Ville de Sherbrooke
Parks Master Plan

Proposal
submitted for public consultation
October 2011

PIUZE et associés, consultants
Overview of the presentation

► **Background and stakeholders**
  • The process
  • The park network
  • Assessment and orientations: The network
  • Assessment and orientations: Types of facility
  • Strategies for action
Goals of the parks master plan

This first PMP since the merger is a tool for planning **across the entire city of Sherbrooke**, with the goal of:

- Strengthening and improving the city’s network of parks and their facilities
- Providing an equivalent level of service in all districts while taking into account their specific characteristics
- Adapting the parks and their facilities to socio-demographic changes and new trends in recreation
- Developing a common approach across the city
- Solving various issues, such as the development of new parks, which remains on hold due to lack of direction and city-wide funding
- Implementing the orientations of the sports and recreational facilities master plan (the Plan directeur des équipements sportifs et récréatifs or PDÉSR)
The limitations of the PMP

• The PMP covers parks whose main vocation is recreational.
• The developing network of natural spaces whose primary vocation is ecosystem and biodiversity conservation is considered only contextually.
• The assessment includes facilities located on school grounds, where applicable, whereas the proposals target municipal land.
• The orientations target neighbourhood parks as a priority.
• The PMP covers a 10-year planning horizon.
The major components in the network

- **Local parks:**
  - Local parks share a common vocation, that of meeting nearby recreational needs in each district.

- **Municipal green spaces:**
  - Municipal green spaces are characterized by their vocation or their unique nature. They serve residents of the whole city and visitors, when applicable.

- **Protected areas:**
  - Protected areas have a conservation vocation and in the strictest sense are not parks.
  - They are not addressed in the PMP, although their presence is noted.
The Ville de Sherbrooke’s park network
The network’s managers

1. The Ville de Sherbrooke (head office):
   - Land use planning – urban development and planning:
     planning parks in new developments (location, surface area, etc.)
   - Sports division:
     Planning and managing “federated” sports facilities
   - Parks and green spaces division:
     Technical expertise provided to the sports division and boroughs, landscaping, park maintenance, and arboriculture

2. The boroughs:
   Planning and managing recreational facilities, and the development of local parks, activities, and surveillance

3. Destination Sherbrooke (para-municipal body):
   Planning and managing “tourist” parks, waterfront parks, natural parks, natural reserves, and protected areas
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The process

Phases completed

• Assessment of the offer:
  - Quantitative assessment: green space and facilities ratio
  - Qualitative assessment: spatial distribution, facilities, and layout

• Assessment of the demand:
  - Analysis of the socio-demographic characteristics of districts
  - Analysis of the evolution of trends in recreation

• Problems and challenges

• Orientations

• Avenues for action
The process

Current phase: Public consultations

- **The subject** of the consultation:
  - the assessment
  - orientations
  - avenues for action

- **The goals** of the consultation:
  - Collect information about public concerns and expectations regarding the network of parks
  - Validate the assessment and orientations
  - Validate the avenues for action
The process

Next steps

• **Assessment of the public consultations** and incorporation of citizens’ comments and suggestions

• **Action plan**:  
  - identification and description of projects  
  - cost estimate  
  - city-wide prioritization index

• **General recommendations** affecting the planning and development of the park network and its facilities

• **Final report**
Overview of the presentation

• Background and stakeholders
• The process
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Components of the network

Typology identifies the various types of parks and their main characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typologie / Caractéristiques</th>
<th>PARCS LOCAUX</th>
<th>ESPACES VERTS MUNICIPAUX</th>
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Types of facility

The various facilities have been grouped into 5 types:

- **Unstructured areas** encompasses spaces designed for free, spontaneous activities such as playing, relaxation, socialization, and walking
- **Children's playgrounds**: Structures for children aged 2 to 5, structures for 6- to 12-year-olds, unstructured activities (swings, climbers), wading pool, and splash pads
- **Facilities for youth**: Volleyball, basketball, skateboarding
- **Facilities for adults**: Exercise area, shuffleboard, petanque, horseshoes, dance floor
- **Sports facilities**: Soccer, ball field, tennis court, skating rink
Socio-demographic trends that affect the evolution of the demand for facilities in parks:

- **Low population growth**
- **Aging population**
- **Decline in the number of people** per household
- Growth in households with one person
- Decrease in the number of children per family
- Increase in the proportion of families without children
- Increase in the proportion of single parent families
Evolution of recreational practices

OBSERVATIONS
• Insufficient physical activity levels among all age groups
• Continued decline in participation in organized sports activities 45% in 1992 - 28% in 2005
• Most common physical activities in parks in Quebec (2001): Walking, cycling, swimming, inline skating, jogging, ice skating, ball, volleyball, tennis, hockey, basketball

TRENDS
• Preference for individual, unstructured physical activities outside of organized settings
• Greater interest in outdoor activities
• Greater concern for the quality of the environment in recreational settings
• Greater concern for safety, especially among women and seniors
Parks master plan

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▶ Assessment and orientations: The network
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Parks in the Borough of Lennoxville

LÉGENDE
- Parc de quartier
- Parc de voisinage
- Ilot de verdure
- Espace vert municipal
- Nouveau parc
Surface area of the parks

• The network as a whole:
  - 169 parks with a total surface area of 821 ha
  - a ratio of 5.68 ha / 1000 residents: A very good ratio given the low density of the urban fabric and its fragmentation
  - a network of parks diverse in style, facilities, and supervision

• Local parks: 130 parks covering 250 ha
  - 1.73 ha / 1000 residents: A good ratio, generally lower in central districts

• Municipal green spaces: 39 parks covering 571 ha
  - 3.96 ha / 1000 residents: A good ratio, generally higher in central districts
OBSERVATIONS:
The spatial distribution of local parks is assessed according to the radius served with respect to users.

