



TOWNSHIP OF LAURENTIAN VALLEY

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN


Sierra Planning and Management
advice • strategy • implementation

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Appendix A. Master Plan Recommendations - Summary

Appendix B. Parks Development Policy



“A thriving community that supports active living, innovation in the delivery of recreation, celebrates volunteers and showcases our built and natural heritage.”

PART A

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

1. Introduction

The Township of Laurentian Valley strives to provide opportunities for active living and quality recreation to all residents of Laurentian Valley Township in a cost effective and proactive manner.

This plan draws on the range of attributes that characterize the community, including:

- The proximity of the community to Pembroke as a major service centre, the rural character of much of the Township and proximity to both the Nation’s Capital and major tourist destinations such as Algonquin Park.
- A long history of community volunteerism in nurturing minor sports, recreational enjoyment and civic gathering;
- A significant asset base of municipal properties which represent community hubs; and
- An engaged community that recognizes the need for investment in municipal recreation services and which supports the efforts of volunteers.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a municipal guidance document for policy development, parks and recreation asset management and program delivery. Building on a balanced assessment of recreation facilities and programs and residents’ needs, the Master Plan outlines recommendations to achieve the vision. Local and national active living trends are key for developing innovative approaches to planning recreation, sport and leisure in the Township.

The Master Plan aligns with the Township’s Strategic Priorities:

“To sustain and enhance the long-term quality of life for residents of Laurentian Valley by

- *Providing essential municipal services, infrastructure, and direction for development*
- *Supporting the community’s identity, rural-urban lifestyle and economic sustainability*
- *Anticipating change and building capacity to cope with new demands on services”*

Source: [Strategic Plan - Township of Laurentian Valley \(lvtownship.ca\)](https://www.lvtownship.ca/strategic-plan)

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan aims to support the Township in achieving its vision for recreation and active living by

- promoting active living and healthy environments,
- seeking to increase physical activity among all age groups;
- enhancing the overall community quality of life and place;
- embracing partnerships, volunteer opportunities and participation.

1.1 The Parks and Recreation Master Plan at a Glance

This Master Plan is a municipal multi-year framework to guide municipal investments in parks and recreation facilities and services over a 10-year period to 2032. The Plan outlines short-, medium- and long-term recommendations for sustaining and growing recreation opportunities in an accountable, transparent and policy-driven manner.

 **PRMP will guide capital and operating spending decisions over next 10 years.**

 **PRMP to establish common set of service related policies to guide evolution of operational practices over the next decade.**

The main categories include indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, parks and trails, and programming.



This Master Plan and its recommendations have been developed with a focus on the needs and aspirations of the community as well as the knowledge and experiences of volunteers who manage some of the recreation assets offered to the community.

A number of engagement opportunities were provided for the community, the Township, and stakeholders to share their issues, ideas, wants, and needs.

Exhibit 1. Consultation and Engagement Process Summary

Online presentation of the Master Plan project and process



- Dedicated project webpage
- Social media presence and outreach

Stakeholder Consultation:



- Township Departments
- Mayor and Council
- Volunteer Boards, Recreation Centres and Parks
- User Group Online Survey, completed in November 2021
- External stakeholder interviews (other recreation providers and regulatory authorities)

Community Consultation



- Public Survey, July-Oct. 2021 (263 responses)
- Community Hall Boards, August, 2021

Public Consultation to Present Key Directions of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan



- March 2-23, 2022 Online presentation of the Public Information Boards;
- March 23, 2022 In-person public meeting to present directions and receive questions and suggestions.

Exhibit 2. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Development Process



Details are addressed in the following sections:

Part B – “The Foundation” addresses the range of factors which together comprise the recreation offer in the Township as well as the relationship with surrounding municipalities in terms of access to services, existing standards of service and the evidence of needs based on this feedback and an assessment of expected levels of service.

Part C – “The Future” defines the service mandate of the Township and that of the existing model of service delivery, and presents detailed recommendations for the next 10 years, categorized in terms of priority.

1.2 Guiding principles for the Plan

Principles, otherwise known as value statements, upon which this Master Plan (goals, objectives, and recommendations) are based are as follows:

1 Invest in What We Have, but Plan for New Services

This is a recognition of the quality of facilities and services (community centres, parks and trails), current and future opportunities that indoor and outdoor facilities offer, and the need to provide services and programming for a changing population with consideration to emerging trends and needs.

2 Adopt Asset Management Practices

As a basis for all future capital planning to ensure the quality of existing facilities is maintained, and replacement investment planned for.

3 Policy-Driven Decision Making

Commencing with the Master Plan, develop the necessary policy justification and processes, supported by implementing by-laws as needed to guide operations and investment in parks, trails, and facilities.

4 Expand Outdoor Amenities

Supporting the development of more parks within walkable distance or a reasonable short drive of all residents will necessitate additional open space and trails to be developed, as well as the effective use of existing parks and connections.

5 Sustain the Success of the Volunteer Run Recreation Centres and Parks

Volunteer boards provide important services in running and maintaining community centres and amenities, providing space and programs. The role of volunteer boards should evolve to meet the critical goals of expanded programming, wider access to facilities and accommodation of changing community needs.

6 Invest in Municipal Leadership

With a large recreation footprint, the Township must invest in its own leadership and organizational capacity to plan, manage and execute the parks and recreation master plan.

7 Connect Active Transportation, Recreation and Urban Planning

Adopt an integrated approach to the improvement and planning of parks, open space, transportation corridors, off-road trails and amenities.

8 Expand Health, Wellness, and Recreational Opportunities

Identify ways to reach out to underserved communities or population groups to make sure that no “recreation deserts” exist in the Township.

1.3 Master Plan Goals and Objectives

The general principles which reflect desired outcomes of this plan are supported by the following goals. These address the importance of municipal capacity building, particularly in outdoor services, the need for alignment with other service providers and the economic development gains of investing in recreation services.

Goal 1: Building Municipal & Community Capacity

- Township as Recreation Lead, responsible for Service Standards
- Adoption of a Community Development Model of Recreation Service Delivery. This involves the partnership of interests and capacity between the Township and recreation providers, including the existing Recreation Centres.
- Modernize the delivery and management of recreation services based on CRM (Customer Relationship Management) principles, effective technology solutions, and a Township-wide approach to program development.
- Grow Recreation, stimulate program development and bolster the operational capacity of the Recreation Centres

Goal 2: More Recreation Opportunities

- Grow Recreation, stimulate program development and bolster the operational capacity of the Recreation Centres
- Encourage and Support greater partnership between existing Recreation Centres, from program delivery to marketing, administration and volunteer training.
- Develop Township-operated programming where appropriate.

Goal 3: Progressive Investment in Indoor Facilities

- Maintain Investment in Existing Recreation Centres comprised of both State-of-Good-Repair (SOGR) funding and renovation/retrofit/ expansion as warranted.
- Develop a New Multi-Use Recreation Centre as a Regional Service to achieve overall affordability.

Goal 4: Progressive Investment in Open Space and Trails

- Aspire to improved Four-Season access
- Effective upkeep and renovation of existing park and trails amenities
- Maximize access to existing trails system through connectors, location of new parkland, and on-street active transportation routes.
- Maximize community access for target groups such as seniors and youth.

Goal 5: Enhanced Commitment to Regional Facility Solutions

- Renew, Improve and Enhance existing Recreation Facility Cost Sharing Agreement
- Pursue effective joint planning for new recreation infrastructure.
- Aspire to a new regional recreation facility in partnership with surrounding municipalities.
- Support and Implement regional (County) level goals for trails, active transportation and tourism development through the implementation of this Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Goal 6: Recreation as Tourism

- Leverage tourism to support business plans, funding and community support for new recreation infrastructure.
- Capitalize on Winter and Summer tourism opportunities to develop signature events.

Goal 7: Improve Policy-Based Decision-Making

- Maximize the benefit of an Asset Management-Led approach to Sustaining and Improving the Township's Recreation Footprint;
- Adopt a Service Standards-based approach to facilities and services
- Create stronger connection between community facilities planning, parkland acquisition and development, land use planning and development control.
- Better tracking of performance in recreation service delivery.



PART B

THE FOUNDATION

- ❑ Trends in Recreation and Active Living
- ❑ Overview of Planning Context
- ❑ Current Organization of Recreation
- ❑ Community Aspirations

2. Trends in Recreation and Active Living

In addition to demographic trends, this Master Plan recognizes that recreation demands for programs, activities, and facilities have shifted over the last few decades. Important emerging trends in recreation are the focus on health and health equity, accessibility, flexible use, unstructured activities, active transportation. Coping with social isolation and mental health issues has been an important trend magnified by COVID-19. Outdoor recreation and low-threshold community activities are inclusive and affordable ways of addressing these challenges.

The 2015 *Canadian Framework for Recreation in Canada: The Pathways to Wellbeing* recognizes and promotes the importance of recreation and supports access to physical activity and recreation programming for all and outlines five goals:



Source: [Framework For Recreation In Canada EN2.pdf \(windows.net\)](#)

Active Living for residents of all ages – “Enable people of all ages to participate in recreation. Address constraints to participation faced by children and youth from disadvantaged families and older adults who are frail and/or isolated.” Recreation opportunities should support a range of activities and intensities to help adults 65 years or older maintain their mobility and independence.

Inclusion and Access – “Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.” Municipal sport and recreation facilities, parks, trails, and open spaces should be designed as inclusive spaces. The amenities and services provided in recreation facilities, within parks and open spaces should be accessible and welcoming to all, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or physical and cognitive abilities.

Connecting People and Nature – “Help people connect to nature through recreation.” Parks, trails and open spaces can serve as restorative environments providing opportunities for being active in nature (walking or cycling), observing plants, gardens, pets, and wildlife.

Supportive Environment – “Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help to build strong, caring communities.” Creating supportive physical environments means supplying accessible, inclusive, and affordable recreation facilities and creating built environments that enable physical activity to be integrated in daily activities – active recreation and transportation (walking, cycling, wheeling, skating etc.). Multipurpose trails encourage walking, cycling and wheeling as a part of the daily commute to work, school and other destinations. Well-maintained outdoor environments support higher levels of physical activity among residents of all ages

and, importantly, encourage older adults to engage in social activities.

Recreation Capacity – *“Ensure the Continued Growth and Sustainability of recreation field”.*

Accessible Design Standards – With the introduction of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), the Provincial Government legislated standards for all levels of government, the private sector and non-profit organizations related to providing services and spaces that are more accessible to people with disabilities.

Active Recreation and Transportation - Active Transportation (AT) refers to non-motorized modes of transport such as walking, cycling, rollerblading, etc. AT supports sustainable and equitable commute and year-round active living. AT infrastructure increases share of active transportation users and enhance access to recreation facilities and other destinations.

Walking and cycling can be year-round activities in municipalities that provide safe and convenient infrastructure and winter maintenance.

Both Canada and Ontario governments have AT Strategies that encourage promotion of active transportation and development of AT infrastructure. Infrastructure Canada provides funding for local municipalities to plan and build active transportation.

Celebrating Local History and Different Cultures - Integrating elements of Indigenous heritage and local history and culture in the design of parks, trails, and recreation facilities serves educational and cultural purposes. Local Indigenous Communities are the experts on

how to share traditional knowledge and stories in creative ways and create interpretive spaces and educational opportunities.

Examples include:

- Preserving and promoting heritage and cultural aspects of parks through signage and interpretive plaques/panels.
- Creating historical murals on large wall spaces in recreation centres and other facilities.
- Providing gallery space and allowing Indigenous artists to showcase, and potentially sell their works.
- Creating spaces suited to staging of Indigenous cultural events and games.

Sustainable Design Strategies – Sustainable design strategies are increasingly included in planning and implementation of parks, trails and open spaces. Planning contributes to improving stormwater management and other township-wide systems. Low Impact Development (LID) focuses on techniques for the localized storage of stormwater quantity and improvements to stormwater quality have become more prevalent within park landscapes. Techniques include bio-retention areas (both at grade and below grade); bio-swales, infiltration galleries, rain gardens, permeable pavements and soil amendments that allow for increased water absorption.

Engaging the Community - In planning recreation facilities, parks and trails and programs, it is vital to have in place municipal policies and processes that clearly outline the standards for Community Engagement. Community engagement provides an opportunity for the Township, Volunteer Committees, Residents and Stakeholders to meaningfully engage in constructive interactions associated with the clear communication of community values, priorities, and expectations.

Exhibit 3. Trends in Indoor and Outdoor Recreation and Sports

Indoor Recreation

- **Flexible multi-use, multi-generational** – Increasing focus on creating flexible multi-use “destination” facilities as recreation, entertainment and family centres and community hubs.
- **Sport tourism** – Throughout Canada, sport tourism represents a growing market and providing facilities to accommodate this is an important consideration.
- **Aquatics** – Emerging aquatic facility designs (fitness and leisure swimming, therapeutic programs for seniors, and splash pads/water parks for children).
- **Sustainability** – Increasing focus on the overall sustainability of a facility (e.g., net zero/carbon neutral).
- **Accessibility** – making indoor and outdoor facilities accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Indoor facilities must comply with the provincial Accessibility regulations (AODA). Encouraging cycling and walking to access facilities.

Outdoor Recreation

Emerging outdoor recreational activities that are gaining in popularity and becoming more widely programmed by municipalities across Ontario include:

- Pickleball,
- Tennis (established but growing in demand),
- Skateboard parks, BMX / Pump Tracks,
- Basketball (established but growing in demand),
- 3v3 Basketball,
- Disc Golf,
- Cricket (established but growing in demand),
- Walking, hiking, jogging
- Indoor / outdoor fitness, yoga, etc.
- Active transportation (cycling, walking, non-motorized wheel chairing, and other non-motorized modes)
- Unstructured outdoor leisure activities year-round (skating, skiing, skateboarding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, canoeing/kayaking, etc.)



Exhibit 4: Trends in Outdoor Recreation and Programming

Parkland & Open Spaces

Accessible Design Standards - Many municipalities have created their own Accessibility Guidelines for development that exceed the minimum Ontario standards to optimize inclusivity and eliminate barriers for individuals with a wide range of disabilities.

Age-Friendly Approach - Parks and open spaces are increasingly designed as inclusive spaces for example by providing multi-generational amenities.

Inclusion of Underserved Populations - The amenities and services provided within parks and open spaces should be accessible to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or physical and cognitive abilities.

Sustainable Design Strategies - The inclusion of Low Impact Development (LID) site design strategies aim to improve storm water management quality.

Engaging in unstructured or self-directed recreation activities - an important trend in communities across Ontario. Regular upkeep and improvement of recreation facilities, parks and trails is important for supporting these activities.



Programming & Events

Trends & shifts in recreation participation are being observed at the national & provincial level, including:

- Promoting and fostering participation in physical activity for all ages;
- The need to (re)assess opportunities diversify the suite of program options to address changes in preferences for participation;
- The decline in sport participation in favour of unorganized and/or self-directed leisure activity;
- Effective monitoring systems help inform municipal responses to parks and recreation program demand.

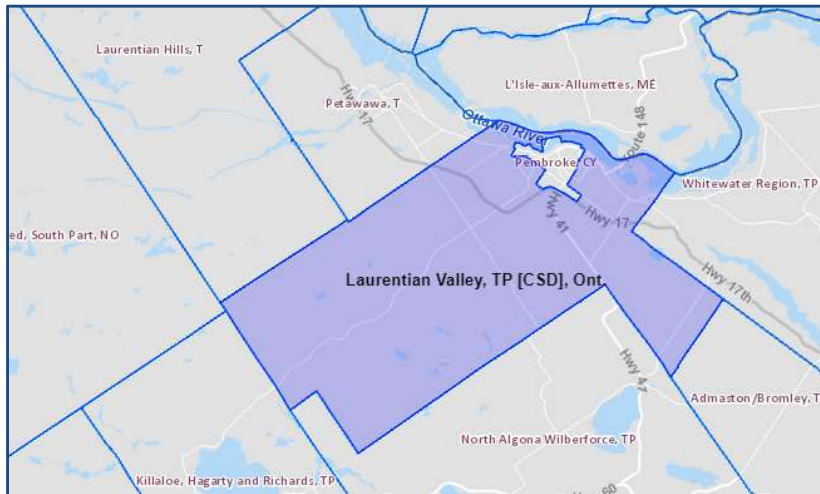
Local Influences & Trends in Recreation

- Preserving and promoting local heritage through signage and interpretive plaques/panels.
- Further improving wayfinding, e.g. signage, maps, website information and applications to improve access to the recreation facilities in the Township.
- Creating historical murals on large wall spaces in recreation centres and other facilities.
- More space for outdoor activities year-round.
- Promoting active leisure and transportation.
- Integrate Indigenous and local history/educational opportunities.

3. Overview of the Planning Context

3.1 Locational Context

Township of Laurentian Valley was established on January 1, 2000, through the amalgamation of the former Township of Stafford, Pembroke, Alice and Fraser. Laurentian Valley is a lower tier municipality within the County of Renfrew. The Township is serviced by TransCanada Highway 17 and Highway 41.



The Township’s small urban and rural areas and natural features cover an area of over 550 square kilometres. Many forests, rivers and lakes throughout the Township comprise its beautiful natural heritage. The Township has 20 kilometers of Ottawa River frontage, a section of the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail and a natural skating trail, and borders Algonquin Park.

3.2 Population Change

Laurentian Valley is the third largest municipality in the County of Renfrew, but not the fastest growing. In 2021, the Township had a population of 9,450 persons and 3,877 households. While the population has increased by 0.7% since 2016, it is still lower than its 2011 population of 9,657. This compares to Renfrew County’s population growth of 3.9% and the population gain in the Province as a whole of 5.8%.

In 2021, there were 3,715 occupied private dwellings in Laurentian Valley (Township (CSD)). Single-detached houses represented 93.1% of all occupied private dwellings, reflective of the low density, large lot development that has appealed to many residents who commute out of the Township for work.

