



Town of Orangeville  
**Recreation and  
Parks Master Plan**

August 2020

Prepared for the Town of Orangeville, August 2020.

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# Introduction

1.0

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of Plan

### Objective

The objective of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan is to make recommendations for the Plan's ten-year time frame. Recommendations are based on the community's current situation in terms of demographic characteristics, the supply and use of recreation services, and trends that will be relevant to service development over the next ten years. The Plan provides a prioritized implementation strategy for the development and improvement of parks, recreation facilities and programming services, and how these are delivered to the community.

### Vision

This spirit of collaboration is integral to the recommendations in this Plan, as several Town departments have roles to play in overlapping objectives. The recommendations in the Plan will work in concert with other Town plans, such as the Cycling and Trails Master Plan, Official Plan, Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan, Climate Change and Tree Canopy Policies, Age-Friendly Action Plan, and culture and tourism plans and initiatives (among others). The Plan considers these documents in order to build on them and help move shared interests forward. It also looks at the potential for collaboration on a regional scale in providing future services.

Council and staff were asked for phrases and ideas to describe a 10-year vision for recreation and parks in Orangeville, and their responses are summarized in the graphic on the facing page (Figure 1-1).

These ideas have been integrated with the community feedback received to create the following vision statement for the Town of Orangeville's recreation, facilities and parks services for the next 10 years:

**Orangeville's parks and recreation services are progressive and responsive to the community, and engage both with internal and external partners to deliver high-quality parks, facilities and programs, that form the foundation of an inclusive, active and healthy community and environment.**

### Planning Process

The development of this Plan included a review and assessment of the Town's parks, facilities, recreation programs, and service delivery system. Background research established the Orangeville context, including a community demographic profile, a review of plans, studies and policies, a comparative analysis of parks



Figure 1-1: Phrases and ideas representing the 10-year vision for recreation and parks in Orangeville

and facilities in other municipalities, and consideration of trends in parks and recreation service delivery.

A multi-faceted community and stakeholder engagement process included surveys of residents and volunteer organizations, focus groups, two public open houses, and interviews with Town Council and staff, and various agencies.

The information gathered during the inventory and consultation stages was used in analyses to develop a series of recommendations under the following topics:

- Programs & Events
- Facilities
- Parks
- Service Delivery

The capital and operating costs (where possible) of recommendations were estimated for future budgeting purposes, and placed in a forecasting schedule for implementation.

## Community Consultation

Community consultation was conducted in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020 and consisted of:

- Twelve interviews with municipal representatives including the Mayor, Councilors and senior Town staff;
- A workshop with Town staff to update and relate recommendations from previous plans to the Master Plan;

- Two focus groups with staff: one with Parks and Facilities (7 participants), and one with Recreation Programming (8 participants);
- Three focus groups with external stakeholders: one with community agencies (14 participants), one with volunteer service organizations (7 participants), and one with volunteer sports groups (19 participants);
- A random telephone survey of 400 Orangeville households;
- An online version of the telephone survey to allow full community participation, and completed by 407 resident and 141 non-resident households;
- An invitational survey of 42 volunteer sports and recreation groups, to which 24 responded;
- Two public open houses: one to introduce the study (22 signed-in), and one to update the community on findings and preliminary directions, and solicit feedback (16 signed-in)

A third open house, to present the draft Master Plan to the public, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on community gatherings. As an alternative, the draft Plan was posted online for community review and comment.

The Community Consultation report in Appendix A contains more detailed descriptions of consultation methods and

participants, and summaries of the results. Community feedback and survey results form the basis of the assessments and are discussed in each section of the Plan.

### Implications of COVID-19

The preparation of the Master Plan straddled the pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 time periods. Community consultation and the majority of research was completed before the onset of the pandemic and was based on the status quo at the time. The Plan's finalization and implementation, at least in the short-term, will occur in an altered environment and will need to accommodate these changes. The Plan's recommendations, however, remain valid responses to the needs identified by the community.



# Background & Community Context

# 2.0

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## 2.0 Background & Community Context

### 2.1 Community Context

Orangeville is located in southern Dufferin County. There are eight municipalities in the County, including the Towns of Orangeville, Shelburne, Mono, Grand Valley, and Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Mulmur. Orangeville shares its borders with Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Mono, Erin (in Wellington County) and Caledon (in the Region of Peel).

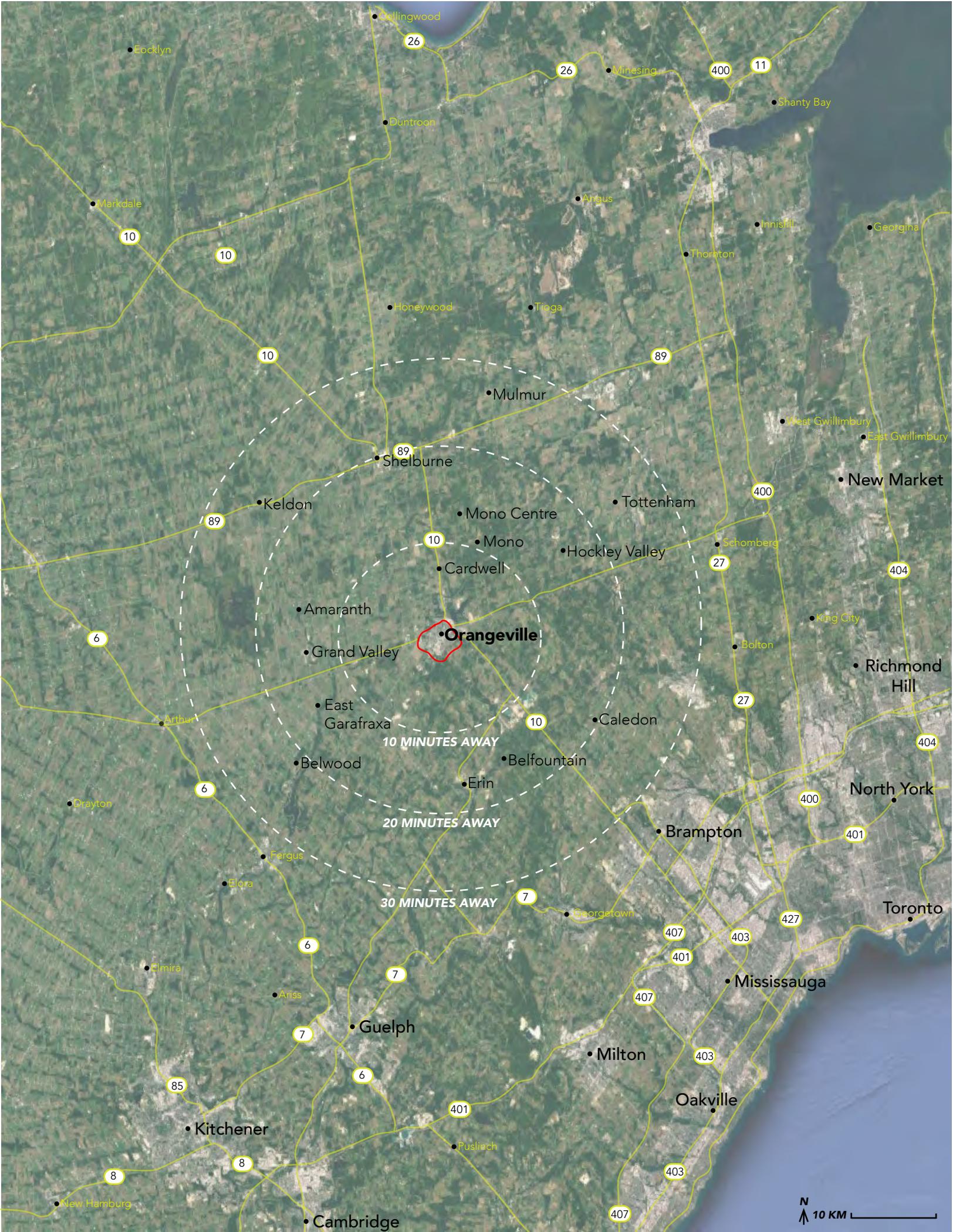
In comparison to its neighbours, Orangeville is densely populated and geographically small at 15.6 square kilometres. Orangeville is also distinct in that its land uses are primarily residential, with pockets of commercial and employment uses, and scattered open space and institutional areas. There are no rural land uses within the Town boundaries, in contrast to the surrounding municipalities which are largely rural. Shelburne is the exception, being more densely developed like Orangeville, only it is considerably smaller in population and offers fewer services in terms of recreation. Orangeville, therefore, is a de facto urban centre for Dufferin County, while also serving residents of Erin, and potentially northern Caledon.

As of the most recent Census in 2016, Orangeville had a population of 28,900 and Dufferin County had a population of 61,735. The age distribution (Table 2-1) shows a relatively even distribution across all age categories, with the greatest concentration of

population occupying the 40 to 54 year age cohorts. At the same time, the median age in Orangeville in 2016 was 35.4 years - younger than the provincial median of 39 years. There are also many families with children in the Town, and children and teens (0-19 years of age) together make up over a quarter of the population (7,535).

Orangeville's population is anticipated to reach approximately 34,100 by 2030, and 35,360 by buildout, resulting in an increase of approximately 4,880 and 6,140 persons, respectively, over the 10-year and buildout forecast periods (Orangeville Development Charges background Study, 2019) (Table 2-2). On a regional scale, the population of Dufferin County is expected to reach 86,500 by 2031.

Figure 2-1: (facing page) Orangeville's regional context



## 2.2 Orangeville Specific Considerations

Age category	Year: 2016	% of total
0-4 years of age	1770	6.1
5-9 years of age	1910	6.6
10-14 years of age	1815	6.2
15-19 years of age	2040	7.0
20-24 years of age	1790	6.2
25-29 years of age	1810	6.3
30-34 years of age	1900	6.6
35-39 years of age	1940	6.7
40-44 years of age	2070	7.2
45-49 years of age	2220	7.7
50-54 years of age	2345	8.1
55-59 years of age	1795	6.2
60-64 years of age	1450	5.0
65 years of age and older	4050	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,900</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2-1: Orangeville Age Distribution

Year	Orangeville	Dufferin County
2020	29,220	71,000 (2021)
2025 <sup>1</sup>	32,855	75,500
2030	36,490 (2031)	80,000 (2031)

Table 2-2: Population Projections to 2030

### Service Centre for Regional Market

This Plan assumes the Town of Orangeville will continue to function as the recreation service centre for a regional market. As the largest population base and closest urban centre to surrounding municipalities, Orangeville will continue to provide the bulk of major recreation facilities in the area. Its market includes all Town residents, and those in surrounding municipalities that are within a reasonable driving distance of Orangeville.

As shown in Figure 2-1, rough approximation of a 20 to 30-minute drive to Orangeville from the surrounding area extends to Shelburne in the north; Grand Valley in the west; Erin, Caledon and Bolton in the south; and Tottenham in the east. Communities to the south and east of Orangeville are about equidistant between the Town and fringe municipalities of the GTA (e.g., Brampton, Newmarket). Residents in the Caledon, Bolton and Tottenham areas likely also (or exclusively) travel to these municipalities for recreation services. Communities to the north and west of Orangeville, however, are closer to the Town than any other urban area. They likely rely almost exclusively on Orangeville for recreation services. This is supported by responses to the volunteer sport/recreation group survey, which indicated most non-resident participants in their programs come from within the above-noted 'radius': Mono, Shelburne, Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Erin, and Caledon.

<sup>1</sup> Calculated using 2020 and 2031 numbers, assuming equal average annual growth over each year,

## Population Aging

Population forecasts for Dufferin County were used as proxy indicators for the future age structure of Orangeville’s regional market. While provincial forecasts indicate a relatively young population for the County, the general trend is in keeping with the broader aging of the population. Figure 2-2 shows that by 2030, the proportions of County residents in age cohorts over 59 years will exceed their shares of the population in 2016. Conversely, there will be lower proportions in the child, youth and young adult age cohorts.

**“Government of Ontario forecasts to 2046 anticipate Dufferin County will be one of 13 Census divisions in the highest percentage growth category (over 30%) and in the smallest proportion of senior residents (less than 25%)”<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/index.html#tables>

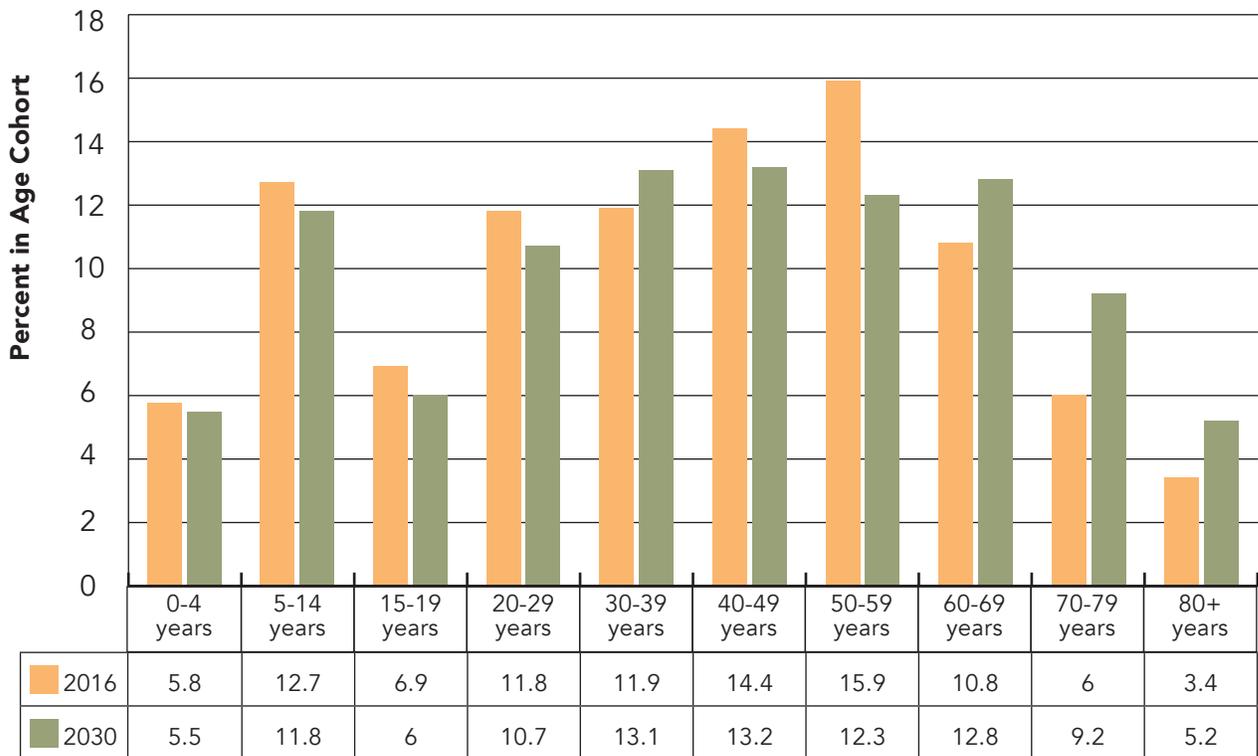


Figure 2-2: Population Aging Dufferin County 2016-2030

## Land Base Limitations

Orangeville has a limited land base, with remaining green fields already planned for various residential, institutional and commercial developments. With the exception of the Humberlands (discussed in Section 5.0 Parks), there are no large undeveloped parcels within Town boundaries that could be acquired for recreation or park purposes. Future development of parks and recreation facilities, therefore, will be through re-development and infill, unless the Town accesses land along its border from a neighbouring municipality.