Given its low density, the residential sector is adequately served by its local parks:
- A high proportion (66%) of residential areas are located an optimum distance from neighbourhood parks and district parks.
- A low proportion are not located an optimum distance from a neighbourhood park (17%) **or** a district park (12%). This situation is most often compensated for by the presence of a municipal green space, a public or semi-public space, or extensive private spaces.
- No major lack of service
Spatial distribution

ORIENTATIONS:

• Update the new parks inherited through the merger 10 years ago
• Change the names of certain parks and subsequently update them as needed
• Create new parks in the areas where they are most lacking
• Take into account the lack of local parks when developing municipal green spaces nearby (urban and waterfront parks)
• Improve the ratios in older districts lacking parks during urban revitalization work
• Prioritize action within the current urban perimeter
ORIENTATIONS:

- Adopt quantitative and qualitative criteria for planning new parks:
  - Quantitative: Ratio, minimum surface area, spatial distribution
  - Qualitative: Accessibility, topography, protection of aspects of interest, quality of the supervision and the design

- Planning local parks in future residential developments:
  - 3 district parks and ± 25 neighbourhood parks (± 100 ha)
Serving future developments
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ASSESSMENT:

• Unstructured areas (play, relaxation, socialization, walking) in local parks are insufficient in terms of surface area and quality:
  - Unstructured areas comprise just 10% of local parks whereas surveys show that the majority of park users frequent parks for spontaneous unstructured activities.
  - The majority of unstructured areas have been under- or insufficiently developed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrondissement / Équipement</th>
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<th>RockForest</th>
<th>Jacques-Cartier</th>
<th>Ville de Sherbrooke</th>
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Assessment and orientations

Unstructured areas

ORIENTATIONS:

• Increase the surface area of unstructured areas in neighbourhood parks:
  - in existing parks: As a priority, designate areas that are given a new vocation as unstructured areas
  - in new parks: Reserve 25% of the surface areas of district parks and 50% of those of neighbourhood parks for unstructured areas

• Devote greater care to incorporating and developing unstructured areas by:
  - grouping together all the work done in a park as part of a comprehensive plan
  - incorporating internal and throughway pedestrian traffic
  - incorporating the “left over” spaces between facilities
**Assessment and orientations**

**Children's playgrounds**

**ASSESSMENT:**

- Playground equipment is found in 65 parks
- There are 40% fewer structures for children aged 2 to 5 than for those aged 6 to 12
- New developments and some older sectors are not adequately served
- The vast majority of structures are fairly new and safe
- A high proportion of “free play” structures have at least one safety flaw

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### Assessment and orientations

Children's playgrounds

**ORIENTATIONS:**

- Provide an equivalent level of service throughout the city
- Accelerate the program to bring play structures up to standard
- Address the shortage of structures for children aged 2 to 5
- Improve the incorporation and design of playgrounds
- Complete the network of splash pads in targeted sectors

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### Assessment and orientations

**Facilities for youth**

#### ASSESSMENT:
- 64 facilities for youth including those belonging to schools
- Quantitative ratios of facilities for adolescents compare favourably with those of similar municipalities
- Although there are facilities for youth in each borough, their spatial distribution could be improved to take into account youth mobility
- Some facilities are outdated

<table>
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**Assessment and orientations**

**Facilities for youth**

**ORIENTATIONS:**

- Renovate outdated facilities
- Add facilities based on the demographic characteristics of the district
- Improve spatial distribution while promoting a grouping of several facilities so as to create focal activity areas for youth

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**ASSESSMENT:**
- 49 varied facilities are found in 25 parks
- The facilities available are slightly below those of comparable jurisdictions for the 35-to-64 age group and comparable for those over 65
- A number of facilities have flaws or appear to get little use
- Dance floors are in good condition and seem to be used very often
- Difficult to plan for this type of facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrondissement / Équipement</th>
<th>Brompton</th>
<th>Fleurimont</th>
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<td>5.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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</table>
Assessment and orientations
Facilities for adults

ORIENTATIONS:

• Correct the flaws and change the vocation of unused facilities
• Experiment with the new generation of exercise equipment
  - a few facilities were installed in summer 2011
• Identify potential spaces for improving the quality and relevance of facilities offered in districts where aging of the population is more acute
• Plan these facilities in close collaboration with recreation coordinators in the boroughs
Assessment and orientations
Sports facilities: SOCCER

