessment late in 1906. This was an enormous bill intended to persuade the railway to relinquish its claim on the valuable property. The action was a serious political mistake. At the turn of the century, the Grand Trunk Railway was in dire financial straits. In an ultimately futile attempt to raise the money needed to lighten its debt load, the railway was selling off its Canadian land assets at fire sale rates. If the City had decided to offer the railway a reasonable price for the riverfront property, a favourable deal could have been struck. Instead, officials of the Grand Trunk Railway took one look at the new tax assessment and ordered the City of Windsor to immediately vacate the riverfront property. Between 1906 and 1913, the railway used the property for its own purposes.

In 1913, just ten years before the Canadian National Railway purchased the financially insolvent Grand Trunk Railway, elected City officials once again focused their attention on the riverfront property. A delegation of City Aldermen, led by Alderman Bartlett, was sent to the railway's head office to negotiate a mutually acceptable land use agreement for the City. The railway agreed to lease a 300-foot strip of waterfront property, located directly east of today's Dieppe Park, for ten years at \$100 per year. In 1923, when the powerful Canadian National Railway took over the Grand Trunk, the lease was renewed. As most Windsorites know only too well, it was not until the early 1980s (sixty years after the C.N.R. formally took possession of the property) that the City once again began trying to acquire the elusive property.

In 1981, C.N. Rail announced that it was in the final stage of a study to examine its track age requirements in Windsor. Locally, municipal officials were anxiously awaiting further word from the C.N.R. Early in 1982, the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway held a joint press conference in Windsor, announcing that together they had acquired the Conrail facilities, including the Detroit River Tunnel. C.N.'s next announcement, however, made many City hearts flutter: the existing rail line along the riverfront was no longer needed by the railway and, by extension; the 33-acre stretch of land was surplus property.

Anticipating the imminent acquisition of the property, City Council directed both the Commissioner of Planning and the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the riverfront property. In 1983, a series of public meetings were scheduled, and a concept plan was completed and approved by City Council. Among other things, the development plan called for the construction of a civic plaza and botanical gardens, an amphitheatre, a marina, and a museum. A large portion of the property was to be developed as passive green space for the enjoyment of all Windsor residents. Once this plan was in place, the City of Windsor was anxious to proceed with development. Unfortunately, the Canadian National Railway still owned the property, and the City was no closer to its acquisition.

Negotiations with C.N. were full of peaks and valleys, and Windsorites were subjected to what felt like a never-ending roller coaster ride. In 1988, with the assistance of Windsor West M.P Herb

Gray, Windsor was on the verge of finally completing the transaction. Gray believed that the Daly Building, a stately, historically significant building located in Ottawa, was just the bargaining chip needed to close the deal. Gray's vision was relatively simple: if the Federal government agreed to turn the ownership of the Daly Building over to Windsor, Windsor could then trade the building for the C.N.R. riverfront lands.

The Federal government responded coolly until early in 1989, when Gray's constant persuasion had the deal all but set. But early in 1989, the Federal government tabled a new budget in Parliament that emphasized fiscal restraint and deficit reduction. Gray's deal was, for all intents and purposes, dead. Many Windsorites were convinced that the City would never be able to acquire the riverfront lands.

Late in 1989, an undeterred City Council began negotiating once again with C.N. This time, the City proposed a land exchange, whereby Windsor would receive the riverfront property and the railway would receive a large parcel of unserviced land east of the Little River area. After studying the proposal, C.N. officials stunned their City of Windsor counterparts by announcing that, with a few modifications, the proposal was acceptable. In 1990, both parties formally approved the land exchange. Throughout 1991-92, C.N. Rail and the City worked with legal experts to resolve some outstanding land claims concerning the riverfront property and the much-anticipated deal was made a reality in 1995.

The future of the riverfront is destined to play a pivotal role in Windsor's next 100 years. Between 1990-92, the Riverfront Development Task Force, an advisory committee struck by City Council, worked to create a clearly defined, long term development plan for the 33-acre site. With input from various community groups and the assistance of EDAW, a U.S. based consulting firm, the Task Force presented its recommendations to City Council in 1992. These proposals were approved in principle with some modifications in late 1992.

A transient marina was proposed in the Former C.N. Riverfront Lands between Glengarry and Langlois Avenue. In November 1996 the Environmental Assessment approved this area for a 272 slip marina with a floating breakwall. Work on this project is contingent on funding of approximately \$20-\$24 million dollars.

In 1998, the City of Windsor expropriated the former CP ferry lands providing an additional link in the riverfront chain. In 1999, the City bought back the Ramada Inn lease making the lands continuous from Dieppe Garden west to the Ambassador Bridge. A design charette was held in 1999 to integrate the various designs and existing parks that stretched from the Ambassador Bridge to Hiram Walker. The result of this charette was the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan that outlined many of the future possibilities for riverfront development from children's parks to walking trails to a riverfront marina.

The Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP) was adopted by City Council in September 2000 as an overall planning document for the Central Riverfront. A detailed outline of this 25 year plan is posted at www.citywindsor.ca.

Spirit of Windsor

This monumental steam locomotive was donated by the Canadian National Railways in 1965. Built in 1912, it was put into service for the Grand Trunk Railway pulling passenger trains between Windsor and London. The Spirit of Windsor marks the terminus of the Great Western Railway. Located on the waterfront in C.N.R. Riverfront Lands, the Spirit of Windsor marks the terminus of the Great Western Railway. In the 1980's the train was refurbished.

Capt. John Wilson Park

Commonly known as: Capt. John Wilson Park, Wilson Park
Former/other names: Ducharme Park
Location: Ducharme Ave. off Sixth Concession
Property acquired: 2004
Acreage: 66 acres
Official designation: Community Park

Capt. John Wilson died February 1955, three hours after rescuing a child from a burning house. He suffered heart failure due to smoke inhalation. 2005 is the 50th anniversary of his heroic actions and death. Property was originally the Wilson family farm.

Caron Avenue Parkette

Commonly known as: Caron Avenue Park, Caron Avenue Playlot
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Elliot and Caron Avenues
Property acquired: 1976
Acreage: 0.30
Official designation: Community Park

This small parkette was initially established as a playlot for young children in the area. The site is equipped with junior and senior swing sets and a basketball key.

Caron Avenue Pumping Station

Commonly known as: Caron Avenue Pumping Station
Former/other names: none
Location: Riverside Drive, across from Janette Avenue
Property acquired: 1995
Acreage: 0.96
Official designation: Community Park

This property was acquired for the construction of the Caron Avenue Pumping Station. It has been accessible to the public for many years and is a favourite fishing spot. In 1999, the grounds were refurbished around the Pumping Station and the pathways connected to parks on the east and west.

In 2001, a major addition was made to the Pumping Station including the construction of a public washroom.

Catherine M. Straith Park

See Straith Park

Centennial Park

Commonly known as:	Centennial Park
Former/other names:	“Heppenstall”
Location:	north side of Riverside Drive W. between Rankin and Oak Avenues
Property acquired:	1964
Acreage:	10.25
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

The City did not actually purchase the property from the Canadian Southern Railway until 1964. When the City began to seriously consider redeveloping Windsor's riverfront in the early 1960s, acquiring Canadian Southern's property was a high priority. In 1964, a local negotiating team was assembled and sent to City Hall to meet with Canadian Southern officials. Ultimately, the City made an offer the railway simply could not –and did not–refuse: \$200,000.

Funding was not a serious problem this time. With Canada's 100th birthday just around the corner, Windsor was able to convince the Federal government that the development of Centennial Park was a project worthy of Centennial grant funding and received a \$226,000 grant.

The Centennial Park site also had strategic value to the City's Public Works Department in the mid-1960s. Since the City was at that time installing a new sewer system, extending from the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel to the Ambassador Bridge, acquiring the 3,700 foot strip of waterfront property allowed the Public Works Department to use the “open-cut” method of sewer pipe installation, rather than the costly, time consuming deep-tunnel technique. The open cut method, though a faster and more efficient sewer pipe installation method, cannot usually be used on property the City does not own.

On July 1, 1967, Centennial Park was officially opened and dedicated. A three-ton time capsule, donated by the Ingram family of Detroit, was unveiled to the public on this ceremonial occasion. Not to be opened until the year 2067, its contents are meant to provide 21st century Windsorites with an historically accurate account of everyday life in Windsor's “olden days.”

When combined with Assumption Park immediately to the west, Centennial Park provides an uninterrupted stretch of riverfront parkland from Elm Avenue to the Ambassador Bridge. Popular with joggers, walkers, and cyclers, and previously known as “Heppenstall” because it overlooked the Heppenstall Building in Detroit, Centennial Park is one of the many homes of Windsor's famed Odette Sculpture Park and one of Windsor's finest riverfront parks. Trail improvements were constructed in 1995 to separate the pedestrian promenade from cyclists and the parking lot.

Central Park

Commonly known as:	Central Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	north of Beals Street on Woodland

Property Acquired: 1977
Acreage: 18.76
Official designation: Community park

An impressive variety of recreational options are available at Central Park. Besides being equipped with both hardball and softball diamonds, football and soccer fields, plus a variety of playground equipment, Central Park is also home to four tennis courts and an outdoor swimming pool.

Many changes were made at the park during the 1970s. After a 1971 fire seriously damaged both the outdoor swimming pool and the change rooms, over \$2,000 was spent to upgrade these facilities. As well, the tennis courts were resurfaced and night lighting was installed. In 1977, the South Windsor Minor Baseball Association received a \$3,340 Wintario grant from the province to help finance construction of a new baseball diamond.

In the early 1980s, upgraded playground equipment was added to Central Park, and a creative play unit was installed in 1989. In 1994 the pool was refurbished and in 1995 the north parking lot was paved.

Chappus St.

Commonly known as: Chappus St.
Former/other names: none
Location: Chappus St. and Water Ave.
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: .957
Official designation: Right-of-way

Charles J. Clark Square

Commonly known as: none
Former/other names: none
Location: Bounded on the north by Chatham Street, the south by University Ave., the west by Essex County Court House and the east by the Ontario Government Building.
Property Acquired: 1999
Acreage: 0.51
Official Designation: City-Wide/Regional Park

One block of the four block Civic Esplanade that links City Hall to Riverside Drive. Charles J. Clark Square is named in honour of former lawyer Charles J. Clark, Q.C.

The Square features an irregularly shaped skating rink, which transforms into a seasonal plaza with terraced seating. The built-in seating lines the east and west sides of the square. A trellis colonnade on the east side carries decorative and safety lighting. Two buildings at the north end of the square act as a gateway entrance. One provides a seasonal café and washrooms, while the other houses maintenance equipment. The rink opened December 2001.

Funds for this project were received from a variety of government grants and private donors.

Chatham Street Parkette

Commonly known as:	Chatham Street Park
Former/other Names:	none
Location:	Chatham Street between Ouellette and Goyeau
Property acquired:	1995
Acreage:	0.11
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

In 1994 the park was redeveloped to include a retaining wall to separate the park from the alley. Picnic tables and benches were also added to the park to provide an enjoyable space for lunches and relaxation. The park is situated in the heart of Downtown Windsor and is a welcome rest area for people in the area. The park was created in 1975 and named after the street of the same name.

Chopin Park

Commonly known as:	Chopin Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	east side of Rossini Boulevard, north of Franklin Avenue
Property acquired:	1967
Acreage:	3.58
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Named after the famous Polish composer, Chopin Park occupies land previously owned by Windsor's Scottish Regimental Association. In response to a request by several members of the local Polish-Canadian community, the City named the site Chopin Park. The park was once equipped with two softball diamonds, but in 1978 one of those diamonds was removed in response to a neighbourhood petition. The park also contains both junior and senior swing sets.

City Hall Square

Commonly known as:	Windsor Civic Square, City Hall Park
Former/other names:	Windsor Barracks Square, Central School Square
Location:	between City Hall Square, Goyeau Street, Park Street and University Avenue
Property acquired:	1923
Acreage:	3.79
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

The southernmost of the four, Park Civic Esplanade, City Hall Square is a lush, superbly manicured park that provides a tranquil setting for visitors to the City Hall area. Although City Hall Square and Senator David Croll Park are generally thought of as one, the Square only includes areas north, south and east of City Hall.

While turn-of-the-century press reports indicate that the site was a popular rest stop for both families and couples returning from downtown concerts, it was not until late in the 1950s that plans to expand the park were seriously considered.

The four fountains in City Hall Square commemorate the four stages of evolution of the land on which they are built. French families originally settled the land for farming in 1750. Then during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837-38 the British troops stationed at the American border had their barracks on the now beautiful park. The barracks remained on the park until 1871 when Central School moved into the newly abandoned military barracks and eventually a schoolhouse, which housed both elementary and high school classes, was built. The school building then became City Hall in 1903 and was used as such until 1958 when it was torn down and the current City Hall building was built.

Several varieties of exotic trees are located on the grounds of the City Hall Square, including Japanese Cherry trees and Magnolia trees, imported from the Netherlands and Tennessee, respectively. These unique trees and the Cenotaph, which was moved to this site in the early 1960s, allow the Square to remain a meaningful part of the Windsor community. An old-fashioned Charleston swing is also present in the park. In 1994 City Hall Square and Senator David Croll Parks were joined by the street closure installation of pathway and pedestrian lights.

On July 24, 2002 a French Heritage Wall was dedicated in the square.

Civic Esplanade

Commonly Known as:	Civic Esplanade
Former/other names:	none
Location:	City Hall to Riverside Drive
Property acquired:	1999
Acreage:	1.68
Official designation:	City-Wide / Regional Park

A four-block pathway linking City Hall to Riverside Drive. The Esplanade is home to four Windsor parks and plazas: The Civic Green, Charles J. Clark Square, City Hall Square and The Joint Justice Plaza. You will find more information on the individual parks and plazas contained within the Civic Esplanade under the individual park names in this chapter.

Civic Green

Commonly known as:	Windsor Avenue Parkette, Windsor Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	between Riverside Drive and Pitt Street, east of Goyeau Street
Property acquired:	1976
Acreage:	0.38
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Formerly, Windsor Avenue was the promenade that led from the waterfront to City Hall. When the northerly portion of Windsor Avenue was closed in 1975 to accommodate the Steinberg Building,

the street-right-of-way between Riverside and Pitt Streets was converted to parkland.

The *Windsor Civic Square Urban Design Study* proposed a reversion to the past where Windsor Avenue would again be part of the Esplanade from City Hall to the waterfront. Work on this began in 1999 and the area was renamed Civic Green on Sept 13, 1999.

Funds for the redesigns of Windsor Avenue Parkette were received from Casino Windsor to provide for increased pedestrian use. A series of gradual undulations in the lawn, growing from south to north symbolize the direction water once flowed from small creeks to the Detroit River. A low-rise wall fronting on Riverside Drive integrates the lawn with shallow stairs and a ramp. Wind sail banners fronting on Riverside Drive mark events and special occasions important to Windsor. Sidewalks bordering the east and west lawn connect the Civic Green to the other sections of the Civic Esplanade. New light standards, accent lawn lighting, new trees and plants contribute to the new image.

The name Civic Green reflects the heritage of town greens, which recalled the centre of small communities. The Casino Windsor donated \$200,000 to offset the cost of the construction of this project. The design for the Civic Green was prepared by EDA Collaborative in partnership with Architecttura Inc.

Tower of Freedom

Located in the Civic Green is a monument to the Underground Railroad, created by sculptor Ed Dwight. The sculpture, Tower of Freedom, was dedicated October 20, 2001, the year of Detroit's Tri-Centennial. It is a two-piece monument with one piece located in Detroit and the other in Windsor.

Civic Terrace

Commonly known as:	none
Former/other names:	none
Locations:	north of Riverside Drive, east of the Spirit of Windsor and to the west side of McDougall.
Property acquired:	1995
Acreage:	6.69
Official designation	City-Wide / Regional Park

This former parking lot located north of Riverside Drive, east of the Spirit of Windsor and west of McDougall Street has been converted into a greened area, which is available for additional special event space. The Civic Terrace was first used in 1999.

Clairview Bikeway

See Ganatchio Trail

Clay Park

Commonly known as:	Clay Park
Former/other names:	none

Location: between Moy and Hall Avenues on the Shepherd Street boulevard
Property acquired: 1915
Acreage: 0.69
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The site of Clay Park was bequeathed to Windsor in 1915 by the Davis family, who had previously farmed on this area. In 1917, the property was placed under the jurisdiction of the Parks Board and formally named Clay Park, after former Windsor Mayor Henry Clay, whose term in office lasted one year (1913).

Although baseball, softball and football games were popular activities at the park in its early years, such sports were banned in 1959, ostensibly because of the park's small size and because of the frequent and excessive property damage suffered by area residents.

Recent improvements by the Department of Parks and Recreation include the installation of new playground equipment, new pathways and fencing. Clay Park is now a greatly improved facility.

Clifford and Joan Hatch Wildflower Garden

Commonly known as: Great Western Park, Hatch Gardens
Former/other names: none
Location: Riverside Dr. east of Langlois Avenue to Moy Avenue, north of the walk path inside the green space of the park.
Property Acquired:
Acreage: 7.99
Official designation: Regional park

A naturalized wildflower garden named in honour of local benefactors Joan and Clifford Hatch was designed and planted in 2001. Work on reinforcing the shoreline and providing an enhanced fish habitat was also undertaken. A new walk path was designed to follow the contours of the new sculptured landforms. The restorative landscaping with an emphasis on native plants and wildflowers was designed to be self-sustaining.

Features of the garden include promontories at the level of Riverside Drive to allow for views across the garden to the river and frame the views of the wildflowers and native plants on the shore. A heritage/interpretation element is planned to link the culture and heritage of the area including its connections to the First Nations and the railroad.

The Hatch Gardens will include a wharf and boardwalk linking the pedestrian paths to the historic Pump House located in the Detroit River.

Shaughnessy Cohen Woods

Commonly known as: Shaughnessy Cohen Woods
Former/other names: Derwent Park
Location: at Forest Glade Drive and Lauzon Parkway
Property acquired: 1992

Acreage: 5.2
Official Designation: Community Park

The land for Shaughnessy Cohen Woods was acquired as parkland dedication from developers of the area. Beginning in 1998, the Little River Enhancement Group began planting on the east side of the river with funds from the EcoAction 2000 group.

The park is named in honour of local politician Shaughnessy Cohen, M.P. Cohen was a pivotal spokeswoman for EcoAction 2000, the group responsible for the development of the parkland. Her untimely death in 1998 was a monumental loss to both the city and the country.

Coletta Parkette

Commonly known as: Princess Parkette, Coletta Parkette
Former/other names: Coletta Parkette
Location: at Princess Road and Coletta Court
Property acquired: 1979
Acreage: 0.76
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Coletta Parkette was established in 1979 when Monsanda Holdings Ltd., developer of a nearby subdivision, dedicated the property to the City for parkland purposes. By 1982, work on the small parkette was finished. Currently, the park is equipped with a variety of playground equipment. In 1991, a new basketball key was installed.

College Avenue Park

Commonly known as: College Avenue Community Centre, Essex Court Playground
Former/other names: Essex Court Playground
Location: between Prince and Brock Roads, west of College Avenue Community Centre
Property acquired: 1958
Acreage: 3.91
Official designation: Community park

This park runs along the south side of College Avenue and offers recreational facilities to the community. The College Avenue Community Centre opened in September 1981 and is located east of the park. Even though the name of the park was formally changed in 1961, just one year after it opened, many area residents still refer to the facility by its original name, Essex Court Playground.

In 1968, the park was expanded when City-owned lands located on College Street were added. A Neighbourhood Improvement Project undertaken in 1982 saw nearly \$80,000 spent on upgrading the park. Notably, a running trail, complete with exercise stations, was added to the park through this project. The park is also equipped with traditional playground equipment and basketball courts. College Avenue Recreation way, developed in 1995 as part of the National Infrastructure Improvements, a 1.9 km trail connects Mic Mac Park and the College Avenue complex.

Compton Court Park

Commonly known as:	Compton Court Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Compton street
Property acquired:	1978
Acreage:	0.21
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

This small park was acquired by the city in 1978 but was not developed until 1998 when a subdivision was built in the area. It contains grass and trees.

Cora Greenwood Park

Commonly known as:	Cora Greenwood Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	corner of Cora Greenwood Dr. and Little River Boulevard
Property acquired:	1998
Acreage:	3.68
Official designation:	Neighbourhood Park

This park was developed in 2001-2002 and is equipped with a baseball diamond, playground, parking lot and trees.

Coventry Gardens

Commonly known as:	Reaume Park, Coventry Gardens
Former/other names:	Ford Street Park
Location:	along the riverfront between Thompson Boulevard and Pillette Rd.
Property acquired:	1935, 1975
Acreage:	7.06
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

First established in 1935, when the Town of East Windsor amalgamated with the City of Windsor, Reaume Park is named after Joseph Reaume, who operated both a hot dog stand and a gasoline station on the site in the late 1920s. In 1975, the City of Windsor purchased a parcel of land from the Glengarda Ursuline Convent and several underwater lots from the Windsor Harbour Commission in order to expand the park. This addition was called Coventry Gardens, a name chosen to honour Coventry, England, one of Windsor's international twin cities.

A showplace and tourist attraction on the banks of the Detroit River, Reaume-Coventry Gardens was designed for relaxation, recreation and as a place of civic pride. The park layout was conceived by Harry Brumpton, former Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. His ideas were incorporated into a design by Landscape Architect Steve Loader. Brumpton's plan included landscaping in terraces from Riverside Drive down to the park site. Evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs were planted to offset beds of annual and perennial flowers.