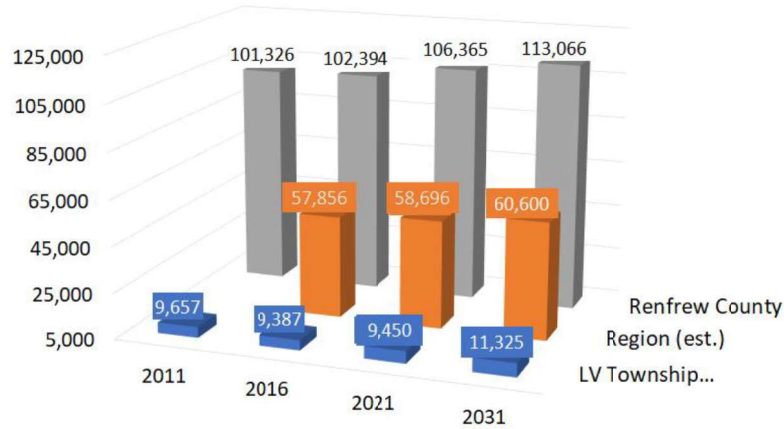
Exhibit 5: Population in Laurentian Valley and Neighbouring Municipalities

Municipality		POP. 2016	POP. 2021	% change 2016-2021
Laurentian Valley	TP	9,387	9,450	0.7
Pembroke	CY	13,882	14,364	3.5
Petawawa	T	17,187	18,160	5.7
Whitewater Region	TP	7,009	7,225	3.1
North Algona Wilberforce	TP	2,915	3,111	6.7
Admaston/Bromley	TP	2,935	2,995	2.0
Laurentian Hills	T	2,961	2,885	-2.6
Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards	TP	2,420	2,410	-0.4
Total Population		58,696	60,600	3%

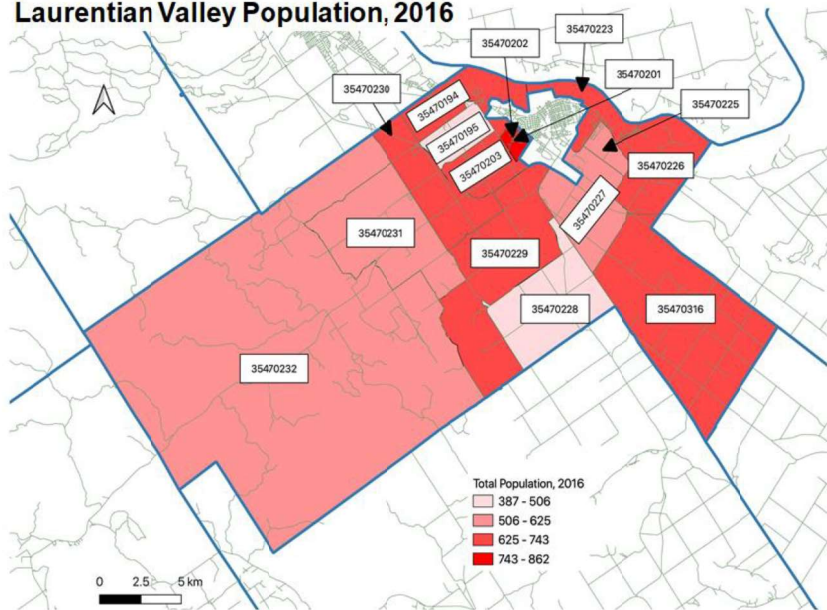
Source: Statistics Canada. 2022. [Focus on Geography Series. 2021 Census.](#)

Exhibit 6. Population Change and Demographic profile

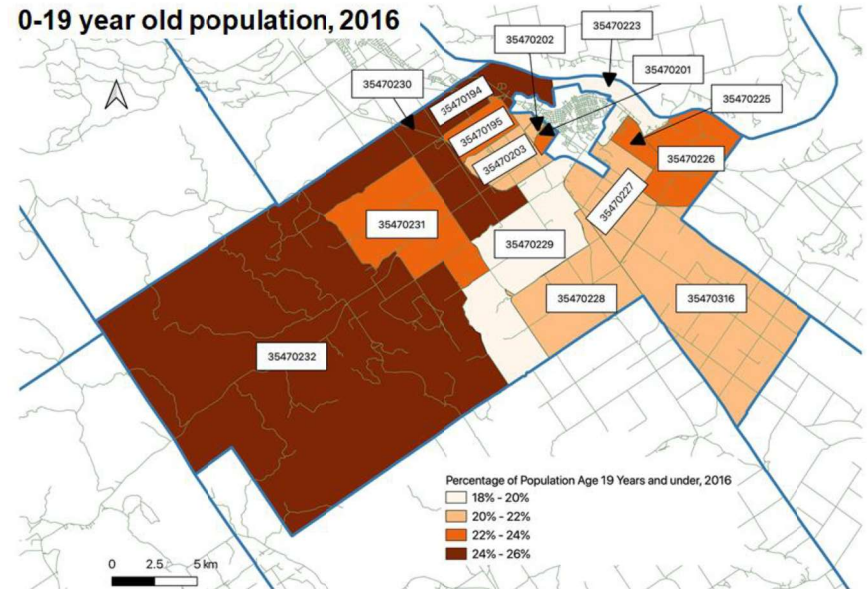
Population Change: Historic (2011-2021) and Projected (2031)



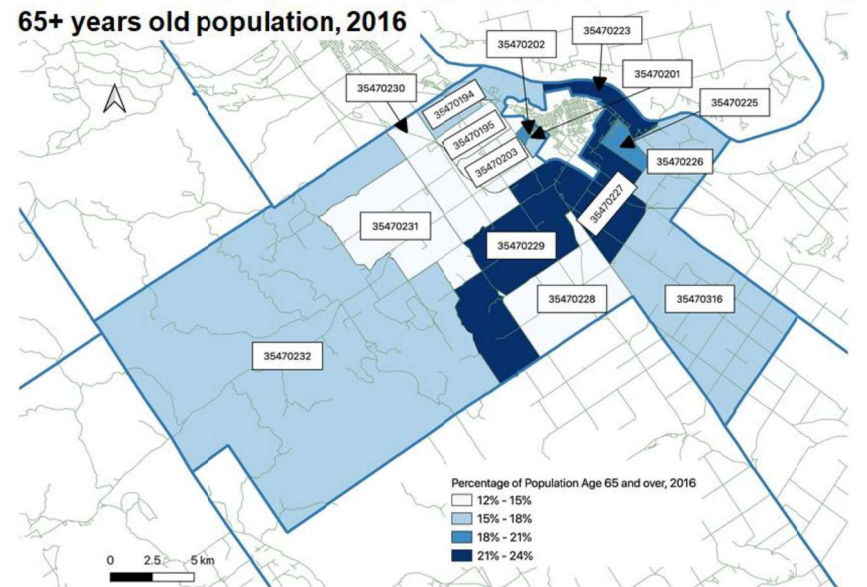
Laurentian Valley Population, 2016



0-19 year old population, 2016



65+ years old population, 2016



SPM, Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2011-2021, Projections, Ontario Ministry of Finance and County of Renfrew Official Plan

3.3 An Aging Demographic

An understanding of the age distribution of the Township’s residents is critical to ensure that recreation facilities and programming meet the needs of all residents in the future.

The change in the age structure in 2006-2021 signals that the Township is expected to experience growth in the older adult populations (65 years of age and over), as the adult population transitions into their retirement years. The demand for services focused to this age group can also be expected to increase, and additional attention to the overall health and wellbeing of this age groups will be necessary.

Exhibit 7: LV Age Distribution by Broad Age Group & Change in 2006-2021

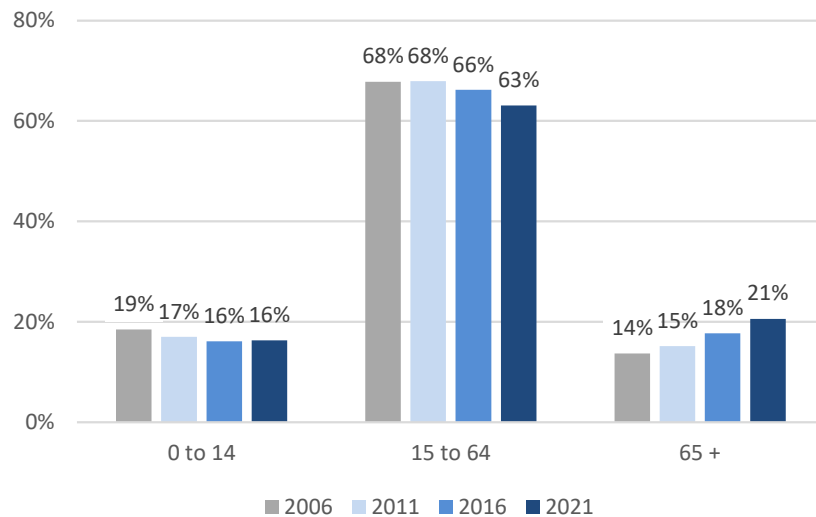


Exhibit 8: Population Trends by Age Group

Age Cohort	2016 Pop.	% Pop. Share	2021 Pop.	% Pop. Share	Trend
Children (0-14)	1,510	10.0%	1,540	9.0%	Stable
Youth / Adults (15-64)	6,210	15.4%	5,960	13.6%	Declining
Older Adults (65+)	1,670	15.3%	1,950	17.7%	Increasing
Total	9,390	100%	9,450	100%	

Source: [Statistics Canada Census Data](#), 2021

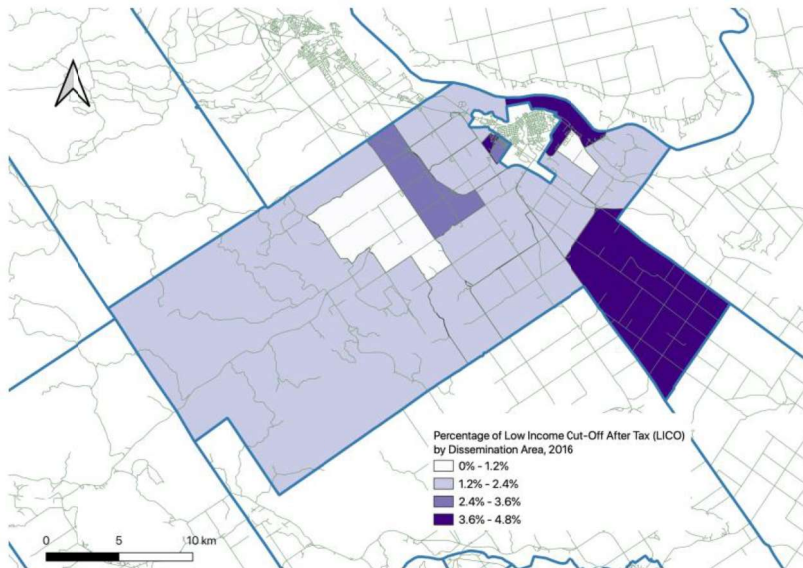
There is a growing need to recognize and provide a balance between the needs of “new seniors” and opportunities for more elderly age groups. In general, the Township should strive to provide more active living programs (i.e. fitness, educational, and arts-based) within the parks and open space network that appeal to a range of older adults.

Township’s 65+ population has been increasing and is expected to continue increasing similar to other Ontario communities.

The younger population, as a share of the total population, has been relatively stable. Sustaining and improving recreation facilities and programming for the younger population remains important in this plan and a number of the recommendations address this in both facility and program terms.

Low Income Cut-Off prevalence is the percentage of units whose income falls below a specified low-income line. Population distribution measured by this indicator is shown below.

Exhibit 9. Income Distribution – Low Income Cut-Off Prevalence, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada Census Data, 2016

In short, while programs for both youth and seniors are available in a number of locations outside of the Township, most notably the City of Pembroke, a goal of this plan should be to maintain access in facilities that the Township controls, in addition to those elsewhere.

3.4 Community Aspirations: Prevalent Themes

There are a number of important themes that have emerged from the community engagement process.

- Theme 1** Maintaining and upgrading existing parkland and facilities
- Theme 2** Improving community health and recreation and sports opportunities
- Theme 3** Recreation and sports for all ages
- Theme 4** Greater opportunity for active outdoor and indoor recreation year-round
- Theme 5** Improvements in Accessibility
- Theme 6** Community and Volunteer-based boards work. Coordination of program delivery and the support of the Township is important
- Theme 7** Recreation facilities and parks are well-used and appreciated in the Township. The majority of survey respondents (91%) use parks and recreation facilities in the Township. Many (65%) use recreation facilities/parks/trails once a month or more often; additional 26% - a few times a year.

Exhibit 10. Key highlights from Feedback

Indoor Recreation

- Facilities for different ages
- Accessibility / sustainability
- Indoor sports fields / courts
- Indoor gym
- Arenas
- Indoor / outdoor aquatics facilities

Parkland / Outdoor Recreation

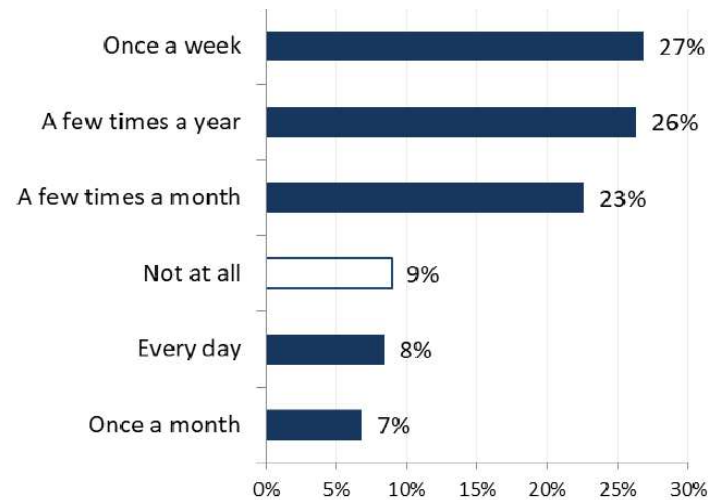
- Additional amenities (shade structures, washrooms, splashpads);
- Well-maintained sports courts & fields
- Making trails safer for walkers and cyclists
- Walking / cycling trails
- Additional neighbourhood / community parks;
- Year-round outdoor activities for all ages

Programming / Special Events

- Flexible multi-use, multi-generational programs
- Accessibility
- Unstructured sports and activities
- Flexible parkland for variety of passive and active opportunities



How often respondents and their families use Laurentian Valley's recreation centres and parks (n=240)



Township of Laurentian Valley residents engage in unstructured or self-directed recreation activities such as hiking, walking, cross-country skiing, skating, etc. Regular upkeep and improvement of recreation facilities, parks and trails is important for supporting these activities.

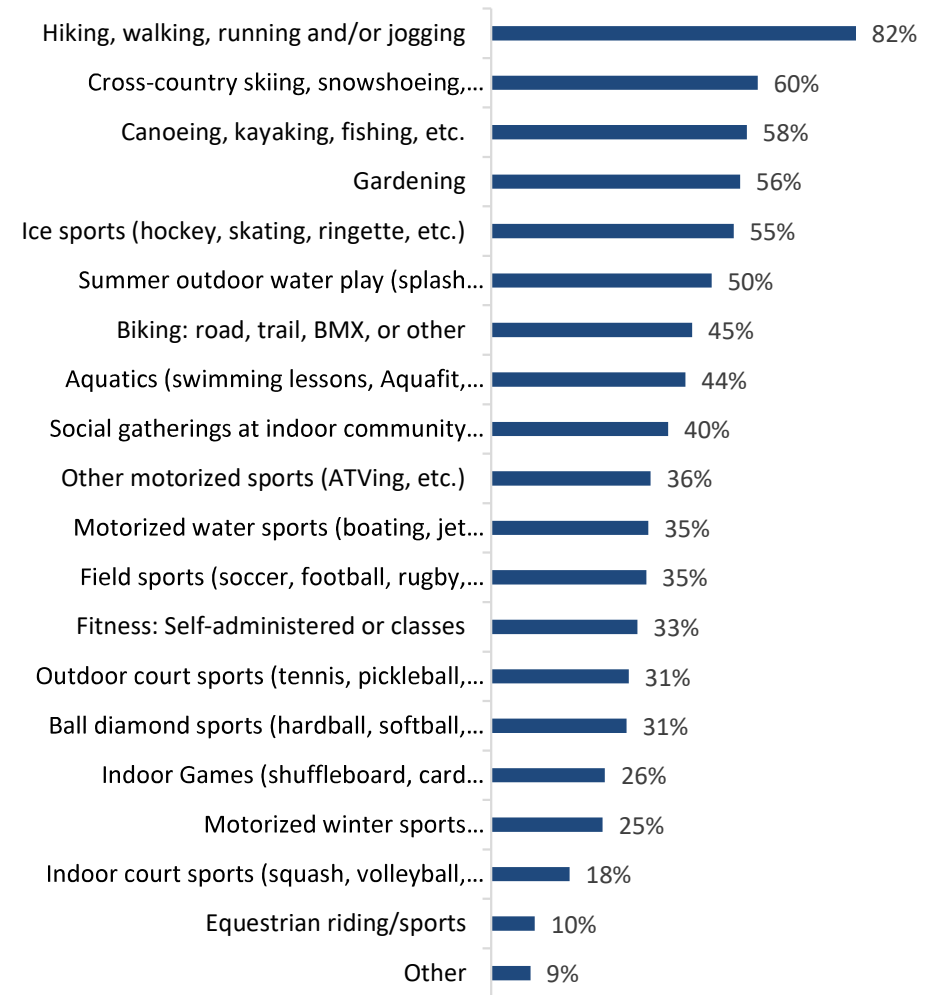
When asked about Most Popular Outdoor Activities, the majority of public survey respondents reported that they engage in unorganized leisure activities. Answers indicate that residents are active throughout the year, engaging in summer and winter activities.

Many of the most popular responses were outdoor recreation and leisure activities, the majority of which are informal self-directed activities such as hiking, walking for leisure or exercise, cycling, cross-country skiing, skating, water activities (such as canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water sports), and playing at playgrounds.

This is in-line with participation trends seen across Ontario, where walking for exercise and individual fitness activities (i.e. yoga, aerobics, etc.) are among the top three physical activities for adult participants. A question for this plan is the capacity of the Township to promote unstructured and self-directed health and fitness activity on a year-round basis, including therefore within indoor venues. Currently, there is a limited degree of capacity in this regard.

Fewer but a still significant number of survey participants (18-26%) use indoor facilities for indoor games and court sports.

Exhibit 11: Most Popular Outdoor Activities amongst Public Survey Respondents



Other activities mentioned include Curling, Golf, Disc Golf, Speed skating; Playgrounds; Art programs, Music, Dancing, Photography

Exhibit 12. Types of facilities that respondents use (250 responses, multiple answers possible)

	Percent of total number of responses	number of responses
Laurentian Valley skating trail	68%	170
Nature trails	67%	167
Outdoor rinks	58%	146
Playgrounds	56%	140
Splash pads	44%	110
Picnic area/gazebo	40%	100
Ball diamonds	30%	74
Use of hall meeting space for other games, events and social gathering	30%	74
Boat launch	27%	68
Soccer pitches	23%	57
Basketball nets	15%	38
Beach volleyball courts	13%	32
Other (please specify)	10%	24
Equestrian area	7%	17
Community garden	4%	10

Survey participants indicated their recreation priorities.

What are your top 3 priorities for recreation centre and park facility investment over the next 10 years? This may include investment in new or existing facilities.

- Upgrade all existing facilities that require upgrades
- Upgrade existing sports facilities to regulation
- Activities for all ages
- Increased accessibility

Indoor Facilities

- A recplex multi use one stop shop / Indoor complex
 - o Dome for multi sports use and recreation
 - o Indoor gym
- Indoor / outdoor rinks (covered) / Arenas
- Indoor or outdoor aquatic facilities and swimming programs

Outdoor Amenities

- Splashpads
- Adequate seating, shade, washrooms
- Keeping speed down on trails, trails safe for kids
- More trails, more non-motorised trails, biking trails

4. Overview of Recreation Assets and Service Delivery

The Township has a balance of small urban and rural neighbourhoods, significant natural heritage features including a number of remote lakes, and cultivated lands buffering the forest and urban fringe. Much of the urban context for the Township is the suburban extension of the City beyond its limits. However, the Township offers distinctive residential development, with property assessments generally higher than that of residential in the City.

The land ownership pattern reflects this urban-rural zone, and includes Township lands, five (5) County-owned forest tracts, private lands and Crown land. The Township has approximately 20 kilometres of Ottawa River frontage and 13 kilometers of the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail.

The Crown land is highly significant in terms of contributions to the recreational, cultural and leisure pursuits of many residents of the broader region. The access to wilderness, which also includes the internationally recognized Algonquin Park, denotes a key feature of recreation relevant to Laurentian Valley: the use of non-municipal owned land assets as a fundamental characteristic of recreation consumption. This also extends to the County of Renfrew Forest Tracts located in the Township and beyond.

