



Director, Parks and Cemeteries City of Kitchener

The City of Kitchener is a vibrant and dynamic city of over 240,000, in the heart of southwestern Ontario, recognized as an innovative leader in city-building. Kitchener has a proud history of community-building – inspiring and supporting people to work together to create a city that feels like home for everyone. It's a place where people come from across Canada and the world to put down roots. Kitchener's system of parks, open spaces, natural areas, greenways and trails account for over 14% of the total land area within the City boundary in over 500 parks and 1,900 hectares of land. Parks are extensions of the communities they are placed in and contribute significantly to the community's identity and individuals' connections within it. Parks are integral to communities, providing spaces that people connect with the environment within, share space together, play and build connections.

In this role, you will be a champion for work that the City is doing to better understand and address community needs and barriers for use of these spaces, with a goal to ensure all communities in Kitchener can feel welcome, safe and able to use parks and open spaces. Reporting to the General Manager, Infrastructure Services, the Director, Parks and Cemeteries provides overall leadership and direction to Parks and Cemeteries division. This includes oversight of short and long-range strategic planning, financial resourcing, and relationship management. You will be responsible for the planning, design, operations, maintenance and rehabilitation of parks, playgrounds and amenities, trails, horticulture, sports fields, forestry and cemeteries to ensure the safe, efficient and effective delivery of core services to the public. Acting as a media spokesperson for the division, you will represent the City on various committees and projects, work directly with Council, and implement service delivery standards across the division. You will provide coaching and leadership to your team and will support and develop team members to achieve goals and objectives. Providing oversight of budgets across the division, the Director, Parks and Cemeteries will lead strategic financial planning including annual capital and operating budgets, and a 10-year capital project budget.

The ideal candidate will come with a 4-year Honours degree in a related field (e.g., Landscape Architecture, Parks, Forestry, Horticulture, Planning, Urban Design, Environmental Studies or a related field), as well as 7-10 years of related experience, including an on-the-job period of adjustment. Comprehensive knowledge of related standards and legislation including the Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act, Bereavement Authority of Ontario, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and Fisheries Act to name a few. With your combined education and experience, you excel at problem solving, leadership, conflict resolution and communication. Your passion for and understanding of parks and cemetery services sets you apart. You are a community builder who is passionate about promoting spaces that are welcoming, inclusive, safe and accessible for everyone. Known as a forward-thinking relationship builder, you are ready to be part of this innovative city.

The City of Kitchener is committed to an equity-driven, inclusive, accessible, and barrier-free recruitment and selection process, and to ensuring our workforce reflects the full diversity of the community we serve. We welcome applications from Indigenous, Black, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ persons, as well as other equity deserving groups.

We will accommodate the needs of applicants under the Human Rights Code and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) throughout all stages of the recruitment and selection process.

To explore this opportunity further, please contact Diana Rucchin at Odgers Berndtson at diana.rucchin@odgersberndtson.com or submit your resume and letter of interest online to <https://www.odgersberndtson.com/en/careers/18584> by **December 9th, 2022**.

