

**For Immediate Release**  
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**CITY INVITES PUBLIC TO HELP SHAPE PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURE MASTER PLAN**

**Welland, ON** - The City of Welland is partnering with Monteith Brown Planning Consultants to develop a new municipal Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan. The process will prioritize public engagement to gain a better understanding of the community’s vision for Welland’s recreational services, programs, cultural opportunities, and park-related facilities.

Public engagement will be the centrepiece of developing the master plan; therefore, Monteith Brown Planning Consultants has scheduled a Community Discussion open house on April 2, 2019, at Welland Civic Square from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Community Discussion will be an in-person information sharing session that will provide an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to share their master plan ideas and priorities.

The wide-ranging public engagement campaign includes interactive communication through the city’s public engagement platform, YourChannel. All residents, community partners, and stakeholders are encouraged to join the conversation on [yourchannel.welland.ca](http://yourchannel.welland.ca) to learn more about the master plan development and submit feedback. YourChannel participants can provide ideas, take a comprehensive survey, ask the project manager questions, use an interactive map to provide additional information, and much more.

Council and city staff will use the new Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan as a significant guide in directing parks and recreation decision-making over the next decade. Welland’s previous Parks, Recreation, and Culture Division Master Plan was completed in 2006 and created a positive legacy due to extensive community engagement in the initial stages of planning.

“Public engagement is paramount to developing a thorough master plan that will reflect the interests and priorities of Welland residents,” said Richard Dalton, Manager of Recreation and Culture. “We need feedback on what’s successful and where improvements can be made In order to deliver appropriate programming, provide support to events, and direct investment towards facilities and projects that are most valuable to Wellanders.”

To join the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan conversation visit [yourchannel.welland.ca](http://yourchannel.welland.ca)., or for more information about City of Welland Parks, Recreation, and Culture visit [welland.ca](http://welland.ca).

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