Recreational pursuits in these areas are largely self directed but a range of organizations, formal and informal, represent important contributors to enabling recreation in these areas year-round (hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, Nordic and other activities).

The purpose of this plan is not to stipulate how activities should be planned on lands outside of the jurisdiction of the Township, but to indicate the importance of these assets to local residents. In a number of instances there are actions that the Township can take to help ensure the sustainability of access to these non-municipal land tracts. These recommendations are provided in later sections of this plan.

Exhibit 13. Target Standards of Provision for Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces

Facility Name	Ownership			Population Based Standards of Provision							Comparable Level of Provision		
	Public	Private	Other Public	Projections									
				(estimated)			2021 population		2031 population				
Indoor Facilities						9,450				11,325	<i>Based on a review of urban-rural communities</i>		
						49,199				54,507			
Community Centres/Hall	3			3	1 per	3,150	residents	2 per	3,775	residents	Rural: 1 per 5,000	residents	
Arenas / Ice Pads - Regional	7	0	0	7	1 per	7,028	residents	1 per	7,787	residents	1 per	8,000 to 10,000	residents
Indoor Pool - Regional	2	0	0	2	1 per	24,600	residents	1 per	27,254	residents	1 per	20,000 to 35,000	residents
Gymnasiums**	0	0	1	0	1 per	-	residents	1 per	-	residents	1 per	15,000 to 20,000	residents
Outdoor Facilities													
Baseball Diamond (Softball)	4	0	0	4	1 per	2,363	residents	1 per	2,831	residents	1 per	2,500 to 4,000	residents
Soccer Field (2 large and 2 small)	3	0	0	3	1 per	3,150	residents	1 per	3,775	residents	1 per	1,500 to 3,000	residents
Basketball Court	2	0	0	2	1 per	4,725	residents	1 per	5,663	residents	1 per	1,500 to 3,000	residents
						528	youth (10-19)				1 per	800	youth (10-19)
Tennis Court	1	0	0	1	1 per	9,450	residents	1 per	11,325	residents	1 per	4,000 to 5,000	residents
Beach Volleyball Court	2	0	0	2	1 per	4,725	residents	1 per	5,663	residents	Target level of provision not applicable.		
Outdoor Ice Rink	3	0	0	3	1 per	3,150	residents	1 per	3,775	residents	1 per	4,000 to 5,000	residents
Skatepark	0	0	0	0		1,055	youth (10-19)		-	youth (10-19)	1 per	3,500 to 5,000	youth (age 10-19)
Off Leash Dog Park	0	0	0	0	1 per		residents	1 per		residents	smaller town; suggest location-based approach		
Playground	5	0	0	5							500m to 800m or 5minute walking distance (urban standard)		
Splash Pad	1	0	0	1									
Community Garden	2												
Bicycle Parking Racks	2												
Parks and Open Space**	137.6	55.7		55.7		5.9	per 1,000		4.9	per 1,000	Minimum of 2.0 ha per 1,000 residents		
	<i>Acres*</i>	<i>Hectares</i>		<i>Hectares</i>		<i>Hectares / 1000 population</i>			<i>Hectares / 1000 population</i>				

Notes:

* Data Sources: Population data Statistics Canada Census 2016, 2021. Projections: County of Renfrew Official Plan

**While the supply of school gymnasia is important within a community, schools have limited public use due to COVID. Looking at municipal supply only, current standard of provision is 1 gymnasium per 16,100 pop.

***Parks Area - Data source: Laurentian Valley Township - parks included: A&F Area, Shady Nook Area, Stafford Park, Forest Lea Park and Pleasant View Park, George Mathieson, Hazel Bay and Indian Court.

Baseball: 2 Soccer Fields + 2 Smaller Playing Fields with posts no nets or field lines

Population for estimating regional Level of Service includes the following municipalities:

City of Pembroke – Deve	2016	2021	2031 projections
Whitewater Region	7,009	7,225	8,117
Petawawa	17,187	18,160	20,701
Pembroke*	13,882	14,364	14,364
Laurentian Valley	9,387	9450	11,325
TOTAL	47,465	49,199	54,507

Data Sources:

Projections: County of Renfrew Official Plan

Pembroke: 2031 projections not available. 2011-2016 change: -3.2%, change 2016-2021: +3%. Assumption - no change)

City of Pembroke – Development Charges Study – Background Report

4.1 Regional Facilities: Arenas and Pools

Township of Laurentian Valley does not operate its own indoor rinks or pools. Residents have access to the facilities in the neighbouring municipalities. Ice Arenas and aquatics facilities (indoor and outdoor community pool) are regional level facilities that require a population base to support the costs associated with their construction and operation.

The Township currently has 3 inter-municipal cost sharing agreements with the City of Pembroke, which allow residents to utilize the City’s library, pool, indoor rinks and cultural events facility.

As a result, the Township enjoys a high standard of ice and pool provision (as measured by the population served) but these facilities are ageing. The Township does not have a sufficient population base by itself to support the cost associated with both an indoor arena and indoor pool. By cost-sharing, Laurentian Valley becomes part of a regional population service area that better supports the financial impacts of these facilities located in the City.

Arenas: Laurentian Valley residents use arenas in Pembroke and Silver Dart Arena in Petawawa. These Areas offer 7 Ice surfaces.

Exhibit 14. LV Residents’ Use of Ice Arenas



If you and/or members of your household use indoor arenas outside of Laurentian Valley, which facilities do you use?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Arenas in Pembroke (Pembroke Memorial Centre, PACC) – 1 ice surface	89%	134
Silver Dart Arena at CFB Petawawa – 2 ice surfaces	34%	52
Other arena (please specify)	21%	31

- **Regional Supply:** 1 per 7,000 regional population
- **Observed Regional Standard:** 1 ice pad per 450-700 participants or 1 per 8,000 – 10,000 residents

Indoor Aquatic Facilities are available in two locations near LV: Kinsmen Pool, Pembroke and Dundonald Hall Aquatics Centre, CFB Petawawa.

Exhibit 15. LV Residents’ Use of Indoor Aquatic Facilities



If you and/or members of your household use indoor aquatic centres/pools outside of Laurentian Valley, which facilities do you use?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Kinsmen Pool in Pembroke	68%	102
Dundonald Hall Aquatics Centre at CFB Petawawa	21%	31
Other aquatics centre/pool (please specify)	11%	17

- **Regional Supply:** 1 per 25,000 regional population
- **Observed Regional Standard:** 1 per 20,000 to 35,000 +/- regional population

4.2 Municipal Recreation Centres, Parks and Trails

Township recreation facilities and assets include two recreation centres with extensive outdoor areas, six parks and two parkland areas, a municipal trail - LV Four Seasons Trail, the County-owned Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail, and the Forest Lea Trail on Crown Land.

Exhibit 16. LV Recreation Centers, Parks and Trails

Name	Recreation Centre	Park	Trail
Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre	X	X	
Shady Nook Recreation Centre	X	X	
Stafford Park & Splash Pad		X	
Pleasant View Park		X	
Forest Lea Park		X	
LV Four Seasons Trail / Lodge Building	X		X
Matheson Park (Boat Launch)		X	
Hazley Bay Drive Parkland		X	
Indian Court Parkland		X	
Forest Lea Trail (Crown Land)			X
Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail (Renfrew County)			X

Total Municipal Parks Area: 56 hectares (138 acres)

Current Provision of Parks: 5.9 h of parkland per 1,000 residents

Observed Policy Standards in a range of other Municipalities in Ontario: Minimum of 4.0 ha per 1,000 residents

Parks and trails are located in the more densely populated Eastern part of the Township and closer to the Ottawa River front (as shown on the Exhibits below).

Recreation Centres and parks offer space for outdoor sports and recreation activities, indoor and outdoor programs, and community gatherings.

Recreation centres and Parks are family-friendly, smoke-free areas that feature sports fields, playgrounds, and offer free wi-fi.

The Township website currently provides basic information regarding these amenities including amenity and facility rental rates. There is no information provided regarding programs on offer and registration.

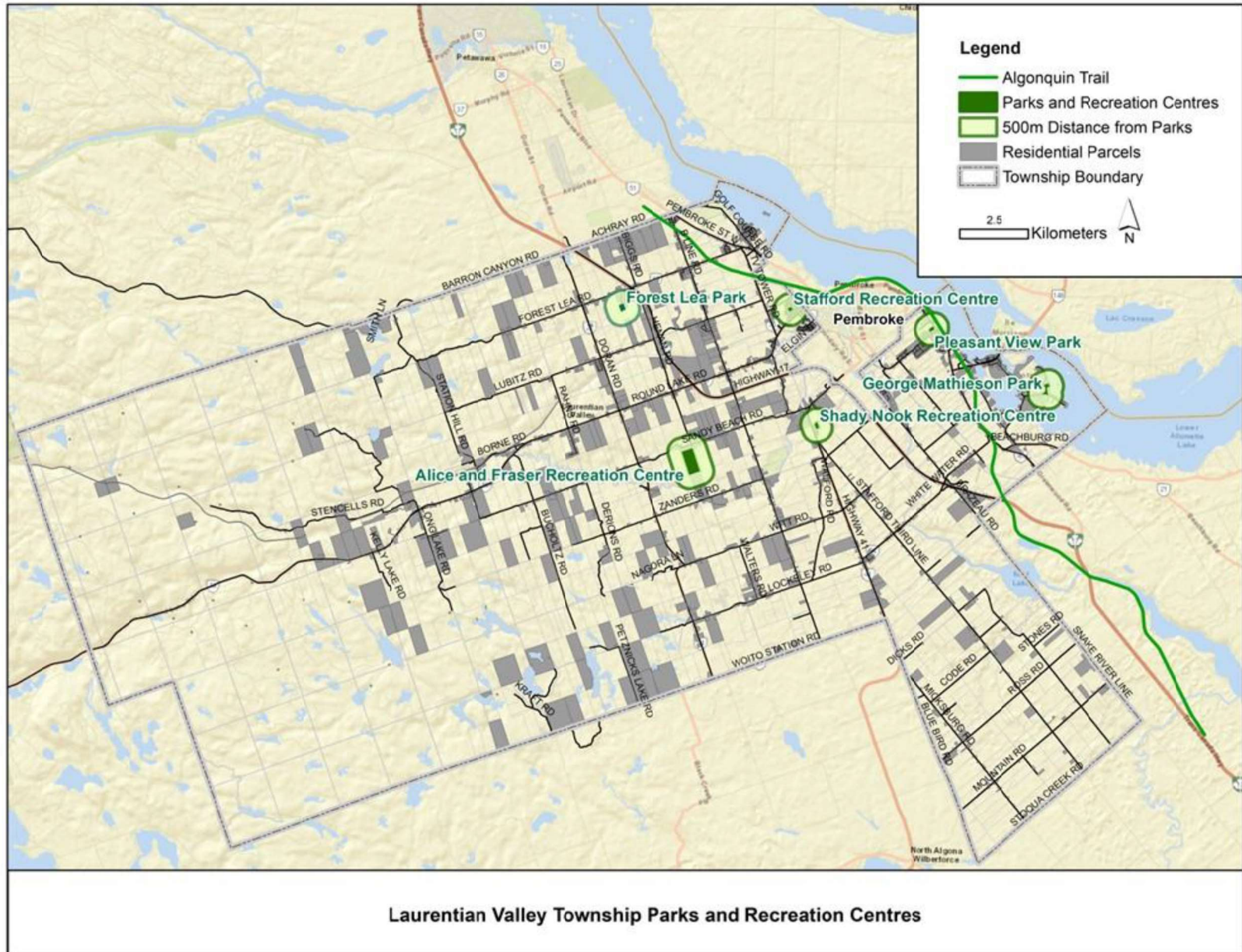
Township’s parks and facilities have different opportunities for development. Some of the Township recreation assets are located in areas serviced by municipal sewer and water and other sites are serviced by individual wells and septic systems. The metrics of municipal park land area (gross area which may include inaccessible lands) is presented below:

- In an urban setting, a reasonable expectation is that parks with public amenities are within a reasonable walking distance of most residential areas. Guidelines vary but an accepted rule of thumb is 500 to 800 metres.
- In a rural setting this metric is often not possible, nor would it represent good planning, resulting, as it would, in a number of small tracts of public land to be maintained and

with a much smaller number of people supporting each individual park. Accordingly, a more reasonable approach is to determine whether there is an imbalance between the amount and location of parkland and the location of settlement areas. On this basis, the Township fares well, with the existing parks reasonably located (within approximately 2 km) to serve somewhere between 70% and 80% of the Township population. An additional park has been proposed by a resident group in the Willow ridge subdivision of the Township a residential subdivision bordered by the Indian River valley, Boundary Road East and Elgin Street (referred to as Willow Park).

This proposal is subject to a specific recommendation in a later section of this Plan.

Exhibit 17. LV Parks and Recreation Centres: Geographic Distribution



4.3 Existing Parks Hierarchy

The existing portfolio of Township-owned active parks can be characterized by their scale, level of amenity and overall purpose. As noted, it is not atypical for a rural community, particularly one as large as the Township and that encompasses a significant level of publicly accessible land outside of municipal control, to have a limited hierarchy of municipal parks.

In short, those central and western parts of the Township, more remote in nature, are provided with accessible lands, although these are not developed as park facilities.

Within the existing parks operated by the Township, public engagement has identified the need for improvements and additional amenities.

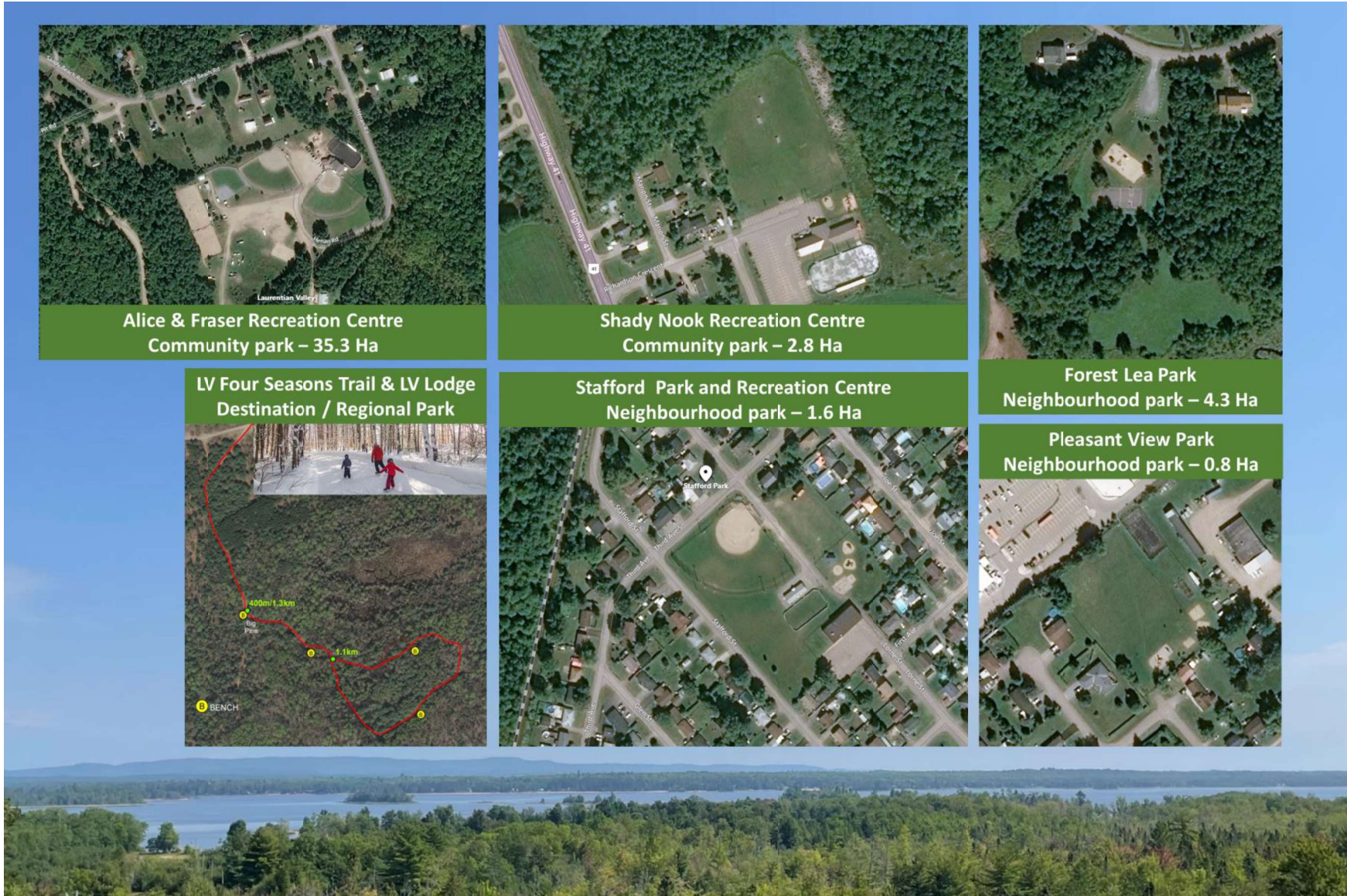
Exhibit 18. Proposed Parkland Hierarchy

Park Classification	Service Area	Optimal Size	Potential Uses/Facilities
Destination/ Regional Parks	Municipal/regional/provincially significant destinations.	Varies	Active and/or passive recreation opportunities that meet both the needs of Township residents but are also of interest to visitors / tourists . Often related to the provision of major recreation or leisure activities and may include significant natural or historic elements.
Community Parks	Municipal: Serve more than one neighbourhood within the township but are not intended to serve the Township as a whole.	Min. 5.0 hectares	Active and/or passive uses. Include more intensive recreational uses such as sports fields, sports courts, playgrounds, water play , amenity/support buildings and on-site parking (adequate for the uses the park provides).
Neighbourhood Parks	Local: Cater to the recreation needs of residents who live in the general vicinity and can easily walk/bike to the park.	Min. 1.0 hectares	Combination of active and passive recreation opportunities. Include minor sports fields, multi-purpose sports courts, playgrounds, and informal play areas .
Parkettes	Local: They are generally located in urban or residential areas, providing connections to larger parks and open spaces.	Less than 1.0 hectares	Small open spaces that have no or limited recreational facilities. Passive programming such as opportunities for seating (rest) and temporary gathering.
General Open Spaces	Municipal/local: undeveloped lands accessible to the public.	Varies	Active and passive recreation activities. These spaces may include pedestrian pathways, bicycle trails, community gardens, open lawn areas and remnant parcels of open land.
Natural Open Spaces	Regional/municipal/local: undeveloped lands accessible to the public that contain significant natural features (e.g., woodlots, wetlands, watercourses, wildlife habitat).	Varies	These spaces may include passive recreation activities that do not negatively impact ecological and biological functions of their natural surroundings.

The existing parks of the Township are categorized as either Community or Neighbourhood, although the two principal recreation centres offer services which are designed to meet the needs of the Township as a whole.

The new Four Seasons Trail Park represents a destination and is appropriately categorized as regional. Depending on the level of development that occurs at any of the existing parks, their function could potentially change. The purpose of a park’s classification is to assist in defining the level of investment and operational support that each park requires, and to determine gaps.

