



United Way
Elgin Middlesex

LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



System Change

8.12 Build more public gathering spaces (e.g. recreation centres, parks) to increase access to space for unstructured recreation and space for community to gather

Family Centre Fox Hollow

Family Centre Fox Hollow opened in December 2017. It is located in the Sir Arthur Currie Public School and is designed to make life easier for all families and residents by offering a single door to many opportunities in their neighbourhood and city.

As lead of the Family Centre, Whitehills Childcare Association works together with other service providers to provide coordinated service for families including:

- Parenting & Early Learning
- Early Childhood Education
- Public Health and Wellness
- Recreation
- Sports and Leisure
- Youth Services
- Senior Services
- Newcomer Services
- Referral, Resources, Information and Awareness

This project is generously funded by the Ministry of Education in support of the Early Years Vision and in partnership with Thames Valley District School Board and the City of London.

Family Centre Fox Hollow is part of a network of Family Centres being developed in neighbourhoods by London's Child and Youth Network, a collective of over 150 organizations committed to strengthening children, youth and families.

Bostwick Community Centre, YMCA and Library

The Bostwick Community Centre opened in September 2018 and was developed in partnership with the City of London, YMCA of Western Ontario, and London Public Library. With a multi-purpose community space, indoor pool and gymnasium, double pad arena, YMCA fitness facility and Library Branch, the Bostwick Community Centre has something for every ability, age and life stage.

Amenities include:

- 2 NHL sized ice rinks
- 6 multi-purpose community rooms (for programming and community rentals)
- 6-lane, 25 meter indoor pool
- Family pool
- Community kitchen
- Wellness cafe
- Child-minding area (for YMCA members only)
- Full size gymnasium
- Fitness centre
- Group fitness studios
- Full service library branch
- Service London counter
- 200m walking loop
- Outdoor accessible playground equipment

Fanshawe Family Centre

The Fanshawe Family Centre opened in April 2019 and is designed to make life easier for all families and residents by offering a single door to the many opportunities in your neighbourhood and city. The [EarlyON Child and Family Centre](#) is a part of the Fanshawe Family Centre.

The Family Centre offers:

- parenting & early learning
- early childhood education
- public health and wellness
- recreation, sports and leisure
- youth services
- referral, resources, information, and awareness

Family Centre Blessed Sacrament

Family Centre Blessed Sacrament will be located in Blessed Sacrament Catholic School and is anticipated to open in fall 2019.

Dundas Place

Dundas Place is London's first flexible street; a space shared by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. It was identified as a top priority in the Our Move Forward: London's Downtown Plan, as part of the revitalizing downtown strategy.

The City of London had a vision to transform Dundas Street in downtown London into Dundas Place, a key public space and cultural hub that will encourage residential intensification in the core, showcase the built heritage of the area and shape downtown London for decades to come.

Dundas Place represents an opportunity to build community and make our entire core stronger.

London Community Gardens Program

"Community gardens build and nurture community capacity, which is defined as the sum total of commitment, resources, and skills that a community can mobilize and deploy to address community problems and strengthen community assets.

London is home to 14 gardens (on municipally owned land) encompassing over 400 plots where gardeners grow vegetables, fruit and other plants. The gardens are part of the London Community Gardens Program (LCGP), as they sit on City owned land in various London neighbourhoods.

Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre

The City of London and the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) have partnered on a new Indigenous-led Licensed Child Care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre.

As the first of its kind in London, the Centre will provide culturally relevant early years programming that is based in language and Spirit, serving families in London and Middlesex County.

The Indigenous-led Child Care and Family Centre addresses concerns heard during engagement with Indigenous families and service providers in London and Middlesex. Through the engagement process, Indigenous families expressed that access to culturally relevant, quality Indigenous-led programming that supports families is critical.

Since inception, this project has been guided and supported by the Journey Together Indigenous Planning Committee, which includes representatives from local Indigenous-led organizations, Indigenous parents and caregivers, and other relevant planning partners.

Funding for the project was made possible through The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. This is possible, in part, as a result of the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada commitment to significant investments to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and specifically call to action # 12, calling upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

The Centre will be built at 449 Hill Street, within the shared territory of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Haudenosaunee (Oneida) and Leni-Lenape (Delaware) peoples. Construction of the Centre is expected to be complete in 2020.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The City of London offers high quality parks, recreation programs, sport services, and facilities that engage residents of all ages and abilities.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides an overall vision and direction for making decisions. The Master Plan is a living document that is based on public input, participation trends, utilization levels, best practices, demographic changes, and growth forecasts. It guides the City's investment in parks, recreation programs, sport services, and facilities over the next ten years and beyond.

***A Vision for Parks and Recreation:** In London, all residents – regardless of age, ability, culture, gender, income, or where they live – have opportunity to participate and share in meaningful and accessible parks, recreation, and sport experiences.*

In 2018, the City collected surveys and input from over 2,300 London residents and stakeholders. Based on this input, as well as extensive background research, recommendations were developed. The recommendations were organized into 5 categories which correspond to the **Framework for Recreation in Canada:**

- ACTIVE LIVING
- INCLUSION AND ACCESS
- CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE
- SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS
- RECREATION CAPACITY

Prior to finalizing the Plan in 2019, the City sought feedback on the proposed recommendations to help finalize the Plan and ensure that their services continue to respond to the community, now and into the future.

London Environmental Network

Many London environmental groups have seen a need for a more organized way of getting their message out to the public in order to make significant progress in the environmental issues facing our community.

London Environmental Network (LEN) was officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization in March 2018. The LEN was created to help protect our environment and build a sustainable community by supporting local environmental organizations improve their internal capacity and ability to deliver on their missions.

The London Environmental Network provides our member organizations with shared resources, and training, outreach and collaboration opportunities so they can become stronger and work more effectively together. It also connects groups to the London community, recruits volunteers, and promotes environmental events, initiatives and successes.

LEN - Green Economy London

The Green Economy Hub launched in London in May 2019 to support local businesses to set and achieve sustainability targets, joining 6 other Hubs across Ontario. Green Economy London helps businesses and organizations realize the competitive advantage of becoming environmentally sustainable.