The resourcefulness of the Department of Parks and Recreation is evident in the granite sets used to create some of the patios and walkways. This gray stone was recovered from the road deck of the Ambassador Bridge when it was resurfaced. The circular design of the terraces resemble ever widening circles of rain drops falling into calm water, designed to harmonize with the spectacular Peace Fountain. These patios now serve as a unique staging area for concerts and other events.

An enchanted castle of dancing water, the Charlie Brooks Memorial Peace Fountain was designed by Richard J. Van Seters, Fountain Design Consultant of M.M. Dillon Ltd., and T.W. Szalay, Director of Special projects for Windsor's Department of Public Works. The fountain is dedicated to the memory of former labour leader Charlie Brooks (1915-1977), an enthusiastic booster of Windsor's riverfront development. When operating at full capacity, the fountain draws over 12,000 gallons of water per minute and propels it over 70 feet in the air. The fountain's lighting display is operated by an on-shore programming unit, and during the evening hours visitors to the park are treated to an overwhelmingly beautiful visual spectacle.

The fountain costs \$562,000 to build, and was financed through public subscriptions totalling \$265,000 and fully matched by Wintario funds. Labour, industrial and business groups also made significant donations to purchase the fountain, and Granby, Quebec, another of Windsor's twin cities, made a welcome contribution.

Each year, thousands of visitors to Windsor enjoy the brilliant flowers displayed at Coventry Gardens. An informal garden that presents a mixture of perennial plants, visitors can view a wide variety of floral colours within a short walk. Summer concerts are popular at Reaume-Coventry Gardens, part of the Department of Parks and Recreation's popular Music in the Park series. The subject of many magazine and newspaper articles over the last 15 years, the waterfront park won the Ontario Parks Association Award of Excellence for its design and the development of riverfront parkland in 1977.

Crowley Park

Commonly known as:	Crowley Park, Essex Court Playground
Former/other names:	Essex Court Playground
Location:	on College Avenue south of the Essex Terminal Rail Line
Property acquired:	1960
Acreage:	7.15
Official designation:	Community park

Named after Alderman Crowley, this linear stretch of land on the north side of College Avenue was preserved for greenbelt area by the City when College Avenue Community Centre was constructed in 1981. Aesthetically pleasing, the undeveloped buffer strip separates the residential area and rail-line from College Avenue. In 1995, a bike path was installed and trees were planted in the area.

Curry Avenue Park

Commonly known as:	Curry Avenue Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	north side of Grove Avenue between Curry and McKay Avenues

Property acquired: 1956
Acreage: 1.17
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Curry Avenue Park is sometimes confused with larger Curry Park, located in South Windsor. On the former grounds of St. Robert School, Curry Avenue Park is a site used primarily by young children in the area. A modest selection of playground equipment and a softball diamond are available at the park, and in 1989 a creative play unit was installed.

Curry Park

Commonly known as: Curry Park
Former/other names: none
Location: south of Richardie Street between McKay and Everts Avenues
Property acquired: 1956
Acreage: 5.73
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Curry Park, not to be confused with Curry Avenue Park, contains two softball diamonds and a variety of playground equipment, including a creative play unit installed in 1990.

Dawson Road Playground

Commonly known as: Dawson Park
Former/other names: none
Location: between Dawson and Lawrence Roads south of Ontario Street
Property acquired: 1955
Acreage: 0.55
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The site of Dawson Road Playground was once part of a larger tract of farmland owned by R.B. Dawson in the last half of the nineteenth century. Currently, an assortment of playground equipment is available at the park, including junior and senior swing sets; updated playground equipment was installed in 1995.

Derwent Park

Commonly known as: Derwent Park
Former/other names: Winzinger
Location: at Forest Glade Drive and Lauzon Parkway
Property acquired: 1992
Acreage: 26.4
Official designation: Community park

Situated behind Place Concorde (formerly the Polonia Community Centre), Derwent Park became surplus land with the development of the E.C. Row Expressway. The Ministry of Transport Ontario has owned 75% of the site since 1972, the remaining 25% was held by the City. A deal was negotiated in 1992 to acquire full ownership. The Rotary Club has developed the Rotary

Children's Safety Village on the grounds of the park.

Devonshire Court Park

Commonly known as: Devonshire Court, Devonshire Park
Former/other names: none
Location: on Devonshire Court between Kildare and Argyle Streets
Property acquired: 1927
Acreage: 1.17
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Today, Devonshire Court Park is maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation as an open green area for passive enjoyment. In the late 1920s, the park was generally considered to be a relaxing, shady area, colourfully complemented by radiant flower beds.

In recent years, several land developers have expressed interest in purchasing the park site. However, as the Walkerville District does not meet open-space-to-population goals, the City has been reluctant to lose any parkland in this area.

In 1997, the Teen Health Centre in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation and St. George's Anglican Church planted a commemorative rhododendron garden honouring Dr. Ken Jaggs, the founder of the Teen Health Centre and pastor of St. George's Church in Devonshire Court Park.

Devonshire Heights Park

Commonly known as: Devonshire Heights Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Calderwood Ave. south of Kamloops St.
Acquired: 2000
Acreage: 5.19
Designation: Neighbourhood Park

Dieppe Gardens

Commonly known as: Dieppe, Dieppe Gardens
Former/other names: Civic Centre Park, Gateway Park, Riverside Park, Waterfront Park
Location: north side of Riverside Drive West, just below Ouellette Avenue
Property acquired: 1959
Acreage: 7.11
Official designation: City-Wide / Regional park

Just one visit to Dieppe Gardens is usually enough to convince area tourists that Windsor is The City of Roses. The history of the site, however, is perhaps even more colourful than the brilliant annuals that flourish there each spring.

The first major debate over the development of Windsor's waterfront occurred in 1854, the same year that the Great Western Railway became firmly established in the Village. Although the

Railway quickly acquired a great deal of waterfront property, James Dougall, who owned the Dieppe site, flatly refused to entertain offers for his valuable property. The local government of the day was eager to cultivate a harmonious relationship with the Railway, and thus began pressuring Dougall to relinquish the site. At one crucial point, the government seriously considered seizing Dougall's property and turning it over to the Great Western Railway. By that time, the issue had grown into one of symbolic importance to the general public, most of whom vehemently supported Dougall's fundamental right to retain his property. Realizing that a rankled public will often vent its anger at the ballot box, the Village government quickly backed away from the issue.

In the years that followed, the property was used as a docking site by the Detroit-Windsor Ferry Company, and several cottages, retail stores, hotels and other businesses were established. In the late-1950s, these buildings were purchased and demolished by the City so that the site could be developed into a major riverfront park. In 1975, the city purchased the British American Hotel for \$500,000, the last obstacle to the expansion of Dieppe Gardens. Reserving a portion of the wall and commemorating the site with a plaque recognized the building's rich history.

Press Norton, a prominent local hotel owner, inspired the initial development project. In 1957, Norton discussed the site's development with Mayor Arthur Reaume and a local architect named Beckett was commissioned \$10,000 to devise a proposal. The design featured such eccentricities as pools and polar bear dens.

When council considered the plan, some members took exception. Alderman Ernie Atkinson reportedly turned to William Gravett, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation (1954-1960), and asked if he could possibly develop a public park without polar bears. Gravett's reply was affirmative and he was subsequently handed the project.

Although major work on the site continued until 1971, Dieppe Gardens was officially dedicated in 1959. The park is named after Dieppe, France, where the Essex Scottish Regiment of Windsor, along with other units of the 2nd Canadian Division, made an assault landing on August 19, 1942. The 5000-man, which included British and American armed service personnel, suffered casualties of 3363 soldiers through killed, wounded, and prisoners of war. This park has been named in honour of all the men who served in this engagement, and to the memory of men from this area who served in Canada's armed forces in World War II.

For the most part, scholarly opinion is united in the belief that the 1942 attack at Dieppe was instrumental in the Allied Forces' ultimate victory. In his book **Dieppe**, Canadian writer Pierre Burton pays high tribute to the role played by the Essex Scottish Regiment. A Silver Cross monument was placed at Dieppe Gardens by mothers whose sons were killed in the Second World War.

Dieppe Gardens is home to many other historically significant monuments. In 1967, the Ontario State Board of the Knights of Columbus presented the City with a Centennial year gift, a 50-ton, three-column granite statue designed by Donald Ailles and produced by the Smith Monument Company of Toronto. The statue consists of three modernistic columns, which represent the three persons of the Trinity as they look down on a troubled, war-torn world. The inscription reads "Pray

for Peace".

Dieppe Gardens has been coming alive every summer for over 30 years when the International Freedom Festival, in June and July, beckons Americans and Canadians alike to celebrate the freedom each country enjoys. The Freedom Festival fireworks display is one of the most spectacular visual salutes in North America and is viewed by thousands of people gathered at Dieppe Gardens. It is estimated that 600,000 - 800,000 people attend this single event each year. Dieppe Gardens is also a part of the "Parks Watch" programme. This programme protects parks against crime and vandalism.

Dieppe Gardens is a popular lunch-hour spot for downtown merchants and shoppers, many of whom enjoy the view of the Detroit skyline from the open-air observation deck, located on the second floor of the Cleary Guest House. Built in 1957, financing for the two-story building was willed to the City by the late A.E. Cleary, who bequeathed \$20,000 for the project. The Cleary Guest House is about to be removed and replaced with a new concession at the corner of Riverside Drive and Ouellette. During the summer months, when the park's magnificent floral display is in full bloom, American tour buses frequently roll into Dieppe Gardens.

An upcoming addition to Dieppe Gardens is a memorial to honour Windsor and Detroit Fire Fighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial is constructed of bricks from buildings destroyed by fire.

Drouillard Park

Commonly known as:	Drouillard Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	west of Drouillard Road, north of Essex Terminal Railway
Property acquired:	1976
Acreage:	4.90
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Although additional lands were added in 1980 and 1981, most of the Drouillard Park site was acquired through a series of separate transactions carried out in 1976 and 1977. The final parcel of land needed to complete the park involved physically moving the home of a long time St. Luke Road resident. This resident had been living in the house for more than 50 years and was unwilling to vacate the premises. The City opted for more "creative" negotiations with the homeowner, which saw the dwelling moved to a city-owned, vacant lot directly across the street.

Drouillard Park is today an active recreational spot year-round, thanks to its impressive array of recreational facilities. The park was created to augment the activities of the former Holy Rosary Community Centre, now the Gino Marcus Community Complex, as an effort to upgrade this park deficient area of the city.

During the warmer months, lighted tennis courts, a softball diamond, a basketball court and a soccer field attract local residents interested in energetic physical activities. The park also caters to individuals who favour more passive pursuits, and a picnic shelter is provided to ensure that the

elements do not interfere with family outings. Improvements to the park include the construction of a wooden gazebo in 1982 through the estate funds of Bernie Orden, and in 1991, the installation of creative play units.

During the snowy winter months, Drouillard Park is filled with the sights and sounds of children enjoying the toboggan hill.

The ball diamond in Drouillard Park was renamed Gino Marcus Baseball Diamond after Mr. Gino Marcus. Gino Marcus was a tireless volunteer in the Drouillard Road area for over 30 years. This park is currently being reviewed for redevelopment.

Dynasty Park

Commonly known as: none
Former/other names: Northwood Lakes
Location: East of Howard Ave adjacent to Dynasty St.
Property acquired: 1999
Acreage: 1.93
Official designation: Neighbourhood Park

East End Park

Commonly known as: East End Park
Former/other names: none
Location: just off Riverside Drive East at Clairview Street in Riverside
Property acquired: 1966
Acreage: 8.03
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The Town of Riverside maintained East End Park as an open space park until it became under City jurisdiction at the time of annexation. Located in a relatively secluded area at the end of Clairview Street, this sparsely wooded three acre park now includes one tennis court, a softball diamond, and modern playground equipment. The remaining five acres of East End Park is rented to a local crop farmer.

East Riverside Park

Commonly known as: East Riverside Park
Former/other names: none
Location: near the easterly limit of the City of Windsor near the municipal boundary with Tecumseh
Property acquired: 1968 via annexation of Riverside
Acreage: 57.66
Official designation: City-wide / Regional park

The East Riverside Park when fully developed will provide opportunities for walking, cycling, picnicking, casual play and tobogganing. In 1996 Council adopted the concept plan for East Riverside Park. This includes Blue Heron Lake, a storm water pond used to treat the urban run off

in the area. One of the main features of this converted landfill is a 91 ft hill sculpted to represent the traditional linear French farmland design. Tree plantings funded by EcoAction 2000 are currently ongoing to green this naturalized parkland.

East Riverside North Pond

Commonly known as: North Pond
Former/other names: none
Location: Beverly and Florence
Property Acquired: unknown
Acreage: 12
Official designation: Storm water pond/Lake

East Riverside South Pond

Commonly known as: Aspen Lake
Former/other names: none
Location: Florence and McHugh
Property Acquired: unknown
Acreage: 11
Official designation: Storm water pond/Lake

East Riverview Park

Commonly known as: East Riverview Park
Former/other names: none
Location: along Riverside Drive, just east of Peche Island Landing
Property Acquired: 1983
Acreage: 0.10
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Like neighbouring Peche Island Landing, East Riverview Park is primarily a rest area or vest pocket park along the waterfront. Overlooking the Detroit River, the site is equipped with park benches.

Edward Street Neighbourhood Park

Commonly known as: Edward Street Neighbourhood Park
Former/other names: none
Location: just south of Little River Road at Edward Street
Property acquired: 1987
Acreage: 1.92
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The City of Windsor purchased the former site of Prince Charles Public School in 1987 and, with the cooperation of both the Riverside Legion Branch 255 and the Greater Windsor Senior Citizens' Association, thoroughly renovated the building over the next two years. In 1989, the Edward Street Neighbourhood and Senior Centre officially opened.

Interestingly, the Edward Street Neighbourhood and Senior Centre was the first facility to combine a Seniors' Centre administered by the Greater Windsor Senior Citizens' Association and a Neighbourhood Centre administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Today, the facility offers recently improved playground area that includes a basketball court and a good variety of play equipment.

Elm Street Park

Commonly known as:	Elm Street Park
Former/other names:	Oak-Elm Park
Location:	between Montrose Street and Giles Boulevard at Elm Avenue
Property acquired:	1985
Acreage:	0.96
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The Wellington/Crawford Citizens Committee began exploring the possibility of obtaining a new neighbourhood park in 1982. In 1984, the City acquired several properties in the area, intending to develop them into neighbourhood parkland.

In 1985, a \$250,000 Ontario Neighbourhood Improvement Program grant from the Province allowed City Council to approve the development of Elm Street Park. Over the next two years, extensive input from the Wellington/Crawford Citizens Committee helped shape the new neighbourhood park.

Currently, the park is equipped with a hard surface for basketball, an assortment of playground equipment, a creative play unit, and park benches. In 1988, the name of Oak-Elm Park was officially changed to Elm Street Park.

Esdras Park

Commonly known as:	Esdras Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	between the south end of Esdras Place and the CNR tracks
Property acquired:	1970
Acreage:	0.82
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

This small neighbourhood park offers playground equipment to area residents. The Department of Parks and Recreation refurbished the site in 1991, installing a new creative play unit and upgrading the fence.

Factoria Park

Commonly known as:	Factoria Street Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Factoria Street, south of Milloy Street
Property acquired:	1951

Acreage: 3.41
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Factoria Park, appropriately located on the west side of Factoria Street, was used as garden plots from 1951 until 1960. It was named after the street of the same name. In 1960, a resident observed that the children had nowhere to play. In 1961, it was declared a Public Park under bylaw 2228. In August 1993, the park was extended to include the old CSX rail line. This brought the park's total acreage to 3.87.

The park is equipped with both junior and senior swing sets and a playground apparatus was installed in 1991.

Festival Plaza

Commonly known as: none
Former/other names: none
Locations: north of Riverside Drive, between Glengarry Avenue to McDougall.
Property acquired: 1995
Acreage: 5.71
Official designation: City-Wide / Regional Park

Converting a former parking lot located north of Riverside Drive, east of Piazza Udine and west of Glengarry Avenue has provided the City of Windsor with a festival and special event space. The Civic Terrace was first used in 1999 for a series of outdoor festivals. This terrace includes coloured asphalt, decorative landscaping, electrical hook-ups and a covered stage.

Field of Dreams Park

Commonly known as: Field of Dreams
Park Former/other names: none
Location: East-side of Curry Avenue
Property acquired: 1974
Acreage: 0.386
Official designation: Neighbourhood park (private)

Originally purchased by Public Works for the redevelopment of Tecumseh Road, this park was fully developed in 1993 with playground equipment. At least nine local groups helped to raise the \$40,000 needed for the project. The generous contributors were genuine in their participation and recognize that through the Windsor Foundation, many more successful projects to benefit the community at large can be undertaken. The playground equipment is almost always in use and the basketball court located in the park is one of the most popular venues for the sport in the city.

Firgrove Boulevards

Commonly known as: Firgrove Boulevards
Former/other names: none
Location: Firgrove from Chateau to Aspenshore Ave.
Property acquired: unknown

Acreage: 2.2
Official designation: Greenway

Flora Park

Commonly known as: Flora Park
Former/Other names: none
Location: Flora Avenue at St. Clair R.O.W.
Property acquired: 1990
Acreage: 0.47
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Flora Park was designated parkland as required by the developers of Lakeview Meadows, and was developed with a playground unit in 1994. In Flora Park. In 2004 Saturn of Windsor donated \$4850 for play equipment in this park.

Ford City Parkette

Commonly known as: Whelpton Park
Former/other names: Whelpton Parkette
Location: corner of Drouillard Road and Whelpton Street
Property acquired: 1981
Acreage: 0.16
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1981, the City acquired the site of Whelpton Parkette from the estate of Antonio Zimbalatti. An \$8,500 Neighbourhood Improvement Program grant totally financed the purchase. The Department of Parks and Recreation joined forces with the Drouillard Road Business Improvement Association in order to develop and maintain the new park. Essentially, the Drouillard Road B.I.A. assumed total responsibility for maintaining the park, while the Parks Department provides planters, annuals, and monitoring of the site.

In 2000, a Human Resources Development Canada grant awarded funds for a revitalizing Drouillard Road. The project included the unveiling of five new street murals and a six-foot sculpture. The sculpture, a three-piece creation entitled *Generations*, honours the families who worked in the auto industry. Sculptor Mark Williams, a Ford machine repairman from Essex Engine Plant, created a 200-pound clay figures for bronzing. *Generations* shows three men spot welding the drip rails to the roof of a 1950 Ford business Coupe. The models for the workers are the sons of Ford employees.

Eighteen murals have been painted connecting the industrial history of the area with its contemporary present. A Ford Model T, Prohibition, the 1945 Blockade, and snapshots of community leaders, are among the murals painted on various building walls.

The park was renamed Ford City Parkette in 2001.

Ford Test Track

Commonly known as:	Ford Test Track, F.T.T.
Former/other names:	none
Location:	between Seminole and Milloy Streets, south of Central Avenue
Property acquired:	1994
Acreage:	61.11
Official designation:	City-wide/Regional park

In 1979, the Ford Motor Company of Canada agreed to lease its test track facility to the City of Windsor for \$1 per year. Although the City had little use for the actual automobile test track, the Department of Parks and Recreation saw unlimited potential in the undeveloped 59-acre site by utilizing the turf centre of the track for sporting fields. The City had always been interested in purchasing the site and in 1994 a land exchange between the Ford Motor Company and the City of Windsor was achieved. Houses on Cadillac Street were purchased by the City, demolished and as a buffer strip adjacent to the Ford Plant for exchange with the Ford Test Track. In 1996 a washroom/concession was added with the assistance of the user groups.

The actual test track is exactly one mile in length. Ford Test Track provides two baseball diamonds, and sixteen soccer fields regularly used by The Windsor Soccer Club. For many years various cultural events, including the Shrine Circus, have been held at the site.

Forest Glade Optimist Park

Commonly known as:	Forest Glade Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	on Forest Glade Drive, just south of Wildwood Drive
Property acquired:	1974
Acreage:	31.87
Official designation:	Community park

A land exchange and dedication from the Wimpey Construction Company in 1974, as part of a subdivision agreement, allowed the City to acquire the nearly 14-acres of land now occupied by Forest Glade Optimist Park and Forest Glade Arena, Community Centre and Library. The arena and the community centre were constructed throughout 1974 and 1975, at a combined cost of \$1,280,000. The arena was twinned in 1989, resulting in doubling the available rink space. In addition an auditorium was added.

In 1978, nine lighted, tournament-style tennis courts were installed, at a cost of just under \$200,000. Other facilities include an exercise trail, a football field, a softball diamond, and a soccer field. A variety of playground equipment is also provided. Additional lands were purchased from the School Board in 1992.

In 2000, the Forest Glade Skate Park was built on the west side of Forest Glade Optimist Park. Designed for beginner and intermediate skateboarders, the park features a variety of concrete ramps. Funds for the park were received from the Forest Glade Optimist Club, the CAW Local

444 Social Action Committee and the City of Windsor.

Fontainebleu

Commonly known as: Fontainebleu
Former/other names: Armstrong Park, Rivard Park
Location: west side of Rivard Avenue, just north of Haig Street
Property acquired: 1967
Acreage: 9.99
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Although neighbourhood residents were pleased when the City formally established Rivard Park in 1967, a 1968 meeting with the Department of Parks and Recreation's Director of Parks saw these same residents express their collective dismay over the lack of a local facility designed for very young children. Consequently, rather than establishing another park, the City expanded Rivard Park in 1970, after acquiring an adjoining parcel of land from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In 1994, it was renamed Fontainebleu Park in recognition of the subdivision in that area.