Exhibit 19. LV Township Recreation Centres and Parks: Parks Classification



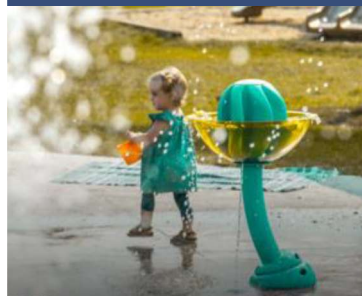
ACTIVE PARK AMENITIES

Playgrounds: 5



Standard:
General equitable distribution of open space across the Township

Splash Pads: 1



1 splash pad at Stafford Park
New – installed in 2019

Outdoor Ice Rinks: 3



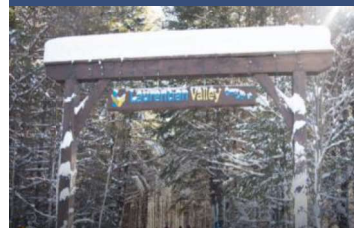
3 outdoor skating rinks at Shady Nook RC, Stafford Park, Alice and Fraser RC
LV Supply: 1 per 3,150
Observed Standard: 1 ice rink per 4,000 – 5,000 residents

Cycling, ATV, Snowmobiling



Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail, Forest Lea Mountain Bike Trails
Skiing, Snowshoeing
Walking, Cycling, Mountain Bike
Motorized uses: ATV, Snowmobile

LV Four Seasons Trail



Year-round activities:
Skating, snowshoeing, walking & cycling trails and LV Lodge

Community Gardens: 2



Community gardens at Shady Nook & Alice and Fraser recreation centres

Future Opportunities:

Maintaining investments in existing parks and active amenities;

Supporting and re-investing as necessary in the three outdoor skating rinks (Stafford park reinvestment currently under way);

Considering ice arena roof/weather cover for one or more outdoor rinks;

Improving amenities in parks, including:

- Replacing old play equipment, adding shade structures and seating;
- Better ground conditions (suitable surfaces for playgrounds);
- Exploring the needs and opportunities for pickleball, skateboard, BMX, cycling, yoga, and other emerging outdoor sports and fitness activities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Exploring the need for an off-leash dog area.

SPORT FIELDS


Baseball Diamonds: 4



3 fields at Alice & Fraser RC
1 field at Stafford Park

- **LV Supply:** 1 ball diamond per 2,363 residents
- **Observed Standard:** 1 ball diamond per 2,000-4,000 residents

Soccer Fields: 2 + 2 small



Shady Nook RC, Pleasant View & Alice & Fraser RC

LV Supply: 1 rectangular field per 3,315 residents

Observed Standard: 1 rectangular field per 1,500 – 3,000 residents

Factors of Influence / Trends

Sport Fields

- Demand is likely greater than supply in the Township
- Developing rectangular fields in multi-field configurations (clusters) to create hubs for field sports to accommodate the future need for rectangular fields.

Sport Courts:

- Pickleball is an emerging and growing sport
- Basketball is gaining in popularity among youth
- Multi-purpose courts for multi-use play

Future Opportunities:

- Maintaining existing ball diamonds & rectangular fields – no significant investment;
- Improving existing fields – better fencing, lighting, amenities;
- Re-purposing underutilized fields;
- Building additional fields.

SPORT COURTS

Basketball Courts: 3 + Nets: 3




3 courts: 1 Forest Lea Park, 1 Pleasant View Park, Shady Nook Recreation Centre (on rink with lines 2 nets)

Basketball nets: Stafford Park 1 net

LV Supply: 1 court per 528 youth (age 10-19)

Observed Standard: 1 court per 800 youth (age 10-19)

Tennis Courts: 1



1 court at Pleasant View Park
No outdoor pickleball courts

LV Supply: 1 court per 9,450 residents

Observed Standard: 1 court per 4,000-5,000 residents

Beach Volleyball Courts: 3



3 courts total (2 at Alice & Fraser and 1 at Forest Lea Park)

LV Supply: 1 per 4,725 residents

Future Opportunities:

- Upgrading and expanding existing tennis court at Pleasant View Park;
- Developing pickleball courts over the Plan period, comprised of a mixture of both dedicated and non-dedicated (multi-use or shared) courts in two or more locations;
- Upgrading and maintaining existing basketball courts;
- Continually monitor the demand and usage of the tennis courts.

4.4 What We Heard about the Challenges to Overcome in Parks and Facilities

The following summary of comments from the public survey are intended to emphasize that despite strong operational commitment to the Township's recreation services, the age and other limits of the built assets are a matter that requires attention in implementing this Master Plan.

Updates needed:

Suggestions included:

- *Updating / improvements to parks and amenities required*
- *Accessible washroom all year round during operating hours*
- *Maintenance and a better play structures design*
- *Updating bleachers*
- *Adding another splash pad closer to East end*

New parks:

Suggestions included:

- *Golf Course Road/Atwater neighbourhood with a playground*
- *A neighbourhood park for the Fairview Subdivision*
- *A park at Cotnam Island*
- *Additional parks in East End*

New facilities:

Suggestions included:







- *Warm changerooms for skating*
- *Paved shoulders / bike routes to parks*
- *Municipal support for walking, hiking and cycling*

4.5 Township Recreation Resources

The Township currently does not have a recreation department. In 2020, a staff member was appointed as Planning and Recreation Coordinator to support the recreation committee volunteers and implement Township recreation events. Recreation coordination is an additional duty to their primary role offering support to the Township Planner. The Public Works Manager continues to manage parks and recreation facility maintenance. Municipal staff support special events primarily organized by recreation volunteer committees.

4.6 Volunteer Committee Boards

Operation of recreational facilities by volunteers represents the existing, historic model of service delivery in Laurentian Valley. The Township’s recreation centres and parks are run by Volunteer Committees who contribute their time, skills, experience and enthusiasm. Volunteer Committees run the following municipal parks and recreation facilities:

-  Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre
-  Shady Nook Recreation Centre
-  Stafford Park
-  Pleasant View Park
-  Forest Lea Park
-  LV Four Seasons Trail and LV Lodge

Volunteer Committees are established by Township’s By-Laws and have Facility Use Agreements with the Township.

The success of forward planning for recreation facilities and services in the Township over the next decade rests significantly on an agreed philosophy as to how recreation, as well as broader health and wellness, goals are met. What role should the municipality play relative to the historic, community-led volunteering of time and effort?

A fundamental goal of this plan is to establish the most sustainable and community-responsive approach to the development of recreation opportunities in the Township. This begins with a clear understanding of how recreation is currently supported:

Exhibit 21. How Recreation Centres and Parks Are Supported

<p>Annual Operating Funding – a Mixed Approach based on Operations and Maintenance capabilities of the Township, as an assistance to the operation of the buildings and fields themselves by the Recreation Centre volunteer boards.</p>	<p>Operation of recreation facilities and installations (indoor and outdoor) supported from the tax base through Public Works Department control of certain property operating costs.</p> <p>Direct Operation of recreation centres (services, programs, rentals) funded by the Recreation Centres themselves from revenues received for rentals and program services, including municipal grant.</p>
<p>Capital Funding</p>	<p>SOGR and larger capital expenses are funded by the Township</p>

Legislative and Regulatory Oversight and Adherence (including Liability and Insurance)	Ultimately the Township is responsible.
Access to Facilities (rental and other access controls)	This is understood to rest with the centres and can be problematic in circumstances where the Township (or user groups via request to the Township) may wish to utilize facilities but control of programming rests with the boards. The principle at issue is whether the Township has the right to program as it deems appropriate or defer to the boards. This needs review. Committee agreements vest with the committees the right to determine when the municipality (which owns the asset) can use the facility.
Operating Liability	Deficits (limited) are supported by the Township through modest grants.
Accountability	In the absence of a clear governance hierarchy, both Township and Recreation Centres hold accountability for the services of the recreation centres.

Municipal Organization of Recreation:

1. Recreation is supported through the tax base, with the Public Works Department responsible for the upkeep of these municipal properties. Some aspects of operations (those which are more direct and related to services to the public) are the responsibility of the Recreation Centres;
2. The Township actively supports the work of the volunteer boards through a part-time recreation co-ordinator staff position. This is insufficient on a go-forward basis.
3. The Recreation Centres and Parks volunteer boards have operational control rather than an advisory role in the operation of the facilities and the services therein. This is a model of delivery of community hall services that has been present in Ontario communities for a long time. It is also a model that is increasingly subject to replacement with a more sustainable approach.

In summary, this model represents a delegated model of service delivery, with the division of responsibility between Township administration and the volunteer board based on the relative resources and capacities of each party. **Delegated because the Municipality is ultimately responsible.** In this way, a layered approach to overall operations is successful, at least on a short-term, year to year basis. The question is whether this model represents:

- a) A sustainable strategy in the long-term given the degree of investment in property improvements and development of new amenities that may be required; and
- b) The most effective way to ensure volunteers are supported to deliver services that meet the evolving needs of the communities they serve.

It is worth emphasising that operational control by community members can and does yield programming sensitivity and responsiveness that can surpass that provided by a centralized municipal operation – particularly where municipal operation is under-resourced. In a number of instances in communities elsewhere in Ontario, the responsibilities of volunteers in overseeing the development and implementation of programming, rentals and other services, has been replaced with municipal staff roles. The lesson learned is that where such changes are made, the municipality must resource the positions effectively. Where it does not, there can be a loss of service and difficulty in retaining volunteers as advisory boards.

This experience, repeated in a number of places, serves to illustrate both the significant time and effort dedicated by volunteers as well as the challenges in transitioning to a fully sustainable model of recreation services through Community Development. The goal should be to better support the operational capacity of the volunteer boards through proactive policies and actions on the part of the Township.

To summarise:

1. There is a long history of recommendations to the Township and its pre-amalgamation townships of the need for increased support to the volunteer boards;
2. Volunteer recruitment and retention strategies are required;
3. A more robust municipal model of operational support of the work of volunteers is required. This will also serve to clarify the responsibilities of the Township and the recreation centre boards and ensure that plans for investment in facilities and services are the responsibility of the Township as lead agency responsible for governance of recreation services.

4.7 Recreation Beyond the Recreation Centres

The role of the Township in recreation extends beyond current agreements to support the existing recreation centres. The role includes planning for new facilities, parks, trails and managing the relationship with other service providers through formal and informal agreements.

A review of the financial costs to the Township for recreation services helps characterize the current service delivery mandate:

- The control of programming with the recreation centres does not burden the Township with additional costs of promoting a more expansive range of programs at its facilities – but should it? Consultation demonstrates that residents want a greater range of programming at Township facilities;

- The joint agreements on recreation facilities with the City of Pembroke provide financial benefits to the Township in the form of reduced subsidy costs.

As a result, the net cost per capita in the Township for recreation services is currently less than \$80 per capita, compared to an average that is considerably higher in other comparable municipalities that own more indoor facilities and operate recreation departments. The volunteer model and the use of grants provides efficiency but going forward, this efficiency needs to be a) ensured and b) balanced with the need to expand recreational service delivery in the Township.

In addition, the requirements over time to invest in the Township's assets with capital programs will require a greater degree of control exercised by the Township in how these investments are made, their timing and the expected performance of the buildings (revenues, utilization, range of programs).

Based on a range of policy considerations, the role of the Township in managing and investing in recreation assets and services should be enhanced. Key among these goals is to maximize the use of all existing recreation assets and achieve a Township-wide approach to program development.

Among public survey participants **over 1/3** (34% of 206 respondents) **have acted as volunteers** at the recreation centres and/or parks in Laurentian Valley.

The implementation of this master plan should ensure that the work of volunteers is supported and guided by a governance structure, the success of which is measured in terms of maximized use of facilities, program utilization and resident satisfaction. This requires a progressive deepening of the role of municipal staff and systems to assist the boards.



PART C

THE FUTURE

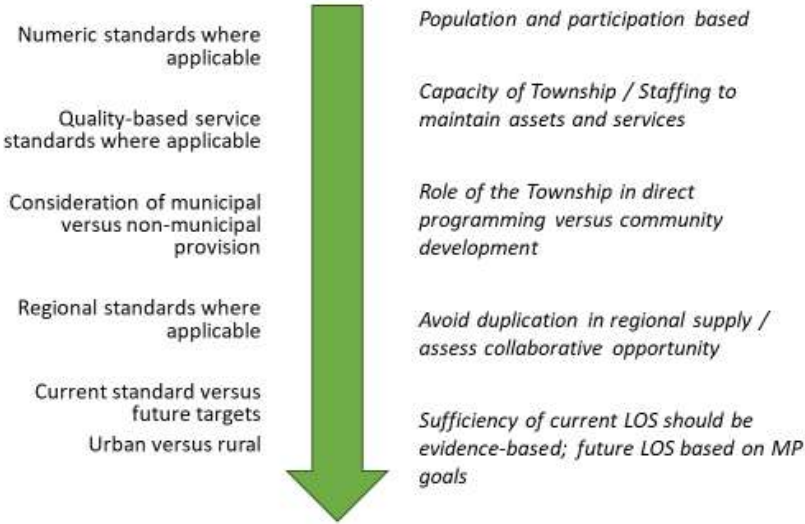
- ❑ **Defining the service mandate of the Township**
- ❑ **Confirming the Role of Volunteers**
- ❑ **Partnerships and Policy Support**

5. Policy Supports for Effective Decision-Making

5.1 Standards Based Planning

The Township should adopt the service standards identified in this Plan, including those related to open space standards, policies governing parkland dedications, and parkland amenities.

Level of Service – What it Means



The Township currently has little in the way of documented service standards for recreation facilities, parks and trails. Service standards are not limited to population and participation ratios but include a range of other quantitative measures (such as utilization of facilities, program fill rates, and facility condition indexes) as well as a range of qualitative measures such as functionality of space, degree of conformity with AODA requirements, age and quality of facilities. As examples, aging and low-quality play equipment should be identified and budgeted for replacement to ensure operable parks are serviced with installations that meet consumer expectations but also are not beyond their planned service life.

Accordingly, the asset-specific recommendations of this plan form a consolidated statement of expected service standards. By approving these recommendations, the Township signals its intent to work toward a higher service standard.

5.2 Asset Management

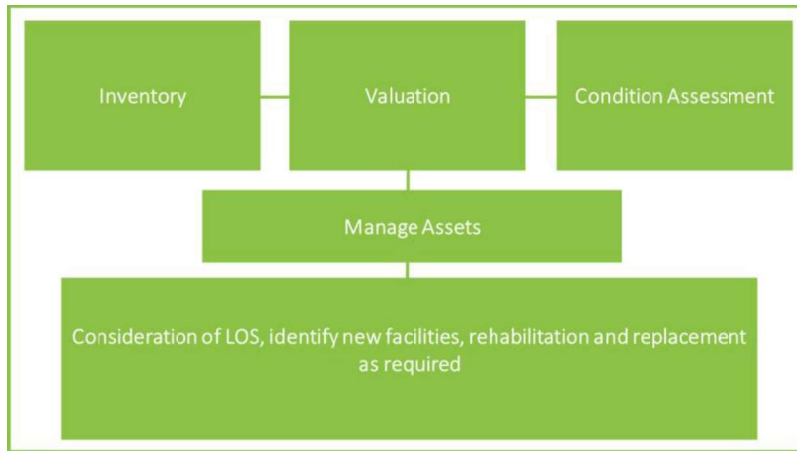
The Township’s Asset Management, prepared in 2014, reflects a typical scope of plan developed at that time. The plan considers the asset management of hard infrastructure (road, bridges, water and wastewater services, roads and bridges, sanitary and storm sewers, curbs and sidewalks, buildings and fleet) but was not extended to include a range of soft services including recreation – both indoor and outdoor facilities, trails, etc.

Municipalities in Ontario are moving toward a more comprehensive asset management planning process. A number of municipalities in recent years have expanded their asset management frameworks to

include detailed inventory and lifecycle planning for outdoor recreational spaces, including urban parks, open space and trail corridors.

The Township should develop a similar approach, building on the engagement and field review of outdoor facilities conducted for this Master Plan.

Exhibit 22. AMP Framework



Recommendations:

1. Update the 2014 Asset Management Plan (AMP). This should include a full review of the Township’s open space assets and recreation facilities. This update should be undertaken in year 1 of the Master Plan.
2. Undertake building condition assessments (BCA) for Alice and Fraser and Shady Nook Recreation Centres. Establish a five (5) year capital cost forecast for necessary deferred maintenance and other lifecycle requirements.

3. Undertake an accessibility audit of all recreation centres and parks.
4. With respect to replacement of playground equipment and other park installations, develop a five (5) to seven (7) year plan for progressive replacement of facilities that are at the end of their service life. Develop necessary annual budgets to undertake the required number of replacement projects each year. The replacement schedule will be established by the Asset Management Plan. As part of this plan, the consultants have reviewed the inventory of facilities and recommendations specific to each park are provided in the relevant sections.

The implementation of these AMP policies is fundamental to the successful implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The asset specific recommendations of this plan pertain to a range of measures related mainly to improvement, ensuring State of Good Repair (SOGR), and appropriate new development. The priorities, as outlined in this plan, should be informed over time by the updated AMP.

5.3 Other Policy Frameworks

5.3.1 Cost Recovery and Equitable Access

As the Township does not, itself, generate revenues from recreation, the responsibility for user fees, program fees and rental rates is set by the Recreation Centres.

Given the need to increase the Township staff resources in support of recreation development in the Township, consideration should be given to the fees associated with the provision of Township facilities.

This takes on even more relevance where the Township undertakes capital investment in each of its facilities.

As such, it is advisable that the Township and the Recreation Centre boards jointly commence an assessment of potential rate setting. This cannot be undertaken in isolation from a broader discussion regarding access to recreation and the desire to support access to recreation for target groups in the community. Accordingly, a review of fees is not itemized as a formal recommendation but naturally relates to municipal and recreation centre discussions regarding priorities in the delivery of recreation services.

5.3.2 Parkland Dedication Policies

The Laurentian Valley Township Official Plan (2002, County Approved, 2004), Section 19 (a-c) (Public Parks) contains Planning Act-approved language in directing the treatment of parkland needs arising from development. Consistent with the Planning Act, the assessment of lands for dedication requires the relevant percentage of land area for residential (5% of land area) and industrial or commercial land (2%) must be approved by the Township and will not include lands with environmental limitations. Provision for the use of cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication is also included in the Plan.

Since the time of writing, land use policies governing parkland dedication, as well as the expectations of municipalities with regard to developer-funded park development, have evolved. The language of the Official Plan should therefore be revised to reference the following:

¹ Requires a community benefits strategy to be completed prior to the development of a community benefits charge policy. Such policy can be

Recommendation:

5. Update the Official Plan to reference the changes recently introduced to the Planning Act with respect to Section 42 (Parkland) and the enabling of the Alternative Rate calculation for dedication and cash-in-lieu. Update section 19(c) with respect to “Acceptance of Parkland” to identify lands which would not be acceptable to include areas such as stormwater management ponds, other drainage areas, shoreline protection zones, steep slopes and other hazard lands. In addition to Acceptable Lands already itemized, this should also include linear connections to link open spaces.

A commitment to developing larger parks and trails serving the entire township may benefit from a cash in lieu approach and hence the recommendations of the Master Plan on the nature and location of future park improvements should inform the choice of dedication versus cash-in-lieu. Current legislative provisions which enable the creation of a Community Benefits Charge (CBC)¹ are also relevant and would be a consideration where dedication is not required.

Establishing a more detailed Parkland Dedication By-laws or Parkland Dedication Policy provides a framework for parkland dedication requirements and details of how cash-in-lieu payments are calculated. Typically, these policies include:

- Statutory requirements of the Planning Act;
- Parkland dedication requirements, protocols, and calculations;

used as an alternative to Planning Act provisions for parkland dedication/ cash-in-lieu.

