



Township of Oro-Medonte



# Master Plan

FINAL DRAFT  
APRIL 2023







# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## MASTER PLAN PURPOSE

Oro-Medonte’s recreation and parks system provides immense value to residents, drives community connections and vibrancy, and significantly contributes to the health and wellness of residents and visitors. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan offers a blueprint for future planning and decision-making about investments in parks, recreation, trails, and cultural infrastructure, services and programs over the next 10 years. The development of a Master Plan is timely given the evolving parks and recreation context as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting activity preferences, and the increasing value residents (permanent and seasonal) place on quality of life opportunities.

The Master Plan was developed through extensive research, analysis and community input to both assess the current state of parks and recreation in the Township and guide future actions over the next 10 years. The graphic on the following page illustrates the inputs used to inform the Master Plan content. As reflected by the image, two background documents support the Master Plan and contain the detailed research and engagement findings.



# OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT INPUTS

## Research & Analysis

### Trends Analysis



An analysis of which recreation and sport activities have been growing or declining and how the business of delivering public recreation services is changing.

### Benchmarking



A qualitative comparison of the Township's provision of parkland and recreational facilities with regional and comparable municipalities.

### Facility and Park Assessment



Each park and facility was visited and evaluated considering community needs, usage, condition, amenities, function, and location. This information was used to evaluate the priority of future investment needs.



### Foundations



Guiding local, regional, provincial, and national strategies and plans were reviewed to understand inter-disciplinary, relevant connections that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should align with.

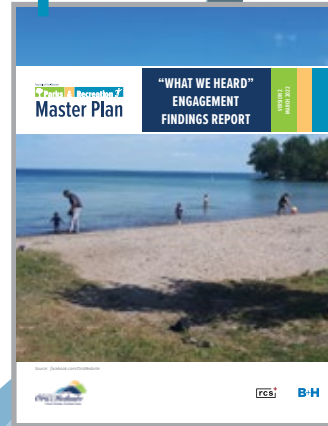


## Public & Stakeholder Engagement



### Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders (including user groups, community organizations, members of Council, and committees) were engaged through small group discussion sessions and a web based survey.



### Coded Online Resident Survey

A statistically representative, coded survey was conducted in the winter of 2021 to reach residents and learn about household interests and future needs related to recreation and parks. The results influenced the Plan's recommendations.



### Interactive Crowd Source Mapping & Sounding Boards

The engagement process provided residents with opportunities to provide site specific feedback. These opportunities included an online crowdsourcing map (residents could virtually "pin" suggestions on a specific park, trail or facility) and on-site sounding boards set-up at high traffic locations.



### Youth Survey

A survey was made available to youth in Oro-Medonte to gather their feedback and perspectives on recreation program and facility needs.

## COMMUNITY INPUT INTO THE MASTER PLAN

- Public Survey (912 responses)
- Youth Survey (11 responses)
- Community Group Survey (23 organizations / interests participated)
- Online Crowdsourcing (90 "pins" provided by the public)
- Sounding Boards (29 comments were provided on the Sounding Boards)

# STRATEGIC FOUNDATIONS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

It is important for publicly provided parks and recreation services to be anchored in strong foundations that provide a rationale for ongoing investment and articulate the overall aims for service delivery. The Strategic Foundations section of the Master Plan (Section 2) outlines the ways in which the Township can best support the provision of parks and recreation using a combination of indirect and direct delivery.

A Vision and Service Delivery Objectives were developed to provide important philosophical and value based foundations for parks and recreation.

## A VISION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN ORO-MEDONTE

*The Township of Oro-Medonte is responsive to the needs of an evolving community by supporting parks and recreation opportunities that build strong, healthy, and cohesive communities where everyone can live, work, and play.*

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES



### Active Living and Skill Development

Parks and recreation opportunities supported by the Township will advance individual development and support lifelong wellness by teaching fundamental physical literacy skills and fostering social skill development.



### Partnership Oriented

The Township recognizes the important role that regional municipalities, the private sector, not for profit groups, and the school system play in delivering services. Partnerships should be pursued wherever possible and explored as potential funding sources for future investment.



### Optimized Infrastructure

The Township will make the best possible use of existing infrastructure and develop new facilities at the right time in lockstep with population growth, trends, and cost-benefit analysis. Doing so will ensure investment in recreation and parks infrastructure is both optimal and sustainable.



### Outdoor Inspired

The Township leverages its abundant outdoor amenities to provide accessible and inclusive recreational opportunities during all four seasons of the year.



### Community Driven Service Delivery

Resources are focused on meeting identified community needs and investing in programming and facilities that benefit the most residents. The Township will support community based providers that can deliver these opportunities and directly provide services when an alternative provider does not exist.



### Connected Outdoor Assets

Parks, trails and outdoor spaces in the Township are physically connected and accessible. Doing so encourages safe and appealing active transportation where appropriate and reduces barriers to use and cross-use.



### Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

The Township recognizes that arts, culture and creative pursuits are an important part of the recreation and leisure mix in the Township. Furthermore, these opportunities contribute to economic development, place making and community development.

# HOW IS THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN THE MASTER PLAN ORGANIZED?

Recreation facilities, parks and programs encompass a range of places and activities in Oro-Medonte. Recreation facilities and parks differ in size, amenities, design, use, and programming. The delivery of parks and recreation programs and services occurs through a number of different approaches. Some opportunities are directly provided by the Township while others are provided by community based organizations (often at Township operated or supported facilities or spaces). These different delivery approaches ultimately provides residents with active living opportunities, but differ in terms of financial inputs and impacts as well as user expectations.

**Establishing a clear approach for overall service delivery and data driven priorities for parks and recreation infrastructure and programming will ensure that the Township makes the best use of available resources, with the overarching objective of leveraging the highest possible level of public benefit.**

Sections 4 to 9 of this Master Plan document contain Action Plans for the various aspects of parks and recreation that the Township is looked upon to provide and/or support.

	1	Introduction
	2	Strategic Foundations
	3	Big Moves
	4	Action Plans for Indoor Recreation Facilities
	5	Action Plans for Outdoor Recreation Facilities
	6	Action Plans for Parkland and Trails
	7	Action Plans for Trails
	8	Action Plans for Culture & Heritage
	9	Action Plans for Service Delivery
	10	Implementation

# Summary of the Big Moves – Key Future Strategic Directions

The Big Moves represent key strategic shifts in future direction that aim to optimize future investment in parks provision, recreation infrastructure and overall aspects of service provision. Big Moves are complex initiatives that will take multiple years to fully implement and present an opportunity to significantly achieve all or most of the identified Service Delivery Objectives.

## **INDOOR ACTIVITY & WELLNESS**

The community engagement validates that Oro-Medonte residents place a high value on physical health and frequent exercise. Fitness facility provision in Oro-Medonte is limited. While abundant supply exists in neighbouring municipalities, many residents face proximity and transportation barriers to accessing these facilities. As such, there is a demonstrated need for dedicated fitness facilities and associated programming to serve Oro-Medonte.

The Township should provide or support the provision of fitness and wellness classes in the new Township gymnasium at Horseshoe Valley and provide a dedicated space for cardio and training given the absence of a commercial operator in the market. This facility should be co-located with other recreation and sport facilities and be operated to provide low-cost services to the public and visitors. Potential partnerships with local sport organizations should also be explored in order to maximize the benefit provided by the facility.

The Township should plan to provide a second community-owned gymnasium within 5-7 years, ideally in partnership with the School Board during the implementation of new school projects. Additionally, it is recommended that the Township remain open to partnerships with the private and public sectors to offer additional fitness and wellness opportunities.

### SUMMARY OF THE 'BIG MOVES'



**Indoor Activity & Wellness**



**Multi-Sports Complex at Guthrie**



**Inspired Community Parks and Play Spaces**



**Optimized Parkland Supply**



**An Outdoor Sports Trail Hub**



**Direct Involvement Where It Matters the Most**

Community halls have been important spaces for recreation and social gathering for many years. The Township recognizes the value and attachment of these facilities while also needing to ensure future investment in these facilities is rationalized by community need, trends, and other considerations (e.g. physical accessibility, provincial regulations, shifts in settlement, etc.). The Master Plan provides direction on how the Township should determine whether to re-invest, sustain through a partnership / lease, or decommission a hall. As an overarching recommendation, the Master Plan also suggests a gradual shift to community centres that can serve a broader area within the Township and provide a level of service that is better aligned with modern recreational and leisure needs.



## A MULTI-SPORTS COMPLEX AT GUTHRIE

The Township-owned Guthrie lands offer a relatively central and accessible location for concentrating development of a major multi-component indoor and outdoor sport facility. This development provides the opportunity to service a wide array of recreation needs across multiple age groups and interests at a single site. In addition to optimized service levels through a “one stop shop” facility concept, this development will also provide the Township with operational efficiencies and enhance event hosting capacity. The Master Plan offers guidance for phasing the provision of new outdoor facilities in response to short term outdoor facility Township needs and the long-term lifecycle replacement of the existing arena.

Based on local resident interest for indoor multi-sport space, anticipated regional demand, and the site’s accessibility to regional users, there is a strong case for providing an indoor artificial turf facility at the Complex.



## INSPIRED COMMUNITY PARKS AND PLAY SPACES

Future development of community-serving parks that are designed to provide a mix of creative, diverse and accessible outdoor recreation is a critical direction for the Township. The engagement undertaken for the Master Plan clearly re-iterates that residents place a high value on parks and want access to quality and dynamic spaces close to where they live. Opportunities exist for the Township to develop spaces that better align with trends in outdoor recreation and provide a broader range of play.

The Master Plan offers two different community park vision concepts – “Village Recreation” and “Outdoor Leisure”. These concepts explore recreation ideas derived from the cultural and natural characteristics of the Township. A full range of activities are incorporated, from passive leisure to nature-based activities to active facility based recreation. The concepts additionally provide a flexible tool in approaching park design and renewal, where elements from both may be applied to suit the site and community needs. Importantly, the concepts additionally reflect the primarily rural nature of the Township while integrating some features that are increasingly in-demand in both urban and rural setting.

The vision concepts were applied to two sample locations to showcase how they could be realized and the synergistic relationships that could exist between the various amenities and features. The application of the Outdoor Leisure concept to an expanded Ramey Memorial Park incorporated several new amenities and elements that would ideally function within an assumed newly acquired wooded area. Car access and parking has been moved away from the local street to Line 8 and the existing multi-use court retained but with improved features. Nature-based activities predominate in this concept with woodland- based pump track and leash-free zone, child and youth play zones with natural materials, and trails throughout with potential connections to Line 7 communities and County forests.



The Village Recreation concept was applied to Shanty Bay Park, retaining the existing multi-use court, adding a designated parking area along Shanty Bay Road, and incorporating the fire hall structure into a new community hub and plaza. Child, youth, and family play elements have been added as well as event space, new amenities, and passive features. The current baseball function is anticipated to be moved to Lions Sports Fields at Guthrie, with additional premium ball facilities anticipated in the future.

The Master Plan places emphasis on the renewal of existing community parks and the provision of new ones where there are identified parkland gaps

or where future development will occur. Smaller neighborhood serving parks remain important to Oro-Medonte, though these will be provided and maintained at a lower service level.

Replacement, renewal and provision of new play equipment and spaces at neighbourhood and community parks should contemplate provision of a more diverse range of play environments and equipment for children, youth and adults in Oro-Medonte. In alignment with trends and best practices, these concepts are aimed at providing natural and challenging play experiences that appeal to a broader age range of children, youth and even adults.





## OPTIMIZED PARKLAND SUPPLY

Oro-Medonte’s parkland footprint covers 212 Ha. (including the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail) which provides a service level of 10 Ha. per 1,000 residents. While comparatively this is a high level of parkland provision, parkland distribution gaps exist and some actions are required to ensure parkland is functional and adequately situated to meet anticipated growth. The Master Plan recommends focusing resources on areas that are, or are projected to be, deficient in parkland. Additionally, the Master Plan provides policy guidance on potential disposition of low value parkland as well as the acquisition of parkland (and cash-in-lieu) through the development process.



## AN OUTDOOR SPORTS TRAIL HUB

Trail based sports and activities are widely enjoyed year round by residents and are increasingly recognized as an important day and overnight visitor attraction. As a bold acknowledgement of the anticipated long-term popularity of trail-based sports and activities and associated economic and tourism benefits, the Master Plan guides the Township to facilitate the protection of the relevant (actively used) Simcoe County Forest Lands for recreational trail use and the creation of an Outdoor Sports Trail Hub. Two potential locations have been identified for this recommended hub with further analysis and partnership discussions required to finalize the best location. These recommended trail enhancement efforts, combined with development of a formal management plan, will strengthen the stewardship of this important recreational area for long-term enjoyment and benefit for residents and an increased tourism draw to the area (also previously referenced in the Tourism Product Gap Analysis Project).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO ANIMATE TRAILS IN THE TOWNSHIP

Trails are a significant asset in the Township that residents of all ages and interests can enjoy. Opportunities exist for increased trail “animation” that can create a sense of place and foster connections between recreation, heritage and the arts.

Art on Trails is a strategy for Oro-Medonte to align its extensive outdoor sports and recreational trails system with its creative economy and visitor attraction efforts. Art on Trails can interpret something of historical importance, allow rest or contemplation, or even be a destination itself. It can be temporary or permanent and be as varied as the people tasked with making it. Established trails, such as the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail and the Ganaraska Trail are prime routes to provide public art on trails, as are road cycling routes where art installations can be placed on adjacent public or private property. A Public Art on Trails initiative should be integrated with the Township’s tourism partners and their respective ongoing initiatives.





## DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WHERE IT MATTERS THE MOST

The Master Plan suggests that the Township re-engage as a direct provider of some recreation programming. These efforts should be focused on filling identified activity gaps that could include providing programs for which a community organization does not exist (or have sufficient capacity), providing opportunities for under-served populations, and helping meet programming needs for new or emerging activities. The Master Plan provides direction and tools that can help guide decision making on when the Township should directly provide programming.

The partnership between the Township and the Simcoe County District School Board to create a new community centre (and shared spaces) adjacent to Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park will offer new and exciting possibilities for recreation programming. Through future planning and ongoing assessment and adjustment, the Township will need to ensure that it optimizes the use of this space to provide a wide range of opportunities that are accessible to a wide range of ages and interests



*Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1. MASTER PLAN PURPOSE	1
	1.2. SCOPE AND PLANNING PROCESS	4
	1.3. TOWNSHIP PROFILE	8
	1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN & KEY CONSIDERATIONS	10
<b>2</b>	<b>STRATEGIC FOUNDATIONS</b>	<b>12</b>
	2.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A STRATEGIC APPROACH AND FOUNDATIONS	12
	2.2. THREE POTENTIAL APPROACHES TO SERVICE DELIVERY	13
	2.3. SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE LOCAL, COMMUNITY, TOWNSHIP AND REGIONAL LEVELS	15
	2.4. A VISION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN ORO-MEDONTE	16
	2.5. SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES	17
<b>3</b>	<b>BIG MOVES</b>	<b>19</b>
	3.1. WHAT ARE THE “BIG MOVES”?	19
	3.2. INDOOR ACTIVITY & WELLNESS	20
	3.3. MULTI-SPORT COMPLEX AT GUTHRIE	21
	3.4. INSPIRED COMMUNITY PARKS AND PLAY SPACES	22
	3.5. OPTIMIZED PARKLAND SUPPLY	27
	3.6. AN OUTDOOR SPORTS TRAIL HUB	29
	3.7. DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WHERE IT MATTERS THE MOST	32
	3.8. SUMMARY OF FACILITY REQUIREMENTS	33

<b>4</b>	<b>ACTION PLANS FOR INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES</b>	<b>35</b>
4.1.	INDOOR ARENAS	36
4.2.	GYMNASIUMS	41
4.3.	FITNESS AND WELLNESS FACILITIES	45
4.4.	COMMUNITY HALLS	47
4.5.	INDOOR AQUATICS	56
4.6.	INDOOR / OUTDOOR MULTI-SPORT TURF FACILITIES	58
<b>5</b>	<b>ACTION PLANS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES</b>	<b>60</b>
5.1.	A MULTI-SPORT COMPLEX AT GUTHRIE	61
5.2.	RECTANGULAR FIELDS	66
5.3.	BALL DIAMONDS	69
5.4.	TENNIS COURTS	72
5.5.	PICKLEBALL COURTS	74
5.6.	PLAYGROUNDS	76
5.7.	MULTI-SPORT COURTS	82
5.8.	OUTDOOR RINKS	84
5.9.	SKATE, SCOOT, AND BIKE FACILITIES	87
5.10.	LAUNCHES, WHARFS, & DOCKS	90
5.11.	DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS	92
<b>6</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN FOR PARKLAND</b>	<b>94</b>
6.1.	THE PARKLAND CONTEXT IN ORO-MEDONTE	94
6.2.	PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION	96
6.3.	PARKLAND PROVISION	99
6.4.	PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR PARKLAND	101
6.5.	PARKLAND DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE	111
6.6.	PARKLAND CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES	120
6.7.	NATURALIZATION AND TURF MANAGEMENT	121
<b>7</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN FOR TRAILS</b>	<b>125</b>
7.1.	THE TRAILS CONTEXT ON ORO-MEDONTE	125
7.2.	AN OUTDOOR SPORTS TRAIL HUB	128
7.3.	GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE TRAIL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT	132

<b>8</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>	<b>133</b>
8.1.	THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE CONTEXT IN ORO-MEDONTE	133
8.2.	CREATE A DIGITAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE INVENTORY	135
8.3.	PREPARE A MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ORO AFRICAN CHURCH SITE	136
<b>9</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN FOR PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	<b>137</b>
9.1.	THE SERVICE DELIVERY CONTEXT	137
9.2.	A RECOMMENDED FUTURE MODEL FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING	140
9.3.	RESOURCING RECREATION PROGRAMMING	145
9.4.	COORDINATION AND PLANNING WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES	147
9.5.	TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION	148
9.6.	PARTNERSHIPS	149
9.7.	STEWARDSHIP	151
9.8.	MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	152
9.9.	ADDITIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ALIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES	153
<b>10</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>157</b>
10.1.	INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES	158
10.2.	OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES	163
10.3.	PARKLAND	172
10.4.	TRAILS	176
10.5.	CULTURE AND HERITAGE	178
10.6.	PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY	179
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>182</b>
	APPENDIX A: RECTANGULAR FIELD DESIGN AND DEMAND ANALYSIS	183
	APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY PARK CONCEPT DESIGN STUDY	184







# 1

## INTRODUCTION

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Overview of the Master Plan purpose, scope and process.
- Township profile.
- Environmental scan (SWOT analysis).

### 1.1. MASTER PLAN PURPOSE

The Township of Oro-Medonte aims to use parks and recreation as a mechanism to maximize the health, social, economic, and environmental benefits that are accrued by residents and the community. Strategically planning for parks and recreation will ensure that investment and resources are best aligned with community need and leverage the highest possible benefit.

This Master Plan document will provide Council and staff with an important point of reference that will be used in a variety of ways, including:

- Guiding ongoing budgeting and resource allocation;
- Informing long-term capital planning and project prioritization;
- Advancing existing projects and key initiatives; and
- Providing tools and supports that can be used on an ongoing basis to support programming, community development, and other space animation decisions and actions.

## RECREATION IS IMPORTANT TO ORO-MEDONTE RESIDENTS

Notable findings on the perceived value of parks and recreation from the Resident Questionnaire:

- 96% say parks and recreation are important to quality of life for all residents in the Township.
- 94% say parks and recreation are important to their quality of life as residents.
- 70% say parks and recreation are important to the appeal and attractiveness of Oro-Medonte for future residents.
- 86% participate in recreation and sport activities to maintain their physical health and exercise.
- 74% say it's important to access and enjoy nature.
- 56% say parks and recreation activities are important for their mental health and wellbeing.
- 55% say parks and recreation activities connect them with their friends and family.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

# WHY IS NOW THE RIGHT TIME TO DEVELOP A NEW PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN?

Major municipal investments in parks and recreation facilities and services are made for long-term benefits; as previously noted, the Master Plan is expected to distil priorities and guide planning and decision making for these investments over the next 10 years.

Developing a new Master Plan is timely given the evolving and dynamic nature of parks and recreation in the region, changes in behaviour patterns and preferences as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and growth considerations. These factors together provide a current and future planning context that presents the following challenges and opportunities for Oro-Medonte:

- The Townships population is growing, with a number of specifically identified growth nodes (Craighurst, Horseshoe Valley, Sugarbush, Warminster and Moonstone). Both existing and new residents in these areas will have expectations for accessible parks and recreational opportunities.
- Demographics are shifting and will continue to change over the next decade and beyond. Societal population aging and the inflow of more families with children will impact parks and recreation needs.
- Volunteering has declined and the pandemic has tested the resolve of community volunteers involved in the delivery of recreational sport programs and those individuals who assist with the operation of community facilities. Many organizations will require support throughout their recovery process.
- Like most communities with a historically rural context, the Township has an aging inventory of recreation and community infrastructure. Some of these facilities, such as community halls, are challenged with accessibility and functional limitations that limit use for modern recreation programming and in-demand activities. Strategies are required to guide development, renewal or retirement of legacy facilities and infrastructure
- Adjacent municipalities and the Simcoe-Muskoka YMCA provide and operate major recreation facilities in the region that are used by residents of Oro-Medonte. Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with these major operators presents unique opportunities for the Township and residents of Oro-Medonte.
- The Township's asset base of parkland is significant and of higher quantity than many comparators and benchmarks. However, action is needed to optimize parkland supply to ensure it is functional, sustainable, and well positioned to meet future needs. Doing so is likely to require a mix of acquisition, enhancement, and disposition strategies.
- The abundance of outdoor recreation areas throughout the Township are enjoyed by a growing number of resident and visitors (both day and overnight visitors). The Master Plan must recognize the diversity of possible outdoor pursuits and the site management and coordination challenges that go along with increased use.

# 1.2. SCOPE AND PLANNING PROCESS

The Master Plan’s area of focus and primary scope is the Township of Oro-Medonte, the boundaries of which are identified in the map on the following page. As a predominately rural municipality with no single major employment or residential node, and established settlement areas distributed across 587 square kilometers of the Township, the Master Plan acknowledges that residents use recreation and parks facilities, programs, and services in neighbouring municipalities. The Master Plan considers these regional implications.

## KEY INSIGHTS ON RECREATION PARTICIPATION FROM THE RESIDENT SURVEY

- 29% of Household Resident Survey respondents indicated that their recreation and parks participation take place outside the community.
- 42% indicated that they travel to Orillia and 36% indicated that they travel to Barrie for their structured recreation activities such as swim lessons, and team sports.

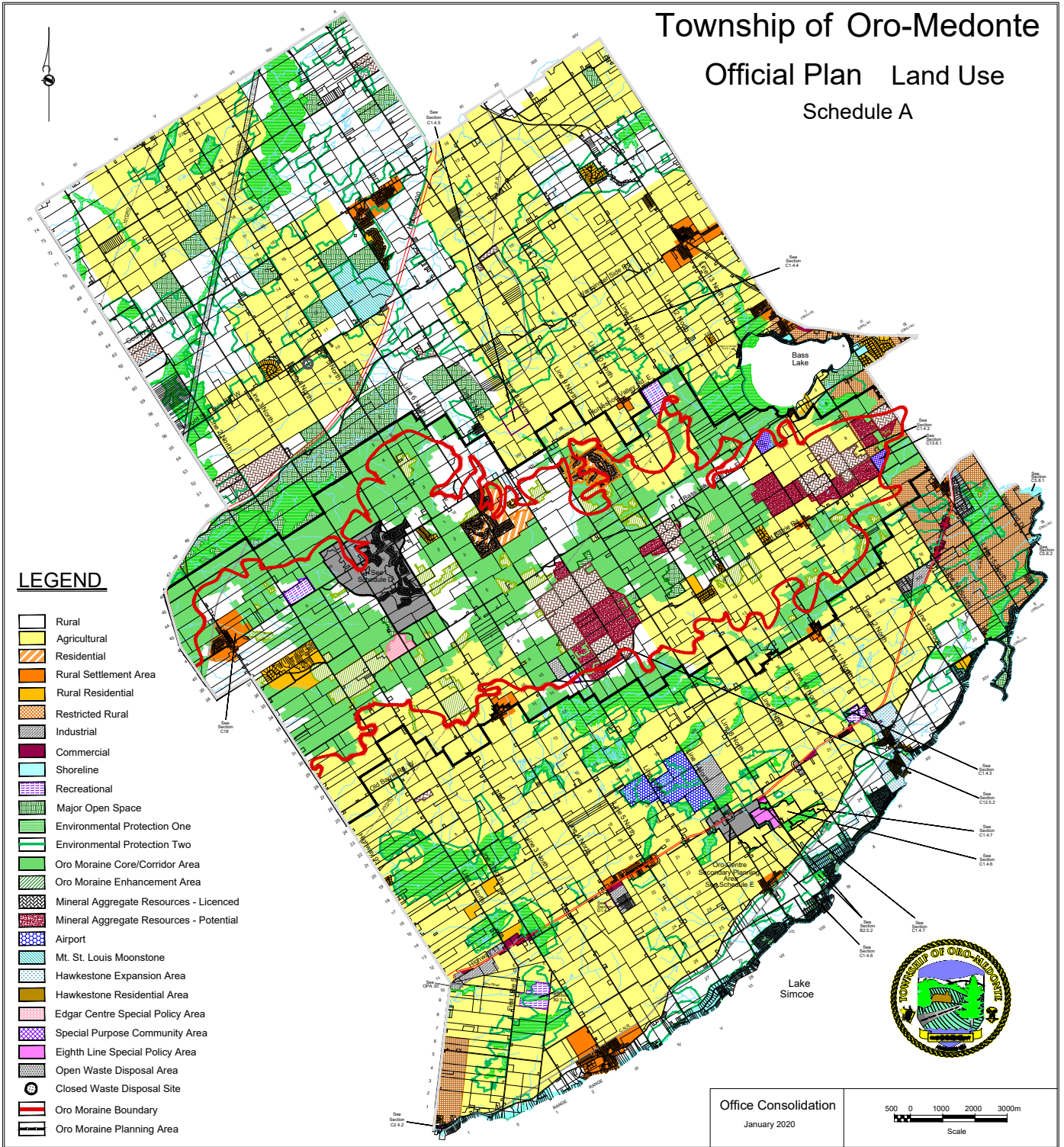


# ORO-MEDONTE LAND USE AND BOUNDARIES

Township of Oro-Medonte

Official Plan Land Use

Schedule A



Source: Township of Oro-Medonte Official Plan (2022)

# MASTER PLAN INPUTS

The Master Plan was developed in three phases as illustrated by the following graphic. Phases 1 and 2 of the project involved extensive research & analysis and public & stakeholder engagement aimed at exploring the current state of parks and recreation in Oro-Medonte. The development of the Master Plan (phase 3) translated this information in future strategic direction to guide service delivery and investment over the next 10+ years.



## COMMUNITY INPUT INTO THE MASTER PLAN

- Public Survey (912 responses)
- Youth Survey (11 responses)
- Community Group Survey (23 organizations / interests participated)
- Online Crowdsourcing (90 “pins” provided by the public)
- Sounding Boards (29 comments were provided on the Sounding Boards)



*Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography*

# 1.3. TOWNSHIP PROFILE

Population characteristics strongly influence demand for parks and recreation services and infrastructure. Using Statistics Canada data, prepared by Environics Analytics and supplied by ESRI, Oro-Medonte’s population and socio-economic characteristics indicate the following:

- The population as a whole has achieved a comparably high level of educational attainment – 26% have a bachelor’s degree or higher and 32% have a college diploma.
- The age structure is older compared to Ontario as a whole, which may stimulate demand for age-friendly programs and service delivery as the population continues to age.
- The 20–40 year-old population is lower compared to the province as a whole – a typically active population that generates demand for dynamic types of public parks and recreation services.
- A relatively low average household size of 2.7 reflects the characteristics of an aging population – the vast majority of whom own their home (94%).

- High median household income and proportion of households earning over \$100K compared to Ontario as whole is evidence of greater discretionary income to spend on recreation, sport, and fitness pursuits. Quality over value for money or overall cost is a key factor related to leisure consumption. Count of households earning under \$60K is considerably lower compared to the province.
- Seasonal population is estimated at 2,560 persons in 2021 based on the Townships Ward Boundary Review Background Study. The seasonal population places increased demand on parks and outdoor infrastructure provided during the summer period.

Based on recent growth projections prepared for the Township by Watson & Associates Economics Ltd., a projected population increase of approximately 4,480 persons to a total of 30,470 persons by 2031 is mainly concentrated in Horseshoe Valley (50% of total) and Craighurst (30% of total). The Township and County Official Plans have long anticipated population growth to occur in these communities, with the remaining net new population spread across the Township.

COMMUNITY	2021 TOTAL POPULATION	2031 TOTAL POPULATION	2021-2031 POPULATION GROWTH
Horseshoe Valley	2,020	4,430	2,421
Craighurst	350	1,720	1,370
Sugarbush	1,410	1,530	120
Hawkestone	750	1,030	280
Shanty Bay	1,100	1,170	70
Moonstone	990	1,030	40
Remaining Settlements/Rural Area	19,370	19,560	190
Township	25,990	30,470	4,480

\*Population includes permanent and seasonal population and Census undercount of approximately 3.0%.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.

Hemson Consulting Ltd. also prepared a growth forecast for Oro-Medonte as part of Simcoe County’s Municipal Comprehensive Review process. While the forecasted 2031 total population projection is lower (24,060 total population) compared to Watson and Associations Economist Ltd.’s projection (30,470 total population), the County’s forecast includes a comparison of the population age structure in 2021 and 2051 for Oro-Medonte - as the current population ages and shifts, the projection estimates a considerably larger population of persons 80 years and older and an expansion of the middle-aged population by 2051.





**23,236**  
Total  
Population



**47.4**  
Median  
Age



**2.7**  
Average  
Household  
Size



**8,438**  
Total  
Households

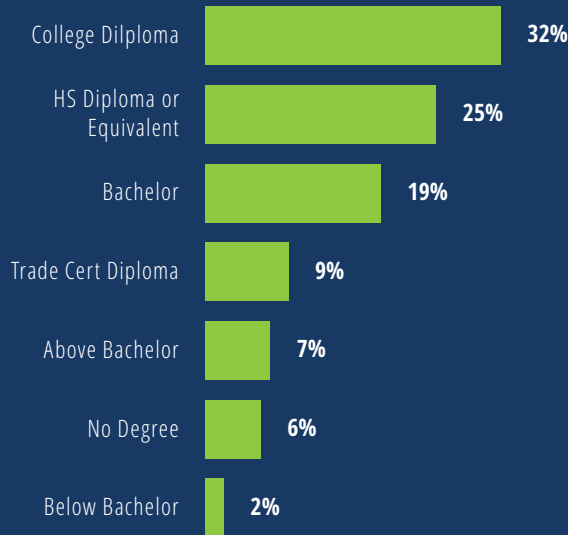


**94%**  
Owner  
Occupied

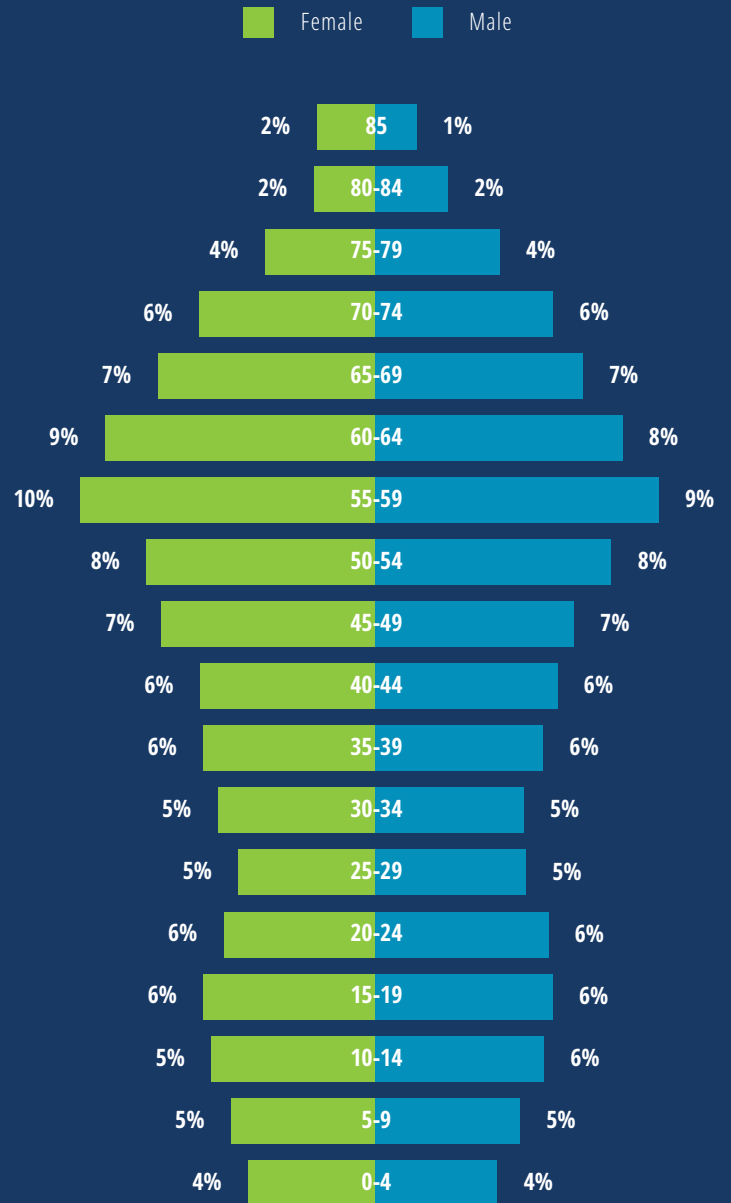


**2,560**  
Seasonal  
Population

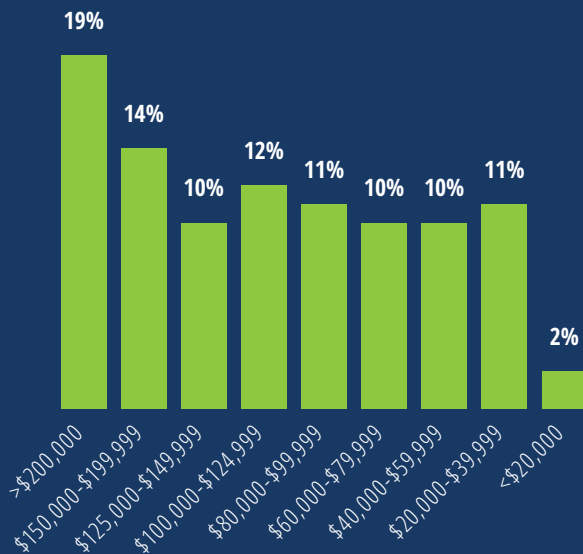
## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



## AGE PYRAMID



## HOUSEHOLD INCOME



# 1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN & KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The following SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) table summarizes key insights from the research and engagement. These findings provided a basis for the strategic direction provided in subsequent sections of this Master Plan.

<b>STRENGTHS (FACTORS THAT SUPPORT IMPLEMENTING THE MASTER PLAN)</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES (FACTORS THAT IDENTIFY OR MAY CREATE CHALLENGES FOR THE MASTER PLAN)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Township has made reinvestments in many major indoor facilities (i.e., the arena) and outdoor facilities (i.e., playground equipment and sport courts), minimizing the burden of future lifecycle replacement costs.</li> <li>• The Township has formal policies and practices in place governing access to facilities, user fees, etc. that demonstrate efforts to provide fair and reasonable access to facilities.</li> <li>• Market surveys and segmentation of residents suggest continued strong demand for outdoor recreation pursuits and protection of natural areas, parks, and other spaces that support activities such as hiking, boating, mountain biking, hunting, camping, and skiing. Publicly accessible natural areas and open spaces are abundant in Oro-Medonte – 8% is green, providing spaces and opportunities for outdoor recreation pursuits.</li> <li>• The arena is optimally used. Allocation practices appear to satisfy the needs of ice sport organizations.</li> <li>• Projected population growth will generate additional demand for recreation facilities, programs, and services.</li> <li>• Based on relatively high median household income, residents have a greater ability to pay for recreation and leisure products and services but will expect value and quality.</li> <li>• Due to continued aging population, there will be strong, long-term demand for healthy aging and wellness programming.</li> <li>• The Township has a number of strong partnerships and collaborations in existence that help provide quality, efficient, and sustainable recreation (and related) opportunities for residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low population density and the number of established settlement areas is a significant service delivery challenge. There is often insufficient demand in any one part of the Township to provide sustainable services, facilities, or programs.</li> <li>• Service level adjustments weigh almost entirely on the residential tax base – a 1% property tax increase raises about \$200,000 in tax revenue.</li> <li>• There are relatively few facilities or parks that are accessible for persons with a disability.</li> <li>• Popular water-based outdoor facilities such as splash pads are not feasible due to on-site only water production and septic field requirements.</li> <li>• The Township discontinued direct recreation programming in 2020, therefore limiting its available resources (staff and contracted personnel) to address trending and emerging programming needs and gaps for which a community organization provider does not exist.</li> <li>• Limited historical regional / inter-municipal planning or coordination of investment in major recreation facilities despite significant Oro-Medonte resident use of facilities in Barrie and Orillia.</li> <li>• There is an oversupply of parkland resulting from the historical practices of accepting parkland vs cash-in-lieu.</li> <li>• Limited waterfront land to support public access points and parking.</li> </ul>

**OPPORTUNITIES (FACTORS THAT CREATE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE)**

- Individual recreation activities have experienced significant increases in participation, particularly during the pandemic. Oro-Medonte’s natural assets can be further leveraged for outdoor recreation pursuits.
- Managers of public lands used for outdoor recreation activities are keen to plan and coordinate activities and future investments with the Township.
- Continued, modest, population growth will generate population-based demand for recreation and parks facilities and services – particularly in the middle part of the Township that is accessible to residents from the north and south of Township.
- Disposition of surplus parkland offers a funding strategy for reinvestment in parkland development and renewal and investment in new recreation facilities.
- The Guthrie parkland parcel along Highway 11 is somewhat central to the majority of the resident population and well suited to support local and regional recreational needs.
- Possibilities for partnership in facility development and coordination with private operators and school boards.
- Opportunities for expanded partnerships with other regional jurisdictions and organizations to facilitate better trail experiences and access.
- - Demands for year-round access to waterfront areas for recreation and leisure.