In 1999, an additional piece of land was acquired. Today, it is a vibrant, predominantly sports-oriented facility, featuring soccer, football and softball fields, a toboggan hill for winter use, and a variety of playground equipment. A new public library will be added the property in 2005.

François Court Park

Commonly known as: François Park
Former/other names: none
Location: north of the CNR tracks between Ellrose and Joseph Janisse Ave.
Property acquired: 1937
Acreage: 1.32
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

During a routine title search, the City discovered that a vacant lot between Ellrose and Joseph Janisse Avenues had been municipal property since 1937. Surprised but pleased by this discovery, the Department of Parks and Recreation began exploring the possibility of establishing a park on the site. In 1985, Francois Court Park officially opened.

Equipped with a modest assortment of playground equipment, including a senior swing set, Francois Court Park is a compact facility designed to serve the needs of youngsters (particularly tots) living in the immediate area.

Fred Thomas Park

Commonly known as: Fred Thomas, Freddy Thomas, Glengarry Park, Glengarry Court
Former/other names: Glengarry Court
Location: northeast corner of Wyandotte Street East and Glengarry Street
Property acquired: 1959
Acreage: 4.15

Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Many area residents still refer to Fred Thomas Park as Glengarry Court, a name selected in 1959 to honour Windsor's sizeable Scottish-Canadian population. In particular, S.S. Macdonnell, first Mayor of both the Village and Town of Windsor, was able to trace his ancestral roots back to the rural town of Glengarry, Scotland.

The land was part of a redevelopment area that was cleared of homes and buildings in the 1960s. In 1976, a joint effort by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Downtown Neighbourhood Improvement Program established the Glengarry Court Community Centre. In 1989, the Centre was relocated to the Thompson Towers building. In 1998 Windsor Water World, Windsor's first leisure pool, was added to the complex.

In 1981, Glengarry Court Park was renamed in honour of the late Fred Thomas, a long time Windsor resident who starred on the Patterson Collegiate and Assumption College basketball teams in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Fred Thomas Park is also a part of the Park Watch program. This program protects parks against crime and vandalism. Today, the park, community centre and pool combine to offer a wide variety of facilities, including an assortment of playground equipment, an indoor pool, a softball diamond, basketball courts, plus an ongoing schedule of recreation and leisure activities. In 1991, a water play feature was added to the park.

Ganatchio Park

Commonly known as: Sandpoint, Stop 26 and the beach
Former/other names: none
Location: between Sandpoint and Stop 26 on Riverside Drive East
Property acquired: 1980
Acreage: 1.41
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Ganatchio Park is sandwiched between Sandpoint Beach on the west and Stop 26 on the east so that the area appears to be a continuous 1500 ft of uninterrupted riverfront. In reality it is really three different parks, the middle one being Ganatchio Park, only 750 ft. wide. Officially opened in 1983, financing for the development of Ganatchio Park was provided by the Province of Ontario, the City of Windsor, and the Windsor St. Clair Rotary Club. In 1980, the City received \$100,000 through the Parks Assistance Grant Program, which helped defray the \$660,000 cost of purchasing the land.

Rich in native history, it is reported that Pontiac used the sandy area as a launching site to cross to Peche Island for powwows. To symbolize this native landmark, a nine-meter totem pole was erected, and the bath-house/concession stand was designed in the shape of a tee-pee. Wikinanish, a native woodcarver, sculpted the totem pole and W.A. Fraser Architects designed the washroom building used for Sandpoint Beach.

Ganatchio Trail

Commonly known as:	Ganatchio Trail, Clairview Bikeway
Former/other names:	none
Location:	from the Town of Tecumseh to Isabelle Place and Wyandotte St.
Property Acquired:	1979-1983
Acreage:	29.86/ 8 kilometres
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

Walking, cycling, jogging on the Ganatchio Trail offers an opportunity to explore eight kilometres of scenic trails stretching from the City of Windsor to the Town of Tecumseh. Developed by the Department of Parks and Recreation with partial funding from Windsor-St. Clair Rotary Club, the Ganatchio Trail is Windsor's first major bike/walkway. In 2004 Saturn of Windsor donated \$4850.00 for improvements to the Ganatchio Trail.

Where it Began

The original section of the Ganatchio Trail running parallel to the Detroit River ran from Little River Road east to the Town of Tecumseh along the abandoned Windsor-Tecumseh streetcar right-of-way. Before the Department of Parks and Recreation began development, the site was a narrow strip of swampy land. Using fill obtained by dredging the Detroit River to build the City-owned Lakeview Park Marina, the land was raised and a walkway began. According to Past Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Harry Brumpton, the Ganatchio Trail was one of the best things we did. It is used year-round by whole families and individuals alike. It dresses up and enhances what was previously barren landscape.

Initially built in 1983 with the help of the National Participation Movement, the Ganatchio Trail has expanded from its original three to eight kilometres. Originally it hugged the contours of the Detroit River, but it now extends inland. The Ganatchio Trail includes the original asphalt path limited to bike and pedestrian use and bordered by green space; a mixed-use bike path on residential streets and a pedestrian/ bike path through the naturalized parkland of the Little River Corridor. The Ganatchio Trail extends from the Town of Tecumseh to Isabelle Place and from Riverside Drive to Tecumseh Road East.

Named after the Indian word for Lake St. Clair, today's Trail features a two-lane paved trail catering to roller-bladers, joggers, cyclists and walkers. In 1995 with funding from the National Infrastructure Program, the Trail was widened to 15 feet to better serve the thousands of users. A wave barrier (berm) to separate the low-lying inland from potential flooding of Lake St. Clair was constructed at this time.

Rotary-Ganatchio Trail

Beginning just south of Sandpoint Park and running through the 200-acre Little River Corridor a 3.25 km extension called the Rotary-Ganatchio Little River Extension was begun in 1991 and expanded in later years. The new trail provides an important link between Riverside Drive and Forest Glade. The Ministry of Transportation and the Greater Windsor Foundation have funded it. The 200-acre park surrounding the Trail offers cyclists and walkers an opportunity to exercise in a naturalized park surrounded by Carolinian trees, ponds and meadows. (See Little River Corridor).

Clairview Bikeway

Extending beyond Lauzon Road to Isabella Place and Wyandotte Street lies the Clairview Bikeway section of the Ganatchio Trail. This section made up of residential streets and quiet, landscaped, paved paths follow the route of the historic St. Clair Hydro-electric Railway.

Major Donors

Since 1977, the Windsor-St. Clair Rotary Club has been a driving force behind the creation and development of the Ganatchio Trail. The club, which numbers approximately 50 members, has contributed over \$130,000 to the park. Traditionally, the Provincial government and the City of Windsor have matched funds from the Rotarians, while other major financial contributors are the Greater Windsor Foundation, (formerly Heritage Windsor). The Little River Enhancement Group has given contributions in kind and service.

Garwood Park

Commonly known as:	Garwood Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	on the corner of Irvine Street at Marentette Avenue
Property acquired:	1923
Acreage:	0.76
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Although the City purchased the site of Garwood Park along with five other sites in 1923, it was not until 1965, that the park was formally named. A swing-set was installed and a creative play unit was added in 1989.

George Avenue Park

Commonly known as:	George Avenue Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	south side of Wyandotte Street at George Avenue
Property acquired:	1925
Acreage:	6.17
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The six-acre George Avenue Park site was purchased in 1925 from the estates of both the Henkel and Lacroix families. Together, these two acquisitions were developed into parkland in 1927. Financing was provided through a 40-year debenture issue of \$140,000, although much of this money was used to acquire and develop other park sites within the City.

Today, George Avenue Park is equipped with both junior and senior swing-sets; a play unit was installed in 1990. The park also provides facilities for hardball and softball.

Gignac Park

Commonly known as:	Gignac Park
Former/other names:	none

Location: south side of 700 block of Shepherd Street East
 Property acquired: 1953
 Acreage: 6.78
 Official designation: Neighbourhood park

For \$9,000, the City purchased this park site from Purity Dairies in 1953. The dairy, which had been using the land as a parking lot for its employees, was controlled by Sir Harry E. Gignac, who served as the company's President. Consequently, the park was named after him in 1954.

To allow for greater use of the park and its baseball diamonds, the City, in 1994, purchased from Ault Dairies Ltd., 30,000 square feet of vacant land. These lands were used to provide parking for the users of Gignac Park. This parking is located at the north-west corner of the Park. Additional parking for Gignac Park was purchased from Ault Dairies in 1994 and lands to the south were purchased from Essex Terminal Railway Company in 1996.
 At the present time, facilities available at Gignac Park include several softball diamonds, some playground equipment, and a creative play unit.

Gino A. Marcus C.C

Commonly known as: Gino A. Marcus Community Complex
 Former/other names: none
 Location: 1168 Drouillard Rd.
 Property acquired: unknown
 Acreage: 2.00
 Official designation: Community Complex

Girardot Street Parkette

Commonly known as: Girardot Park
 Former/other names: none
 Location: corner of Rankin and Girardot Avenues
 Property acquired: 1953
 Acreage: 0.67
 Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1953, the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision dedicated six small parcels of vacant land for park purposes. Girardot Parkette, located at the corner of Rankin and Girardot Avenues, is essentially a tot lot for young children. It was named after Girardot Avenue.

Goldenwood Park

Commonly known as: Goldenwood Park, Penwest/Oasis
 Former/other names: North Talbot Estates
 Location: Goldenwood and Silverdale Drive
 Property Acquired: 1997
 Acreage: 2.36
 Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

Equipped with a play unit and a large baseball diamond, Goldenwood Park is an ideal place to watch or play a Little League baseball game.

Goose Bay Park

Commonly known as: Goose Bay Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Riverside Drive East between Jos. Janisse and Pillette Roads
Property acquired: 1974
Acreage: .48
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Named for the presence of migrating geese that rest in its protective cove, Goose Bay Park is a quiet, tranquil stretch of waterfront parkland away from the urban bustle. Overlooking the Detroit River along Riverside Drive East, the grassy, two-acre site was originally designed in 1974 as a passive park for the public's enjoyment. A new addition to the park is a rock wall, which was included in an effort to increase fish habitat in the area.

Grand Marais Linear Park

See Udine Park/Jennifer Park/Brookview Park

Great Western Park

Commonly known as: Great Western Park, Western Park
Former/other names: Leough Park
Location: along Riverside Drive East, between Langlois Avenue and Pierre Street
Property acquired: gained possession in 1995
Acreage: 10.71
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

In 1923, the Great Western Railway was bought out by the powerful Canadian National Railway. In 1927, the City began leasing the site of today's Great Western Park from the C.N.R. Leough Park, named after a former City Alderman, was established on the lands.

Since the railway, which merged with the Grand Trunk Railway in 1892, first began serving the Windsor/Detroit area in 1854, Windsor City Council decided that a suitable commemoration was indeed in order. During Canada's Centennial in 1967, the Windsor Historical Society urged City Council to recognize the important role played by the Great Western Railway during Windsor's mid-nineteenth century infancy. Consequently, Leough Park, was renamed Great Western Park in late 1967. The Great Western Railway linked Buffalo and Detroit using a rail car ferry.

Grove Parkette

Commonly known as: Grove Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Askin Avenue and Grove
Property acquired: 1953

Acreage: 0.72
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Like Girardot Parkette, Grove Parkette was developed in 1953 when the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision dedicated six small parcels of property for park purposes. Designed primarily for young children as a neighbourhood gathering spot, Grove Parkette has been left open for free form play. It was named after Grove Street.

Hall Farm Park

Commonly known as: Hall Farms
Former/other names: none
Location: south of Hallmark Avenue, just west of Fairlane Avenue
Property acquired: 1979-1985
Acreage: 9.70
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

A linear park running through the heart of the Hall Farm Estates / Devonshire Heights sub-division, Hall Farm Park was developed in three stages between 1979 and 1985. In 1976, the Ontario Land Corporation received City approval to begin Phase I of a three-stage housing development in the area. Over the next nine years as each phase was completed, approximately eight percent of the total Hall Farm residential district was officially dedicated as parkland.

The linear park system was designed to provide a pedestrian link between John McWilliam Public School to the east, Bishop J.C. Cody Separate School to the west and St. Christopher Separate School to the southeast. In essence, youngsters living in the area can walk to any of the three local schools without crossing a single major intersection.

In the early 1980s, the Hall Farm Estates Citizens' Committee began negotiating with the Department of Parks and Recreation in order to establish a playground within the Devonshire Heights sub-division. In 1986, a selection of modern playground equipment, including a creative play unit, was installed near the Fairlane Avenue entrance to Devonshire Heights. The Citizens' Committee contributed \$5,000 of the \$15,000 required to develop the playground. The same group donated more funds in 1988, and an additional play unit was installed in 1990. A storm water retention area was added in 1994 and provides topographic variety to the park.

Today, Hall Farm Park is a vital part of the residential area, providing area youngsters with a good variety of modern playground equipment. A section of the Windsor Trail, termed Walker Homesite Trail, connects Conservation Drive at the South Service Road through Hall Farms to Devonwood Conservation Area.

Hatch Wildflower Garden

See Clifford and Joan Hatch Wildflower Garden

Hawthorne Park

Commonly known as: Hawthorne Park
Former/other names: none
Location: along Lauzon Road between Hawthorne and Forest Glade Drives
Property acquired: 1982
Acreage: 4.08
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1982, Hawthorne Park was established in the northwest corner of the Little River Golf Course. Adjacent to several clusters of condominiums and apartment buildings, the park serves the recreational needs of neighbourhood children. Improvements were carried out in 1985 to provide playground equipment and in 1990 a creative play unit was installed adjacent to the Windsor Trail.

Herb Gray Nature Reserve

Commonly known as: Herb Gray Woodlot
Former/other names: none
Location: Southwood Lakes Blvd. at North Talbot Road
Property Acquired: 1995
Acreage: 2.31
Official Designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1989, the City of Windsor and Southwood Lakes Development (Mady Development) entered into a subdivision agreement for the development of the Southwood Lakes subdivision. The four parks that are currently part of this subdivision are the Herb Gray Nature Reserve, Lake Como Park, Lake Grande Park, and Lake Trail Park. In addition to these parks, trails have been added that wind through the subdivision.

The Herb Gray Nature Reserve is a part of the Southwood Lakes development. The wooded preserve in Southwood Lakes was dedicated in 1995, as a tribute to the Honourable Herb Gray, MP in appreciation of his outstanding contribution to the City of Windsor and for his many years of service to its citizens. The wooded area has a walking trail that can be enjoyed by the community.

Holburn Park

Commonly known as: none
Former/other names: GFD
Location: Holburn Street
Property Acquired: 1996
Acreage: 5.5
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

This recently developed South Windsor park is equipped with a baseball diamond and a children's play unit.

Homesite Park

Commonly known as: Homesite Park
Former/other names: none

Location: on Raymond Avenue between Villaire and St. Louis Avenues
Property acquired: 1967
Acreage: 0.88
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Upgraded in the early-1980s, Homesite Park, not to be confused with Walker Homesite Park is today a well-equipped neighbourhood park. In 1982, the 44th Windsor Venturer Company led a spirited campaign to restore Homesite Park to its former beauty, kicking off the project by voluntarily painting the park's playground equipment. Area residents also lent a helping hand, and the general condition of Homesite Park was soon greatly improved. A few years later, the Department of Parks and Recreation created asphalt pathways, improved landscaping and installed a creative play unit.

Currently, visitors to Homesite Park will find park benches, an assortment of playground equipment, and an exercise trail.

Howard Avenue Park

Commonly known as: Howard Avenue Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Grand Marais Road and Howard Avenue
Property Acquired: 1982
Acreage: 3.43
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Both Union Gas and the City of Windsor own a portion of Howard Avenue Park. In 1986, representatives of Union Gas met with Department of Parks and Recreation officials in an effort to establish a mutually acceptable parkland development plan for the site. Ultimately, the gas company financed the development of both properties and suggested paying the City a yearly fee to cover maintenance costs in exchange for easement rights. The City was agreeable to this proposal and the new Howard Avenue Park was quickly developed. Trees and shrubs were planted, a fence was erected, and an asphalt parkway running through the park was installed. Completed in 1988, the park offers a quiet peaceful setting for the enjoyment of area residents.

Huron Church Greenbelt

Commonly known as: Huron Church Greenbelt
Former/other names: none
Location: Huron Church Road
Property Acquired: 1987-1995
Acreage: 7.79
Official Designation: Open Space (green space)

International Gardens

Commonly known as: CN/CP Railway Cut
Former/Other names: CN/CP (Wellington) Railway Cut
Location: the west embankment of the CN/CP rail cut between Riverside Dr.

	and Elliott St. adjacent to Cameron Av.
Property acquired:	Right to enter in 2000. Still owned by CN/CP Partnership.
Acreage:	8.47
Official designation:	Community Park

Still in the developmental stage, The International Gardens is a series of gardens representative of Windsor's twin cities in Europe, Asia and South America. The gardens will be linked along a trail system from Elliott Street to the riverfront. Many of Windsor's ethnic communities including the Japanese, Chinese, English, Italian and French plan to include a garden which displays the uniqueness of their cultures. To date, two of cultural groups are preparing concept plans and fundraising for the park. These are the Canada-Japan Society of Windsor and Windsor's Chinese community.

The Fujisawa Public Garden is being built to pay tribute Windsor's twin city, Fujisawa, Japan. Since the twinning of the two cities in 1987, the Canada-Japan Society of Windsor has been working very hard on the implementation of a Japanese garden in Windsor. The location of the garden was proposed for both Jackson Park and the CN riverfront property before the appropriate final location was found in 1994. In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the twinning of the cities and in celebration of the approval of the garden, many Japanese dignitaries visited Windsor in 1997 for the ground breaking ceremony. The entire garden is being done in conjunction with the city of Fujisawa therefore the attractive Japanese plant life and all things to do with the Garden will attempt to represent authentic Japanese beauty. In 2002, 30 cherry trees donated by the Consul General of Japan in Toronto were planted in the Fujisawa Public Garden.

The Chinese Garden will be designed to bring forth some of the wonderful qualities of Windsor's twin city ChangChun China. A delegation from ChangChun has visited Windsor and the Mayor of ChangChun has made a commitment on behalf of the City of ChangChun to help with the development of the design for the garden. The Garden will be approximately one acre of the railway cut between Wyandotte Street and University Avenue and will feature Chinese plant life and a Chinese Tea House designed with the cooperation of Windsor's Chinese community, The City of ChangChun and Parks and Recreation staff.

Jackson Park

Commonly known as:	Jackson Park, Sunken Gardens
Former/other names:	Queen Elizabeth II Gardens, Sunken Gardens
Location:	south of Tecumseh Road at Ouellette Avenue
Property acquired:	1929
Acreage:	59.07
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

Late in 1928, at approximately the same time that Windsor Mayor Cecil Jackson was publicly presenting the idea of purchasing a 64-acre parcel of land owned by the Windsor Jockey Club, the entire North American continent, including Windsor, was experiencing a degree of economic prosperity unprecedented in the history of modern civilization. But just one year later, in October of 1929, with little warning, the stock market crashed, and the roaring '20s ground to a screeching

halt. A new economic and social era, characterized by boarded up factories and long lines in front of soup kitchens, was destined to grip the nation for the next decade. It hardly seemed like the appropriate time for governments to be dipping into the public purse to finance parkland purchases.

But Mayor Jackson, undaunted and determined, weathered the vehement public and political storm and held fast to his plan to purchase the Jockey Club property. In December 1929, after hours of tense, sometimes heated debate, Windsor City Council finally succumbed to Jackson's strong-minded tenacity, narrowly voting in favour of his land purchase proposal. In fact, on that same night, City Council formally named the new park Jackson Park, in honour of their Mayor.

On the surface, the scheme appeared to be both political and economic suicide. But Mayor Jackson had a vision that went well beyond the establishment of Jackson Park's well-known Sunken Gardens. The Mayor believed that many Windsorites would soon join the swelling ranks of the unemployed, and the Mayor also felt that some form of federally-sponsored economic aid would by necessity be forthcoming. Mayor Jackson was correct on both counts.

Queen Elizabeth II Gardens (Formally Sunken Garden)

By 1930, federally-assisted construction on the Sunken Gardens began. Timothy Carter, Parks Superintendent, soon had an eager, massive construction crew at his disposal, and a Mr. Appleyard was engaged to lay out and oversee the planting of the Sunken Gardens. In the 1930s, the development of the park was simply called a make-work project, and those working on the construction team were said to be holding down welfare jobs, receiving \$1.25 per day.

The workers constructed the original entrance to the park at the corner of Tecumseh Road and Ouellette Avenue, an exquisitely crafted, Norman-style stone entranceway. Norman Eansor, a former City Alderman, financed the purchase of the materials needed to build the pillared structure. A lily pond containing over 200 fish was constructed and quickly became popular with both locals and tourists. As well, an assortment of trees were planted, including many elms. In spite of the fact that Dutch Elm disease ravaged Windsor's tree population in the late 1950s and early 1960s, many of these elms, now over 60 years old, still stand tall at Jackson Park.