- Conveyance requirements and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication calculations;
- Valuations, credits, and exemptions.
- Gratuitous conveyance of undevelopable open space (e.g., stormwater ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.).
- Trails as a component of parkland dedication.
- Preferred location and configuration of parkland (for example to meet the need for additional parkland in the eastern part of the Township).
- Allocation of cash-in-lieu payments to a reserve fund.

Recommendations:

6. Building on an update to the Official Plan, the Township should develop a parks dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication by-law (and associated policy) to apply common principles and practices to development approvals as it relates to the choice of dedication of land versus cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication.
7. It shall be the policy of the Township to utilize cash-in-lieu (CIL) provisions with respect to all classes of development identified in the Planning Act (including severances, commercial, industrial uses).
8. The Township should seek to maximize the supply of available parkland through a range of strategies, including dedication by development, but also by accessing grants, land trusts, conservation easements, land exchanges, partnerships, agreements, and direct purchase.

5.3.3 Surplus Property Disposition Policy

Alongside parkland acquisition strategies, the Township should consider the development of a surplus property disposition policy that addresses the conditions under which the disposition of municipally-owned or controlled property is appropriate. The implementation of the Master Plan will benefit from the development of such a municipal property disposition policy.

Recommendation:

9. Create a Disposition Policy for municipally owned properties based on a process of analysis to determine whether a parcel is reasonably deemed to be surplus. The policy should set out the steps involved prior to a decision to designate the land as surplus. This should include public consultation and reference to municipal policies including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

5.3.4 Parkland Development Policy

Over the long term, the Township should undertake the development of a concise but effective Parks Development Policy (see Appendix B).

The purpose of the manual should be to provide clear and consistent communication with regards to expectations for the planning, design, and implementation of recreation facilities in parks. This manual would be followed as part of design planning for new parks and open spaces, but also for construction management purposes and potentially the involvement of developer-led park and public realm improvements.

A Parks and Open Space Design Standards Manual should specifically address a number of items, including:

- Accessible Design Standards - Policies / requirements above and beyond AODA.
- Sports Field / Sports Court Design Standards.
- Signage and Wayfinding Standards.
- Storm Water Management Facility Design Standards: For SWM ponds/ facilities (new construction and redevelopment) including a list of key requirements – Low Impact Development (LID); contribution to the active transportation network, etc.
- Park Construction Standards: communicates the minimum requirements / design standards for new construction.

Recommendations:

10. Create a Parks Development Policy (per template) to guide the development of parks and open spaces.
11. Adopt the Parkland Hierarchy and Classification System proposed in this Master Plan as a basis for acquiring, designing, developing, and programming parkland. Per the classification, individual neighbourhood parks should generally be at least one (1) hectare in size as a minimum standard of provision.
12. Additional neighbourhood parkland should be developed where supply within a reasonable distance is currently limited (see Exhibit below). This includes existing subdivisions that are underserved as well as planned future subdivisions. The scale,

location and amenities of parkland within planned residential subdivisions should be determined by the Township through the land use approvals process and the provisions of the Planning Act with respect to parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication. Based on the distribution of existing parkland relative to existing and planned residential development, additional parkland is warranted in several zones including lands in the northwest in proximity to the existing built up area, and in the southeast in the vicinity of the built-up area (as shown below).

6. Towards the Vision

6.1 Defining the Service Mandate of the Township

The opportunity exists for the Township to work more effectively with the associations, rather than, as has been historically assumed in some quarters, as a replacement to the associations.

For clarity, this means that the Township is responsible for all recreation services delivered in the Township. Delivery of services can remain generally delegated to the recreation associations.

The role of the Township should best facilitate the work of the associations as providing services to the public, fundraising, setting conditions for community development, health and wellbeing.

Above and beyond the responsibilities of the associations, the Township is required to fulfill its mandate as a provider of services, facilities, to consider future needs and plan accordingly, and ensure sound fiscal management of assets.

The Township should therefore set out the expectations of the service mandate to which the recreation associations and the township itself should adhere. These are set out in this master plan in terms of the range of goals. In particular, service expectations revolve around the following:

- Facilities - maintaining, upgrading and investing in new facilities and equipment as needed;
- Management of facilities and planned development with the end user in mind;

- Maximize access to programs, services and facilities, particularly for at risk and other target demographics (minor sports, seniors, etc.)
- Ensuring the principles of equity, diversity and inclusiveness are implemented;
- Planning for the Township's recreation assets to rest with the Township and to follow the appropriate process of public and stakeholder consultation;
- The avoidance of silos – each recreation centre to operate as part of a township-wide recreation system where programming can occur as needed across all locations.

Recommendations:

13. The Township should develop an Access to Recreation Policy (or charter) which addresses the policy goals (the outputs) associated with the operation of all services, facilities and programs in the Township, as well as the use of cost-shared facilities outside of the Township. The operations of the recreation associations should be meet the intent of this policy.
14. Develop a Municipal Service Policy to address unplanned, new, and emerging, outdoor facility requests as they are brought forward. This should include a set of criteria for evaluating community-based project proposals and determine the appropriate location within the Township's portfolio of parks.

This is not designed to constrain the decision-making of each recreation association but to provide a series of publicly available performance goals which can be used to determine operational plans of each centre year to year. This ensures accountability and allows each centre to operate with a degree of independence based on common policy goals.

15. Existing Agreements with the Recreation Centres should be reviewed and adjusted to reflect the service mandate described above.
16. Capital planning for the major indoor and outdoor assets of the Township should consider recreation as a township-wide service and there should be no assumption that investments at one recreation centre should be replicated at others unless justified by this master plan.

As an example, the Township should seek grant funding for the development of a covered ice surface (an open sided roof) to improve the outdoor ice opportunity at the Township. The choice of location should be based on a feasibility analysis and relative merit of each of the three locations.

6.2 Centralized Technical Support and Data Management

Recommendation:

17. The Township should invest in appropriate recreation program and rental registration software which includes capacity for effective tracking of program take-up, rentals and reporting of financial results.
18. The Township should undertake associated upgrade to its website to provide a full online inventory of program opportunities, and associated online registration. This expected to develop over time.

6.3 Role of Existing Recreation Centres and Parks

It should be recognized that each recreation association is unique, operates at a different scale from the others, and has different needs. Accordingly, the nature of administrative and recreation development support offered by the Township should be aligned with these individual needs.

Forest Lea Park and Pleasant View Park are both open space parks. The Township is already responsible for operations and maintenance of the grounds. This supports a more defined role for the Township in decision-making for programming and any plans for redesign of facilities.

Recommendations:

19. **Recreation programming and control of rental access** should continue to be implemented by the volunteers and other providers operating in the Township facilities under agreement with the Township. A priority for the Township should be to advocate for programs, better use of the existing facilities and over time undertake direct programming.
20. **Operational control** over revenues and costs (as currently enabled) should remain with the Alice and Fraser Recreation Association, the Shady Nook Recreation Centre, and the Stafford Park Recreation Centre. **Operational support** of this function should be provided by the Recreation Co-ordinator of the Township (and/or additional staff as needed).
21. Each recreation association should undertake to develop an **annual operating plan** (with the assistance of the Recreation Co-ordinator) for submission to the Township. This will be utilized alongside the Township Capital Development Plan which sets out the proposed short- and medium-term capital spending at each location.
22. **Operational control** of the Forest Lea Park Recreation Association and the Pleasant View Park Recreation Association should be assumed by the Township with the recreation associations becoming standing advisory committees to Council.

6.4 Departmental Organization and Staffing

The Township is actively involved in recreation services:

- An annual operating budget in excess of \$600,000;
- A significant portfolio of Township-owned recreation assets;
- Responsibility for property maintenance held by the Public Works Department;
- Grant support for recreation associations;
- Councillor representation on recreation association boards; and
- A part-time position of recreation co-ordinator (0.25 FTE).

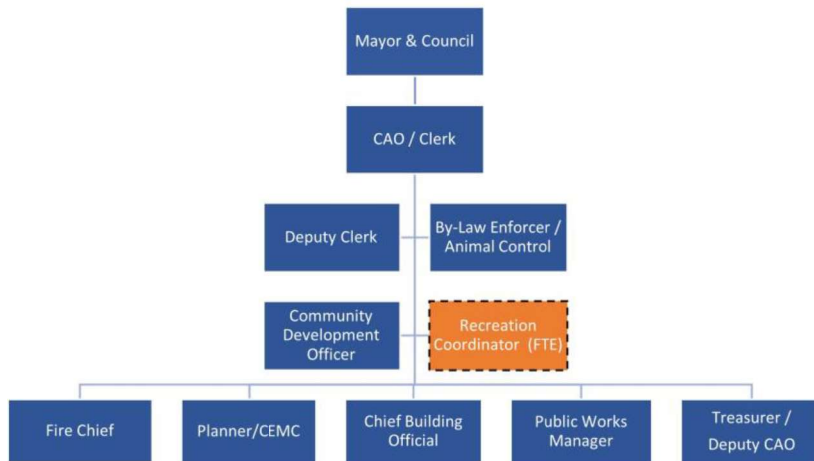
Despite these investments comprising sunk capital, ongoing operational and contingent liabilities, assistance to recreation volunteers, and the service expectations of residents, the Township does not have a recreation department.

It is not the intent of this plan to initiate a full recreation department at this time.

A full-time professional staff responsibility for recreation – and specifically to support the existing model of recreation delivery through a) recreation associations and b) regional partnerships is essential. This represents an important recommendation of this plan, without which many of the other recommendations contained in this plan cannot reasonably be initiated, budgeted or managed to completion.

Recommendation:

- 23. Establish the Township Recreation Co-ordinator as a permanent FTE position, with associated budgetary responsibility for annual operational support for recreation.



The position is best located as a standalone role reporting directly to the office of the CAO and working in collaboration with the office of Community Development Officer. The position should include close liaison with the Manager of Public Works and staff but is not required to be a position located within that department.

The position of recreation co-ordinator will require the assistance of other departmental resources as necessary and may, over time, necessitate the addition of staff resources to achieve necessary division of responsibilities.

At the strategic level, the recreation co-ordinator will develop the implementation of the recommendations of the Master Plan, providing information in support of decisions that will be the responsibility of the senior management team.

In terms of the raft of potential areas of ongoing responsibility, this includes:

- Organizational support of recreation associations including committee meeting attendance and preparation of agendas, minutes, action items, requests for capital support, etc.
- Management of vendors relevant to recreation services, co-ordination of purchasing to enable cost reduction measures through group purchasing
- Liaison with Public Works, Planning Department, Community Development Officer
- Liaise/engage with public
- Maintenance of customer relationship management (CRM) software including program registrations via online booking software
- Volunteer Strategy development
- Partnerships development
- Program development and community outreach
- Marketing and development of consolidated online and hard copy recreation guide
- Development and management of internal budgets
- Assistance to recreation associations in their annual operating report to the Township (annual operating plan)
- Grant applications

The above is a non-exhaustive list of areas of relevance for staff associated with recreation services.

6.5 Support for Volunteers and Program Delivery

6.5.1 Volunteers

Previous professional assessments of community needs (the most recent in 2016) identify the challenges that volunteer boards face in terms of meeting the wide range of responsibilities that accompany an operational model of Recreation Associations. Broader societal trends that have witnessed a reduction in volunteerism, even if not applicable to the local circumstance, are headwinds to aware of when considering the sustainability of volunteerism at the Associations. There are also differences between the Recreation Association in terms of their specific organizational needs.

In view of this, one of the central goals of the Master Plan is to support volunteer recruitment and training with pro-active policies, supported by staff resources and budget.

Recommendations:

24. Develop a Township Volunteering Training and Opportunities Program;
 - a. Research best practices in this regard across Ontario;
 - b. Commit budget, staff time and develop metrics to measure success of a volunteer capacity building project;
 - c. Canvass the Recreation Association and other local user groups for their specific needs;

- d. Develop online, public-facing information to attract, retain and celebrate local volunteers in recreation and community development;

6.5.2 Program Delivery

In a Community Development Model of recreation service delivery, increasing the capacity of community members to design and deliver a variety of recreation, sports, and cultural programs is critical. The result is either the ability of local associations to better recruit instructors for programs, or effective delivery by association volunteers themselves

Recommendation:

25. Develop and fund opportunities for would-be volunteers in program delivery to achieve training and accreditation/certification. Widen the range of program opportunities available in the Township by funding the training of program instructors.

6.6 Invest in Regional Partnerships

6.6.1 Partnership with the City of Pembroke

The recreation facility agreement between the Township and the City of Pembroke regarding use and joint funding of the operational and capital costs associated with the City's arenas and indoor pool is an important partnership and should not be rescinded. As of 2019, the cost to the Township amounted to approximately \$350,000. This, of course, is substantially less than the net cost to the Township were it to operate its own indoor single pad arena and a modern

indoor aquatics centre. Even with contributions to operating costs by the City, were the situation to be reversed, it remains unlikely that the quantum of operational subsidy would significantly change. It would, however, offer the Township operational control of the buildings and enable the Township's own operational philosophy of community access, sport tourism and enable potentially other partnerships.

And this factor – maintaining influence and advocating for the needs of the community – is what should reinforce the importance of a partnership with the City. This is particularly the case given the current discussions regarding a new aquatics centre to replace the Kinsmen Pool. The Township is represented on the Oversight Committee for the replacement pool and should fully participate in all discussions regarding purpose, scale, location, governance and operational mandate of a new facility.

This master plan recognizes that an agreement to cost share existing or new facilities is more than just a financial transaction to enable access. The Township should be an active partner in all discussions regarding new facilities, capital upgrades to existing infrastructure, and even the development of programs. The Township should expect a quality of service, condition of buildings, and adequate access to programs that collectively establishes the value for its payment on behalf of the residents.

There are alternatives to the existing cost share solution which is relatively arbitrary in its split of costs – clear and stable year to year,

² The existing agreement (December 2011) has no sunset clause, is based on a 30% share of audited annual net operating costs, and includes capital

but is not based on a clear cost sharing methodology. Alternatives include:

1. Weighted assessment, population or a blend of assessment and population as the basis for cost sharing (this can also include population within certain distance bands although this will not create significant impact);
2. Actual use of the facilities by residents (less easy to measure for rental users comprising teams); or
3. No cost share between the City and Township and a non-resident user pay model. This is not recommended even where the option might include Township subsidization of the fees paid by those residents that actually use the facilities in the City.

The importance of cost sharing is the ability to maintain influence and impact the operational approach of the facility. Accordingly, regional partnerships have potential to reduce costs and maximize satisfaction between the parties if the nature of the agreements include a consideration of the expected level of service.

Recommendations:

26. Commit in principle to the maintenance, adjustment or future renewal of a joint use and cost sharing agreement with the City of Pembroke regarding indoor ice and aquatics²

cost contribution maximums that are not indexed. In 2019, Township residents accounted for 36% of users of the Kinsmen Pool.

on the premise of a fair and equitable division of costs and access to programs.

27. As it pertains to the prospect of a new aquatics centre, encourage a broader regional cost sharing partnership to be established, reflecting best practice examples of these types of agreement elsewhere in Canada.
28. Consider the development of new indoor recreation infrastructure in the Township to be a regional benefit and seek appropriate partnerships.
29. Maintain and grow the existing collaboration between the Township and City recreation co-ordinators and event planning staff.
30. Support the City of Pembroke should it initiate a recreation master plan for City facilities and services. Advocate for regional benefits and appropriate partnerships. Maximize the potential for synergy in developing new facilities both in the Township and the City.

6.6.2 Community Use of School

Currently, Rockwood Public School is the only elementary and middle school in Laurentian Valley. Users of school facilities arrange their access to the school gymnasium and other facilities through direct contact with each school as per the Community Use of Schools policy of the Renfrew County District School Board (RCDSB).

An effective role for the Township involves co-ordination, information and contacts, and the promotion of the effective use of

the school gymnasium by established or emerging users that come forward looking for space. This can and should include the use of the space for new programs that members of the community demand.

Recommendations:

31. Maintain an active role in advocating for the use of the school after hours, particularly for emerging community recreation needs.
32. As a long-term goal, assess the potential associated with school board-municipal partnership in the planning for new recreational assets.

6.7 New Infrastructure

The existing recreation centres are both older facilities, with limited indoor recreational space; neither include an indoor gymnasium. The existing elementary school in the Township is (in normal times) oversubscribed for after-hours use. Additional elementary and high school gymnasias exist in the City of Pembroke and further north in Petawawa, but all represent partial, non-local supply.

Public engagement identifies an interest in a new recreation complex to meet additional demands. This is broadly defined as an indoor gymnasium/field house type facility capable of meeting a number of recreational needs.

One option is the development of a permanent, air supported dome with associated fixed walled change facilities and ancillary spaces. There are a number of examples, including partnership development of sports dome by school boards and municipalities in Eastern

Ontario (see for example plans by the Conseil des écoles Catholiques du Centre Est in partnership with the Ottawa Sooners Football Club on land at École Paul Desmarais in Ottawa; and the Township of Russell Sports Dome).

A preferred option is to promote the concept of a multi-use recreation complex as part of the potential replacement of the Kinsmen Pool. It is our opinion that an in-situ replacement of the Kinsmen Pool is only one option among several that should be analysed by the Oversight Committee. Increasingly, best practice involves the development of aquatics and either arenas or dry-use space as complimentary elements of a multi-use community recreation centre (example: Township of Russell plans for an indoor pool, three-pad arena and gymnasium). Combining an indoor gymnasium, potentially with walking track and other amenities as part of a new multi-use facility would ensure that the level of service for area residents is maximized. Depending on the alternatives under discussion, there may be cost advantages to the partner municipalities.

Recommendation:

33. Advocate for a regionally partnered project that comprises a multi-use recreation facility (double gymnasium and replacement indoor pool) as part of the oversight committee consideration of new recreation infrastructure in the City of Pembroke. Location to satisfy all partners.



PART D

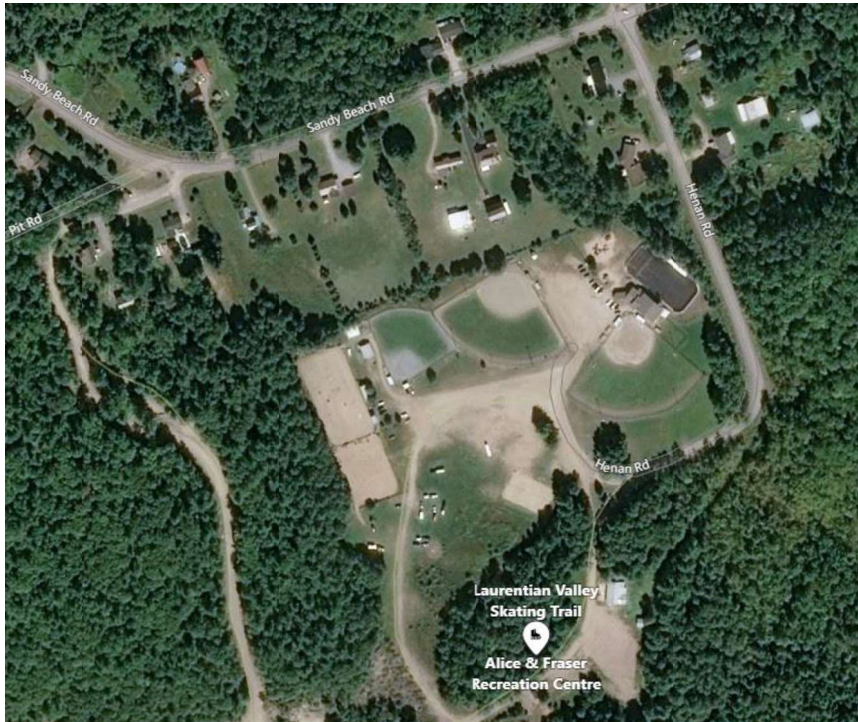
ASSET SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- About Recreation Centres and Parks
- Consultant Observations on Facilities Condition
- What We Heard
- Range of Potential Improvements

7 Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre

7.1 About Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre

Address: 1 Henan Road, Laurentian Valley, ON, K8A 6W8



Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre is the largest community sports and recreation facility in the Township. The Centre is located on 87 acres of primarily undeveloped wooded land.

Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre and Park Features

Age of facility: 1976

Indoor:

- Hall (Capacity up to 133 persons, Air Conditioning)
- Lobby Canteen/ Licensed Bar
- Kitchen Facilities (2 stoves, microwave and industrial fridge)
- 4 Change Rooms
- Washrooms
- Accessible Entrance and Elevator

Outdoor:

- 3 Play Structures
- Outdoor Rink (official size with asphalt pad)
- 3 Ball Diamonds
- 2 Beach Volley Ball Courts
- Soccer Pitch
- All fields are lit
- Equestrian Arena (2 equestrian rings)
- Community Gardens
- Outdoor Canteen/Bar
- Washrooms
- Picnic Tables
- Parking

Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre offers rentals and hosts sports events, equine events, festivals and community events.

Sports and community events include:

- Baseball – mens/womens/youth/minor/fastball
- Limited hockey tournaments
- Designated public skating
- Rink rentals (e.g. figure skating)
- Horse groups
- Church group meetings
- Graduation dances
- Dog walkers

Festivals – Alice in Winterland Carnival and Fall Flavours Festival – are run by the festival committees, separate from the Alice and Fraser Committee.

The Volunteer Committee provides opportunities to Students from the Student Placement Program to gain experience during the summer months.



7.2 Consultant Observation on Facilities Condition

- Softball Diamond 3:
 - 1 unlit junior ball field
 - 4 bleachers – condition OK
 - Roofed dugouts in good condition
- Softball Diamond (Diamond #2):
 - Lit (x 6 stands)
 - Infield – repair needed
 - Dugouts - repair and new fencing needed
- Diamond #1
 - Senior Field – lit (x6)
 - Located too close to the club house
 - Backstop needs replacement
 - Infield fencing needs replacement
- 1 x mini soccer – poorly located next to trees and goal posted too large. Does not function as playable field except for very youngest.
- Large (very large) dirt parking area
- Several storage and equipment sheds in variable condition



- Rink
 - High quality
 - 85x185
 - Lit
 - Boards in good condition
 - Weather protected player benches – good and appear newer
- Club house is a significant building with addition construction over time
- Playground:
 - Sand base and fenced
 - No significant shade – shade is provided at club house outdoor picnic area nearby
 - Seating benches x3
 - 2 main play structures
 - Installation date 2010 – nearing end of functional life
 - Plus 1x Little Tykes Play structure (should be replaced)
- Accessibility challenges with this site and AODA audit required.

7.3 What We Heard

The majority of survey participants (65%) reported using recreation centres; 57% (150 respondents) answered questions about their level of satisfaction with facilities and amenities at the Alice and the Fraser Recreation Centre. Responses are summarised below.

INDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
Hall at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=150)	65%	29%	7%
Kitchen at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=126)	46%	48%	6%
Washrooms at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=137)	54%	34%	12%
Lobby Canteen/Bar at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=136)	49%	46%	5%

Recognizing general satisfaction, the following are comments regarding improvements desired:

Facilities

Indoor

- Modernizing buildings
- Updating washrooms
- More space and functionality
- Larger rooms
- More light, more natural light
- Improving air conditioning (“very hot”)
- Updating signage
- Updating decor
- Indoor gym or field for winter activities
- Upgrading kitchen spaces to allow for cooking classes and demonstrations

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
SPORT			
Ball diamonds at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=136)	65%	31%	4%
Beach Volleyball Courts at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=106)	44%	55%	1%
Outdoor Ice Rink at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=132)	66%	32%	2%
Soccer Field at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=110)	36%	56%	7%
Equestrian Arena at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=100)	29%	69%	2%
PLAY			
Playground at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=123)	64%	31%	5%
COMMUNITY			
Community Gardens at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=93)	29%	70%	1%
Outdoor Canteen/Bar at Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre (n=132)	51%	45%	5%

Outdoor

Sport fields / Ball Diamonds:

Suggestions include:

- Increasing the size of infields at the ball diamonds to accommodate tournaments
- Increasing size of soccer field
- Installing a roof over the ice pad

Playground improvements:

- Additional swings, including baby swings
- Additional seating
- Shading for parents with little kids
- Upgrading play structures to include features such as monkey bars, sand pits, musical instruments, additional tunnel slides, a hopscotch and jump rope area, rest rooms, rock walls, and a zip line.

Programming:

- Reliable and stable Wi-Fi
- Fundraising and special events
- Skatepark, BMX track or Pump Track
- Additional programming for all ages
- More programs, including arts and crafts, yoga and fitness, education
- Integrate Indigenous and local history/educational opportunities.

7.4 Range of Potential Improvements

7.4.1 Communication and Collaboration

With respect to communications and co-ordination between the Association and the Township, the recommendations of the Master Plan address a number of these concerns. The Alice and Fraser Committee identified the following:

- Willingness to work with other community centres regarding scheduling, i.e. baseball/soccer per age groups on different nights and staggered programming for increased participation overall (see recommendation for delivering recreation in the Township as an integrated service).
- Distinguish more clearly the roles of the Township and Volunteer Committees in terms of responsibilities for operations and support;
- Specifically, as it relates to grant writing, the Township should take the lead;
- Initiate new booking procedures and software with the Township responsible for booking and marketing the rental opportunities.

7.4.2 Capital Upgrades

Consultant field review observations are generally consistent with identified improvements desired by the association.

Improvements identified by the Committee as desirable include the following:

- Potentially additional or enlarge dressing rooms to better serve tournament functions;
- Modernize the building, and improve the functionality of the ground floor;
- New rubberised flooring for change rooms;
- New air conditioning unit;
- Transition to LED lighting for fields;
- Improved storage capacity on-site

- Additional recreational uses including potential skatepark, horseshoe pits, mini-golf, basketball nets, archery range and installation of new soccer field

Recommendations:

34. As part of a commitment to recreation assets as part of the Township AMP, undertake the following site and property assessment:
 - Building condition assessment
 - Accessibility audit;
 - Condition assessment of outdoor spaces (sports fields, pens and children’s play areas)
35. In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
36. Prioritize the following:
 - a. Development of pump track and/ or in-ground skatepark or skatespot (mini skatepark); and
 - b. redevelopment of the children’s playground with best practice solutions, including full public engagement pre-design stage. Focus on safety, accessibility, innovation in play structure design and aesthetics, shade cover and seating.

8 LV Four Seasons Trail & LV Lodge

8.1. About LV Four Seasons Trail & LV Lodge

Address: 2 Henan Road, Laurentian Valley, ON, K8A 6W8



LV Four Season Trail offers the largest greens space recreation facility in the Township. The Centre is located on 87 acres of primarily undeveloped wooded land, shared with Alice Fraser Recreation.

LV Four Seasons Trail & LV Lodge Features

Age of facility: 1983

Indoor:

- Hall (Capacity up to 99 persons)
- Bar area
- Kitchen Facilities (1 stove, microwave and fridge)
- Washrooms

Outdoor:

- Walking trails (summer only)
- Snowshoe trails
- Skating trail
- Seasonal washrooms
- Picnic Tables + Benches
- Parking

LV Lodge Building and Community Hall



LV Four Seasons Trail



8.2 Recommendations

37. As part of a commitment to recreation assets as part of the Township AMP, undertake the following site and property assessment:

- Building condition assessment
- Accessibility audit;
- Condition assessment of outdoor spaces (trail and amenities)

38. In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.

39. Prioritize the following:

a. Extending the Trail

b. Upgrades to the Lodge based on the results of building condition assessment.

9 Shady Nook Recreation Centre

9.1 About Shady Nook Recreation Centre

80 Richardson Crescent, Laurentian Valley, ON K8A 6W5



The Shady Nook Recreation centre was built by a group of dedicated volunteers in 1977. The centre is located just off Highway 41 with moderate parking (102 spaces) and offers 2.8 hectares of park and recreation area.

Shady Nook has its own website, which provides information about the Recreation Centre, described programs and has online registration for hockey and soccer programs: <https://shadynookrec.ca/>

The recreation centre amenities include the Township's largest main floor Hall (capacity up to 225 persons) and a fully equipped kitchen that can be rented for hosting events and private functions (including birthday parties, weddings, anniversary parties).

Shady Nook Recreation Centre features an outdoor hockey rink and soccer fields. The outdoor regulation size rink (85' x 200') has a natural ice surface and lighting for evening use. Community members can use the rink unless it is booked or closed for maintenance. The Centre owns a Zamboni for ice cleaning.

Outdoor Facilities:	Indoor Facilities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soccer Fields • Ice Rental • Dressing rooms, • Resurfacing of the ice • The outdoor rink has asphalt surface and is available for use in the summer for basketball, rollerblading, ball hockey, etc. • Playground • Community Garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall for up to 225 persons • Tables and chairs • Air Conditioning • Free Wi-Fi • Kitchen facilities (oven, licensed by the LLBO)

Programs include youth soccer (summer soccer for ages 3-14) and hockey clubs (rentals as well as sponge puck hockey for ages 5-16) as well as monthly seniors' meetings for dancing and gathering. The soccer and hockey programs are recreational and affordable. Ice use at Shady Nook is less expensive than at the regional arenas. These programs are suitable for leisure play or for children in the Jump Start program.

Shady Nook Programs:

Currently the ice rink does not have a covered shelter; such improvement would potentially lengthen the season.

The ball diamond is not programmed and could be repurposed.



9.2 Consultant Observation on Facilities Condition

Age of facility:	2007
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parking - potholed – eventual medium-term replacement ● 82 spaces + 20 = 102 ● Hall with kitchen ● Rink is lit + boards (x 6 lights) ● Outdoor rink surface used as a basketball court in the off-season (two nets and lines) ● Regulation size ● 2 basketball nets – stationary height ● Community gardens – recent addition ● Playground x 2 structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 x little tykes play set ○ 1x dated older age groups (5-12) ● No site expansion capacity ● Grass in good condition ● Unused diamond should be repurposed ● Soccer – junior/small senior fields x 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ posts: old, rusted, heavy and pegged – replace as capital priority with modern, movable plastic post construction. ● If irrigated, fields have potential to become signature nature turf venue for soccer and general use.

9.3 What We Heard

The majority of all survey participants (65%) reported using recreation centres; 60% (160 respondents) answered questions about their level of satisfaction with facilities and amenities at the Shady Nook Recreation Centre. Responses are summarised below.

INDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
Hall at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=160)	77%	19%	4%
Kitchen at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=136)	61%	36%	3%
Canteen at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=141)	59%	35%	6%
Bar at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=140)	62%	33%	5%
Washrooms at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=157)	69%	25%	6%

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
SPORT			
Basketball Nets at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=102)	25%	68%	8%
Soccer Field at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=125)	58%	38%	3%
Outdoor Ice Rink at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=121)	55%	38%	7%
PLAY			
Playground at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=116)	57%	35%	8%
COMMUNITY			
Community Gardens at Shady Nook Recreation Centre (n=94)	27%	69%	4%

Comments and suggested improvements:

- Adding swings, shade and more seating
- Facilities for children (double rinks)
- Improving the basketball court surface
- Work out stations for teens and adults
- Access to warm change rooms for skating
- Bike paths/trails to all the parks
- Accessibility
- Stable Wi-Fi
- More investment into existing and new facilities
- Adding a splash pad
- Adding hiking trail behind the recreation centre
- Improving safety of playground equipment.

Programs

Suggestions include:

Outdoor activities for seniors and activities for youth

Expanding soccer league and summer camp opportunities with existing facilities such as the outdoor canteen and club house

Recommendations from the Committee included:

- Covered shelter for the rink to lengthen the season;
- Centralize a website for the community centres with the Township;
- Zamboni replacement.

9.4 Recommendations

This highly attractive site has considerable potential for incremental improvement to meet the needs of a full cross-section of residents including children and families, youth and seniors, as well as facility renters, and those interested in passive enjoyment of the park and its setting.

Recommendations:

40. As part of a commitment to recreation assets as part of the Township AMP, undertake the following site and property assessment:
 - Building condition assessment
 - Accessibility audit;
 - Condition assessment of outdoor spaces (sports fields, pens and children’s play areas)
41. In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
42. Prioritize the following:
 - Repurposing of the unused ball diamond for the following possible uses: soccer; relocation of playground and installation of spraypad; development of other site amenities consistent with four-season use of the site. Considerations subject to site master planning exercise.

10 Stafford Park

10.1 About Stafford Park

641 Third Ave South Laurentian Valley, ON K8A 7A5



Stafford Park is located in the neighbourhood with many young families and offers summer and winter activities and a splash pad. The park offers a well-equipped play area, sports fields, and an outdoor rink. The ball diamond hosts both youth and adult league games. A Hall for 40 people provides community space and can be rented for small gatherings and birthday parties. The gathering space and the and sport fields are affordable for the community.

The splash pad was funded through the joint efforts of the Volunteer Committee and the Township with \$1,500 contribution from the

Stafford Park Committee and a \$148,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant awarded to the Township in early 2019.

The family friendly splash pad features 16 spray features covering a 2187 sq. ft. area and includes accessible age-progressive play areas throughout the site that spaced out in a manner that will allow for greater safety and easier supervision. The Splash Pad is free to use and normally open 7 days a week from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm during the summer months.

Park Amenities	Indoor Facilities
<p>Play Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splash pad (9 am - 8 pm) with accessible age-progressive play areas • 2 play structures for all ages • Monkey bars/climbing apparatus • Swing set (4 swings, 1 for children with disabilities) • Seesaws • Ball diamond • Outdoor ice rink <p>Sport Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball diamond • Basketball nets • Outdoor rink rental <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible picnic table • Gazebo • Benches • Parking 	<p>A dressing room for hockey (capacity up to 40 people).</p> <p>The dressing room can accommodate small functions, including birthday parties, etc.</p>

Programming

- Minor ball - evenings
- Mixed ball – Sundays 5 – 9ish & Wednesdays
- Fast ball – 1-2 nights week
- Charity ball diamonds
- Splash pad
- Pickup hockey
- Best ice
- Birthday parties
- Party in the park (donations)

10.2 Consultant Field Review and Observations

The ball diamond dugouts and surrounds represent modern, high quality design with roof covers. The field at the interface between infield and outfield has some need for improvement and grading. The parking appears modest. The rink and boards are understood to have been replaced in 2022.



10.3 What We Heard

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
SPORT			
Ball diamond at Stafford Park (n=125)	50%	42%	8%
Basketball Nets at Stafford Park (n=103)	19%	73%	8%
Outdoor Ice Rink at Stafford Park (n=117)	49%	44%	7%
PLAY			
Playground at Stafford Park (n=126)	63%	31%	6%
Splash Pad at Stafford Park (n=126)	69%	29%	2%

Comments / suggestions for improvement from the public

- Ball diamond new netting
- Re-paving area around the net at Stafford Park
- Safety concerns regarding the use of the net due to the proximity of vehicular traffic

Note we understand the basketball nets are temporarily being relocated to the rink.

- Many respondents appreciate the new spraypad
- Updating, maintaining, and making the playground safer and more suitable for small children
- Additional benches and sitting
- Provide additional shading at the park: trees, shade structures
- Adding water fountains/water re-fill stations
- Adding changing area/washroom facility for the splashpad
- The centre of Stafford Park is not fully accessible.

The committee identified the following needs:

- More netting for the diamond
- Improvements to warning track
- Shade installations
- Upgrade to the building - flooring – more sustainable rubber
- Better organized vehicle parking
- Storage garage
- Soccer field

10.4 Recommendations

Recommendations:

43. In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
44. Undertake a site master plan to determine opportunities to improve organization of the site and meet additional needs as identified by the Committee and public to date. Prioritize the replacement of play structures and other significant capital projects only on completion of a site plan.

11 Pleasant View Park

11.1 About Pleasant View Park

90 Spruce Street West Laurentian Valley, ON K8A 7Z1



Pleasant View Park is a neighbourhood park that covers just under one hectare. The Park offers a playground and swing sets for children and families, a soccer field, a basketball court and a tennis court for neighbourhood residents.

Park Amenities:

- Climbing structure for ages 5 – 12 year olds
- Toddler play unit
- Preschool slide
- 3 swing sets
- Basketball court
- Tennis court
- Soccer field with nets
- Bike rack
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Raised flower garden
- Two entrances (from the neighbourhood and from the mall parking area)

11.2 Condition and Issues

- Very little parking but church parking nearby
- Soccer – junior or wide senior, Posts too big
- 1 unlit tennis court – surface and nets need to be repaired / replaced (understood that this is budgeted)
- Basketball – 1 concrete pad with 2 fixed nets

Variety of playground equipment of varying age. Some are newer.



11.3 What We Heard

Pleasant Park received comments and suggestions for improvement that largely focus on the need to improve the tennis and basketball courts and upkeep the soccer field.

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
SPORT			
Basketball Nets at Pleasant View Park (n=115)	23%	59%	17%
Tennis Court at Pleasant View Park (n=115)	20%	54%	26%
Soccer Field at Pleasant View Park (n=116)	32%	55%	13%
PLAY			
Playground at Pleasant View Park (n=120)	51%	45%	4%

Suggestions included:

- Building an outdoor rink
- Upgrading tennis pickleball courts
- Upgrading the basketball court
- Upkeeping the soccer field
- Adding a splashpad

11.4 Recommendations

Recommendations:

45. Designate the Park as the Township hub for outdoor tennis and pickleball. Undertake a site planning and design exercise for the development of a court complex comprising a shared surface double tennis court / (4) pickleball courts;
46. Seek to program the soccer field for original use (or identified alternative) and consider future potential for irrigation.
47. As part of the Township's AMP responsibilities, undertake condition assessment of play equipment and other amenities and development replacement schedule. To include necessary committee and community consultation.

12 Forest Lea Park

12.1 About Forest Lea Park

131 Sufian Street Laurentian Valley, ON K8A 6W6

Forest Lea Park is a neighbourhood park featuring 10 acres of woods and meadows with many opportunities for nature viewing. A superb playground for children was installed in 2010. The Forest Lea Park Recreation Committee welcomes volunteers who would like to help with future development.