**THREATS (FACTORS THAT SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED AND MITIGATED)**

- Uncoordinated use and limited management of outdoor recreation areas / spaces leads to environmental degradation in these areas.
- Adjacent municipalities limit or restrict the access to Oro-Medonte residents to their recreation facilities due to capacity constraints.
- Expectations for high levels of service at the settlement area/local level will challenge the feasibility of community or Township wide service levels.
- Lack of staff resources and capacity limits the ability to be “first to market” with new programs and activities.
- The decline of volunteer capacity may threaten the sustainability of community provided facilities, programs, and events.
- Aging condition of infrastructure, especially halls. While capital investment has occurred over the years, a number of halls are at risk for no longer being viable or functional for public use in the short or mid-term.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)



# 2

## STRATEGIC FOUNDATIONS

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

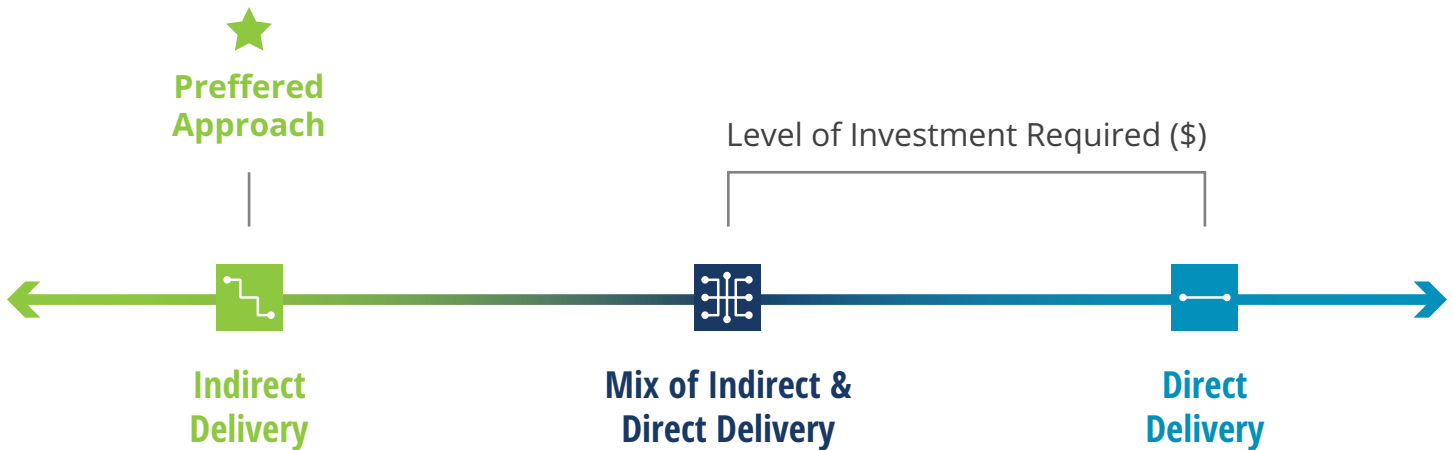
- Approaches to service delivery.
- A Vision for parks and recreation in Oro-Medonte.
- Service Delivery Objectives.

### 2.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A STRATEGIC APPROACH AND FOUNDATIONS

It is important for publicly provided parks and recreation services to be anchored in strong foundations that provide a rationale for ongoing investment and articulate the overall aims, methods and approaches used for service delivery. Like practically all jurisdictions, the Township will also need to balance optimizing the delivery of parks and recreation opportunities with financial resource realities. The foundations provided in this section are intended to balance these considerations – maximizing public benefit while achieving efficiency and considering resource realities.

## 2.2. THREE POTENTIAL APPROACHES TO SERVICE DELIVERY

The following graphic outlines three overarching approaches that can be used to deliver parks and recreation. The Township will utilize all three of these approaches based on several factors and considerations and, over time, the approach used for specific types and recreation opportunities may evolve as circumstances change. **Wherever possible, the Township's preferred approach should be Indirect Delivery as this approach maximizes the use of available resources and provides a host of community development benefits.** However, in some instances the Township may need to play a more hands on and "direct" role in providing parks and recreation. It is also important to note that the resources required to support Indirect Delivery have increased. The Township has re-engaged in a more active community development and will need to continue supporting groups building back from the pandemic and those impacted by continued changes in volunteer capacity.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

## HOW DOES THE CONTINUUM OF APPROACHES APPLY TO PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES?

SERVICE DELIVERY APPROACH	WHAT DOES THIS APPROACH PRACTICALLY MEAN?	WHEN SHOULD THE TOWNSHIP USE THIS APPROACH?
<b>Indirect Delivery</b>	<p>The parks and recreation program / activity is provided by a community organization. The Township's role is to support the activity by providing access to subsidized facility time, supporting promotions and marketing, grants, capacity building support (e.g. facilitating training opportunities for volunteers, creating connections and knowledge sharing between organizations, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a community organization exists (or can be created) that can provide the activity at a quality level and ensure inclusive access.</li> <li>• In situations where a partnership can be struck with other local governments and/or the private sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Mix of Indirect and Direct Delivery</b>	<p>The parks and recreation program / activity is provided partially by the community organization and partially by the Township.</p> <p><i>For example, the Township may directly offer certain types of fitness and wellness programming using staff or contractors, but also facilitate / support community groups or private sector provision of some other programs (e.g. rent out space at subsidized rates, promote the programs using the Township website, etc.).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When community groups and private providers are able to meet some but not all validated program / activity needs (thus requiring the Township to fill a gap using direct delivery methods).</li> <li>• When groups exist that can run programming but require Township operated space or other supports.</li> </ul>
<b>Direct Delivery</b>	<p>The parks and recreation program / activity is provided directly by Township staff or contractors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When a community organization does not exist (and can't realistically be created) to fill the parks and recreation need.</li> <li>• When the Township can offer the program / activity type in a higher quality or more inclusive manner.</li> </ul>

## 2.3. SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE LOCAL, COMMUNITY, TOWNSHIP AND REGIONAL LEVELS

The Township will need to make service delivery and investment decisions at the local, community, Township-wide, and regional levels. The following table outlines a recommended approach for aligning investment with these four geographic service areas.

SERVICE LEVELS	WHY DOES THE TOWNSHIP INVEST IN THESE SERVICES?	OPTIMAL APPROACH FOR PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	OPTIMAL APPROACH FOR PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE
<b>Local</b>	To ensure a basic level of active and healthy living opportunities are geographically accessible to all residents.	Indirect Delivery	Direct operation of parks and other public outdoor spaces. Basic support for community halls when need and sustainability can be sufficiently demonstrated.
<b>Community</b>	To provide an area / node within the Township with opportunities that are beyond the basic level of service (Local) but not necessarily targeted to a Township-wide catchment, and/or, to capitalize on unique opportunities that exist within a community area/node.	Mix of Indirect and Direct Delivery	Direct operation of parks and other public spaces, unless a unique partnership opportunity exists. Direct operation of key indoor infrastructure, unless the benefits of a partnership arrangement outweigh Township operation.
<b>Township-wide</b>	To ensure residents have access to programs, activities and facilities that are aligned with trends and identified Township-wide needs.	Mix of Indirect and Direct Delivery	Direct operation of parks and other public outdoor spaces. Direct operation of key indoor infrastructure, unless the benefits of a partnership arrangement outweigh Township operation.
<b>Regional</b>	To ensure residents have access to a broader array of parks and recreation opportunities.	Indirect Delivery	Consideration of regional partnership when sufficient Township benefit can be demonstrated.

## 2.4. A VISION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN ORO-MEDONTE

*The Township of Oro-Medonte is responsive to the needs of an evolving community by supporting parks and recreation opportunities that build strong, healthy, and cohesive communities where everyone can live, work, and play.*

### WHAT IS A VISION STATEMENT?

A Vision statement reflects an aspirational goal for the state of the Department and/or the services it provides. The Vision following statement has been developed based on key values identified through the community consultation and in alignment with other key Township's strategic plans.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)



# 2.5. SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

Seven Service Delivery Objectives have been identified to provide tangible and measurable foundations for delivery and measuring the impact of parks and recreation. The Township will use these Service Delivery Objectives to philosophically guide decision making and assess the level of success through its ongoing investment in parks and recreation.



## Active Living and Skill Development

### What does this mean?

Parks and recreation opportunities supported by the Township will advance individual development and support lifelong wellness by teaching fundamental physical literacy skills and fostering social skill development.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- Health and wellness outcomes and metrics.
- Ongoing engagement with residents.
- Ongoing assessment and inventory of the program mix (e.g. ensuring that a diversity of programs and activities are available).



## Optimized Infrastructure

### What does this mean?

The Township will make the best possible use of existing infrastructure and develop new facilities at the right time in lockstep with population growth, trends, and cost-benefit analysis. Doing so will ensure investment in recreation and parks infrastructure is both optimal and sustainable.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- Ongoing engagement that validates that resident satisfaction with services and infrastructure is high.
- Use of available tools like the Facility Condition Index (FCI) to measure remaining facility lifespan (e.g. facilities are adequately re-invested in to sustain service life).
- Facility utilization (e.g. facilities are utilized to a level that supports ongoing public investment).



## Community Driven Service Delivery

### What does this mean?

Resources are focused on meeting identified community needs and investing in programming and facilities that benefit the most residents. The Township will support community based providers that can deliver these opportunities and directly provide services when an alternate provider does not exist.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- Ongoing program and activity reviews validate that the direct delivery of program and activities by the Township only occurs to meet gaps that community organizations cannot fulfill.
- Community engagement shows a strong connection between residents and the organizations that deliver the programming and activities they value.
- Township decision making on delivery approaches is logical and data driven (see tools provided in Section 9 that can inform these decisions).



## Partnership Oriented

### What does this mean?

The Township recognizes the important role that regional municipalities, the private sector, not for profit groups, and the school system play in delivering services. Partnerships should be pursued wherever possible and explored as potential funding sources for future investment.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- Ongoing assessment of partnership agreements (where applicable).
- An ongoing environmental scan of service offerings does not flag an abundance of duplication; rather a complementary provision of opportunities.



## Outdoor Inspired

### What does this mean?

The Township leverages its abundant outdoor amenities to provide accessible and inclusive recreational opportunities during all four seasons of the year.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- Community engagement validates that residents feel connected to outdoor amenities, are aware of opportunities that exist, and identify minimal barriers to use.
- The Township has successful and creative partnerships and collaborations that leverage these assets.



## Connected Outdoor Assets

### What does this mean?

Parks, trails and outdoor spaces in the Township are physically connected and accessible. Doing so encourages safe and appealing active transportation where appropriate and reduces barriers to use and cross-use.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- Successful completion of projects that increase connectivity, enhance active transportation opportunities, and address identified gaps.
- Regular (e.g. every 3-5 year) "current state" assessment of trails, pathways, and parks.



## Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

### What does this mean?

The Township recognizes that arts, culture and creative pursuits are an important part of the recreation and leisure mix in the Township. Furthermore, these opportunities contribute to economic development, place making and community development.

### How can we measure it? (key performance indicators)

- The Township increases the overall supply of public arts installations.
- Ongoing reviews / audits of the programming and activity mix reveal a sufficient supply of introductory level arts and culture programming.
- The Township has strengthened partnerships with local and regional arts and culture organizations.
- A sufficient supply of accessible spaces and programs exist for all residents.



# 3

## BIG MOVES

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Recommended “Big Moves” emanating from the Master Plan.
- Summary of recommended facility provision levels.

### 3.1. WHAT ARE THE “BIG MOVES”?

The Big Moves represent key strategic shifts in future direction that aim to optimize future investment in parks provision and recreation infrastructure and related service provision. Big Moves are complex initiatives that will take multiple years to fully implement and present an opportunity to significantly achieve all or most of the identified Service Delivery Objectives.

#### SUMMARY OF THE ‘BIG MOVES’



**Indoor Activity & Wellness**



**Multi-Sports Complex at Guthrie**



**Inspired Community Parks and Play Spaces**



**Optimized Parkland Supply**



**An Outdoor Sports Trail Hub**



**Direct Involvement Where It Matters the Most**



## 3.2. INDOOR ACTIVITY & WELLNESS

The community engagement validates that Oro-Medonte residents place a high value on physical health and frequent exercise. Fitness facility provision in Oro-Medonte is limited. While abundant supply exists in neighbouring municipalities, many residents face proximity and transportation barriers to accessing these facilities. As such, there is a demonstrated need for a dedicated fitness facility and associated programming to serve Oro-Medonte.

The Township should provide or support the provision of fitness and wellness classes in the new Township gymnasium at Horseshoe Valley and provide a dedicated space for cardio and strength training given the absence of a commercial operator in the market. This facility should be co-located with other recreation and sport facilities and be operated to provide low-cost services to the public and visitors.

The Township should plan to provide a second community-owned gymnasium within 5-7 years, ideally in partnership with the School Board during the implementation of new school projects. Additionally,

being open to partnerships with other entities, including private sector sport and recreation operators in the area, could offer further potential to meet community needs for both large span (gymnasium type) space and fitness.

Community halls have been important spaces for recreation and social gathering more many years. The Township recognizes the value and attachment of these facilities while also needing to ensure future investment in these facilities is rationalized by community need, trends, and other considerations (e.g. physical accessibility, provincial regulations, shifts in settlement, etc.). The Master Plan provides direction on how the Township should determine whether to re-invest, sustain through a partnership / lease, or decommission a hall. As an overarching recommendations, the Master Plan also suggests a gradual shift to community centres that can serve a broader area within the Township and provide a level of service that is better aligned with modern recreational and leisure needs.





### 3.3. MULTI-SPORT COMPLEX AT GUTHRIE

The Township-owned Guthrie lands offer a relatively central and accessible location for concentrating development of a major multi-component indoor and outdoor sport facility. The Master Plan offers guidance for phasing the provision of new outdoor facilities in response to short term outdoor facility Township needs and the long-term lifecycle replacement of the existing arena. Focussed investment in modern sport facilities at a single location is cost-efficient and offers children, youth and adults a safe and quality space to learn, play and compete.

Based on local resident interest for indoor multi-sport space, anticipated regional demand, and the site’s accessibility to regional users, there is a strong case for providing an indoor artificial turf facility at the Complex.

To provide this amenity, the Township should consider a Public Private Partnership (P3). This model would benefit local residents by addressing identified gaps while also leveraging regional opportunities and demand.

IDENTIFIED TOWNSHIP FACILITY NEEDS RECOMMENDED FOR GUTHRIE	POTENTIAL FACILITY PROVISION AT GUTHRIE THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM REGIONAL USERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 outdoor full-size artificial turf field (short-term)</li><li>• 1 outdoor full-size natural turf field (long-term)</li><li>• Dedicated pickleball courts</li><li>• Up to 4 adult ball diamonds for youth and adult recreational and competitive play (net addition of +2 diamonds).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Artificial turf field (including potentially a covered surface).</li></ul>





## 3.4. INSPIRED COMMUNITY PARKS AND PLAY SPACES

Future development of community-serving parks that are designed to provide a mix of creative, diverse and accessible outdoor recreation is a critical direction for the Township. The engagement undertaken for the Master Plan clearly re-iterates that residents place a high value on parks and want access to quality and dynamic spaces close to where they live. Opportunities exist for the Township to develop spaces that better align with trends in outdoor recreation and provide a broader range of play.

The Master Plan offers two different community park vision concepts – “**Village Recreation**” and “**Outdoor Leisure**”. These vision concepts explore recreation ideas derived from the cultural and natural characteristics of the Township. A full range of activities are incorporated, from passive leisure to nature-based activities to active facility based recreation. The concepts additionally provide a flexible tool in approaching park design and renewal, where elements from both may be applied to suit the site and community needs.

The vision concepts were applied to two sample locations to showcase how they could be realized and the synergistic relationships that could exist between the various amenities and features. The application of the **Outdoor Leisure** concept to an expanded Ramey Memorial Park incorporated several new amenities and elements that would ideally function within an assumed newly acquired wooded area. Car access and parking has been moved away from the local street to Line 8 and the existing multi-use court retained but with improved features. Nature-based activities predominate in this concept with woodland-based pump track and leash-free zone, child and youth play zones with natural materials, and trails throughout with potential connections to Line 7 communities and county forests.

The **Village Recreation** concept was applied to Shanty Bay Park, retaining the existing multi-use court, adding a designated parking area along Shanty Bay Road, and incorporating the fire hall structure into a new community hub and plaza. Child, youth, and family play elements have been added as well as event space, new amenities, and passive features. The current baseball function is anticipated to be moved to Lions Sports Fields at Guthrie, with additional premium ball facilities anticipated in the future.

The Master Plan places emphasis on the renewal of existing community parks and the provision of new ones where there are identified parkland gaps or where future development will occur. Smaller neighborhood serving parks remain important to Oro-Medonte, though these will be provided and maintained at a lower service level.

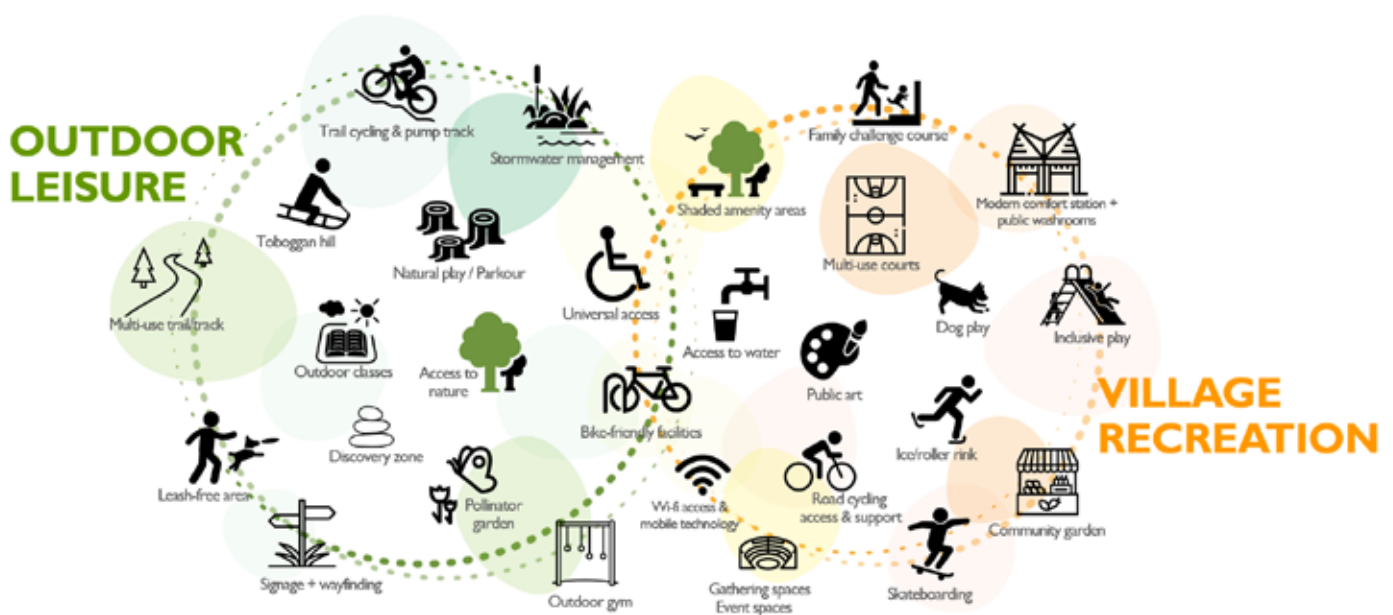
Replacement, renewal and provision of new play equipment and spaces at neighbourhood and community parks should contemplate provision of a more diverse range of play environments and equipment for children, youth and adults in Oro-Medonte. Connecting people with nature through play, and offering challenge, are powerful yet simple play space design principles that should be considered for playground renewal or development projects.



## OTHER KEY CONSIDERATIONS

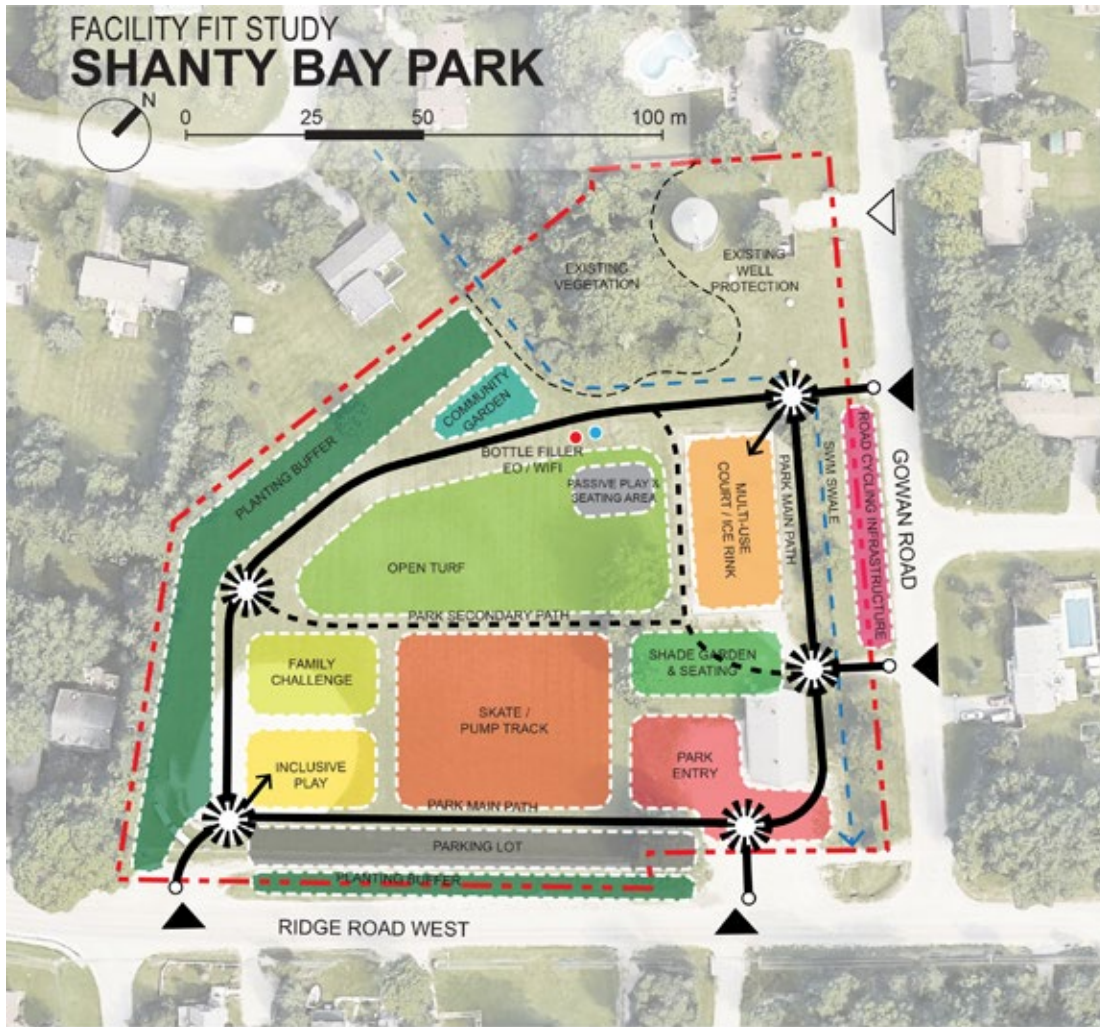
Future projects (new parks builds and renewals) that integrate these concept visions should also seek to achieve the following key experiential opportunities.

- Provide multi-age play opportunities for children, youth, and adults to play in the same space together.
- Bouldering mounds and walls, pump tracks, and parkour challenges appeal to many age segments and encourage families to play together.
- Incorporate the use of natural materials and products over manufactured ones.
- Reflect the importance of the site or place by means of theming the design of the space and providing site interpretation (e.g. significant cultural / historical facts about the site or area, ecological features, etc.).
- Challenge users by offering a progressive range of experiences, particularly for younger and older children, that build fundamental movement skills and confidence while mitigating safety risks.
- Align with accessibility guidelines and leading practices to ensure all residents can benefit from playground experiences.



# FACILITY FIT STUDY: SHANTY BAY

*\*Note: This facility fit image is for demonstration purposes only.*



GATHERING SPACE



PEDESTRIAN LIGHT / WIFI / EO



COMMUNITY GARDEN



SKATE / PUMP TRACK



MULTI-USE COURT



FAMILY CHALLENGE





# FACILITY FIT STUDY: MOONSTONE PARK

Note: This facility fit image is for demonstration purposes only and conditional on land acquisition.



MULTI-USE TRAIL



NATURAL PLAY



OUTDOOR CLASS



PUMP TRACK



WAYFINDING



OFF LEASH DOG RUN



# Key Insights from the Resident Survey

The Household Resident Survey found 41% of respondents believed that more playgrounds should be developed and 26% indicated that existing playgrounds should be enhanced. 62% of respondents indicated that they visit playgrounds at least a few times a year, and 35% indicated that visit playgrounds on a weekly or daily basis.

*Obstacle Fitness Course*



*Nature Based Play Structure*



## 3.5 OPTIMIZED PARKLAND SUPPLY

Oro-Medonte's parkland footprint covers 212 Ha. (including the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail), or 10 Ha. per 1,000 population. Some of this supply is not where it is needed to accommodate future growth requirements or to satisfy address existing supply gaps. The Master Plan recommends focusing resources on areas that are, or are projected to be, deficient in parkland. Additionally, the Master Plan provides policy guidance on potential disposition of low value parkland as well as the acquisition of parkland (and cash-in-lieu) through the development process.



*Parkland in a community*









*Tommy Thompson Park Entrance Pavillion – Toronto, Ontario*

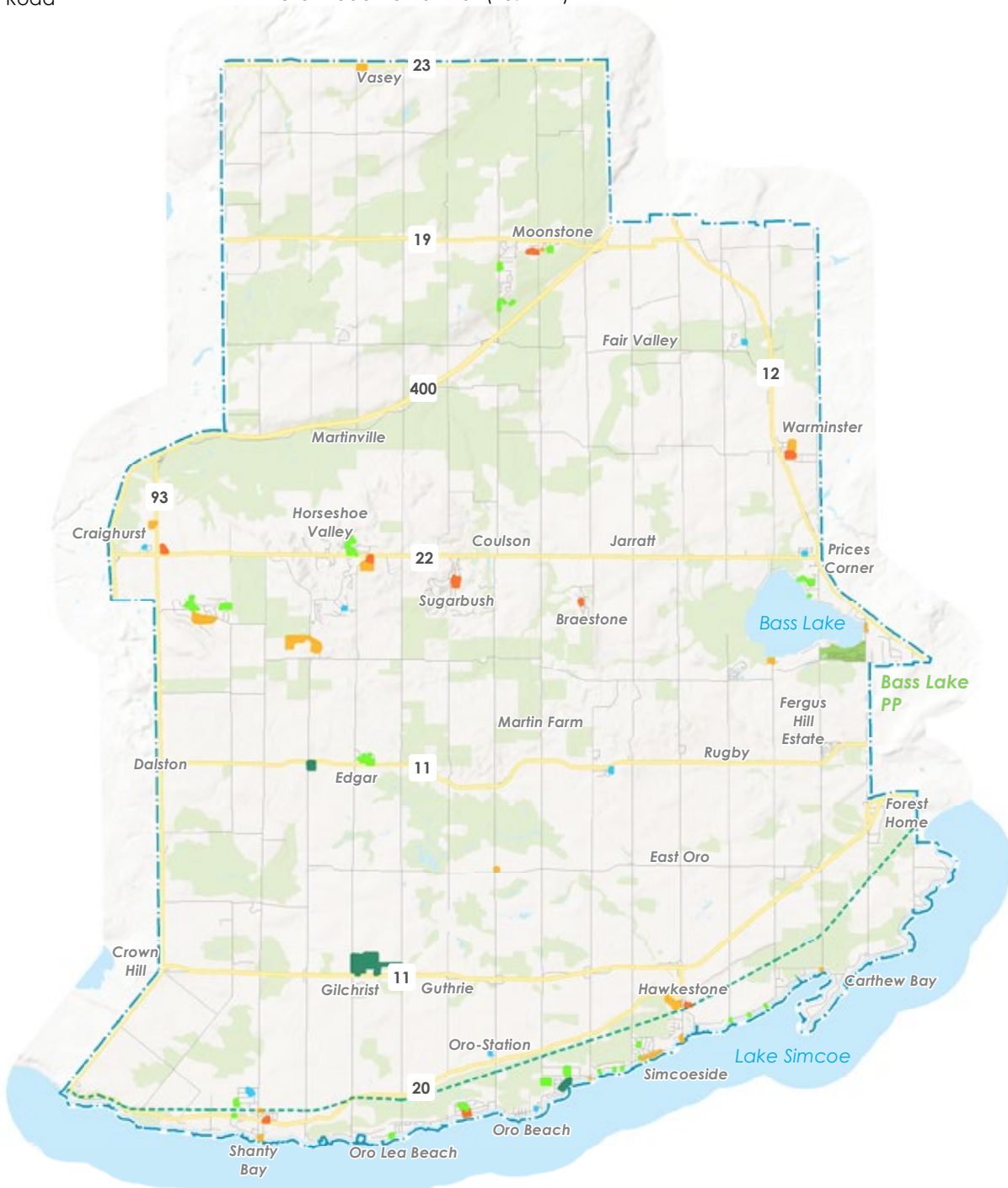
# OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PARKS BY TYPE AND DISTRIBUTION

## Legend

-  Study Area
-  Waterbody
-  Provincial Park
-  Wetland | Forest Tract | Significant Woodland
-  Highway
-  Road

### Park Inventory & Distribution:

-  Community Park (20.6 ha or 0.04% Proportion of Oro-Medonte)
-  Neighbourhood Park (5.3 ha or 0.01% Proportion of Oro-Medonte)
-  Regional Park (45.2 ha or 0.07% Proportion of Oro-Medonte)
-  Reserve (38.3 ha or 0.06% Proportion of Oro-Medonte)
-  Specialized (52.2 ha or 0.09% Proportion of Oro-Medonte)
-  Oro-Medonte Rail Trail (28.1 km)





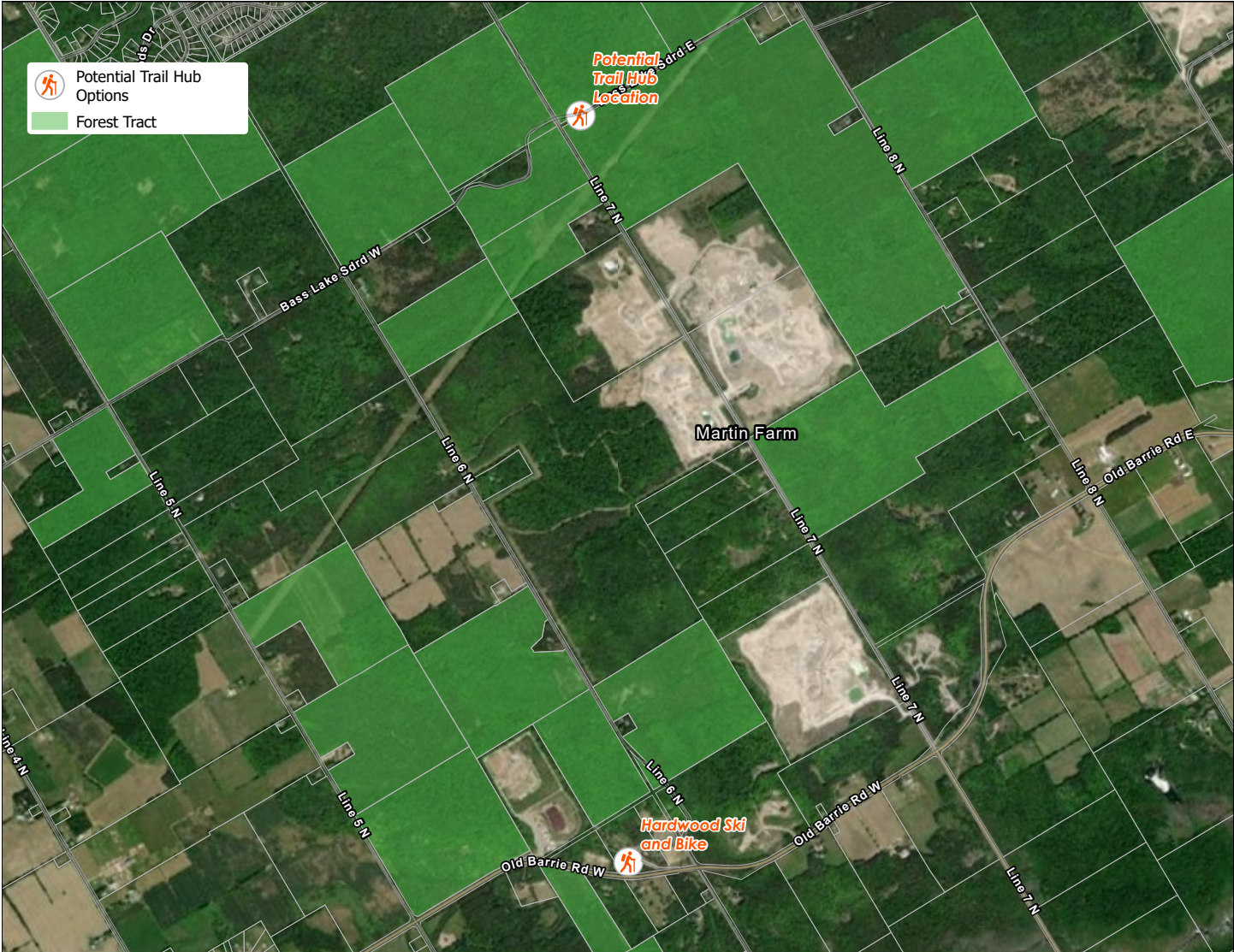
## 3.6. AN OUTDOOR SPORTS TRAIL HUB

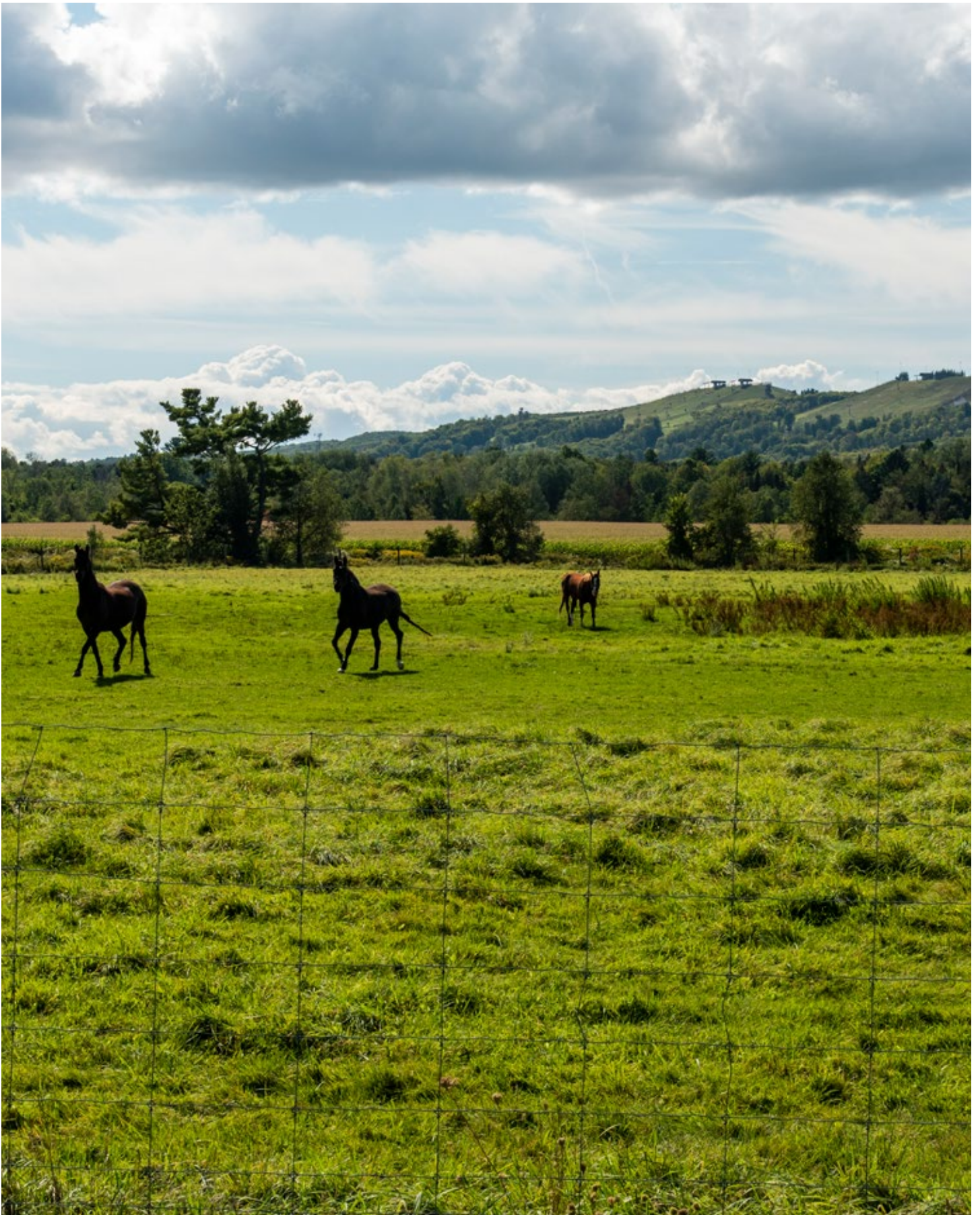
Trail based sports and activities are widely enjoyed by residents and are increasingly recognized as an important day and overnight visitor attractions. The Tourism Gap Analysis Report further reflects the importance of trails and future opportunity to leverage trails to attract non-local visitation and increase duration of stays and spending for related activities. As a bold acknowledgement of the anticipated long-term popularity of trail-based sports and activities and associated economic and tourism benefits, the Master Plan guides the Township to facilitate the protection of the relevant (actively used) Simcoe County Forest Lands for recreational trail use and the creation of an Outdoor Sports Trail Hub. Two potential locations have been identified for this recommended hub with further analysis and partnership discussions required to finalize the best location. These efforts, combined with development of a formal management plan, will strengthen the stewardship of this important recreational area for long-term enjoyment and benefit.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO ANIMATE TRAILS IN THE TOWNSHIP

Trails are a significant asset in the Township that residents of all ages and interests can enjoy year round. Opportunities exist for increased trail “animation” that can create a sense of place and foster connections between recreation, heritage and the arts.

Art on Trails is a strategy for Oro-Medonte to align its extensive outdoor sports and recreational trails system with its creative economy and visitor attraction efforts. Art on Trails can interpret something of historical importance, allow rest or contemplation, or even be a destination itself. It can be temporary or permanent and be as varied as the people tasked with making it. Established trails, such as the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail and the Ganaraska Trail are prime routes to provide public art on trails, as are road cycling routes where art installations can be placed on adjacent public or private property. A Public Art on Trails initiative should be integrated with Township’s tourism partners and their respective ongoing initiatives.





*Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography*

## 3.7. DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WHERE IT MATTERS THE MOST

The Master Plan suggests that the Township re-engage as a direct provider of some recreation programming. These efforts should be focused on filling identified activity gaps that could include providing programs for which a community organization does not exist (or have sufficient capacity), providing opportunities for under-served populations, and helping meet programming needs for new or emerging activities. The Master Plan provides direction and tools that can help guide decision making on when the Township should directly provide programming.

The partnership between the Township and the Simcoe County District School Board to create a new community centre (and shared spaces) adjacent to Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park will offer new and exciting possibilities for recreation programming. Through future planning and ongoing assessment and adjustment, the Township will need to ensure that it optimizes the use of this space to provide a wide range of opportunities that are accessible to a wide range of ages and interests.





## 3.8. SUMMARY OF FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following table summarizes the targeted facility provision requirements for the next 10 years. These targets will be achieved through a combination of the “Big Moves” identified in this section as well as the forthcoming Actions Plan in Sections 4 – 9.

FACILITY TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL (FACILITY: POPULATION)	RECOMMENDED SERVICE LEVEL	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES REQUIRED BY 2031
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>			
Arenas	1:23,017	1:20,000	-
Township Gymnasiums	1:23,017	1:15,000	+1
Fitness Facilities	0	1:15,000	+1
Community Halls	1:3,288	Based on demand	-
Indoor Aquatics	0	Population of at least 30,000 required before this amenity is viable (trigger to initiate study).	-
Indoor/ Outdoor Field Houses	0	Based on demand	Consider providing if a P3 Partnership opportunity is viable.



FACILITY TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL (FACILITY: POPULATION)	RECOMMENDED SERVICE LEVEL	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES REQUIRED BY 2031
<b>OUTDOOR FACILITIES</b>			
Rectangular Fields	3 rectangular field sites have been used; however these sites have changing levels of access. There are currently no permanent full-sized fields available.	1:10,000	+2
Ball Diamonds	1:7,672 (lit diamonds) / 1:3,836 (total diamonds)	1:4,000	+2
Tennis Courts	1:7,672	1:7,000	-
Pickleball Courts (dedicated)	0	Increase service levels and base future investment decisions on data that provides insights into trends, utilization of existing capacity as well as the impacts of the new indoor space at Horseshoe Valley as well as other courts recommended to come online (e.g. recommended Guthrie courts).	Increase supply as validated through ongoing needs assessment and wherever possible develop pickleball courts in increments of 8 courts.
Playgrounds	1:1,771	1:1,500	+4
Multi-Sport Courts	1:2,302	1:2,200	-
Outdoor Rinks	1:3,836	Based on demand	-
Pump Tracks / Skateboard Parks	0	Based on demand	Consider increasing supply (additional planning required)
Dog Parks	0	Based on demand	-



# 4

## ACTION PLANS FOR INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Action Plans for arenas, gymnasiums, fitness and wellness facilities, community halls, indoor aquatics, and indoor / outdoor multi-sport turf facilities.



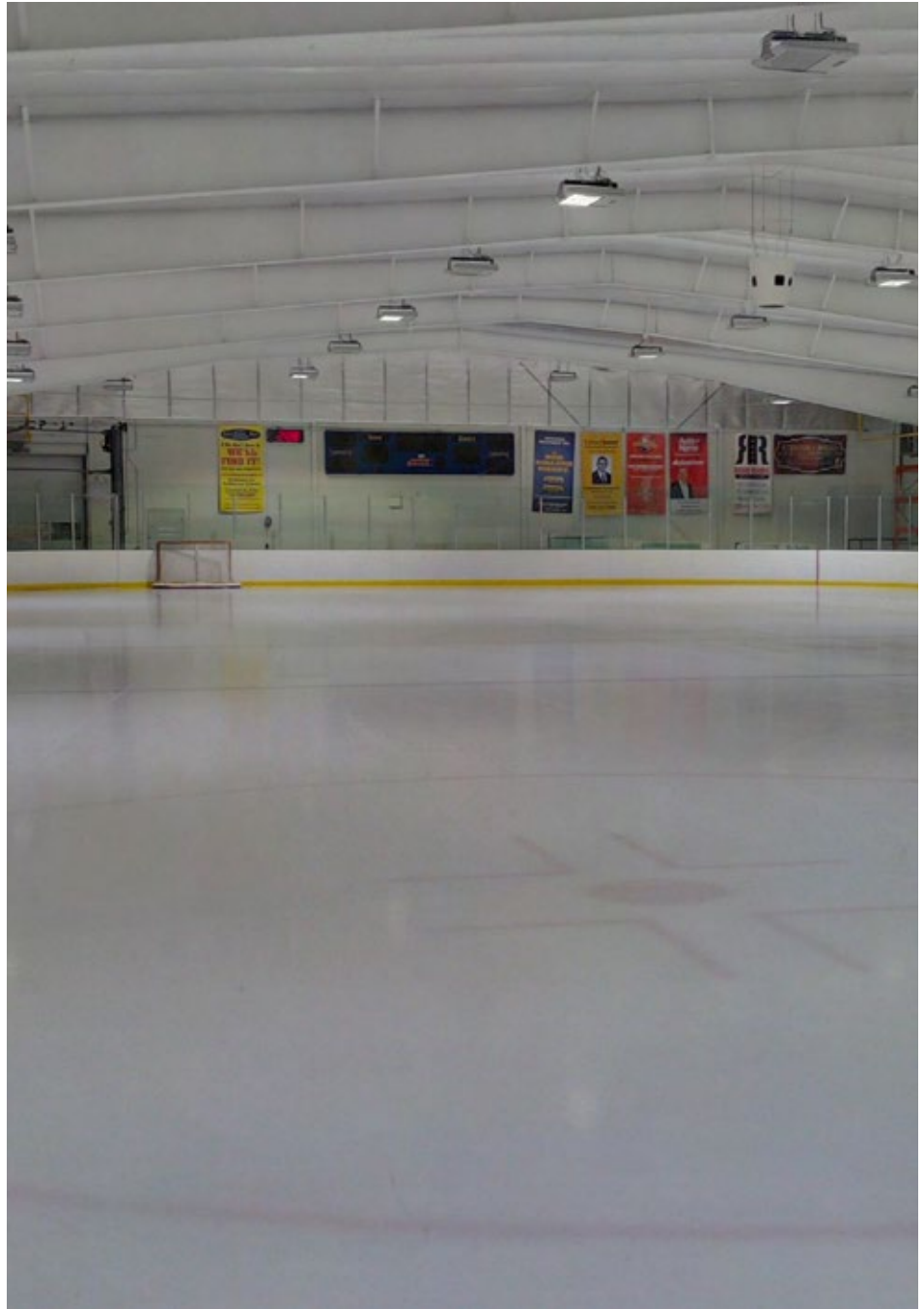
# 4.1. INDOOR ARENAS

## KEY FACTS

- # 1 sheet of arena ice located at the Oro-Medonte Community Arena
- 👤 **Level of Service:** 1:23,017
- 📈 **Vital Statistics:** Minor sports utilizes the largest proportion of available prime time capacity (70%) followed by adult leagues (23%).











## CURRENT SUPPLY CHARACTERISTICS

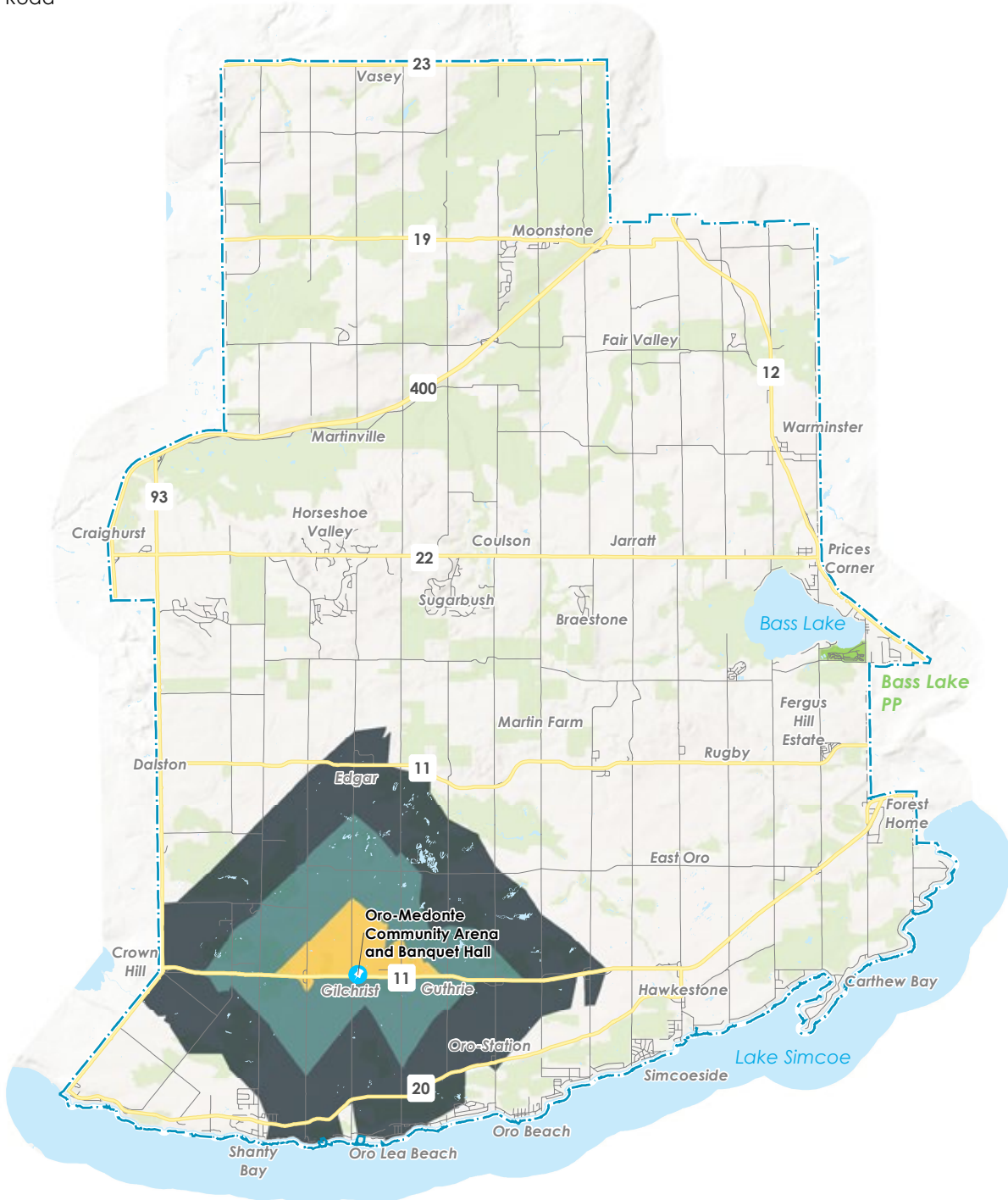
The maps on the following pages reflect key accessibility and proximity characteristics of the arena supply in Oro-Medonte and the broader region.



# CATCHMENT AREA OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT ARENA








## Legend

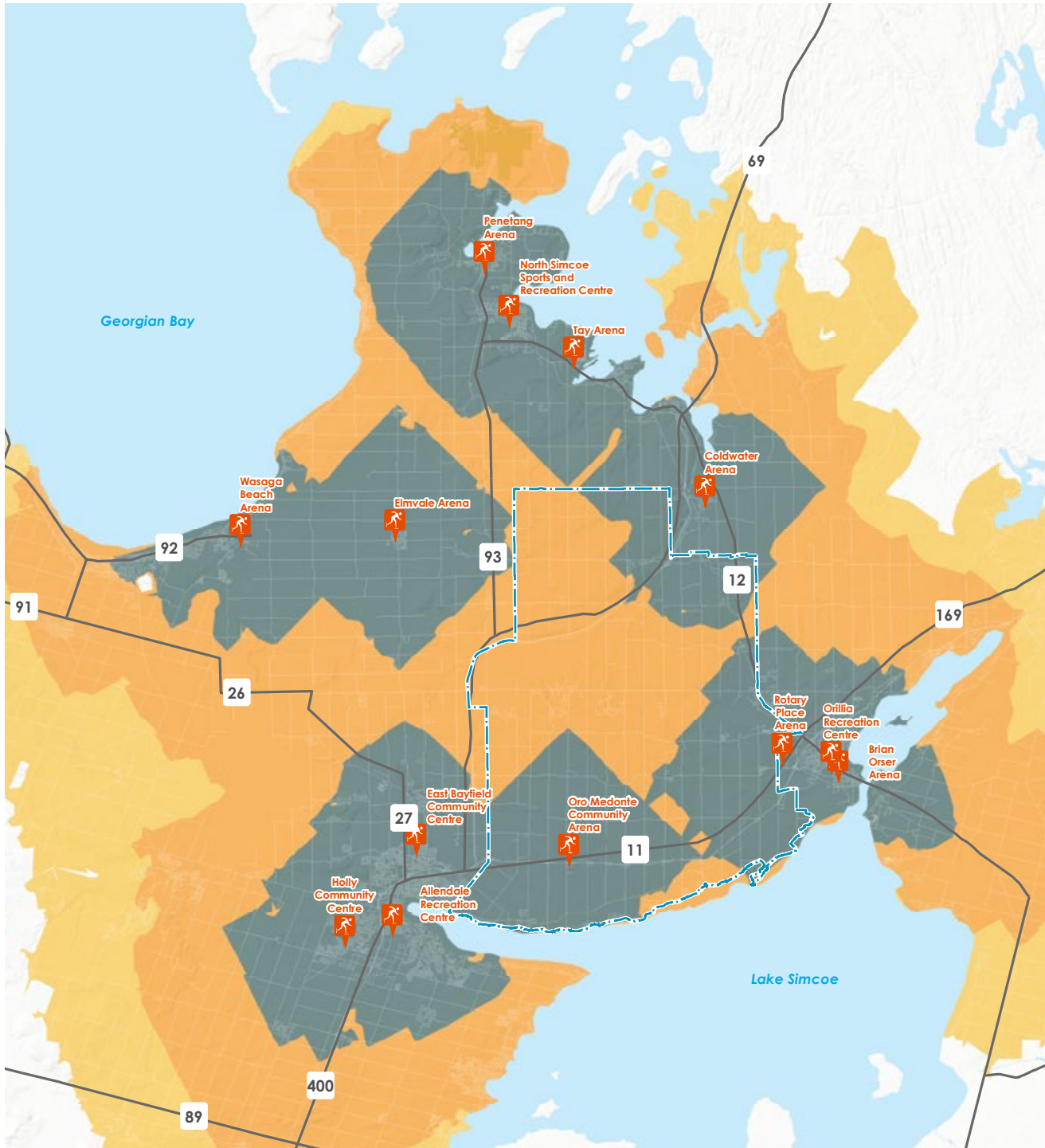
-  Study Area
-  Waterbody
-  Provincial Park
-  Wetland | Forest Tract | Significant Woodland
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Arena
-  Areas that have access to an Arena within 2.5 km (±5 minute drive)
-  Areas that have access to an Arena within 5.0 km (±10 minute drive)
-  Areas that have access to an Arena within 7.5 km (±15 minute drive)



# REGIONAL SUPPLY OF INDOOR ARENAS

## Legend

-  Study Area
-  Highway
-  Waterbody
-  Multi-Complex Recreation Facility with Arena
-  Areas that have access to an Arena within a 10 km distance (±10 minute drive)
-  Areas that have access to an Arena within a 20 km distance (±20 minute drive)
-  Areas that have access to an Arena within a 30 km distance (±30 minute drive)



## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Compared to other similar communities, there is a slightly below average provision of ice arenas on a per capita basis (# of residents per ice sheet). However, there is a strong supply of regional arenas that are accessible to residents. 28% of household survey respondents indicated that they use ice arenas in surrounding communities.
- The Oro-Medonte Community arena is located adjacent to Highway 11, allowing for good access to the facility, however there are parts of the community that have better access to other arena facilities located outside of the Township boundary - see the regional arena access map on the previous page.
- Utilization has remained relatively stable over the last several years, with 84% prime time utilization (41% total utilization) in 2019 prior to the pandemic. With high regional access to facilities in nearby communities and some evidence of a decline in certain program areas (see below), sufficient capacity exists within the system to accommodate current and future use.
- Youth preferences have been shifting towards individual pursuits and unstructured sporting activities. Oro- Medonte Minor Hockey has reported a membership drop of 12- 25% over the last couple of seasons, but experienced growth prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The long term impacts of the pandemic on organized remain somewhat unknown and will require monitoring.
- Organized hockey and ice skating (casual or organized) are top 10 activities for residents. Youth in the community indicated that hockey was one of their top 3 activities.
- 53% of respondents indicated that they use the Oro-Medonte Arena at least once per year (23% identified regular use).
- 27% of households identified arenas as a priority for enhancement and 27% suggested more arenas should be developed.
- The Oro-Medonte Arena remains a valued community hub for residents and user groups. The location of the arena makes the facility and site easily accessible for many local and regional residents.
- User groups have a preference for prime time ice slots that are appealing and accessible to their participants. The Township's ice allocations policy will continue to be an important guiding document that helps ensure ice is allocated equitably and in a transparent manner.
- The Oro-Medonte Arena last received significant capital re-investment in 2014. Like all aging facilities, investment will continue to be required to sustain the facility at a safe and functional level. The overall operations of the arena and the cost of providing ice to local community organizations is also highly subsidized. The Township will need to balance ensuring financial accessibility to the arena with financial sustainability.
- Minor hockey boundaries are not aligned with municipal boundaries and have an impact on where children and youth participate (e.g. children/youth in Moonstone are required to play for Coldwater Minor Hockey). These factors need to be taken into account when determining future regional arena supply.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Ice utilization is strong, but the current supply is not regularly stressing available capacity given proximity to ice capacity within the broader region.
- The broader region (Township and adjacent jurisdictions) is well supplied with arena ice. Many youth and adult hockey participants regularly use ice in jurisdictions that they do not reside. It is also important to note that minor hockey boundaries do not correspond with municipal boundaries.
- Post-pandemic utilization levels and the impact on regional needs for indoor ice are uncertain.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Ensure continued data collection, analysis and trends scanning are undertaken so that data exists to adequately inform future strategic planning.
- Ensure asset management practices sustain the existing arena facility and plan for replacement in the next 10-15 years.
- Approach regional municipalities about developing a regional Ice Arena Strategy.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Aim for a service level standard of 1 arena: 20,000 residents. Based on this service level standard, the Township should begin considering the addition of a second sheet of ice when the population exceeds 30,000 residents.
- Undertake an Ice Arena Strategy in the mid-term (5-7 years) to explore potential options and financial impacts of adding a second sheet of ice and the best approach for replacing the existing area when it reaches the end of its life (10-15 years). This Strategy should consider regional ice arena provision and may be best conducted in partnership with other regional municipalities. Given the operational efficiencies of twin ice surfaces, the study should also explore future, long-term options to build the second sheet of ice and replace the existing arena at the same location.



## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities




## 4.2. GYMNASIUMS

### KEY FACTS

# The partnership with the Simcoe County District School Board for the new community centre at Horseshoe Valley will significantly add to the supply of gymnasium space available for both daytime and evening public use and programming.










 **Level of Service:**  
1:23,017

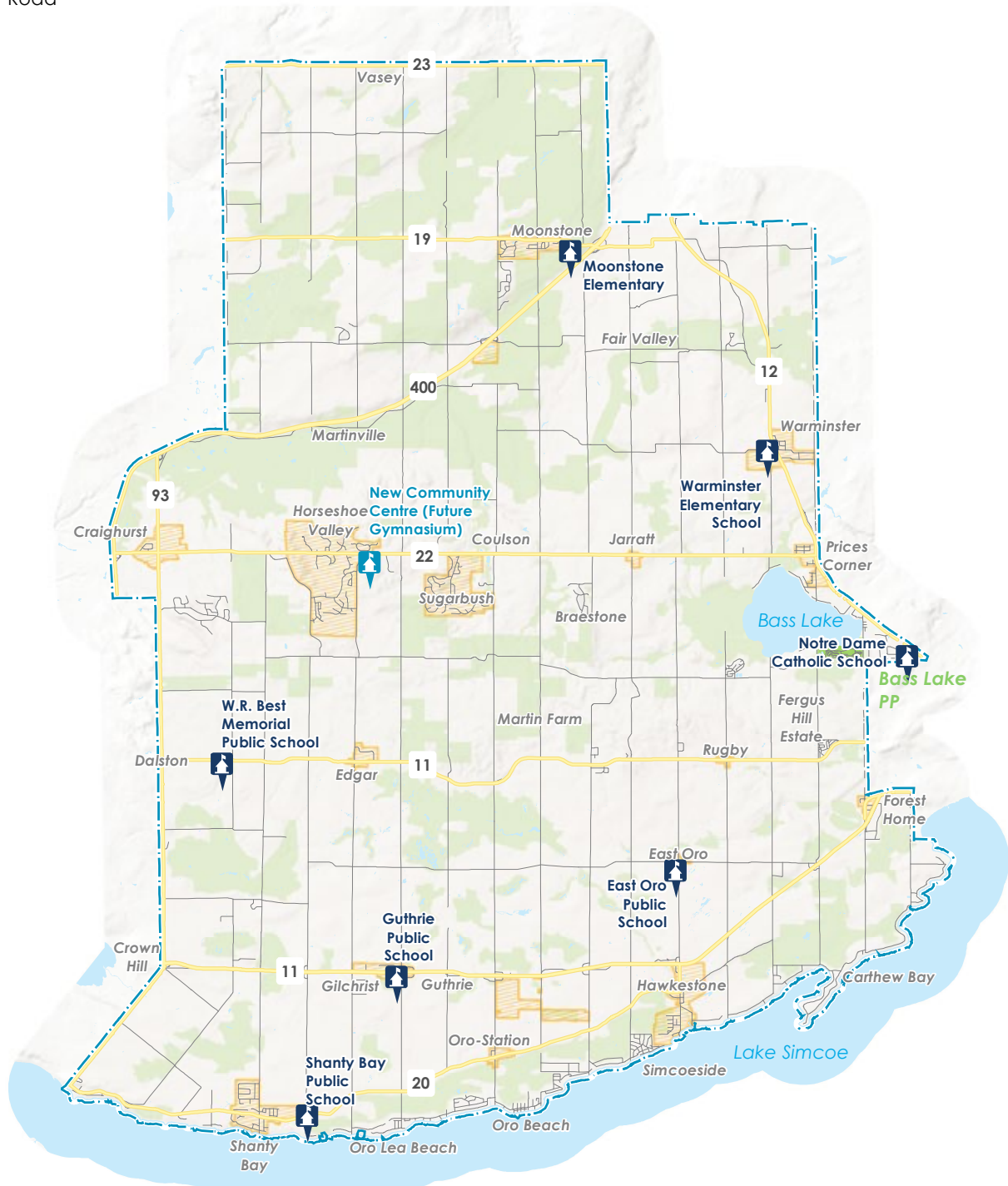
 **Vital Statistics:** Data on community use of school gymnasiums is limited, but the indicators that do exist suggest that there is minimal availability and/or use.



# GYMNASIUM DISTRIBUTION

## Legend

-  Study Area
-  Waterbody
-  Provincial Park
-  Wetland | Forest Tract | Significant Woodland
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Settlement Areas
-  Future Gymnasium
-  Existing Gym



## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Through the partnership with the Simcoe County District School Board for the new community centre space in Horseshoe Valley, the Township will directly operate half of the gymnasium space, with additional gymnasium space also made available for community use through the partnership. The Township's investment in this project enabled a larger gymnasium to be built, therefore enhancing and expanding access to much needed community gymnasium space for programming and casual use.
- Elementary schools are distributed across Oro-Medonte. Prior to pandemic disruptions, these gymnasiums offered some community access and available data suggests that many gymnasiums have capacity. However, access to school gymnasiums is limited by a multitude of factors, including available custodians, competing and tenured groups, and the size / suitability of the gymnasiums. Additionally, the School Board requires proof of insurance which is a barrier for some smaller and casual user groups.
- Participation in indoor court sports such as basketball and volleyball has increased, particularly with basketball and the success of Canadian athletes in the NBA and internationally. Indoor pickleball has also significantly grown in popularity and is now commonly played in all seasons in gymnasiums across Canada.
- 35% household survey respondents felt that more gymnasiums should be developed and 15% of respondents indicated that gymnasiums should be enhanced. Basketball was identified in the youth survey as one of the top ten activities that youth enjoy participating in. Gymnasiums have good potential to be utilized for addressing program area gaps, including the lack of organized sport teams, leagues and clubs for children and youth.
- Many students are interested in personal fitness and individual pursuits. Youth retention in sports is a challenge.
- Some stakeholders noted that school sports in the community are not competitive. Several groups providing activities in the community indicated that they can't get sufficient access to facilities and spaces for programming.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Gymnasiums provide a highly flexible, multi-purpose space that can accommodate a variety of uses.
- While pre-pandemic school gymnasiums were not used to their full capacity during non-school hours; available times, accessibility, custodial overtime, and insurance requirements likely presented a barrier for many groups.
- The new Horseshoe Valley Community Centre and Gymnasium will be commissioned in the short-term and will need to be animated to maximize the benefits of this space.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE / STRATEGY (SITE OR TOWNSHIP WIDE LEVEL)

- Develop an operating plan for the new Community Centre and Gymnasium at Horseshoe Valley. The plan should detail staffing, programming, space allocation priority, and associated operational cost estimates.
- Engage in ongoing dialogue with school board officials.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Aim for a service level standard of 1 community-owned gymnasium for every 15,000 residents. This service level suggests that the Township should begin exploring the viability of another community gymnasium in the short to mid-term (0 – 7 years).
- Activate the new Horseshoe Valley Community Centre and Gymnasium and ensure space allocation and animation achieves the best mix of structured and spontaneous use.
- The Township should continue to coordinate provision and work with schools to maximize community access.
- Consider gymnasium partnership opportunities if/when school redevelopment or new development occurs.

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

## 4.3. FITNESS AND WELLNESS FACILITIES

### KEY FACTS

# The Township does not currently provide or operate dedicated fitness facilities.

 **Level of Service:** n/a

#### **Vital Statistics:**

Personal fitness and individual pursuits are a growing trend among youth, adults, and older adults. While private fitness studios have become increasingly popular in communities across Canada, public sector involvement in the fitness market can help address gaps and actually support the private sector by offering introductory opportunities and knowledge (e.g. a pathway to private sector demand).

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- The broader region is well supplied for fitness facilities; most of Oro-Medonte's residents are within a 20-minute drive to access an existing fitness facility in another community.
- Municipal fitness centres tend to function as more than just spaces to be physically active; they also bring diverse groups of people together, provide spaces for formal and informal gathering, and help to promote sense of community across typical dividing lines such as socio-economic status, different generations, and resident lifestyle cohorts.
- The demographics in Oro-Medonte are predominantly characterized by mature singles and couples, middle-aged families and older families and empty nesters. Typically, these demographics strongly value the importance of a rural lifestyle thus may favour a public fitness facility over a private fitness studio that younger adults are generally attracted to.
- Almost half of household survey respondents (49%) would like to see an indoor fitness facility developed in Oro-Medonte.
- 54% of survey respondents already visit a private or public fitness facility in a surrounding community weekly.
- Community halls are not well equipped for advanced or dynamic types of fitness classes, but do provide suitable space for more passive fitness classes and programs (e.g. yoga, Pilates, etc.).
- A market study and business case for a fitness centre in the Horseshoe Valley Corridor was conducted in 2019 and confirmed market demand for a dedicated fitness facility to be provided by the Township.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

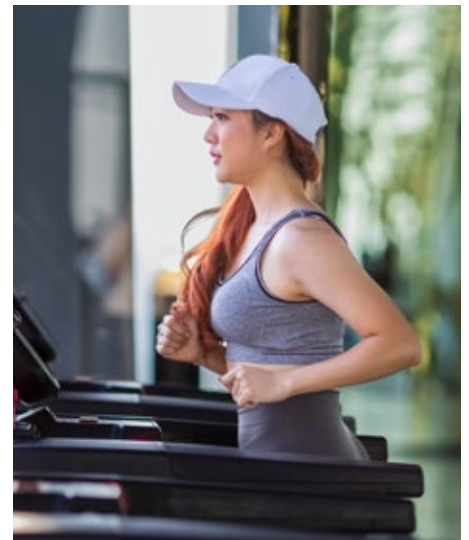
- Fitness and wellness facilities are in-demand amenities, however the market conditions for this amenity type are fluid and continually evolving due to both public and private sector provision.
- The new community centre at Horseshoe Valley will provide gymnasium space that can facilitate daytime and evening fitness and wellness programming. Future phases also include the potential for a fitness centre that can support spontaneous / individualized fitness activity.
- Fitness facilities can be a driver of facility memberships and revenues.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Locate a Township fitness centre at sites that provide other recreation facilities.
- Investigate partnership opportunities with the Horseshoe Valley Resort to jointly provide a public / resort user fitness facility.
- Continue to monitor fitness trends and market conditions.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Aim for a service level standard of 1 municipal fitness centre for every 15,000 residents. This service level suggests that the Township is deficient in the short term.
- Maximize fitness and wellness programming opportunities at the new community gymnasium.
- Consider including a fitness centre as part of future school-community gymnasium developments.
- Be open to partnerships with both public and private sector entities to meet resident needs for fitness facilities and programming.



## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.


Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

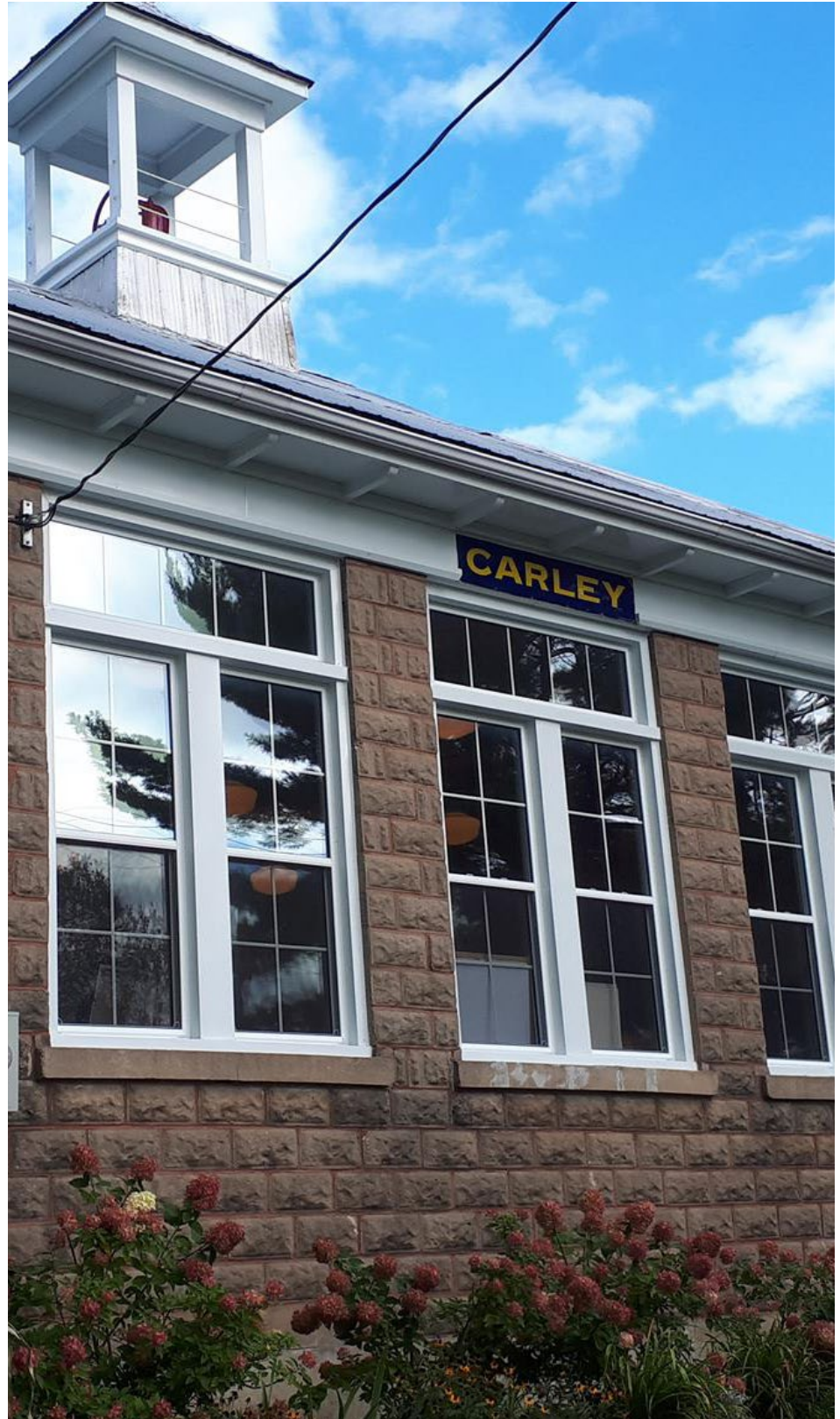
## 4.4. COMMUNITY HALLS

### KEY FACTS

# 7 community halls: Jarratt, Hawkestone, Carley, Eady, Edgar, Rugby Community Hall (not owned by the Township), and Oro-Station (not owned by the Township)












 **Level of Service:** 1:3,288

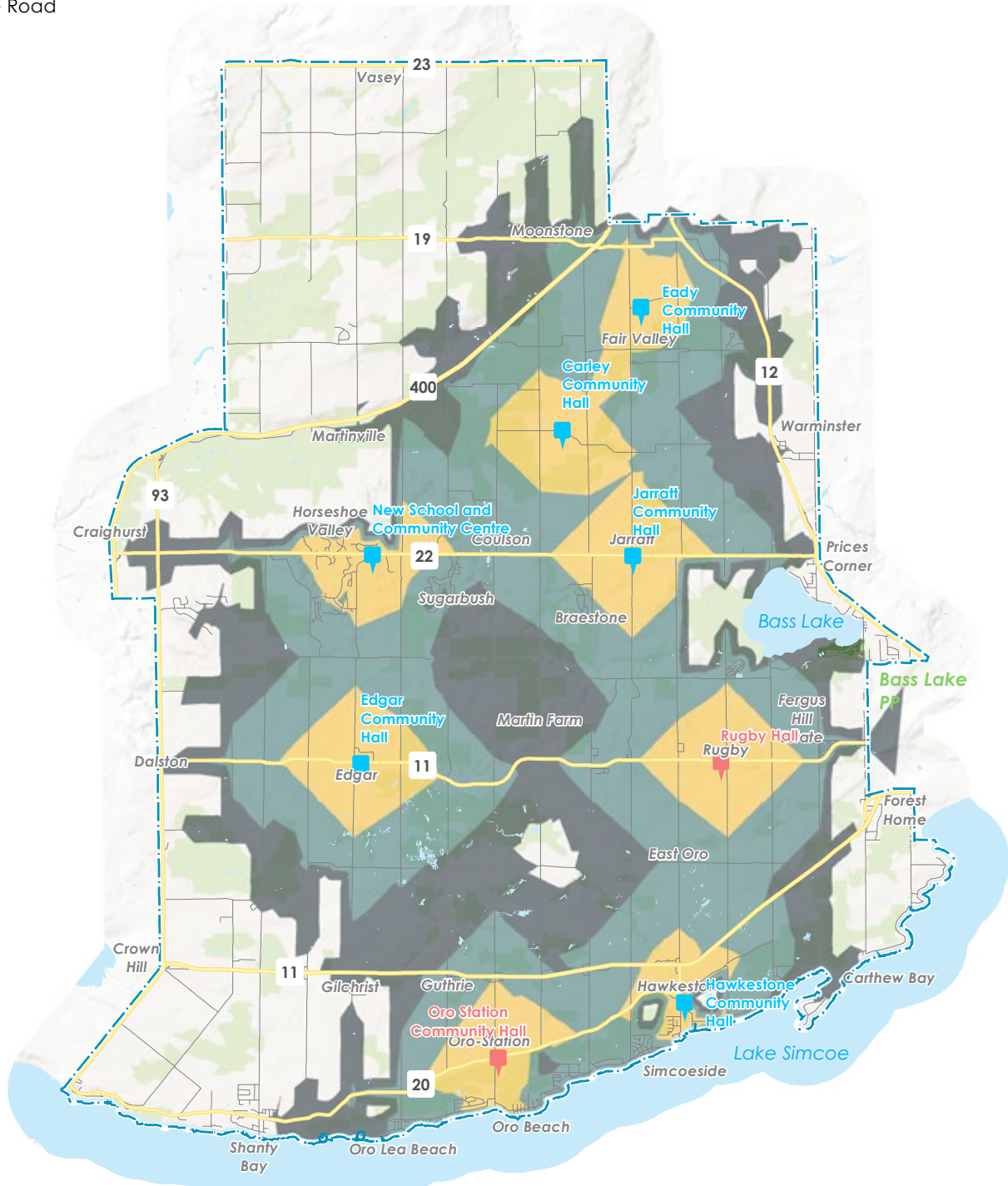
 **Vital Statistics:** Five of the seven halls are owned by the Township. Historically, most halls have been volunteer operated Hall Boards. Changes in volunteerism, activity preferences / trends, and population distribution have challenged some halls and required more direct involvement by the Township. While most halls are generally in acceptable condition, AODA regulations and modern space needs for recreation and community programming present challenges to maximizing use of the halls and their continued viability.



# COMMUNITY HALL DISTRIBUTION & PROXIMITY

## Legend

-  Study Area
-  Waterbody
-  Provincial Park
-  Wetland | Forest Tract | Significant Woodland
-  Highway
-  Road
-  Municipal Owned Community Hall
-  Non-Municipally Owned Community Hall
-  Areas that have access to a Community Hall within 2.5 km (±5 minute drive)
-  Areas that have access to a Community Hall within 5.0 km (±10 minute drive)
-  Areas that have access to a Community Hall within 7.5 km (±15 minute drive)





## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- The majority of residents live within a 15-minute drive of a community hall, with a high proportion having access to multiple halls within a 15 minute drive.
- As older structures, all existing community halls require continuous maintenance and repair. While some community halls have made accessibility accommodations, none meet AODA regulations and it is unlikely that such upgrades to meet these requirements will be viable given the age and pre-existing condition factors.
- Based on current Township Policy, volunteer hall Boards are responsible for covering the operating expenses of the Halls (through rental & fundraising revenue generation) while the Township is responsible for insurance, lifecycle repairs, snow removal, grass cutting and water septic system maintenance. Boards are also responsible for generating 50% of the cost of major capital requirements, but this has been a challenge for all the boards for any recently completed major capital projects.
- Most community halls have consistent weekly and monthly users with Carley and Eady Halls currently on a long-term rental to a not-for-profit private school organization.
- Halls generally still have capacity to accommodate small- to medium-scale special events or group activities, with the potential to expand community group usage of the Halls for programming. Booking the Halls was traditionally the responsibility of the Board; however, the Township has assumed this responsibility to provide consistent customer service to users.
- While Halls are intended to serve a localized catchment area, only two Halls in the Township are located directly in settlement areas (Oro-Station and Hawkestone).
- Many municipalities have assumed full responsibility for publicly owed community halls due to the complexity of shared management with existing volunteer organizations and overall changes in volunteerism and community group capacity.
- 21% of survey respondents indicated that they use community halls at least once a year and 10% of survey respondents residents indicated that they use community halls one or more times a month. Community halls and social gathering spaces are top of mind for survey respondents, 31% of respondents agreed that community halls are an indoor amenity for enhancement and 22% of households indicating that they feel that more community halls should be developed.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Community halls in the Township are longstanding and valued by many residents.
- Amenity functionality and condition of the halls vary and are generally unsuitable for active recreation programs and activities.
- Some of the halls receive moderate levels of utilization, while others are not well utilized. Low to moderate utilization should be expected in the future as there is limited public demand for facilities of this nature.
- The Township assuming a greater role and overall responsibility for customer service will improve efficiency, effectiveness, and reduce risk.
- Many halls struggle with finding sufficient volunteers, limiting operational capacity.
- In recent years, many halls have not been able to meet fundraising goals for capital improvements and other ongoing functions.
- AODA regulations as well as other accessibility and functional challenges limit the activities and associated revenue generation opportunities for halls.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Further develop and finalize the suggested Community Hall Decision Making Framework (refine the suggested criteria and associated scoring threshold).
- For Halls that are sustained, support regular condition assessments to ensure safety and up to date data exists that can help prioritize upgrades and enhancements.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The Township should assume full responsibility for community hall operations and maintenance. Existing halls Boards should transition to a Community Hall Activation role in situations where utilization and other factors support continuing hall operations.
- B. The Township should utilize the recommended Community Hall Provision Framework to determine the future viability of community halls and direct future decision making. This Framework will help the Township determine whether a hall should be sustained for general use, exclusive use, or decommissioned.
- C. As recommended in the 2010 Strategic Facilities Plan, the Township should work towards a long-term approach of developing consolidated halls in Moonstone and Shanty Bay that can meet diverse community programming and social gathering space needs.





## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

# Community Hall Provision Framework

## COMMUNITY HALL CONTEXT AND THE NEED FOR A REALISTIC APPROACH

Community halls across the Township are longstanding, valued, but aging assets that will require significant investment. As previously noted, shifts in recreation, leisure and culture activities and preferences, AODA requirements, and modern space and amenity needs have impacted how and how frequently these facilities are used. The following Policy Statements, Principles, and Community Hall Provision Options and Framework are intended to outline a transparent and logical approach to future decision making and investment related to community halls.



## POLICY STATEMENTS

These Statements reflect the Township's long-term interest in the provision of existing community halls.

- Existing community halls provide public benefit if they are supported by the community and support community-driven social and leisure opportunities.
- Existing community halls are not designed to accommodate present day demands and expectations for most types of active recreation programming that requires larger span space and support amenities, but can meet passive recreation and social gathering needs.
- Existing community halls are not heavily used facilities and there are few practical measures available to increase utilization.
- The Township will continue to support the provision of existing community halls if there is public benefit in doing so; otherwise, it will consider decommissioning.
- Over time, as existing community halls reach the end of their functional lifespan and require decommissioning (or no longer justify significant investment) Township will work towards developing a consolidated "hub" of indoor multi-purpose community centre facilities. Ideally, these facilities will be co-located with other civic infrastructure like schools or municipal buildings in order to capitalize on operational synergies.

## PRINCIPLES FOR OPERATION OF EXISTING COMMUNITY HALLS

These Principles will guide the Township's operation of existing community halls.

- An existing community hall will be maintained primarily to support community-driven programs and activities for residents and as a civic gathering place of public and private gatherings and events.
- The Township will operate and maintain each of the five community halls.
- The Township will not directly deliver recreation programs in community halls, however the Township will support these programs through marketing and advertising initiatives to help encourage participation. A Hall Activation Committee must be in place to support community-driven and delivery of programs, activities and events that generate a reasonable amount of monthly use.
- The Township will consider a long-term rental arrangement with a tenant if there is public benefit to the broader Township in doing so.
- The ongoing provision of an existing community hall will be based on the public benefit the facility provides.
- The Township will work with local Hall Activation Committees to develop annual business plans.

## COMMUNITY HALL PROVISION OPTIONS

Three Options and their related criteria, triggers, considerations, and responsibilities will guide how decision making about how the Township manages community hall uses over time.

- **Option 1: General Use:** This option retains public access to the community hall for public programs, social gatherings and events, and private rentals. Long-term rental contracts are not permitted due to anticipated conflicts with short-term bookings. A community hall "Activation Committee" remains in place to support community-driven provision of programs, events, and activities.
- **Option 2: Exclusive Use:** This option recognizes the continued importance of public ownership of the facility in support of a long-term rental or tenant agreement that provides public benefits to residents of Oro-Medonte.
- **Option 3: Decommission:** This option acknowledges that continued operation of the community hall is no longer viable or financially sustainable. Proceeds from the disposition of assets should be applied to a recreation or park development project that aligns with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Transfer of full operational responsibility or ownership from the Township to a community-based organization is not a recommended option. Newly established not-for-profit organizations that may have interest in assuming these responsibilities are unlikely to be financially sustainable without significant and ongoing assistance from the Township. The recommended approach intends to create community champions and advocates that can help support sustainability by encouraging use and identify opportunities for innovative space animation.

The following table outlines the decision making considerations and requirements associated with each of the three potential options.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY HALL PROVISION OPTIONS

	<b>OPTION 1: GENERAL USE (CONTINUED PUBLIC ACCESS)</b>	<b>OPTION 2: EXCLUSIVE USE</b>	<b>OPTION 3: DECOMMISSIONING</b>
<b>Conditions for selecting this option</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient volunteer interest exists to form a Community Hall Activation Committee that can champion the facility at a local level and support ongoing use.</li> <li>• The hall is rented at least 6 times per month on average.</li> <li>• The facility does not require significant capital reinvestment in the short term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Option 1 conditions cannot be met, but a long-term tenant arrangement is available for consideration.</li> <li>• The facility does not require significant capital reinvestment in the short term (or the potential tenant is willing to cost share on needed upgrades / improvements).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither Option 1 or 2 are available or viable.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Benefit and Access Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under this option, the hall would remain available for ongoing public access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While public access may be limited, the tenant arrangement is deemed to provide a public benefit (e.g. provides space for a needed service, continues to enable some level of rental access, etc.).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decommissioning reduces the taxpayer burden and risk for a building that is no longer deemed viable.</li> </ul>
<b>Township Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bookings and administration.</li> <li>• Capital repairs and maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the lease agreement (e.g. capital maintenance responsibilities to be clearly defined).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determining the best future use of the site.</li> </ul>

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY HALL PROVISION OPTIONS (CONTINUED)

	OPTION 1: GENERAL USE (CONTINUED PUBLIC ACCESS)	OPTION 2: EXCLUSIVE USE	OPTION 3: DECOMMISSIONING
<b>Community Hall Activation Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adherence to the terms of reference developed for each Committee.</li> <li>Work with the Township to develop an annual business plan.</li> <li>Support, organize or deliver community-based programs, events, and activities.</li> <li>Champion use of the hall locally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Tenant Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing upkeep and capital maintenance responsibilities as per the lease agreement.</li> <li>Adherence to any public access requirements identified in the lease agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

## 4.5. INDOOR AQUATICS

### KEY FACTS

# The Township does not provide indoor aquatic facilities; residents rely on using nearby indoor aquatic facilities.

The Closest indoor aquatics facilities are in Barrie, Wasaga Beach, Orillia, and Midland. 50% of residents travel to surrounding communities to use a pool or aquatic facility annually and 21% travel to utilize weekly.

 **Level of Service:** n/a

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Few municipalities with dispersed, rural populations provide an indoor aquatics facility because of the high per capita capital and operating costs. Indoor aquatics provision typically relies upon neighbouring municipalities; some rural municipalities have formal partnerships to secure access for their residents at local user and program fees.
- Water education and safety programs for children and youth was the most popular programming need indicated on the household survey, with 33% of respondents indicating that they feel it should be a priority for program investment in the area.
- Recreational Swimming was indicated as one of the most popular recreation activities on the youth survey and was in the top 5 for indoor recreation activities on the household survey.
- Residents identified aquatic facilities as their top amenity for development (51%).
- There is a public beach at Bayview Memorial Park and Horseshoe Valley Resort operates an outdoor swimming pond and indoor pool for resort guests. Resident memberships are available that provide a degree of public access to an aquatics facility.





## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- There is a strong level of demand for aquatics, however the economics associated with pool development and operations are significant and often prohibitive for communities under 30,000 residents.
- Aquatics facilities are provided by other urban municipalities in the region; while utilization data isn't comprehensively available from these facilities, the engagement findings and anecdotal evidence suggest that Township residents use these facilities.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Arrange for adjacent municipalities to collect and provide annual statistics on the number of Oro-Medonte residents that participated in aquatics programming. Collected over time, this data will inform future efforts to assess options for supporting or providing indoor aquatics.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Undertake an Aquatics Facility Feasibility Study when the Township's population is approaching 30,000 residents.
- Consider a financial contribution to municipalities in the region that offer indoor aquatics (City of Orillia, City of Barrie and potentially the Midland YMCA) to ensure Township residents continue to have access to these facilities at the local resident rates. This financial contribution could be an agreed to lump sum amount or based on levels of Township resident use.



## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

## 4.6. INDOOR / OUTDOOR MULTI-SPORT TURF FACILITIES

### KEY FACTS

# The Township does not provide indoor or outdoor artificial turf facilities.

Nearby artificial outdoor turf is available in Orillia and Barrie, but there are no municipally operated facilities that supply operate indoor artificial turf. The Sports Dome in Barrie is operated by a private company on land leased by the City (this agreement is nearing completion at this of Master Plan preparation).

There were approximately 760 children that played soccer in Oro-Medonte in 2021.

 **Level of Service:** n/a

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- The provision of sports fields in the Township is limited. The existing field at Warminster is not a high quality field and the Burls Creek Event Ground site does not have long-term viability for public access.
- Soccer is one of the most popular sports in Canada and participation in the sport has increased over the past decade, particularly with the success Canada's men's and female's team on the world stage. The affordability of soccer is likely to contribute to continued participation.
- Indoor turf supports a high volume of simultaneous activity and a broad range of sports including soccer, field lacrosse, football, rugby, indoor golf practice and instruction, and ball sports (training only).
- An indoor multi-sport facility was indicated as a priority by 49% of survey respondents as a facility that should be developed. Outdoor sports fields for sports such as soccer, football, or rugby, were indicated as an outdoor facility priority by over one-quarter of respondents.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- There's evidence of resident interest and support for an indoor multi-sport facility based on the findings from the resident survey. The limited regional supply of indoor turf will drive high utilization to 'first-to-market' facility providers.
- Multi-sport indoor facilities, such as covered turf fields or permanent structures, are trending as they facilitate a variety of activities and support year-round field sports activities.
- The Guthrie site is an ideal location for providing this facility, given the high level of access it offers residents and regional users. Indoor and outdoor artificial turf was a key component of the planned sports complex at Guthrie.
- There are several models to provide this type of amenity, including public-private partnerships.
- This type of facility typically services a regional catchment of competitive and recreational field sport participants. Existing soccer organizations do not offer competitive programs/teams currently.
- Existing field sport organizations in Oro-Medonte will require a period of transition to shift existing programs that use natural turf at multiple locations to artificial turf at a single, central location.
- Developing a high quality turf facility would create a hub for field user groups and other activities. Clear space allocations and priority guidelines will need to be created to determine how space is booked and distributed to ensure equitable access.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Assess the viability and opportunities for a multi-sport facility as part of the recommended Guthrie site development (more guidance provided in the subsequent section).

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Facility characteristics for a multi-sport facility should be investigated and confirmed in a feasibility study as there are many possible configurations and approaches. A seasonal air-supported dome installed over an entire or portion of an artificial turf field is a cost-effective option for serious consideration.
- Consider coordinating an inter-municipal approach to future planning for provision of indoor multi-sport turf facilities to minimize the potential of over-investment.
- Consider issuing a Request for Expressions of Interest from qualified indoor/outdoor artificial turf operators to assess interest in a public private partnership for the provision of an indoor artificial turf multi-sport facility at the Guthrie site.

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

# 5

## ACTION PLANS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Action Plans for outdoor recreation facilities and amenities, including a Multi-Sport Complex at Guthrie, sports fields (rectangular fields and ball diamonds, multi-purpose and purposed court spaces, playgrounds, and outdoor rinks).



# 5.1. A MULTI-SPORT COMPLEX AT GUTHRIE

A multi-sport complex at Guthrie is a preferred strategy for providing outdoor recreation facilities, including rectangular fields, ball diamonds, and pickleball courts along with major indoor facilities such indoor ice and indoor artificial turf. While facility specific considerations and recommendations are provided in this Section of the Master Plan, the co-location of several outdoor and indoor facilities requires more detailed guidance provided below.

The 38 Ha. Guthrie site is owned by the Township of Oro-Medonte and was previously marked for future development as a major sport complex for the Township. The catchment area of the site draws from majority of the population in Oro-Medonte and the site’s highway access makes it within a reasonable drivetime from residents in Orillia and Barrie. The site characteristics support a development programme that responds to the long-term facility and service

needs of Oro-Medonte residents, including the following recommended facility provisions identified in later sections of the Master Plan, which are highlighted below for Guthrie:

IDENTIFIED TOWNSHIP FACILITY NEEDS RECOMMENDED FOR GUTHRIE	POTENTIAL FACILITY PROVISION AT GUTHRIE THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM REGIONAL USERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 full size rectangular fields (or equivalent)</li> <li>• Dedicated pickleball court facility</li> <li>• Up to 4 adult ball diamonds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor artificial turf</li> </ul>



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Undertake a Market Assessment and Site Development Study to:
  - » Validate local and regional demand;
  - » Determine the optimal configuration of indoor and outdoor facilities at the Guthrie site;
  - » Identify land develop considerations and costs; and
  - » Establish a strategy for facility development and a long-term operating model.

# IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- **Trigger:** The development of the site as a Sport Complex should be led by immediate efforts to consolidate the provision of 2 full size rectangular fields (or equivalent standard configurations). These fields will satisfy future population and player-based demand over the next 7-10 years, with room for additional field provision over the longer term.
- **Opportunity:** There is evidence of local and regional demand for indoor artificial turf, the provision of which would allow field sport organizations to offer recreation programs and user development activities during the winter period. The Guthrie site is optimally located for providing indoor artificial turf but doing so will have several implications for provision of natural turf fields at the same location (i.e., an outdoor/indoor artificial turf field under an air supported structure would provide an outdoor artificial field for late spring and summer use that would reduce need for natural turf fields at the same site. A recommended Market Assessment and Site Development Study should be undertaken to determine the optimal field provision model for the Guthrie Site.
- **Intensity of Use:** Provision of a single outdoor only artificial turf field may satisfy the demand from two natural turf fields and may reduce overall capital development cost of fields provision and provide a unique playing experience for field users.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Provision and operation of indoor artificial turf should be, at minimum, cost neutral to the Township.
- **Site Development Costs:** Site preparation and development costs at the Guthrie site will represent a significant proportion of the overall capital cost of facility development.
- **Synergy:** Land development costs must be constrained by creating synergies between facilities and shared amenities. A single, high-capacity parking area should be provided to accommodate all site uses versus multiple parking areas. The internal road network must be kept minimal. Major structures and facilities should be close together to benefit from communal services and shorter utility runs, including the long-term replacement of the existing arena.
- **Public-Private Partnership:** There is likely to be strong interest through a formal Request for Expressions of Interest from experienced commercial indoor field house operators to partner with the Township to provide an indoor artificial turf facility. This option should be given consideration. It is unlikely that a non-for-profit sport organization has the financial capacity or experience to participate similarly.
- **Timing:** The opportunity to provide an indoor turf option is a 'first to market' one. Efforts should be taken with regional municipalities to coordinate future investment plans for indoor artificial turf to minimize the possibility of oversupplying the market.
- **Expansion:** Retaining an indoor arena at the Guthrie site over the long term is cost-effective for the Township due to synergies and amenity sharing. While significant investment was put into the existing arena within the past 10 years, the facility will need to be replaced at some point and future site development should identify options for doing so. While a second arena is unlikely to be required for some time, site planning should ensure that a second sheet can be added to create a twin arena facility in the long-term (ensure that site massing accounts for replacement of the existing arena with the option of adding a second sheet if needed).
- **Surplus:** There should be considerable surplus land available for alternative uses after spaces for field and future facility expansion are considered. Proceeds from the sale of surplus lands could offset development costs. Complementary alternative land uses should be mutually beneficial.

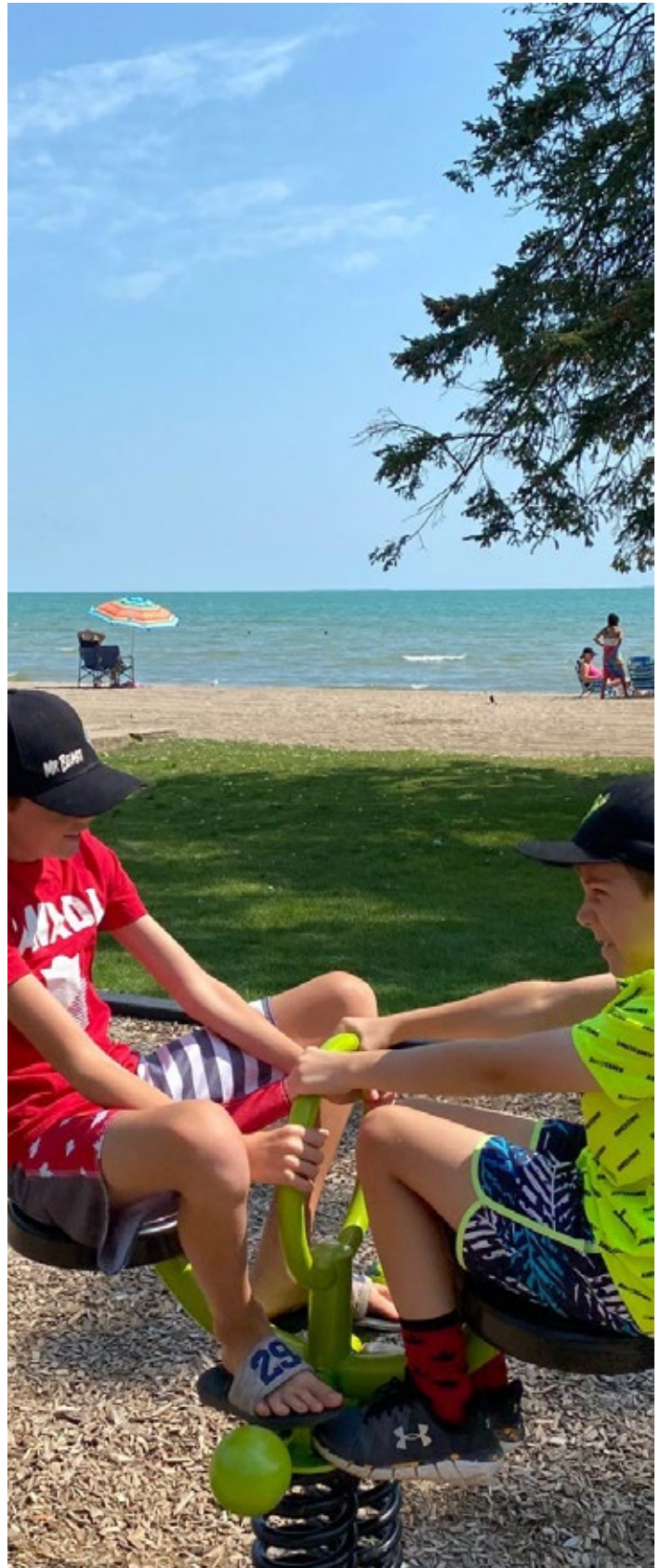
# FACILITY FIT STUDY AND PHASING CONSIDERATIONS

The recommended outdoor and indoor facilities and site amenities were included in a test-fit study of phased development of the Guthrie parkland (see Figures A and B on the following pages). The objectives for this test-fit included:

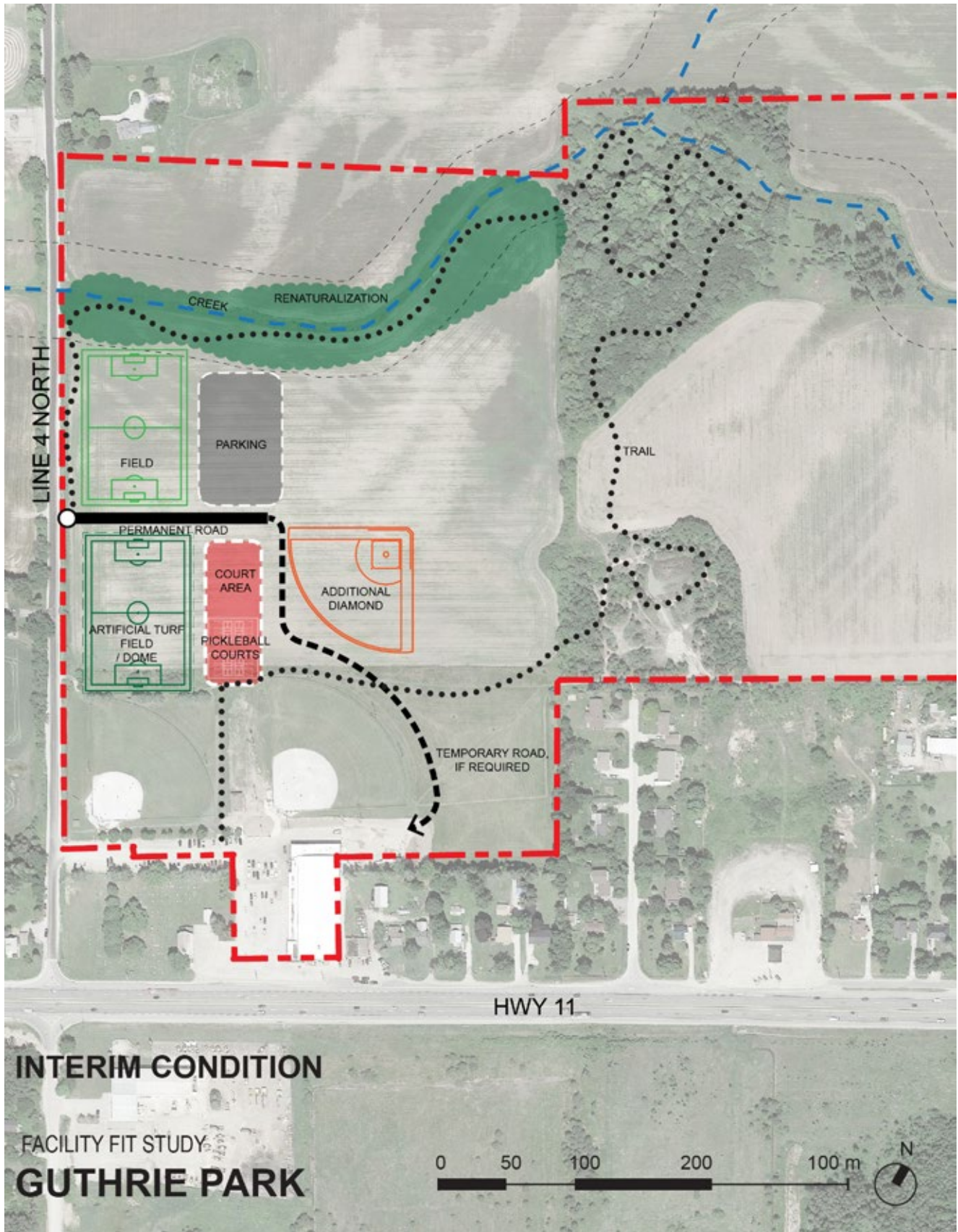
- Shift development to the west side, expanding east as required (in the test-fit, Hwy 11 runs east-west).
- Place primary facilities (artificial turf field/dome and new arena) adjacent to Line 4.
- Maintain the two existing baseball fields until new arena development, followed by consolidation of ball diamonds on the site (to create 4).
- Develop the new arena in a new location, to permit continuity of operations from old to new arenas.
- Develop a walkable, functional, optimized and integrated layout.
- Minimize encroachment of existing woodlots.

The test-fit did not attempt to spread facilities out and use all the available area in the Guthrie parkland but showed that the anticipated long-term facilities can fit within the western half of the Guthrie parkland, an area of approximately 15 Ha. Figure A (see following pages) site development while the existing arena remains operational, with Figure B (see following pages) reflecting a longer term site build-out with the existing arena replaced.

The development will be phased, with new soccer, baseball, pickleball, and other amenities, occupying the area north of the current baseball fields towards the stream buffer. These new facilities will have their own entrance and parking, which may be connected to the current parking and entrance with a temporary road if desired. Future arena and parking will be developed in the current baseball field area and maintain the existing entrance. Baseball facilities will be completed as a full pinwheel arrangement of four fields in the remaining area of the west half of the Guthrie parkland. Future road connection is possible to the east side of the Guthrie parkland if desired.

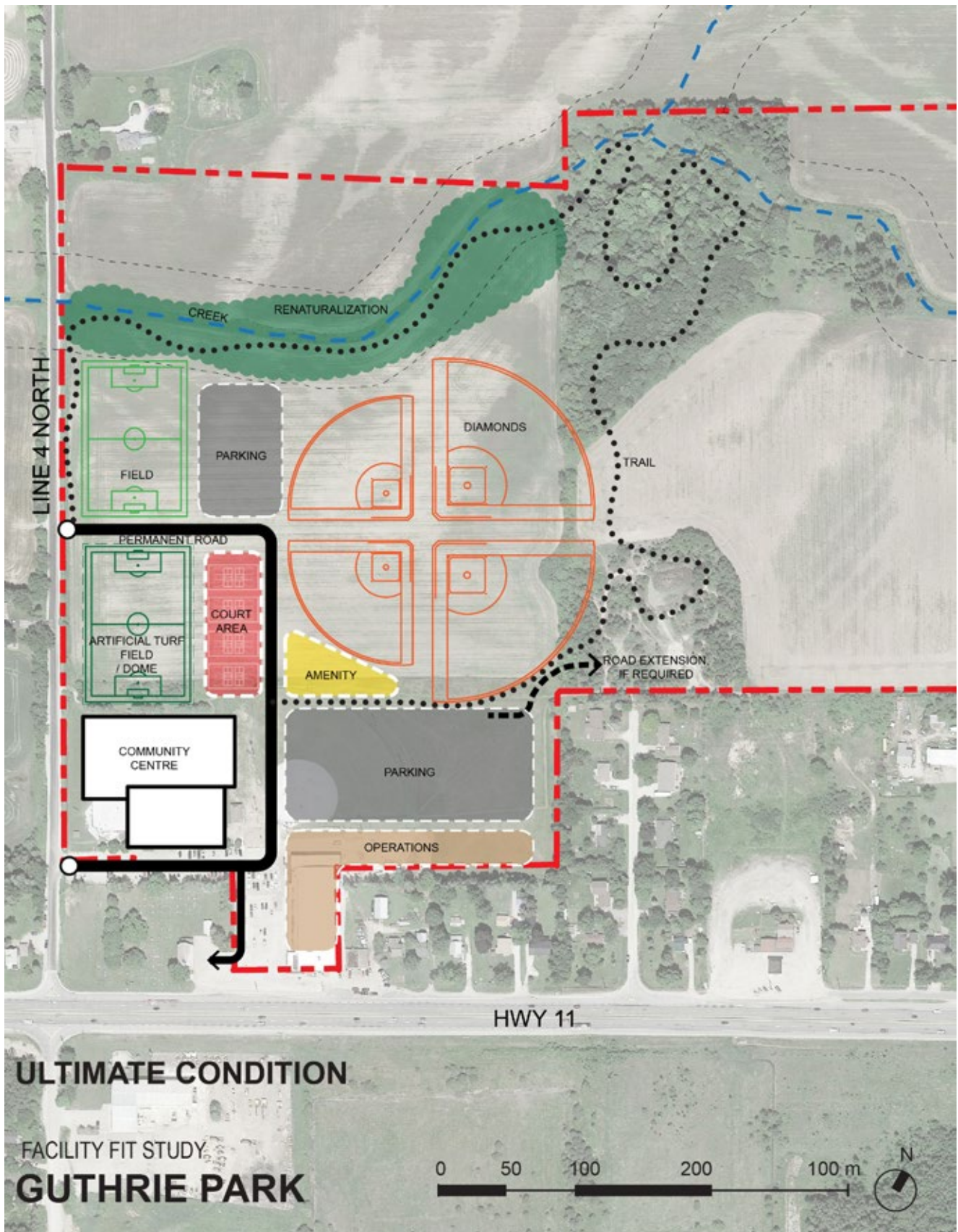


# FIGURE A : INTERIM FACILITY FIT STUDY- GUTHRIE PARK





# FIGURE B : ULTIMATE FACILITY FIT STUDY- GUTHRIE PARK



# 5.2. RECTANGULAR FIELDS

\*See Appendix A for field specifications and demand analysis.

## KEY FACTS

# Soccer organizations currently use two natural turf field locations - Burl Creek Event Park (privately owned) and Richelieu Park (three informal junior fields). A third location at Ramey Memorial Park provides one informal rectangular field that is not currently used for organized play.

There are two soccer associations in Oro-Medonte; Warminster Soccer Club (360 participants) and Oro-Medonte Minor Soccer Association (400 participants) both clubs currently play on Wednesday evenings.

Elementary school fields are generally not maintained for community use.

 **Level of Service:**  
1:7,012

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Oro-Medonte Minor Soccer (with Township support) leases fields from Burl's Creek. These fields alternate between recreation fields and event parking and should be considered temporary in nature. An alternative location for accommodating the soccer program is required.
- Soccer programming is also provided by the Warminster Soccer Club on fields with a poor condition that are also not suitable to support long-term programming.
- With a lack of permanent and dedicated fields, the Township's relative supply of rectangular fields is lower than comparable municipalities. The average provision among comparable communities is 3,028.
- The Township does not require permit fees for the use of soccer fields; utilization data about the number of hours used is therefore not available.
- Oro-Medonte Minor Soccer and the Warminster Soccer Club provide a 'festival style' weeknight recreation soccer program for 8-10 weeks in the late spring. Players range from U6 – U12.
- 29% of survey responding households believe that more sports fields should be developed and 23% agree that the existing fields should be enhanced. 30% of youth surveyed would like to see more outdoor sport opportunities. 29% household survey respondents indicated that they visited a soccer field in Oro-Medonte at least once a year.
- Previous planning for sports fields has been undertaken and suggested including two new fields as part of the Guthrie site development.



Emily Park

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Current organized play consists of a high-volume, short spring-time duration, entry-level player development program.
- An alternative for the Burl’s Creek site will be required in the near term.
- There is a healthy regional supply of rectangular fields in Barrie and Orillia – each of which also provides at least one artificial turf field.
- Each soccer organization in the Township concentrates delivery of the program to one weeknight each week. While it may be convenient and customer friendly for parents and volunteers, fields and local/community parkland are not designed to accommodate such a high intensity of infrequent use.
- Players who ‘age-out’ or seek competitive-play options must seek-out alternative organizations in adjacent municipalities.
- There’s no adult recreational or competitive rectangular field sport options in Oro-Medonte as there is no field sized for play at this level.
- Two soccer organizations serving a relatively small total population is not optimal for player development. Opportunities for efficiency would likely exist if organized soccer was consolidated into a single entity.
- Unknown future demand for other field sports such as field lacrosse, rugby or ultimate frisbee.

The following tables provide a high level analysis of sport field supply and demand. The table immediately below reflects the impacts of adding sport fields to the inventory based on each field facilitating up to 400 hours of annual use (an industry benchmark; use over this amount can impact field quality and longevity). As per the Demand Analysis tables, available participation data suggests that adding 2 full sized fields should be sufficient to meet local needs for at least the next 10 years.

### CAPACITY IMPACTS BY ADDING FIELD SUPPLY

NUMBER OF POTENTIAL FIELDS	ANNUAL AVERAGE CAPACITY (HOURS)	TOTAL FIELD CAPACITY (HOURS)
2	400	800
4	400	1600
6	400	2400
8	400	3200

### DEMAND ANALYSIS

Estimated number of participants	700
Number of participants per team assumption	12
Estimated number of teams based on participant per team assumption	58
Weeks in a season	8
Field times per week	1
Hours required per week	2
Total seasonal hours required per team	16

**The above assumptions indicated that approximately 560 hours of field time are required to meet local need presently (accounting for a +20% weather contingency). However, the provision of premium quality fields also provides the opportunity to attract field sport participants from a broader catchment areas and grow participation locally by offering enhanced experiences.**

Hours required per team divided by 50% to account for 2 teams per field	467
Accounting for weather (20% weather allocation added to the previous figure)	560

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Provide one artificial turf or two full size natural turf fields (or equivalent) to achieve of Service Level of 1 full sized field for every 10,000 residents.
- B. Concentrate provision of all required rectangular fields at the Guthrie site as part of an overall site development program. Decommission the maintained open space/ fields at Richelieu Park upon provision of new fields at Guthrie.
- C. Support field improvements and ongoing maintenance of fields at existing schools and consider providing support to enhance field builds at any future school sites.
- D. Implement user fees for newly provided rectangular fields.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Provision of new rectangular fields at the Guthrie site is a community investment in the long-term development of field sport players and participants. Because the fields will be primarily used for soccer in the near-term; it is crucial for the two existing soccer organizations to embrace a shared, long-term vision of one Oro-Medonte based soccer development program that offers programs for different levels of skill development.
- The long-term total cost of providing a single artificial turf versus two natural turf field should be considered. An artificial turf field may offer 2-3 times the playtime compared to a natural turf field, favouring a smaller, more compact site required for facility development – with no require for irrigation.

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.


						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities


## 5.3. BALL DIAMONDS

### KEY FACTS

# Class A diamonds at Vasey (lit) and Lions Sport Fields (2, both of which are lit). Class B diamonds at Vasey, Danny McHugh (unlit), and Shanty Bay (unlit)

There are three youth servicing organizations in the community: Oro Minor Ball Association, Vasey Minor Ball, and the Oro Wolves (competitive). The younger teams utilize the school diamonds in addition to the municipally owned diamonds. Vasey Minor Ball Association had 80-90 youth participants prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The participation stats from Oro-Minor Ball Association were not provided, however their website indicates that their league has four age groups and with approximately 4 teams each. Oro Wolves recruits from the minor ball associations to form three teams of 12 players per team.

 **Level of Service:** 1:7,672 (lit diamonds) / 1:3,836 (all diamonds)

 **Vital Statistics:** Most ball diamonds bookings (70%) were for rentals and adult leagues. The remaining time is made up of minor sport bookings (28%) and scheduled maintenance (2%). There were substantially more hours booked at unlit fields in both 2018 & 2019 (prior to pandemic disruptions).

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Oro-Medonte provides fewer ball diamonds than comparable communities.
- Ball diamonds range in condition from good to fair, with notable deficiencies at some gaps related to infield conditions, fencing, and lighting.
- Ball diamonds are booked 42% of prime time (approx. 400 hours a season). 70% of bookings were rentals and adult leagues, 28% were minor sport bookings and the last 2% of time booked was for maintenance. These bookings include both program based and tournaments.
- Prior to the pandemic, there were three men's leagues in in the Township: Men's Slowpitch, Vasey Men's League, and the Warminster Men's League.
- Adult participation in ball had been trending upwards regionally, provincially and nationally prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There is a demand for mixed slo-pitch locally, regionally, and nationally that reflect the social and family motivation for participation in the sport.
- Outdoor sport field trends (including rectangular fields and ball diamonds) reflect a preference for clusters or 'hub' sites where multiple fields are in proximity to one another. Outdoor amenities, such as baseball diamonds, benefit greatly from being co-located with indoor facilities that can provide amenities such as washrooms.
- 28% of household survey respondents would like to see existing ball diamonds enhanced and 17% indicated that they would like to see more developed. 15% of residents indicated that they visit ball diamonds one or more times a month and an additional 15% indicated they visit one or more time annually. Some household survey respondents indicated that they travel to Orillia or Barrie to participate in baseball or slow pitch. 20% of household survey respondents indicated that a barrier to their participation in recreation and active living opportunities in Oro-Medonte was there are better or more appealing opportunities elsewhere.

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD (CONTINUED)

- User groups expressed concerns about field conditions and maintenance standards that hinder participation and utilization.
- Stakeholder groups indicated that there is some need for an allocation policy for ball fields. The competitive league has had some growth and there is some interest to expand Men's League teams for players that have aged out of minor ball.

### STANDARD BALL DIAMOND CLASSIFICATION

FIELD CLASSIFICATIONS:	CHARACTERISTICS
<b>Class A diamonds</b>	Lit, fenced, competitive and adult play
<b>Class B Diamonds</b>	Unlit, recreational play, youth only



Vasey Ball Team

## ANALYSIS

- Weekly ball diamond utilization by adults accounts for almost two-thirds of total use. There's evidence of unmet demand for Class A diamonds; there is no evidence of unmet demand for Class B diamonds in smaller neighborhood and community scale parks.
- Local baseball centered at Vasey and Township-wide activity centered at the Lions Fields is healthy at the junior and adult levels. Softball participation is increasing generally among young adults.
- There's relatively low interest from residents to enhance existing fields, likely tracking with the relatively small proportion of residents that participate in organized ball programs.
- There is a high regional provision of ball diamonds.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- The Township may consider coordinating investment, renewal, and maintenance of Class B diamonds at elementary schools where community-use is occurring or could be anticipated to occur in the future.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Provide Class A diamonds to better accommodate current and future demand to achieve a Service Level of 1:4,207. This suggests an additional 2 Class A Diamonds should be provided, ideally to create a 4-diamond cluster at Guthrie.
- Maintain existing supply of Class B diamonds at neighbourhood and community parks if these diamonds are permitted for weekly seasonal use. Consider removing Class B diamonds if demand can be accommodated on Class A diamonds, or if they are not used for organized, weekly play to make space available for emerging outdoor recreation activities that the space may be suitable for.
- Formally remove the unmaintained diamonds at Craighurst from the inventory.
- Decommission the ball diamond at Shanty Bay and replace the level of provision through development of the new Guthrie diamonds.
- Develop a Ball Diamond Allocation Policy to ensure different groups of users have access to the hours of diamond time required. The policy should ensure that minor programs have access to quality fields to provide a 'field of dreams' experience that nurtures a lifelong commitment to participation.

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

# 5.4. TENNIS COURTS

## KEY FACTS

# There are two formal tennis courts located at Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park. Basic community / casual use courts are also located at Barrillia Park (not currently useable) and Ravines Park.

The Township and the not-for-profit, Oro-Medonte Tennis Club (OMTC) share access to the two courts at Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park. Both the Township and the OMTC provide access to the courts via membership fees. Tennis courts are currently dedicated use for that activity only.

 **Level of Service:**  
1:7,672

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- The tennis courts at Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park are popular and form part of a multi-dimensional outdoor site with a playground, multi-sport courts, and a walking trail.
- The Township in partnership with the Oro-Medonte Tennis Club (OMTC) maintains high-quality courts at Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park. Both the Township and the OMTC schedule and facilitate access to the courts. The Township charges a fee per household and allows drop-in access. The OMTC offers a variety of membership options and coordinate access during established times.
- The OMTC have indicated increasing levels of demand for the Horseshoe Valley courts and expressed that capacity could be increased by adding lighting.
- Tennis remains a popular outdoor activity given recent success of Canadian tennis players internationally and the broad age and demographic appeal of the sport. In general demand remains stable for the amenity.
- While many municipalities have provided dual court lines for both tennis and pickleball on the same court, this approach is not optimal. Dedicated tennis and pickleball courts are preferred where there is strong demand /participation to support both.
- 10% of households indicated tennis as a top outdoor activity. A quarter of households indicated visiting a tennis court at least once per year. 16% of respondents feel that courts should be enhanced and 23% indicated that they would like to see more developed.
- The tennis court located at Barrillia Park is at the end of its functional lifespan and has functional limitations due to its smaller size.
- A standalone court exists at the Ravines of Medonte Park that supports casual and drop-in use.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The current provision of tennis courts appears to be meeting community needs.
- The court at Barrillia Park was originally installed by the Barrillia Park Ratepayers and was used for tennis but the court is at end of life and its replacement is not feasible due to site constraints. The park is not optimal for tennis court reinvestment.
- Further exploration and monitoring of the Ravines of Medonte court is required.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Maintain the current provision of two tennis courts to achieve a service level of 1:7,000 residents.
- Remove the existing tennis court at Barrillia Park and engage with the community to explore future options for the site (e.g. disposition, divestment and use of funds for other nearby community park projects, etc.).

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Consider adding court lighting to extend the playing time for tennis court users and work with the Tennis Club to fundraise or explore other options to cover these additional costs.

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

# 5.5. PICKLEBALL COURTS

## KEY FACTS

# There are no dedicated pickleball courts in Oro-Medonte, however, the multi-use sport courts at Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park and Shanty Bay Park are lined for pickleball. There are 4 courts painted for play at both locations.

Pickleball is quickly becoming one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in North America. There are two pickleball clubs in Oro-Medonte that have reported around 65 members collectively.

 **Level of Service:** n/a

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- In Oro-Medonte, the Horseshoe Valley Pickleball Club has reported over 50 players, while the Shanty Bay Pickleball Club reported around 15 players. The Horseshoe Valley Club typically uses 2 hours daily during the playing season.
- There is ample parking at Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park where the multi-use courts are used for pickleball. The Shanty Bay Park courts are also available but there is no dedicated parking available.
- Few dedicated and purpose built pickleball courts are provided in the Simcoe Region.
- Pickleball, while often thought of as an activity for older adults is now introduced in school curriculums. The sport is seeing growth in younger age groups due to its adaptability and ease of learning. Pickleball additionally enables participants from other courts sports to transition to an activity that can be easily played well into older adult years.
- Community engagement and ongoing requests to the Township indicate that there is a desire to add pickleball lines on most outdoor multi-sport court surfaces.
- A strong volunteer and organizing community for the sport is developing in Oro-Medonte. Keen interest in seeing more tournaments held and interest in utilizing indoor spaces for the winter months.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Future demand for outdoor pickleball courts, including dedicated courts with fencing and lighting should be anticipated based on trends and the growth in player participation in Oro-Medonte.
- Based on current interest and trends, future demand for indoor court space suitable for pickleball should be anticipated.
- Noise concerns can exist with pickleball and appropriate set-backs from residential areas, other activity nodes, and mitigation strategies need to be considered when planning for dedicated pickleball infrastructure.
- Opportunities to host tournaments if a hub facility with suitable support amenities was available.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Provide a dedicated Township-wide outdoor pickleball court facility in the near term at the Guthrie site.
- B. Support delivery of an indoor pickleball program in the new community gymnasium.
- C. Operate and maintain a dedicated pickleball court facility in a manner comparable to the membership-based tennis court model.
- D. Monitor pickleball participation levels and future needs and establish a defined level of service in 5-7 years once trends are better known. Use this service level to develop a strategy for additional pickleball infrastructure.
- E. As new gymnasiums and outdoor multi-use sport courts are planned and developed in the future, consider adding pickleball lines to maximize the ability of this infrastructure to support pickleball growth.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Avoid developing dedicated pickleball courts with less than 4 courts. Ideally, dedicated pickleball court sites should have a minimum of 8 courts to enable a range of levels to play simultaneously and provide opportunities for small to medium sized tournament hosting. Given noise concerns with pickleball, courts should also be situated in locations that do not abut directly onto residences and have proper noise abatement measures in place.



Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park - Multi-Sport Court

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

## 5.6. PLAYGROUNDS

### KEY FACTS

# There are 13 Township owned playgrounds in Oro-Medonte located across the community: Arbourwood Park, Bayview Memorial Park, Danny McHugh Memorial Park, El Crawford Park, Hawkestone Community Hall Park, Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park, Price Park, Railside Park, Ramey Park, Shelswell Park, Sweetwater Park, and Vasey Community Park. 6 other playgrounds can be found at school sites.

 **Level of Service:**  
1:1,771

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Oro-Medonte currently maintains a lower-than-average provision of municipal playgrounds in comparison to the other municipalities examined.
- The Township's play equipment includes a mix of newer and older installations. Lifecycle replacement for play infrastructure is not specifically provisioned for in the Township's asset management plan.
- Playgrounds are and will continue to be fundamental sites for outdoor recreation and play for children, youth, and potentially even adults depending on the play equipment installed. Trends within playground design include integrating natural play structures, designing playgrounds to be universally accessible, and offering seasonal programming on a drop-in basis delivered by contracted summer staff.
- There is an interest in expanding the types of equipment and the ages those play structures appeal to. By creating and maintaining playground spaces that include a range of equipment, better support amenities (e.g., warming huts, washrooms) and capitalizing on adjacencies with other community spaces (e.g., indoor facilities, skating areas), play structures are becoming increasingly multi-purpose and multi-seasonal. Destination amenities, like permanent obstacle courses and parkour parks are becoming more common installations in municipal playgrounds/parks.
- 30% of households identified regular use of playgrounds in the Township. A relatively large proportion of residents would like to see playgrounds enhanced (26%) and new playgrounds developed (41%). Overall, playgrounds were the most popular amenity that youth would like to see enhanced or developed in their community.
- Stakeholders had some ideas about opportunities to enhance school playgrounds through partnerships in the community. Members of the community indicated that playgrounds were an amenity that they would like to see more of at neighbourhood level.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- There is good distribution of play structures across the Township.
- The majority of the Township’s play structure equipment is relatively new and includes equipment from young and older children.
- Equipment is highly uniform; similar equipment is provided at most playgrounds. While equipment is typically provided for neighbourhood use, parents with young children often travel to nearby neighbourhoods for a different experience.
- Nature-based, forest-based play-equipment is increasingly provided by municipalities to offer different challenges and play experiences for children.
- There’s a relatively high level of weekly use of playground by residents compared to other outdoor recreation facilities.
- All playgrounds should be accessible under AODA regulations; only one structure at Bayview Memorial Park is accessible.
- Some aging playgrounds receive relatively low levels of use and serve smaller catchment areas. One such example is the playground structure at EL Crawford Park. The Township will need to focus renewals on playgrounds that provide the highest level of benefit to the most possible residents.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Target a provision level of 1 playground for every 1,500 residents (generally similar to current).
- Over the next 10 years, work towards providing 4 “destination” playgrounds in the Township. These playgrounds should offer a higher level of dynamic play and be distributed geographically across the Township in community parks.
- Incorporate play equipment replacement costs in the Township’s long term capital budget and Asset Management Plan.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Develop a play equipment replace program that commits to seeking public engagement in the play space renewal process.
- Diversify provision of playground equipment during lifecycle replacement.
- Provision of a future park to be developed at the Guthrie site should be considered.
- All new playground installation should be developed to accessibility and barrier free guidelines and best practices.












## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

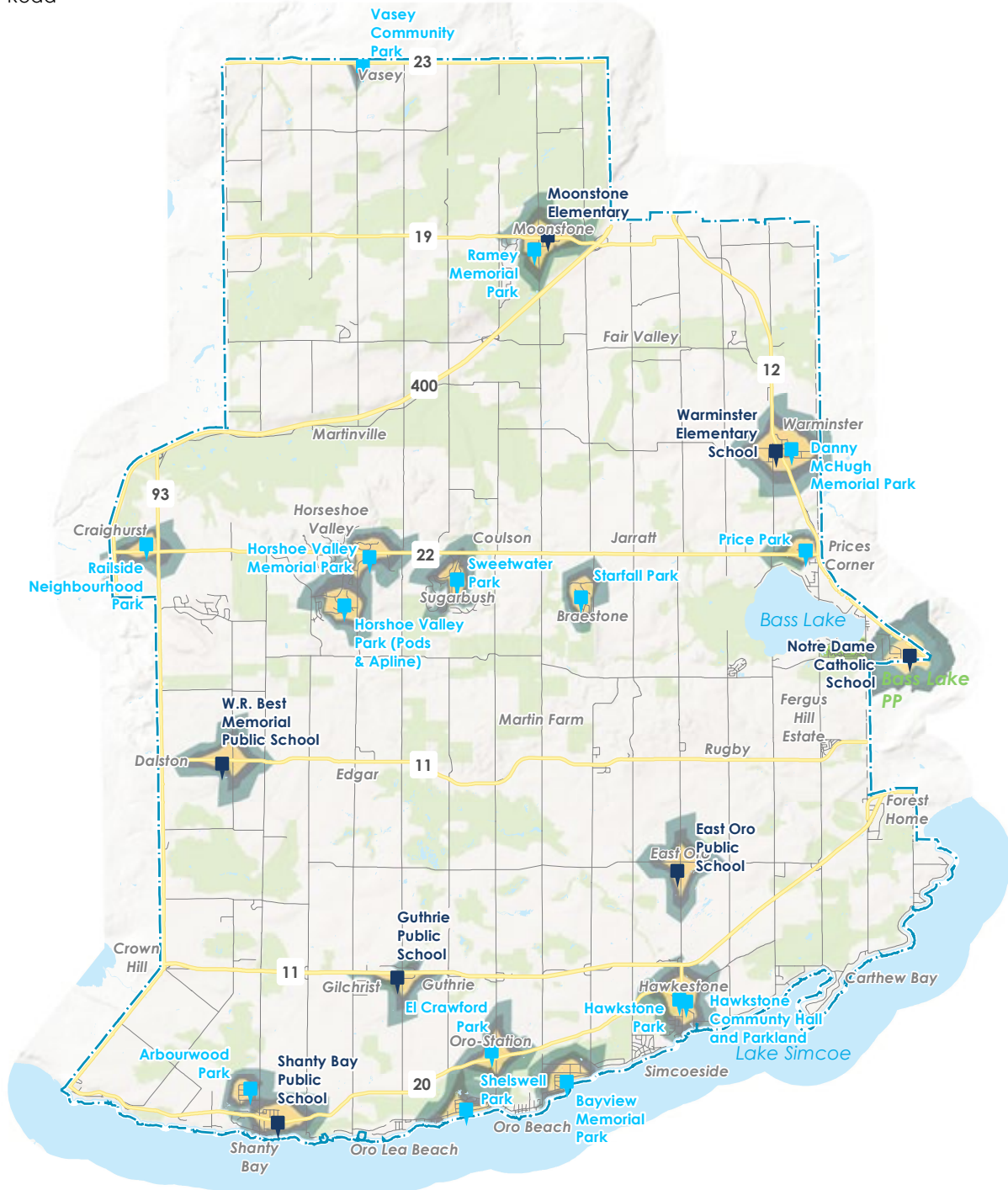
The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

# PLAYGROUND DISTRIBUTION

## Legend

-  Study Area
-  Waterbody
-  Provincial Park
-  Wetland | Forest Tract | Significant Woodland
-  Highway
-  Road
-  School Location
-  Play Structure
-  800 m Walking Distance from a Play Structure (±10 minutes)
-  1200 m Walking Distance from a Play Structure (±15 minutes)
-  1600 m Walking Distance from a Play Structure (±20 minutes)



# Natural and Challenging Play

The playground landscape has seen significant expansion in the types of equipment and structures that are available. Leading this trend are “natural play spaces”, which are intended to replicate aspects of natural environment such as forests, rocks, crevices, slopes, and other outdoor elements. Societal concerns over children and youth disconnection with nature is also contributing to a desire to replicate aspects of natural play in urbanized and residential environments. In some instances, entire playgrounds are constructed using entirely natural play equipment. Natural playgrounds are also credited with having significant cognitive benefits to children, forcing them to manage complexity as they maneuver around the play space whereas traditional playgrounds tend to be more suggestive.



*Nature Inspired Play Structure*



*Nature Inspired Play Structure*

There is a growing recognition that encouraging children and youth to push the boundaries of play can have significant benefits to cognitive and physical development. Researchers have identified that children should be allowed to experience some level of play risk across the following areas:

- Play at heights
- Play at speed
- Play with tools and other implements
- Rough and tumble play
- Play amongst natural elements
- Play where children can “disappear”

Natural and adventure playgrounds are increasingly being designed to provide these types of play experiences.



*Bouldering Play Structure*



*Nature Inspired Play Structure*



*Park with a variety of Elements including a bouldering rock.*



The inclusion of bouldering and climbing features is also increasingly popular. These features can help meet playground needs for older children and provide amenities that balance levels of risk (while falls can of course happen, the nature of bouldering playgrounds is such that the fall is unlikely to involve “catching” on another object). Bouldering playgrounds can be developed as the central theme of a play space or a simple amenity addition within a larger traditional play space.



*Obstacle course play structure*

Obstacle course playgrounds and parkour parks are emerging as another way for children and adults to channel their inner superhero or encourage some friendly competition in their community park. Another form of risky play these structures encourage users to push boundaries of play and maneuver creatively.



*Parkour park*

## 5.7. MULTI-SPORT COURTS

### KEY FACTS

# There are 9 multi-use sport courts in Oro- Medonte. Lit courts: Sweetwater Park, Ramey Memorial Park, Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park, Ravines of Medonte Park, Danny McHugh Park, Hawkestone Park, Shelswell Park.

Non-lit courts: Shanty Bay Park, Barilla Park.

 **Level of Service:**  
1:2,302

 **Vital Statistics:** n/a

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- There is above average provision of sport courts in Oro-Medonte compared to communities of similar sizes.
- The court inventory is generally in good condition. The court surface at Hawkestone Park requires resurfacing.
- There is good access to outdoor multi-sport courts in park locations across the community but like playgrounds, there are significant areas of the Township that are outside of walking distance to a sport court. While this is to be expected given the large land base, areas with higher populations of children and youth should be targeted for future court projects.
- Outdoor sport courts can be used for a variety of different activities, including those that are both spontaneous and unstructured, as well as drop-in programming provided such as games or other activities organized.
- A number of sport courts are used as outdoor ice surfaces during the winter months.
- 35% of respondents supported developing more outdoor paved court spaces, and 20% would support enhancing the existing supply. 11% of respondents indicated that someone from their household regularly participates in outdoor paved surface activities such as basketball or ball hockey. Some competition was indicated between user groups of the courts in comment section of the survey (i.e. teens wanting to play basketball when older adults are playing pickleball).



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Township’s overall supply of multi-sport courts appears to be responding to community need. The quantum of concrete pads reduces maintenance costs (compared to asphalt pads).



Shanty Bay Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Maintain provision of multi-sport courts to achieve a service level of 1:2,200 population across the Township.
- As previously suggested under Tennis Courts (5.4), it is recommended that the Barillia Park court is removed from the inventory and a community consultation process undertaken to determine the best future course(s) of action for the site (e.g. disposition, divestment and use of funds for other nearby community park projects, etc.).
- Renew the court surface at Hawkestone and consider the provision of lighting.
- Remove the dasher boards at Ramey Park and consider utilizing a temporary system for ice season use.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Consider providing a multi-sport court at future community-or-specialized parks.

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

# 5.8. OUTDOOR RINKS

## KEY FACTS

# There are 6 outdoor rink locations: Ramey Memorial Park, Danny McHugh Memorial Park, Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park, Sweetwater Park, Shelswell Park, and Shanty Bay Park

🏠 **Level of Service:**  
1:3,836

📈 **Vital Statistics:**  
Outdoor rinks provide free or low-cost recreational opportunities for residents in the winter season, but operating seasons are being impacted or shortened due to climate change. Oro-Medonte’s outdoor rinks are supported by volunteers trained in ice maintenance by the Township.

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- There is above average provision of outdoor rinks in Oro-Medonte as many of the multi-sport court spaces can and have been utilized as outdoor rinks.
- Utilization of outdoor rinks can be difficult to determine, though available user group and public engagement data suggests that available surfaces are well used and highly valued.
- The rinks are maintained by community volunteers’ known as the Rink Rats that are trained and provided equipment by the Township.
- Climate change is affecting the availability and seasonal dynamics of outdoor ice provision. Refrigeration systems provide a mechanism to ensure quality, accessible and consistent ice throughout the winter months but also increase the costs associated with providing outdoor ice.
- 27% of households identified casual or drop in outdoor ice skating as a favorite activity. Almost half of survey respondents (47%) indicated that they would like to see more outdoor ice rinks developed, while 25% would like to see existing ice enhanced.
- Decreasing volunteerism is impacting all aspects of recreation, including outdoor ice provision, and it is likely that the Township will need to provide increased staff resources to sustain service levels in the future.
- A number of functional challenges exist with some outdoor rink sites. These include the size of the surface (hard to clear), lack of boards to retain water, etc.



Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- The Township's investment in concrete multi-sport pads provides an excellent foundation for provision of outdoor ice sheets.
- Extreme weather resulting from climate change has significant challenges for the provision and operation of natural ice surfaces.
- There are no cost-effective alternatives to natural ice that can be maintained by volunteers. Outdoor synthetic or outdoor refrigerated ice systems represent a significant increase in the level of service to be sustained by the Township.



Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Continue to support volunteers in the provision of outdoor ice surfaces and ensure these efforts are adequately recognized through a formalized program.
- B. Use the recommend criteria to assess the viability and cost-benefit of sites for refrigerated systems.
- C. Identify opportunities to add unique outdoor ice experiences such as ice pathways that can animate and draw people to parks during winter months.
- D. If the Township considers a refrigerated outdoor ice surface in the future, preference should be given to the Guthrie site based on operational efficiencies / synergies.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Provide the necessary resources and supports to volunteers that play a key role in maintaining outdoor ice surfaces. Where volunteer capacity does not exist, assess service level options to determine how/if outdoor ice can be provided.

## ASSESSING SITES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF REFRIGERATED SYSTEMS

Refrigeration systems can provide the Township with the opportunity to ensure consistent, quality and available outdoor ice throughout the winter months. However, given the costs associated with these systems, it is important to assess the suitability and cost-benefit value of the potential candidate sites.

Identified in the table below are a number of criteria that should be used when considering whether or not an outdoor ice site (existing or new) is a suitable candidate for the installation of a refrigeration system.

CRITERIA	KEY FACTOR(S)
Servicing and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the Township adequately resource the maintenance and operations of the refrigerated system at the site? <i>*It is unlikely that volunteers would have the certification of liability coverage to operate refrigeration systems, requires Township staff to take on this responsibility (resulting in a higher level of service and associated cost).</i></li> </ul>
Use Rationale and Site Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does current or anticipated use of the ice surface justify the investment?</li> <li>Does the site have the support amenities to accommodate higher levels of use?</li> </ul>
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The refrigeration unit can be properly secured and vandalism concerns mitigated through visibility of the park space, regular patrols, community supervision, etc.</li> </ul>
Site Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site has the adequate servicing and technical specifications to support installing a refrigerated system.</li> </ul>

Covering outdoor ice surfaces in the Township is not recommended for a number of reasons, including:

- Experiential reasons (creates a darker space devoid of sunlight during winter months).
- Long-term cost impacts (results in a structure that will require maintenance and capital upgrades over time).
- Use and adaptability (may limit potential re-purposing and activity use of the space).

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.


						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

## 5.9. SKATE, SCOOT, AND BIKE FACILITIES

### KEY FACTS

# The Township does not currently provide pump tracks for scooters and bikes or skateboard parks. There are two privately owned bike parks within the Township boundaries.

 **Level of Service:**  
1:11,509

 **Vital Statistics:**  
Youth are drawn to spontaneous recreation pursuits.

### WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Skate parks and other wheeled facilities are increasingly being provided as both community and destination amenities in communities of varying sizes.
- There is no formal skateboarding facility in Oro-Medonte; mobile skate park programs and features have been piloted with some success in the past.
- “Wheeled sports” such as skateboarding, BMX biking, and scootering are popular among children and youth, aligning with a societal shift towards spontaneous recreation demand.
- Skateboard Park infrastructure continues to evolve in its design and range of uses that can be accommodated, often now including bowl-type structures along with “street courses” and “skate spots”.
- Pump tracks, both hard and natural surfaced, are becoming increasingly provided and in-demand. This level of demand reflects increasing mountain bike use and a focus on skill development.
- The Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club membership grew from 1,000 members to 2,300 from 2020 to 2021, demonstrating a local trend in participation of the sport.
- 36% of survey respondents indicated someone in their household uses a mountain bike park one or more times a month and 44% of respondents indicated participating in cycling or mountain biking on a regular basis. 31% of respondents would like to see more bike parks/pump track developed in the community and 23% would like a skateboard park to be developed. Many of the crowdsourcing pins indicated parking issues around heavily used trail heads and Horseshoe Valley Resort. Sounding boards at the local parks indicated the desire for a skateboard park.
- Risk management, liability, and injury are areas of concern for new parks. The private facilities in the community bring a significant amount of business to the community and feel well supported by the Township, however they have indicated that they would appreciate some assistance in removing restrictions related to parking and camping opportunities for visitors. There is also a level of interest from local resorts to partner with the Township on future facilities.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Provision of entry-level, skill development skate, scoot, and bike pump tracks for children and youth will likely resonate with residents given the high level of adult participation in these activities. Respondents to the resident survey expressed interest in this type of facility.
- Specialized tracks for high level skill develop and play are often integrated at larger park sites. There are many design characteristics and options for engineered pump tracks – including pre-cast concrete, fiberglass, and compact soil/clay.



*Paved Pump Track*



*Dirt Pump Track*

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. As a short term priority, explore opportunities to develop a pump track.
- B. Collect more comprehensive data on skateboard and scooter participation and monitor trends. Use this data to inform decision making on the inclusion of dedicated amenities in new and enhanced parks.
- C. Begin to provide mobile or seasonal skate and scooter amenities where feasible.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

- Ensure future project engagement and design includes children, youth, and adult participant perspectives.
- Planning and analysis for a potential pump track should include a review of potential partnership options, site analysis, tourism potential, and opportunities for cost efficiency. Provided on the following page are some high level considerations and criteria that can help guide planning for this potential future asset.
- Ensure future sites are adequately supported with parking and accessible via trails and pathways.



## PUMP TRACK OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The development of a pump track in the Township provides significant opportunity to achieve a number of benefits, including:

- Provide skills training for children and youth that will foster safe and lifelong biking.
- Provide a trending recreation and sport opportunity for often hard-to-engage population cohorts (children, youth and young adults).
- Create a unique amenity that can draw people to the region for outdoor based recreation, supporting existing complementary mountain biking opportunities and further embedding the region as a hub for this activity.
- Potentially support other amenities and existing infrastructure.

The Township is uniquely positioned to support the success of this amenity development given the terrain, existing infrastructure, and local and regional participation trends in mountain biking.

Identified as follows are a number of key site related considerations that should be taken into account as future planning and exploration of this amenity project is undertaken.

CRITERIA	KEY FACTOR(S)
Partnerships and Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the site be managed through a partnership that will help foster success and create cost efficiencies?</li> </ul>
Site Appeal and Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the site have the terrain conditions to support a pump track that will appeal to a broad cross-section of skill levels?</li> <li>• Are there existing condition and/or amenities that can leveraged?</li> <li>• Is the site easily accessible via highways and major roadways?</li> <li>• Is parking sufficient?</li> <li>• Can the site connect with regional trails to foster connectivity and provide a higher recreation benefit?</li> </ul>

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities

# 5.10. LAUNCHES, WHARFS, & DOCKS

The Township has five marine facilities on Lake Simcoe: boat launches at Lines 2, 9 and 14, and wharfs at Shanty Bay and Line 11 (Hawkestone). There is also a waterfront access point on the south side of Bass Lake combining parkland with a launch on Line 13N. The marine facilities include formal parking capacity in varying amounts except Bass Lake South and the Hawkstone Wharf. Bass Lake South has capacity for significant expansion.

While challenging to quantify through public engagement, there is significant operational evidence that water access for boats and vehicles (winter) is deficient, and demand is increasing.

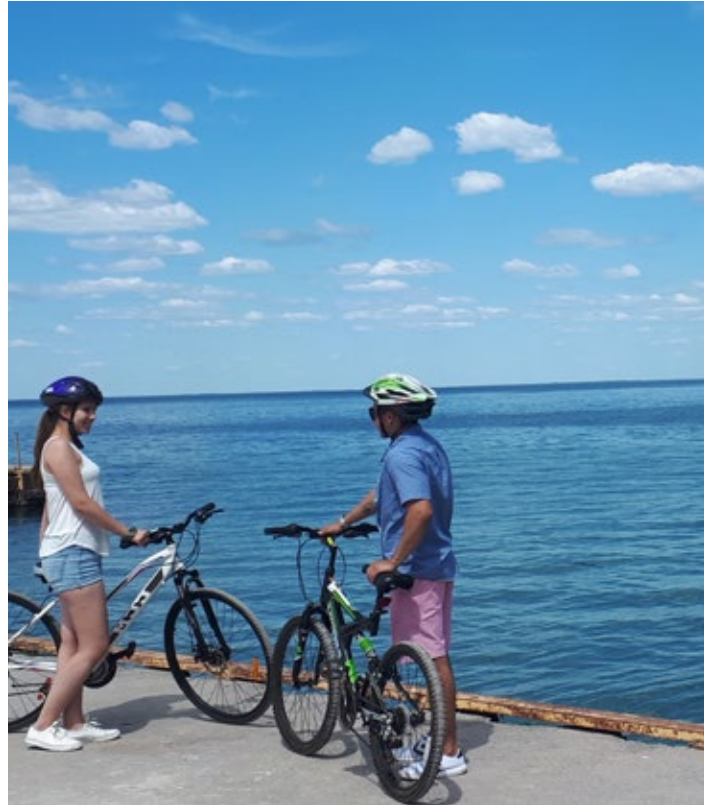
**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. Additional boat launch capacity is required on Lake Simcoe to address and manage increasing demand. Target provision of 5 total boat launches with dedicated parking for a future service level.
- B. As previously identified, a Water Access Study should be undertaken to guide future decision making and resource allocations.
- C. Invest in an automation system for permits and customer transactions that can more effectively capture use data. Once local and visitor use characteristics and associated impacts are better understood, explore potential fees approaches that align costs and benefits to local residents.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE:

- Potential future launch locations on Lake Simcoe include Lines 5, 6, 7, 12, Shelswell Park and Woodland Drive. Those Line accesses with nearby additional right-of-way space or nearby undeveloped lot potential availability are more favourable.
- Line 12 has a Township-owned lot (Lakeshore Road Parcels) immediately adjacent and poses the most favourable site for immediate launch and parking development. If incremental launch supply is validated through the Water Access Study, this site should be considered a preferred option.
- Launch locations require a robust concrete launch pad that endures Lake Simcoe’s significant wave and ice action, space for vehicle and trailer circulation away from road travel lanes and adequate parking. Preference would be to augment the launch with a seasonal dock as is provided at the Line 14 (Carthew Bay) Launch, particularly to facilitate human-powered boating activities.
- Automate customer service transactions related to resident use permits and visitor/non-resident purposes (i.e. park pass).

Both Township wharfs derive from a bygone time and were present in earlier forms from the early 20th century. This infrastructure was donated to the Township by the federal government in the early 2000's. The Shanty Bay Wharf may have portions from the original installation. They are quaint and picturesque locations with low park utility except for some of the non-waterfront residents. Neither wharf has boat launch facilities. The Shanty Bay Wharf has dedicated parking and is close to the Line 2 boat launch. However, the separation impairs the wharf's utility to function with the launch. The Hawkestone Wharf might potentially accommodate a launch with extensive shoreline engineering, however the lack of existing and potential parking limits overall utility. The wharfs do provide some utility as a safe harbour for marine activity during poor weather conditions. The repair and replacement costs of both wharfs, according to a recent engineering study, are prohibitive given the potential benefit. The Township has recently conducted an updated condition assessment to further clarify the state of and associated costs with maintaining the wharfs in a safe and functional condition.



*Shanty Bay Wharf 1910*

# 5.11. DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

## KEY FACTS

# The Township does not currently provide dog off-leash areas.

🏠 **Level of Service:** n/a

📈 **Vital Statistics:** Off-leash dog parks are a growing trend in North America, and request for one in Oro-Medonte notable, 36% of household survey respondents indicated that they would like to see a dog developed, while 22% indicated that they do not believe this type of amenity is necessary.

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

- Often dog parks are as much a social gathering place as they are a place for people to recreate and exercise their dogs. Dogs both on and off leash are often a top concern in parks systems and having designated off-leash parks and trails is a way to mitigate conflicts. Some communities value dog walkers/owners as a part of the park management system due to their frequency of park use (*for example: the City of Colwood, B.C indicated as part of their rationale for off-leash dog areas, that dog owners provide valuable “eyes on the park” as they visit parks at off-peak hours and through all seasons*).
- Some municipalities have developed dog park stewardship programs with volunteers helping to educate the rest of the public on etiquette in dog parks and with dogs on multi-use trails.
- 36% of household survey respondents indicated that they would like to see a dog park developed in Oro-Medonte, while 22% indicated that they do not believe this type of amenity is necessary. Dog ownership is a significant driver of leisure-based walking, hiking and park use; 46% of survey respondents own a dog and hiking/walking/running on a trail or pathways was by the far the most popular outdoor activity in Oro-Medonte (80%). The desire for a dog park was mentioned numerous times in the space provided for comments on the household survey.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://facebook.com/OroMedonte)

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Best practices demonstrate that provision of this facility is best done in close partnership with a community-based organization.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Consider designating a dog off leash area in suitable, fenced space at a community or specialized type park in partnership with a community-driven organization that provides volunteer and fundraising support for the facility.



*Dog Park With Obstacles*



*Fenced Dog Park*

## SERVICE DELIVERY OBJECTIVES

The recommendations and implementation guidance provided for this facility type advance the master plan service delivery objective identified below by highlighting the ones that apply.

						
Public Skill and Social Development	Optimized Infrastructure	Community Driven Service Delivery	Partnership Oriented	Outdoor Inspired	Connected Outdoor Assets	Vibrant Culture and Opportunities



# 6

## ACTION PLAN FOR PARKLAND

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- A refreshed Parkland Classification System in alignment with the new Official Plan.
- Policy guidance on parkland cash-in-lieu and potential disposition.
- Site specific strategies.
- Community park concepts.
- Guidance on other key aspects of parkland provision.

### 6.1. THE PARKLAND CONTEXT IN ORO-MEDONTE

Parkland in Oro-Medonte is a highly valued resource in the community that serves a wide-range of ages, interests, and activity preferences. Sustaining a quality, appealing and diverse parkland system reflects the Township’s commitment to providing accessible, low barrier active living opportunities for all its residents. However, the Township must also balance use with responsible management, conservation and financial resource impacts. This section provides future guidance that will help the Township optimize its parkland assets for the future.



### KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE RESIDENT SURVEY

- 80% of survey respondents indicated that they enjoy hiking/walking/running on a trail or pathway on a regular basis
- 74% of survey respondents indicated that they are motivated to participate in recreation leisure activities so that they can enjoy nature
- 54% of survey respondents indicated that they believed more trails with natural surfaces should be developed in Oro-Medonte

## 6.2. PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

A parkland classification system is an important planning tool for guiding the acquisition and development of different types of parkland. It informs decision making about acquiring parkland through the planning process and provides guidance on service levels, appropriate types of use, and management practices.

The Township’s previous classification system has been a valuable resource that has guided parkland investment and provision. **The following table outlines a refreshed classification system as identified in the Township’s new Official Plan.**

PARKLAND CLASS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Township-wide/Regional Parks and Open Space</b></p>	<p>Intended to attract visitors from across the Township and beyond, providing a range of recreational opportunities and includes: municipal parks (e.g., Bayview Memorial); County forests; Provincial lands (parks, the Copeland Forest); wetlands, forests and meadows under the auspices of The Couchiching Conservancy; major trails; future conservation authority lands; utility corridors and other prominent linear open space corridors/ parks; heritage sites/museums; outdoor performance venue (potential); golf courses; ski areas; equestrian facilities; and other similar sites. They may range in size and scale and types of facilities offered and serve as a focal point within the Township and are often resource-based (natural or built heritage) and therefore not necessarily located based on good access, visibility or proximity to population centres.</p> <p>If not resource-based, the location should be driven by criteria such as: good vehicular and pedestrian access and visibility, and suitability of the site to support desired development/uses. These parks are generally large sites, but could also be a small specialized property or facility (e.g., an historic site or a public docking/boat launch area) that typically attract day-use activities, but could include a campground. These parks may incorporate indoor and outdoor facilities that are high order/major in scale and quality - often clusters of similar facilities such as two or more soccer fields or a twin-pad arena and can accommodate ancillary facilities such as a food concession, washrooms, change facilities, a club house.</p> <p>Whenever possible, sites should be linked to Township-wide active transportation systems and natural heritage corridors.</p>



PARKLAND CLASS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Community Parks and Open Space</b></p>	<p>Service a group of neighbourhoods and attract most visitors from within Settlement Areas and Rural Settlements Area. For the most part, this category includes municipal parks (e.g., Ramey, Vasey, Sweetwater, Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park, Danny McHugh, Shanty Bay), community halls, and secondary schools (potential).</p> <p>These parks shall have a minimum site area of 4.0 hectares (10.0 acres) of primarily tableland to support the focus on active recreation facilities; some sites (and parts of sites) can incorporate wooded areas, watercourses and sloped lands, especially suitable for nature appreciation and tobogganing, and to provide visual and topographic relief.</p> <p>Community Parks shall be visible to a major roadway and should be sited and designed to minimize negative impacts on the adjacent residential area through such measures as planting, fencing, and provision of appropriate parking and access.</p> <p>Whenever possible, sites should be linked to the local, community and Township-wide trail systems and natural heritage corridors. These parks may incorporate outdoor and indoor facilities that are intermediate to high order in scale and quality such as: lighted ball diamonds, lighted multiple tennis courts, pickleball courts, full size and large mini soccer fields, an arena, a community hall, a picnic area, a major playground, a large floral garden, etc. Sports facilities (especially lighted) should not abut residences.</p>
<p><b>Neighbourhood/Local Parks and Open Space</b></p>	<p>Intended to attract mostly visitors from nearby residences (within a five to ten minute walk), predominately for less organized, lower scale leisure activities. For the most part, this category includes municipal parks (e.g., Ravines of Medonte, Shelswell, Barrillia, Rainside, Price, Emily, Lloyd W. Scott,) and elementary schools. Church sites with turfed, usable open space should be included in this category. Where possible and desirable, parks and schools shall be combined into a jointly planned and developed park-school campus with shared indoor and outdoor facilities and no fencing between jurisdictions.</p> <p>It is appropriate to also incorporate a church with a usable and accessible yard into an open space campus (with or without a school). Generally, Neighbourhood parks should incorporate outdoor facilities that are junior to intermediate in scale and quality such as: a small mini or large mini soccer field, playground(s), a multi-purpose sport pad, a small picnic area; walking path(s), etc. Most Neighbourhood parks should range in size from 1.2 to 3.25 hectares (3 to 8 acres). Occasionally, it is appropriate to create a smaller parkette to augment a park-deficient area, or to meet a specific need such as providing a specialized site for a children's play area, a sitting area or a local amenity/accent/signage area. However, even parkettes should not usually be less than 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) in size.</p> <p>Although natural heritage features are desirable, most of the site should be table land quality and whenever possible, sites should be linked into the local, community and Township-wide trail systems and natural heritage corridors.</p>

The Official Plan also identifies the following development policies pertaining to parks and open space. These policy statements provide guidance on use, acquisition, and management of Township owned parkland that isn't actively managed (reserve parkland). **The Master Plan recommendations in this section align with and provide strategic and tactical level guidance to help achieve these overarching development Polices.**

1. Parks and open space uses shall be generally permitted in any land use designation.
2. The Township shall promote appropriate recreational development in Community and Neighbourhood Parks that provide opportunities for active, passive and programmed community recreation and leisure, and that contribute to the reservation and protection of open space and the natural environment. However, additional opportunities may exist in other areas or classifications of parks.
3. In areas suitable for recreation, public open space shall be encouraged in the shoreline area. Land in the shoreline area in the ownership of the Township including road allowances shall be maintained and enhanced for public access to the water's edge and for public access to publicly owned properties.
4. The Township shall encourage the provision of pedestrian, cycling and multi-use active transportation linkages and the integration of recreational/cultural assets, parks and open space uses and aim to provide connections to schools and commercial areas in Settlement Areas. Further, the Township shall work collaboratively with other public and private agencies to connect Township active transportation systems into other community recreational spaces such as the County of Simcoe Forests and Copeland Forest.

5. The Township will work with the County of Simcoe and other local governments to identify and implement a regional active transportation system that would provide an enhanced level of connectivity.
6. New development may be required to incorporate an integrated walkway and bicycle path and trail system, interconnecting residential neighbourhoods, commercial areas, schools, public buildings, and major recreation facilities.
7. Where parks and open space uses are located adjacent to existing and proposed residential areas, appropriate measures may be taken to minimize potential adverse effects associated with recreation activity areas and parking areas.
8. Wherever possible, parkland blocks shall be located adjacent to stormwater management facilities and may include the provision of appropriate open space or walkway linkages.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Utilize the refreshed Parkland Classification System to guide acquisition, provision and management of parks and open space assets.
- B. Continuously review, update and build-out the Parkland Classification System to ensure alignment with trends and continuously evolving community needs.

## 6.3. PARKLAND PROVISION

Parkland provision can be measured qualitatively and quantitatively, with both being important to consider when determining future parkland needs. Including the Guthrie land parcel (and excluding the Rail Trail and unmanaged / naturalized spaces such as conservation areas and reserve parkland) the Township currently provides approximately 3.5 Ha. per 1,000 residents on an overall basis. Benchmarks in the region, Ontario and across Canada vary, but often 4.0 Ha. per 1,000 residents is used as a standard for parkland provision. As such, overall parkland provision in the Township is slightly less but generally consistent with this benchmark.

However, it is important to note the wide discrepancy in parkland provision cross the Township. If the large Guthrie parcel is removed from the inventory, the overall provision of managed parkland by the Township is approximately 2.2 Ha. per 1,000 residents but varies between 1.3 Ha. per 1,000 residents to 7.8 Ha. per 1,000 residents across the various settlement areas. Taking into account projected population growth,

### DEFINING “RESERVE” PARKLAND

Reserve parkland is typically not actively managed and held by a municipality for a number of reasons, including to support growth and provide needed buffer space (e.g. between built infrastructure or to manage access to sensitive ecological areas, etc.). In some instances, municipalities will decide to dispose of reserve parkland that it deems is not required, holds minimal value, or can be leveraged to fund other publicly beneficial projects. Reserve parkland is sometime tenured (part of original land holdings) or acquired through the development process.

the following table reflects the required incremental parkland needed to achieve the overall average of 2.2 Ha. per 1,000 residents in settlement areas that are currently deficient to this figure.