## 2.3 Trends in Recreation Service Provision

Trends in recreation service provision are influenced by many factors including legislated requirements, demographic shifts, technological developments, the evolution of lifestyles, and other spheres of society such as politics and the economy. This section briefly identifies some key trends that should be considered in developing new (and rejuvenating existing) programs, parks, and facilities, including providing accessible infrastructure, inclusion and serving populations at-risk, affordability, promoting healthy active living and age-friendliness.

## Accessibility

While certain aspects of accessibility are legislated 'trends' and so are required, opportunities to exceed minimum standards should be considered wherever feasible.

Supporting accessibility means:

"Removing the barriers faced by individuals with a variety of disabilities (including, but not limited to: physical, sensory, cognitive, learning, mental health) and the various barriers (including attitudinal and systemic) that impede an individual's ability to participate in social, cultural, political, and economic life. Disabilities can be temporary or permanent. As we age our abilities change and therefore an accessible society is one designed to include everybody; both people with disabilities and people who self-identify as non-disabled."<sup>2</sup>

The ultimate goal of advocating and legislating measures to ensure accessibility and inclusion is to make it the new social norm. It is an incremental process, however, that is often contingent on other initiatives. Legislated AODA improvements, for example, are implemented as public facilities and spaces are newly built or significantly renovated. These are often major capital projects that can only be undertaken infrequently. As such, there is justification to go beyond the minimum, technically prescribed standards and integrate other approaches to improving facilities and outdoor spaces that optimize inclusivity for the widest range of ages and abilities, and make

the environment work to support safety to the greatest extent possible, to avoid having to upgrade again if minimum standards change.

Ronald L. Mace (1941-1998), an American architect, lawyer and founder of the NCSU Center for Universal Design, coined the term 'universal design' in the early 1990s. Universal Design is:

"...a design concept that recognizes, respects, values and attempts to accommodate the broadest possible spectrum of human ability in the design of all products, environments and information systems. It requires sensitivity to and knowledge about people of all ages and abilities. Sometimes referred to as "lifespan design" or "transgenerational design", universal design encompasses and goes beyond the accessible, adaptable and barrier-free concepts of the past. It helps eliminate the need for special features and spaces, which for some people, are often stigmatizing, embarrassing, different looking and usually more expensive" (The Center for Universal Design NCSU).

The ability to create accessible and inclusive spaces without special features is appealing to municipalities, as it simplifies spaces and can reduce capital investments. Many municipalities are using universal design in their public spaces.

<sup>2</sup> *City for All Women Initiative. (2015). Advancing Equity and Inclusion. A Guide for Municipalities. Ottawa. p. 17.*

## Inclusion and Populations At-risk

The Community Foundations of Canada 2016 report “Vital Signs: Sport and Belonging” (p. 9-13) identifies a number of population groups that are at risk for exclusion in community sports/physical activity. Planning and providing inclusive recreation services, therefore, requires awareness of these potential, and possibly invisible, needs to ensure that they are considered.

Population groups at risk for exclusion include:

- At-risk youth, who face many challenges such as struggling with mental health issues, and dropping out of school
- Teen girls, who opt out of sport and physical activity at a much faster rate than teen boys
- 3 to 21-year-olds in Canada with severe developmental disabilities, about one third of whom play team sports. Substantial progress has been made in developing programs for kids ages 0 to 6 years; far fewer options exist for children, youth and adults
- Children from low-income households: In 2010, 60% were active in sport, compared to 85% from families with incomes over \$80,000
- Adults from low-income households: In 2010, there was a 33% sport participation rate in higher income households compared to a 7% participation rate reported in homes with incomes of less than \$20,000. Low

income Canadians are less likely to volunteer for sport, particularly where certification or travel is required

- Older adults/seniors who are not active, among whom “lack of interest” is the main reason for opting out (27%), followed by age and health/injury (20%)
- LGBTQ people: While a recent international survey shows Canadians as being the most positive about accepting LGBTQ people, 81% reported witnessing or experiencing homophobia in sport. 70% believe youth team sports are not welcoming or safe for LGBTQ people. One in four gay men did not play youth team sports - 45% state negative experiences in school turned them off team sport, while 34% say they feared rejection because of their sexuality
- Newcomers: Despite their eagerness to try new sports, volunteer and have their children participate, newcomers face a number of barriers such as cost, time, lack of familiarity with the structured sports system, and lack of information on where and how to register
- Rural residents: 75% of Canadians living in rural areas and Atlantic Canada agree, “My city/town doesn’t have enough to offer for young people.” One in five Canadians lived in rural areas of less than 1,000 population in 2011

## Ethnic Diversity and Newcomers

Orangeville has not seen the same increase in ethnic diversity and newcomers as nearby communities (e.g. Shelburne, Caledon, Brampton). However, this demographic change is likely to continue and reach Orangeville as Canada's immigration policies continue to welcome migrants from around the world. Providing services for an increasingly diverse population is likely to become more important during the 10-year span of this Plan. In addition, since Orangeville is anticipated to continue serving the regional market, it should be responsive to increasing diversity in the region. For example, any plans for a future major park to accommodate athletic fields should consider the long term need for different facilities that may be required as the community changes (e.g. cricket pitches). Similarly, the design of indoor facilities such as pools should anticipate the requirements of users who need separate areas within the larger space.

As of the 2016 Census, Orangeville's population was composed of 12% immigrants, and 7% visible minorities, so there is reason for Orangeville to ensure all residents are consulted, and included in recreation services, especially given the ability of recreation to build a sense of cohesiveness, belonging, and community. The Town can begin by:

- incorporating cultural sensitivity materials in training
- considering diverse populations in program development, execution and evaluation

- developing internal staff committees to support diversity
- actively pursuing feedback and input from diverse members of the community
- offering diverse program types
- working to ensure staff and volunteers reflect populations served

## Affordability

The affordability of programs is an important factor in making programs accessible and inclusive. This is the focus of *Every One Plays, the Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians Policy Framework* released by Parks and Recreation Ontario.

Living with low incomes creates barriers to participating in recreation programs for reasons such as: to the cost of the program, the cost of getting to the program, the cost of childcare for a parent to attend a class, or not having enough time outside of work (or any combination of these). Conversely, recreation can help mitigate the some of the disadvantages of living with a low income:

- programs can foster life skills, increase self-esteem, and foster positive relationships
- programs involving skill building can help build resilience towards highs and lows experienced in school and the workplace
- programs involving physical activity can improve physical and mental health,

reducing the incidence of poverty-related illness and obesity<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, investing in affordable recreation options for the community is beneficial from the perspectives of improved health, economic standing, and in turn, decreased pressure on public health and social services.

## Healthy Active Living

A broad definition of healthy active living encompasses two aspects. The first focuses on individual lifestyle choices that contribute to health, such as increasing physical activity, eating healthier foods, and/or spending more time outdoors and away from screens. The second focuses on providing a healthier physical environment for all, and involves initiatives that contribute to, for example, cleaner air and water, providing infrastructure for active transportation, and restoring, protecting and/or enhancing natural ecosystems. This second approach has emerged in more recent years, and aligns with global imperatives around environmental sustainability.

A Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing (2015) provides an approach to addressing healthy active living - in its fullest sense - in parks and recreation services. The Framework includes five goals and priorities, all of which are of interest to municipal parks and recreation providers: foster active living, increase inclusion and access, connect people and nature, provide supportive

physical and social environments, and sustain capacity in the recreation sector.

## Age-Friendly Communities

Age-friendly community plans in Ontario are being prepared with reference to the World Health Organization's (WHO) eight dimensions of an age-friendly community (Figure 2-3).

Recreation services influence and/or are influenced by six of the eight dimensions (Figure 2-4) as follows:

- "Outdoor spaces and public buildings"- accessing facilities and programs
- "Transportation" - accessing facility, program and service locations
- "Social participation", and 'respect and social inclusion', - participation in recreation
- "Civic participation and employment"- volunteerism and/or paid work in recreation, and participation in recreation
- "Communication and information"- awareness or knowledge about availability of recreation services
- "Community support and health services"- services aimed at meeting physical, social, emotional, and mental health needs via recreation

Recreation service provision, therefore, can enhance the community's age-friendliness (and inclusion more generally) by considering these factors in service planning, design and delivery.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.prontario.org/public/policy/RecAccessPolicyFinal.pdf> page 5



Figure 2-3: Age Friendly Communities<sup>1</sup>

1 [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global\\_age\\_friendly\\_cities\\_Guide\\_English.pdf](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Global_age_friendly_cities_Guide_English.pdf)

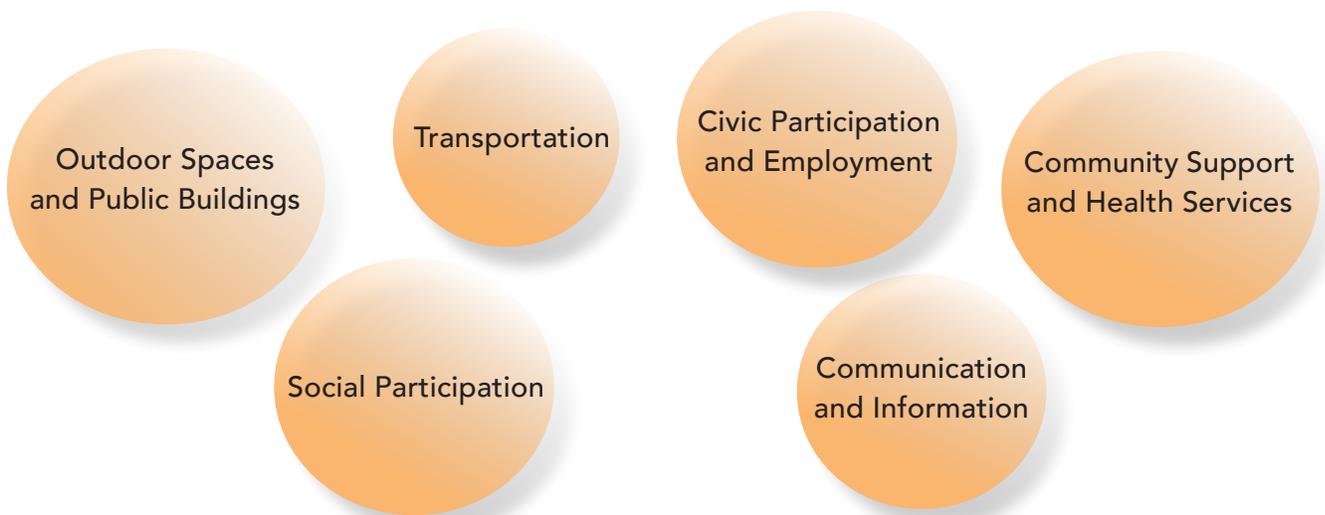


Figure 2-4: World Health Organization's dimensions of an age-friendly community that influence, or are influenced by recreation

## 2.4 Summary of Relevant Plans and Studies

This section provides an overview of relevant plans and studies that were considered in preparing the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. The plans and studies reviewed include:

- Dufferin County Official Plan 2014
- Town of Orangeville Official Plan 2013 (under review)
- Cycling and Trails Master Plan 2019
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan 2019
- Age-Friendly Community Action Plan 2016-2019
- Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan 2010-2020
- Parks Master Plan 2015
- Cultural Advantage Plan 2014
- Destination Assessment 2019
- Indoor Facility Assessment Study 2014
- Land Needs Assessment Study 2016

As part of consultations undertaken in developing the Master Plan, a workshop was held with Town staff to identify actions from these plans that: have been completed, are underway, are not yet started, or are no longer relevant.

Below is a brief summary of each plan or study followed by key concepts or findings considered in the Plan's assessments and recommendations.

