



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



National Urban Parks

September 2022



Benefits of Urban Parks

- Protect nature
- Connect Canadians with nature
- Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
- Contribute to conservation goals and targets
- Support climate mitigation and ecosystem services
- Individual and community health & well-being
- Diversity and inclusion
- Opportunities to learn about nature
- Meaningful partnerships
- Jobs and other economic outcomes





National Urban Parks Program

2021-2026

- Develop a national urban parks policy
- Identify urban parks of national significance and where it makes sense for the federal government to play a role
- Designate up to 6 national urban parks
- Create a strong foundation to anchor a network of national urban parks



Governance of National Urban Parks

The network of national urban parks will offer a flexible governance model, with various entry pathways:

Federally administered places

- National Historic Sites and Canals with significant natural values
- Other Parks Canada administered properties
- Other federal departments' administered properties



A Network of National Urban Parks



Partnership models

Parks that are co-managed under one name



Other administered places

Municipal, provincial, Indigenous, or private lands





A Collaborative Approach



DRAFT Policy Framework:

A network of National Urban Parks

Nature

Foundational Requirement

Contributes to national conservation targets

Possible Examples of Value-Added Elements

- Ecological values
- Conserve and restore ecosystems
- Connectivity/corridors to other natural areas
- Natural infrastructure
- Programs to build nature stewardship
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Aiming For

Conservation, biodiversity and climate gains



Connecting Canadians with Nature

Foundational Requirement

Proximity to population centres

Possible Examples of Value-Added Elements

- Free admission
- Varied programming for exploration, education & recreation
- Accessible visitor facilities and trails
- Public transit, active transportation
- History & culture
- Strong partnerships
- Inclusion of diverse groups

Aiming For

Access to nature for all local residents in an inclusive and welcoming environment

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

Foundational Requirement

Collaborative work towards shared priorities

Possible Examples of Value-Added Elements

- Providing space for Indigenous leadership
- Reconnection to land opportunities
- Nature-Culture values
- Respectfully weave Indigenous knowledge & values
- Capacity building
- Promote Indigenous voices and stories

Aiming For

Achieving shared goals for protecting nature in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation