



## CityLAB Project Agreement 2020-2021: COVID-19 Effects on Parkland

The role of the project agreement is to document the expectations for the project, define objectives, clarify constraints or limitations, and outline responsibilities to ensure clarity for the project. CityLAB can help you and your partner complete this document, feel free to reach out for help! Email us at [Patrick.Byrne@hamilton.ca](mailto:Patrick.Byrne@hamilton.ca)

### \*COVID-19 Update\*

Due to the constantly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a strong possibility that in-person gatherings will be restricted and/or facilities will be closed during the Fall 2020 semester. As you plan for your project, please consider how it can be adapted to adhere to physical distancing regulations if needed. Taking some time to think through contingency plans with your partner will help ensure a successful and meaningful project, no matter the circumstances.

### Project Title:

Is this project continuing from a previous CityLAB project?

Yes

No

If yes, what was the project title:

### City staff details

City staff name: Cynthia Graham

City staff email:

City staff phone number:

### Instructor and student details

Instructor name: Karen Dieleman

Instructor email:

Instructor phone number:

Course name: CTS 410 Core Capstone Experience

Number of students: 5 or 6

Student names (if known):

**Project Description** (what is the problem you are trying to solve and what is the context?)

If applicable, use the original challenge description found on

[www.citylabhamilton.com/challenges](http://www.citylabhamilton.com/challenges).

Please make any changes as needed or simply leave as is.

The Landscape Architectural Services team leads parkland, trails, and open space development for the City of Hamilton. Experience has shown that although people intuitively understand the value of parkland, empirical evidence of its benefits is missing. This gap in evidence has sometimes meant proposed projects fail to get economic or political support. As the downtown population intensifies and budget challenges arise, we need more research data to show how the city benefits from

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|  | <p>the creation of parklands. The COVID-19 pandemic, with its probable change in people’s use of parkland, is an opportune time to conduct this research.</p>  |
| <p><b>Challenge summary</b> (summarize the challenge in plain language)</p> <p>If applicable, use the original challenge summary found on <a href="http://www.citylabhamilton.com/challenges">www.citylabhamilton.com/challenges</a>. Please make any changes as needed or simply leave as is.</p> | <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way that people use parks, trails, and open spaces in our City and we want to better understand the changes that have taken place. We seek to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How has usage of parkland and open space changed before, during and after the COVID-19 emergency? How have perceptions changed?</li> <li>2. Are there regional or spatial differences? Do people with less access to private open spaces (i.e backyards) value the public ones more after COVID-19?</li> <li>3. Are there correlations with mental health, physical health, weight gain, and other factors related to the lockdown versus access to local open spaces and parks?</li> </ol> <p>This project will help staff better understand the use, perception, and value of parks, as well as inform the placement of open spaces across the city in the context of a pandemic.</p> |
| <p><b>In Scope</b> (from original project description)</p> <p>Clarify the particular elements that you will be taking on in this project. The more particular the better!</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conclusions regarding supply and type of parkland and open space against factors collected through the study.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Out of Scope</b> (from original project description)</p> <p>Clarify the particular elements that this project won’t take on. Be explicit, even if it might seem obvious!</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- design recommendations or analysis of existing parkland designs.</li> <li>- conclusions about demographics that aren’t directly collected through the project.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Background Research</b> (what research will be required to pursue the challenge?)</p>  | <p>To pursue the challenge, students will need to collect quantitative and qualitative data on people’s use of parklands prior to and during the</p>   |

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|  | <p>pandemic and their perceptions of or actual health in relation to that use. Students can use phone apps to calculate walking distance (from survey-provided addresses) from residences to parklands, as well as design and ask survey questions.</p>  |
| <p><b>Goals</b> (what are the objectives you aim to achieve within the timeframe?)</p>             | <p>To better understand the use of green public space, as impacted by COVID.</p>   |
| <p><b>Timelines</b> (Planning, Implementation, Installation, Report, Presentation, Reflection)</p> | <p>Sept: match group, get grounded in the project, understand the issues, develop a team charter<br/>         Oct: prepare, distribute and collect results from the survey<br/>         Nov: analyze survey results, prepare report<br/>         Dec: finalize report; prepare and deliver presentation</p>  |
| <p><b>Learning Objectives</b></p>  | <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- become aware of the relationship between wellbeing and access to parkland</li> <li>- understand and value the role of research in advocacy</li> <li>- develop/use skills in data collection and analysis</li> <li>- practice oral and written communication skills</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>How we will work together</b></p>  | <p>Meeting Frequency: Initial, midway, and near-completion meetings (city staff lead with entire student group), with one or two additional check-ins if required (possibly with student group leader only).</p> <p>Communication: email, Zoom/Webex, phone, or other online method as required. One student from the group will be designated as the point of contact with the city lead to handle all communication processes.</p> |

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|  | <p>Conflict Resolution: We will address any issues directly with the people involved in a timely, professional manner. Students will seek guidance and support from instructor and/or city lead as appropriate.</p>  |
| <p><b>Roles</b></p>  | <p>Students: Complete work as defined in project scope. Flag any challenges to achieving project outcomes to both faculty and staff and participate in troubleshooting any challenges that may arise.</p>  |
|  | <p>City Staff: Work with Faculty to support students in successfully achieving outcomes in scope of project and troubleshooting any challenges that may arise (includes: provide guidance around project expectations, participate in meetings, assist with city data as required).</p>  |
|  | <p>Instructors: Work with City of Hamilton staff to support students in successfully achieving outcomes in scope of project and troubleshooting any challenges that may arise (includes: teach teamwork skills; provide weekly supervision to students in project management; provide feedback on progress; facilitate connections with city staff).</p>   |
|  | <p>Stakeholders:</p>   |
| <p><b>Project Deliverable for the City of Hamilton</b></p> | <p>Alignment with City of Hamilton Strategic Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community Engagement and Participation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity and Growth</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy and Safe Communities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean and Green</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Built Environment and Infrastructure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Culture and Diversity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Our People and Performance</li> </ul> |
|  | <p>Deliverable(s) (e.g. size and type):<br/>Final student report.</p>  |



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|  | <p>Where will the work go and what will it be used for:</p> <p>City staff will use this to assist with conversations about parkland supply, use and management as well as part of background study to inform future city-wide park masterplan.</p> |
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Please submit your project agreement to CityLAB by emailing to [Patrick.Byrne@hamilton.ca](mailto:Patrick.Byrne@hamilton.ca) before September 1, 2020 for Fall semester projects.