### Town of Orangeville Official Plan

The Official Plan contains high level policies for the provision of open space for recreation. It directs the Town to maximize opportunities presented by existing facilities and open spaces, and to work towards an integrated off-road trail system throughout the Town and connecting to Island Lake Conservation Area. The Plan also lays out park conveyance policies and park location and design considerations. The Plan is currently under review.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- support for enhancing and preserving the urban forest; maintaining a pleasant residential setting; promoting sustainability, health, quality of life, and parks/trail-based recreation; and increasing the forest cover through native species plantings on private lands as the community develops
- the plan contained the following park provision targets: Neighbourhood parks - 1.0 hectare per 1,000 population; Community parks - 0.8 hectares per 1,000 population; and total 1.8 hectares parkland per 1,000 population
- direction to work with Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to enhance 'quality and accessibility' in Island Lake. This has been ongoing with the creation of

the floating stage and the upcoming addition of shade structures by CVC

- neighbourhood design policies that include: developing parks with as much street frontage as possible, promoting walking by providing convenient and safe routes to community facilities and parks, and planting street trees to foster canopied streets

### Cycling and Trails Master Plan

The Cycling and Trails Master Plan was completed in the spring of 2019. The Town has begun considering priority actions for implementation. The goals and objectives of the plan include building capacity in the network by creating multi-use trails that connect places throughout Orangeville, filling in gaps in the existing network, improving accessibility, and addressing specific concerns that may prevent people from using on and off-road facilities.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- recommendations for increased maintenance and snow removal on trails
- partnerships and programs to support resident efforts for active transportation and increased use of trails
- recommendation for cycling programs geared to seniors, women, and children; including facilitating use of trails for active transportation to school



### ORANGEVILLE CYCLING & TRAILS MASTER PLAN



Figure 2-5: Orangeville’s Cycling and Trails Master Plan (2019)

### Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

The Orangeville Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) was also completed in the summer of 2019. The plan was developed by a Town Steering Committee and involved extensive consultation with the community. The plan focuses on 7 themes (with associated goals): Energy and Climate Change; Corporate and Fiscal Sustainability, Economic Development and Culture, Land Use and Planning; Natural Resources and Environment; Social Well-being; and Transportation System.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- maintain and increase natural buffers to protect and connect wetlands, water courses, water bodies, forests, and woodlands
- expand and promote arts, culture and heritage offerings to grow Orangeville’s tourism economy, with a focus on public art, vibrant outdoor spaces and thriving performing arts and festivals
- explore a permanent year-round location for the Orangeville Farmer’s Market

- pursue partnerships for the continued development and maintenance of community gardens
- include native and edible plants and trees in Town landscaping

## Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

The Orangeville Seniors/Age-Friendly Community Committee created this Plan, and is pursuing age-friendly accreditation for the Town. The plan has strategic themes that address key issues including reducing social isolation, cross-departmental planning, accessibility, building awareness and support in the private sector, and addressing ageism.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- continue and expand on technology and Facebook classes for seniors currently being offered through the Public Library
- addressing age-friendliness in open spaces and public places: rest areas, importance of green spaces, safe pedestrian crossings and accessible buildings and walkways
- improve accessibility and signage in public washrooms and multi-use trails

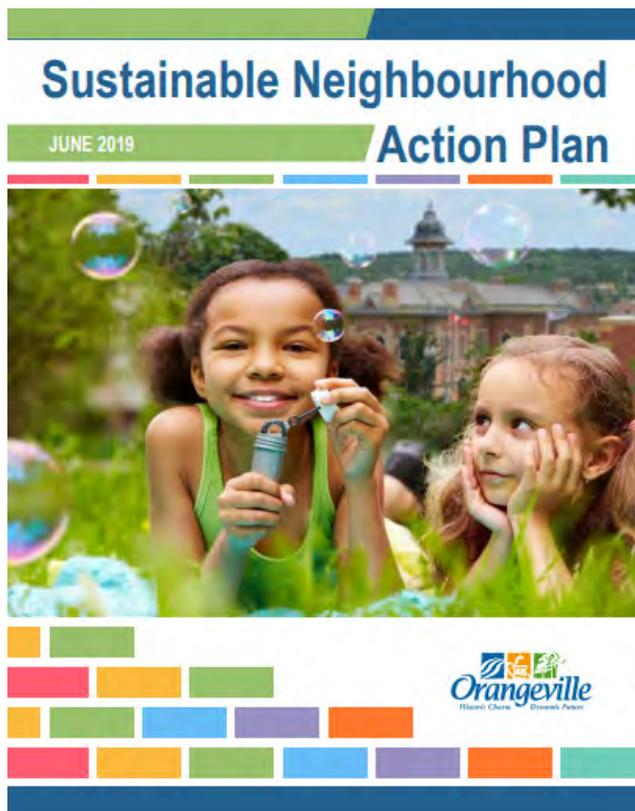


Figure 2-6: Orangeville’s Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (2019)

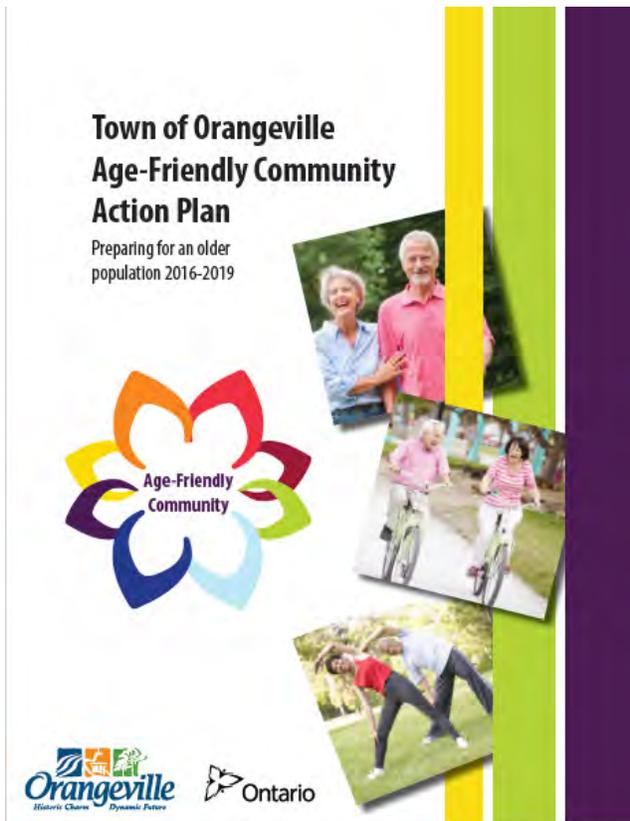


Figure 2-7: Orangeville's Age-Friendly Community Action Plan (2016)

## Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan was prepared in 2010. The purpose of the strategy was to create a new vision and identify the needs and priorities related to parks and recreation services and facilities. Given that we are near the end of the plan's term, many of the actions and recommendations from the Strategic Plan have been implemented.

Key considerations:

- encourage walking to school and other active transportation initiatives: The Town and Upper Grand District School Board currently have a plan in process for a 'walk to school' program
- establish partnerships with various agencies to increase opportunities for children and youth with disabilities: Town has a number of current partnerships that have been fruitful, and indicated a need to continue advancing in this regard
- improve accessibility and remove barriers: All playground updates and building renovations will be accessible, and many have already been completed
- improve marketing and promotion of events and recreation facilities
- review and revise the rates and fees structure particularly regarding non-resident premiums, and subsidies for youth and people with disabilities

## Parks Master Plan

Since the 2015 plan, two new parks have been built (Young Court and Parkinson Crescent), and Morrow Crescent open space has been formalized as a naturalized area. There are three new development sites that may have some type of parkland (a trail, naturalized area or playground most likely); however, these plans have not been confirmed.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- recreation trends include increased participation in female sports, growth in soccer, increased interest in extreme sports and year-round sports, continued growth in baseball, and potential interest in cricket.
- community interest exists in developing a large sports complex to accommodate tournaments. With large parcels of undeveloped land being scarce in Orangeville, the plan suggested that a long-term Town-wide strategy be in place to address this and other sports needs.
- the plan presented a parkland classification system, which the Town has indicated it will be adopting as part of the Official Plan review. We have used this system in the present Plan: Major Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Urban Greens, Natural Areas, and Trails.

the plan recommended developing a number of policies, including: service delivery policies that recognize community organizations;

policies for partnerships; policy to coordinate parkland acquisition with school sites; policies to require dedication of land for future trails and pathways; and policies to address accessibility requirements of AODA

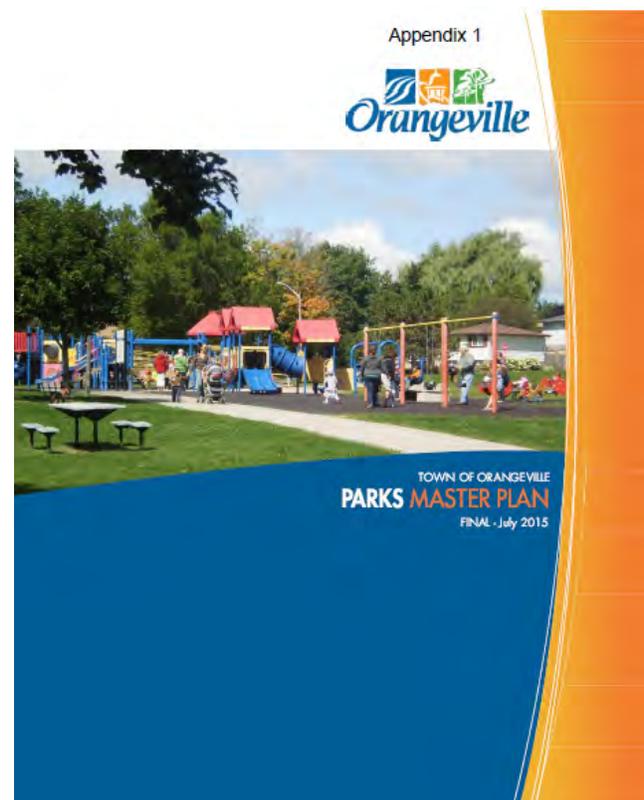


Figure 2-8: Orangeville's Parks Master Plan (2015)

## The Cultural Advantage Plan

The Cultural Advantage Plan was prepared in 2014, and the Town has made progress on many of the recommendations. For example, the Town has supported many musical and culinary events, advanced inter-departmental work to promote culture, and worked with community partners to improve marketing and promotion of cultural events. The plan identified four strategic themes through consultation: Leading and Connecting (Town taking a leadership role and connecting with community partners); Capacity and Place (accessible and affordable, protect heritage assets); Identity and Innovation (build the Orangeville brand and identity on the foundation of its heritage and cultural strengths, develop supporting policies); and Creative Growth and Investment (invest in and support cultural programs).

Key considerations for:

- integrate culture throughout all departments and branches, including Recreation and Facilities & Parks
- take advantage of municipal sites (including recreation facilities and parks) to enhance access and availability of cultural programs
- the Town has plans to initiate a Cultural Centre Feasibility Study, if funding can be accessed including considering the second floor of the visitor centre. The target was to have a dedicated culture centre built within 10 years (by 2024)

- promote the Library as a cultural hub and a place for youth, including a maker space, 3D printing, music recording studio, or other equipment

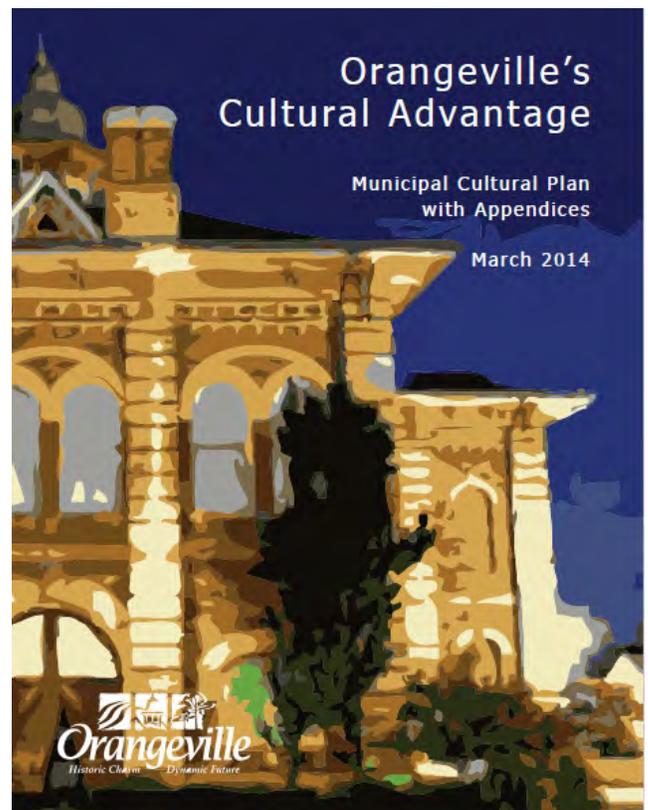


Figure 2-9: Orangeville's Cultural Advantage (2014)

## Destination Assessment

In November 2018 an assessment was conducted, using 'secret shoppers', with Orangeville as a destination; its ability to draw visitors, its key attractions, and the quality of the Downtown core. The report identified strengths and areas for improvement, and provided specific suggested actions.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- they were very impressed by the sports facilities in Town (specifically mentioned were: Rotary Park, Alder Community Centre, Murray's Mountain, and tennis courts) and suggested that Orangeville work to market itself to be known for its sports facilities
- the art sculptures around Town were considered one of its greatest assets. These are already somewhat integrated into recreation facilities (e.g. wooden carvings in front of Tony Rose and Alder), and could be considered something to continue/expand in recreation facilities and parks
- the assessment also included suggestions for creating programmable public space in the downtown: one option is closing off a street (their choice was Mill street, if a new retail mix could be introduced) to create a pedestrian only street that is ideally compatible with events and festivals
- a second option is to create a plaza that is programmed with activities such as: music, vendors, food trucks,



Assessment Findings and Suggestions Report

Orangeville, Ontario  
January, 2019

ROGER BROOKS  
International

Figure 2-10: Destination Assessment (2018)

climbing walls, portable games and play structures

## Indoor Facility Assessment

The Indoor Facility Assessment study was completed in 2014, and the Town is due to update this assessment.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- review ice pad usage and operating costs and make a determination for retaining/removing/replacing the ice rinks at Tony Rose
- the assessment suggested exploring space to provide a wider range of fitness studio programs. Since then, the Town developed the Saputo Centre to fill that gap
- continue to work with school boards for use of gymnasiums

- provide spaces for youth and older adults. The Town has made efforts to provide youth spaces (e.g. Alder lobby, Saputo Centre), with mixed results
- develop strategies to increase non-prime time ice usage

## Land Needs Assessment Study 2016

The Land Needs Assessment Study was completed in 2016, and indicated that the Town could only achieve the intensification target set by the Province of 1,800 units by approving densities that are not appropriate for the Town. The study suggested that the Town ask the Province to reduce the intensification target, or to redelineate the built boundary to include developments in the Greenfields. The analysts did not use the maximum allowable residential densities in their calculations considering that new residential developments would dedicate some land to roads and parks. It is not clear from the text, but presumably parkland dedication numbers were used to estimate how much land would be set aside for parks (which would translate to either Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks or Urban Greens, and most likely not a Major Park that occupies a large area). The study also indicated that compared to similar municipalities, Orangeville has fewer employment lands.

Key considerations for the Master Plan:

- this study highlights the scarcity of land in Orangeville. Conversion/use of land for new parks, recreation facilities

or public spaces must consider the impact on residential and employment development

- the study suggests that for the Humberlands, Orangeville’s only large municipally-owned undeveloped land, the north-east corner should be reserved as a major open space that connects with environmentally sensitive lands to the east. The rest of the parcel would include a mix of residential geared to seniors, special care facilities, institutional lands, and/or prestige industrial lands.

## Dufferin County Official Plan

The County Official Plan provides high level direction to lower-tier municipalities, including Orangeville, on the provision of parks and recreation services.

Key considerations for Master Plan:

- Orangeville is identified as a growth centre and urban settlement area
- municipalities are encouraged to acquire new parks, improve existing parks and facilities and address existing park deficiencies
- municipalities should provide opportunities for active, passive and programmed community recreation and leisure, and contribute to the conservation and protection of open space and the natural environment

- municipalities are encouraged to work cooperatively with partners including the private sector, government ministries, resource agencies, and non-governmental organizations
- the County Plan places an emphasis on conservation of open spaces and natural environments, as well as promoting natural resource-based recreational opportunities
- encourages the development of connected trail and linear park systems, including retaining land where necessary

# Programs + Events

3.0

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## 3.0 Programs & Events

### 3.1 Introduction

Orangeville offers a range of programs and events for all ages, from infant to senior, including sport, physical activity, non-sport, learning, and culture programs. This section provides an overview of the supply of programs (and events), community interest in programs based on consultations and surveys, and recommendations for future programming and events, under the following headings:

- Preschool and Parent and Tot
- Children and Teens
- Adult
- Seniors
- Families / All-ages
- Non-sport programming
- Events

The section also discusses current and potential partnerships, and policies for review and development.

### Regional Considerations

As noted throughout this Plan, Orangeville provides recreation services to many residents of neighbouring municipalities. As such, program provision should consider current and future demand from outside of Orangeville, as well as from Orangeville residents.

Orangeville's role as a regional recreation provider, and what this means for programs and events, is discussed further in Section 6, Service Delivery.

## 3.2 Assessment

### Preschool and Parent and Tot

Preschool programs can fall into two broad categories: those with parent participation ('parent and tot'), and those in which the child (up to age 5) participates independently.

#### Supply: Parent and Tot

The Town provides five parent and tot classes: baby & me aquafit, family yoga (all ages), strollercise, parent & tot dance, and parent & child skating lessons. All are required registration, and all are located at Alder Street Recreation Centre, except for parent & tot dance, which is also offered at Tony Rose. The library also provides various drop-in reading and art programs for parents and children including Early Child Ready to Read, Free Build Lego, Family Movies and Paws to Read. Parents can also attend the EarlyON Orangeville Centre (located at the W. & M. Edelbrock Centre), which is a drop-in centre with free play, singing circles, storytimes, crafts and other activities.

#### Supply: Preschool (0-5 years)

In terms of independent programming for the 0 to 5-year age range, the Town currently offers three dance classes (ballet, hip hop, jazz) and three sport classes (soccer, multi-sport, skating). Of the sport organizations surveyed for this Plan, two (out of 24) offer programs for children 0 to 5 years old.

## Interest: Parent and Tot

The telephone survey revealed somewhat conflicting responses regarding demand for parent and tot programming. When asked if there is a group most in need of programs, 50% replied yes, and of that 50%, 29% indicated 'parent and tot' programs are needed (the third highest selection of all responses). However, when asked which programs/age groups the respondents' household would be interested in, 'parent and tot' was near the bottom of the list with 26% indicating interest in 'parent and tot' programs, and 57% indicating not applicable. Interest in 'parent

and tot' programs was slightly higher in the online survey, with 34% indicating members of their household would be interested in programming for parents and tots, and 43% indicating not applicable (Figure 3-1).

### Household Interest:

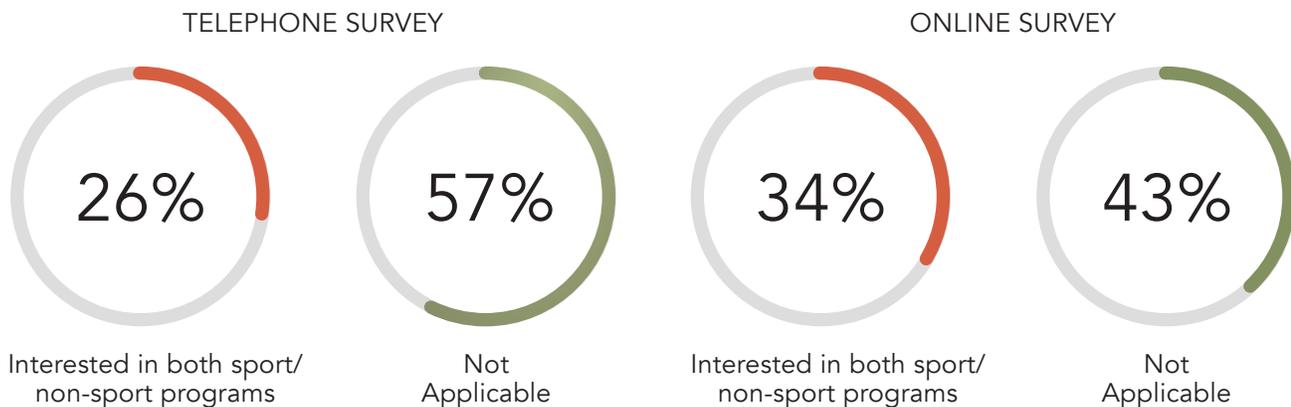


Figure 3-1: Interest in parent and tot programs (telephone and online surveys)

### Interest: Preschool 0-5

Fifty-two percent of telephone (and online) survey respondents indicated there is a need for more preschool programs, and of that, 36% indicated their household would be interested in programs for children 0 to 5 years old, and 54% indicated it was not applicable to their household. The number of households interested was slightly higher in the online survey at 42%, with 41% indicating not applicable (Figure 3-2).

#### Household Interest:

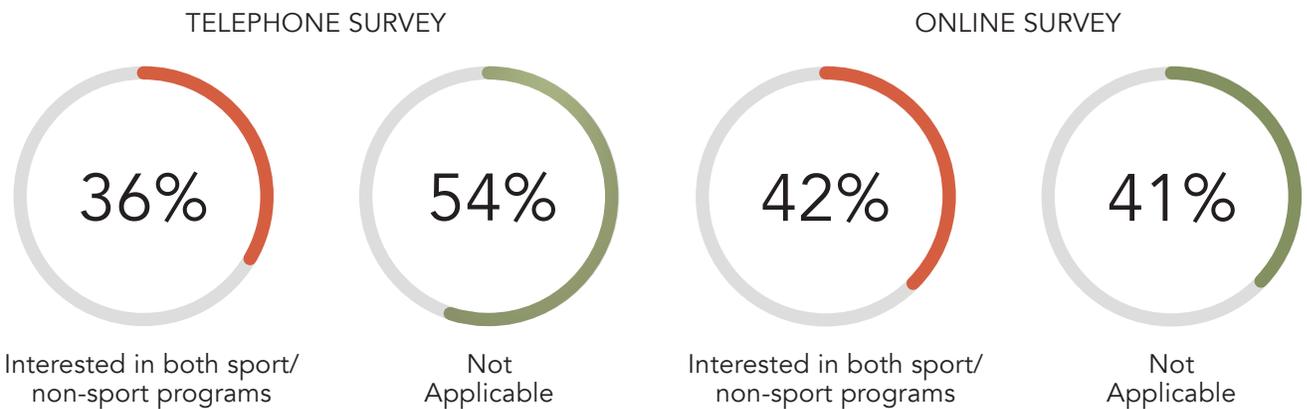


Figure 3-2: Interest in preschool programs (telephone and online surveys)

## Assessment and Recommendations

For children, participation in physically active and social recreation is a preventive approach to potential lifelong health issues such as obesity and diabetes, and establishes a lifetime 'personal culture' of activity and connectivity with others. The International Physical Literacy Association (May 2014) defines physical literacy as "the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities."<sup>1</sup>

Physical and Health Education Canada's definition (2010) notes, "Individuals who are physically literate move with competence and confidence in a wide variety of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the whole person."<sup>2</sup> It advocates age-appropriate, progressive learning and engagement in physical activity, starting at an early age, to ensure life-long, active lifestyles. The Canadian 24-hour Movement Guidelines for the early years<sup>3</sup> recommends 180 minutes per day of physical activity (along with sufficient sleep and quality sedentary behaviours) for children aged 0 to 4 years for healthy growth and development.

Evidence on the detrimental effects of a tendency toward indoor, isolated and screen-

based activity continues to emerge. From a medical perspective, a relatively recent study from the CNIB and the University of Waterloo suggests that "the eyesight of Canadian kids' is worsening with more children getting diagnosed with nearsightedness as early as six years old - much sooner than in previous generations. The prevalence of nearsightedness in kids of all age groups is steadily rising,"<sup>4</sup> and this trend is occurring around the world. In Canada, 76% of 3-4-year-olds are getting more than the recommended screen time.<sup>5</sup>

Traditionally, myopia starts at 12 or 13 years of age and worsens until the age of 21 when eye shape changes stop. While there is no definitive cause of the current trend, it is speculated that "too much screen time or less time spent outdoors" could be contributing factors. The article describes eyes as "muscles that need to be flexed,"<sup>6</sup> and that too much 'close work' with screens and not enough 'distance work' outdoors may be shaping the trend towards myopia. Canadian research has found that the risk of nearsightedness is 15% less among children who spend more time outdoors.

1 <http://www.physicalliteracy.ca>

2 <http://www.phecanada.ca/programs/physical-literacy/what-physical-literacy>

3 [https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2Fe9f5d24a-2519-4991-b476-44a750004d91\\_participaction-24hour-guidelines-early-years-0-4\\_en.pdf](https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2Fe9f5d24a-2519-4991-b476-44a750004d91_participaction-24hour-guidelines-early-years-0-4_en.pdf)

4 <http://globalnews.ca/news/3026756/heres-why-more-6-year-old-kids-are-developing-eye-problems/>: October 26, 2016

5 [https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2Fe9f5d24a-2519-4991-b476-44a750004d91\\_participaction-24hour-guidelines-early-years-0-4\\_en.pdf](https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2Fe9f5d24a-2519-4991-b476-44a750004d91_participaction-24hour-guidelines-early-years-0-4_en.pdf)

6 <http://globalnews.ca/news/3026756/heres-why-more-6-year-old-kids-are-developing-eye-problems/>: October 26, 2016



“Access to active play in nature and outdoors - with its risks - is essential for healthy child development. We recommend increasing children’s opportunities for self-directed play outdoors in all settings - at home, at school, in childcare, the community and nature.”<sup>7</sup>

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7 <https://www.participaction.com/en-ca/thought-leadership/research/2015-position-statement-on-active-outdoor-play>

## Parent and Tot

Given the relatively limited demand evident from the surveys, and the numerous offerings currently available in Town, there does not appear to be a need for more or expanded 'parent and tot' programming. Additionally, programs and events that are 'all-ages/family' would also serve preschool children and their caregivers. These programs are discussed later in this section.

## Preschool

The analysis of programs in other municipalities revealed a great number and variety of programs for ages 0 to 5 years in comparable municipalities. Orillia for example, has a number of learning-based, independent, programs for 0 to 5 year-olds such as Super Hero or Fairytale-themed sessions focused on literacy and crafts, science programs. Other learning programs include 'creepy crawlers' and 'animal antics' where each week children learn about a new insect/animal and do related crafts. There is also a broader range of sport/physical programs for this age group including cross-fit and martial arts among others.

Looking at the demand stated in the surveys for programming for children aged 0 to 5 years (independent of parents), and those is provided in other municipalities, Town programming should be expanded. The Town offers programs for 0-5-year-olds only in one or two time slots per week. Increasing the number of slots for activities may satisfy the demand seen in the surveys. Currently, a number of the programs have a Saturday morning slot and a weeknight evening slot. However they all begin

at 5 p.m. or later, which for commuting parents is likely too early, putting increased demand on the Saturday morning slot. If possible, aligning children's programming with start and finish times of adult programming can facilitate participation (of both children and parents) by allowing parents to drop their children off at a program while they attend their own. Determining the best time - not too early but also not too late for children's bed times - may take additional consultations with parents. Based on the variety of programs seen in other municipalities, and the lack of programming by private providers for this age group, the Town should try to offer a wider range of programs for 0 to 5-year-olds, particularly non-sport programs such as learning and arts (Figure 3-3).



Figure 3-3: Surveys indicated a need and interest in expanded programming for preschoolers

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participation in physically active and social recreation, particularly outdoors, is a preventive approach to potential lifelong health issues.</li> <li>– The Town provides five parent and tot classes, and in addition, the library and EarlyON centre also provide parent and tot activities and programs. In the resident surveys, a large proportion of respondents indicated that there is a need for more parent and tot programs, but a considerably lower proportion indicated interest in parent and tot programs.</li> <li>– The Town provides six classes for preschool (aged 0-5) children (independent of caregiver), with additional programs (dance, music etc.) offered by private providers in Town. Surveys indicated a need and interest in expanded programming for preschoolers. Comparable municipalities offer a larger number and variety of programs for this age group.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Consider adding time slots for popular preschool classes</li> <li>– Expand non-sport and sport preschool programs, with a particular emphasis on non-sport programs.</li> <li>– Aim to align preschool program timing with adult programs on the weekend and evenings after 6:00 pm</li> <li>– Monitor enrollment and waitlists to identify increases in demand for new/more ‘parent and tot’ programs</li> </ul>

Figure 3-4: Preschool and parent and tot summary and recommendations

## Children and Teens

### Supply: Children and Teens

Orangeville has a number of non-municipal providers for both non-sport/cultural and sport programming for children and teens. Cultural programs include a variety of visual arts, dance, drama and music lessons. The Town offers a small number of arts programs for children (ballet, hip hop/breakdance, Jazz, cooking and visual art), but does not offer this type of programming for teens over 13 years old.

The Library offers a number of programs for tweens and teens: Tween Club, Teen Advisory Group, Battle of the Books, Club Art, and ARTS for teens. Limited teen programming by the Town is perhaps reflects low demand (as indicated in the surveys only 19% (telephone) and 36% (online) are interested in programs for teens). However, as discussed earlier, teens (in particular teen girls), are considered at-risk populations that would benefit from the mental and physical support of recreation programming.

A number of the 24 sports organizations that responded to the Master Plan survey serve children and teens, including Twisters Gymnastics, Orangeville & Headwaters Minor Baseball, Orangeville Otters (swimming), Junior B Northmen (lacrosse), Orangeville Tigers (girls hockey), Orangeville Wolves (boys hockey), and Orangeville Hawks (basketball).

Most of the organizations reported stable or growing membership over the past three years. Orangeville Otters saw the most growth with an 80% increase in enrollment over the past

three years. Twisters Gymnastics Club and Orangeville Minor Hockey were the only two organizations to report decreases (4.5% and 6.3% respectively), however their organizations still have the largest number of participants out of all groups that responded (2,000 and 987, respectively). Other organizations serving a large population of children and teens include Minor Lacrosse (750 participants, growth of 15% over the past 3 years), and Orangeville & Headwaters Minor Baseball (OHMBA) (900 participants, 12.5% growth).

All of the organizations indicated they anticipate their participation to remain stable or increase over the next 5 years. The three most reported factors contributing to stability or growth in their programs included interest in the activity (75%), cost of participation (50%), and population growth or available facility time (both 42%). Success of Canadian sports (e.g. recently tennis and basketball) also plays a role in increasing enrollment. OHMBA and the Otters both indicated they would be able to grow their programs if there were more facility space/time available. Facility considerations are discussed in Section 4.0 Facilities.



Figure 3-5: Children and teen participation in recreation in Orangeville appears to be stable or growing

### Outside of Orangeville

Teen Ranch is a facility in Caledon, a 10-minute drive from downtown Orangeville, that offers programs year-round for children and teens including camps, horse riding, hockey, BMX riding and retreats. It is run by the non-profit Christian Camp & Conference Association, although the programs are non-denominational and open to those of all faiths.

### Youth Space

The Door is a youth centre located in downtown Orangeville and is run by the charity Highlands Youth for Christ. It is a safe space where youth can play video games, pool, other games, and just hang out. Consultations with community groups revealed there is a need for more unstructured, casual space for teens to gather.

### Aquatics

Swimming lessons are Orangeville's most in-demand program, and are offered for most age groups (including parent and tot and preschool). Discussion on aquatics programs is relevant for all ages, but they are most popular with the child and teen age groups. Lessons fill up quickly, and run close to or at capacity. Swim lessons are also popular with non-residents from surrounding communities, and who make up a substantial portion of registrants. In addition to Town lessons, the Orangeville Otters Swim Club offers competitive swim programs, and operates out of Town facilities.

Small numbers of residents mentioned improving/increasing swimming in the online and telephone surveys (less than 3%). Attendees at the first open house felt very strongly that both pools (Tony Rose and Alder) remain open to accommodate aquatics programs (swimming lessons as well as aquafit and lifeguarding etc.), as they are very well

attended, and some noted that the Alder pool is overcrowded during lessons. Considerations for increasing pool programming are necessarily linked to the provision of pools, and is discussed further in the Facilities section.

### **Interest: Children**

Children (ages 6 to 13 years) were identified in the telephone survey as a group interested in more/expanded sport and non-sport programming (29%). At the same time, the majority of respondents selected 'not applicable' for children (51%), indicating there are no children in their household (Figure 3-6).

In the online survey, 70% indicated interest in expanded programming for children, and only 8% responded not applicable (Figure 3-6).

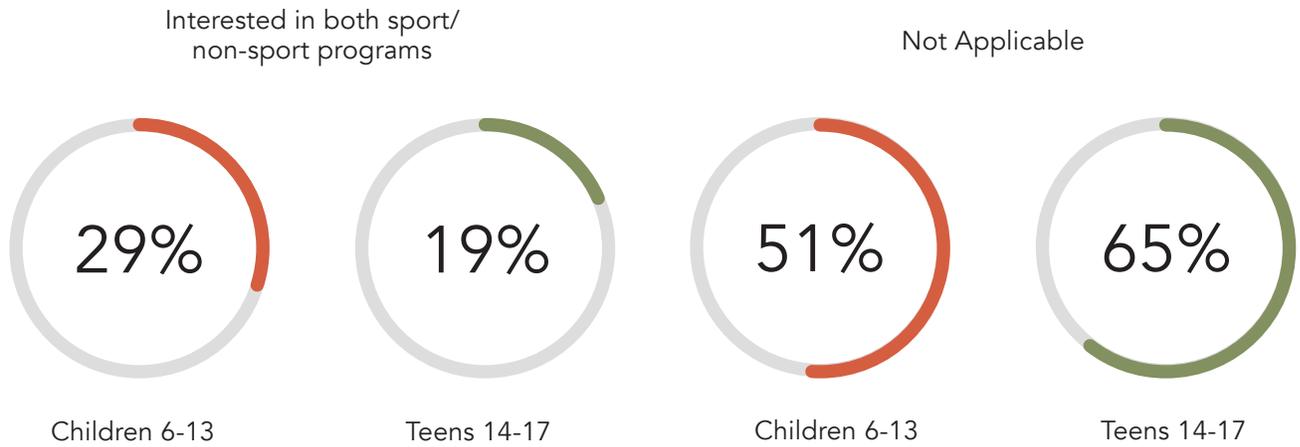
The discrepancy here in numbers between telephone and online findings is likely due to sample bias in the online survey. Typically, those who self-select to participate in open surveys have a particular interest in recreation, and are more likely already service users.

### **Interest: Teens**

Teenagers (ages 14 to 17 years) were also identified in both surveys as a group interested in more/expanded sport and non-sport programming. As with children, the majority of respondents to telephone survey selected 'not applicable' for teens (65%), indicating there are no teens in their household, and 19% indicated interest in expanded programming (Figure 3-6). In the online survey, almost equal proportions demonstrated interest in more programs for teens (36%), and not applicable (40%) (Figure 3-6).

Household Interest:

TELEPHONE SURVEY



ONLINE SURVEY

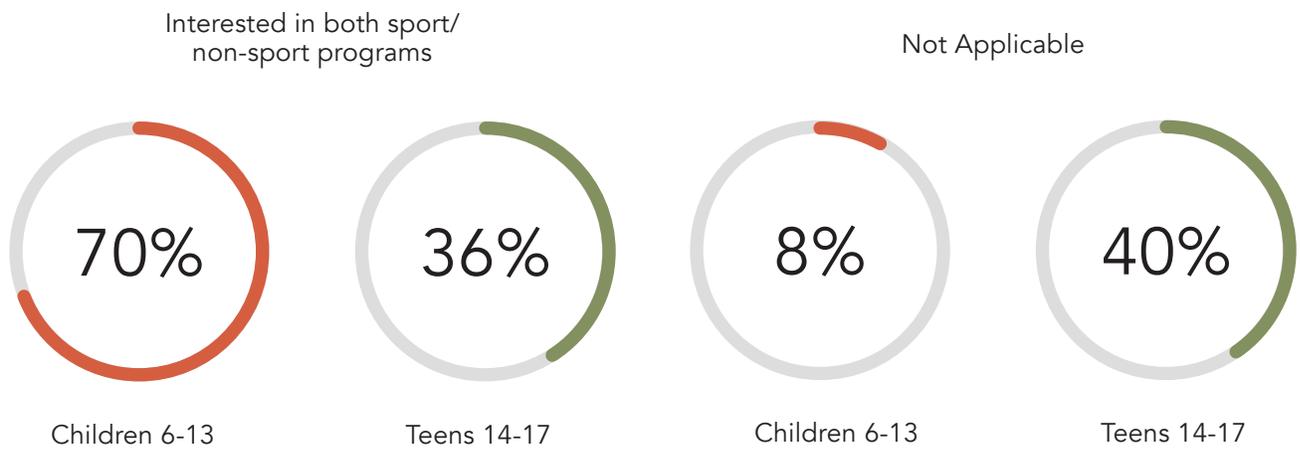


Figure 3-6: Interest in child and teen programs (telephone and online surveys)

## Assessment and Recommendations

The importance of recreation on child development, as discussed above in the preschool section, is equally relevant for children of all ages, and through the teen years. As children enter their teens, many begin to experience mental health struggles due to hormonal changes, social problems, school pressures, etc.

**“In the latest results of a long-running landmark survey of Ontario Grade 7 to 12 students, 46 per cent of girls and 23 per cent of boys indicated high levels of psychological distress, including feeling nervous, hopeless or worthless. Two-thirds of Ontario college and university students experienced overwhelming anxiety in the last year while 45 per cent were so depressed it was difficult to function. For youth ages 15 to 24, suicide is the No. 2 cause of death, behind motor vehicles... Fully 75 per cent of mental health issues begin prior to age 25.”<sup>8</sup>**

As such, the physical and mental benefits of recreation can play an important role in the health and wellbeing of teens. This is not to suggest that recreation can or should replace medical treatment for clinical mental health issues. It has a key role to play in both prevention and recovery, however, through the positive effects of physical activity and social connection on mental health.

Not only does physical activity positively impact emotional health, a growing body of evidence indicates that physical activity is essential for a healthy brain, leading to improved:

- thinking and learning
- emotional regulation and self-control
- problem-solving ability
- memory
- brain plasticity – the growth of new brain tissue
- stress management
- ability to cope with anxiety and depressive symptoms
- self-esteem and self-worth
- attention and focus<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Treble, P. (2016, October). *Sharing the limelight*. *Maclean's Magazine*, 129(40), 48.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.participaction.com/en-ca/resources/report-card>

Despite the importance of physical activity, according to ParticipACTION's 2018 physical activity report card, only 39% of 5 to 17-year-olds are reaching the recommended movement guidelines for their age group.

In addition, 51% of 5 to 17-year-olds are engaging in more screen time than is recommended by the Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for recreational screen-based sedentary behaviours.<sup>10</sup>

**“For better brain health, all children and youth should be physically active on a regular basis. In addition to physical health benefits, physical activity also improves cognition, brain function and mental health.” - Expert Statement on Physical Activity and Brain Health in Children and Youth<sup>11</sup>**

The following indicators are those that are particularly relevant to providing youth recreation services in the area of health and wellness: 6% are experiencing anxiety and/or depression, 33% are experiencing elevated psychological distress, and 10% had serious thoughts about suicide in the past year.

As discussed earlier, recreation can play an important role in improving wellbeing. For example, Mood Walks (<http://www.moodwalks.ca>) is a province-wide initiative that promotes physical activity in nature, or “green exercise,” as a way to improve both physical and mental health. Led by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario, in partnership with Hike Ontario and Conservation Ontario, Mood Walks provides training and support for community mental health agencies, social service organizations and other community partners to launch educational hiking programs, connect with local resources, and explore nearby trails and green spaces. In 2016, the Mood Walks for Youth in Transition project supported 41 organizations across Ontario to launch new hiking groups for youth who are at risk of, or experiencing, mental health issues. Programs like Mood Walks also align with getting active outdoors in nature, which is the experiential link necessary to developing an appreciation for the natural environment and a conservation-minded perspective, which appeals to youth today.

10 <https://www.participaction.com/en-ca/resources/report-card>

11 [https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2F5e923384-b01a-4680-a353-60b45c271811\\_2018\\_participaction\\_report\\_card\\_-\\_highlight\\_report\\_0.pdf](https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2F5e923384-b01a-4680-a353-60b45c271811_2018_participaction_report_card_-_highlight_report_0.pdf)

## Children 6-13

With culture/non-sport and sport programming for children, the Town should continue to expand programs at the introductory level in visual arts, cooking, music and dance. Consultations indicated there is sufficient demand to increase these programs and, as introductory level activities, should not compete with small business in the Town offering more advanced or specialized programs. Town programs should be designed to introduce children to different activities, and teaching the fundamentals. Participation beyond this level should be deferred to a private provider.

In addition, the Town should look for opportunities to design new outdoor programs and/or move existing programs outdoors if suitable. In doing so, program participants will receive both the mental and physical benefits of the program activity, plus the time spent outdoors. The Town already partners with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC) to run summer camps Island Lake Park. The camps are very popular, and this year the CVC has plans to increase amenities to support campers, such as picnic shelters. In many cases, programming outdoors is no more complicated than running the same program indoors, provided there is shade, water, and washroom facilities available. Suitable parks for these purposes will be discussed further in the Parks section.



## Programming during COVID-19

At the time of this writing, some municipalities are beginning to plan how to re-commence recreational programs, particularly camps, as we enter the summer. Research and understanding of how COVID-19 is transmitted is constantly evolving, but at this time it is generally agreed that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is much lower when outdoors.<sup>12,13</sup> Along with other safety measures (such as smaller group numbers, personal protective equipment, reduced sharing of equipment etc.), moving programs outdoors when possible will help participants maintain distance between themselves, and reduce the risk of transmission, offering some comfort to parents who need or wish to enroll their children in camp or other activities. Fitness programs for adults that require minimal equipment, such as Zumba and yoga, can also be moved outdoors with relative ease. Moving programs outdoors will improve the safety of programs as the Town re-opens. The Parks section discusses what parks need to host programs, and which parks currently have the required amenities.

12 <https://globalnews.ca/news/6973246/coronavirus-outside-visits/>

13 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/covid-19-outdoor-transmission-risks-1.5549490>

## Teens

Engaging teens in recreation is not an easy task and many communities struggle with the parallel issues of an apparent deficit in meaningful leisure time pursuits for teens, and not being able to ‘hit’ on solutions that will excite and attract high levels of participation by this age group.

In addition to nature-based activities like Mood Walks, the trend to programming that is physically challenging is one that may be particularly attractive to youth who are interested in ‘competition’ against themselves or others as individuals. These activities are fun and energizing, while building skills and social community. While this type of programming can require fairly sophisticated equipment, along with indoors venues to provide, there may be opportunities to create outdoor challenges in Orangeville with the direct involvement of youth, and sponsors in the community.

Orangeville should consult with teens directly to learn more about their interests before implementing new programs. Ways to engage teens in program development include surveys, the Library’s Teen Advisory Group, and/or other focus groups organized for this purpose. The Town could also partner with the school boards to improve the reach of their engagement efforts.

Examples of programs being implemented for teens in other municipalities include teen only fitness (e.g. yoga, weight training etc.), STEAM (coding, robotics etc.), and educational programs that can help build teens’ resumes

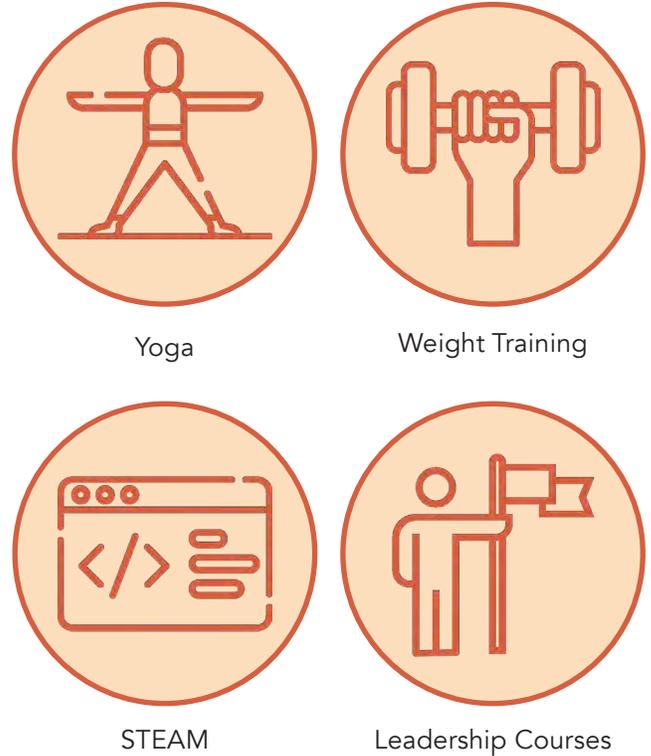


Figure 3-7: Examples of programs for teens offered in other municipalities

(such as entrepreneurship, or leadership courses) (Figure 3-7). Recognizing the difficulties in attracting teen participation, programs that offer something tangible upon completion (such as resume building), may increase involvement. These types of programs, along with non-programmed, teen social space (discussed more in section 4.0 Facilities) may help satisfy the gap in teen programming.

Regarding aquatics, while residents perceive a lack of available lesson times and crowded pools as the main issues to address in aquatics, consultations with staff revealed their main challenge is staffing. There is difficulty finding instructors and lifeguards, and this

was identified as the primary challenge in being able to provide more lessons. Staff identified the increase in the minimum wage as a key obstacle to hiring in aquatics. The job is demanding, with significant investment required in training, and the pay is no longer competitive. The situation is not unique to Orangeville, with similar staff shortages and rationales being echoed across many North American municipalities<sup>14</sup> in recent years.

The factors attributed to the shortage include:

- extensive training, and significant investment of time and money, for what is a part-time job for most
- more students taking on extra course work or jobs in their field
- at the same time, demand for swimming lessons is increasing

While other municipalities are still struggling with this, some strategies being implemented include:

- an accelerated training/certification program for pre-teens/teens with an extensive swim background
- financial aid that can be applied to cover training courses, and/or reducing the cost of courses
- being proactive about recruiting at high schools

In addition, it may be that the job market is evolving and it is time to shift the focus from lifeguarding/instructing as a student job, to other populations who often seeking steady part-time work, such as retirees and stay-at-home parents, or to newcomers who may be eager to obtain quality, Canadian work experience.

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14 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-lifeguard-shortage-pool-hours-1.5221284>

<https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9803164-lifeguard-shortage-a-concern-for-niagara-municipalities/>

<https://lfpres.com/2015/08/07/lack-of-lifeguards-in-london-and-region-baffling/wcm/cf9b9520-d467-bef7-6d7f-75aee58e7277/>

<https://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-nws-high-heat-closed-pools-no-lifeguards-20180702-story.html>

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sport, non-sport, and culture programs are offered for children and teens by the Town, private providers, and a number of sport clubs (e.g. dance, music, swimming, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, etc.)</li> <li>– The majority of respondents to the telephone surveys selected ‘not-applicable’ when asked about interest in expanded programs for children and teens. However, in the online survey, a large majority indicated interest in expanded programs for children 6-13, and interest/non-interest for teens was almost equal in proportions.</li> <li>– Regarding aquatics, while residents perceive a lack of available lesson times and crowded pools as the main issues to address, consultations with staff revealed their main challenge is recruiting and retaining instructors and lifeguards.</li> <li>– Physical and social recreation continue to play an important part in children’ and teens wellbeing, particularly with the added social and educational pressures as children age. Outdoor recreation is proven to have additional benefits in this regard.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Consult with teens (surveys, focus groups, Teen Advisory Group etc.) before developing teen-oriented programming and spaces.</li> <li>– Partner with school boards in consultation and engagement activities directed to teens.</li> <li>– Offer programs or volunteer opportunities to teens where they can build their resume or obtain high school volunteer hours.</li> <li>– Expand teen non-sport and sport programming offerings at the introductory levels.</li> <li>– Evaluate options to incentivize lifeguarding/instructing positions.</li> <li>– Expand targeted aquatics recruitment efforts beyond students.</li> <li>– Expand children’s programming at the introductory level in sports, physical games and activities, etc.</li> <li>– Look for opportunities to develop new, or move existing, programs to outdoor locations for all ages.</li> </ul>

Figure 3-8: Children and teens summary and recommendations

## Adults

### Supply

Orangeville is well served by a number of private gyms, fitness centres, and martial arts centres.<sup>15</sup> Residents who are members have access to fitness programming held at these establishments, and it is assumed if a resident is a member at one of these clubs, they would not attend similar fitness classes provided by the Town. Generally, municipal fitness offerings are a more affordable choice for those who forgo potentially expensive memberships at private gyms.

In addition to these fitness centres, a number of organizations offer team sports for adults including Orangeville Ladies 3-Pitch, Men's Slo-Pitch, Oldtimers Hockey, and Orangeville Tennis Club among others.

In reviewing the Town's program supply, there are fitness programs offered each weekday. Some require registration (ball room dance, early morning spin, early morning group training), but most are drop-in: Zumba, bootcamp, spin, yogalates, pound, yoga, step (and more). Drop-ins are scheduled from 5:15 pm onwards, with the last class starting at 7:45 pm, meaning there are suitable options, timing-wise, for commuters.

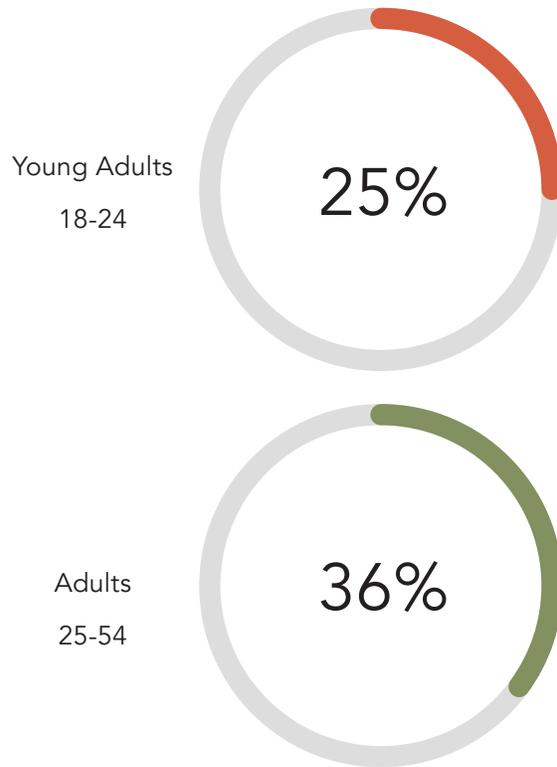
### Interest

A large proportion of respondents to the online survey (48%) indicated that adults aged 25 to 54 years are one of the groups most interested in non-sport programming. Similarly, 36% of telephone survey respondents indicated they are most interested in attending new or expanded programming geared to adults 25 to 54 years of age. Interest for young adults (18-24) was slightly lower in both surveys; 25% in the telephone, and 29% in the online survey (Figure 3-9).

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<sup>15</sup> *Private gyms in Orangeville: Anytime Fitness, Fit4Less, Orangetheory Fitness, 9Round fitness, Bigtyme Fitness & Boxing, CrossFit Brontide, Fitbody Training, CrossFit Orangeville, Kala Yoga Inc., Kushidokai Karate and Fitness, TrainerGames Fitness Centre Orangeville, and Black Belt World Orangeville*

Interested in both sport/non-sport programs



Not Applicable

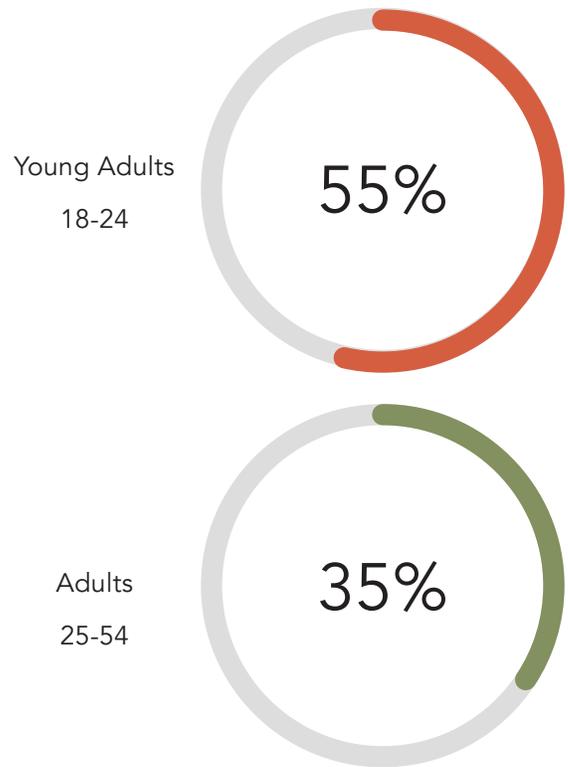


Figure 3-9: Interest in young adult and adult programs (telephone survey)

## Assessment and Recommendations

Adults aged 18 to 64 years should accumulate a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each week, according to Canadian physical activity guidelines.<sup>16</sup> According to Statistics Canada, only 18% of adults are meeting this quotient.<sup>17</sup> The 2018 Pulse Report by ParticipACTION and Mountain Equipment Co-op, a study looking at physical activity in Canadian adults, found that 83% of Canadian adults think that physical inactivity is a serious health issue, and that 82% think that it is up to the individual to address this (e.g. by changing their habits). Just over half (56%) think that the 'daily grind' (working, commuting etc.) gets in the way of being active. These findings are reflected in the results of Master Plan consultations in Orangeville: despite the reported interest in programs by residents, consultations with Town staff indicated that adult group fitness programs are not well attended, and that there is difficulty attracting adults in the younger range (25 to 40-year-olds) to these programs.

In trying to understand the gap between interest and actual activity, the Pulse Report points to societal stigmas about inactivity that may discourage people from making the effort to be active:

“Both physically active and physically inactive people are perceived as being busy but somehow only physically inactive people are also tagged with being lazy and lacking a strong will. We need to address the way we describe individuals who are physically active and physically inactive and make our language more inclusive and encouraging. These descriptions encompass the accepted social value and stigma of active and inactive people, respectively. Active people are seen as dedicated and motivated, armed with the will and determination necessary to lead a healthy, balanced life. Inactive people, on the other hand, are seen as lacking in motivation and drive, with either too little willpower or not enough grit to lead a healthier, more balanced life. It’s possible that the negative stigma and stereotypes surrounding physical inactivity could be the reason people are hesitant to even try to be active. If we change the narrative describing individuals who are active and inactive, physical activity may not seem out of reach for those wishing to make a change.”<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.participaction.com/en-ca/benefits-and-guidelines/adults-18-to-64>

<sup>17</sup> [https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2F55d68455-6812-437a-853a-54c5458a314e\\_participaction-pulse-report-powered-by-mec-en.pdf](https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2F55d68455-6812-437a-853a-54c5458a314e_participaction-pulse-report-powered-by-mec-en.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2F55d68455-6812-437a-853a-54c5458a314e\\_participaction-pulse-report-powered-by-mec-en.pdf](https://participaction.cdn.prismic.io/participaction%2F55d68455-6812-437a-853a-54c5458a314e_participaction-pulse-report-powered-by-mec-en.pdf); page 8

Other potential explanations for low attendance, despite stated interest include:

- private providers in Town may meet the community’s needs better in terms of class time, amenities and instructor quality (real or perceived), or may attract participants through better branding
- drop-in only options do not incentivize repeat visits, as opposed to registered programs where money is paid upfront, or private gyms where membership fees are paid regularly
- consultations indicated that some community members are not willing to pay for a monthly recreation membership with the Town due to the absence of a fitness centre, where they can exercise independently, on their own time
- weeknight classes may not be feasible for the 25 to 40-year age range who may commute for work, and also have young children to tend to. Weekend classes may prove more popular with this cohort
- expressed interest in participation does not necessarily reflect or predict actual participation

Considering these factors, the Town should review branding and advertising materials for adult programs to include encouraging and inclusive messaging to reach those who may be intimidated to join. When implementing a new program, the Town should pilot it as a registered program (as opposed to drop-in or membership fees) to incentivize repeat visits and attempt to solidify attendance. In order to facilitate participation by adults who wish to participate but are restricted by work hours, commuting, and/or children, the Town should expand weekend classes, and where possible, align adult class times with child class times to enable parents to drop their children off at a program while they attend their own.

Currently the Town does not offer many cultural programming options for adults, and private providers in the Town may also not be filling potential demand. The Town offers two dance options (line dancing, and Friday night dances at Tony Rose, which is geared to seniors), but no arts, language, or general interest classes beyond book clubs and speakers series offered by the library. Non-sport/culture programs provided by the Town, which are currently limited, may offer greater potential to attract new participants than sport and fitness programs, for which there are more non-municipal providers. Figure 3-10 presents examples of adult programs provided on other municipalities.