South African War Memorial

Also in the 1930s, the South African War Memorial, a fixture at the old downtown post office since 1906, was moved to Jackson Park. Honouring those who fought in the Boer War (1898-1902), the memorial features a centre fountain with a dolphin-type spigot above a shallow central bowl and anchored in a deeper, larger basin. The centre wall, inscribed with the names of pivotal Boer War battles, rises 12 feet high and is flanked by colonnaded sidewalls. Bronze plaques recognize two volunteers from Essex County who died during the Boer War: 18-year-old Walter Raymond White and 22-year-old Harry Barr. In 1961, when Highway 401 was constructed and Jackson Park was split into two sections, the War Memorial was moved to its present location, where it is a feature of the garden at the south side of the pool.

Land, Sea and Air

On the south side of the South African War Memorial is a stone monument honouring the people who fought for their country during World War I and World War II. Each stone recognizes a

different area of battle: land, sea and air.

Sea

Lest we forget.

WWI 1914-1918

WWII 1939-1945

War Pensioners of Canada

Rose City Branch

Dedicated this 8th day of May, 1998

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

The City of Roses

Land and Air

Similar commemorative scripts are written on the adjacent monuments which are designed to be considered as one memorial.

Robert Burns Memorial

The Robert Burns Memorial, honouring the great Scottish poet whose most popular work was produced in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, was donated by the Border Cities Burns Club in 1952. Originally located at the west entrance to the Sunken Gardens, it was moved to the rose garden entrance in 1982.

Copernican Monument

In 1954, the Windsor branch of the Polish-Canadian Congress donated a monument to Nicolas Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer who discovered the heliocentric system (revolving around the sun) of the world. The monument features two sun dials mounted on top of an 18-foot stone shaft.

Bandshell and Grandstand

Shortly after World War Two, a bandshell was constructed at the park. When combined with the original Jockey Club grandstand, the bandshell allowed outdoor entertainment events to proceed in spite of the unpredictable elements. However, in the summer of 1957, one of the most spectacular fires in Windsor's history totally destroyed both the bandshell and the grandstand. Most of the service vehicles used by the Department of Parks and Recreation, which were parked beneath the grandstand, were also destroyed. In 1959, the City financed the reconstruction of both facilities, but the bandstand is no longer in public use and the grandstand has been demolished.

Windsor Stadium Added

In 1960, Jackson Park was split into two sections to accommodate construction of the 401 Highway. The Province of Ontario provided the City of Windsor with financial compensation for this development, and the City used most of the money to upgrade Jackson Park. A new entrance on the park's east side was created in 1965 and over 400 decorative lights were installed. The original lily pond was rebuilt and a fountain, complete with underwater lights, was installed in its centre. Formal control of Windsor Stadium, previously under the jurisdiction of the Windsor Board of Education, was assumed by the City at this time, and improvements to the Stadium's turf

were carried out. Along with several service buildings, a California-style pergola structure, made from British Columbia cedar, was erected in 1964.

Lancaster Bomber

In 1964, the Lancaster Windsor Committee, comprised of twenty ex-airmen headed by Wing Commander Joe Mencil, purchased the Lancaster Bomber from the Canadian War Assets Corporation for \$1,250. Prior to its retirement in 1961, the Lancaster was used as a photographic plane in northern Ontario. However, the Lancasters earned their fame as bombers in Europe during the Second World War. The Windsor Lancaster is one of 430 Canadian built Lancaster Mark 10's.

When the Lancaster Committee purchased the plane, it was stored at Canadian Forces Base Dunnville, and was sent to Windsor on a barge. As a focal point for Jackson Park, the 41,000 pound (25 ton) Lancaster Bomber stands on a 16-foot concrete and steel plinth at the centre of a huge compass-shaped, 600 foot diameter bowl, filled with rose bushes, known as the Lancaster Memorial Rose Garden. The plinth on which the bomber rests was designed by Alfred Sydney Phillips, a former pilot of the RAF 625 Squadron during WWII flying Lancaster Bombers. His rank was flight lieutenant and he was awarded the DFC. Refurbished in both 1983 and 1991 and re-painted in 1993, the Bomber is a popular tourist attraction.

Lancaster Memorial Rose Garden

The Memorial Rose Gardens was the major addition to Jackson Park during Canada's centennial celebrations in 1967. Sponsored by the Greater Windsor Foundation, an organization interested in establishing Windsor as the City of Roses, the garden is the first to bloom in Canada each spring and contains over 12,500 bushes in all.

Fountain Sculpture

The beautiful sculpture form, which is located in the Jackson Park fountain, is the work of Mr. Hans Hennecke who donated his art to the City of Windsor. Mr. Hennecke explained the sculpture work represents bilingualism. If you view the sculpture you will see two “tongues” a “mother tongue” and a “younger tongue” coming from the base, and if you were to move to the rear of the “mother tongue” you will find the sculpture has been constructed to look like the torso of a woman.

Entrance Gates

The stone entrance that leads into Jackson Park from the corner of Ouellette and Tecumseh was constructed by Mr. Norman Eansor, a former alderman in the City of Windsor. The gateway entrance was designed by architects J.C. Pennington and John Boyd in association with architect John Leighton. Eansor's Blacksmith shop located on McDougall fabricated the wrought iron gates in 1931 for a cost of \$12,277.00. Ernest Reddin, was the blacksmith who worked on the gates. These elegant gates received Official Heritage designation in 1999.

Soroptimists Garden

Donations from the Soroptimists made it possible to create a beautiful addition to Jackson Park. This garden was added to the park in 1994. The boulders that were used for the arrangement were originally from the Amherstburg Quarry. The garden contains a walkway and benches to relax and take in the view.

Active Play Area

Jackson Park is also a well-equipped, popular sports park. Besides being the permanent home of the Windsor Lawn Bowling Club and Windsor Stadium, the park also provides a wide assortment of creative play units, a basketball court, five ball diamonds, and rugby and soccer fields. Other improvements have included a complete refurbishment of the stadium grandstands, building and fields in 1990. In 1991, both the lighted tennis courts and the lawn bowling greens were upgraded and repairs made to the cedar pergola structure.

Honours

In 1970, the Sunken Gardens won the Ontario Parks Association award for being the best night lighted garden in the province. In honour of the Queen's 1984 Royal Visit to Windsor, the name of the Memorial Rose Gardens was formally changed to Queen Elizabeth II Floral Rose Gardens. Attracting busloads of tourists throughout the summer months, Jackson Park and its more than 10,000 plants is undoubtedly one of Windsor's foremost attractions.

Jefferson Park

Commonly known as:	Jefferson Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	at Jefferson Boulevard and Rose Avenue
Property acquired:	1976
Acreage:	0.69
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Jefferson Park was established in 1976 when A & H Management Ltd., the developer of an area subdivision, dedicated the property to the City. That same year, sections of Joinville and Grand Boulevards were closed and the land was incorporated into Jefferson Park.

A basketball court was added to Jefferson Park in 1995.

Jennifer Park

Commonly known as:	Jennifer Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Jennifer Drive
Property Acquired:	1994
Acreage:	0.81
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

Jennifer Park is a newly developed park equipped with a basketball court and a play unit. The play equipment and benches make it very easy to enjoy the outdoors and the surrounding area of Jennifer Park.

Joan and Clifford Hatch Wildflower Garden

See Clifford and Joan Hatch Wildflower Garden

Joint Justice Plaza

Commonly known as:	Joint Justice Plaza
Former/other names:	none
Location:	between Chatham and Pitt streets
Property acquired:	1999
Acreage:	0.43
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood Park

The Joint Justice Plaza is part of the four Park Civic Esplanade located between City Hall Square and Riverside Drive. The plaza is currently under development.

Cathryn & Tom Joy Woods

Commonly known as:	Tom Joy Woods
Former/other names:	Yawkey Bush
Location:	Part of Ojibway Park between Windsor Raceway & Broadway St.
Acreage:	50 acres
Official Designation:	Natural Heritage

Council Resolution of August 13, 2001 renamed portion of Yawkey Bush to Cathryn & Tom Joy Woods. The City acquired these lands from the Windsor Raceway in 1991 in exchange for a tax receipt. Tom Joy was the owner/operator of Windsor Raceway and a community philanthropist.

Kenilworth Woodlot

Commonly known as:	Kenilworth Woodlot
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Howard/South Cameron
Property Acquired:	1995
Acreage:	6.3
Offiical Designation:	not developed at this time

Kennedy Square

Commonly known as:	Kennedy Square, Kennedy Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	southeastern corner of Howard and Allandale Avenues
Property acquired:	1924
Acreage:	0.22
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The City acquired the property in 1924 from area resident Glencora Kennedy. Under the terms of the agreement, the City was bound to expediently develop the property as an ornamental public park, complete with shrubs and flowers. Today, the City is still subject to the terms of this original agreement, and the site must remain a public park or the City will immediately forfeit ownership of the property. The site serves as a neighbourhood gathering spot for children and parents as it has play equipment, seating and shaded areas.

Kinsmen Community Centre Playground

Commonly known as:	Norman Park, Norman Road Park
Former/other names:	Kinsmen Community Centre Playground
Location:	at Norman and Olive Roads, south of Alice Street
Property acquired:	1954
Acreage:	2.36
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Almost from the date the park was established in 1954, residents of the area have referred to it simply as Norman Road Park. While there is another Kinsmen Park, located in District 18 (Walkerville), the Norman Road facility is seldom confused with the downtown park, which shares its name. This one-acre park is permanently equipped with a softball diamond and an array of playground equipment.

Kinsmen Park

Commonly known as:	Kinsmen Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	south side of Riverside Drive East, between Louis and Marentette
Property acquired:	1978
Acreage:	1.05
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Not surprisingly, Windsor's Kinsmen Club spearheaded the movement to redevelop a parcel of City-owned parkland located on the south side of Riverside Drive between Louis and Marentette Avenues. In 1949, club members unanimously agreed to begin rehabilitating the property, providing nearly \$15,000 for the purchase of playground equipment.

To raise the money to purchase the playground equipment, several big-ticket fundraising events were held. However, while these events did provide a substantial financial base upon which to build, it took a "Mammoth" Bingo game, perhaps the biggest Bingo extravaganza ever held in Windsor, to help the club reach its financial goal. Late in 1949, the Kinsmen Club's efforts were recognized by a group of children living in the area. These youngsters composed a heartfelt letter of appreciation and personally delivered it to the Kinsmen's Clubhouse.

In 1982, the City expanded Kinsmen Park through the purchase of two residential lots on Louis Avenue. With financial assistance arriving from the federal and provincial governments, the City was responsible for a small portion of the \$83,000 needed to purchase the twin properties.

The real story behind Kinsmen Park, however, lies in the fact that the Kinsmen Club was the first local service club to work side-by-side with the City in order to finance the development of a public recreation facility. Although joint financial ventures have become fairly common in recent years, the Kinsmen Club and the City of Windsor were setting the standard of cooperation over forty years ago.

Kiwanis Park

Commonly known as:	Kiwanis Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	north and south sides of Riverside Drive East, surrounded by Eastlawn, St. Paul and Clairview Avenues
Property acquired:	1974
Acreage:	4.53
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Kiwanis Park complements the Ganatchio Trail which runs along its southern edge and is equipped with a ball diamond, a horse shoe pit and play equipment.

This park, as well as others in the City of Windsor, has left lasting impressions upon visitors. In 1993 a creative play structure was added to the park. A donation for the equipment was given by William A. Willson; Q.C. Willson donated the money as a tribute to the memory of his late wife Jean McLean Willson. Jean and William enjoyed the view of this park from their home.

During the summer this nicely treed park is equipped with picnic tables and offers an inviting open space.

Kominar Park

Commonly known as:	Kominar Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Jessica Street and Alpenrose Ave.
Property acquired:	1997
Acreage:	2.1
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood Park

Kominar Park is now a gem of the Windsor parks system. It was already equipped with a play unit and now the park is home to new tennis courts as additional lands was added to the park area as the last phase of the Southwood Lakes development.

Labadie Park

Commonly known as:	Labadie Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	between Labadie Road and Westcott Street, south of Franklin Street
Property acquired:	1951
Acreage:	3.55
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Established as a neighbourhood park in 1951, Labadie Park is abutted to the west by Labadie Road. Designed to serve the needs of the residents living in its immediate area, the site has a soccer field, a softball diamond, junior and senior swing sets and a play unit.

Lake Como Park

Commonly known as:	Lake Como Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Southwood Lakes Blvd. at North Talbot Road
Property Acquired:	1992
Acreage:	1.85
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

Interestingly, this park was named after a lake in northern Italy. The park includes an array of play equipment, trails, planting, and a maintenance building. The Department of Parks and Recreation does not encourage use of the lake for recreation. The lake serves as storm water detention basin in this flood-prone area. Pumps and waterfalls serve to ensure the water does not become stagnant.

Lake Grande Park

Commonly known as:	Lake Grande Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Southwood Lakes Blvd. at North Talbot Road
Property Acquired:	1989
Acreage:	0.62
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

This passive park is quite small but quite beautiful. It is equipped with several benches but more importantly a beautiful view of the lake.

Lake Laguna Park

Commonly known as:	Lake Laguna Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Lakefront Avenue
Property acquired:	1996
Acreage:	0.89
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood Park

The park was developed in 2001 and turned over to the City.

Lake Trail Park

Commonly known as:	Lake Trail Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Southwood Lakes Blvd. at North Talbot Road
Property Acquired:	1989
Acreage:	1.0
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

The park was developed with an observation deck overlooking Lake Grande, plantings and a walkway. Local citizens of the surrounding community in Southwood Lakes signed a petition for the City of Windsor to install swings into this park. The 182 names on the petition convinced the

City to install the swings in 1995.

Lakeshore Woods

Commonly known as: Lakeshore Woods
Former/other names: none
Location: between Banwell and Chateau and Little River and Firgrove.
Property acquired: 1997
Acreage: 21.95
Official designation: Community Park

The City purchased the land for Lakeshore Woods from a developer in 1997. The area contains two woodlots and will soon contain two trails through these woodlots. Lakeshore Woods is currently under development.

The park has a playground and a soccer field. Development of the park was accelerated by the generous donations of the Revenberg Family.

Lakeview Park Marina

Commonly known as: Lakeview Marina
Former/other names: none
Location: Riverside Drive, across the Detroit River from Peche Island
Property acquired: 1975
Acreage: 12.85
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

The former Pelee Channel lighthouse, which served as a navigation aid to the Lake Erie shippers since 1902, was reconstructed as a feature of the marina.

The Thomas building, located at the Marina, was the former home of the late Bertha Thomas. The Thomas family was well known to the area prior to the early sixties, operating for approximately 50 years, the Thomas Inn, a roadhouse style restaurant that once stood adjacent to the Thomas house.

The primary purpose of the marina is to provide the public with a marine recreation facility accommodating both seasonal and transient mooring, daily boat launching and related marina amenities (i.e. dispensing of fuel, sanitary pump out, laundromat, shower and restroom facilities and food and beverage service). In addition the marina provides safe harbourage for boaters seeking shelter during inclement weather.

Langlois Court Parkette

Commonly known as: Langlois Court Park
Former/other names: none
Location: between Parent Avenue and Southdale Drive, north of Capital Street
Property Acquired: 1979-1994

Acreage: 8.19
Official Designation: Neighbourhood park

The property for Langlois Court Parkette was dedicated to the City by many different developers. Located in the area of the Langlois Court subdivision, the park officially opened in 1986. It is part of the link between Remington Booster Park and Southdale Park.

Currently, the lighted site is equipped with some playground equipment, a creative play unit, an asphalt biking/walking trail, and park benches.

Lanspeary Park

Commonly known as: Lanspeary Park
Former/other names: none
Location: bounded by Ottawa, Langlois, Giles and Pierre Streets
Property acquired: 1917
Acreage: 11.4
Official designation: Community park

Lanspeary Park is named in honour of former Windsor Alderman W.D. Lanspeary, an individual who chaired the City's Parks Committee in 1917, when the park was initially established. In all, Lanspeary served nine years on City Council, including a three-year stint as chairman of the Parks Committee. He was a key figure in the development of several public parks, including Straith and Mitchell. As well, Lanspeary was instrumental in negotiations to provide Windsor with basic hydro power.

In 1917, a \$70,000 debenture issue enabled the City to purchase several parkland sites, including a portion of today's Lanspeary Park. Lands to expand the park were acquired in piecemeal fashion over the following three years, at a total cost of nearly \$100,000. In 1926, a modest greenhouse, designed to showcase the Parks Department's plants, flowers and shrubs, was established at the park. A radio-equipped bandstand, ornamental entranceways, playground equipment and a cricket pitch were also added to the park. In total, the City spent \$11,000 to upgrade and refine Lanspeary Park in 1926.

The Lions Club of Windsor, long known as an active, resourceful service club, began an extensive fund raising drive in 1950, aimed at raising enough money to finance the installation of an outdoor swimming pool at the park. Ultimately, the Lions Club publicly raised \$25,000 and generously contributed an additional \$50,000 from their own coffers. After the City contributed \$25,000, the project was financially viable, and construction soon began on Windsor's first outdoor swimming pool. In 1991, the outdoor pool needed to be refurbished and again, the Lions Club contributed. Along with funds from Wintario and the City both the pool and change rooms were improved.

Lanspeary Park is a vibrant, versatile public facility, providing Windsorites with an extensive variety of high quality recreational facilities. Besides a standard array of playground equipment, the site also contains bocce courts and an outdoor ice rink. The Department of Parks and Recreation's greenhouses are also located at the park. Lanspeary Park is probably best known as the home of

Windsor's annual Labour Day Festival, a major local event which consistently attracts large crowds.

Leaffield Park

Commonly known as: Leaffield Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Conservation Drive
Property acquired: 1979
Acreage: 3.41
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

For many years this land, although dedicated as neighbourhood parkland, sat vacant and unused. The City installed a large play unit at this park funded from the 1995 playground improvements project. The Kinsmen Club of Windsor donated money to fund the installation of the drainage, grading, infield, backstop and benches at the park.

Lens Green Belt

Commonly known as: Lens Avenue Park
Former/other names: Lens Avenue Park
Location: Marentette between Lens and Essex Terminal Railway
Property acquired: 1934 (acquired by tax arrears certificate)
Acreage: 2.46
Official designation: Gardens and Tree Nursery

For many years this site was used for the rearing of nursery stock for the forestry section. In the fall of 1995 the garden plots from across the street were moved to this location to facilitate the sale of the garden plot property to a medical clinic.

Little River Acres

Commonly known as: Little River Acres
Former/other names: none
Location: south side of Little River Road just west of Marjorie Street
Property Acquired: 1992
Acreage: 9.0
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Designed primarily as a fun park for young children in the Riverside area, Little River Acres is equipped with spring mounted animals, an assortment of playground equipment and a hard surface play area. Baseball diamonds are available on the property, purchased from the Windsor Public Board of Education in 1992, which abuts the parkland. A long berm of trees running along Little River Road offers younger children protection from area traffic.

Little River Blvd.

Commonly known as: Little River Blvd.
Former/other names: none

Location: Little River from Chateau to Florence
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: 8.69
Official designation: Recreation way

Little River Corridor

Commonly known as: Little River Corridor
Former/other names: Penang Lane Park
Location: at the Little River Road adjacent to the Little River bikeway
Acreage: 192.93
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Hidden behind the GM Trim Plant at the eastern end of Little River Road is a park featuring a toboggan hill, a wild flower meadow, and a pond. Little River Corridor, a 200- acre park in East Windsor, was improved in 1991 to link it to Windsor's developing bike/walk path, the Ganatchio Trail.

Little River Corridor provides a strategic link between Forest Glade and Riverside Drive. It offers residents a picturesque walking route between two growing communities, and a chance to put the principles of naturalized park planning into operation.

Since 1989, a club called Habitat 2000 from Concord Public School and eight other schools has been assisting with the clean-up of the Little River Channel. Efforts to plant trees and shrubs and develop a nature trail merited Habitat 2000 the UNESCO environmental leadership award in 1991. Between 1990 and 1991, a number of developments were implemented within a 27-acre section of the park. A 1.7 kilometre path, the Rotary-Ganatchio Little River Extension, was built to link the meadows and wetlands of Little River to the Detroit River. Funding for the extension was provided by the City of Windsor, the Province, the Windsor-St. Clair Rotary Club, Greater Windsor Foundation (formerly Heritage Windsor and other community groups).

Numerous trail systems run throughout the parkland providing areas for rollerbladers, mountain bikers, walkers, joggers, bird watchers, and nature lovers. Bridges link the trails over the old channel East Marsh Top Drain. In 1993 a number of local companies combined their efforts to build the Zalev Bridge from recycled materials.

In 1994 and again in 1996 Environmental Youth Corp (EYC) students working for the School Board assisted with the development of Little River as naturalized parkland. A biological inventory documents the flora and fauna on the site. Other projects include the control inventory and planting of aquatic species.

Long-range plans include the continued development of Windsor's Carolinian Arboretum. The arboretum borders both sides of the extension so that visitors can enjoy the diversity of trees and plants while they walk or cycle. To commemorate the city's centennial year, 1992, a forest of 100 trees was planted around the pond. Among the trees planted are Blue Ash, Sassafras, Kentucky Coffee tree and many other Carolinian species. Clean-ups, plantings and trail works by Little River

Enhancement Group continue.

