Design Guidelines for The UrbaJ Open Spaces of Kingston
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report develops design guidelines for urban open spaces in Kingston in order to
remedy a shortcoming with the current practice and policy of open space planning in Kingston. The study process used here in the development of design guidelines is closely modeled after Toronto's Cittjplan '91, which classified Toronto's open spaces, and then compared examples of each type of open space to 'classic' examples from around the world. These comparisons directed the development of open space design guidelines best suited to Toronto. This study, however, will not rely on comparative world examples to identify principles of good design, rather it will draw on important design concepts found in literature on the subject of urban open spaces.

This study was primarily concerned with design guidelines for open spaces where
adjacent built form is an influential element in the form and character of an open space. These spaces are typically located within the higher density areas and almost exclusively within the urban core of a city. In order to focus on these types of spaces specifically, the study area was delineated to include only those areas of Kingston with dense urban fabric: the City's urban core and Portsmouth Village.
Because there is more than one type of open space, one set of guidelines would not be sufficient to reflect the design requirements of all types. The first stage of this report was the development of a typology to classify urban open spaces in Kingston.
• Forecourts and Landscaped Setbacks
• Downtown Squares
• Neighbourhood Squares
• Courtyards
• Urban Parks
• Pocket Parks

ii

• Linear Parks
• Intersection Parks

These general design guidelines for open spaces were used to develop a detailed set of

guidelines for each of the eight