### CITY OF ORILLIA

- fiddle
- drama
- ukulele
- paint
- climbing
- taekwondo
- antiquing
- essential oils
- gardening
- soccer
- dodge ball
- archery
- triathlon



### CITY OF WOODSTOCK

- knitting/crochet
- woodshop
- writers circle
- trivia night
- intro to podcasts
- bingo
- open craft
- water colours
- bowling
- cards
- badminton
- archery

Figure 3-10: Adult programming in Orillia and Woodstock

Short duration programs (e.g. a workshop completed in a few hours, a day or a weekend) are a growing trend, and are ideal for culture/general interest programs. They are also easier to fit in to busy schedules, and do not require an extensive investment of time and money. All these factors make short duration programming ideal for engaging adults.

It is also easier to explore the many different topics/activities that intrigue people (see graphic for ideas, e.g. essential oils, podcasts, gardening etc.), and so allow providers to serve a broader market. For some, this could be the first step to engaging in a program or activity that captures their interest.

One model for this type of programming has been established by the Dovercourt Recreation Association in Ottawa and called the Westboro Brainerly.<sup>19</sup> The website describes this program model:

“Westboro Brainerly offers affordable, enriching single-session classes in food, art and DIY. Taught by quasi-experts, passionate enthusiasts, and seasoned pros, Westboro Brainerly is community-driven and made possible by Dovercourt Recreation Centre.

Classes are brief (usually no more than 3 hours) and inexpensive (averaging \$15 - \$60). Because the Brainerly is a citizen-led affair, classes are largely determined by YOU, the public. You come up with your idea, and provided it meets the basic criteria, you have yourself a class.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.westborobrainery.ca>

If you have little or no teaching experience, no biggie. We just ask that your first class be pro-bono and we'll give you access to a free class of your choosing by another instructor as compensation for your time. After that first class is under your belt, and provided the class is generally well-received, you will be compensated for all future classes you teach at a rate of \$25 per hour. We also compensate you for any material supplies needed for the class.

And it helps if you're comfortable in front of an audience and understand the importance

[of] having a class outline before you enter the classroom. :-)"<sup>20</sup>

This approach fits with many of the topics discussed above including non-sport, general interest programs (visual arts, dance, crafts, heritage, environmental, etc.), and busy schedules. This model is also suitable for programs directed at seniors, which are discussed further below.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.westborobrainery.ca/about/>

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sport and non-sport programming options for adults are provided by the Town, as well as by a number of private providers including gyms and fitness centres.</li> <li>- Interest/non-interest in new programs for adults (25-54) was almost evenly split in the telephone survey, but interest was much higher in the online survey. For young adults (18-24), both telephone and online survey responses were 'not applicable' for the majority. In relation to other age groups, new programs for adults has high support.</li> <li>- There are fewer culture/non-sport/general interest programs available to adults than fitness options, and this is an area to consider expanding.</li> <li>- Adult programming can face challenges in attendance due to, for example: competition with private providers (which is to be avoided), user fee/membership options that are unfavourable, little spare time, and intimidation of trying new activities/exercises</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve branding and advertisement of adult programs, and include encouraging and inclusive messaging.</li> <li>- When implementing a new adult program, pilot it as a registered program as opposed to drop-in.</li> <li>- Expand both sport and non-sport weekend programming for adults.</li> <li>- Attempt to align children's programming times with adult programs to facilitate participation of parents and caregivers.</li> <li>- Expand non-sport programming for adults.</li> <li>- Pilot new adult programs using short-duration, and workshop-style lessons.</li> </ul>

Figure 3-11: Adults Summary and Recommendations

## Seniors

### Supply

The Orangeville and District Seniors Centre is the primary provider of seniors-only programs in Orangeville. The building is located downtown, owned by the Town of Orangeville, and run by the Orangeville and District Seniors Centre charitable organization. The Centre runs approximately 30 programs, including physical activities (fitness, yoga, pole walking, line dancing, Zumba etc.), social events (Tuesday lunches, book club, card games, bingo etc.), general interest classes (painting, knitting/crochet, woodcarving etc.), as well as large annual events such as the Seniors Health and Wellness Expo, which includes speakers, vendors and food. Membership at the Centre can be purchased for \$30/year, and many programs are free, while some have an additional nominal fee. During consultation, Seniors Centre administrators indicated that the programs are very well attended and that they are looking at renting additional facilities to hold programs, or adding another floor to their building to accommodate the demand for programs.

The Town provides several seniors programs including fitness classes, seniors luncheons, and 'sneakers and speakers' which features listening to a guest speaker, walking, and socializing. The drop-in fitness classes geared to seniors are offered morning to midday at Tony Rose and include body circuit, Zumba gold, gentle yoga, line dancing, chair stretch and more. Aquafit at Tony Rose is a popular class, with regular attendees. Aquafit is also

offered at Alder, although the configuration of the parking lot/building makes walking the distance to the pool difficult for some. Seniors also noted that the Alder changerooms are more crowded, which also dissuades them from attending the program. As a busier facility, options to accommodating seniors specific needs at Alder Street should be considered. Program scheduling, for example, may allow for separating seniors from other users in the change rooms before and after programs. Facility considerations are discussed further in the Section 4.0.

The library also provides a number of programs for adults and seniors including tech help, Orange Threads (knit, crochet, cross stitch and books), Coffee Conversation and Books held at local coffee shops, a Storytelling Series, and the 100% Certainty Project, a book club centred on conversations about death.

### Interest

The success of the Seniors Centre, Town and library programs was reflected in community consultations, as seniors were not in the top three groups in need of programming in either survey, or at the open house. In the telephone survey, 13% indicated interest in new/expanded programs for seniors 65+, and 68% indicated not applicable (Figure 3-12). Interest for adults 55-64 was slightly higher at 18%, and selection of not applicable was almost equal at 67% (Figure 3-12). Numbers in the online survey were slightly higher with 27% indicating an interest in programs for seniors, and 52% indicating not applicable. Additionally, the "family/all ages" category

(which can include seniors) was indicated in the top three population groups in need of programs in the online survey, (56%) and at the open house (9 votes), and 46% of respondents in the telephone survey, indicated they are most interested in programs geared to families/

all-ages. Family/all-ages programming is discussed in the following section.

Household Interest:

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

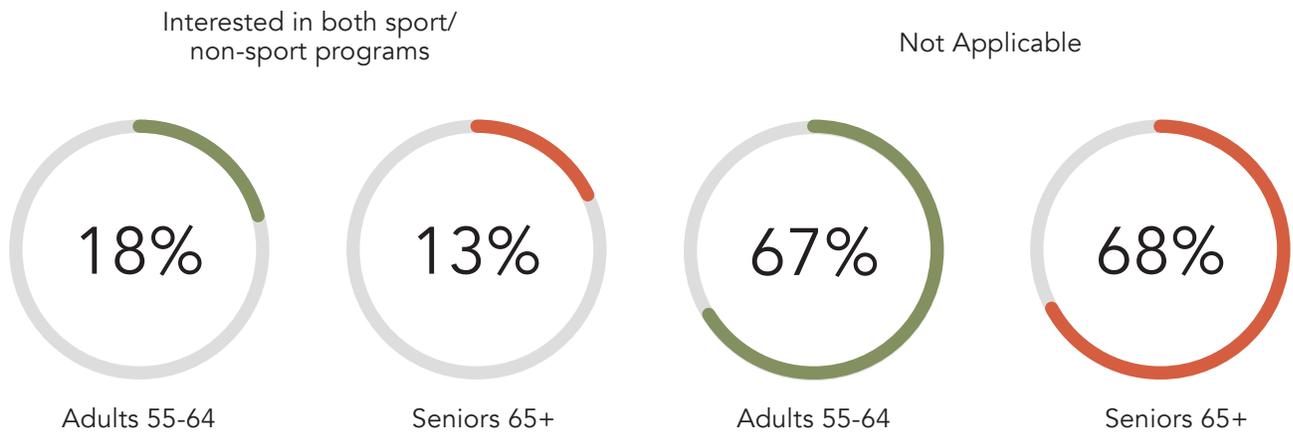


Figure 3-12: Interest in seniors programs (telephone survey)

## Assessment and Recommendations

Physical activity targets remain the same for adults as they age beyond 65 (150 minutes per week<sup>21</sup>), and physical activity becomes even more important to healthy aging as it helps strengthen bones, reduces the incidence of falls and the severity of injury from falls, and slows cognitive decline.<sup>22</sup> Seniors are also at heightened risk<sup>23</sup> for loneliness and isolation, and recreation programs (both sport and non-sport) play an important role in combating that risk by providing social interaction.

Certainly, some family/all-ages programs would be truly suitable for all ages - from small children to adults over 65 years old - such as outdoor concerts or special events. It is not clear from consultations, however, if seniors are interested in programming that involves teens or children. Despite the potential benefits of intergenerational programming (e.g. by strengthening social and family networks and reducing loneliness and isolation), providing intergenerational programs may not prove popular. For example, a Town staff member mentioned in consultations that attendees of

the seniors “sneakers and speakers” series, did not support a proposal to engage youth speakers. Given the extent and success of the programming provided by the ‘seniors-only’ Seniors Centre, and their interest in expanding their services, an appropriate role for the Town may be a more formal partnership, in which the municipality provides space for the Centre to operate its programs.

21 <https://www.participation.com/en-ca/benefits-and-guidelines/adults-65-plus>

22 [https://participation.cdn.prismic.io/participation/ab4a4d1a-35a3-40f1-9220-7b033ae21490\\_2019\\_ParticipACTION\\_Report\\_Card\\_on\\_Physical\\_Activity\\_for\\_Adults.pdf](https://participation.cdn.prismic.io/participation/ab4a4d1a-35a3-40f1-9220-7b033ae21490_2019_ParticipACTION_Report_Card_on_Physical_Activity_for_Adults.pdf)

23 [https://participation.cdn.prismic.io/participation/ab4a4d1a-35a3-40f1-9220-7b033ae21490\\_2019\\_ParticipACTION\\_Report\\_Card\\_on\\_Physical\\_Activity\\_for\\_Adults.pdf](https://participation.cdn.prismic.io/participation/ab4a4d1a-35a3-40f1-9220-7b033ae21490_2019_ParticipACTION_Report_Card_on_Physical_Activity_for_Adults.pdf)

Household Interest:

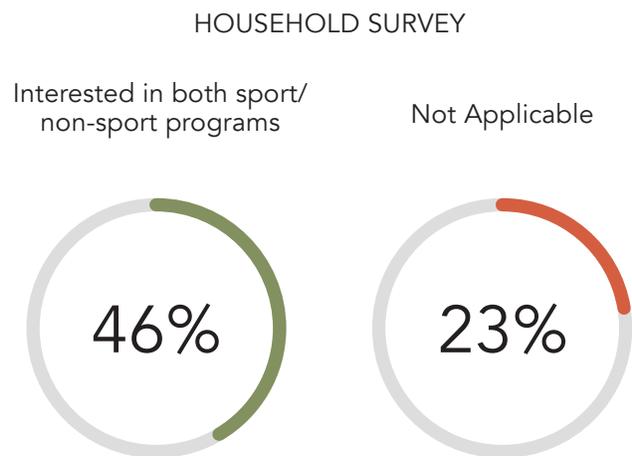


Figure 3-13: Telephone survey results of interest in programs for families/all ages

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seniors are well served by the Orangeville Seniors Centre, which offers approximately 30 programs including, sport, learning and social programs. In addition, the Town and Library offer a number of programs geared to seniors.</li> <li>- The Seniors Centre programs are running at capacity and the Centre is looking to expand its space, or find new space to accommodate the demand</li> <li>- Interest in seniors programs was low in the telephone and online surveys, relative to other population groups, which could reflect the already substantial offerings available.</li> <li>- Family/all-ages programming should be designed with seniors in mind</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Town should partner with the Seniors Centre to support seniors programming, using available space in Town facilities and administered and organized by the Seniors Centre.</li> <li>- Continue to provide aquafit classes and facilitate participation by making necessary changes to program schedules/facilities to improve age-friendliness</li> <li>- Ensure that "family/all-ages" events and programs are accessible and inclusive of seniors</li> </ul>

Figure 3-14: Seniors summary and

## Families/All Ages

### Supply

Programming for families/all-ages in Orangeville is fairly limited. The Town currently offers one family yoga program. Families can also participate in activities together at Town events such as the Canada Day and Family Day events, and movie nights, which are discussed below.

There are also many opportunities in Town for families to engage in sport or non-sport recreation independently, for example, playing sports at Town parks and outdoor facilities (when they are not booked), ice skating, cycling, picnicking, family swims, visiting the library, etc.

### Interest

There was very strong support (Figure 3-15) for family programs in the surveys, with 46% indicating interest in the telephone survey, and 55% in the online survey. Both had relatively low percentages indicating 'not applicable'; 23% in the telephone, and 21.5% in the online survey.

### Assessment and Recommendations

The comparative analysis of 11 municipalities revealed that 7 (including Orangeville), offer programming for family participation. Programs include yoga, Zumba, taekwondo, art, cooking, and swimming. Additional suggestions for family/all-ages programming are discussed in the "non-sport programming" section to follow.