Little River Valley Park

See Riverside Kiwanis

Little River Golf Club

Commonly known as: Little River Golf Club
Former/other names: none
Location: 2861 Lauzon
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: 67.29
Official designation: Golf Course

Long Park

Commonly known as: Long Park
Former/other names: Meighen Road Park
Location: south of Milloy Street between Chandler and Meighen Roads
Property acquired: 1951
Acreage: 6.37
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Re-named in honour of Albert Long, a former Alderman and member of the old Walkerville Town Council, Long Park was officially called Meighen Road Park until 1961, in recognition of the Meighen family farm surrounding the area.

When the land was acquired in 1951, the Parks and Recreation Department flirted briefly with the idea of creating a botanical garden, but ultimately decided to address the need for an active recreational area in the Meighen Road area.

The toboggan hill at Long Park keeps the site busy during the winter months, while traditional and modern playground equipment, including junior and senior swing sets, a teeter totter, and creative play unit allow children to frolic through the warmer months of the year. A picnic shelter and a softball diamond are also provided at the park.

Mackenzie Hall Park

Commonly known as: Mackenzie Hall Park
Former/other names: none
Location: northeast side of Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich Street
Property acquired: 1982
Acreage: 0.41
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Designed as a cultural gathering place that would both reflect and enhance the rich heritage of Mackenzie Hall, Mackenzie Hall Park was officially opened in 1990. Funded by the City of Windsor, Wintario, and the Friends of the Court, the \$160,000 vest-pocket park is fast becoming one of the area's favourite sites for outdoor cultural events.

The focal point for this performing and visual arts park is a Victorian gazebo, designed by the Department of Parks and Recreation. With a diameter of ten meters, the wooden gazebo features ornate dental mouldings along the roofline. Interlocking brick walkways surround the gazebo, and the beige cobblestone complements the limestone exterior of Mackenzie Hall.

A small amphitheatre composed of tiered grassy areas is located in front of the gazebo. Wrought iron fencing and a stonewall on the park perimeter add to the site's quietly elegant look, and six different types of trees, including oak, Austrian pine, Colorado blue spruce and maple, are prominently displayed.

This park is a popular location for outdoor weddings. Reservations are made by calling Mackenzie Hall at 255-7600.

A stonemason, Alexander Mackenzie, who later was elected Canada's second Prime Minister, built Mackenzie Hall in 1855-1856. Formerly the Essex County Court House, the hall was the site of many memorable trials, including that of Reverend J. Spracklin, the gun-toting "fighting parson" of rum running fame. In 1963, the building became the Essex County Headquarters. By 1975, however, the building was vacant, and it was not until 1981 that an organization of concerned citizens, the Friends of the Court, formed to save the abandoned building. In 1982, the City of Windsor purchased the building from the federal government for \$1, and soon after began an extensive restoration process.

Located in one of the most historic areas of Windsor, Mackenzie Hall is a living link with our colourful legal past and our artistic present, and with the recent addition of Mackenzie Hall Park, that link is strengthened.

Magnolia Park

Commonly known as: Magnolia Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Firgrove and Magnolia
Property acquired: 2004
Acreage:
Official designation:

Malden Park

Commonly known as: Malden Landfill, Malden Dump, West End Landfill
Former/other names: Mount Bailey
Location: bounded to the east by Malden Rd, to the west by Matchette Rd
Property acquired: 1956
Acreage: 162.78
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Malden Park is characterized by two prominent hills: the smaller north hill is about 12 m high and the large south hill rises to 26 m. The site has the highest elevation in the entire County of Essex.

Malden Park offers tremendous views from hill top vantage of the rural landscape to the south, the City of Windsor and the City of Detroit. There is a 25-acre Carolinian forest in the southeast corner of the site with many provincially rare trees and grass species. In addition there are three ponds and the McKee Creek, which follows Matchette Road. A network of walking and biking paths connect Malden Park to the other trails throughout the city.

Malden Visitor Centre, located within Malden Park, was officially opened in 1998. The centre is equipped with an all-purpose meeting room and washrooms. It is available for rental for weddings, parties or other occasions.

History

Malden Park is the site of a city-owned and operated landfill, which opened in 1956 and was used for the disposal of domestic and industrial waste until 1973. Between 1973 and 1994, the landfill was used for the disposal of earth or rock fill.

Although a 1973 study of the site produced a comprehensive Master Plan for the City-owned property, including the possibility of a ski hill and golf course. Financial restrictions and the need for an inert fill site prevented the City from seriously beginning the developments. In 1992, a new study was conducted, leading to the unveiling of a comprehensive Master Plan for the site. The City formally closed the inert fill site in 1993. With the infusion of monies through the National Infrastructure Program in 1994, the Department of Parks and Recreation assumed responsibility for converting the former landfill into a public park.

Recreational Opportunities

The Windsor Trail winds through the park to create a scenic trail for activities such as walking, jogging, bicycling, cross-country skiing; unstructured recreation such as kite flying, and model airplane flying; shows and special events such as marathon runs, bike races and walkathons, as well as hiking and nature interpretation.

In 1996, a newly designed toboggan hill was opened at Malden Park for public use. Lights were added and the area is open for tobogganing and skating (weather permitting) seven days a week.

Development continued within the park to link the ponds and hills with a system of interlocking trails, which will be joined to the expanding city trail network.

Maple Leaf Park

Commonly known as:	Maple Leaf Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Devonwood and Maple Leaf
Property acquired:	1997
Acreage:	2.29
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood Park

This beautiful park is equipped with both a baseball diamond and a children's play unit. It was established when the Devonwood South Subdivision was developed in the area in 1997.

Marguriet Park

Commonly known as:	Marguriet Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Northway and Marguriet
Property acquired:	1997
Acreage:	0.31
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood Park

This newly developed park is equipped with a children's play unit.

Mark Avenue Park

Commonly known as:	Mark Avenue Park
Former/other names:	Mark Park
Location:	between Glenwood and Mark Aves south of Grand Marais Drain
Property acquired:	1974
Acreage:	1.26
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

When the Mark Avenue Sewage Treatment Plant was closed down in 1974, the Department of Parks and Recreation established Mark Avenue Park at the site. In order to accommodate the Grand Marais Drain, the buildings on the site were torn down. The Department of Parks and Recreation used the rubble as the base for a small toboggan hill at the park.

Today, a limited amount of playground equipment is provided at Mark Avenue Park. Mark Avenue Park provides a seating area along the Grand Marais Drain for the numerous pedestrians that use the sidewalk adjacent to the drain.

Matchette Road Playground

Commonly known as:	Matchette Park
Former/other names:	Matchette Rd Community Centre / Prince Rd Community Centre
Location:	Matchette Road at Redwood Street
Property acquired:	1943
Acreage:	1.34
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

In 1943, the Matchette Road Community Centre was built as a wartime response to the recreational needs of a rapidly expanding population in the area. Activities at the centre flourished until the late-1960s, when the nearby Marlborough Neighbourhood Centre was constructed.

As a newer, more modern facility, the Marlborough facility soon rendered obsolete the Matchette Road Centre, leading to the closure of the older building in 1969. The Marlborough facility reverted to school board use only in the fall of 2002.

Today, the park is equipped with a variety of playground equipment, including both junior and

senior swing sets.

Matthew Rodzik

See Rodzik

Mayfair Park

Commonly known as: Mayfair Park
Former/other names: Mayfair School, Mayfair School Park
Location: between Alexis and Chandler Roads, south of Somme Avenue
Property acquired: 1980
Acreage: 1.47
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Mayfair School closed down in 1971 after 44 years of operation. At the time of its closing the Department of Parks and Recreation began leasing the six-room school house from the Board of Education for \$1 per year, offering children's craft programs for several years. Until 1978, the facility was used by various local groups, including the Essex County Mineral and Gem Club, the Windsor Camera Club, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Improvements to Mayfair Park were carried out in two phases. In 1984, the City spent \$65,000 installing basketball courts and playground equipment at the park. Fencing, an asphalt parking lot and general planting was carried out in 1987 at a total cost of approximately \$34,000.

Today, Mayfair Park is equipped with playground equipment, a soccer field, park benches and basketball courts.

McDonald Park

Commonly known as: McDonald Park
Former/other names: none
Location: at Westcott Road and Somme Avenue
Property acquired: 1970
Acreage: 16.88
Official designation: Community park

Part of Sandwich East Township until 1966, this park was named after Deputy Reeve Robert McDonald. Lands purchased in 1970 by the City of Windsor were added to the original McDonald Park. The new land was owned by John and Katherine Doropeski for a sum of \$31,500. In 1978, the City spent \$60,000 to acquire an additional three acres of adjoining property from Mrs. Evelyn Jones.

In 1989, general improvements to several City-owned parks included the installation of new playground equipment at McDonald Park. The site is equipped with a variety of playground equipment, a soccer field, and both hardball and softball diamonds. With the expanding residential neighbourhood to the north, additional lands are being added to the park. With the residential

development to the south, additional lands have been added to the park.

Patrick McGuire Park

Commonly known as: Patrick McGuire Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Cabana Road
Property acquired: 1997
Acreage: 3.72
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

Named for a former building architect and Building Commissioner for the City of Windsor, Patrick McGuire Park is very popular among South Windsor residents. The park was beautifully developed by Gord Wonsch, the developer of the nearby Cabana Estates subdivision. The park contains a baseball diamond, a basketball key, a play unit and a walking trail.

McHugh Park

Commonly known as: McHugh Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Florence Ave. and McHugh St.
Property acquired: proposed in 2004
Acreage: 17.4
Official designation: soccer fields and park

McKee Park

Commonly known as: McKee Park
Former/other names: Chewitt Street Park
Location: at the foot of Chewitt Street between Russell Street and the Detroit River
Property acquired: 1960
Acreage: 3.56
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Named after Alexander “Chick” McKee, a former Mayor of the Town of Sandwich, McKee Park represents the City's first effort to provide public access to the river for local boaters. The park was redeveloped in 1991 through the same federal and provincial programs that funded general improvements at Brock Street Park/Mill Street Park and streetscape beautification within Olde Sandwich Towne. At McKee Park, a bike path linking the site to Mill and Brock Street parks was developed, a boardwalk installed along the riverfront, and playground unit installed. It continues to offer a free public boat launch for motorized and non-motorized boats.

“Chick” McKee, a fifth generation descendent of Colonel Alexander McKee is best remembered as an unusually avid chicken farmer. His great-great-grandfather, Colonel McKee, was the Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Detroit during the late 1700s. He was the man largely responsible for negotiating a land treaty with the Ottawa, Chippewa, Potowatomy and Huron nations. The Native people in the 1790 treaty sought by Colonel McKee surrendered the Towne of

Sandwich.

Meadowbrook Optimist Park

Commonly known as:	Meadowbrook Optimist Park
Former/other names:	Meadowbrook
Park Location:	Meadowbrook Lane and Lauzon Parkway
Property Acquired:	1985
Acreage:	3.99
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

The site of Meadowbrook Park was first established as a private recreation area in 1970 by Patrick Maguire & Associates, the architects of several nearby condominiums. By 1979, however, the Meadowbrook Homeowners' Association had assumed total responsibility for the park site. Plagued by organizational and financial difficulties, the Homeowners' Association gladly relinquished the park to the City just six years later.

Upon acquiring the park, the City filled in the swimming pool and tore down the bathhouse. Both had been abandoned for years and were not repairable, and many area residents considered them dangerous.

Currently, tennis courts, a basketball court, playground equipment and a softball diamond are present on the site. Meadowbrook Park was renamed Meadowbrook Optimist Park as requested by Meadowbrook Optimist Club in view of the long-term commitment of the Club to donate funds. In 1996, \$13,000 was contributed and in 1997, \$15,000 was donated, and further amounts will be donated in future years. Several projects to improve Meadowbrook Optimist such as the upgrading of the playground equipment, refurbishment of the baseball diamond, basketball courts, backstops, tennis courts, paved walkway and rollerblade area will be undertaken in future years.

Memorial Park

See Optimist-Memorial Park

Mic Mac Park

Commonly known as:	Mic Mac Park
Former/Other names:	Prince Road Park
Location:	Prince Road
Property acquired:	1928
Acreage:	97.73
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

Mic Mac Park, originally named Prince Road Park was established in 1928 to become one of the first three parks founded in the Towne of Sandwich. Mic Mac Park has become more developed compared to its original state as a heavily wooded 16-acre site. When the park was initially established, facilities included a baseball diamond, public tennis courts, and a wooded area. The Parks Commission, which designed the park, hoped that the Prince Road Park would compare favourably with the best facilities available in the City of Windsor. In 1929, a wading pool was

built on the grounds of Mic Mac Park

During the 1930s, the Mic Mac Club, a closely-knit group of approximately 20 World War One veterans, began sponsoring youth sports teams which played and practiced at Prince Road Park. Ultimately, the name of the park was changed to honour this organization.

Significant expansions to the park began in the late 1950s. In 1958, the City purchased a 28-acre parcel of land from Harry Gray and Nathan Tepperman for \$45,000. Harold and Fred Meadows formerly used this land as a riding stable. In 1960, the Windsor Rotary Club funded the installation of an outdoor swimming pool at the park. Seven years later, the Mic Mac Club contributed \$10,000 to help subsidize the cost of constructing a \$140,000 field house at Mic Mac. The City picked up the remainder of the tab.

The Centennial Trailer Park was officially opened at Mic Mac on Canada Day in 1967. The park was originally meant as temporary accommodation for travelers en route to Expo '67 in Montreal but operated for many years. Its proximity to the Ambassador Bridge provided a stop-over for many American tourists who could not find camping arrangements near Detroit. The facility had capacity for 75 trailers, and helped boost attendance at Canada's Centennial celebrations in Windsor. Stiff competition between camping facilities in Southwestern Ontario and reduced market demand caused the closure of the trailer park in 1989. Also in 1967, initial plans to build a 5,000-seat soccer stadium were developed. In 1970, a proposal to spend \$50,000 on the development of a football field and bleachers was tabled.

1972 was a year of physical growth at Mic Mac Park. The City nearly doubled the park's size through the purchase of an additional 60 acres of property. Water mains, sewers and access roads were installed, and gardens were developed. The City dug deep to come up with the approximate \$440,000 needed to complete this expansion.

Acting as a good corporate citizen, nearby Dome Petroleum donated enough clean fill to raise the park's elevation by nearly eight feet. At the time, estimates indicated that Dome Petroleum had saved the City of Windsor approximately \$250,000.

Although the immaculately groomed, 92-acre park is perhaps best known today as the home of both the Windsor Athletic Association and the Windsor Chiefs Baseball Club, it boasts facilities for almost every imaginable leisure activity. Four tennis courts, two hardball diamonds, two additional softball diamonds, a wading pool and a swimming pool compliment five multi-purpose fields, used primarily for football, soccer and rugby. The Windsor Trail runs through Mic Mac Park. As well, Wild Waters, an independently owned and operated giant water slide, is located on the grounds. Events like the annual Firefighters Field Day have found a permanent home at Mic Mac Park. This park is also a part of the Parks Watch program. Volunteers of the program help to protect the park against crime and vandalism.

Father Ronald Cullen Baseball Stadium

A new, lighted baseball stadium, The Babe Ruth Diamond, was constructed in 1972. Complete with bleacher seats capable of holding up to 5,000 spectators, the project was timely because Windsor was set to host the Mid-Atlantic Babe Ruth Junior Tournament late in the summer of that

same year. Interestingly, the 100-foot, spun concrete poles used to support the light fixtures were the first of their height in Canada and manufactured in Hamilton, Ontario. The entire lighted stadium development was honoured with an Ontario Parks Association Engineering Award.

In 1995 the Babe Ruth Baseball Diamond was renamed to the Father Ronald Cullen Baseball Stadium. Father Cullen arrived in Windsor in 1948 and was a clergyman, teacher, coach and inspiration to young ball players in the city. A coach and teacher at Assumption College School, Father Cullen has coached several Windsor men into major league baseball. He served and continues to serve faithfully and with distinction, touching the lives of many of the area's youth. In nearly fifty years of service to Windsor, Father Cullen spent countless hours coaching teams and even now he can be seen at his field at Mic Mac Park checking out the new crop of Windsor baseball talent and offering them advice. Father Cullen is a member of the Windsor-Essex Sports Hall of Fame and has received the highest honour awarded to a Canadian baseball coach by being inducted into Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

Bernie Soulliere Baseball Stadium

In 1987, a number of local baseball organizations, the City and Wintario funded the refurbishment of this diamond and in turn it was renamed Bernie Soulliere Stadium after the individual who worked to see this project implemented. The leagues have donated in excess of \$100,000 over the years for upgrading this diamond. Mr. Bernie Soulliere has been associated with the Mic Mac Club since 1969 and with baseball in the City of Windsor for his entire life as a coach, organizer, etc. In 1986 and 1987, Mr. Soulliere was very instrumental in organizing two World Junior Baseball Tournaments, which were held in Mic Mac Park. The net proceeds from the events were used to upgrade the existing Carmichael Baseball Diamond through the provision of fencing, drainage, dugouts, seating, etc. Since opening in 1987, Bernie Soulliere Baseball Stadium has become a major hardball addition for the community.

In 1995, City Council approved in principle the Mic Mac Park Redevelopment and Economic Feasibility Study that details the city, user groups and residents desires for the park. Redevelopment has begun in 1996 with the grading and layout of soccer fields northwest of Carmichael Road and the addition of change rooms/dugouts to Father Cullen Diamond.

John Ivan Baseball Complex

In 1999, Mic Mac Park celebrated the opening of the John Ivan Baseball Complex. The complex is home to six 300-foot slo-pitch diamonds with two lit for night play, bleachers, washrooms and a licensed concession stand. The complex was named in honour of John Ivan, a Windsor area Olympic baseball player who died suddenly in 1999.

Italian Canadian Handicapable Association

In 2002, the Italian Canadian HandiCAPABLE Association (ICHA) opened a multi-purpose facility within Mic Mac Park with space available to community groups and sports clubs.

Mill Street Park

Commonly known as: Mill Street Park
Former/other names: Russell Street Park

Location: north of Russell Street at Mill Street
Property acquired: 1926
Acreage: 1.27
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Known for many years as Russell Street Park, the site originally included the area, which is now Mill Street Marina. A deal was struck with the Windsor Harbour Commission whereby Parks and Recreation would build a marina on the site in exchange for waterfront lots. The exchange was beneficial to both parties as the waterfront lots were needed to complete the land assembly of what became Coventry Gardens. Parkland that remained after construction of the marina was redeveloped in 1991 through the U.I.C. “top up” and provincial P.R.I.D.E. program that also provided funding for streetscape refurbishment in the Olde Sandwich Towne area. Although Mill Street Park was established in 1926, it did not receive very much attention from anyone—residents, tourists or City Hall—until 1991, when it was revamped through the Provincial P.R.I.D.E. program. A team of nearly 100 men and women, working with the Parks and Recreation Department, completed a wide assortment of improvements to the area during the summer of 1991.

At Mill Street Park a 60-foot windmill was built complementing the area's revitalization. The windmill is a re-creation of the wind-powered gristmill that once stood on the shores of the Detroit River and draws tourists to explore the heritage of Sandwich Towne. A bike path that connects Mill Street Park to McKee and Brock Parks serves the community as part of the Windsor Trail.

Mitchell Park

Commonly known as: Mitchell Park, Church Street Park
Former/other names: none
Location: south of Giles Boulevard, west of Church Street
Property acquired: 1918
Acreage: 4.63
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Named in honour of Frank J. Mitchell, Windsor's Chief Magistrate from 1924-1926, the original four-acre site was purchased from Robert Gray and John Kerr in 1918. The \$18,575 purchase was financed through a \$70,000 debenture issue, which also allowed the City to acquire additional park sites throughout Windsor.

In 1944, the City acquired four additional lots, expanding the park to its present size. Known for years as Church Street Park, a cul-de-sac was created in 1968 when part of Church Street was closed off. In 1974, an athletic field was established at the park.

Presently, Mitchell Park is a multi-purpose facility, complete with a softball diamond, soccer and football fields, a basketball court, plus an assortment of playground equipment.

Morningstar Park

Commonly known as: Morning Star Park
Former/other names: none

Location: Little River Blvd between Morningstar Ave. and Clover Ave.
Property acquired:
Acreage:
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

North Merritt Park

Commonly known as: North Merritt Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Merritt Drive and Davis Street
Property acquired: 1953
Acreage: 0.61
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Established in 1953 by the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision, North Merritt Park is a neighbourhood tot lot. Officially declared a Windsor park in 1958, appears to have been named after Merritt Drive.

North Royal Timbers Park

Commonly known as: North Royal Timbers Park
Former/other names: none
Location: between Troupe Crescent and Urban Lane
Property acquired:
Acreage:
Official designation: Neighbourhood Park

North Talbot Park

Commonly known as: North Talbot Park
Former/other names: none
Location: North Talbot Road and East of sixth concession
Property Acquired: 1997
Acreage: 3.51
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

North Tilston Park

Commonly known as: North Tilston
Former/other names: none
Location: Tilston Avenue south of Girardot Avenue
Property acquired: 1953
Acreage: 0.66
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Established in 1953 when the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision dedicated six small parcels of land for park purposes, North Tilston Park is turfed and has been left open for neighbourhood pick-up games.

