

APPENDIX A
GLOSSARY
OF TERMS

Active Recreation: Activities, sports, or events that require a developed space with supporting infrastructure and often require specialized parkland development and management. The emphasis is placed on providing opportunities for community gathering, games, events, and sports. Compared to passive recreation, active recreation requires more intensive management and maintenance, and often results in higher costs. Typical uses include fields, play features, golf courses, skating rinks, event spaces, urban agriculture, and motorized boat launches.

Amenities: These are structures or features that improve the physical, psychological, or social comfort of an area. In the System, amenities include seating, fire pits, warming shelters, etc.

Boardwalks: A wooden walkway across sand, marshes, or other waterbodies.

Colonial Land-Use Patterns: These emerged from the establishment of European land ownership and farming systems by settlers in new territories, often displacing existing Indigenous practices for land management and stewardship.
(Source: Prism Sustainability Directory)

Conservation: The sustainable use and management of natural resources including wildlife, water, air and earth. Compared to *Preservation*, Conservation does not mean keeping areas pristine (or as close to pristine as possible), instead it protects ecological functioning while accepting that development is necessary to facilitate public access, appreciation, recreation and use in balance with ecological needs.

Decolonization: Establishing cultural and economic freedom for Indigenous people, to promote their right and ability to practice self-determination concerning matters of their cultures, land, political and economic structures. In the context of land, removing vestiges of colonial uses and providing access for traditional Indigenous practices.
(Source: Community-Based Global Learning Collaborative)

Ecological Resilience: The capacity of an ecosystem to respond to a perturbation or disturbance by resisting damage and recovering quickly.

Facilities: These are places or equipment that are provided for a particular purpose and/or activity. In the River Valley and Ravine System, facilities include picnic areas, trails, boat launches, buildings, etc.

Hand Boat Launch: Facilities that allow people to walk their canoe, kayak or other vessel to the water's edge, place the water craft in the water and board without the aid of a vehicle and/or trailer.

Invasive Species: Species that are not native to an area and have a tendency to spread and cause damage to the environment, economy, or human health.

Land Management Classifications: Management Classifications, developed from the Land Management Classifications in the *1992 Ribbon of Green Master Plan*, direct the appropriate level of development, management, and operation for the River Valley and Ravine System. They use current site conditions to describe the future desired state of an area.

Low-impact Development: Planning, engineering, and design approaches to manage stormwater runoff as part of green infrastructure. It emphasizes protection and use of on-site natural features to protect water quality

Nature Play Features: Alternative play features that use natural elements to inspire active and creative outdoor play, and connect people to nature. They are predominantly created with natural elements such as sand, water, wood, landforms, plants, and boulders.

Open Space: An area of outdoor land or water that is publicly owned or publicly accessible, including municipal parks, civic spaces, provincial or federal parkland, institutional campuses, and other public spaces

Passive Recreation: Passive recreation occurs on largely undeveloped spaces that require minimal development, with the exception of some surface treatments (e.g. trails, turf.) and support amenities (e.g. picnic tables, waste/recycling receptacles, signage). It also places an emphasis on the protection of wildlife and the environment, quiet activities for individuals and small groups, and accommodates less structured recreational activities, which require little or no specialized parkland development and management. The spaces and amenities operate on a first-come, first-serve basis with minimal visitor facilities and services available. It involves casual activities and the pursuit of hobbies with no adverse impact on the natural environment, such as walking, jogging, hiking, nature walks, wildlife viewing, bird watching, photography, cross-country skiing, rustic picnic areas, canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, bicycling, etc

Preservation: Sustaining a space or resource. In contrast to *Conservation*, these areas are largely maintained in their present condition to prioritize ecological health over recreational use. Limited public access in the form of foot-based travel on non-paved trails is accommodated to provide people the opportunity to appreciate nature and minimize the risk of further user-created trails.

Restoration: A legally and technically specific term for returning a disturbed site to a more-or-less natural condition.

Riparian: Describes the banks or boundaries of waterbodies, including rivers, creeks, streams, and wetlands.

Stormwater Management Features: Specific features of stormwater management, which is a comprehensive approach to the planning, design, implementation and operation of stormwater drainage infrastructure.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK): Is a cumulative body of knowledge, practices, and beliefs about the relationship between living beings and their environment. Passed down through generations via oral traditions, TEK is deeply rooted in the cultural and spiritual practices of Indigenous communities.
(Source: Indigenous Climate Hub)

Trails: Refers to paved or non-paved routes for recreational or active transportation.

Trailheads: Locations with amenities such as benches, signage and potentially washrooms, shelters and other facilities that allow users to prepare and orient themselves before embarking on a trail.

Universally Accessible: Ideas and design that create environments and facilities that are accessible to older people, people without disabilities and people with disabilities

Wahigicobi : A lethka Nakoda word, meaning “kinship relationships.”

Wâhkôhtowin: Nêhiyaw (Cree) concept also referring to kinship and all of our interconnected relationships. These concepts refer to our interconnected relationships with Mother Earth and all beings.

Wayfinding: Signage, cartographic materials, and design techniques that provide information about the location, orientation and surroundings in order to support navigation around the city