SETTLEMENT AREA	CURRENT HA. OF MANAGED PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	ADDITIONAL PARKLAND SUPPLY NEEDED (TOTAL HA.) TO ACHIEVE OVERALL AVERAGE OF 2.2 HA. PER 1,000 IN 2031*
<b>Township (overall)</b>	<b>2.2 Ha. per 1,000 residents (3.5 Ha. if Guthrie included)</b>	-
Horseshoe Valley	2.6 Ha. per 1,000 residents	7.2
Craighurst**	2.5 Ha. per 1,000 residents	1.3
Sugarbush	4.0 Ha. per 1,000 residents	-
Shanty Bay	3.7 Ha. per 1,000 residents	-
Moonstone	1.7 Ha. per 1,000 residents	0.6
Hawkestone	1.5 Ha. per 1,000 residents	0.8
Oro Station Area	7.8 Ha. per 1,000 residents	-
Warminster	7.3 Ha. per 1,000 residents	-

\*Based on anticipated population projections.

\*\*Does not include land acquired through the Craighurst development process. This land acquisition will help achieve part of this target.

Identified below are a number of additional attributes and characteristics of the Township's parkland asset base.

- The Township has approximately 38 Ha. of reserve parkland. About 26 Ha. is generally undevelopable due to environmental or access constraints or presence of existing municipal infrastructure.
- Except for a lakeshore parcel adjacent to the Line 12 S, none of the developable reserve parkland serves the high growth (Craighurst and Horseshoe Valley) or intermediate growth (Hawkestone) settlements.
- Of the 12 Ha. of developable reserve parkland, about 3.6 Ha. has limited park potential but good residential infill development potential.
- There are limited metrics for comparison for waterfront parkland and access for summer and winter water-based activities, but from demand and service pressures the Township is facing, the provision in the Township is low and demand is increasing faster than the rate of population growth.
- The Township has about 1,000 metres of waterfrontage parkland, not including wharfs, launches and road allowances. However, less than half of this shoreline waterfront can be functionally accessed (Bayview and Line 15N).
- In addition to shoreline parks and several lot-sized shoreline parkland parcels (6 on lake Simcoe and 2 on Bass Lake), the Township has approximately 47 additional points of shoreline (43 on Lake Simcoe and 4 on Bass Lake) that includes wharfs (2), launch points (4), road allowances (informal launch points) and a large number of unopened or shoreline inaccessible road allowances.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. As an overarching Township-wide target, strive to achieve 4.0 Ha. of managed parkland per 1,000 residents.
- B. Use 2.2 Ha. of parkland per 1,000 residents in settlement areas (as per the table provided on page 87) as a high-level target, while also considering other practical factors that may offset or reduce the need for the Township to acquire or develop incremental parkland to achieve this target (e.g. non-municipal parkland supply, the quality and appeal of park space, demographics, etc.).
- C. Do not purchase or accept through the development process designated environmentally sensitive areas, significant woodlots, ravine lands, "hazard" lands, water supply infrastructure, stormwater management infrastructure and related lands, unless such acquisition meets another Township priority, such as a high priority environmental protection or trail linkage function.
- D. Focus waterfront parkland acquisition efforts to acquire useable-shoreline waterfront parkland and improve shoreline access and launch function in its waterfront road allowance portfolio.

When assessing the current state of parkland and future needs, it is also critically important to recognize that the Township is not the only provider of parkland leisure and recreation opportunities. The Copeland Forest, Bass Lake Provincial Park, Simcoe County Forest, and privately managed recreation areas practically add to the abundance of outdoor recreation lands that Oro-Medonte residents can access and may mitigate or offset the need for the Township to acquire incremental parkland supply.

## 6.4. PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR PARKLAND

Planning and investment in public parkland and outdoor recreational amenities has many benefits. Parks and open space contribute to the Township's strong outdoor-inspired sense of place and community, promotes the health and well-being of residents, supports ecological diversity, and enhances overall quality of life. Furthermore, a well-developed parks and open space system is financially sustainable. Beyond contributing to increased private property values and tax base, investment in public parkland and open space can serve to enhance a municipality's reputation, and in turn, its ability to attract new residents, businesses, and visitors.

Recognizing those benefits, it's important that the Township has the necessary policies in place – aligned with the Official Plan – to direct the planning, acquisition, and development of public parkland. Parkland related policies should work synergistically to achieve the following key outcomes:

- Secure the necessary land to support new development and provide optimal outdoor recreation opportunities for residents.
- Ensure that acquired parkland is suitable to enable the adequate development of needed and high value amenities and spaces.
- Support connectivity of the parkland system.
- Contribute to achieving balance with the parkland inventory – geographic and with respect to the types of spaces available for recreation.

Provided as follows is guidance for Township wide and area specific planning and policy related initiatives.



Craighurst Park

# TOWNSHIP-WIDE PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The new Official Plan is an important and overarching document that should guide land acquisition and use. Building on the direction provided in the Official Plan and previous sections of this Master Plan, the Township should:

- Ensure that the new Parkland Classification System is followed when assessing parkland acquisition and overall investment.
- The Parkland Classification System should be reviewed on a regular basis and updated to ensure continued relevancy as a key point of reference.

In addition to the land dedication provisions set out in Section 42 of The Planning Act, the Official Plan and subsequent Parkland Dedication Bylaw, The Township should also explore other mechanisms to acquire or secure land for park and/or trail development, including but not limited to:

- Direct purchase of land by way of funds allocated in the Township’s budget, monies raised through cash-in-lieu of land dedications, and/or funds generated through the sale of other Township lands;
- Land exchanges/swaps; and
- Donations, gifts, or bequests from individuals or organizations.

Particularly in the case of planning optimal trail routes or trail connections, where specific lands cannot be acquired by the Township, the Township should consider approaching pertinent landowners to secure public access. Such access can be secured by way of agreement to allow continuous trail access and passage.

Situations may exist in which the Township is prudent to explore cash-in-lieu of parkland. It is recommended that the Township formalize a policy to guide cash-in-lieu decision making based around the following objectives and rationale.

**Note: The new Official Plan identifies that cash-in-lieu of parkland is the Township’s preferred option. All cash-in-lieu decisions must align with the Planning Act of Ontario and the following table is solely intended to provide a policy framework.**

CASH-IN-LIEU OBJECTIVES	RATIONALE
To secure land to achieve a priority recreation project.	Recreation priority projects identified through the Master Plan and/or other Township planning may require a significant parcel of land to be amassed. In these instances, accepting cash-in-lieu is prudent to support an identified project that will benefit a larger proportion of Township residents.
To support acquiring land to develop higher value community parks.	Accepting cash-in-lieu may present the opportunity to acquire land adjacent to an existing or proposed park space, enabling the provision of larger park that can provide a greater diversity and quantity of resident benefit.
To purchase specialized land such as waterfront access.	It is highly unlikely that the Township will be able to acquire waterfront lands through reserve contributions. Accepting cash-in-lieu is acceptable if it can support waterfront land purchase to achieve providing enhanced public access.
To avoid accepting low value parkland.	As previously outlined in the Section 6.3. recommendations, the Township should avoid accepting environmentally sensitive areas, significant woodlots, ravine lands, “hazard” lands, water supply infrastructure, and stormwater management infrastructure accept under special circumstances. If the nature of the development is such that only these lands are available, cash-in-lieu should be explored.

# DEVELOPMENT CHARGES CONSIDERATIONS

The addition of new residential development provides an opportunity to grow the Township's population and tax base and achieve a host of other benefits. However, it is also important to recognize the short and long-term costs of supporting new areas with quality of life infrastructure and services, including parks and recreation opportunities.

Providing a baseline, quality level of service to new neighbourhoods will require the Township to obtain sufficient resourcing through development charges. The parks classification system and recommended facility / amenity guidance identified in the Master Plan identifies a service level basis that speaks to how the Township values parks and recreation and believes it should provide these services and experiences to residents. As such, the Master Plan should be used as a point of reference when determining the appropriate development charge structures.

The determination of development charge structures should be revisited on an ongoing basis and aligned with Ontario provincial legislation.



*Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography*

# AREA SPECIFIC PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy guidance is provided below to address anticipated parkland supply gaps by 2031 in Craighurst, Horseshoe Valley, Moonstone and Hawkestone. Future parkland acquisition should strive to acquire only community park-size parcels, with exceptions for park expansion or to significantly improve park provision inequities. Specific area acquisitions are noted in the Table below:

AREA	CURRENT SITUATION	ACQUISITION GUIDANCE
<b>Moonstone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moonstone is currently deficient in developable parkland.</li> <li>• Additional facility development constrained by park size and shape.</li> <li>• There is significant parkland reserve, but with many environmental, infrastructure and configuration constraints, leaving only about 1.0 Ha. developable as park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the reasonably well-located Ramey Park to permit full community park development.</li> <li>• Provide park linkages that connect Ramey to the Medonte Hills neighbourhoods, county forest tracts and future residential development.</li> </ul>
<b>Hawkestone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkestone currently has adequate developed parkland.</li> <li>• Current facility development is limited and future development is constrained by parkland size.</li> <li>• There is significant parkland reserve, but most of this is conservation land and developable reserve is only about 1.0 Ha.</li> <li>• No current or reserve park configuration permits a full community park development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire community-sized waterfront park to serve both local and Township-wide demand.</li> <li>• As a less preferred alternative, expand the Hawkestone Community Hall Parkland, potentially incorporating the Rail Trail as a connector.</li> </ul>
<b>Craighurst</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities exist to enhance the functionality of the Railside Park and to provide a broader range of activity and use experiences.</li> <li>• The ball diamond in Craighurst is unmaintained and has a number of access challenges off of Highway 93. Opportunities exist to make better recreational use of the space.</li> <li>• Current facility development is limited and future development is constrained by parkland size or access.</li> <li>• There is no developable reserve parkland in Craighurst.</li> <li>• Future growth to 2031 is projected to increase the current population fivefold and plans include the provision of a new Community Park and Elementary School.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire a community-sized parkland parcel of at least 4.0 ha. (as per the Parkland Classification System), particularly if there is an existing woodlot component, and that is also suitably adjacent to the school parcel.</li> <li>• Provide park linkages that connect the new community park to potential trails in the Copeland Forest and to McNutt Road/Line 1 unopened road allowance.</li> <li>• Ensure suitable pedestrian connections to existing and future neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• Work with developers in Craighurst and the School Board to optimize recreational amenities.</li> </ul>



AREA	CURRENT SITUATION	ACQUISITION GUIDANCE
<b>Horseshoe Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horseshoe Valley is currently deficient in developed parkland.</li> <li>• Current facility development is extensive and will increase with the future development of an elementary school and community centre adjacent to Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park.</li> <li>• Future park facility development is constrained by parkland size.</li> <li>• There is no developable reserve parkland in Horseshoe Valley.</li> <li>• Future growth to 2031 is projected to at least double the current population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire two community sized parcels of land (4.0 Ha. or larger each as per the Parkland Classification System).</li> <li>• Provide park linkages that connect new parkland to the County Forest and to the Eagles Rest community.</li> <li>• Acquire linkages that connect the existing Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park and the future school.</li> </ul>
<b>Waterfront Parkland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access to shoreline was expressed as a key concern and priority during the engagement.</li> <li>• There is currently a lack of shoreline access capacity relative to demand and identified recreation needs.</li> <li>• Shape, size, and access infrastructure (e.g. roadways and pathways) are critical attributes to waterfront parkland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify strategic opportunities to acquire waterfront parkland that can provide new waterfront park spaces that will fulfill both localized and community-wide demand.</li> <li>• Develop site specific strategies that address identified waterfront access challenges and issues (e.g. roadways that are challenged to support safe and functional access, parking issues, etc.).</li> <li>• The Township has been attempting to determine a plan for the Lakeshore for over 20 years. The legalities, liabilities of responsibilities of the Township and private property owners has been complex for this legacy situation. All options should continue to be analyzed and considered.</li> </ul>

# PARKLAND DISPOSITION GUIDANCE

## THE CONTEXT FOR PARKLAND DISPOSITION

The Township has significant parkland holdings, which includes reserve lands of approximately 38.2 Ha. Identified below are some key characteristics of the available parkland reserve.

- 12 Ha. of the reserve inventory is developable (unrestricted by infrastructure, environmental constraints and limited access). This land has varying park development potential, but nearly all has residential development potential.
- None of this developable reserve is in the high growth areas of Craighurst and Horseshoe Valley. Some developable reserve lies in the intermediate growth areas of Moonstone and Hawkestone, but with varying suitability for park development.
- About 3.6 Ha. of the reserve parkland has limited park potential but good residential infill development potential.

## RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION POLICY FRAMEWORK

It is recommended that the Township formalize a policy to guide parkland disposition.

### DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

The Township will consider parkland disposition of lands that when at least one of the following criteria are met:

- There is an oversupply of a particular type of parkland in the area.
- The functional characteristics of the land are not suitable for development as a park.
- There are land use conflicts that cannot be reasonably resolved in the land if developed for parkland uses.

### DRAFT POLICY PARAMETERS

Prior to final disposition decision making, the Township should ensure that the following factors have been adequately assessed.

- Where there is not an oversupply of a particular parkland and or the land would serve an alternate purpose providing public benefit, consider the viability of making the land available (through sale or lease) to a community organization for continued recreation use or other public benefits.
- Identifying opportunities to swap the subject lands with another public or private entity for land in an area in need of additional parkland.
- Directing the proceeds of any sale of parkland towards the acquisition of, reinvestment in, or future development of parkland in areas of the Township currently deficient in within the requirements of the Planning Act of Ontario.

## SPECIFIC DISPOSITION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table identifies disposition recommendations for specific land parcels.

PARK NAME (DEVELOPABLE RESERVE PARCELS)	RATIONALE	GUIDANCE
Barillia Park	Small residential lot-sized parcel in an area already well-serviced. Consider disposing once waterfront review is complete.	Further Analyze Disposing
Craighurst Ball Diamond	Access and frontage are poor. Once new diamonds come online this park should be decommissioned.	Decommission
Guthrie Sports Field	These fields have low functionality and the recommended Guthrie multi-sport project presents an opportunity to provide more suitable fields.	Decommission and divest
Robin Crest Park (1.4 Ha, Moonstone)	Most of the land is an incline with a downward slope away from the street frontage. It's intended function as a toboggan hill is hazardous, with limited runout and no access to the runout, and has been closed by the Township for this use. Park development limited to an area of about 0.3 Ha. There is a residential development potential on this parcel.	Recommend disposing
Joy Avenue Park (1.6 Ha, Prices Corners)	Reasonably sized, primarily woodlot parcel close to Bass Lake. The Highway 12 corridor into Orillia is expanding rapidly, but Prices Corners already has a neighbourhood park and 10-year growth does not support additional park need. There is a residential development potential on this parcel.	Recommend disposing
Medonte Hills Phase 1 Parkland (1.2 Ha, Moonstone)	Constrained by a stream with the park that reduces its developable area to about 0.8 Ha. Additional parkland is required in the Moonstone area, but this park area is undersized for community park opportunity and preference is for an area expansion of Ramey Park. There is a residential development potential on this parcel.	When the Ramey Park expansion is secure, recommend disposing
Kirkpatrick Park (2.8 Ha, Oro Station).	This park is the only developable reserve parcel that could accommodate community park development, however, the community is well-serviced by existing parks including Bayview Memorial Park (BMP, Regional) and Shelswell Park (Community). Consisting almost entirely of woodlot, Kirkpatrick Park is separated from BMP by a single large parcel. Given the use pressures on BMP there may be a case to acquire this intermediate parcel to facilitate a contiguous waterfront park complex of about 8.1 Ha. However, this does not increase the shoreline access of BMP. Disposal may facilitate the acquisition of shoreline parkland elsewhere. There is a residential development potential on this parcel.	Recommended for further study

PARK NAME (DEVELOPABLE RESERVE PARCELS)	RATIONALE	GUIDANCE
Emily Park (1.6 Ha, Shanty Bay)	This donated land of two parcels is primarily mown turf with one parcel including part of a SWM pond. This park is close to the developed parks of Arbourwood (0.5 km) and Shanty Bay (1.1 km). The local neighbourhood does not require two substantially sized parks and Shanty Bay overall is already well-serviced with existing parks. Due to the wish to honour the original land donation for Emily Park, there may be potential to consider Emily for park development and Arbourwood for disposal. Emily Park could be a suitable site for a dog off-leash area.	Potential development; recommend further study
Simcoeside Park (0.8, Hawkestone).	This mown turf and woodlot fringe parcel is in the Hawkestone area, but not centrally located nor of a size that permits community park development. The park has already been subdivided into 4 residential lots. Disposal proceeds should be used to expand or optimize the Hawkestone Community Hall Park or aid in acquiring additional waterfront parkland.	Recommend disposing
Martin Crescent Park (0.4 Ha, Shanty Bay).	This residential lot-sized parcel has very limited park potential in an area already well-serviced.	Recommend disposing if there are no infrastructure constraints
Ward Avenue Park (0.5 Ha, Prices Corners)	An oddly-shaped parcel very close to Bass Lake with no park use potential or benefit. There is a residential development potential of 3 infill lots on this parcel.	Recommend disposing



Other Township lands may also be considered for disposal, including ineffectively used specialized parks and additional waterfront unopened road allowances. Additional consideration should be given to the following:

- **Richelieu Park (3.5 Ha, Warminster).** Richelieu Park is exclusively used for intermittent junior soccer activities of a local league. This park, while it has an ideal park size and shape, has poor access and no street frontage. However, it could easily fit within the residential development fabric. In addition, Warminster is generously supplied with parkland and remains generously serviced at current and 2031 populations with Danny McHugh Memorial Park. **Recommend further study.**
- **Bidwell Parkland (10.9 Ha, Bidwell Road).** This is a large, specialized parcel of woodlot currently providing some informal trails. This small estate settlement area has no developed parkland but is reasonably close to Craighurst and future community park development. In addition, this area is well provided with adjacent county forest tracts. The center portion of this parcel has varied topography and its retention as parkland permits connections to the Huronia Homes Parkland and Woodland Crescent Parkland to the north. However, the table-land portions at the east and west ends have residential development potential. **Recommend further study.**
- **Lakeshore Promenade (Hawkestone).** This is an unopened road allowance running along and parallel to the shoreline for approximately 650 metres with some pathway remnants. There is private use throughout the promenade. Public use development has limited potential and will cause significant disruption to the adjacent residents and presents other challenges that are difficult to mitigate and manage. There is a segment between Simcoeside Avenue and Owen Road which has potential for public use development with limited disruption, but the area would be a sub-optimal size of about 0.8 Ha. Disposition will be complicated, involving dozens of landowners, but the waterfrontage is extensive and very valuable. There is also a group of lots south of the Promenade, to Line 10, which appear to have a narrow right-of-way between the shore and the lots. **Recommend for further study.**
- **Unopened Waterfront Road Allowances.** There are approximately 23 unopened or inaccessible road allowances along Lake Simcoe that are not terminations of the main Lines. They all lie perpendicular to the shore and many are stubs, occupying a single residential lot or easement sized space between the shoreline and the parallel-running municipal road. These types of unopened road allowances have no park or general access utility but, in some cases, may serve as local access for back-lot residents. Some may also have a water conveyance role. Other wise they will be highly valued for residential lot expansion or creation.

**A Water Access Study should be undertaken to assess the full portfolio of waterfront wharfs, launches, open and unopen road allowances, and lots and easements.** This study should build on the Master Plan by undertaking a complete inventory and assessment of water access points (formal and informal), infrastructure condition, and provide recommendations on retention, potential re-investment in infrastructure, disposal and development. Section 6.5. provides some initial guidance that can help inform the scoping of the suggested Water Access Study.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Use the Township-wide planning and policy guidance as a basis for future decision making.
- B. Formalize a new cash-in-lieu policy using the policy framework provided.
- C. Undertake the recommended planning and policy actions identified for specific areas within the Township.
- D. Use the parkland disposition draft policy statement and parameters to formalize a new policy that will guide how, when and under what circumstances the Township is prudent to consider disposing of surplus parkland.
- E. Consider disposition of the specific land parcels identified in this section.
- F. Undertake the recommended Water Access Study.

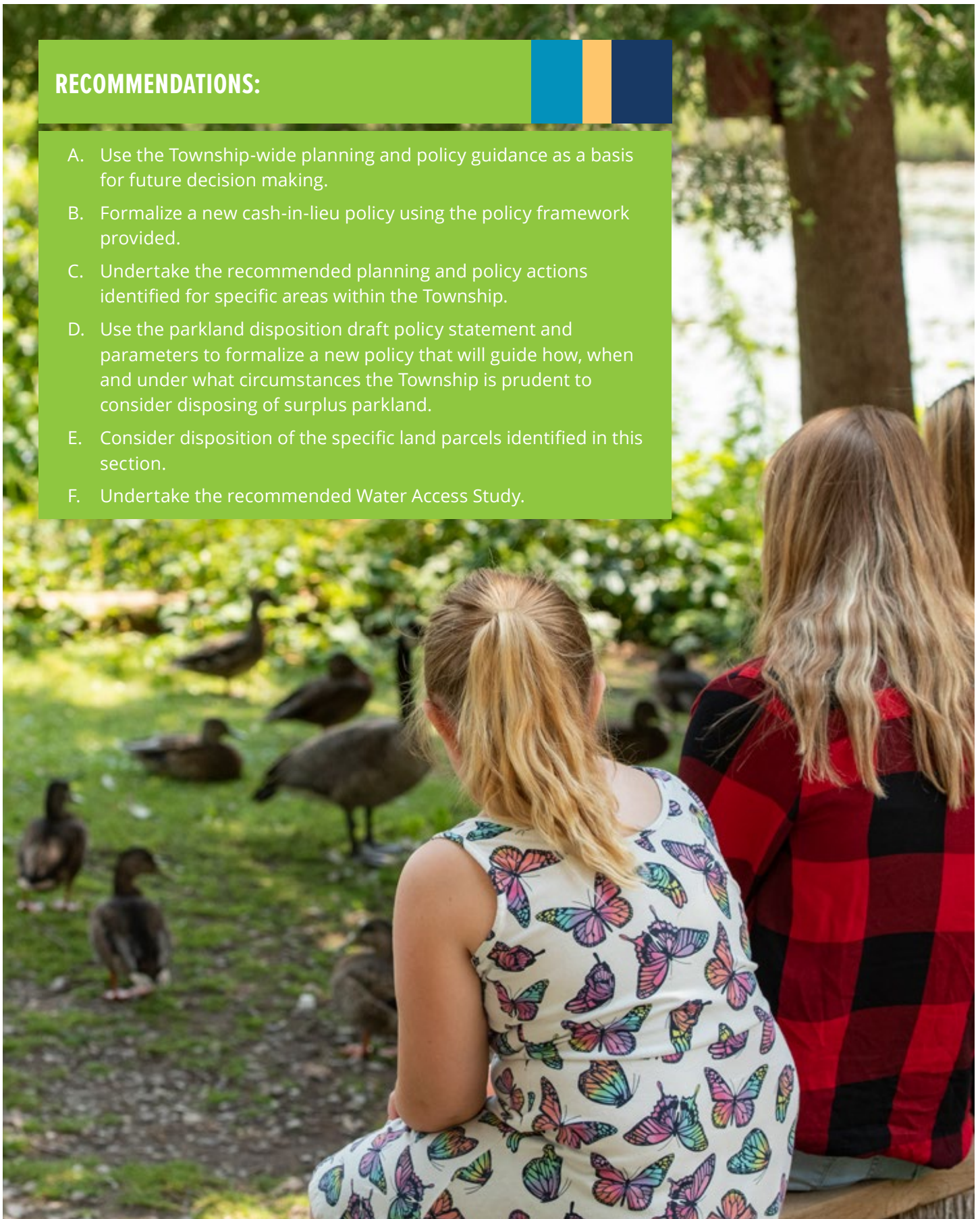


Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography

## 6.5. PARKLAND DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE

Park design guidelines are provided in the following tables in this Section. These guidelines provide a checklist of facility types and standards as well as physical characteristics of Community, Neighbourhood and Specialized Park categories.

Regional Park guidelines are not provided as their activities and physical characteristics are highly variable. The one priority objective is that they serve a Township-wide function and need and are accessible to all.

Community Parks are proposed in the Master Plan as the foundation of the Township's parkland provision and the focus of Township's park renewal and new park acquisition. The Township's objective should be to provide one good-quality community park in every major settlement area (or more as per population growth). As this category of park will be the primary level of park provision, it will also include the most facilities and features. However, the Master Plan recommends that for those community parks generally within a 15-minute drive of the Lions Sports Fields at Guthrie, field facilities not be developed. This permits more premium field facilities to be concentrated at one site (Guthrie), improving play and permitting more sports events to be held. This general strategy will not apply to those communities and parks more distant from Guthrie, such as Warminster, Moonstone and Vasey.

Parks are not just an assembly of facilities but important public places of health and enjoyment, socialization and community gathering, and visual beauty. Each park should be unique and reflect their community characteristics. Park facilities should include design themes, colours and materials, and other characteristics that provide both distinctiveness and consistency to reinforce the idea that this park is Oro-Medonte. To reinforce this design imperative, the Master Plan has provided a Community Park Vision, described in the section following.

Neighbourhood Parks are an important park of the Township's legacy of parks and existing neighbourhood parks should be maintained at a basic level, providing play and passive activity for the local community. Specialized Park requirements are based solely on the needs of the facility of activity for which the park was dedicated.



## BASIC FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Playground, targeted to a broad age range, with unique features and level of accessibility in alignment with best practice guidelines. Determination of playground structure type site dependent / appropriate aimed at maximizing Township wide play diversity.
- One multi-use court (60' x 120') with lighting
- Open turf area with a minimum size equal to a junior field (150' x 200')
- Multiple seating area for gathering and viewing
- One shade/picnic structure
- Parking with lighting
- Bike racks
- Park name signage
- Waste/recycling receptacles

## OPTIONAL FACILITIES

- Additional courts of size as required
- Community garden plots
- Family playground with obstacle course theme
- Natural or loose play components
- Pump or pump/skate track
- Toboggan hills
- Leash-free or dog play area
- Natural areas with trails
- Horticultural displays
- Bocce courts, horseshoe pits, sand courts
- Concession facilities
- Washrooms

- Walkway lighting
- Interpretive signage
- Historical or memorial plaques
- Public art
- Wifi and phone charging

## ACCESS

- Walking
- Cycling
- Driving
- Transit or shuttle (future)

## SERVICE AREA

Serves a settlement area

1.6 km radius in settlement areas with dedicated crossings of major roads

8.0 - 10.0 km in rural areas

## PREFERRED SIZE

Minimum 4.0 hectares

Shape approximately square (3:4 to 1:1 ration of width to length)

## SERVICE STANDARDS

Primarily well-developed, active park space

Fulfills the requirements of a neighbourhood park in the 0.6 km radius area

Contributes to standard of 4.0 Ha. of total parkland per thousand on a Township-wide basis

Primary contribution to the standard of 2.2 Ha. of developed parkland per thousand within a major settlement area

## IDENTITY & LOCATION

Define edges to distinguish from adjacent land use and provide extensive street frontage for safety and visibility

Location to be central to the neighbourhood it serves and be accessible from a major local road

Screen park from negative adjacent impacts

Screen neighbouring residences from negative park impacts (noise lighting etc.)

## NOTES

Location and facilities should be coordinated with elementary schools or Township centres and facilities where possible

Potentially also attracts visitors from other areas of the Township and from outside the Township





## BASIC FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Playground structure (smaller scale than Community Park but aimed at achieving the same principles of accessible and diverse play).
- Informal seating area
- Open turf area
- Provide shaded areas (with planting or shade structure)
- Park name signage
- Waste/ recycling receptacles

## OPTIONAL FACILITIES

- Basic small multi-use court (30' x 60')
- Basic junior sports field (150' x 200')
- Toboggan hill
- Sand court
- Bike racks

## ACCESS

- Walking
- Cycling

## SERVICE AREA

Serves one neighbourhood  
0.6 km radius in settlement areas, or 5-10 minutes of walking, uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers.  
1.0 km radius in rural areas

## PREFERRED SIZE

1.2 to 3.25 hectares

## SERVICE STANDARDS

A balance of active and passive park space

Contributes to standard of 4.0 Ha. of total parkland per thousand on a Township-wide basis

Contributes to standard of 2.2 Ha. of developed parkland per thousand within a major settlement area

## IDENTITY & LOCATION

Define edges to distinguish from adjacent land use

Provide street and residential frontage for safety and visibility

Location to be central to the neighbourhood it serves, in a way that the service area is not interrupted by major roads and other physical barriers.

Screen park from negative adjacent impacts

## NOTES

Legacy neighbourhood parks should be maintained, unless service level is replaced by community parks in the settlement area

New neighbourhood parks should only be developed if there are high priority requirement for the area



Sweetwater Park

## SPECIALIZED PARK GUIDELINE



### BASIC FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Basic facility requirements to be determined on individual basis
- Park signage

### OPTIONAL FACILITIES

- Optional facility requirements to be determined on individual basis
- Parking/ parking lighting as required
- Waste/ recycling receptacles as required
- Washrooms as required
- Display info or guide to park facilities where applicable

### ACCESS

- Walking
- Cycling
- Driving

### SERVICE AREA

Serves segments of the community

### PREFERRED SIZE

Size varies depending on land base and facilities

### SERVICE STANDARDS

Generally single-use park space

Contributes to standard of 4.0 Ha. of total parkland per thousand on a Township-wide basis

Contributes to standard of 2.2 Ha. of developed parkland per thousand within a major settlement area

### IDENTITY & LOCATION

Define edges to distinguish from adjacent land use

Location dependent on availability of areas with features the uses require

### NOTES

Includes:

- Specific sports activity
- Conservation area and nature trails
- Cultural, civic and historic parks, memorials and monuments
- Public gardens and arboreta
- Community services
- Cemeteries
- Beaches
- Marine facilities

Potentially attract visitors from outside the Township



Bayview Memorial Park

# COMMUNITY PARK VISION

Future development of community-serving parks that are designed to provide a mix of creative, diverse and accessible outdoor recreation is a critical direction for the Township. The engagement undertaken for the Master Plan clearly re-iterates that residents place a high value on parks and want access to quality and dynamic spaces close to where they live. Opportunities exist for the Township to develop spaces that better align with trends in outdoor recreation and provide a broader range of play.

The Master Plan offers two different community park vision concepts – “**Village Recreation**” and “**Outdoor Leisure**”. These vision concepts explore recreation ideas derived from the cultural and natural characteristics of the Township. A full range of activities are incorporated, from passive leisure to nature-based activities to active facility based recreation. The concepts additionally provide a flexible tool in approaching park design and renewal, where elements from both may be applied to suit the site and community needs.

The vision concepts were applied to two sample locations to showcase how they could be realized and the synergistic relationships that could exist between the various amenities and features. The application of the **Outdoor Leisure** concept to an expanded Ramey Memorial Park incorporated several new amenities and elements that would ideally function within an assumed newly acquired wooded area. Car access and parking has been moved away from the local street to Line 8 and the existing multi-use court retained but with improved features. Nature-based activities predominate in this concept with woodland- based pump track and leash-free zone, child and youth play zones with natural materials, and trails throughout with potential connections to Line 7 communities and county forests.

The **Village Recreation** concept was applied to Shanty Bay Park, retaining the existing multi-use court, adding a designated parking area along Shanty Bay Road, and incorporating the fire hall structure into a new community hub and plaza. Child, youth, and family play elements have been added as well as event space, new amenities, and passive features. The current baseball function is anticipated to be moved to Lions Sports Fields at Guthrie, where additional premium ball facilities are anticipated in the future.

The Master Plan places emphasis on the renewal of existing community parks and the provision of new ones where there are identified parkland gaps or where future development will occur. Smaller neighborhood serving parks remain important to Oro-Medonte, though these will be provided and maintained at a lower service level.

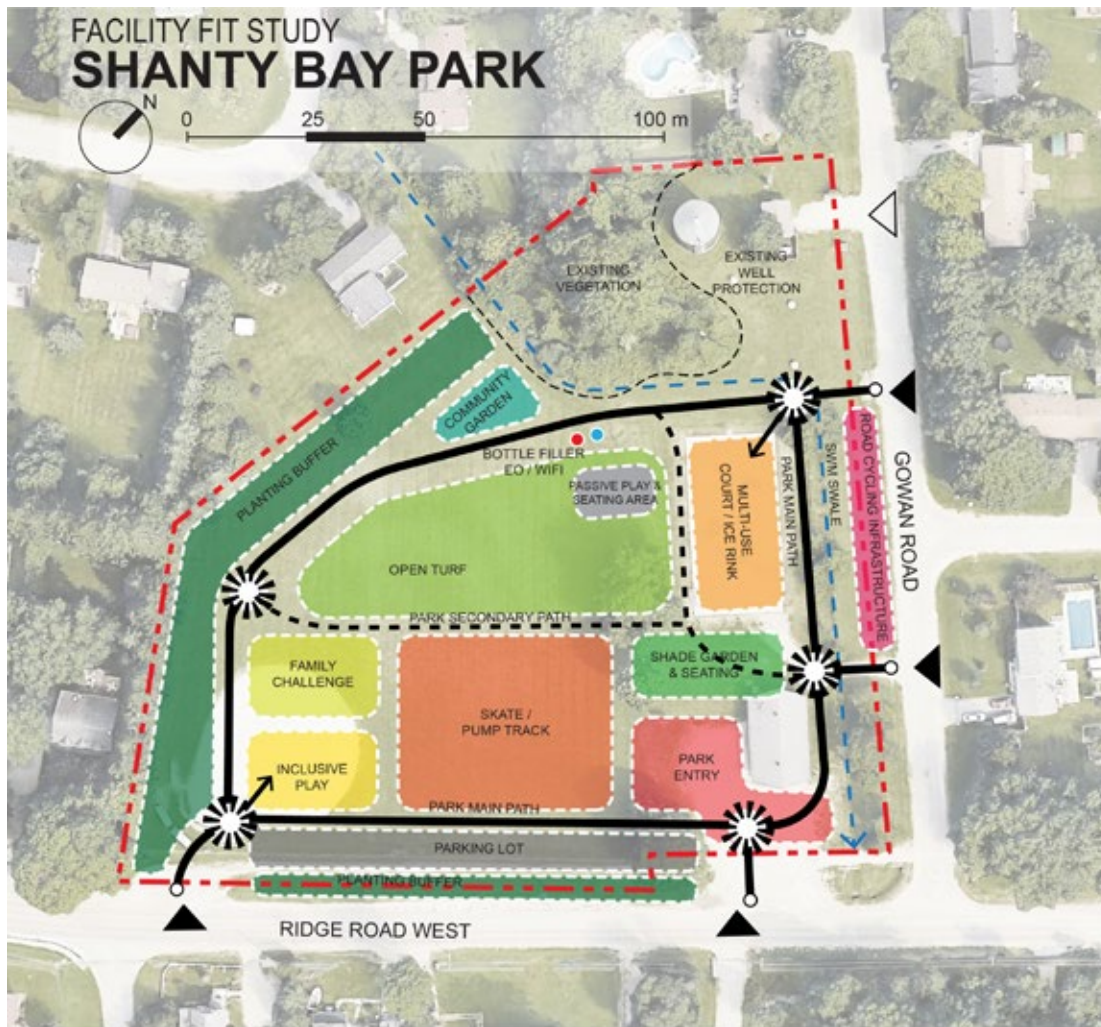
Replacement, renewal and provision of new play equipment and spaces at neighbourhood and community parks should contemplate provision of a more diverse range of play environments and equipment for children, youth and adults in Oro-Medonte. Connecting people with nature through play, and offering challenge, are powerful yet simple play space design principles that should be considered for playground renewal or development projects.

# OUTDOOR LEISURE



# FACILITY FIT STUDY: SHANTY BAY

*\*Note: This facility fit image is for demonstration purposes only.*



GATHERING SPACE



PEDESTRIAN LIGHT / WIFI / EO



COMMUNITY GARDEN



SKATE / PUMP TRACK



MULTI-USE COURT



FAMILY CHALLENGE



# FACILITY FIT STUDY: MOONSTONE PARK

Note: This facility fit image is for demonstration purposes only and conditional on land acquisition.



MULTI-USE TRAIL



NATURAL PLAY



OUTDOOR CLASS



PUMP TRACK



WAYFINDING



OFF LEASH DOG RUN



The concepts presented in this section explore how the vision can be applied to existing community parks of different sizes and conditions that are typical in the Township. They are not intended to be new development plans for each of these parks. Park supply is currently over-provisioned at Shanty Bay and park improvement should be accompanied by a strategy for parkland disposal. Accommodation of informal junior soccer provision at Moonstone should be pursued with the school board prior to removal of the field at Ramey park. Specific park improvement will require local community input and will likely include elements from both themes. The full Vision presentation is provided in Appendix B.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Adopt the park design guidelines for Community, Neighbourhood, and Specialized parks as a tool for parkland planning and acquisition efforts.
- B. Complete site master plans for Moonstone (Ramey Memorial Park), Craighurst, Arbourwood / Shelswell, Shanty Bay and Horseshoe Bay using these guiding concepts.



# 6.6. PARKLAND CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The Township’s primary objective is to maintain and improve the venues that it currently has and provide facilities that are safe and of the appropriate quality. Parks are more than just a collection of facilities and they must be visually attractive, laid out in a coherent and functional manner, and be identifiable through consistency in signage and amenities.

New park development should be undertaken using the parameters and Parkland Classification System and development guidelines provided in the new Official Plan, while also considering

opportunities to achieve the amenity action plans (recommendations) and park concepts contained in this Master Plan document. The best practices of conducting preliminary design test fits and ensuring that grading meets required use specs should also be implemented for every new or retrofitted park site.

The Parkland Classification System also provides high level parameters that can help guide maintenance service levels. Regularly assessing maintenance practices and service levels is important and reflects a commitment to quality and efficiency.



Bayview Memorial Park

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. As with other aspects of parkland provision and planning, follow the guidance provided by the new Parkland Classification System.
- B. Implement the recommended maintenance program and regularly review maintenance standards and service levels to ensure resource allocation is aligned, efficient and effective.
- C. Ensure that the park construction process includes test fits and optimal grading standards.



## 6.7. NATURALIZATION AND TURF MANAGEMENT

There are many aspects of park area and sports field maintenance, but turf management often assumes a primary role, a major expenditure and often a key carbon source. While the Township has diligently pursued a strategy of cost-effective contracted grass-cutting, costs are susceptible to upward trends for manual maintenance costs and competitive bidding. A key strategy is to develop a hierarchy of maintenance levels appropriate to the desired performance and aesthetic outcome, while optimizing the application of limited operational resources.

General turf maintenance with standard regimes often expend too much on non-priority and general use areas and too little on high use park and sports field turf. As the general use areas are typically much larger in area than high-use or sports field areas, optimization generally reduces turf expenditure.

However, just reducing mowing frequency in general park turf areas results in unacceptable losses in value and visual quality. Rather the objective is to develop alternatives to traditional turf culture. Naturalization offers an opportunity to develop non-turf landscapes that achieve user, environmental and cost objectives and includes the following strategies:

- **Woody naturalization:** restores or enhances woodlands and forests by planting trees and shrubs. Often will build on existing forest edges to improve buffer conditions that benefit the forest interior
- **Upland and wet meadow naturalization:** restores dry or wet meadows with native grasses and perennials.