Park Amenities:

- Multi Use Pad (Basketball, Ball Hockey)
- Swings
- Large Play Structure
- Monkey Bars
- Bike Racks
- Gazebos
- Picnic Tables
- Benches
- Beach Volley Ball Court
- Parking





12.2 Condition and Issues

Forest Lea Park

- Gravel parking lot
- 2 gazebos
- Play structure – 5-12 year age group. Appears newer
- Swing set - Installation date 2009
- Basketball nets x 2 plus concrete pad. Nets in good condition
- Beach Volleyball Court
- Fenced concrete playing surface for basketball plus lateral play hockey nets built into fence. Fence in good condition

12.3 What We Heard

OUTDOOR AMENITIES	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
SPORT			
Multi Use Pad (basketball, ball hockey) at Forest Lea Park (n=112)	46%	53%	1%
Beach Volleyball Court at Forest Lea Park (n=101)	39%	60%	1%
PLAY			
Playground at Forest Lea Park (n=121)	62%	36%	2%

12.3 Recommendations

Recommendation:

48. Undertake the development of a capital improvement plan as needed over the course of the plan;
49. Maintain the opportunity for usable trails on the site, with an emphasis on safety of users and provision of amenities.

13 George Matheson Park

630 Forest Park Road Laurentian Valley, ON K8A 6W2



George Matheson Park is a natural beach location located along the shoreline of the Ottawa River. Smaller fishing boats are occasionally launched using the rivers edge; however, there is no official boat launch at this site.

Park features:

- Natural Beach
- Park Bench

14 Trails

County land use policy recognizes the importance of abandoned rail corridors as future utility/transportation/multi-use recreation corridors. Rail corridors are generally flat and suitable for a variety of summer and winter uses and for persons using mobility assistance devices.

The County of Renfrew prioritizes rail to trail conversion and aims to utilize decommissioned rail corridors as the backbone of the trail system and establish partnerships to plan and create linkages to other existing trails networks and destinations. The local municipalities and user groups/associations are key partners. Municipalities are responsible for providing the majority of recreational facilities, including connections to trails. Groups and organizations volunteer their time to maintain and operate trails.

The focus of the Trails Strategy is on identifying and connecting recreational trails (ATV, snowmobile, hiking, biking, etc.), recreational assets such as Algonquin Park and Ottawa River front, as well as local and regional recreation facilities.

The Trails Strategy focuses on two aspects:

Expanding and Sustaining the Trail Network	Building Partnerships
<p>County Trail Network <i>Trails owned or maintained by the County</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rail Trails ▪ Hardened Shoulders ▪ County Forest Trails 	<p>Identification of Other Linkages to Trail Network <i>Trails not owned or maintained by County</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Municipalities ▪ Local Trail Groups ▪ TransCanada Trail ▪ Snowmobile Clubs

Laurentian Valley has two decommissioned rail corridors: the CN Rail and the Canadian Pacific (CP).

In 2017, the County of Renfrew purchased the decommissioned Canadian Pacific (CP) rail corridor that became the Ottawa Recreation Trail (296 km). A section of this trail within the County of Renfrew - Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail is a 219 kilometer recreational trail that connects 10 municipalities and The City of Pembroke. A 13 kilometer section of Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail is within Laurentian Valley Township.

Primary uses include: Pedestrian (walking/hiking/running), cycling, off-road motor vehicle, equestrian, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

The discontinued Canadian National (CN) Rail Corridor runs through LV Township, connecting Pembroke and Laurentian Valley to Algonquin Park to the West and to Whitewater Region (continuing to Quebec) to the East. Laurentian valley Township includes a section of the corridor between Pembroke and the Algonquin Park boundary. The County supports the local municipalities in discussions between the municipalities and CN Rail regarding the potential acquisition the CN Rail corridor. **Note: Some sections of the CN Rail Corridor have been sold and acquired.**

Other trails in Laurentian Valley include the Township’s LV Four Seasons Trail and Forest Lea Trails a system of trails and loops on the Crown Land. These trails are maintained and operated by volunteer groups.

Exhibit 23. LV Township Trail System

Trail System	Length	Details
LV Four Seasons Trail	Skating: over 1.5km Snowshoe / walking trail: 2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skating & Snowshoe Trails in the winter months • Walking Trail in the summer months • Located beside the Alice and Fraser Recreation • LV Lodge building available for rental use by residents located at the foot of the trail • Municipal trail, run by Volunteer Committee
Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail (County of Renfrew)	13 km in LV Township 219 km in Renfrew County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail Trail Conversion owned by the County of Renfrew • Hiking or Walking, Cycling, Snowshoeing, Equestrian, Snowmobiling, ATV • Connects 10 municipalities in Renfrew County
ATV/Snowmobile Trails (Ontario Trails Network)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former CN Railway corridor throughout the county • Leased lands for motorized trail use • Trail Association: Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance (EOTA)*
Forest Lea Trails (Crown Land*)	30k of singletrack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Biking trails maintained by volunteers - Mountain Bike Forest Lea • Approximately 2 km and 4 km marked loops
	Over 30 km, incl. 12 km of groomed classic ski and skate trails 1.5km lit section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-country skiing, fat bike riding, snowshoeing • Ski Trails Operation & Maintenance: Pembroke Area Cross Country Ski Club (PAXC) • A warm-up cabin and a warm-up hut

**Snowmobile trails are often operated by The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC). Crown land in Ontario is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and open to the public for access. Crown land trails are commonly maintained by the users.*

The Renfrew County Forest (RCF) tracts include existing networks of logging roads and skid trails, both old and new. While the County of Renfrew does not maintain or support the use of these trails, these corridors are used for recreation. Activities permitted within the RCF (with consideration for forest management objectives and the needs of other forest users): cross-country skiing, dog sledding, hiking, horseback riding, nature study and appreciation, orienteering, snowshoeing, using snowmobiles and ATVs.

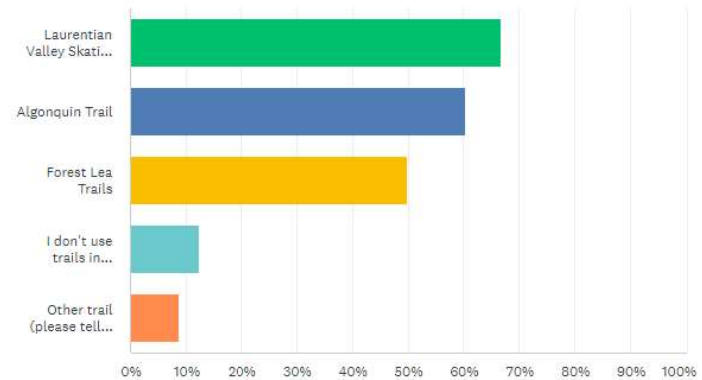
The combination of Rail to Trail corridors, County Forest, and municipal and other trails provides opportunities to plan trail networks and establish links, loops, and connections.



What We Heard

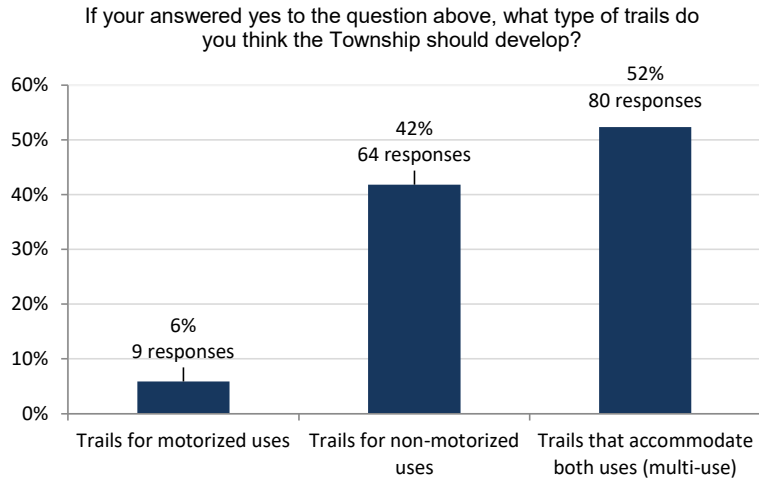
Please tell us which trails in Laurentian Valley you and/or members of your household use? (select all that apply)

Answered: 249 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Laurentian Valley Skating Trail	66.67%	166
Algonquin Trail	60.24%	150
Forest Lea Trails	49.80%	124
I don't use trails in Laurentian Valley	12.45%	31
Other trail (please tell us which one)	8.84%	22
Total Respondents: 249		

The majority (63%) of respondents (n=211) indicated that the new trails are needed. Preferences include separate non-motorized trails for walking and cycling and multi-se trails, where users with different speed are separated and can share trails safely. Amenities such as benches, washrooms and shade would be an improvement to trails and parks.



Suggestions:

More trails and different types of uses, suggestions included:

- More trails for year-round activities (e.g. snowshoeing and walking, cycling, hiking)*
- More stroller friendly walking trails*
- Extending the skate trail*
- Trails that support power spots*
- A connected multi use trail system (e.g. the old rail)*

Trails safe and convenient for all users. Many comments suggest separating motorized and non-motorised trail users:

- Safety concerns on the Algonquin Trail due to the presence of motorized vehicles*
- Speed limits not observed despite posted signage*

- Safer biking and walking trails*
- More trails that accommodate different uses - walking, cycling, and motorised uses*
- Improving safety within the different existing trails*

Additional trail facilities:

- All-hours washrooms*
- Changing rooms*
- Trail warming stations*
- More places to sit and rest*
- Shaded areas, picnic areas*
- On-site bicycle services*

Nature trails - Connecting people and nature:

- More nature trails and wildlife culverts through fencing of sensitive areas*
- Improving species at-risk planning by increasing integration into existing departments and programs.*

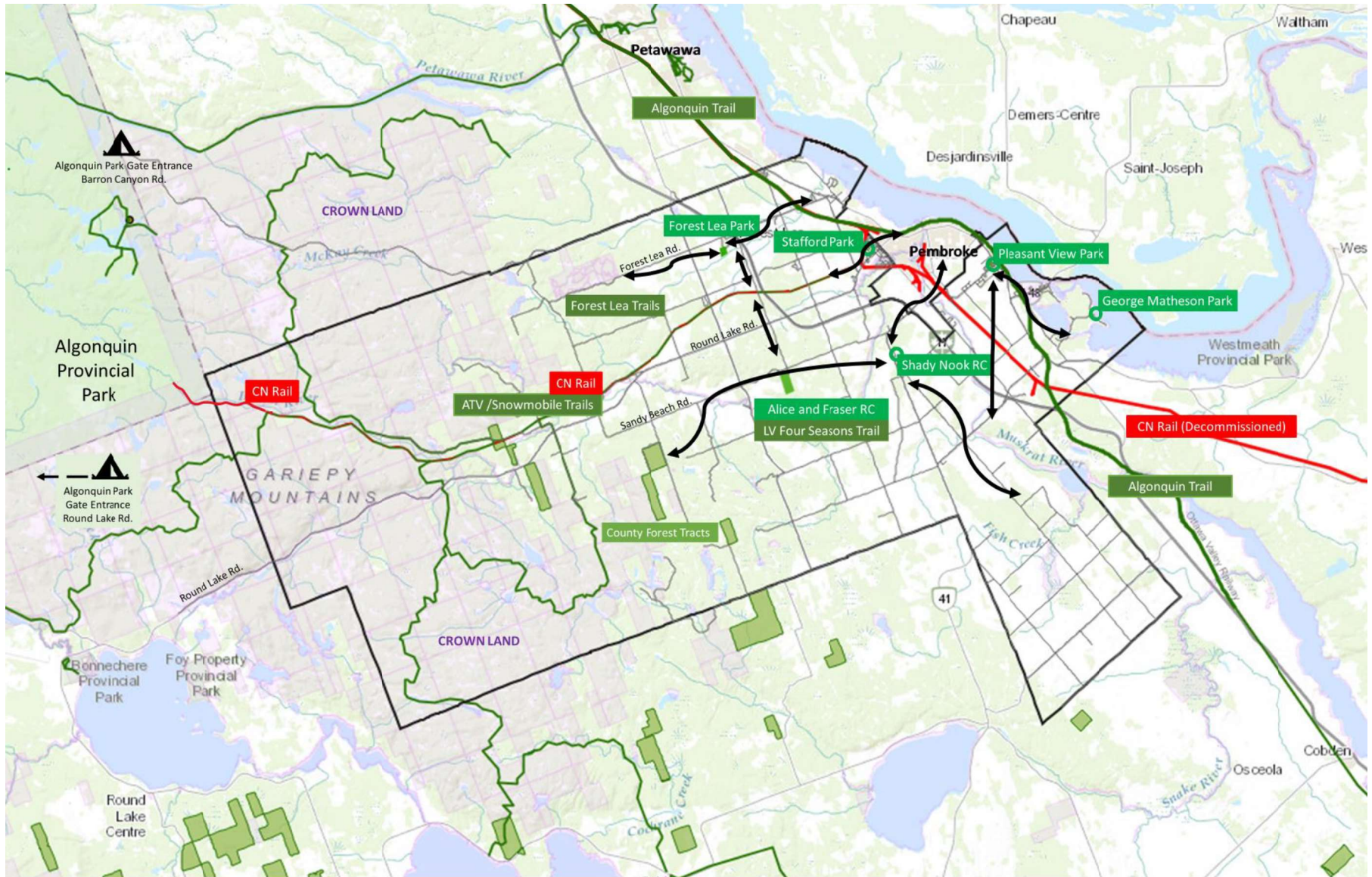
Activities:

Organized activities including walking, snowshoeing, and/or hiking groups to enable a safe environment for participation on some trail locations.

Recommendations:

50. Actively pursue the implementation of the County of Renfrew Trails Strategy:
- Improve connections to the local and regional recreation assets such as Algonquin Park and Ottawa River Front by utilizing all elements of the County Trail system – trails, rail corridors, county forest tracts, and Crown land.
 - Develop a Trail Management Plan outlining maintenance standards and guidelines for each of the trail types;
 - Explore opportunities to access and utilize the CN Rail corridor with support from the County;
 - Ensure compatibility of trail user groups (pedestrians vs. ATV) or otherwise propose dedicated use sections or separate out methods of transportation;
 - Consider signage speed limits, avoiding seasonal conflict;
 - Integrate the development of trail linkages plan with active transportation plans to better connections across the Township;
 - Signage to indicate historic areas of Laurentian Valley, including Indigenous landmarks, lookouts and frequently used trails;
 - Coordinate Township’s Trail Network development plans with the County and neighbouring municipalities to implement the County’s Trails and Active Transportation Strategies.

Exhibit 24. Trail Network Elements and Potential Connections for Various Trails Uses and Active Transportation



15 Active Transportation

Responding to increasing public demand for active living and transportation, in 2012, the County of Renfrew developed an Active Transportation Strategy. This strategy identifies **the importance of links and extensions of existing bikeways, trails, sidewalks and roads** and discusses the creation of new walking and cycling connections throughout and between communities. Some of the County municipalities have developed their AT strategies. For instance, Petawawa Active Transportation plan among includes a plan to enhance AT connections with Pembroke and other Municipalities.

The County of Renfrew Strategy defines AT as “any human powered (i.e., non-motorized) mode of transportation for commuter (purposeful) and recreational purposes. It involves movement from one destination to another for work, childcare, school, the store, community or neighbourhood destinations and recreation. It includes walking, running, cycling, in-line skating, skateboarding, non-motorized wheel chairing, skating, skiing, and canoeing/kayaking. Walking and cycling are the most common forms and can be combined with other modes.”

The County aims to promote, build and sustain safe and connected active transportation networks.

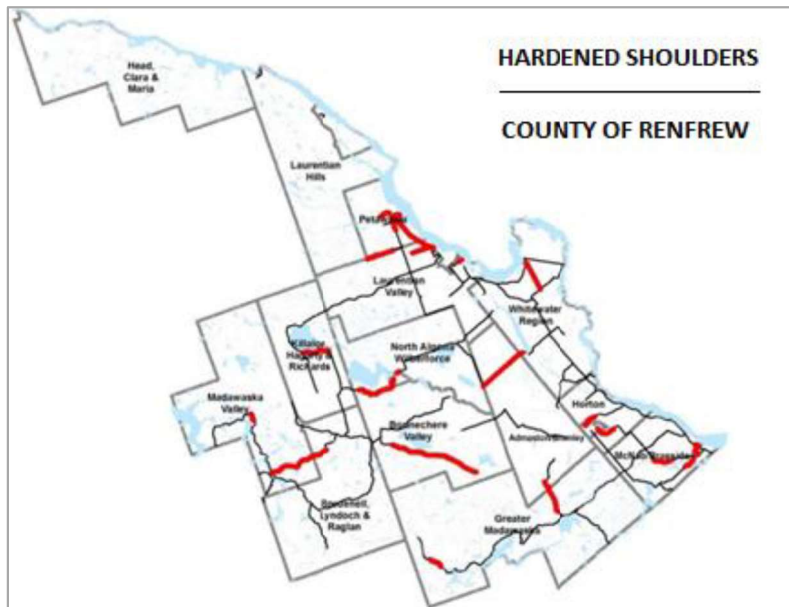


The Active Transportation Strategy proposes to utilize hardened road shoulders and trails to accommodate active transportation. The AT plans should be coordinated with the trails plan to provide safer linkages between trail systems along County corridors. Opportunities to optimize the use of the County’s road network by implementing AT Strategy are integrated in the Public Works & Engineering Department’s 10-year capital program.

In the County, several departments are involved in implementing and maintaining a regional trail and active transportation networks including, Development and Property, Public Works and Engineering, and Emergency Services. Similar cooperation and collaboration of different departments will be needed at the Township level. The Township will also need to work collaboratively with different stakeholders, including volunteers, local businesses, public health units, and other trail and AT organizations (i.e. snowmobile/ATV clubs, cycling clubs and associations).



Exhibit 25. County of Renfrew Active Transportation Network



Source: Renfrew County Trails Strategy

Currently the Township of Laurentian Valley does not have an active transportation plan. Two parks are equipped with bicycle parking racks and hardened road shoulders are organized near Petawawa. Active transportation infrastructure and facilities could be further improved to provide opportunities of integrating physical activity in routine activities such as commute and recreation.

Provision of AT infrastructure would help improve connectivity and safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and others utilizing non-motorized modes to commute and for accessibility purposes. AT infrastructure could support active commute to LV recreation facilities and assets such as Algonquin Park and the Ottawa River front.

Volunteers and organizations play an important role in offering services and identifying linkages and connections. Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance (OVCATA) is a resource for discovering local routes.

Cycling infrastructure offers safety and connectivity and will encourage active travel, including to recreation facilities.

Ontario's Cycling Strategy #CycleON promotes the growth of cycling across the province over the next 20 years. The plan guides Ontario communities to make cycling safe and convenient focusing on five key areas:

1. designing healthy, active and prosperous communities
2. improving cycling infrastructure
3. making highways and streets safer
4. promoting cycling awareness and behavioural shifts
5. increasing cycling tourism opportunities

In 2021, Infrastructure Canada has issued Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy and established a five-year Active Transportation Fund to support AT development in Canadian municipalities. The AT fund supports a modal shift toward non-motorized modes of transportation and active living through the expansion and enhancement of active transportation infrastructure. Infrastructure Canada offers financial support to municipalities across Canada in developing AT plans and enhancing AT infrastructure.

Recommendations:

51. Develop a Laurentian Valley Active Transportation Plan to promote safe and convenient active transportation:
- Actively pursue the implementation of the County of Renfrew Active Transportation Strategy;
 - Assess the situation with AT in the Township and explore best practices and opportunities, including examples from the nearby municipalities;
 - Work with AT groups and organizations to develop the AT plan, identify linkages to existing AT infrastructure, trails and loops to improve connectivity and safety across the Township and with the trails and cycleways across the County and the province.
 - Explore opportunities to fund AT planning and infrastructure development (e.g. Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Fund);
 - Advertise and Market active transportation and Township's AT plans and efforts;
 - Coordinate Township's AT plans with the County and neighbouring municipalities to implement the County's Trails and Active Transportation Strategies.