Forty-year-old Fred Tilston, earned his Victoria Cross in a battle on the Rhine in 1945. In 1953, he was honored with the naming of two parks: North and South Tilston Parks. A member of the Essex Kent Scottish Regiment, Capt Tilston was part of the force breaking through the strongly fortified Hockwald Forest. The regiment was under heavy fire and Tilston was hit in the head and legs but he maintained momentum against the enemy. Only 26 men remained in Tilston's company at the end of the battle.

Oakwood Park

Commonly known as: Oakwood Park
Former/other names: Beals Street Park, Oakwood Woodlot
Location: south of Pulford Street, east of Huron Church Road
Property acquired: 1966
Acreage: 44.58
Official designation: Community park

Commonly known as the Beals Street Park throughout the late 1960s, the name of the park was formally changed in 1970, when plans to construct the South Windsor Arena on the site were formally approved by City Council. Adjacent to Oakwood Nature Reserve, which is owned and operated by the Windsor Public School Board, the Department of Parks and Recreation built the community centre on a leased portion of the school grounds. The South Windsor Centennial Committee, which donated \$75,000 in 1967 to help finance the new arena, suggested the new name.

In both 1974 and 1975, the City purchased 46 lots on the east side of St. Clair Avenue and incorporated them into Oakwood Park. As well, Beals Street was closed between St. Clair and Northway Avenues, which added an additional 66 feet to the park. As well as being the site of the South Windsor Arena, Oakwood Park is also equipped with a variety of playground equipment.

Additional lands were added for parking lot expansion when South Windsor Arena was twinned in 1994/95.

In 1995/96 Council determined that the remaining natural area between Cabana and Pulford along California should be acquired in a 7-10 year period with the assistance of the Windsor School Board. A private group called the Friends of Oakwood Bush has been formed to assist with fundraising for the acquisition.

Odette Sculpture Park

Commonly known as: Windsor Sculpture Garden, Assumption Park, Centennial Park
Former/Other names: Windsor Sculpture Garden
Location: Ambassador Bridge to Caron Ave., north of Riverside Drive W.
Property acquired: 1915, 1964
Acreage: 36 acres
Official designation: City-Wide, Regional park

Located with existing riverfront parks, the Odette Sculpture Park presents large-scale

contemporary sculptures for public viewing. The sculpture collection began in 1997 with gifts from Mr. Lou Odette and the P & L Odette Foundation. The collection continues to develop every year through private donations.

In 1998, the Sculptor's Society of Canada named Windsor the Sculpture Capital of Canada.

The Odette Sculpture Park is currently home to 29 all-season sculptures.

Ojibway Park

Commonly known as:	Ojibway Park
Former/other names:	Yawkey Bush
Location:	between Highway 18 and Matchette Road south of Broadway St.
Property Acquired:	1957 and 1991
Acreage:	151.77
Official Designation:	Community park

Ojibway Park is the hub of activity at the Ojibway Prairie Complex. Most visitors initially visit here before exploring other regions of the Complex. Ojibway Park features an excellent Nature Centre and several well kept, self-guiding nature trails on which visitors can discover and learn about the ecology of the pin oak forest, savannah, and tall grass prairie habitats. Ojibway Park is connected to the Windsor Trail.

In 1957, a deal was struck to give a 37-acre lot south of Mic Mac Park and the mineral rights beneath a 180-acre landfill site in the west end in exchange for Ojibway Park. The ecological importance of this land was not widely recognized until the early 1970s when two University of Toronto professors, Dr. Maycock and Dr. Hill published studies on the Ojibway prairie. By 1976, the park's importance was well known and the City officially opened the Ojibway Nature Centre. In 1991, a land purchase from the Windsor Raceway, added another 50 acres to Ojibway Park.

Ojibway Nature Centre

The Ojibway Park Nature Centre features exhibits designed to provide information about wildlife and local ecology. Programs for schools and other organized groups can be arranged through Nature Centre staff. Naturalists are available to help organize lessons and provide informative tours. A wide variety of seasonal programs are offered, including birding, wildlife, wildflower and photography courses. The Nature Centre building was originally a classroom at St. Clair College and was purchased by the City for one dollar. The building was then moved to Ojibway Park and refurbished.

Ojibway Prairie Complex

Commonly known as:	Ojibway Prairie
Former/other names:	Ojibway Prairie Remnants ANSI
Location:	between Detroit River and Huron Church Road
Property acquired:	various dates
Acreage:	900 (existing and under acquisition)

Official designation: Ojibway Prairie Remnants Area of Natural And Scientific Interest (provincial)

The term Ojibway Prairie Complex was coined to refer to the related group of municipal and provincial parkland that serves to protect remnants of the original tallgrass prairie and oak savannah communities once occupied the southwestern corner of present-day Windsor. The complex includes Ojibway Park, Black Oak Heritage Park, Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park, Spring Garden Natural Area and the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. All of the City properties comprise the Ojibway Prairie Remnants ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest), a provincial designation indicating that these sites support the best example of a particular type of flora and fauna in Ontario.

History

Industry first threatened this sensitive area in 1913, when the United States Steel Corporation purchased 1,400 acres from the newly incorporated Town of Ojibway. Although a giant steel plant was planned for the property, it was never used for that purpose, even in 1937, when the Dominion Steel and Coal Company acquired the site. In 1957, the Canadian Salt Company bought the land and began mining salt. However, as no sprawling industries were established on the property, large areas of forest and prairie survived until recent times.

Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve

Commonly known as: Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve
Former/other names: Ojibway Prairie
Location: between Matchette and Malden Road north of Sprucewood Ave. and adjacent to Ojibway Park and Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park
Property Acquired: 1973 (and ongoing)
Acreage: 161 acres under provincial regulation
Official Designation: nature reserve class Provincial Park

The Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve was regulated under the Provincial Parks Act in 1979 to protect one of the largest remnants of tallgrass prairie and oak savannah in Canada. An additional 100 acres of adjacent property is being acquired for future expansion of the reserve. The Morton Salt Company owned this parcel of land prior to 1973.

Frank L. Mallory Optimist-Memorial Park

Commonly known as: Memorial Park, Optimist Park, Optimist-Memorial Park
Former/other names: n/a
Location: along Ypres Boulevard, between Elsmere and Gladstone Avenues
Property acquired: 1925; 1949
Acreage: 34.14 (Memorial); 17.44 (Optimist)
Official designation: Community park

Memorial Park was first established in 1925. The site was more like a nature reserve than a recreational park, boasting a magnificent stand of mature oak trees. Various other trees were also present and read like the appendix in a forestry manual: soft maple, white ash, walnut, red cedar,

spruce, pine, basswood, wild cherry, witch hazel, thorn apple, elm, hickory, silver maple, and wild crab apple. Unfortunately, the vast majority of them were seriously diseased and Windsor's Board of Parks Management had to weed out these layers of blighted underbrush. Except for a few healthy, young elms, which were transplanted along City streets, and several uniquely shaped trees, the area was almost totally thinned out. As a result of this stewardship, there are approximately 2,000 oak trees presently growing in the park's vicinity.

The City spent \$82,000 to acquire the first 32 acres of Memorial Park, adding an additional 10 acres over the next few years. In 1927, an unobtrusive drainage system was completed, allowing the natural setting at the park to remain relatively undisturbed. That same year, the Essex Real Estate Board, which had lent the City a professional hand in the initial 1925 land transaction, donated \$2,700 in order to construct a sweeping, brick and stone pillared entranceway to the park.

In 1939, the City acquired an additional 20 acres of land. Located east of Howard Avenue between Memorial Drive and the C.P.R. tracks, this property was the final piece in the Memorial Park puzzle. Baseball and softball diamonds were laid out and a multi-purpose (soccer/football/rugby) field was established. At the same time, a tree nursery on the west side of the park was already flourishing, containing over 6,000 trees.

Optimist Park was developed as an extension of Memorial Park in 1949. The Optimist Club, an organization that has for many years generously supported youth sports in Windsor, was the driving force behind the park's creation. In 1954, The Frank L. Mallory Optimist Rink was built, thanks in part to a \$35,000 donation by the Optimist Club. In 1974, the Optimist Community Centre was officially opened, and it quickly established itself as an integral part of both the South Walkerville community and the Memorial-Optimist Park complex.

In 1996, the Goodwin Family donated \$12,000 for a picnic shelter in Memorial Park. The donation represented a memorial for John Goodwin's late wife, Helen. The Goodwins lived in Windsor for a number of years and spent time with their children in Windsor Parks during the late 40's and early 50's. A memorial plate is in the park to acknowledge the donation to the park.

Today, Memorial and Optimist Parks provide more than 50 acres of diverse, community-scale parkland to the area. Available facilities normally include a variety of playground equipment, a picnic shelter, plus a softball diamond, cricket pitch, sand volleyball area, and a toboggan hill.

Palmetto Park

Commonly known as: Palmetto Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Palmetto Drive across from Seville Dr.
Property acquired:
Acreage:
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Parent Avenue Park

Commonly known as: Parent Avenue Park

Former/other names: none
Location: along Vimy Avenue, east of Parent Avenue
Property acquired: 1956
Acreage: 1.01
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Until it was permanently closed down in 1974, the Parent Avenue Centre was an integral part of both Parent Avenue Park and the community. The City purchased the centre building from Wartime Housing Ltd. for just \$1 in 1947. However, by the mid-1970s the facilities available at the Parent Avenue Centre were outdated, and for the most part unsuitable for modern recreational pursuits. With the emergence of the Optimist Community Centre in the mid-1970s, the Parent Avenue Centre was rendered obsolete.

Parent Park provides both softball and hardball diamonds to area residents.

Parkwood Gospel Woodlot

Commonly known as: Parkwood Gospel Woodlot
Former/other names: none
Location: Central and Temple
Property acquired: 1989
Acreage: 1.03
Official designation: Community park

Partington Park

Commonly known as: Partington Park
Former/other names: none
Location: at Notre Dame Separate School, south of Columbia Court,
between Randolph Avenue and Partington Drive
Property Acquired: 1962
Acreage: 4.06
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Partington Park is a City-owned extension of the Notre Dame Separate School playground. In addition to a softball diamond, playground equipment and a creative play unit are available.

Paterson Park

Commonly known as: Paterson Park
Former/other names: Detroit Street Park
Location: south side of Sandwich St. between Rosedale Blvd and Detroit St.
Property acquired: 1944
Acreage: 2.85
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Paterson Park, located on the south side of Sandwich Street at Detroit Street, was officially called Detroit Street Park until 1961, when the site was renamed in honour of a former Windsor

Alderman. Paterson is a popular site, and equipped with an array of playground equipment. In 1991, a new creative play unit was installed. During the Sandwich streetscape projects, in early 1990, a number of large caliper trees were moved to the site.

Paul Martin Gardens

Commonly known as: Paul Martin Gardens
Former/other names: none
Location: Chilver Street south of Niagara Street, within Willistead Park
Property acquired: 1921
Acreage: .25
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

In 1995/96, Paul Martin Gardens was established in Willistead Park to honour the memory of the Right Honourable Paul Martin, Windsor's Citizen of the World.

Through his entire life, Mr. Martin was a student of international affairs. He served as Canada's Foreign Minister, held the office of High Commissioner to Great Britain, and many times represented his country officially at the United Nations. A life long Liberal, Mr. Martin was first elected to the House of Commons in 1935 in the old riding of Essex East. He represented this riding, on both government and opposition sides of the House, until 1968. At that time, he was appointed Leader of the Government in the Senate, a position he held until he became High Commissioner to Great Britain in 1974.

One Windsor resident, Desi Colussi, has donated perennials that he has dedicated 30 years to develop to the Paul Martin Gardens. Here, you will also find the Nell Martin Rose, a rose developed and dedicated to Mrs. Martin.

Pearson Park

Commonly known as: Pearson Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Pearson Ave. and Beverly Glen Street
Property acquired:
Acreage:
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Peche Island

Commonly known as: Peche Island
Former/other names: none
Location: Detroit River / Lake St. Clair
Property Acquired: 1999
Acreage: 66.23
Official Designation: Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) site No. 30

Peche Island was recently acquired by the City of Windsor along with Shanfield Shores, the former Kayak Cove.

There is no official historical study of the history of Peche Island written before 1972. This results in the records being sketchy and the actual story being somewhat vague, but some aspects of this anecdotal history are supported by inventory or artifacts found on the site.

Although it is commonly believed that Peche Island was once used as a military base and although it was considered for military use on a number of occasions, at no time was Peche Island a military base that held any significance.

The land unofficially changed hands many times during the 1800s. Farms were started and structures were built, but neither of these were maintained very well and there is no evidence of their existence today.

The area was without much of its remarkable vegetation until the island was purchased by Hiram Walker in 1883. Walker is credited with much of the development of the island. Walker laid topsoil over much of the island's sandy soil and planted trees and an orchard. He built up his own little empire on the island which included a stable, a greenhouse, an ice house and a large home which was used by Walker and his family. Upon Hiram Walker's death, he left the buildings to his daughter, who neglected the property and left it to ruin. The Walker's sold the island to an independent developer in 1907.

There were numerous attempts at development during the early 1900s and a number of different structures were built, all having a rather small life span. In 1971, the Province of Ontario purchased the island and it became a Provincial Park in 1974. The city acquired the land in November of 1999.

Peche Island is home to many types of vegetation that are unique to the island.

Peche Island Landing

Commonly known as:	Peche Island Landing
Former/other names:	none
Location:	along Riverside Drive East, just west of East Riverview Park
Property Acquired:	1979
Acreage:	0.14
Official designation:	City-wide/Regional park

Peche Island Landing was established in 1979, when the City purchased two adjoining riverfront lots, one from the R.C. Pruefer Company Ltd. and the other from the Holek family.

Like East Riverview Park, Peche Island Landing is primarily a rest area or vest-pocket-park along Windsor's riverfront, offering visitors a clear, unobstructed view across the Detroit River.

Piazza Udine

Commonly known as:	Dieppe Park, Dieppe Gardens, Piazza Udine
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Former/other names: none
Location: east side of Dieppe Park
Property acquired: 1975
Acreage: 0.85
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Understandably, many Windsorites assume that Dieppe Gardens includes the site of Piazza Udine. The two parks are, after all, located side by side. Furthermore, when the City purchased and subsequently demolished the old British America Hotel in 1975, the newly-cleared property was used to expand Dieppe Gardens.

In 1980, however, a severe earthquake rocked Udine, Italy, one of Windsor's international twin-cities. Led by Windsor's sizeable Italian-Canadian community, a substantial emergency-relief package was quickly raised and sent overseas. Two years later, appreciative representatives from the still-recovering City of Udine presented a three-tiered marble fountain to Windsor City officials. In recognition of Udine's gift, the City established Piazza Udine on the grounds formerly occupied by the British America Hotel.

Piazza Udine is an attractive complement to the rich floral gardens at Dieppe Gardens, and during the summer months visitors to Windsor's waterfront often stroll through both parks, stopping to reflect on the quietly powerful elegance of the Udine Fountain.

Polonia-Princess Park

Commonly known as: Polonia Park
Former/other names: none
Location: east of Princess Road between Guy and Milloy Streets
Property acquired: 1979
Acreage: 8.22
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

When the Polish Canadian Centre Association of Windsor (P.C.C.A.) began developing a 340- unit residential project in 1977, many area residents believed that a neighbourhood park would be established in the very near future. The Polish Canadian Association dedicated seven acres of land to the City for parkland purposes as part of the residential subdivision development requirements. It was not until 1989, when the City received an \$88,000 Wintario grant, that work on the park was undertaken.

The cost of development was nearly \$300,000. For the athletically inclined, high quality baseball and soccer facilities were created; modern playground equipment and a basketball key were installed. Trees, berms, asphalt pathways, a parking lot and light fixtures completed the package.

Pyke's Park

Commonly known as: Pyke's Park, Coronation Park
Former/other names: Coronation Park
Location: west side of Jefferson Boulevard, north of Tecumseh Road East

Property acquired: 1951
 Acreage: 4.98
 Official designation: Neighbourhood park

For a nominal, token sum, the former Township of Sandwich East acquired two small lots from Victor Pyke, a long time Township resident. At the time of the 1951 transaction, Pyke expressed his desire to see the lots developed into parkland, but the Township quickly determined that neither of the twin properties was large enough to sustain viable recreation areas. Consequently, Sandwich East turned its attention to the already established Coronation Park, which was in need of both more and better equipment.

After discussing the matter with Pyke, the Township sold the two recently acquired properties and used the proceeds to improve Coronation Park. In 1967, fully 16 years after Pyke's original act of generosity, the City renamed the park in his honour.

Pyke's Park is equipped with hardball and softball diamonds, a picnic shelter, junior and senior swing-sets, and in 1991 a new a creative play unit was installed.

In 1998, a local group, The Kid's Alliance adopted the park and in turn the park was equipped with a new basketball court and lights were installed because of increased interest in the park.

Radison Bikeway

Commonly known as: Radison Bikeway
 Former/other names: none
 Location: Southside of Radisson Court from Bruce Ave. to Virginia Park Court
 Property acquired: unknown
 Acreage: 0.69
 Official designation: Bikeway

Ramada Inn Property

See Steamboat Wharf

Realtor Park

Commonly known as: Realtor Park
 Former/other names: Homedale Park
 Location: east of Coventry Street and south of Tranby Street in Riverside
 Property acquired: 1978
 Acreage: 25.49
 Official designation: Community park

The City of Windsor began leasing the site of Realtor Park from the Windsor Public Board of Education in 1971. Homedale Park, a forerunner of Realtor Park, was established and placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Seven years later, shortly after the school board concluded that the property did not fit into its long-term development plans, the City

began to actively seek ownership of the property.

The asking price was \$225,000 but the City's decision to carry through with the purchase was probably motivated by the fact that over \$100,000 had already been invested on Homedale Park when it was still being leased. Nevertheless, the City's coffers were not overflowing with uncommitted dollars in 1978, and securing adequate financing for the land purchase posed a genuine problem.

Enter the Windsor-Essex County Real Estate Board. This local association of real estate professionals led an ambitious fund-raising campaign within the Riverside community, ultimately collecting approximately \$112,000 in pledges. As well, some timely assistance from the provincial Ministry of Culture and Recreation was forthcoming—a Wintario grant which fully matched the publicly raised funds. Consequently, the City was able to purchase the property.

In recognition of the leading role the Windsor-Essex County Real Estate Board played in the acquisition of the parkland, the City formally renamed the site Realtor Park in 1979. Today, the park is a recreational focal point in the Riverside area, providing an impressive variety of high quality parkland facilities. The Riverside Minor Baseball Association has been utilizing the park's ball diamonds for several years now, and the multi-purpose field, ideally suited for football, soccer or rugby games, is usually bustling with activity. Complete with an assortment of playground equipment, tennis courts, and a picnic shelter, the park seems destined to remain a vital part of the community for many years to come.

Reaume Park

Commonly known as:	Reaume Park, Coventry Gardens
Former/other names:	Ford Street Park
Location:	along the riverfront between Thompson Boulevard and Pillette Rd.
Property acquired:	1935, 1975
Acreage:	4.65
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

First established in 1935, when the Town of East Windsor amalgamated with the City of Windsor, Reaume Park is named after Joseph Reaume, who operated both a hot dog stand and a gasoline station on the site in the late 1920s. In 1975, the City of Windsor purchased a parcel of land from the Glengarda Ursuline Convent and several underwater lots from the Windsor Harbour Commission in order to expand the park. This addition was called Coventry Gardens, a name chosen to honour Coventry, England, one of Windsor's international twin cities.

A showplace and tourist attraction on the banks of the Detroit River, Reaume-Coventry Gardens was designed for relaxation, recreation and as a place of civic pride. The park layout was conceived by Harry Brumpton, former Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. His ideas were incorporated into a design by Landscape Architect Steve Loader. Brumpton's plan included landscaping in terraces from Riverside Drive down to the park site. Evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs were planted to offset beds of annual and perennial flowers.

The resourcefulness of the Department of Parks and Recreation is evident in the granite sets used to create some of the patios and walkways. This gray stone was recovered from the road deck of the Ambassador Bridge when it was resurfaced. The circular design of the terraces resemble ever widening circles of rain drops falling into calm water, designed to harmonize with the spectacular Peace Fountain. These patios now serve as a unique staging area for concerts and other events.

An enchanted castle of dancing water, the Charlie Brooks Memorial Peace Fountain was designed by Richard J. Van Seters, Fountain Design Consultant of M.M. Dillon Ltd., and T.W. Szalay, Director of Special projects for Windsor's Department of Public Works. The fountain is dedicated to the memory of former labour leader Charlie Brooks (1915-1977), an enthusiastic booster of Windsor's riverfront development. When operating at full capacity, the fountain draws over 12,000 gallons of water per minute and propels it over 70 feet in the air. The fountain's lighting display is operated by an on-shore programming unit, and during the evening hours visitors to the park are treated to an overwhelmingly beautiful visual spectacle.

The fountain costs \$562,000 to build, and was financed through public subscriptions totalling \$265,000 and fully matched by Wintario funds. Labour, industrial and business groups also made significant donations to purchase the fountain, and Granby, Quebec, another of Windsor's twin cities, made a welcome contribution.

Each year, thousands of visitors to Windsor enjoy the brilliant flowers displayed at Coventry Gardens. An informal garden that presents a mixture of perennial plants, visitors can view a wide variety of floral colours within a short walk. Summer concerts are popular at Reaume-Coventry Gardens, part of the Department of Parks and Recreation's popular Music in the Park series. The subject of many magazine and newspaper articles over the last 15 years, the waterfront park won the Ontario Parks Association Award of Excellence for its design and the development of riverfront parkland in 1977.