*Forest Edge Buffer Planting*

# RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The following table identifies a high-level, recommended maintenance program for the Township.

PARK TYPE	SUGGEST MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
Township-Wide Parks (passive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilization / weed prevention program 2x per year</li> <li>• Annual aeration</li> <li>• Weekly mowing</li> <li>• Tree and amenity maintenance as per site specs</li> <li>• Irrigation 2-3x per week</li> </ul>
Sports Fields and Ball Diamonds (bookable fields and diamonds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilization / weed prevention program 2x per year</li> <li>• Annual aeration and top dressing of playing surfaces</li> <li>• Weekly mowing with potential for increased frequency during peak seasons of play</li> <li>• Irrigation 2-3x per week. Not currently provided</li> <li>• Ball diamond grooming as required to accommodate safe and quality surface conditions</li> </ul>
Community Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilization / weed prevention program 2x per year</li> <li>• Annual aeration</li> <li>• Mowing every 1.25 weeks</li> <li>• Tree and amenity maintenance as per site specs</li> <li>• Irrigation as per site conditions</li> </ul>
Neighbourhood / Local Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertilization / weed prevention program 1x per year</li> <li>• Annual aeration if required</li> <li>• Mowing every 2-3 weeks</li> <li>• Tree and amenity maintenance as per site specs</li> <li>• Irrigation as per site conditions</li> </ul>
Open Space / Naturalized Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-weekly site visits to check for garbage, invasive species, and other issues</li> <li>• Tree pruning only if risk of falling onto roadways or structures</li> </ul>



## UPLAND MEADOW WET MEADOW



Before (GTA)



After (GTA)



- **Buffer turf:** where a turf-like appearance is desired for non-priority areas, use of low-growing turf blends like fine fescue allows a no-mow or infrequent mowing with reasonable appearance.
- **Turf pathways:** maintain circulation in restoration areas.





Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography

# 7

## ACTION PLAN FOR TRAILS

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Recommendations pertaining to a future trail hub.
- Additional guidance on recommended trail projects and opportunities to optimize the Township's trail investment and actions.

### 7.1. THE TRAILS CONTEXT ON ORO-MEDONTE

Oro-Medonte has a massive resource of primarily County and Crown publicly accessible forest lands with an equally huge, but disconnected network of trails. The Township has a limited role in trail activity, with one key exception: the regionally significant, Township-wide municipal trail—the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail. This overall trail resource has several primary characteristics:

- It is owned and managed by several different public-sector and NGO parties, with no overall means of systematic coordination.
- Trail use has been growing significantly in the Township and, during the pandemic, growing immensely.
- Trail activity has an increasingly important impact on Township tourism and economic growth.
- To get to trails, unless living in very close proximity, everyone drives. As parking at trails hubs is challenging, this can discourage trail use or result in conflicts.
- Limited connections between trails and local businesses, limiting the economic value of trail visitation.

Aside from the Rail Trail, and a very minor portfolio of informal trails in woodlot and conservation parkland, the Township doesn't own the nature trails, but does have interests in connecting residents and visitors to get to the trails, parking at the trails and, increasingly, the means to connect some of the local trail networks: the roads, rights-of-way lands and the unopened road allowances.

The Township has been actively supporting NGO trail groups particularly the Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club (SCMBC) and the Copeland Forest Friends, with parking development and maintenance. In 2021, the Township completed a Wayfinding Strategy report that incorporated some of the trailhead locations. The Township is also exploring increased accommodation of motorized trail groups and activity. A cross-Township trail proposal by the Central Ontario All-Terrain Vehicle Club (COATV) is being considered. Both the COATV and the Simcoe County Off-Road Riders Association (SCORRA, trailbikes) have current agreements for use of county forest trails in Oro-Medonte, primarily in the North Barr and South Barr tracts.

Developing a trail hub presents the opportunity to enhance trail experiences and better leverage the recreation and economic value of trail activities. This project along with additional trail enhancements to wayfinding signage and other support amenities are further identified later in this section.

The Rail Trail spans the Township and beyond, connecting downtown Barrie to downtown Orillia. It is an easy ride, but the granular surface limits small-wheeled activity. Connection to the trail is almost entirely limited to main Line roads. Even the communities it bisects have very limited connections (except for the main line) and parking supply.

Aside from the rail trail, there are no pedestrian inter-community linkages. Even within settlement areas, sidewalks and multi-use trails are rare. The potential to use rights-of-way land, unopened road allowances and county forest lands (under agreement) provide excellent potential to connect communities and communities to recreation. The recent installation of a paved multi-use path in the right-of-way of Line 4, provides an excellent model for cost-effective, separated pedestrian travel in a rural road right of way.



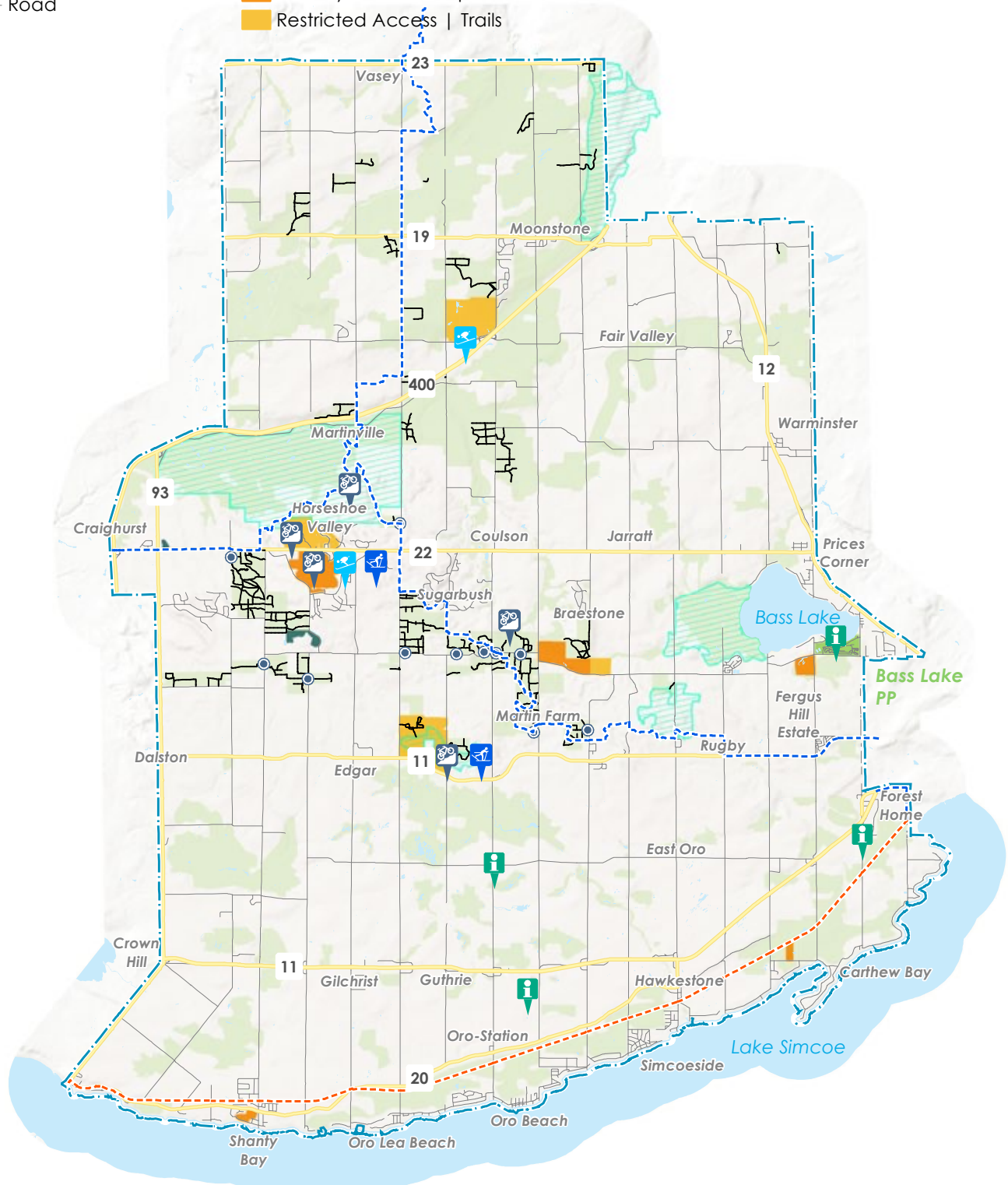
Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography

# PARKLAND AND TRAILS



## Legend

- Study Area
- Waterbody
- Provincial Park
- Wetland | Forest Tract | Significant Woodland
- Highway
- Road
- Forest Parking Area
- Ganaraska Trail
- Oro-Medonte Rail Trail
- Forest Access Road
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
- Future Parkland
- Publicly Accessible | Trails
- Restricted Access | Trails
- Trail System
- Alpine Ski
- Nordic Ski
- Additional Recreation/Tourism Sites



## 7.2. AN OUTDOOR SPORTS TRAIL HUB

An outdoor sports trail hub is a gathering place for people who participate in trail-based activities. It creates community by offering shelter and basic staging and welcoming amenities to visitors as well as a formal meeting and storage space for volunteers who develop and manage the trail system. It is a place where a visitor starts and ends their activity, catches their breath, learns about the site and its history, re-fuel, and share experiences with other visitors. A key strategic direction for Oro-Medonte is to develop a hub. **Two potential locations have been identified for this recommended hub, one at Bass Lake Sidroad and Line 7 and the other could be a potential partnership with Hardwood Ski and Bike.** Further analysis and partnership discussions required to finalize the best location.

Opportunities to more broadly increase parking supply at high traffic access points should also be explored and identified. Adding parking will help increase trail use and leverage economic benefits by increasing duration of stays, all-season trail use, and connections to local businesses.

Non-motorized trail activity in the Township (aside from the Rail Trail), generally occurs in two areas: the Copeland Forest and the County Forest tract complex south of Sugarbush. Copeland trail use is somewhat in flux; there is currently a moratorium on trail development until the currently ongoing Trail Master Plan, is completed. The trail development in the county forest south of Sugarbush has been under formal agreement, for almost a decade, with the Simcoe County Mountain Bike Club (SCMBC). These trails have a primary trailhead on the Bass Lake Sideroad very close to Line 7.

Opportunities exist to better clarify service level responsibilities pertaining to both funding and risk management for both the Copeland and County forests trails and associated amenities.

### KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE RESIDENT SURVEY

The survey found that...

- ...the most popular outdoor activity is hiking/ walking/running on a trail or pathway with 80% of respondents indicated that they participate regularly in that activity.
- ... respondents use trails and pathways more than prior to the pandemic (56%) and do more outside in community park spaces (31%).
- ...54% respondents would like to see more natural surface trails developed and 30% would like to see what is already existing enhanced.
- ...44% of respondents regularly cycle or bike during the normal season available and 31% of respondents would like to see a bike park or pump track developed.
- ...41% of respondents would like more paved trails developed.





As previously suggested and reflected by the map on the following page, two potential locations have been identified. The location near Hardwood Ski and Bike is well suited based on location, economic development and potential partnership opportunities. This site also presents the opportunity to leverage existing infrastructure. The development of a trail centre on this site will be dependent on partnership discussions and validating the identified attributes of the location with users and stakeholders.

The potential location at Bass Line Sideroad and Line 7 has a number of attributes and challenges. The attributes (strengths) are identified as follows:

- It's developed as a current trail head for the SCMBC - maintained trails emanate from this point in all four directions and is situated centrally in their extensive trail network.
- Located on the Ganaraska Trail route.
- Location serves all three of the County on-road bike routes within Oro-Medonte.
- Located on the current OFSC (snowmobile) route and the proposed COATV (ATV's) route, both running along Bass Lake Sideroad.
- Easy to access, along developed and undeveloped road allowances, to Sugarbush and reasonable access Horseshoe Valley and Braestone.
- Easy access to/from Highway 11.
- Potential synergy or complementation with Hardwood Ski and Bike commercial activities.

Challenges with this location are noted below:

- Securing a building location and space for adequate parking.
- Developing site-based potable water and sanitary services.
- Accommodating SCMBC trail concerns. These include:
  - » SCMBC trail use is membership-based activity, although essentially honour-based.
  - » SCMBC concerns about excessive traffic on trail segments close to the trail head and their commitment to mountain biking which continues as a sustainable activity in natural areas.
  - » SCMBC concerns about inappropriate skill levels on trails. Some trails are not appropriate for novice riders and, despite discouragement, there may be increased desire to use a higher skill-level trail, because its close to the trail centre or provides a short-cut.
  - » Pedestrian, non-motorized and motorized uses, parking and circulation need to be carefully segregated and managed.

Initiatives to alleviate these concerns with Trail Centre development may include developing separated on-road and forest tract multi-use trails that disperse users, especially novice users, to more appropriate routes and improve connections along established roads. Upon the success of this Trail Centre, and additional one may be considered in association with the Copeland Forest.



Tommy Thompson Park Entrance Pavilion,  
Toronto, Ontario



Tommy Thompson Park Entrance Pavilion,  
Toronto, Ontario



Green Mountain Nature Trail Centre - Madison  
County, Alabama

## POTENTIAL TRAIL HUB LOCATIONS



Trail Head Pavilion Rhinebeck Park – Rhinebeck,  
New York



Trail Centre



Trail Centre



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The Township should take a more active role in trail stewardship, planning and implementation. At the Township-wide level this effort requires extensive collaboration with multiple organizations and agencies.
- B. The Township should facilitate the creation of a formal trail hub and undertake the necessary planning and partnership discussions to determine the optimal location.
- C. Work collaboratively with regional partners to review service level responsibilities for trails and associated amenities within the Copeland and County forests. This review should consider both ongoing maintenance and risk management.
- D. Be open to partnerships with the private sector to explore mutually beneficial trail opportunities that can maximize recreational experiences for residents and achieve economic benefits.
- E. Identify opportunities to increase parking supply at high traffic trail access points and staging areas

## 7.3. GUIDANCE FOR FUTURE TRAIL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

The following bullets provide additional guidance for future capital trail development and the animation / optimization of the trails inventory.

- Improve coordination with the County (forest tracts), the Crown (Copeland Forest) and the user-groups that have agreements related to significant trail use within the Township. An annual all-party trail coordination meeting might be an appropriate event to start.
  - Pursue funding opportunities that are available at the county, provincial and federal levels related to trails and active transportation and their positive health and environmental benefits.
  - Support and encourage trail activities and programming to promote entry-level, learn to ride, etc.
  - Continue to support and expand initiatives such as trailhead parking, unopened or unmaintained road allowance access, and signage and amenities.
  - Consider signing some of the on-road cycling routes developed by the County and that are located entirely with the Township.
  - Build on the Wayfinding Strategy to develop mapping and signage that connects trail heads.
  - Paving the trail surface. If using a phased approach, pave those section within the adjacent settlement areas.
  - Developing side trail experiences that go through settlements, connect to commercial locations (food & beverage) and link with waterfront experiences.
  - Develop additional “railside” parkettes, like Brewis Park, in other adjacent settlements and that include parking and potentially historically interpretive or public art installations.
- Consider adding whimsical elements along the Rail Trail that surprise and delight – installation art (either temporary, rotating or permanent installations).
  - Pursue a multi-use trail initiative to link the communities, public parks and public lands along the Horseshoe Valley Road corridor, from Craighurst to Braestone.
  - Improving the connections of adjacent settlements to the Rail Trail, to incorporate fundamentally into the pedestrian circulation fabric.
  - Expand the provision of ROW, separated multi-use paths (Line 4).
  - Ensure suitable internal and external existing and potential trail linkages for all new development subdivision planning.
  - Identify opportunities to increase access to trails for individuals facing physical accessibility barriers. Where possible, best practices in trail accessibility should be followed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Complete a Township Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan to improve active transportation infrastructure, experiences, and plan for the future.
- B. Consider improvements to the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail.



Source: facebook.com/OroMedonte

# 8

## ACTION PLAN FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Recommendations to protect and optimize the culture and heritage capacity and assets in the Township.

### 8.1. THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE CONTEXT IN ORO-MEDONTE

Oro-Medonte’s rich history is reflected in the Township’s brand mark, in its service delivery to the public and in its economic development and tourism strategy. It is important to recognize that arts and cultural activities are diverse as the spaces that support them. Community halls and other spaces support some of these activities as do larger sites like the Burl’s Creek Event Grounds. Residents also engage with arts, culture and heritage through public art and visiting important historical assets in Oro-Medonte.



The Township currently supports a focussed range of heritage services and assets that broadly protect heritage assets and interpret their respective importance to residents and visitors.

SERVICES	ASSETS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for local festivals, celebrations, and events</li> <li>• Convening of Heritage Advisory Committee of Council</li> <li>• Naming of streets and municipal assets</li> <li>• Support to community organizations and groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of historical monuments and sites</li> <li>• Maintenance of historical municipal buildings</li> </ul>

## WHAT WE FOUND AND HEARD

Residents and stakeholders shared insights related to culture, heritage, and connections to art through several engagement activities, including through interviews and responses to the surveys. A few key findings are noted below:

- Information about existing culture and heritage assets in the Township is fragmented and is not digitally available. Residents and visitors find it challenging to learn about the history of places and spaces.
- Nearby Indigenous communities of the Rama First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation and the Beausoleil First Nation have historical connections to the lands now part of the Township. The Heritage Advisory Committee seeks to build a relationship between representatives of local Indigenous communities to reflect their perspective in the work of the Committee.
- Efforts to restore the Oro-African Church in 2016 demonstrated public interest in and support for restoring and interpreting the significance of the Township's only National Historic Site of Canada. There is continuing interest in the further development of this important asset. The ongoing role and responsibilities of the Township and external stakeholders in the evolution of this site is not clear or certain.
- There's potential to leverage culture and heritage assets in the Township in the development or enhancement of visitor destinations and experiences as part of the tourism development activities.
- Respondents to the household survey generally indicated limited interest in the future provision of arts and craft creative spaces or facilities. 31% of respondents indicated more interpretative venues – heritage facilities, interactive learning spaces should be developed.
- Many artists live in and produce artistic works and products in Oro-Medonte; strengthening the network of local cultural industries and the creative economy and connecting the network to economic development tourism development strategies are welcomed investments of future Township effort.
- The Township does not have a policy or program for public art or heritage interpretation signage. Policies and practices for advancing these respective interests are increasingly common municipal practices.
- Opportunities exist to strengthen and expand relationships and collaborations that can help increase the arts and heritage capacity of the Township and lead to additional programs and interpretive opportunities.
- The Burl's Creek Event Grounds provide an important site that facilitates larger scale music festivals and events.

**The following strategic actions offer a tangible path for advancing the culture and heritage agenda in Oro-Medonte.**



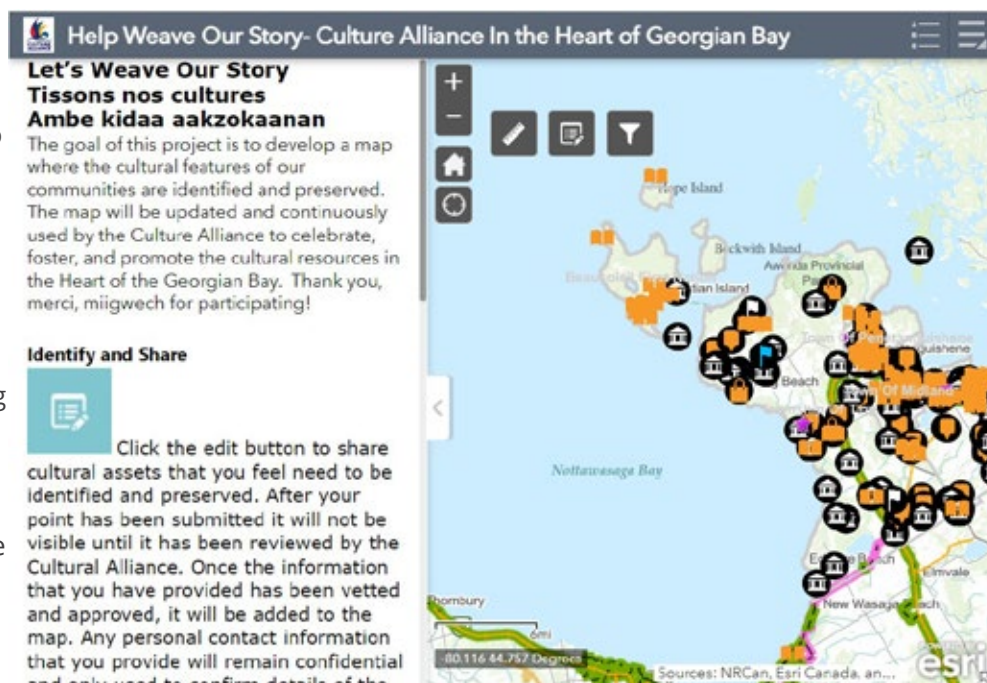
Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://facebook.com/OroMedonte)

## 8.2. CREATE A DIGITAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE INVENTORY

A digital culture and heritage inventory is a database of cultural and heritage assets that offers residents and visitors a window into a community's past, present, and future. The primary purpose of an inventory is to provide an open database of public information for online content producers and managers to leverage on websites, applications, and mapping platforms. Used spatially, the inventory can be leveraged to curate and promote heritage and art trails or turned into a 'Interactive Culture Asset Map' connected to a Municipality's website, tourism/visitor websites or as a standalone website. As an engagement vehicle – residents and visitors can contribute to the inventory and share their experience at a space or with a local cultural product.

Digital culture and heritage asset inventories are relatively straightforward to assemble and maintain, and often require tapping into local volunteer interest, expertise, and partnerships. This strategy responds to the fragmented nature of knowledge about and sharing of information about culture and heritage assets in Oro-Medonte. Municipalities across Canada have facilitated the development of unique approaches for assembling and managing relevant data to overcome similar challenges.

A very local application of a digital culture and heritage asset inventory is the Cultural Asset Program of the Culture Alliance – involving the Town of Midland, the Town of Penetanguishene, the Township of Tiny and the Township of Tay.



*Culture Asset Map – Cultural Alliance*



*Heritage Story Map - <https://gisportal.simcoe.ca/arcgis/apps/storymaps/stories/bf9cac1f9e0b0457daa4509fc144fe1fe>*

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Produce an open data and digital culture and heritage inventory to inform and engage residents and visitors about Oro-Medonte's cultural and heritage assets.

## 8.3. PREPARE A MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ORO AFRICAN CHURCH SITE

As the owner and steward of the Oro African Church National Historic Site of Canada, the Township should facilitate the preparation of a Management Plan to offer a long-term vision for the property along with strategies for ongoing management. Relatively limited provision of visitor amenities somewhat restricts use of the Church, and the broader site is maintained as basic open space.

The scope of an effort to prepare a Management Plan should address, at minimum, the following interests:

- The role and responsibilities of the Township and of stakeholders in the maintenance, interpretation, and future development of the property
- Guidance on the appropriateness of further development on the property
- A long-term plan for managing and repairing structures and other assets on the property
- Determination of appropriate uses of the Church and the property
- Criteria for consideration of external partnerships related to the management, operations, or possible future development of the property



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Prepare a Management Plan to offer a long-term vision for the Oro African Church and associated property and strategies for ongoing management of this important National Historic Site of Canada asset.





Railside Park

# 9

## ACTION PLAN FOR PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY

### INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

- Recommendations

### 9.1. THE SERVICE DELIVERY CONTEXT

The Township's investment in parks and recreation services should be focused on achieving the Service Delivery Objectives outlined in Section 2 in a manner that balances resource realities with opportunities for continual improvement. It is also important to recognize that the Township is just part of the broader system of recreation and active living opportunity delivery. While many residents do and desire to access programs locally within the Township, many residents can also travel to neighbouring municipalities to access team sports, fitness, cultural and aquatics opportunities through other public and private sector providers. The chart on the following page provides a high level overview of the current context with key insights from the community engagement.

ACTIVITY	CURRENT DELIVERY CONTEXT / SITUATION	KEY ENGAGEMENT INSIGHTS
<b>Outdoor and Nature Based Activities</b>	A wealth of opportunities exist within the Township for resident to partake in these opportunities; however, opportunities exist for more formal education and skills programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey respondents are interested in how children access nature and outdoor recreation programming. 22% of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see more nature/ outdoor education programming for children and youth under the age of 12 and 21% of survey respondents indicate that should be more outdoor recreation programming for that age group.</li> <li>• 33% of survey respondents indicated that they felt that there should be more water education and safety programming available for children in the community.</li> <li>• 74% survey respondents indicated that they participate in parks and recreation activities to enjoy nature.</li> <li>• Many stakeholders indicated the increase in trails and parks system use in Oro-Medonte since the COVID-19 pandemic. 56% of survey respondents indicated that they use the trails and pathways more than prior to the pandemic. Comments provided in the survey suggest that the trails are more congested than ever and many of the new users are unaware of trail etiquette.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Activity</b>	Fitness programming is limited within the Township, with many residents needing to visit surrounding communities to meet program and workout based needs. The new community centre in Horseshoe Valley presents an opportunity to expand local fitness and wellness programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see more fitness and wellness programming available for older adults (ages 60+) and 18% indicated that they would like the same for adults 19 – 50 years old.</li> <li>• Fitness classes are the most popular form of indoor activity participation among survey respondents with 42% indicated that they participate regularly.</li> <li>• 86% of survey respondents indicated that they participate in parks and recreation activities for physical health and exercise.</li> </ul>
<b>Culture &amp; Heritage</b>	Some programming exists along with self-directed heritage opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting museums or other heritage attractions is an activity that 26% of survey respondents regularly participate in.</li> <li>• Library activities is the second most popular indoor activity choice among survey respondents with 37% indicated that they regularly participate.</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY	CURRENT DELIVERY CONTEXT / SITUATION	KEY ENGAGEMENT INSIGHTS
<b>Social Connection</b>	Community halls have traditionally fulfilled this function and continue to do so to varying degrees. Increased community centre supply, more dynamic park spaces and amenities, and trails hubs and staging areas presents an opportunity to increase opportunities for social connections facilitated through recreation. The aging societal population will also require an increasing focus on programming that can mitigate social isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18% of survey respondents feel there is an need for programs that encourage socialization for older adults (ages 60+).</li> <li>• 24% of survey respondents regularly participate in social events in the community but most survey respondents indicated visiting community halls only a few times per year with 83% indicated that they never visit community halls.</li> </ul>
<b>Individual and Family Pursuits</b>	Oro-Medonte has numerous outdoor recreation assets that can be used spontaneously for individual pursuits, but limited drop-in indoor spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55% of survey respondents are motivated to participate in parks and recreation activities to be with their friends/ family.</li> <li>• 30% of survey respondents are motivated to participate in parks and recreation activities to meet new people.</li> </ul>

The Township’s current model of programming relies exclusively on community (indirect) delivery – in other words, community organizations provide programming with the Township offering support through a number of ways, including:

- Offering subsidized facility time (e.g. ice time at the arena).
- Operating outdoor amenities that are available for no or a low cost.
- Grants.
- Full or partial operation of community halls.
- In-kind and administrative support.

The Township had previously directly delivered some programming and, as discussed in Section 9.2., should consider direct program delivery in the future to address strategic programming needs and opportunities.

## DIRECT AND INDIRECT RECREATION OPPORTUNITY DELIVERY MODELS

**Direct Delivery:** Municipal staff or contractors instruct / deliver programming at municipally operated facilities.

**Indirect Delivery:** Community volunteer organizations deliver programming with support from municipality.

**Hybrid or Mixed Delivery:** A number of “in-between” deliver models also exist within the public realm, including contracted delivery, space for service leases, etc.

**Provided as follows in this section are actions and recommendations intended to help optimize how the Township provides parks and recreation services. Some of these actions and recommendations suggest changes to current approaches / methods are recommends while in others are simply intended to re-embed or build upon practices that currently work well.**

## 9.2. A RECOMMENDED FUTURE MODEL FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING

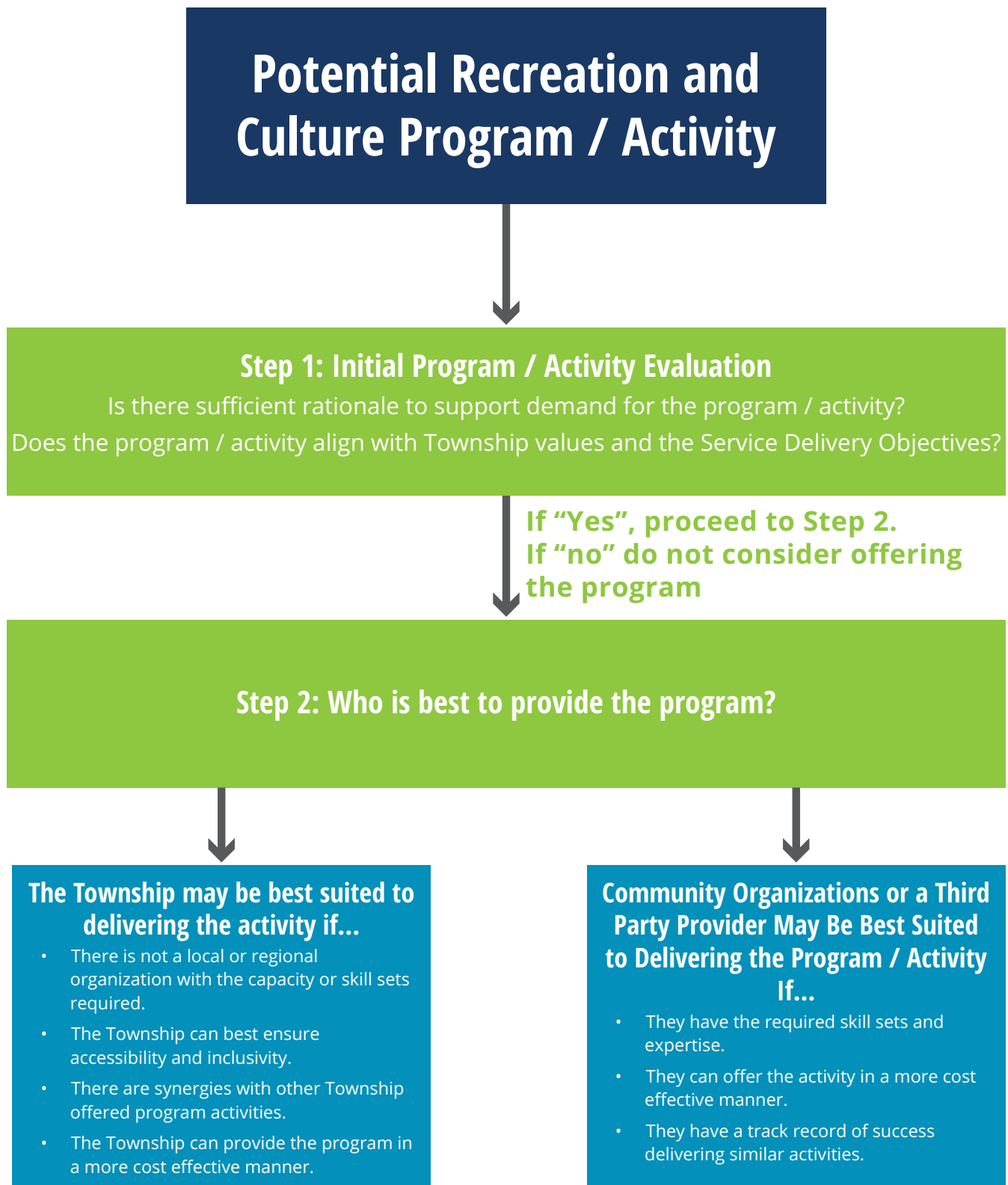
The Township's future model for providing recreation and related programming should be based around the following **Recreation Programming Principles**.

- The Township's preference will be to offer recreation programming using community (indirect) delivery wherever possible. This model builds community capacity and is most often the most cost effective way of providing recreation programming.
- The Township will resume direct delivery of some recreation programming on a limited basis to:
  - » Fill identified gaps.
  - » Capitalize on unique opportunities to offer specialized or pilot programs.
  - » On an interim basis to support community organizations that may lack capacity and require transitional support before resuming community led, indirect delivery.
  - » Animate and ensure sufficient programming at new facilities (e.g. community centre at Horseshoe Valley).
- The Township will be open to programming and space animation partnerships with the not for profit and for profit sectors when sufficient public benefit can be adequately demonstrated.



*Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography*

The following figure provides a **Programming Delivery Approach Tool** that can be used to inform discussions and decision making on direct vs indirect delivery of recreation programming.



The following chart provides more specific guidance and a **Program Delivery Model** for determining the appropriate service delivery approach for the Township to consider when deciding how to approach delivery of recreation programs. This Program Delivery Model is intended to help achieve the Recreation Programming Principles identified earlier in this section.

SERVICE LEVEL APPROACH	COMMUNITY DRIVEN	TOWNSHIP PROVIDED	REGIONALLY AVAILABLE	PRIVATE PROVISION
<b>Description</b>	The community identifies an interest and/or need and works with the Township to provide the program or service. <i>Maximum public and social benefit; low-cost; volunteer-supported</i>	Quality public recreation and parks programs and services are provided by the Township that are in the best interest of the community and accessible to all residents. <i>Public benefit; moderate cost; delivered by municipal staff</i>	The Township works with regional partners to provide a program or service with maximum public benefit. <i>Public benefit; regionally available; Township support provided</i>	Specialized programs for individual benefit that could be provided in partnership with or by the private sector. <i>Individual benefit; partner or private sector delivered</i>
<b>Program Classification</b>	Essential	Essential / Important/ Specialty	Essential/ Important/ Specialty	Specialty
<b>Skill Level</b>	Entry / Social	Entry/ Intermediate/ Progression	Entry/ Intermediate/ Progression	Intermediate / Advanced
<b>Market Competition</b>	None	None/ Low	Low	Alternative Providers Available
<b>Fees/Cost Recovery</b>	None	Low/ Cost Recovery	Low/ Cost Recovery/ Non Resident Fee	Commercial
<b>Expectations</b>	High Localized Interest	High Township-wide Public Interest	High Township Public Interest and Willingness to Participate	High Interest From Specialized Group
<b>Access</b>	Open to All	Open to All	Open top All Non-Residents	Limited to Members/ Users

SERVICE LEVEL APPROACH	COMMUNITY DRIVEN	TOWNSHIP PROVIDED	REGIONALLY AVAILABLE	PRIVATE PROVISION
<b>Possible Role of Township Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate access to available resources and supports that the Township might be able to provide.</li> <li>Provide access to municipally owned facilities, often at a rate requiring tax-based support.</li> <li>Offer guidance for navigating Township processes for approvals, permits, etc.</li> <li>Support grant applications for external funding.</li> <li>Resourcing to build capacity and ensure the success of community driven programming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build, operate and maintain major indoor and outdoor facilities on Township-owned lands.</li> <li>Plan and deliver quality, low-cost, entry-level skill development programs, and services to the public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate access to available resources and supports that the Township might be able to provide.</li> <li>Provide access to municipally owned facilities, often at a rate requiring tax-based support.</li> <li>Offer guidance for navigating Township processes for approvals, permits, etc.</li> <li>Support grant applications for external funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid directly competing with commercial operators for new ventures.</li> <li>Develop standardized partnership agreement forms that outline roles and responsibilities to ensure that shared goals and outcomes are achieved.</li> <li>Review and renegotiate partnership agreements when needed.</li> <li>The Township may partner with an organization to provide a facility, recreation program, or service to the public based on commercial terms (e.g. a profit must be generated, and a percentage is either paid to the Township or reinvested in the community).</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	<p>Minor Youth Sport Organizations Community Clubs Community events and large gatherings</p>	<p>Oro-Medonte Arena Day camp programming for children and youth. CanSkate programs</p>	<p>Simcoe County Museum; additional ice, field and recreation program provision capacity.</p>	<p>Golf and Curling Clubs Ski and Bike Resorts</p>



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Use the Recreation Programming Principles, Programming Delivery Approach Tool, and Program Service Delivery Model to guide recreation programming provision.



## 9.3. RESOURCING RECREATION PROGRAMMING

As per the guidance and strategic direction provided on the previous pages, the Township has an important role to play in facilitating recreation and active living opportunities - especially as it pertains to outdoor recreation. While the Township will often not be the direct provider of the opportunity, building capacity within the system can help foster successful community driven programs, events and other initiatives. Adding an Outdoor Recreation Specialist position can help achieve these benefits by:

- Creating collaborations between like-minded organizations
- Identifying trends and programming gaps
- Participating in (and in some cases leading) strategic planning initiatives
- Providing local groups with a point of contact and subject matter resource
- Identifying and recruiting programmers and instructors
- Manage volunteer stewardship and other ongoing programs
- Lead engagement processes pertaining to outdoor recreation
- Identify new and innovative opportunities to animate parks and trails

Outdoor recreation in general is a highly important and valued asset among residents in Oro-Medonte and, in many cases, a driver of people choosing to live in the area. This position is ultimately suggested to help leverage this asset and ensure residents have access to a greater diversity and quality of these opportunities.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The Township should provide or enhance recreation programming related to outdoor and nature-based activities, physical activity, culture & heritage, social connection, and individual and family pursuits.
- B. Consider adding a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Outdoor Recreation Specialist.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

## 9.4. COORDINATION AND PLANNING WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Regional residents cross municipal boundaries to access parks, recreation, and culture opportunities (facilities, programs and events) and, in some cases, are unaware of which municipal or not-for-profit organizations are the primary facilitator of the services they are accessing.

The Township does not currently have a formal cost-sharing agreements with its neighbouring municipalities for recreation services (one does exist for Library services). Developing these agreements will ensure that Township residents can continue to access facilities and programming not provided locally at equitable and affordable rates. Additionally, it is important to recognize that the Township will not be able to offer a level of service comparable to its urban neighbours for some types of recreation and culture infrastructure (e.g., indoor aquatics). Developing formalized agreements can ensure resident access to these facilities without having to incur the cost and risk position of having to develop them within the Township.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

The development of cost sharing agreements could use current agreements for Library services as a template. Noted below are several other considerations that could form the basis for potential cost sharing discussions:

- Cost sharing agreements should focus on those services and opportunities that the Township does not comprehensively provide.
- Discussions with neighbouring municipalities should recognize that many of their residents access and benefit from outdoor space opportunities in the Township.
- Additional data is needed to better understand cross-municipal utilization of facilities. It may be prudent to jointly work with neighbouring municipalities to analyze use by location of residency.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The Township should initiate discussions with its neighbouring municipalities to determine potential cost sharing models.

## 9.5. TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Oro-Medonte has been a homeland to Indigenous people for thousands of years and is the traditional and Treaty territory of the Anishinabek people, now known as the Chippewa Tri-Council comprised of Beausoleil First Nation, Rama First Nation, and the Georgina Island First Nation. This territory is within the pre-confederation Treaty 5 and Treaty 16, and is included within the Williams Treaties of 1923.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report included 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential school and day schools and to advance the process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The Commission recognized the role that sport, recreation and culture can play in the reconciliation process. Identified as follows are Calls to Action with relevance to sport, recreation and culture investment and service delivery.

