

Civic Space: SoHo 'A Heritage Square'

What is a Civic Space? Civic spaces are generally located in the downtown core and/or along 'main streets' in close proximity to high density development. These spaces are designed to accommodate casual seating areas, key urban linkages, public art, public gatherings and community events. Civic spaces serve the entire population of London, but can also serve adjacent buildings, streetscapes and neighbourhoods. They typically include extensive hard surfaces, seating areas, high-end horticultural components, irrigation and are fully lit to encourage evening use throughout the year.

What activities can be done in a Civic Space? Group activities such as cultural events and festivals, markets, celebrations and other communal gathering often happen in civic spaces. They are also places for relaxation, informal gathering and enjoyment of passive outdoor activities such as sitting and lounging, meeting friends, lunch time or coffee breaks. They often allow visitors to discover the history of a place or public art installations that creates landmarks for a community.

Can this space be booked for an event? It is anticipated that this space will be part of the City Special Events locations and will be available to book for events.

Current Park Opportunities in the SoHo Area

Where can I take my kids to the playground? Playground equipment is provided in 2 neighbourhood parks in SoHo: Meredith Park (450 Nelson Street) and Richard B. Harrison Park (205 South Street).

I would like to have a garden plot. How can I participate? There is a Community Garden in Meredith Park. If you are interested in booking a garden plot or would like more information on how to start a new community garden, email communitygardens@london.ca

How can I access the Thames Valley Parkway (TVP) for biking or walking? Currently, the TVP goes through Richard B. Harrison Park and is accessible on Wellington Street, just north of the River. From there, you can continue on to the Forks of the Thames and ride west all the way to Springbank Park or North to Ross Park and Western University. The TVP continues east on the south side of the River, through Watson Street Park, all the way to Pottersburg Park.

Where are the nearest pool, spray pad and wading pool? There is a wading pool in Meredith Park (450 Nelson Street). The closest outdoor pool is in Thames Park, just south of the River on Ridout St. The closest spray pad is at the Forks of the Thames.

Where can I let my dog run off-leash? The nearest dog park is at Adelaide St. and Commissioners Rd. There is also an urban dog exercise area in Campbell Park (380 Dundas Street).

Can I build and maintain an outdoor skating rink in a park? There is an opportunity for interested community members to start and maintain an Outdoor Community Ice Rink in Meredith Park, on the concrete basketball pad. If interested, please contact customerservice@london.ca

Where can I play sports? There is a multi-use court with tennis, basketball and road hockey at Meredith Park (450 Nelson Street). There is also a large field at Wellington Valley Park, just west of Maitland St. at the River that can be used for informal soccer and cricket games. More park amenities will be added to that space in the future, to be determined with input from the public.

Where can I go skateboarding? The Wolseley Skateboard Park is located at 656 Elizabeth St. There are also some skatable benches in Victoria Park (580 Clarence Street). People interested in filling out a Skateboard Park Notice of Interest to start a new skateboard park should contact pdhollan@london.ca

Where can I go hiking to observe nature in the city? The closest Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) are the Coves (201 Wharnccliffe Rd S) and Westminster Ponds (696 Wellington Rd).

How can I access the Thames River for canoeing and water activities? There is a boat launch ramp at Wonderland Road and Riverside Drive, as well as access points in Gibbons Park and Greenway Park. It is anticipated that in the future, an access point will also be created in SoHo, as suggested in the Back to the River Design Competition.

How will natural heritage features be protected? Sustainable development practices and careful park design considerations are an integral part of the design process for any projects located along the Thames Valley Corridor.