Remington Booster Park

Commonly known as:	Remington Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	at the intersection of Lillian and Edinborough Streets
Property acquired:	1950
Acreage:	16.98
Official designation:	Community park

Although the park was established in 1950, it was not until annexation in 1966, when the Remington Booster Neighbourhood Centre was upgraded and opened. The site became a thriving, integral part of the Remington community. It is now administered as a long-term rental facility to the Optimist Band.

Interestingly, area residents each contributed fifty cents per week in 1960 in order to help finance the installation of the park's outdoor pool. Collectively, the residents were able to cover approximately 75 percent of the \$32,000 spent on the pool.

In 1995 a land exchange was completed between Holy Rosary School property and a southern

portion of Remington Booster Park. This land exchange allowed the Department of Parks and Recreation to enlarge the existing Holy Rosary Community Centre.

Today Remington Booster Park boasts an enviable collection of facilities for all four seasons. Hardball and softball diamonds, a soccer field, basketball courts, lighted tennis courts and an outdoor swimming pool are just a few of park's many summer attractions. The park also has a neighbourhood-walking path to suit an active lifestyle. The park was refurbished in 1984 with new plantings and play equipment. Further upgrade to the play equipment was completed in 1992. In 1998 the Harmony in Action building located on the grounds of the park was demolished in order to allow for the expansion of the park. Since, there has been the addition of new playground equipment and further landscaping. During 2000-2002, the pool was totally rebuilt, and a spray pad and tot pool were added. In 2004, an outdoor water slide was added to the park, and a portion of the park was portioned off as a dog leash-free zone area.

Rivard Park

See Fontainebleu Park

Riverdale Park

Commonly known as:	Riverdale Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	at Little River Road and Riverdale Avenue
Property Acquired:	1953
Acreage:	3.08
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The site of Riverdale Park was dedicated to the City of Windsor in 1953 by the developer of a subdivision in the area. Originally a marshy parcel of land, the site was developed throughout the 1960s. It was named after Riverdale Avenue.

Currently, the park is equipped with a variety of playground equipment.

Riverside Baseball Park

Commonly known as:	Riverside Baseball Park
Former/other names:	Riverside Recreation and Memorial Centre, Riverside Arena, St. Rose Park
Location:	south side of Wyandotte Street, east of Janisse Drive
Property acquired:	1968
Acreage:	10.84
Official designation:	Community park

Prior to 1968, Riverside Baseball Park, was officially known as St. Rose Park. Today, the popular sports-oriented park is equipped with a wide range of facilities, including tennis courts, both hardball and softball diamonds, an outdoor swimming pool and the Riverside Arena. The Concord Public School yard, which adjoins Riverside Baseball Park on the east side, is well-equipped with playground equipment. The park was named Riverside Baseball Park in 1999 to honour the Riverside Baseball Club and their unending dedication to the east Windsor community and its

children. In 1999, the park was refurbished and two lit baseball diamonds were added.

Riverside Kiwanis/ Little River Valley Park/ Little River Corridor

Commonly known as: Riverside Park, Kiwanis Park
Former/other names: Other Little River Corridor
Location: north of Little River Road east of Riverdale Avenue
Property acquired: 1966
Acreage: 2.05
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1966, the local Kiwanis Club expressed an interest in seeing the site of the Little River Sewage Treatment Plant converted into usable public parkland. By early 1967, this park located in the Little River Corridor, was officially opened.

It was appropriate that the park was opened during the coldest part of the winter. Built atop one of the highest man-made peaks in the City, the site is used in the winter months by many eager tobogganers. With no small measure of glee, area youngsters commonly refer to the lofty man-made peak as suicide run. From the top of the hill, tobogganers and skiers alike are treated to a wide, panoramic view of Little River Valley.

Robert Park

Commonly known as: Robert Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Plymouth and Robert Roads
Property acquired: 1994
Acreage: 1.02
Official designation: Neighbourhood

This park was developed on lands dedicated by the developers of the residential subdivisions surrounding the park. Playground equipment and a basketball key were installed in 1995.

Matthew Rodzik

Commonly known as: Matthew Rodzik
Former/other names: Holy Redeemer Park
Location: south of Cousineau Road
Property acquired: 1988
Acreage: 5.56
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

Matthew Rodzik Park contains a baseball diamond, a walking path, a parking lot and a fountain, which honours the park's namesake. Matthew Rodzik was a pioneer in the metal stamping industry in Windsor and a pillar in the community. Matthew Rodzik died in 1991.

Roseland Park

Commonly known as: Roseland Park

Former/other names:	Sandwich South Park
Location:	Morand Street between Holburn and Locke Streets
Property acquired:	1962 (with annexation of Sandwich South)
Acreage:	4.13
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The City acquired this four-acre park formerly called Sandwich South Park, when the Township of Sandwich South was annexed in 1962. Since that time, the playground equipment at the park has been upgraded on several occasions.

Currently, Roseland Park is well equipped with both junior and senior swing sets, a teeter-totter, a climbing apparatus, a slide, a creative play unit, picnic tables, and a softball diamond.

Roseland Golf & Curling Club

Commonly known as:	Roseland Golf and Curling Club
Former/other names:	none
Location:	455 Kennedy Dr. West
Property acquired:	unknown
Acreage:	124.98
Official designation:	Golf and Curling Club

Roseville Garden Park

Commonly known as:	Roseville Gardens, Roseville Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	north of Hawthorne Avenue, just south of Roseville Garden Court
Property acquired:	1970
Acreage:	5.49
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The site of Roseville Gardens was dedicated to the City of Windsor by the Ford Motor Company in 1970 as part of a subdivision agreement. By 1973, the park was developed and officially opened.

In 1981, the Windsor Separate School Board began leasing the site from the City for a nominal fee of \$1 per year. Although Roseville Gardens remains a public park, and the City is responsible for maintaining the site, the agreement with the Windsor Separate School Board will be null and void if the school board uses the land for anything other than a public park.

An extensive variety of playground equipment is provided at Roseville Gardens including an exercise trail for joggers, a soccer field, plus hardball and softball diamonds, which are permanent fixtures at the park. The trail in Roseville Garden Park is a part of the expanding Windsor Trail.

Sandpoint Park

Commonly known as:	Sandpoint, “the beach”
Former/other names:	Florence Avenue Park
Location:	north side of Riverside Drive East at Florence Avenue, abutting

	Ganatchio Park to the east
Property acquired:	1976
Acreage:	2.6
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

This five-acre site, located along Riverside Drive East at Florence Avenue, is easily the most popular beach in the City. During the hottest months of the year, the sandy site is a veritable magnet, attracting both dedicated sun worshippers and those seeking refuge from the sweltering urban heat. Most Windsorites consider Sandpoint, Ganatchio Park and Stop 26 Beach as one facility. Together, these three parks provide nearly 1500 feet of waterfront fun, and are collectively known simply as the beach. However, it is important to note that only at Sandpoint is a supervised swimming area provided. Stop 26 is specified as an area where windsurfers can enjoy the Detroit River's strong current, while Ganatchio Park provides canoeists and kayakers with a launching area.

Of the three parks, Sandpoint was the first to be developed and is naturally the sandiest. Formerly, the property was the site of private shanty cottages known locally as “the Dog Patch,” which had fallen into varying states of disrepair. The City purchased them individually during the early 1970's. Sandpoint Park was established in 1980 and became an immediate success. Today, Sandpoint is a popular, lifeguard-supervised beach, well-equipped with an assortment of playground equipment for children.

Sculpture Park

See Odette Sculpture Park

Senator David Croll Park

Commonly known as:	Provincial Park, City Hall Square
Former/other names:	Provincial Park
Location:	University Avenue East between Goyeau Street and City Hall Square.
Property acquired:	1973
Acreage:	0.86
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

Between 1960 and 1962, Provincial Park was developed as an extension of City Hall Square. Often, the twin sites are referred to as the same area.

When Senator David Croll passed away in 1990, Provincial Park was renamed in recognition of the Windsor native's long and distinguished political career.

Like City Hall Park, Senator Croll Park is primarily an ornamental site, featuring superbly manicured lawns and shaded areas.

The 1992 *Windsor Civic Square Urban Design Study* proposed combining the Senator David Croll Park with City Hall Square by eliminating the street, also called City Hall Square, which separates

them. In 1994 Senator David Croll Park was joined with City Hall Square by a street closure. In 1995, one of the first projects of the City Centre Revitalization Task Force was the addition of an auto-theme children's play area and horseshoe park. This was a tangible effort to provide family oriented facilities in the downtown area.

Any walk through Senator David Croll Park is no doubt enhanced by the quotes from Senator Croll, which are etched into panels that line the pathway through the park.

Seneca Park

Commonly known as:	Seneca Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	south of Wildwood Drive between Pineview and Deerbrook Streets
Property acquired:	1982
Acreage:	6.0
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

This Forest Glade area park is one of the few naturally wooded parks in the City. It was developed in the early 1980s in response to the neighbourhood's rapidly-growing population. This relatively new site is steadily becoming popular with area children, and in addition to a standard variety of playground equipment, a new creative play unit was installed in 1991.

Seven Sisters Park

Commonly known as:	Seven Sisters Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	west of Huron Church Road, parallel to the Grand Marais drain
Property acquired:	1970-78
Acreage:	4.68
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

This greenbelt area, located within the Spring Garden Natural Area was created over an eight-year period to capitalize on the improvements made to the Grand Marais Drain. The park's intriguing name derives from seven hills, which were sculpted on the site, using the excess fill from the widening of the drain. The park has been left to naturalize. It is connected to the Windsor Trail and by a bike path from California Street that leads through Spring Garden. There is also a playground unit to serve the needs of the neighbourhood at Fazio Drive entrance.

Shanfield Shores

Commonly known as:	Shanfield Shores
Former/other names:	Peche Island landing, Kayak Cove
Location:	adjacent to Lakeview Marina across from Peche Island
Property acquired:	1999
Acreage:	1.03
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

This natural site strategically situated on north shore of the Detroit River across from Peche Island was named after Mr. Henry Shanfield, an instrumental member of the community who supported maintaining Peche Island as undeveloped parkland. He worked to protect the island for the pleasure of the community as well as, to protect the ecological habitat for the many species that live there.

Currently, the Rotary Club of Windsor – St. Clair in partnership with the City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department is building a gazebo and park on the vacant riverfront land.\

Shaughnessy Cohen Woods

See Cohen Woods

Shawnee Park

Commonly known as: Shawnee Park
Former/other names: none
Location: north of C.N.R. line in Fountainbleau
Property acquired: 1981
Acreage: 7.40
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Although this park site was for many years informally used as a playground by area children, it was not until 1981 that the City formally established Shawnee Park and put it into the hands of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The property is a buffer strip between the houses in the Fountainbleau subdivision and the C.N.R. spur line.

In 1991, several parks, including Shawnee, were equipped with new creative playground equipment. The project was partially funded by the Province through a \$10,000 Capital Project Grant. Additional lands are being added to Shawnee Park as the residential subdivision expands through the five percent parkland dedication required of developers.

Shinglecreek

Commonly known as: Shinglecreek
Former/other names: none
Location: Shinglecreek Court and Kamloop St.
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: .085
Official designation: Pedestrian link from Shinglecreek court to Devonwood

South Cameron Woodlots

Commonly known as: South Cameron Woodlots
Former/other names: none
Location: Randolph Avenue
Property acquired: 1995
Acreage: 31.41
Official Designation: Community Park

The acquisition of the South Cameron Woodlot came about when the city expressed interest in retaining a significant portion of the woodlot as a community park. Since this decision in 1995, the city has been making land exchanges with various developers to obtain the 33 acres of woodlot it now possesses.

South Merritt Park

Commonly known as: South Merritt Park
Former/other names: none
Location: on Merritt Drive west of Rankin Avenue
Property acquired: 1953
Acreage: 0.61
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

One of six parks established in 1953 by the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision, contains a play unit for the neighbourhood children. Officially declared a Windsor park in 1958, it appears to have been named after Merritt Drive.

South Rendezvous

Commonly known as: South Rendezvous
Former/other names: none
Location: parallel to the Ganatchio trail and Rendezvous Drive
Property acquired: 1999
Acreage: 1.58
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

South Roseland

Commonly known as: South Roseland
Former/other names: none
Location:
Property acquired:
Acreage: 2.60
Official designation:

South Tilston Park

Commonly known as: South Tilston Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Rankin and Secord Avenues
Property acquired: 1953
Acreage: 0.64
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Officially established in 1953, South Tilston Park was one of six vacant lots dedicated for parkland purposes by the developer of the Bridgeview subdivision. Like North Tilston Park, this site has been turfed and contains a play unit.

Forty-year-old Fred Tilston, earned his Victoria Cross in a battle on the Rhine in 1945. In 1953, he was honored with the naming of two parks: North and South Tilston Parks. A member of the Essex Kent Scottish Regiment, Capt Tilston was part of the force breaking through the strongly fortified Hockwald Forest. The regiment was under heavy fire and Tilston was hit in the head and legs but he maintained momentum against the enemy. Only 26 men remained in Tilston's company at the end of the battle.

The park was originally developed by the former Sandwich West Township before amalgamation by the City of Windsor.

Southdale Park

Commonly known as:	Southdale Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	just south of Memorial Drive at Southdale Avenue
Property acquired:	1985
Acreage:	7.33
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

In the mid 1980s, the developer of a new subdivision in the Southdale area dedicated the required five percent of the land for parkland purposes. At a series of public meetings in 1987 and 1988, area residents made clear their collective desire to see a large neighbourhood park established as soon as possible. Consequently, a two-stage development plan for Southdale Park was approved by City Council.

By late 1989, Southdale Park was complete. Financially, a \$33,000 provincial Wintario grant helped defray the \$100,000 cost of the first phase of development. The remaining \$67,000, plus an additional \$161,000 to complete phase two, was provided by the City.

Today, Southdale Park is equipped with an array of playground equipment, a creative play unit, a soccer field, baseball diamond, and a toboggan hill.

Spring Garden (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest - ANSI)

Commonly known as:	Spring Garden Prairie
Former/other names:	Spring Garden ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest)
Location:	south of Spring Garden Road
Property acquired:	on-going
Acreage:	137.0-present 289 acres-proposed
Official designation:	Natural Heritage

Spring Garden features dry prairie, buttonbush swamp and wetland plus habitats similar to nearby protected areas. This site supports one of the very few populations of Eastern Mississauga rattlesnakes away from Georgian Bay and perhaps the richest site for butterfly diversity in Ontario. Windsor rezoned this area as Natural Heritage lands in May 2000.

With the exception of City owned lands and road allowances, much of the land is still privately owned. Currently, the City is working on a five-year acquisition programme for the area. The City in conjunction with the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources are formalizing an acquisition and management plan.

Spring Garden is linked by the West Windsor Recreation way, a path that connects Huron Church Road, to Ojibway Park.

Spring Hollow Park

Commonly known as: Spring Hollow Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Spring Hollow Drive and Luxury Ave,
Property acquired: 2003
Acreage: .024
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

St. Clair Prairie ESA

Commonly known as: St. Clair Prairie ESA
Former/other names: none
Location: South of Cabana Road
Property Acquired: 1996
Acreage: 7.74
Official Designation: Community Park (Candidate Natural Heritage Site #31)

This park has been deemed an environmentally sensitive area and it is therefore left intact except for trails that wind through the area. The St. Clair Prairie E.S.A. covers a much larger area of land, which will be the subject of future negotiations with the City of Windsor.

St. Paul Grove

Commonly known as: Mt. Olive Park
Former/other names: none
Location: south of St. Rose Avenue, east of St. Paul Avenue
Property Acquired: 2001
Acreage: 0.22
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Designed as a neighbourhood park for the families in the St. Paul Grove subdivision.

St. Paul Pumping Station

Commonly known as: St. Paul Pumping Station
Former/other names: none
Location: Riverside Drive across from Kiwanis Park
Property acquired: 1970's
Acreage: 4.09
Official designation: Community park

This area of the waterfront was acquired as a site for a Pumping Station to provide flood protection to the residential properties in the area. It is used as a passive park and for viewing of Belle Island, a 1000 acre park operated by the City of Detroit. Equipped with an observation deck and terraces, the Pumping Station was designed by William Kachmaryk in 1972.

St. Rose Beach

Commonly known as:	St. Rose Beach
Former/other names:	none
Location:	north side of Riverside Drive East at the foot of St. Rose Avenue
Property acquired:	1967
Acreage:	1.56
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

St. Rose Beach, was assembled in a piecemeal, somewhat tentative fashion over a five year period between 1967 and 1975. Opened during Canada's Centennial in 1967, it was just five years later, in 1972, that a small but determined group of City power brokers began quietly working behind the scenes to convert St. Rose Beach into a municipal landfill site. Thankfully, a combination of serious environmental concerns and strong Department of Parks and Recreation resistance stopped this proposal.

Nevertheless, during the summer of 1975 the City sent mixed signals about the future of St. Rose Beach. The City allowed the site to be used as a storage yard while a major construction project in the area of Rose Avenue and Wyandotte Street was being carried out. For the most part, the prolonged and heavy construction traffic at the site totally destroyed the park's turf, and the visual spectre left behind for Windsorites was decidedly barren and unappealing.

A massive flood at St. Rose Beach just one year later prompted the City to re-evaluate its long range plans for the site. Acting quickly and decisively, a breakwall was installed along the shoreline to protect the park from high water. Later, the site was totally re-turfed, which helped restore the park to its pre-construction condition. Three years later, in 1979, the City made its long term intentions clear, installing a reinforced steel seawall in the eastern portion of the park and providing a badly needed storm sewer outwall at St. Rose Beach. The \$22,000 price tag for these improvements was subsidized in part by a \$10,000 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources. There is still one private water lot in the middle of the park's shoreline.

Currently, St. Rose Beach is a passive waterfront park, appropriately equipped with several park benches for those wishing to relax and enjoy a quiet afternoon away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

In 2000-2001, improvements were made to the shoreline to enhance the fish habitat and protect the shoreline to conform to the hydraulic action by the river.

Steamboat Wharf

Commonly known as:	None
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Former/other names: Ramada Inn Property
Location: From Bruce Avenue on the west to Church Street on the east, on the north side of Riverside Drive.
Property Acquired: 1999
Acreage: 3.0
Official Designation: City-Wide / Regional Park

In the spring of 1999, the City of Windsor purchased the lease for this former hotel property and shortly after, the building burned. A series of graduated shelves have been constructed of stone and planted with small shrubs and plants to reinforce the hill leading to Riverside Drive.

This property is now linked by paved trails to parks on both the east and west along the Detroit River. It stretches from Bruce Avenue on the west to Church Street on the east, on the north side of Riverside Drive.

Stillmeadow Park

Commonly known as: Stillmeadow Park
Former/other names: none
Location: along Stillmeadow Drive south of Eastcourt Drive
Property acquired: 1971
Acreage: 6.15
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Stillmeadow Park was purchased for \$25,000 in 1971. A City debenture issue provided all the financing for the land purchase. In 1972, Stillmeadow Parks Playground and Traders' Development Ltd. donated \$5,000 for the acquisition of playground equipment at the park. Today, the park is equipped with a soccer field, a softball diamond, and a football field. A good variety of playground equipment is also provided on the site.

Stodgell Park

Commonly known as: Stodgell Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Kildare Road and Seneca Street
Property acquired: 1921
Acreage: 5.99
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Named in honour of C.J. Stodgell, Mayor of Walkerville in 1921, Stodgell Park is today a sports-oriented facility equipped with hardball and softball diamonds, as well as a limited amount of playground equipment.

Stoneybrook Park

Commonly known as: Stoneybrook Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Southwood Lakes and Pavan St.

Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: 0.64
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Stop 26 Beach

Commonly known as: Sandpoint, “the beach,” Stop 26
Former/other names: none
Location: north side of Riverside Drive East at Clover Street, abutting Ganatchio Park to the west
Property acquired: 1976
Acreage: 0.68
Official designation: City-Wide/Regional park

Although Stop 26 Beach is generally considered part of Sandpoint, its proper name is actually steeped in local railway history, dating back at least to the early 1920. The site was the 26th stop along the original Windsor and Tecumseh Electric Railway linking the Town of Tecumseh to downtown Windsor. The name was kept to commemorate the by-gone mode of streetcar transportation.

Today, the site is generally known simply as “the beach,” a name it shares with Ganatchio and Sandpoint parks, which are located to the immediate west. While lifeguard service is provided at Sandpoint, Stop 26 is not a supervised swimming beach and is used mostly for windsurfing and boardsailing.

The Stop 26 Beach property was acquired at the same time as the Sandpoint property, although it was not developed until the mid-1980s, after both Ganatchio and Sandpoint Parks were already established. In fact, it was not until 1980, fully seven years after the property was acquired, that the City formally stated that the site was indeed destined to become the third phase in its riverfront beach development scheme.

Given the indisputable fact that so many Windsorites visit and enjoy Stop 26 Beach each summer, there is little doubt that the park is seen as a welcome addition to the City's riverfront beach system.

Catherine M. Straith Park

Commonly known as: Straith Park
Former/other names: Riverview Park
Location: corner of Campbell Avenue and Riverside Drive West
Property acquired: 1917
Acreage: 2.46
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1963, Straith Park was named in honour of Catherine M. Straith, a former Ward Four Alderperson in Windsor. However, many area residents still refer to the site as Riverview Park, a name the park acquired because of its location overlooking the Detroit River.