Appendix A

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Township of Laurentian Valley Parks and Recreational Master Plan

Recommendations

Policy Supports for Effective Decision-Making

Asset Management	
1	Update the 2014 Asset Management Plan (AMP). This should include a full review of the Township’s open space assets and recreation facilities. This update should be undertaken in year 1 of the Master Plan.
2	Undertake building condition assessments (BCA) for Alice and Fraser and Shady Nook Recreation Centres. Establish a five (5) year capital cost forecast for necessary deferred maintenance and other lifecycle requirements.
3	Undertake an accessibility audit of all recreation centres and parks.
4	With respect to replacement of playground equipment and other park installations, develop a five (5) to seven (7) year plan for progressive replacement of facilities that are at the end of their service life. Develop necessary annual budgets to undertake the required number of replacement projects each year. The replacement schedule will be established by the Asset Management Plan. As part of this plan, the consultants have reviewed the inventory of facilities and recommendations specific to each park are provided in the relevant sections.
Other Policy Frameworks	
5	Update the Official Plan to reference the changes recently introduced to the Planning Act with respect to Section 42 (Parkland) and the enabling of the Alternative Rate calculation for dedication and cash-in-lieu. Update section 19(c) with respect to “Acceptance of Parkland” to identify lands which would not be acceptable to include areas such as stormwater management ponds, other drainage areas, shoreline protection zones, steep slopes and other hazard lands. In addition to Acceptable Lands already itemized, this should also include linear connections to link open spaces.
6	Building on an update to the Official Plan, the Township should develop a parks dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication by-law (and associated policy) to apply common principles and practices to development approvals as it relates to the choice of dedication of land versus cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication.
7	It shall be the policy of the Township to utilize cash-in-lieu (CIL) provisions with respect to all classes of development identified in the Planning Act (including severances, commercial, industrial uses).
8	The Township should seek to maximize the supply of available parkland through a range of strategies, including dedication by development, but also by accessing grants, land trusts, conservation easements, land exchanges, partnerships, agreements, and direct purchase.

9	Create a Disposition Policy for municipally owned properties based on a process of analysis to determine whether a parcel is reasonably deemed to be surplus. The policy should set out the steps involved prior to a decision to designate the land as surplus. This should include public consultation and reference to municipal policies including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
10	Create a Parks Development Policy (per template) to guide the development of parks and open spaces.
11	Adopt the Parkland Hierarchy and Classification System proposed in this Master Plan as a basis for acquiring, designing, developing, and programming parkland. Per the classification, individual neighbourhood parks should generally be at least one (1) hectare in size as a minimum standard of provision.
12	Additional neighbourhood parkland should be developed where supply within a reasonable distance is currently limited. This includes existing subdivisions that are underserved as well as planned future subdivisions. The scale, location and amenities of parkland within planned residential subdivisions should be determined by the Township through the land use approvals process and the provisions of the Planning Act with respect to parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication. Based on the distribution of existing parkland relative to existing and planned residential development, additional parkland is warranted in several zones including lands in the northwest in proximity to the existing built up area, and in the southeast in the vicinity of the built-up area

Towards the Vision

Defining the Service Mandate of the Township	
13	The Township should develop an Access to Recreation Policy (or charter) which addresses the policy goals (the outputs) associated with the operation of all services, facilities and programs in the Township, as well as the use of cost-shared facilities outside of the Township. The operations of the recreation associations should be meet the intent of this policy.
14	Develop a Municipal Service Policy to address unplanned, new, and emerging, outdoor facility requests as they are brought forward. This should include a set of criteria for evaluating community-based project proposals and determine the appropriate location within the Township’s portfolio of parks.
15	Existing Agreements with the Recreation Centres should be reviewed and adjusted to reflect the service mandate described above.
16	Capital planning for the major indoor and outdoor assets of the Township should consider recreation as a township-wide service and there should be no assumption that investments at one recreation centre should be replicated at others unless justified by this master plan.
Centralized Technical Support and Data Management	
17	The Township should invest in appropriate recreation program and rental registration software which includes capacity for effective tracking of program take-up, rentals and reporting of financial results.
18	The Township should undertake associated upgrade to its website to provide a full online inventory of program opportunities, and associated online registration. This expected to develop over time.

Role of Existing Recreation Centres and Parks	
19	Recreation programming and control of rental access should continue to be implemented by the volunteers and other providers operating in the Township facilities under agreement with the Township. A priority for the Township should be to advocate for programs, better use of the existing facilities and over time undertake direct programming
20	Operational control over revenues and costs (as currently enabled) should remain with the Alice and Fraser Recreation Association, the Shady Nook Recreation Centre, and the Stafford Park Recreation Centre. Operational support of this function should be provided by the Recreation Co-ordinator of the Township (and/or additional staff as needed).
21	Each recreation association should undertake to develop an annual operating plan (with the assistance of the Recreation Co-ordinator) for submission to the Township. This will be utilized alongside the Township Capital Development Plan which sets out the proposed short- and medium-term capital spending at each location.
22	Operational control of the Forest Lea Park Recreation Association and the Pleasant View Park Recreation Association should be assumed by the Township with the recreation associations becoming standing advisory committees to Council.
Departmental Organization and Staffing	
23	Establish the Township Recreation Co-ordinator as a permanent FTE position, with associated budgetary responsibility for annual operational support for recreation.
Support for Volunteers and Program Delivery	
24	Develop a Township Volunteering Training and Opportunities Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Research best practices in this regard across Ontario b. Commit budget, staff time and develop metrics to measure success of a volunteer capacity building project; c. Canvass the Recreation Association and other local user groups for their specific needs; d. Develop online, public-facing information to attract, retain and celebrate local volunteers in recreation and community development;
25	Develop and fund opportunities for would-be volunteers in program delivery to achieve training and accreditation/certification. Widen the range of program opportunities available in the Township by funding the training of program instructors
Invest in Regional Partnerships	
26	Commit in principle to the maintenance, adjustment or future renewal of a joint use and cost sharing agreement with the City of Pembroke regarding indoor ice and aquatics on the premise of a fair and equitable division of costs and access to programs.
27	As it pertains to the prospect of a new aquatics centre, encourage a broader regional cost sharing partnership to be established, reflecting best practice examples of these types of agreement elsewhere in Canada.
28	Consider the development of new indoor recreation infrastructure in the Township to be a regional benefit and seek appropriate partnerships.

29	Maintain and grow the existing collaboration between the Township and City recreation co-ordinators and event planning staff.
30	Support the City of Pembroke should it initiate a recreation master plan for City facilities and services. Advocate for regional benefits and appropriate partnerships. Maximize the potential for synergy in developing new facilities both in the Township and the City.
31	Maintain an active role in advocating for the use of the school after hours, particularly for emerging community recreation needs.
32	As a long-term goal, assess the potential associated with school board-municipal partnership in the planning for new recreational assets.
New Infrastructure	
33	Advocate for a regionally partnered project that comprises a multi-use recreation facility (double gymnasium and replacement indoor pool) as part of the oversight committee consideration of new recreation infrastructure in the City of Pembroke. Location to satisfy all partners.
Asset Specific Recommendations	
Alice and Fraser Recreation Centre	
34	As part of a commitment to recreation assets as part of the Township AMP, undertake the following site and property assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building condition assessment • Accessibility audit; • Condition assessment of outdoor spaces (sports fields, pens and children’s play areas)
35	In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
36	<p>Prioritize the following:</p> <p>a. Development of pump track and/ or in-ground skatepark or skatespot (mini skatepark); and</p> <p>b. redevelopment of the children’s playground with best practice solutions, including full public engagement pre-design stage. Focus on safety, accessibility, innovation in play structure design and aesthetics, shade cover and seating</p>
LV Four Seasons Trail & LV Lodge	
37	As part of a commitment to recreation assets as part of the Township AMP, undertake the following site and property assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building condition assessment • Accessibility audit; • Condition assessment of outdoor spaces (trail and amenities)

38	In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
39	Prioritize the following:
	a. Extending the Trail
	b. Upgrades to the Lodge based on the results of building condition assessment.
Shady Nook Recreation Centre	
40	As part of a commitment to recreation assets as part of the Township AMP, undertake the following site and property assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building condition assessment • Accessibility audit; • Condition assessment of outdoor spaces (sports fields, pens and children’s play areas)
41	In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
42	Prioritize the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurposing of the unused ball diamond for the following possible uses: soccer; relocation of playground and installation of spraypad; development of other site amenities consistent with four-season use of the site. Considerations subject to site master planning exercise.
Stafford Park and Community Hall	
43	In discussion with the Committee, develop a 10-year capital improvement and amenity development plan for submission to Council for information. Staff should advance projects as budgets and capital grant availability allows with the expectation that priority SOGR (State of Good Repair) will be completed within year 3 of the Master Plan.
44	Undertake a site master plan to determine opportunities to improve organization of the site and meet additional needs as identified by the Committee and public to date. Prioritize the replacement of play structures and other significant capital projects only on completion of a site plan.
Pleasant View Park	
45	Designate the Park as the Township hub for outdoor tennis and pickleball. Undertake a site planning and design exercise for the development of a court complex comprising a shared surface double tennis court / (4) pickleball courts;
46	Seek to program the soccer field for original use (or identified alternative) and consider future potential for irrigation.
47	As part of the Township’s AMP responsibilities, undertake condition assessment of play equipment and other amenities and development replacement schedule. To include necessary committee and community consultation.
Forest Lea Park	
48	Undertake the development of a capital improvement plan as needed over the course of the plan;
49	Maintain the opportunity for usable trails on the site, with an emphasis on safety of users and provision of amenities.

Trails	
50	<p>Actively pursue the implementation of the County of Renfrew Trails Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connections to the local and regional recreation assets such as Algonquin Park and Ottawa River Front by utilizing all elements of the County Trail system – trails, rail corridors, county forest tracts, and Crown land. • Develop a Trail Management Plan outlining maintenance standards and guidelines for each of the trail types; • Explore opportunities to access and utilize the CN Rail corridor with support from the County; • Ensure compatibility of trail user groups (pedestrians vs. ATV) or otherwise propose dedicated use sections or separate out methods of transportation; • Consider signage speed limits, avoiding seasonal conflict; • Integrate the development of trail linkages plan with active transportation plans to better connections across the Township; • Signage to indicate historic areas of Laurentian Valley, including Indigenous landmarks, lookouts and frequently used trails; • Coordinate Township’s Trail Network development plans with the County and neighbouring municipalities to implement the County’s Trails and Active Transportation Strategies.
Active Transportation	
51	<p>Develop Laurentian Valley Active Transportation Plan and enhance AT infrastructure to promote safe and convenient active transportation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively pursue the implementation of the County of Renfrew Active Transportation Strategy; • Assess the situation with AT in the Township and explore best practices and opportunities, including examples from the nearby municipalities; • Work with AT groups and organizations to develop the AT plan, identify linkages to existing AT infrastructure, trails and loops to improve connectivity and safety across the Township and with the trails and cycleways across the County and the province. • Explore opportunities to fund AT planning and infrastructure development (e.g. Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Fund); • Advertise and Market active transportation and Township’s AT plans and efforts; • Coordinate Township’s AT plans with the County and neighbouring municipalities to implement the County’s Trails and Active Transportation Strategies.

Appendix B

PARKS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

LAURENTIAN VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Parks, Recreation and Culture: Parks Development By-Law (Template)

1. Purpose of this Policy

The intent of this policy is to provide the Township with a mechanism to support the development of outdoor facilities. The policy addresses priorities and procedures on development, acquisition and disposition of parkland in accordance with the Township of Laurentian Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2. Typology of Parks

The following outlines the typology of municipal parkland and is in keeping with provisions of the Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

<i>Typology</i>	<i>Service Area</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Recommended features per this Policy</i>
Destination Park	Township-wide / Regional	Varies		Variable but may include amenities featured in Community or Neighbourhood Parks.
Community Park	Community-wide	5 ha +		Indoor recreation facilities, parking facilities, sports fields, sport courts, splash pads, play structures, gazebos, picnic shelters, public washroom facilities, spectator seating, walking trails, trail connections.
Neighbourhood Park	Max. 2km – 2.5 km distance	1 ha +		Sports fields, sport courts, splash pads, play structures, gazebos, picnic shelters, benches, trail connections.
Parkette	Approx. 1km (urban area only)	Less than 1 ha		Play structures, seating, shading public art.
General Open Space + connectors	Township-wide	Variable	E.g. Forest Lea Park Trails	Seating, shading, public art, trail connections. No sport fields or sport courts.

3. Priorities

Priority will be given to:

- The development and maintenance of existing parklands.
- The creation of additional parkland in the eastern part of the Township in the general vicinity of Cotnam Island to include naturalized park, water front lands and/or water access within non-residential areas (to develop cycling trails, seating areas, etc.).
- The development of several passive parkettes in denser urban areas of the Township where this is deemed appropriate based on future residential development and with regard to the proximity of the proposed parks and open space nearby in the City of Pembroke.
- To develop a new community hub venue for an indoor recreation centre which serves the Township and which is expected to include additional open space amenities.

4. Implementation of this Policy

The Township must adhere to the following procedures:

- To consult with the relevant Recreation Association, the neighbouring community and interest groups in the process of developing each park.
- To develop any future destination and community parks (that include major sports and culture facilities for organized sports) on major streets in proximity to residential areas.
- Naturalized park, lands and/or water access will be developed where consistent with the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- To encourage community involvement through park development planning and/or financial contribution to park development, maintenance and improvement.
- The Planning Department must consult with the Township Recreation Co-ordinator and Director of Public Works regarding the evaluation of parkland needs and development, with consideration for those factors identified in section 7(a) related to suitability of parkland for conveyance.

5. Park Design Principles

The Township shall incorporate the following principles into the design and development of parks:

- **Holistic Planning:** The Department will consider broader recreation infrastructure and planning priorities outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with respect to decisions to locate, develop new and/or improve existing parks; in order to ensure effective linkages to and the co-location of indoor and outdoor assets where possible.
- **Public Safety and Standards:** Parks are to be configured in such a way as to optimize visual access into the site. Principles of crime prevention through environmental design are to be applied. The Department will ensure that all facilities within municipal parks meet the standards of the CSA Group (formerly the Canadian Standards Association).
- **Active Transportation, Safety, and Connectivity:** Location and design of parks or improvements to existing parks should support a broader active transportation network. Pedestrian, cyclist, and general park user safety will be considered early in the park design process.
- **Accessibility:** That the design and construction of new parks and parks amenities aim to comply with current universal design standards for accessibility and barrier free design.
- **Community Involvement in design:** Plans shall be drawn in consultation with the surrounding community for the creation of all new parks. Community involvement at the design stage for new parks will be encouraged and accommodated. Where possible, parks should feature amenities that encourage community involvement and cohesion, such as community gardens, civic and social gathering spaces as well as other 'placemaking' features in keeping with the typology of parks outlined in this policy.

6. Public Consultation

- The Township shall encourage and facilitate community participation in park design, development and renewal projects by obtaining public input during the planning and design process.
- Community engagement is not a requirement for all park development projects and is dependant on the scale of park/development proposed as is illustrated in Schedule A to this policy.

Project Initiation | Level of Engagement: Public/community notice of project and promotion; seeking community partners e.g. fundraising, donations etc.

Site Investigation | Surveys and site analysis etc.

Concept Development | Layout options and preliminary costing etc.

Concept Evaluation | Level of Engagement: Community and stakeholder consultation, advisory group/committee meeting(s) to confirm needs and preferences.

Concept Refinement | Final preferred concept etc.

Detailed Design | Detailed costing, land preparation etc.

Construction & Tendering | RFP for construction, submissions etc.



Engagement During Park Design and Development Process

7. New Parkland Acquisition & Development

The Township must adhere to the following procedure during the acquisition of parkland.

Acquisition of new parklands through the purchase of lands or through acquisition of land through subdivision process (5% of lands slated for residential development or 2 % of commercial/industrial development or at such lesser rate as may be determined as set out in the Parkland Dedication By-law, as per Section 42 or 51 or 51.1 of the Planning Act) or exchange of lands or gift will be a priority when:

- There is a recognized requirement for parkland development in a specific area pursuant to priorities mentioned above;
- There is an opportunity for prolongation, enhancement or connection to an existing public trail; or
- There is a direction within the Laurentian Valley Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

a. Criteria for Parkland Conveyance

The Township shall accept land for passive and active parkland and other public recreation purpose. These lands conveyed to the township shall be in a location and physical condition satisfactory to the Township. Any land parcel configuration, size or location that is constrained or deemed undesirable, as determined by the Township, shall not be acceptable as parkland conveyance. A number of factors are to be considered in determining suitability for conveyance.

b. Cash-in Lieu of Parkland Conveyance

The Township shall not accept certain types of lands to fulfill parkland conveyance requirements and may require the payment of money in-lieu of accepting a conveyance of land.

c. Administration

The Township (Planning Department and Recreation Co-ordinator) will provide input/decision on whether a conveyance of parkland, payment of cash-in-lieu of accepting a conveyance or a combination therein is preferred. This should occur during the period of a technical review of a complete application submission.

The Director of Planning will be the officer responsible for recommendations related to whether parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu is the preferred option.

The Director of Planning or delegate, will then work with the developer to address any comments from the Director of Parks and Recreation.

8. Disposition of Existing Parkland

The Township must adhere to the following procedure during disposing of parkland.

- In the event that current parkland does not meet the priorities mentioned above;
- In the event that current parkland does not meet the priorities set out in the Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan;
- In the event that current parklands are deemed not to be required, following a research assessment and public consultation;
- The disposition of land will follow the procedures listed in the Disposition Policy as approved by Council.

These lands may be considered surplus and disposed of at the direction of Council, following relevant community and stakeholder consultation.

Schedule A - Level of Engagement Matrix for Parkland Development Initiatives (Appended as per to Disposition Policy)

Schedule A: Level of Engagement Matrix for Parkland Design and Development Initiatives



	ENGAGEMENT LEVEL		
	INFORMATION	CONSULTATION	COLLABORATION
Anticipated Park Change	Reconstruction of a park component in same location without a change of activity or intensity of use.	Significant improvements in a park (more than replacement of park components in the same location).	Design / development of new facilities with more broad influence on the use and intensity of the park; creation of a new park or park facility.
Project Types (examples)	Court replacement, field improvements, etc.	Park site improvement / redevelopment, full replacement of play structures and playgrounds	New park projects or improvement projects with significant complexities.
Engagement Purpose	To provide the public with accurate and timely information regarding planned park improvements.	To assess a park and evaluate potential changes.	To fully and directly engage the public, in particular neighbours and park users / user groups, in the planning and design of a park.
Engagement Opportunities and Examples	<p>One meeting for information purposes; option for online comments.</p> <p>Display panels for information purposes allow for some feedback to enable to project to move forward or be improved in some way based on the comments received.</p>	<p>Series of meetings with both interactive and passive engagement activities during each meeting; online review and input during each stage.</p> <p>Engage children through a “dot” democracy exercise, where kids choose their preferred play structure or other park amenities by placing dots on concept display boards. This can be done in-person or through online voting.</p>	<p>Series of meetings during the concept planning stage, and one during the final design stage.</p> <p>At an interactive session, ask the community members to “design their own park” providing the potential amenities in scaled cut-out form and/or by drawing the amenities on a base map of the site.</p>