- We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices (#66).
- We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations (#67).
- We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation (#68).
- We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organizations, and the arts community, to develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage

and commemoration (#79).

- We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process (#83).
- We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history (#87).
- We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel (#88).
- We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples (#89).
- We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples (#90).

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The Township is encouraged to continue dialogue with Indigenous communities and peoples of the Chippewa Tri-Council to identify opportunities to utilize sports, recreation and culture as a vehicle for furthering the Calls to Action and advancing reconciliation and decolonization.

## 9.6. PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are key to maximizing the benefits of and potential for public investment in recreation and can lead to enhanced benefits in the community. Community-based organizations are often on the front lines of recreation service delivery and there are many strong groups in Oro-Medonte that play an important role. Current partnerships with groups such as the Community Hall Boards, Outdoor Recreation and Conservation groups, sport organizations, and many others can form the foundation for new collaborations and initiatives to advance strategic goals and objectives presented in this Master Plan.

As identified through engagement, Oro-Medonte's user group stakeholders have been challenged because of the pandemic. Many groups have experienced a decline in participants and revenues, whereas others – particularly outdoor recreation groups – have experienced increased demand on existing infrastructure and organizational capacities. Sport, recreation, and parks spaces are viewed as key to building connections between residents and are being more appreciated for addressing sense of isolation experienced by marginalized, disadvantaged individuals, seniors, and/or those with disabilities. However, most volunteer-based organizations have reported that their groups are fatigued and need support to address deeper sustainability issues related to volunteer retention and recruitment, funding, participation levels, and maintaining affordability for participants and families.

Working with partner organizations to identify opportunities and challenges will help build capacity. The Township can help to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of these groups. Some community groups feel that the Township's requirements are onerous on volunteers.

For partnerships to be successful, they must be deployed and managed tactfully, and partners must be supported to achieve shared goals and outcomes. Township staff must manage partner relationships and there are several 'best practices' that have emerged to ensure these partnerships deliver the greatest value to the Township, the community groups, and the community itself:

- Clearly identify the needs and benefits that could be achieved through the partnership, outlining roles and responsibilities for both the Township and the community group
- Identify needed and available supports that can be provided, including grant funding, staff coordination assistance, incentives, or subsidies, and so forth
- Establish performance measures and annual reporting standards so that organizations receiving support from the Township provide needed data and information on how service delivery is going, including participant and utilization data
- Regularly review and renegotiate partnerships when needed and continually work to improve these partnerships
- Work to bring community groups together to share learnings and build new relationships, as well as to deliver training and workshops to groups on common challenges that include board management, finance and record keeping, communications, and seeking out grants

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Organize an annual symposium that brings together community groups, non-profits, and other stakeholders to explore topics of shared interest, provide capacity building workshops, and support sector-wide relationship building.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

1. Continue to leverage partnerships to deliver services and spaces
2. Access external funding supports (like grants and sponsorships) wherever possible
3. Create capacity building programs for partners and user groups related to things like strategic planning, quality assurance, fundraising, etc.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

## 9.7. STEWARDSHIP

Community stewardship can play a significant role in parks, open space, and trail maintenance and management, monitoring conditions, and volunteer mobilization around routine upkeep. Initiatives to encourage citizen involvement in both park and trail development and management can generate a strong sense of community pride and offset operational costs. While care for parks and trails is primarily the purview of the Township, when residents feel pride and ownership for public spaces, they naturally step in to help care for these places.

An existing display of public stewardship in Oro-Medonte are the many gardens found throughout the Township – all of which are provided by the Oro Horticultural Society. These gardens are serving a variety of functions -from beautification to site interpretation. These organizations and community

members who create them feel a strong connection to the space and are committed to caring for it. These spaces, especially when situated in easily accessible neighbourhood parks or community parks and accompanied by comfort amenities such as public washrooms and benches, offer opportunities for residents to build social relationships, learn new skills, or simply enjoy spending time in a beautiful garden.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Explore opportunities to increase public participation in park and trail stewardship using community agreements, communication, and marketing, and financial or in-kind support for community-led stewardship initiatives.



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://facebook.com/OroMedonte)

## 9.8. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Leisure literacy refers to individuals having the knowledge and skills needed to understand and experience leisure activities. Residents can struggle to identify what sort of recreation and parks opportunities are available within their community, whether for leisure or organized activities. This is particularly the case when a municipality is overly reliant on print media that is costly to produce and distribute frequently compared to digital media.

User groups can also face challenges in articulating what sort of opportunities they provide and why individuals should be interested in participating. Lack of awareness of opportunities for residents and inability to effectively market and communicate for user groups are challenges that the Township can work to address to 'bridge the gap' between users and opportunities that may exist.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Acquire digital marketing solutions (email, text, social media management platforms) to engage directly in business communication with residents about recreation, culture and sport programs, special events, and other related opportunities provided by the Township and by community organizations.

When asked about how informed they feel about parks and recreation opportunities in Oro-Medonte, more than half of Household Resident Survey respondents (52%) identified that they feel inadequately informed. Lack of awareness of opportunities was identified by 37% of households as being a barrier as to why they do not participate in parks, recreation, and/or active living opportunities in the Township. The most identified sources for information that Oro-Medonte households look to include program guides (65%), the Township of Oro-Medonte website (61%) local newspapers and newsletters (41%) and social media feeds (41%). User groups would like to see the Township improve its efforts to promote groups and opportunities that exist in Oro-Medonte. User groups would also like to see additional support from the Township in helping them to market and promote themselves. Groups would like to be more involved in sharing feedback and guiding decision-making, as well as to develop greater organizational capacity.



# 9.9. ADDITIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ALIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Identified as follows are additional opportunities for the Township to optimize service delivery through the development of new municipal policy and alignment with broader policies, frameworks and initiatives currently being undertaken by others.

## ICE ALLOCATIONS

An update of this policy is suggested to help optimize the utilization of the Township's arena through the equitable allocation of ice time to organizations by integrating the principles of Canada's Long Term Athlete Development model (LTAD) into the allocation policy. National Sport Organizations (NSOs) are required to align their sport programs to the LTAD by setting standards for the type, duration, and intensity of activity that is appropriate for each age cohort with the respective sport. This guidance is also responsive to issues identified by sport and recreation organizations in Oro-Medonte during stakeholder interviews and the stakeholder survey.

The standards of play established by NSO can be applied to determine the number of minutes of required ice time per player per week. Aligning these sport specific standards of play with Township's Ice Allocation Policy leads to greater equity of access to ice time within the sport and between different ice-based sports – players get the time they need to learn, enjoy, and afford to participate in the program appropriate to their age, interest, and ability - and only more ice time if it is available. Many Canadian communities have updated their ice allocation policies to align with LTPD principles.

*Sport Framework Example: Hockey Canada*

**Proposed Long Term Player Development (LTPD) Seasonal Chart – Novice**

Novice	Number of Practices	Start date for Practices	Development Season	Start date for Games	Development & regular Season	Playoff Season	Tournaments	Number of Games total
Ideal	40 - 45	Sept 15	10 weeks 20 practices 2 ex games	Dec 1	14 weeks 28 practices 16 games	N / A	3 tournaments 12 games	30 - 35

**Coach Development Programs - Coach Certification/Continuing Education Program (CEP)**

Age	Coach	Description	Clinic	Manual Resource	Video Resource
Novice	Intro Coach Coach Level Specialty Clinics	On-Line On-Line CEP	Classroom /On Ice Classroom /On Ice Classroom /On Ice	HC Skills Manual – Initiation HC Skills Manual - Novice Specialty Clinic Drill Package	Skills of Gold 1-4 Skills of Gold 1-4

**Hockey Canada Development Programs – Novice**

Age Division	Player	Coach	On ice curriculum	Off-ice curriculum	Dev	Rec	Promo	In Development
Novice								
-NCCP (Intro Coach/Coach)	X	X	X	X	X		X	-Skills Camps for Players ( IP / Novice Curriculum Development )
-Chevy Safe and Fun	X	X	X		X	X		-Coach Mentorship
-Esso Fun Days	X	X	X	X	X			-Coach component with Skills Camp
-HC Skills Camps	X	X	X		X			-NSST Drills for improvement package
-NSST	X	X	X		X			
-NCMP Specialty Clinics								

Version 2 – 03/30/2013

Page 35

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Update the Ice Allocation Policy to optimize the use of indoor ice and to achieve equity in the provision of ice to Oro-Medonte's ice-based sport organizations.

# AGE FRIENDLY PLANNING

The Government of Canada defines an age-friendly community as one in which the policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environments are designed to help seniors “age actively”. In Canada, age 65 is generally considered to be the defining age of seniors. Both the province and Simcoe County have thoughtfully addressed healthy aging through frameworks and strategies that aim to provide more inclusive and accessible environments for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

The age demographic in Oro-Medonte is predominantly characterized by mature singles and couples, middle-aged families and older families and empty nesters - 21% of the Township population is over the age of 65 and the proportion of older adults will increase over the term of the Master Plan.

Many older adult residents want to remain engaged in all areas of community life. It is important that the Township continues to recognize what seniors have and continue to offer their community. Parks and recreation play a role in understanding and meeting the age-related needs of seniors including communication and information, transportation, social participation, respect and social inclusion, and civic participation needs.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Develop an Age Friendly Action Plan to incorporate policies and best practices into the Township’s recreation programming and overall service delivery.



# CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Climate change is affecting communities across Canada in different ways and nearly every facet of municipal operations is being impacted, particularly recreation and parks. Climate change has affected average precipitation volumes, frequency of dangerously cold or hot days, frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and is putting pressure on municipalities to improve their operations to minimize environmental impacts. Indoor and outdoor recreation amenities and park spaces are proving to be key sites for the impacts of climate change to manifest themselves.

From sport field users having to make frequent adjustments to scheduling due to extreme inclement weather patterns, to Rink Rat volunteers coping with increasing temperature variability that challenges the provision of natural ice rinks, municipal operations will have to change in response to climate change. Recreation and parks have historically been a medium for education and social change and will both play an important role in how we adapt and respond to climate change.

Water, energy, material use and waste management are all top-of-mind concerns for municipalities. Recreation and sport infrastructure consumes significant amounts of resources to operate and municipalities are now examining how these facilities can be retrofitted or designed to use less energy, incorporate clean energy technologies to help reduce emissions, and are utilizing innovative architecture to minimize construction material use and waste, all helping to contribute to environmental sustainability.

## THE #SAVEPONDHOCKEY CAMPAIGN



#SavePondHockey campaign is an international climate change campaign that utilizes the global hockey community to raise awareness of the climate crisis through the hosting of pond hockey tournaments around the world. The tournaments donate profits to projects tackling the climate crisis in an effort to take immediate climate action to #SavePondHockey as winters become shorter and warmer. Over 3500 people have participated in tournaments world wide, in places including Hay River, NWT, Canada, and Helsinki, Finland.



*Photo: sourced from [saveponhockey.org](http://saveponhockey.org) with credit to Thorsten (double check last name)*

Increasingly, provincial and federal funding opportunities for recreation and parks are incorporating a climate change lens or require municipalities to demonstrate how the initiative relates to and advances environmental sustainability. For example, municipal recreation and culture infrastructure eligible for federal funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program must speak to how the investment may impact the environment and hold up to the effects of climate change. Another funding stream, the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program, requires applicants to submit emissions modeling data, structural information, and building energy profiles. New construction is required to be built to a net-zero standard or be net-zero ready – meaning the facility must be designed to have no net emissions at all. Moving forward, Oro-Medonte should be prepared to speak to how their operations relate to and work to minimize environmental impacts.

Provincial policy (Ontario Regulation 397/11) also requires every municipality to maintain Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plans for specified facilities (including cultural facilities, indoor recreational facilities and community centres, art galleries, performing arts facilities, auditoriums, indoor sports arenas, indoor ice rinks, indoor swimming pools, gyms and indoor courts for playing tennis, basketball or other sports). Aligning with this policy is legislated and should be set forth a basis for municipalities to set targets and identify initiatives to reduce energy consumption and green house gases (GHG's).

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Develop a strategy for reducing environmental impacts of parks operations, including equipment, landscaping techniques, species varietals, fleet electrification, waste diversion and minimizing water consumption.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

- Explore how park and open space design can be used to help mitigate adverse effects of climate change – i.e., stormwater management, tree canopies for shade and carbon capture, naturalness and low impact design, walkable/ bikeable locations.
- Develop strategy for electrification of in-house parks and trails maintenance equipment such as mowers, blowers, trimmers, and groomers.
- Implement dual-stream waste diversion in parks and at strategic points the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail.
- Be mindful of climate change impacts on parks and trails operations and costs such as lengthened turf growing season, and more extreme weather patterns.
- Follow professional trail building standards, such as IMBA trail building guidelines, in all trail development to ensure sustainable and enjoyable design.
- Naturalize park and open space areas, where appropriate, to support or rehabilitate ecological functions, and improve climate resilience.
- Strive to protect natural vegetation and habitats and promote wildlife passage corridors through parks and open space areas.
- Conduct environmental impact / efficiency audits for all indoor facilities and work towards completing recommended actions / activities.
- Consider climate resilient design and systems when developing new or enhanced recreation spaces.
- Consider electrifying existing maintenance equipment fleet.



# 10

# IMPLEMENTATION

## OTHER KEY IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

- The timing and resource requirements identified in the table do not account for limited staff capacity and other competing plans and initiatives that require implementation. Timing may need to be adjusted based on these considerations.
- A number of the recommendations are interconnected. Delays in one may impact another.
- Capital costs can fluctuate and impact project viability. The recommended projects identified in the Master Plan also need to be prioritized alongside competing, non-parks and recreation projects.

Based on the above considerations, the Township should update the Master Plan's implementation strategy on a regular basis as new information becomes available.

Implementation and monitoring of progress are critical to the success of this Master Plan. This Section provides guidance on implementing recommendations presented within this Master Plan over the next 10 years. The table on the following pages presents all recommendations organized by Master Plan focus area, estimated timing, incremental FTE requirements, incremental resource requirements, as well as potential funding sources.

# 10.1. INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Indoor Arena	<p>A. Aim for a service level standard of 1 arena: 20,000 residents. Based on this service level standard, the Township should begin considering the addition of a second sheet of ice when service levels reach 1 arena: 30,000 residents.</p> <p>B. Undertake an Ice Arena Strategy in the mid-term (5-7 years) to explore potential options and financial impacts of adding a second sheet of ice and the best approach for replacing the existing area when it reaches the end of its life (10-15 years). This Strategy should consider regional ice arena provision and may be best conducted in partnership with other regional municipalities. Given the operational efficiencies of twin ice surfaces, the study should also explore future options to build the second sheet of ice and replace the existing arena at the same location.</p>	M	NC  no immediate change but when built will require additional staffing	NC	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Gymnasiums	<p>A. Aim for a service level standard of 1 community-owned gymnasium for every 15,000 residents. This service level suggests that the Township should begin exploring the viability of another community gymnasium in the short to mid-term (0 – 7 years).</p> <p>B. Activate the new Horseshoe Valley Community Centre and Gymnasium and ensure space allocation and animation achieves the best mix of structured and spontaneous use.</p> <p>C. The Township should continue to coordinate provision and work with schools to maximize community access.</p> <p>D. Consider gymnasium partnership opportunities if/when school redevelopment or new development occurs.</p>	M	NN	\$\$	P DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Fitness and Wellness Facilities	<p>A. Aim for a service level standard of 1 municipal fitness centre for every 15,000 residents. This service level suggests that the Township is deficient in the short term.</p> <p>B. Maximize fitness and wellness programming opportunities at the new community gymnasium.</p> <p>C. Consider including a fitness centre as part of future school-community gymnasium developments.</p> <p>D. Be open to partnerships with both public and private sector entities to meet resident needs for fitness facilities and programming.</p>	M-L	NN	S-M	P



	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Community Halls	<p>A. The Township should assume full responsibility for community hall operations and maintenance. Existing halls Boards should transition to a Community Hall Activation role in situations where utilization and other factors support continuing hall operations.</p> <p>B. The Township should utilize the recommended Community Hall Provision Framework to determine the future viability of community halls and direct future decision making. This Framework will help the Township determine whether a hall should be sustained for general use, exclusive use, or decommissioned.</p> <p>C. As recommended in the 2010 Strategic Facilities Plan, the Township should work towards a long-term approach of developing consolidated halls in Moonstone and Shanty Bay that can meet diverse community programming and social gathering space needs.</p>	S	NN	\$\$	P DS IF

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Indoor Aquatics	<p>A. Undertake an Aquatics Facility Feasibility Study when the Township's population is approaching 30,000 residents.</p> <p>B. Consider a financial contribution to municipalities in the region that offer indoor aquatics (City of Orillia, City of Barrie and potentially the Midland YMCA) to ensure Township residents continue to have access to these facilities at the local resident rates. This financial contribution could be an agreed to lump sum amount or based on levels of Township resident use.</p>	M	NC	\$	<p>P</p> <p>TL</p> <p>DS</p>
Indoor/ Outdoor Multi-Sport Turf	<p>A. Assess the viability and opportunities for a multi-sport facility as part of the recommended Guthrie site development (more guidance provided in the subsequent section).</p>	S	NC	\$	<p>P</p> <p>TL</p> <p>DS</p> <p>IF</p>

## 10.2. OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
A Multi-Sport Complex at Guthrie	A. Undertake a Market Assessment and Site Development Study to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Validate local and regional demand;</li> <li>» Determine the optimal configuration of indoor and outdoor facilities at the Guthrie site;</li> <li>» Identify land develop considerations and costs; and</li> <li>» Establish a strategy for facility development and a long-term operating model.</li> </ul>	S	NC	\$\$	P DS IF

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Rectangular Fields	<p>A. Provide one artificial turf or two full size natural turf fields (or equivalent) to achieve of Service Level of 1 full sized field for every 10,000 residents.</p> <p>B. Concentrate provision of all required rectangular fields at the Guthrie site as part of an overall site development program. Decommission the maintained open space/fields at Richelieu Park upon provision of new fields at Guthrie.</p> <p>C. Support field improvements and ongoing maintenance of fields at existing schools and consider providing support to enhance field builds at any future school sites.</p> <p>D. Implement user fees for newly provided rectangular fields.</p>	S	NN	\$\$	P DS IF

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Ball Diamonds	<p>A. Provide Class A diamonds to better accommodate current and future demand to achieve a Service Level of 1:4,207. This suggests an additional 2 Class A Diamonds should be provided, ideally to create a 4-diamond cluster at Guthrie.</p> <p>B. Maintain existing supply of Class B diamonds at neighbourhood and community parks if these diamonds are permitted for weekly seasonal use. Consider removing Class B diamonds if demand can be accommodated on Class A diamonds, or if they are not used for organized, weekly play to make space available for emerging outdoor recreation activities that the space may be suitable for.</p> <p>C. Formally remove the unmaintained diamonds at Craighurst from the inventory.</p> <p>D. Decommission the ball diamond at Shanty Bay and replace the level of provision through development of the new Guthrie diamonds.</p> <p>E. Develop a Ball Diamond Allocation Policy to ensure different groups of users have access to the hours of diamond time required. The policy should ensure that minor programs have access to quality fields to provide a 'field of dreams' experience that nurtures a lifelong commitment to participation.</p>	S	NN	\$\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Tennis Courts	<p>A. Maintain the current provision of two tennis courts to achieve a service level of 1:7,000 residents.</p> <p>B. Remove the existing tennis court at Barrillia Park and engage with the community to explore future options for the site (e.g. disposition, divestment and use of funds for other nearby community park projects, etc.).</p>	S	NC	\$	<p>DS</p> <p>P</p>

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Pickleball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Provide a dedicated Township-wide outdoor pickleball court facility in the near term at the Guthrie site.</li> <li>B. Support delivery of an indoor pickleball program in the new community gymnasium.</li> <li>C. Operate and maintain a dedicated pickleball court facility in a manner comparable to the membership-based tennis court model.</li> <li>D. Monitor pickleball participation levels and future needs and establish a defined level of service in 5-7 years once trends are better known. Use this service level to develop a strategy for additional pickleball infrastructure.</li> <li>E. As new gymnasiums and outdoor multi-use sport courts are planned and developed in the future, consider adding pickleball lines to maximize the ability of this infrastructure to support pickleball growth.</li> </ul>	M	NC	\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Playgrounds	<p>A. Target a provision level of 1 playground for every 1,500 residents (generally similar to current).</p> <p>B. Over the next 10 years, work towards providing 4 “destination” playgrounds in the Township. These playgrounds should offer a higher level of dynamic play and be distributed geographically across the Township in community parks.</p> <p>C. Incorporate play equipment replacement costs in the Township’s long term capital budget and Asset Management Plan.</p>	S - L	NC	\$\$	P IF



	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Multi-Sport Courts	<p>A. Maintain provision of multi-sport courts to achieve a service level of 1:2,200 population across the Township.</p> <p>B. As previously suggested under Tennis Courts (5.4), it is recommended that the Barillia Park court is removed from the inventory and a community consultation process undertaken to determine the best future course(s) of action for the site (e.g. disposition, divestment and use of funds for other nearby community park projects, etc.).</p> <p>C. Renew the court surface at Hawkestone and consider the provision of lighting.</p> <p>D. Remove the dasher boards at Ramey Park and consider utilizing a temporary system for ice season use.</p>	S	NC	\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Outdoor Rinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Continue to support volunteers in the provision of outdoor ice surfaces and ensure these efforts are adequately recognized through a formalized program.</li> <li>B. Use the recommend Criteria to assess the viability and cost-benefit of sites for refrigerated systems.</li> <li>C. Identify opportunities to add unique outdoor ice experiences such as ice pathways that can animate and draw people to parks during winter months.</li> <li>D. If the Township considers a refrigerated outdoor ice surface in the future, preference should be given to the Guthrie site based on operational efficiencies / synergies.</li> </ul>	S	TT	\$	DS IF
Skate, Scoot & Bike Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. As a short term priority, explore opportunities to develop a pump track.</li> <li>B. Collect more comprehensive data on skateboard and scooter participation and monitor trends. Use this data to inform decision making on the inclusion of dedicated amenities in new and enhanced parks.</li> <li>C. Begin to provide mobile or seasonal skate and scooter amenities where feasible.</li> </ul>	S	NC	\$- \$\$	DS IF

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Launches, Wharfs & Docks	<p>A. Additional boat launch capacity is required on Lake Simcoe to address and manage increasing demand. Target provision of 5 total boat launches with dedicated parking for a future service level.</p> <p>B. As previously identified, a Water Access Study should be undertaken to guide future decision making and resource allocations.</p> <p>C. Invest in an automation system for permits and customer transactions that can more effectively capture use data. Once local and visitor use characteristics and associated impacts are better understood, explore potential fees approaches that align costs and benefits to local residents.</p>	S	TT	\$	DS
Dog Off-Leash Areas	<p>A. Consider designating a dog off leash area in suitable, fenced space at a community or specialized type park in partnership with a community-driven organization that provides volunteer and fundraising support for the facility.</p>	S	NC	\$	P IF

# 10.3.PARKLAND

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Parkland Classification	<p>A. Utilize the refreshed Parkland Classification System to guide acquisition, provision and management of parks and open space assets.</p> <p>B. Continuously review, update and build-out the Parkland Classification System to ensure alignment with trends and continuously evolving community needs.</p>	S	NC	\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Parkland Provision	<p>A. As an overarching Township-wide target, strive to achieve 4.0 Ha. of managed parkland per 1,000 residents.</p> <p>B. Use 2.2 Ha. of parkland per 1,000 residents in settlement areas (as per the table provided on page 87) as a high-level target, while also considering other practical factors that may offset or reduce the need for the Township to acquire or develop incremental parkland to achieve this target (e.g. non-municipal parkland supply, the quality and appeal of park space, demographics, etc.).</p> <p>C. Do not purchase or accept through the development process designated environmentally sensitive areas, significant woodlots, ravine lands, “hazard” lands, water supply infrastructure, stormwater management infrastructure and related lands, unless such acquisition meets another Township priority, such as a high priority environmental protection or trail linkage function.</p> <p>D. Focus waterfront parkland acquisition efforts to acquire useable-shoreline waterfront parkland and improve shoreline access and launch function in its waterfront road allowance portfolio.</p>	S	NC	\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Planning Guidance for Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Use the Township-wide planning and policy guidance as a basis for future decision making.</li> <li>B. Formalize a new cash-in-lieu policy using the policy framework provided.</li> <li>C. Undertake the recommended planning and policy actions identified for specific areas within the Township.</li> <li>D. Use the parkland disposition draft policy statement and parameters to formalize a new policy that will guide how, when and under what circumstances the Township is prudent to consider disposing of surplus parkland.</li> <li>E. Consider disposition of the specific land parcels identified in this section.</li> <li>F. Undertake the recommended Water Access Study.</li> </ul>	S	NC	\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Parkland Design and Development Guidance	<p>A. Adopt the park design guidelines for Community, Neighbourhood, and Specialized parks as a tool for parkland planning and acquisition efforts.</p> <p>B. Complete site master plans for Moonstone (Ramey Memorial Park), Craighurst, Arbourwood / Shelswell, Shanty Bay and Horseshoe Bay using these guiding concepts.</p>	S	NC	\$	DS
Parkland Construction and Maintenance Guidelines	<p>A. As with other aspects of parkland provision and planning, follow the guidance provided by the new Parkland Classification System.</p> <p>B. Implement the recommended maintenance program and regularly review maintenance standards and service levels to ensure resource allocation is aligned, efficient and effective.</p> <p>C. Ensure that the park construction process includes test fits and optimal grading standards.</p>	S	NC	\$\$	DS IF P

# 10.4. TRAILS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
An Outdoor Sports Trail Hub	<p>A. The Township should take a more active role in trail stewardship, planning and implementation. At the Township-wide level this effort requires extensive collaboration with multiple organizations and agencies.</p> <p>B. The Township should facilitate the creation of a formal trail hub and undertake the necessary planning and partnership discussions to determine the optimal location.</p> <p>C. Work collaboratively with regional partners to review service level responsibilities for trails and associated amenities within the Copeland and County forests. This review should consider both ongoing maintenance and risk management.</p> <p>D. Be open to partnerships with the private sector to explore mutually beneficial trail opportunities that can maximize recreational experiences for residents and achieve economic benefits.</p> <p>E. Identify opportunities to increase parking supply at high traffic trail access points and staging areas</p>	S	TT	\$\$	<p>DS</p> <p>IF</p> <p>P</p>



	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Guidance for Future Trail System Development	<p>A. Complete a Township Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan to improve active transportation infrastructure, experiences, and plan for the future.</p> <p>B. Consider improvements to the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail.</p>	M	TT	\$\$	<p>DS</p> <p>IF</p> <p>P</p>

# 10.5.CULTURE AND HERITAGE

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Digital Culture and Heritage Asset Inventory	A. Produce an open data and digital culture and heritage inventory to inform and engage residents and visitors about Oro-Medonte's cultural and heritage assets.	S	TT	\$	DS P
Oro- African Church	A. Prepare a Management Plan to offer a long-term vision for the Oro African Church and associated property and strategies for ongoing management of this important National Historic Site of Canada asset.	S	TT	\$	DS P IF

# 10.6. PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
A Recommended Future Model for Recreation Programming	A. Use the Recreation Programming Principles, Programming Delivery Approach Tool, and Program Service Delivery Model to guide recreation programming provision.	S	NN	\$-\$\$	DS P
Resourcing Recreation Programming	A. The Township should provide or enhance recreation programming related to outdoor and nature-based activities, physical activity, culture & heritage, social connection, and individual and family pursuits.  B. Consider adding a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Outdoor Recreation Specialist.	M	NC	\$	TL
Coordination and Planning with Other Municipalities	A. The Township should initiate discussions with its neighbouring municipalities to determine potential cost sharing models.	S	TT	\$	DS P

	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED TIMING</b> S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	<b>INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS</b> NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	<b>INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS</b> \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b> DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
Truth and Reconciliation	A. The Township is encouraged to continue dialogue with Indigenous communities and peoples of the Chippewa Tri-Council to identify opportunities to utilize sports, recreation and culture as a vehicle for furthering the Calls to Action and advancing reconciliation and decolonization.	S	NC	\$	P
Partnerships	A. Organize an annual symposium that brings together community groups, non-profits, and other stakeholders to explore topics of shared interest, provide capacity building workshops, and support sector-wide relationship building.	S	TT	\$	DS P
Stewardship	A. Explore opportunities to increase public participation in park and trail stewardship using community agreements, communication, and marketing, and financial or in-kind support for community-led stewardship initiatives.	S	TT	\$	DS P
Marketing and Communications	A. Acquire digital marketing solutions (email, text, social media management platforms) to engage directly in business communication with residents about recreation, culture and sport programs, special events, and other related opportunities provided by the Township and by community organizations.	S	TT	\$	DS

	RECOMMENDATIONS	ESTIMATED TIMING S = 1-3 YEARS M = 4-6 YEARS L = 7-10 YEARS	INCREMENTAL FTE REQUIREMENTS NC = NO CHANGE TT = TASK & TERM LIMITED NN = NET NEW	INCREMENTAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS \$ = SMALL \$\$ = MEDIUM \$\$\$ = LARGE NC = NO CHANGE	FUNDING SOURCES DS = DEVELOPMENT RELATED SOURCES P = PARTNERSHIP EF = EXTERNAL FUNDING TL = TAX LEVY IF = INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT OR FINANCING
<b>ADDITIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ALIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES</b>					
Ice Allocation	A. Update the Ice Allocation Policy to optimize the use of indoor ice and to achieve equity in the provision of ice to Oro-Medonte's ice-based sport organizations.	S	NC	\$	DS
Age Friendly Planning	A. Develop an Age Friendly Action Plan to incorporate policies and best practices into the Township's recreation programming and overall service delivery.	S	NC	\$	DS IF P
Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability	A. Develop a strategy for reducing environmental impacts of parks operations, including equipment, landscaping techniques, species varieties, fleet electrification, waste diversion and minimizing water consumption.	S	NC	\$	DS P

# APPENDICES



Source: [facebook.com/OroMedonte](https://www.facebook.com/OroMedonte)

# APPENDIX A: RECTANGULAR FIELD DESIGN AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

## FULL SIZE FIELD DEMAND ANALYSIS

A typical natural unlit field provides approximately 400 hours of annual playing capacity. The analysis below demonstrates that the current Oro-Medonte based soccer programs could be accommodated (on different days) on 1-2 full size fields.

Estimated number of participants	700
Number of participants per team assumption	12
Estimated number of teams	58
Weeks in a season	8
Field times per week	1
Hours required per week	2
Total seasonal hours required per team	16
Hours required per team divided by 50% to account for 2 teams per field	467
Account for weather @ additional 20% hours	560
<b>Total Primetime Hours Required</b>	<b>560</b>

*\*Development of new fields additionally will provide opportunities to grow adult sport programming and leagues.*

## ONTARIO SOCCER ASSOCIATION FIELD DESIGN GUIDELINES

AGE GROUP	GAME FORMAT	ROSTER SIZE	FIELD SIZE
<b>U5-U6</b>	No formal matches	N/A	N/A
<b>U7</b>	3 v 3	6-8 players	Width: 18-22m Length: 25-30m
<b>U8- U9</b>	4 v 4 (no GK) or 5 v 5 (with GK)	8-10 players	Width: 25-30m Length 30-36m
<b>U10 - U11</b>	7 v 7 (including GK)	10 - 12 players	Width: 30-36m Length: 40-55m
<b>U12 - U13</b>	U12: 9 v 9 (including GK) U13: 9 v 9 or 11 v 11	12- 16 players	Width:42-55m Length: 60-75m
<b>13 + (including adult)</b>	11 v 11	14 - 20 players	Width: 68m Length:105m

# APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY PARK CONCEPT DESIGN STUDY



Oro-Medonte Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## Community Parks - Programming & Concept Study



# Trends and Changes



Multi-use & flexible spaces  
Seasonal events  
Post-Covid response



Diversified activities & interests  
High quality park & recreation  
Family oriented programs & learning opportunities



Accessibility & Inclusivity  
Age-friendly  
Residents & visitors



Healthy Lifestyle  
Wellness & Fitness  
Essential Service

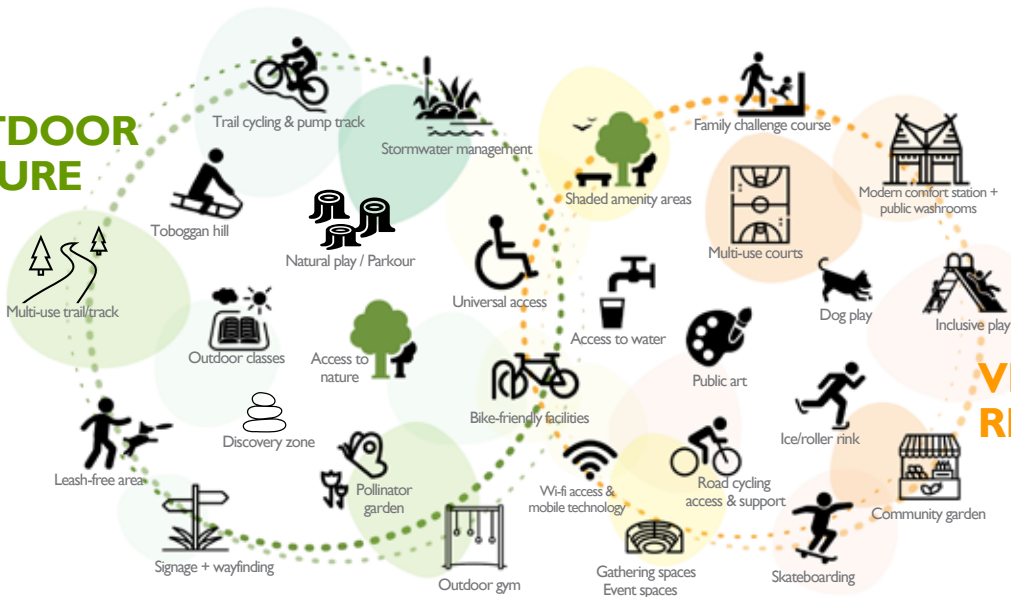


Sustainability & Bio-diversity  
Native fauna and flora  
Dog parks



Interactive & mobile access  
Social media & volunteering  
E-sports

# OUTDOOR LEISURE



# Programming

# VILLAGE RECREATION

### Suitable Site Condition:

- Natural environments – woodlot/meadow/creek/wetland
- Locations in settlement fringes or lower density/lower population communities
- Accommodate varied topography
- Accommodate limited street frontage and challenging boundary conditions
- Linkages to nature-based trails

### Featuring:



#### Mountain Cycling Infrastructure

Integrating physical challenge and topography challenge with natural materials



#### Natural Play

Exploring nature elements through creative and unstructured play



#### Outdoor Classroom

Getting to know the world outside and renewing enthusiasm for learning.



#### Natural Prairie

Low maintenance habitat attracting a diversity of wildlife and pollinators

## OUTDOOR LEISURE



#### Wayfinding Signage + Bottle Filler Station

Providing legible directions to destinations and keep park visitors hydrated



#### Toboggan Hill

Enjoying the rush of the downward sled, the thrill, the laughter, and the rosy cheeks



#### Leash-free Area

Social space allowing dogs running and playing off leash while contained

### Suitable Site Condition:

- Built-up or agricultural environments
- Locations within higher-density/higher population communities
- Require flatter topography
- Require more extensive street frontage and residential adjacencies
- Ideal for school adjacency and close to on-road bike routes or ROW multi-use paths

### Featuring:



#### Multi-purpose Court + Ice Rinks

Variety of sport experiences within one court



#### Inclusive Play + Family Challenge

Considering needs of all kids & adults and promoting healthy growth and joy



#### Gathering Space

Flexible space allowing small and large gathering and seasonal events



#### Community Garden

Offering access to grow food and helping supply fruits and vegetables in neighborhoods

## VILLAGE RECREATION



#### Pedestrian-scale Lighting + Electrical Outlet / Wifi

Providing safety of nighttime travel and connection to the Internet



#### Road Cycling Infrastructure

Connecting neighbourhoods and lowering carbon footprint, improving mobility



#### Skateboarding & Scootering

Cost-effective activity engaging outdoor environments and encouraging social skills

## OUTDOOR LEISURE

Example: Ramey Memorial Park, Moonstone

Nature inspired approach

Maximize green space, facilities for active lifestyles, natural play, trail connections.



## OUTDOOR LEISURE

- Natural, free, green, fit
- Passive green space that encourages active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities and that connects to a future trail and greenspace network.
- Getting people outside and moving are the top priorities. A lush landscape filled with native plants that tie back to the surrounding ecosystem supports wildlife and pollinators while providing improved air and water quality. Interpretive signage educates patrons about their local flora and fauna to give a sense of place and stewardship over the land. Amenities such as dog run, natural play, wetland, woodlot trail allow people to connect with nature.

# OUTDOOR LEISURE

Ramey Memorial Park: Concept Study



# VILLAGE RECREATION

Example: Shanty Bay Park

Village inspired approach

Programmed spaces for events, sport and play that appeal to all ages



## VILLAGE RECREATION

- Vibrant, organized, active, play
- Active spaces to play for all ages that include space for increasingly popular games and sports such as pickleball and skateboarding. Modern amenities keep community members comfortable during their visit.
- This is a community gathering space for now and the future. Features and amenities will smoothly adapt to changing trends and climate change through multi-use functionalities. Innovations such as multi-purpose court and open play ensure year-round use of the space. Combination of hardscape and softscape allows flexible use of the park, providing opportunities for small and large gatherings.



## VILLAGE RECREATION

Shanty Bay Park: Concept Study

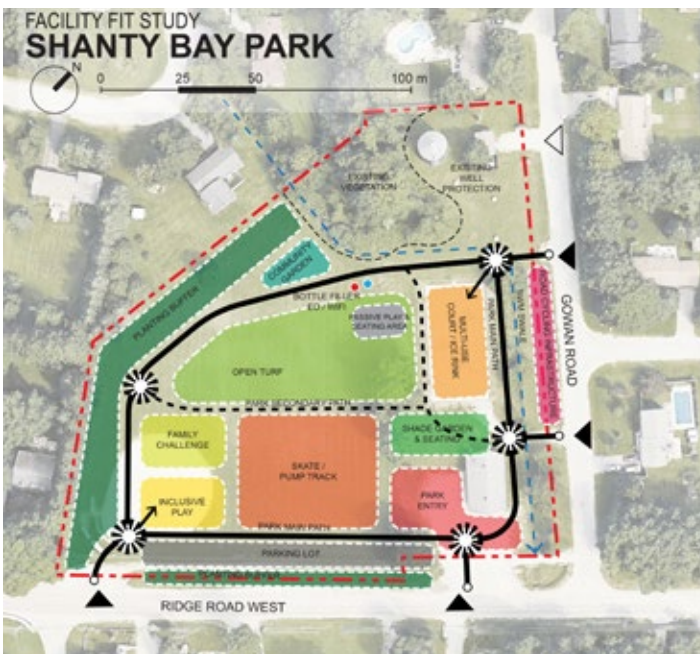








Photo Credit: Andrea Hamlin Photography