The City purchased the park site in 1917, and it immediately became the only City-owned park south of Sandwich St. (Riverside Drive) overlooking the Detroit River. Although early records indicate that the site was informally known as Riverview Park prior to the turn of the century, the City did not formally look into the prospect of acquiring the property until 1913. Four years and \$21,570 later, the transaction was complete.

Today, Straith Park is a popular spot for both parents and young children. At just over two acres, the park contains a tot lot and a playground for older children. There are approximately fifty trees on the site, half of which are considered young. Standard playground equipment is present at the park, and a creative play unit was installed in 1990.

Superior Park

Commonly known as:	Superior Park, Totten Street Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	north and south sides of Totten Street, west of Mark Avenue
Property acquired:	1973-1976
Acreage:	16.64
Official designation:	Community park

The original property for Superior Park was acquired by Sandwich West Township and named after Superior Street. It was expanded in separate transactions throughout the early 1970s. In 1973, a land exchange with South Windsor Development Company Ltd. saw the City acquire the first of the three-piece Superior Park puzzle. In 1975 and 1976, the puzzle was completed when the City acquired two vacant, adjoining properties.

Sometimes called Totten Street Park, the 19-acre facility is equipped with a soccer field, a softball diamond, plus an array of playground equipment, including both junior and senior swing sets.

Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park

Commonly known as:	Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park
Former/other names:	Titcombe ponds
Location:	Adjacent to the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve on north side of Titcombe bikepath.
Property Acquired:	1990 & 1996
Acreage:	38.46
Official Designation:	Community park

Adjacent to the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve is Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park. Here is the Complex's largest population of slender bush clover, a plant that occurs nowhere else in Canada. At the time this population was discovered in 1977, slender bush clover was thought to be extirpated in Canada. Other wildflowers such as ladies' tresses orchids and fringed gentians are many at this site.

After several years of complex negotiations, the Ontario Heritage Foundation acquired the site of Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park from the Partyka family in 1989. Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park,

named after the tallgrass prairie, which once dominated central North America, contains the largest pond system in the Ojibway Complex. In 1996 an acquisition of private lands was undertaken with Carolinian Canada and the Nature Conservatory of Canada to expand the park by 2.43 acres. This park can be accessed by the Windsor Trail (Titcombe portion).

Teedie Park

Commonly known as:	Teedie Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	South of Tecumseh Rd E, along the west bank of Little River to Lauzon Rd.
Property acquired:	1998
Acres:	5.86
Official designation	Neighbourhood Park

This park has playground equipment and a trail that links Lauzon Road to Tecumseh Road along the Little River.

Thompson Park

Commonly known as:	Thompson Park
Former/other names:	Princess Elizabeth Park
Location:	south of Raymond Avenue between Ford boulevard and Prado Place
Property acquired:	1947
Acreage:	7.49
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

In 1947, the City purchased approximately six acres of residential property from Mrs. Elaine MacKay and converted the land into open park space. Twenty years later, Princess Elizabeth Park was renamed Thompson Park, and the park was expanded when portions of several streets, including Thompson Boulevard, Edgar Street and North National Street, were closed.

In 1991, a modern creative play unit was installed in Thompson Park. The \$27,000 refurbishment was partially funded through a \$9,000 Wintario grant and the Riverside Minor Baseball Association who contributed over \$1,000 to replace the back stop at the baseball diamond.

In addition to the new creative play unit, facilities available at the park include both hardball and softball diamonds and some traditional playground equipment and a creative play unit.

Thurston Park

Commonly known as:	Thurston Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	east of Armstrong Avenue, south of Joinville Avenue
Property acquired:	1969
Acreage:	2.3
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Named in honour of Ford Thurston, a former Sandwich East Police Chief and the first president of the Sandwich East Kiwanis Club, Thurston Park was established in 1969 and subsequently expanded in 1970.

Interestingly, the park was planned before the approximately 300 residential lots in the area were developed. When residential construction began, the Department of Parks and Recreation required the developer to deposit any excavated soil to be used at the park site, an arrangement that saw Thurston Park emerge as the first city park with rolling hills.

Not surprisingly, tobogganing is a popular winter activity at the park. During warmer weather, a variety of playground equipment is available including a creative play unit installed in 1990.

Titcombe Park

Commonly known as:	Titcombe Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	south of Titcombe Road at Malden Road
Acreage:	6.97
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Between 1974 and 2000, the City leased the 12-acre Titcombe Park site from the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources for a token price of \$1 per year. In 2000, Titcombe was part of a land exchange. The City now owns the Park. Prior to 1974, the Morton Salt Company owned the land.

Currently, facilities at the park include a softball diamond, a senior swing set, play equipment and a basketball key. The park can be accessed by the Windsor Trail.

Tranby Park

Commonly known as:	Tranby Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	south of Tranby Avenue, north of C.N.R. line at Parkview Avenue
Property acquired:	1965
Acreage:	16.62
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Prior to Windsor's annexation of Riverside in 1965, the site of Tranby Park was earmarked for a new school planned by the Metropolitan Windsor Association for the Mentally Retarded (now Essex County Association for Community Living). However, soon after annexing Riverside, the City of Windsor established a multi-use, sports-oriented park on the property. Several ball diamonds were quickly developed and the Riverside Minor Baseball Association immediately began utilizing them on a regular basis.

In 1967 and 1968, Tranby Park was expanded when the City closed sections of Parkview, Virginia and Edward Avenues. In 1969, construction on the nearby Isabelle Park subdivision was in its final

phase, and the City began negotiating with the construction company to ensure that an adequate storm drainage system would be installed at Tranby Park. Ultimately, the City and the construction company each paid one-half of the \$4,000 cost, an amicable financial arrangement which led to a much improved, and drier, Tranby Park. Later, a portion of Shiller's Bush was added to the land parcel through a subdivision development parkland dedication.

Today, Tranby Park is equipped with softball diamonds and a variety of playground equipment including a creative play unit.

Tunnel Parkette

Commonly known as:	Windsor Tunnel Parkette
Former/other names:	none
Location:	northeast corner - Wyandotte St. E. and Goyeau Ave.
Property acquired:	1993
Acreage:	0.2 acres
Official Designation:	City Lands

The parkette was developed by the tunnel corporation in 1996/1997 as a gateway to the tunnel plaza. The low relief brick sculpture was inspired by the City Coat of Arms and motto, "The river and the land sustain us." The sculpture was created by Dennis Cocchio of Canada Brick Ltd.

The design of the parkette was carried out by Paul Bezaire and Associates Landscape Architects.

Twin Oaks Park

Commonly known as:	Twin Oaks Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	across from E.C row expressway near Lauzon Road
Property acquired:	1989
Acreage:	17.27
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

The area of Twin Oaks Park was acquired as part of a deal made with industrial developers in the area. The City aided the developers in servicing the land and in exchange the developers redesigned the Little River channel, which runs through the park. Today, there are trails on the east side of the river.

Udine Park

Commonly known as:	Udine Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	south of Grand Marais Road, just west of Byng Road
Property Acquired:	1979
Acreage:	10.59
Official Designation:	Neighbourhood park

Named in honour of Udine, Windsor's twin city in Italy, the park site was exchanged in 1979 from

the Fogolar Furlan Club of Windsor for \$86,000 and 10.3 acres of City-owned land. In 1989, a creative play unit was installed. Udine Park is now linked with Howard Avenue Park along the Grand Marais drain. An agreement between Ontario Hydro and the city provided for the development of recreational trails along Grand Marais drain in exchange for easement rights. As part of the National Infrastructure Program in 1994/1995, the drain was shifted to the north and re-graded to provide the necessary storm water retention.

Unity Park

Commonly known as: Ontario Street Park
Former/other names: none
Location: corner of Central Avenue and Ontario Street
Property acquired: 1933; redeveloped 1994
Acreage: 0.39
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

This small lot was acquired in 1933 when East Windsor purchased a Tax Arrears Certificate. In 1993 and 1994, the neighbourhood community worked together to raise money for the development of this park. A poll of the children in the community resulted in the first choice of a basketball court to be installed. The basketball court was constructed in 1994 in Unity Park. Play equipment, trees and benches are also available in the park.

University Avenue Park

Commonly known as: University Avenue Park
Former/other names: none
Location: on University Avenue between Langlois and Pierre Avenues
Property Acquired: 1988
Acreage: 0.55
Official Designation: Neighbourhood park

This small park was created in 1988 when the City authorized closing the alley running between University Avenue and Assumption Street. Normally equipped with some playground equipment, a creative play unit was added in 1989.

Veterans' Memorial Park

Commonly known as: Veterans' Park
Former/other names: none
Location: bounded by Mitchell Avenue and Mount Royal and Casgrain Drives
Property acquired: 1966
Acreage: 7.27
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Veterans' Memorial Park was established in 1966 and in 1971, a City-sponsored debenture issue covered the cost of installing two tennis courts at Veterans' Memorial Park. The 1975 expansion of the site involved purchasing three parcels of land through the Veterans' Land Act.

Veterans' Memorial Park is an active facility permanently equipped with tennis courts, football and soccer fields, and a softball diamond. In addition, junior and senior swing sets and a creative play unit are available at the park. The tennis courts were redeveloped in 1991.

Parking lots and a surrounding fence were added in 1999/2000.

Victoria Avenue Blvd.

Commonly known as: Victoria Blvd.
Former/other names: none
Location: Victoria Blvd.
Property Acquired: 1996
Acreage: 6.26
Official Designation: Open Space

This small boulevard park is a nice place to walk your dog.

Vision Corridor

Commonly known as: Vision Corridor
Former/other names: none
Location: between Church and Bruce and Pitt and Riverside Drive
Property acquired: 1999
Acreage: 0.99
Official Designation: City Wide/Regional Park

Following a complicated land negotiation between the Ontario Casino Corporation, Marathon Delco Inc (former owner of Ramada Inn property), the Art Gallery of Windsor and the City of Windsor, the city acquired the land in 1999.

In 2001, a sculpture entitled Ribbon of Friendship by Yin Xiaofeng was placed in the green space adjacent to the Art Gallery of Windsor.

Walker Homesite Park

Commonly known as: Walker Park, Homesite Park
Former/other names: Walker Park Athletic Club
Location: just off Giles Road between Sydney Street and Seymour Avenue
Property acquired: 1967
Acreage: 10.43
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Walker Homesite Park, not to be confused with the smaller Homesite Park in District 19 (West Riverside), was at one time considered part of neighbouring Hall Farms. John A. McWilliam Public School is located just north of the park, separated by a long row of trees.

The 10-acre park is popular during the winter months, primarily because it boasts one of the few

toboggan hills within the City. A good variety of playground equipment is also present for warm weather activities. The park is currently equipped with washroom facilities, a hardball diamond and two softball diamonds, junior and senior swing sets, a climbing apparatus, creative play unit, and a teeter totter.

The Walker Homesite Trail parallels Walker Homesite Park connecting it with Hall Farm Park and Devonwood Conservation Area.

Walker Homesite Bikepath

Commonly known as: Walker Homesite Bikepath
Former/other names: none
Location: Walker Homesite to Devonwood Conservation Area
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: 2.21
Official designation: Bike path

Part of the Windsor Trail.

Walkerville Jubilee Park

Commonly known as: Kildare Park, Jubilee Park
Former/other names: Kildare Park
Location: corner of Wyandotte Street East and Kildare Road
Property Acquired: 1986
Acreage: 0.13
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The park site, purchased for \$96,500 in 1986 from Gerald J. Pouget, was officially called Kildare Park until 1990. The name of the park was formally changed after the Walkerville B.I.A. agreed to help finance any future developments at the park. The Department of Parks and Recreation refurbished the park in 1990. In 1991, Hiram Walker provided \$500 to defray the cost of purchasing and installing park benches.

Wellington Park

Commonly known as: Wellington Park
Former/other names: none
Location: on Wellington Avenue south of University Avenue
Property acquired: 1984
Acreage: 0.44
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

A \$225,000 Ontario Neighbourhood Improvement Program grant from the Province of Ontario allowed the City to proceed with the development of Wellington Park in 1984. At a total cost of \$67,500, the City purchased three lots owned, respectively, by Donald and Joyce Ulmer, Maurice Dorion and Robert Fairhurst.

The Wellington/Crawford Citizens Committee, which also played a large role in the development of Elm Street Park, actively pursued the establishment of Wellington Park. Recognizing that many youngsters living in the area needed a place to play, the Citizens Committee was instrumental in ensuring that Wellington Park was developed as a tot lot.

Today, the small facility is equipped with a variety of playground equipment, a creative play unit and park benches.

Westcott Park

Commonly known as: Westcott Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Labadie Road between Reginald and Alice Streets
Property acquired: 1951
Acreage: 4.17
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

In 1956, Westcott Park was the first park in Windsor to be equipped with a prefabricated swimming pool. Designed to assist young children in learning to swim, the small, fibreglass pool was popular until 1962, when it was removed from Westcott Park. Construction of a new indoor pool at nearby Herman Collegiate Secondary School, as well as concerns over the sanitary conditions at Westcott pool, were major factors leading to the pool's closure.

Although a chain link fence was erected around the park in 1968, area residents petitioned the Department of Parks and Recreation to stop issuing lob-ball permits in 1971, since many homeowners were suffering regular property damage.

Today, the park is equipped with junior and senior swing-sets, play equipment, a sheltered picnic area, and a softball diamond.

Whelpton Parkette

See Ford City Parkette

Wigle Park

Commonly known as: Wigle Park, Wiggle Park
Former/other names: none
Location: bounded by Erie, McDougall and Mercer Streets
Property acquired: 1906
Acreage: 5.31
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

Established in 1908, Wigle Park was Windsor's first official park and the field house remains the oldest park structure in the City. Bounded by Erie, McDougall and Mercer Streets, the property was acquired from Mrs. F.J. Holton in 1906, via a tax sale. Construction at the site began in 1907 and official opening ceremonies were held in 1909.

Named after Colonel Ernest Samuel Wigle, a two-term Windsor Mayor (1905-1909; 1936-1937), the park's development played an important symbolic role in the area, which at the turn of the century was decidedly undeveloped. In fact, Giles Boulevard, rather than Erie Street, was the main east-west thoroughfare in the area. By developing the park site, Windsor, with Mayor Wigle at the helm, sent a strong message to potential land developers, many of whom had been justifiably wary of investing their time and money in a district which for some time had been virtually ignored by elected Windsor officials. Today, the Erie Street area is a perennial favourite with tourists, a vibrant, cafe-lined slice of true Italian heritage, undeniably a powerful testament to Wigle's turn-of-the-century foresight.

Wigle, known simply as “The Colonel,” was a proud descendent of United Empire Loyalist stock, a University of Toronto graduate (1884) who studied law with Windsor's White and Ellis firm until 1897, when he officially became a barrister and solicitor. During his distinguished career in public office, Wigle served on the Board of Education for more than a decade and once took an ill-fated run at federal political office. Renowned locally for his versatile athletic skills, “The Colonel” was a powerful force behind the park's establishment.

In keeping with Ernest Wigle's lifelong interest in athletics, Wigle Park is today a relatively high profile sports park, featuring a soccer field and a softball diamond. A variety of playground equipment is also available at the park.

Wildwood Park

Commonly known as:	Wildwood Park
Former/other names:	none
Location:	East of Robinet Drive and north of Wildwood Drive
Property acquired:	unknown
Acreage:	6.0
Official designation:	Neighbourhood park

Willistead Park

Commonly known as:	Willistead
Former/other names:	none
Location:	Chilver Street south of Niagara Street
Property acquired:	1921
Acreage:	15.55
Official designation:	City-Wide/Regional park

Set within 15 acres of generously wooded parkland, Willistead Manor was built in 1906 for Edward Chandler Walker, son of Hiram Walker, founder of the world renowned distillery. Created by Albert Kahn, the noted Detroit architect, the manor is named for Edward's older brother Willis, who died in 1877 at the age of 28.

Designed in the sixteenth century Tudor-Jacobean style of an English Manor House, construction of the main building began in 1904. The property comprised then, as now, the Manor House, Coach House, Gate House, and 15 acres of parkland enclosed by a wrought iron and masonry

fence. From its completion in 1906 until Edward's death in 1915, Willistead was the focal point of community activity. Five years after the death of her husband, Mary Griffen Walker began negotiations to donate Willistead for public uses, and in 1921 an agreement was reached with the heirs of Edward Chandler Walker whereby Willistead was deeded to the Town of Walkerville. When the amalgamation of the border cities took place in 1935, the City of Windsor fell heir to this magnificent gift from the past.

Sparsely wooded when construction first began on Willistead Manor in 1904, most trees in the park were brought in by Edward Walker. Today, the property surrounding Willistead Manor, appropriately named Willistead Park, contains over 300 trees, including Windsor's only persimmon, a tree native to the southern United States. As well, the park boasts a rare Shumard oak, several Kentucky coffee trees, London Plane, Chestnut, European Elm and Tree of Heaven.

In the secluded shade of the courtyard garden, visitors can experience the elegance of a true English garden. Lustrous shades of green are reflected in a number of different shrubs, including Oregon grape, laurel, euonymus, and shiny leafed mahonia. Hot pink, white and red impatiens add sparkle to this quiet, peaceful area.

The Queen Victoria Fountain, formerly located in front of the Walkerville Post Office and Train Station, was restored in 1991. Hiram Walker commissioned Albert Kahn to design the limestone monument as a gift to the people of Walkerville on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Originally, the fountain served as both a decorative attraction and as a drinking fountain complete with tin goblets. The \$40,000 restoration program was funded by the City of Windsor and the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

In 1976, Windsor City Council designated Willistead Park and Manor as an official heritage property. Between 1978 and 1981, a \$1,540,000 restoration project was completed, and in 1989 a \$465,000 renovation of the Coach House was completed. In 1990 and 1991, work on the play unit, parking lot and courtyard were completed. Today, several annual events, including Art in the Park and the Willistead Classic Antique Car Show, attract thousands of people each year.

Wilson Park

Commonly known as:	Wilson Park
Former/other names:	Wyandotte Playground Park
Location:	just across from Benson School at Curry Avenue.
Property acquired:	1923
Acreage:	9.34
Official designation:	Community park

Understandably, many Windsorites believe that Wilson Park was created in 1968, when the Adie Knox Herman Recreation Complex was constructed. Actually, Wilson Park has been in existence for 70 years, and the Adie Knox Herman facility was built on its grounds, rather than vice versa.

In 1923, a \$100,000 debenture issue allowed the City of Windsor to purchase the 10-acre park site from the Windsor Board of Education. The park was located on the south side of Wyandotte Street,

and Wyandotte School (now Benson Public School) was located just to the north. Given the park's location, it should come as no surprise that for many years the site was commonly known as Wyandotte Playground Park. The park was named after former Windsor Mayor Herbert Wilson.

In 1928, five years after the park was established, a new branch of the Windsor Public Library was opened at the site, named after Canada's first novelist. Housed in an attractive, Classical Revival building, the Major John Richardson Library was an important cultural addition to the area. Today the Major John Richardson Library is a designated heritage building attached to Adie Knox Herman Recreation Complex, but it no longer serves as a library. Wilson Park is equipped with a good variety of playground equipment and softball diamonds.

Windsor Avenue Parkette

See Civic Green

Windsor Civic Square

See City Hall Square

Windsor Stadium

See Jackson Park

Windsor Trails

The City of Windsor adopted the Bicycle Use Development Study as the master plan for the connection of utilitarian on-road and recreational off-road cycling routes in the City of Windsor. Connecting the greenways throughout the city with a cycling/walking trail known as the Windsor Trail has been a priority of the Department of Parks and Recreation since 1989.

The trail map serves to highlight the trails through Windsor's urban centre and natural parklands. The bike path is situated in the most accessible areas of the City. Where there wasn't any room for the trail to go through parks, it was routed along low traffic roads. The Windsor Trail is identified by signs that have been placed along the trail. Currently, the combined distance of all trails in Windsor is 50 kilometres.

This multi-purpose map can be used as a guide to the Department of Parks and Recreation. In addition to finding all of the trails on the map, the recreation centres, swimming pools and parks are also highlighted. Parks & Recreation Trail maps are available at Community Centres & pools.

Future Development

In the future, the plan for the Windsor Trail is to link the entire city with a bike path that makes a circular loop around the city. Secondary bike paths that link neighbourhoods with other commercial areas and destinations are also expected to be built.

The major goal behind the Windsor Trail is to allow everyone in Windsor to have access within one kilometre of a major or secondary trail system.

Windsor Water World

Commonly known as: Windsor Water World
Former/other names: none
Location: 400 Wyandotte St. E
Property acquired: unknown
Acreage: 3.55
Official designation: Indoor pool

Wolfe Lake Park

Commonly known as: Wolfe Lake Park
Former/other names: none
Location: Laketrail road
Property acquired: 1997
Acreage: 1.21
Official Designation: Neighbourhood Park

This park is equipped with a grass area, some benches and a play unit for children.

Ypres Park

Commonly known as: Ypres Park
Former/other names: none
Location: at Ypres Avenue and Arthur Road
Property acquired: 1985
Acreage: 4.99
Official designation: Neighbourhood park

The City acquired the site of Ypres Park in 1985, through a land exchange with Horwood Holdings Ltd. In 1992, 1.92 acres of property from the former St. Joan of Arc School was purchased by the city to expand the park. The park is presently undeveloped.

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