

To: Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic and Members of Council
council@kitchener.ca

From:

Date: August 2022

RE: Local Parks and Greenspaces Funding

I am writing to ask that when the Spaces Report comes before council on August 22nd 2022, you vote for changes that expedite funding needed to address the equitable provision of local parks in the city. The provision of parks, which is known to contribute to the health and well being of the city, is increasingly recognized as a critical strategy for mitigating climate change and extreme heat especially in high density neighbourhoods. Parks are a key component of a livable city. Now is the time to align intensification policies with policies that create treelined streets, greenspaces and local parks.

There are three decisions that if made by council will cripple the city's ability to address the inequity of parks provision in the city as documented in the Spaces Report:

1. An increase to the credit for privately owned public spaces
2. A reduction to the cash-in-lieu cap rate
3. An increase in the transition period for revoking cash-in-lieu payments for development in the downtown. (The original recommendation by city staff for a transition period of 12 months will result in an estimated \$56.8 m loss of revenue for parks funding.)

I urge this council to vote against these measures and to pass funding policies that address the greenspaces and parkland needs of the current and future Kitchener residents especially those living in neighbourhoods most affected by intensification.