ASSSESSMENT:
- 54 separate facilities in the parks
- 15 jointly managed facilities on school grounds
- Ratios are higher than those of comparable municipalities
- Some surfaces must be improved
- Registrations have been stable since 2005
- Youth participation rate appears stable at 18%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrondissement / Équipement</th>
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<th>Ville de Sherbrooke</th>
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<td><strong>Soccer à 11 (nbre)</strong></td>
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</table>
**Assessment and orientations**

**Sports facilities: SOCCER**

**ORIENTATIONS:**

- For each category, attribute the number of facilities required, based on the optimum practice hours from theoretical model, i.e.:
  - Soccer 11: allocate 7
  - Soccer 9: add 1
  - Soccer 7: change vocation 3
  - Soccer 5: change location 10, add 4

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</table>
Assessment and orientations

Sports facilities: BALL

ASSESSMENT:

- Number of facilities available is greater than the demand:
  - 27 ball fields
  - ratio much higher than in comparable municipalities
  - ball sports on the decline over the past 10 years

- Theoretical capacity of existing fields: 12 000 residents/season

- In 2010, all ball activities: ± 3 875 residents/season

- PDÉSR orientations: Keep 14 fields for baseball and several additional fields for recreational ball
**ORIENTATIONS:**

- Keep 17 fields and upgrade those with flaws
- Change the vocation of 10 fields to meet new needs, based on the following criteria:
  - condition of the facilities
  - spatial distribution
  - amount of use

<table>
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<th>Arrondissement / Équipement</th>
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Assessment and orientations
Sports facilities: TENNIS

ASSESSMENT:

• 71 courts at 27 locations
• Number of courts available is greater than the demand: ratios are mostly favourable with respect to comparable jurisdictions
• The condition of a number of courts is poor (surface, clearance, lighting)

PDÉSR orientations:
• Adjust availability to meet the demand
• Group courts to improve availability at each site

The condition of a number of courts is poor (surface, clearance, lighting).
Assessment and orientations
Sports facilities: TENNIS

ORIENTATIONS:

- Keep 54 courts and change the vocation of 17 to new uses
- Build 11 new courts, favouring grouping courts
- Progressively upgrade courts that are in poor condition
- Eventually, the 65 courts would be divided among 21 sites
- In addition, a specialized tennis centre with 8 courts will be added for the Canada Games

<table>
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<th>Arrondissement / Équipement</th>
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<td>1638</td>
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</table>
**Assessment and orientations**

**Sports facilities: RINKS**

**ASSESSMENT:**

- Availability is much greater than that of comparable jurisdictions
- A neighbourhood facility that is much appreciated by users
- Global warming could make ice maintenance more difficult and reduce the normal period of use

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</table>
Assessment and orientations

Sports facilities: RINKS

ORIENTATIONS:

- Maintain the status quo in terms of neighbourhood facilities
- Monitor the evolution of maintenance conditions over the next decade to determine if alternatives are needed
STRENGTHS:
- Numerous and varied facilities
- Quantitative ratios for the vast majority of facility types are equivalent or superior to those of comparable jurisdictions

WEAKNESSES:
- A number facilities are suffering due to a lack of maintenance
- Certain facilities do not meet current standards
- The spatial distribution of some facilities is not optimal
- Low proportion of unstructured spaces in local parks
ORIENTATIONS:

- Implement the orientations in the PDÉSR
- Upgrade the below-standard facilities that
- Change the vocation of facilities that are under-used or that there are too many of, based on demographic changes and recreational trends
- Provide an equivalent level of service in all districts
- Improve the spatial distribution of certain facilities
- Increase the surface area of unstructured spaces in neighbourhood parks
STRENGTHS:
• Daily maintenance and cleanliness of the sites
• Design of urban parks, plots, and green islands
• Diversity of parks and their natural conditions

WEAKNESSES:
• Often poor design of neighbourhood and district parks:
  - accessibility and pedestrian traffic
  - spatial organization and composition
  - surface area and design of unstructured areas for play, relaxation, socialization, and walking
Summary
Design of the parks

**ORIENTATIONS:**

- Encourage greater use for walking, relaxation, and spontaneous, unstructured activities:
  - improve accessibility and reception
  - incorporate internal and throughway pedestrian traffic
  - increase the surface areas of unstructured spaces in local parks for unstructured play, relaxation, and socialization

- Improve the composition, spatial organization, and recognition of the specific character of sites

- Greater incorporation of environmental concerns in development and maintenance

- Increase the number of trees and shrubs
Overview of the presentation

- Background and stakeholders
- The process
- The park network
- Assessment and orientations: The network
- Assessment and orientations: Types of facility

▶ Strategies for action
## Strategies for action in parks

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<thead>
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<th>Parc / pistes d'intervention</th>
<th>Plan d'ensemble</th>
<th>Accès et circulation</th>
<th>Détente et socialisation</th>
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<th>Module 2-5 ans</th>
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in the Borough of Lennoxville
Ville de Sherbrooke
Master Plan for Parks
October 2011

We welcome your questions and comments:
planparcs@ville.sherbrooke.qc.ca