Offering family/all-ages programs, particularly if they are low-cost or free, would address many of the recreation trends discussed previously, including:

- providing opportunities for physical activity that parents can participate in with their children, eliminating the need to find, and pay for, child care
- expanding options to participate in community programs for populations at risk such as teen girls, low income families, seniors, and people with developmental disabilities.
- allowing family members to act as support people for their children, parents, brother, sisters, etc. who require assistance to participate
- promoting and supporting time spent outdoors and/or being active (for events that are outdoor and/or involve physical activity)
- facilitating age-friendliness through intergenerational interaction

Benefits of family leisure have been recorded extensively in research, including family cohesion, marital stability, overall satisfaction with family life, and as an important vehicle for child development.<sup>24</sup> Experts on family leisure provide the following tips on successfully executing programs for full-family participation, including for those with differing abilities:

<sup>24</sup> <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/1d7c/4dc6012238d34986b3f316005bd2649ae189.pdf>



Figure 3-15: Interest in expanded families/all-ages programs is high in Orangeville

- offering a variety of programs that include physical activities, arts, social activities, special events etc.
- designing programs to accommodate a wide range of family compositions, including members of different ages, skill levels, and abilities
- training staff to support the active involvement of families who may have varying support needs.
- hiring therapeutic recreation specialists to collaboratively plan and implement programs for families.<sup>25</sup>
- being mindful that less is more: too much information can overwhelm and distract for a family audience; keep content simple and clear<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/1d7c/4dc6012238d34986b3f316005bd2649ae189.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <https://engagefamilies.org/create-content/less-is-more/>

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programming for families/all-ages in Orangeville is fairly limited, although families can participate in Town events which are discussed below in the events section</li> <li>- There are also many opportunities in Town for families to engage in sport or non-sport recreation independently at parks, facilities, library, theatre, etc.</li> <li>- Interest in family/all-ages programming was very high in the telephone and online survey relative to other groups.</li> <li>- Offering free or low-fee family/all-ages recreation addresses many health and well-being objectives discussed throughout this plan</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand sport and non-sport programming for families/all-ages</li> <li>- Train staff and/or hire specialists to develop and implement programs that are suitable for different ages and different abilities to maximize the success of family/all-ages programs</li> </ul>

Figure 3-16: Families and all-ages summary and recommendations

## Non-Sport Programming

### Supply

As mentioned previously, the Town provides some non-sport programming for the preschool and child age groups including cooking, crafts, babysitting safety courses, and hang-outs or socials for children/teens ages 6 to 14 years, with different themes and activities. The Library provides additional literacy focused programs for preschoolers and families including Ready to Read, Lego Building, Family Movie Matinee, Paws to Read, and TD Summer Reading Club. The library also offers programs for tweens and teens including Teen Advisory Group, Tween club and Battle of the Books, Club Art, and for adults and seniors, including various book clubs, Orange Threads, and Tech Help.

There is a range of art, music and dance programming provided by private entities in Town that serve all ages. For example, Theatre Orangeville is an established theatre company that typically produces 6 shows per year, and also runs after-school and summer programs for children. Almost all private providers offer programs for children and teens, with fewer offering programs for adults and preschoolers.

### Interest

As discussed throughout this chapter, respondents to both telephone and online surveys indicated strong interest for non-sport programming for all age groups, where non-sport programming includes activities such as visual arts, music, culture, crafts, skills development, education, social activities, food and nutrition, etc.

Interest in non-sport programs (as indicated when respondents selected “both sport and non-sport programming”)<sup>27</sup> was highest for the same age groups in both telephone and online surveys: preschool (0-5 years; 36% and 42% respectively), children (6-13 years; 29%, 70%), adults (25-54 years; 36%, 48%), and family/all ages (46%, 55%) (Table 3-1).

### Assessment and Recommendations

Arts, culture and heritage programming has sometimes been overshadowed by the prevailing focus on the physical activity aspects of recreation for health. A Framework for Recreation, however, includes these interests as part of its renewed definition of recreation. Moreover, despite a relatively low profile,

<sup>27</sup> *In the surveys, when asked about need for/ interest in different types of programs, residents were given the option to select “sport”, “non-sport”, and “both”. Throughout, responses were highest for “sport” and “both”. Residents were less likely to select only “non-sport”. To keep the discussion as clear and succinct as possible, we opted to use only the percentages of residents who chose “both” in order to capture a fuller picture of those interested in non-sport programs. More detailed coverage of the results of the surveys can be found in Appendix A..*

community recreation has traditionally included arts, culture and heritage services. This area of programming is quite broad and includes both participants and spectators in the performing and visual arts. Culture and heritage programming comprises that which can be of interest to both local residents and visitors. The potential range of programming in this area is essentially limitless, providing appropriate facilities and resources are available to operate them.

A rapidly growing programming area focuses on food: gardening, cooking and nutrition skills. Programs can range from workshops and demonstrations to recurring community kitchens that work intensively with a group of participants to build skills over time. Programs featuring various ethnic cuisines and targeted to adults, children, seniors and youth are

delivered in a balanced way to encourage food and nutrition education for all. As lifestyles in general have trended increasingly to compromised nutrition and a decline in meal preparation, most people can benefit from improved food literacy.

A review of non-sport programming in comparable municipalities revealed a wide variety of programs for all ages, particularly for teens, adults and seniors, including a number that would be both new and potentially suitable for Orangeville (see Table 3-2).

These programs can be provided as short duration or weekly sessions. To test new programs, the Town could pilot a series of one-time work-sessions on various topics to assess interest, using registrations and post-workshop questionnaires to gauge participants interest in continuing with similar programs, and/or in

Age	Non-Sport % (telephone)	Both Sport and Non-Sport % (telephone)	Non-Sport % (online)	Both Sport and Non-Sport % (online)
Preschool (0-5)	5%	36%	-	42%
Child (6-13)	5%	29%	-	70%
Teen (14-17)	4%	19%	-	36%
Adult (25-54)	11%	36%	8%	48%
Senior (65+)	10%	13%	6%	27%
Parent and Tot	8%	26%	9%	34%
Families/All Ages	16%	46%	6%	55%

Table 3-1: Interest in non-sport programming

new topic areas. Some program ideas (offered in comparable municipalities) for the target age groups from the surveys include:

- Preschool and children: learning (e.g. little doctors, little chemists, little botanists, little ecologists, little paleontologists); introductory music and dance lessons; makerspace/STEAM
- Adults: adult-gear learning (e.g. essential oils 101, cooking, woodworking, visual art, language, canning and food preservation, cheesemaking, chocolate making, photography, etc.)
- Family/all ages: gardening, art, music, learning, etc.
- Teens: while teens were not mentioned as a key group with interest in new non-sport programming, it may be worthwhile to try engaging teens in recreation programs such as teen-oriented learning (entrepreneurship, leadership, other resume-building courses, etc.), fashion/sewing, gardening, games and video games, etc.

(e.g., a commercial kitchen), and/or their expertise in the subject matter (e.g. art, music, etc.), and the Town can provide space, and/or other types of assistance (e.g. administrative, promotion, registration, etc.).

Considering that the types of programs offered are essentially limitless, provided there are suitable spaces and instructors available, the Town should pursue partnerships with individuals, community groups/organizations, and businesses that are interested in implementing these types of programs.

Arrangements may involve, for example, the partner providing a facility to host a program

Non-sport programs offered in comparable municipalities	Target Populations	Provided in Orangeville
Visual Arts (water colours)	All	Y
Drama	All	
Music	6 and up	
Language	Adult	
Learning	Preschool, Child	
Luncheon	Senior	Y
Woodshop	Adult, Senior	
Reading and writing	Preschool, Child, Teen	Y
Antiquing	Adult, Senior	
Essentials 101	Adult, Senior	
Gardening	Teen, Adult, Senior	
Games (video games, trivia, bingo, etc)	Teen, Senior	
Cooking, baking	All	
STEAM	Preschool, Child, Teen	Y
Tech help	Senior	Y
Culture Programs		Y
Entrepreneurship	Teen/Adult	
Photography	Teen, Adult, Senior	
Sewing	Teen, Adult, Senior	
Canning, food preservation	Adult, Senior	
Fashion	Teen	
Cheesemaking	Adult, Senior	
Card making	Senior	
Chocolate making workshop	Adult, Senior	

Table 3-2: Sample of non-sport programs offered in other municipalities

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Town provides some non-sport programming for the preschool, children, and teen age groups. The Library provides additional literacy-focused programs for preschoolers and families, and there is a range of art, music and dance programming provided by private entities in Town that serve all ages.</li> <li>- Survey respondents indicated interest in more non-sport programming, particularly for the following age groups: preschool, children, adults, and family/all-ages.</li> <li>- Non-sport programming options include, drama, visual arts, general interest/hobbies, gardening, cooking, baking, learning, etc.</li> <li>- These programs can be provided as short duration (e.g., 3-hour weekend) or weekly sessions. To test new programs, the Town could pilot a series of one-time sessions in various topics to assess interest, using registrations and post-workshop questionnaires to gauge participants interest in continuing with similar programs, and/or in new topic areas</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pilot new non-sport programming (particularly for adults, seniors, and family/all-ages) using a short duration model</li> <li>- Actively pursue partnership opportunities with community organizations and businesses to develop and implement non-sport programming</li> </ul>

Figure 3-17: Non-sport programming summary and recommendations

## Events

### Supply

Events can play an important role in addressing the evident needs for non-sport, free/low-cost and all-ages/family programming. All current Town-organized events are geared to all-ages/family and are non-sport-based, and all events are free to attend, except for the Blues and Jazz Festival, which has a fee of \$5 per person, with children aged 12 and under free. Town-organized events include:

- Christmas in the Park
- Blues and Jazz Festival
- Santa Claus Parade
- Rib Fest
- Canada Day
- Family Day
- Movie nights

### Interest

Reflecting the importance of these events to the community, both telephone and online surveys reported high attendance at the events: Christmas in the Park (73% telephone; 81% online), Blues and Jazz Festival (69%; 71%), Santa Claus Parade (68%; 69%), Rib fest (58%; 63%), Canada Day (35%; 38%), Family Day (26%; 23%). Movie nights were not included the survey, but consultation with Town staff indicated they are also well-attended.

Volunteer groups consulted agreed that Town events have been successful, and think that the number of events organized by the Town is sufficient. They agreed the Town should not focus its efforts on expanding event offerings,

to avoid competing with non-municipal providers. Council and staff consulted generally concurred with the view that the Town puts considerable effort into events, and should not expand offerings, but rather focus on further enhancing existing events. If the Town decides to develop new events in future, some Council and staff felt that they should be tourism-generating.

### Assessment and Recommendations

There is no hard line between community and tourist/visitor-oriented events in terms of who attends/participates, although events can be geared one way or the other. Indeed, any event - if effectively promoted - has potential to attract visitors from outside the community. The primary distinction between a tourism-generating versus a community-geared event, is the objective or purpose of providing the event. Is the intent to draw visitors/generate revenue, or to build a sense of community?

Local events are important to community building and offer opportunities for residents in different areas of the Town to come together. For visitor-directed events, in particular, satisfying the expectations of tourists needs to be considered - particularly as word-of-mouth is a reliable source of promotion.

The purpose of the event determines the involvement of providers at various levels to develop, finance, and deliver the event (e.g., neighbourhood or Town-serving volunteer group, the Town, the County, commercial sector, etc.). Therefore, the Town should collaborate with the County and/or neighbouring municipalities to determine

future directions for tourism-generating events, based on:

- identifying specific objectives related to tourism vs. local event development and criteria to determine when a local event takes on a tourism-orientation and, therefore, requires additional support from the other parties (e.g. County, non-profit, volunteer group etc.)
- choosing appropriate, locally-specific themes, and/or popular established events to focus and build on
- evaluating the current situation in terms of themes, participation trends, access to appropriate facilities, availability of supporting amenities, service duplications, etc.
- opportunities to coordinate and/or 'piggy-back' smaller events with other recreation initiatives

Tourism/visitor initiatives should be pursued with the County's involvement and support, to ensure available funding is directed to local efforts that benefit larger tourism objectives, and to integrate a regional perspective in planning, promoting and delivering these experiences. In this vein, Dufferin County has recently ended a long-term partnership with the non-profit marketing organization, Hills of Headwaters Tourism Association, and has indicated interest in partnering directly with

the Town of Orangeville on tourism initiatives going forward.<sup>28</sup>

Orangeville has limited accommodations for overnight visitors but additional services are located nearby in Mono and Caledon, including many picturesque bed and breakfasts, with additional hotels/motels available in Brampton. "Visitor packages" might be arranged with nearby motels/hotels and bed and breakfasts outside the Town that include the cost of visits to destinations/events/experiences like those described here. Nevertheless, the lack of overnight accommodations should not be a major deterrent to potential visitors, as Orangeville is within a 1 to 1.5 hour drive of much of the GTA, making it an attractive and easy location for day trips.

Ideally, tourism initiatives should focus on several themes that can be built and promoted as Orangeville-specific. The first step, therefore, is to identify existing events/themes that are unique to Orangeville and amenable to tourism objectives. For example, Orangeville already attracts out of Town visitors (and residents) to shows at Theatre Orangeville, the Blues and Jazz Festival and the Rotary Ribfest. Taste of Orangeville is a newer, smaller event that nonetheless has potential to grow due to Orangeville's many quality restaurants, and opportunities to piggy-back or partner with other attractions (such as 'dinner and a show' with Theatre Orangeville for example). An added benefit of a Taste of Orangeville/Theatre Orangeville collaboration is that it can

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.orangeville.com/news-story/9610395-dufferin-county-caledon-say-goodbye-to-headwaters-tourism/>

occur in the winter months, expanding tourist interest year-round. Christmas in the Park is another winter attraction that is popular with residents that could be combined in a package with other experiences. Another unique feature of Orangeville is the series of wood sculptures around Town by local artists. The Town has offered bus tours around Orangeville to view the sculptures in the past, which could be another attraction to feature in a visitor package, and that could hold year-round relevance, while also serving to support and promote local arts and culture.

Historic places and buildings also have great potential for interpretative programs via plaques and signage along travel routes and

at individual properties/structures. Taking advantage of the fact that many of its historic buildings are located in the downtown, along Broadway,<sup>29</sup> Orangeville provides maps for self-directed historic walking tours. The Orangeville Theatre and downtown library branch are also located in historic buildings, creating an opportunity to combine heritage tourism interests in a visitor package. In addition to interpretative signs of heritage buildings and historic interest points, effective wayfinding signage in general is essential to a positive visitor experience.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.orangeville.ca/home-page/history-of-orangeville>

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Events can play an important role in addressing needs for non-sport, free/low cost and all-ages/family programming.</li> <li>– All current Town-organized events are geared to all-ages/family, are non-sport-based, and most are free to attend</li> <li>– Town events are well-attended. Council and staff agreed there is not a need to expand the number of events, but rather focus on further enhancing the existing events. If the Town decides to develop new events in future, some Council and staff felt that they should be tourism- generating.</li> <li>– Tourism/visitor initiatives should be pursued with the County's involvement and support, to ensure available funding is directed to local efforts that benefit larger tourism objectives, and to integrate a regional perspective in planning, promoting and delivering these experiences</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Continue to work with the Dufferin County, and neighbouring municipalities and other partners to strategize, plan, and offer visitor-directed events.</li> <li>– The Town should take the lead in determining, along with Dufferin County, Orangeville's tourism objectives with relevant public agencies, local volunteer groups, interested commercial operators, etc.</li> <li>– Work with the Town's Economic Development and Culture Division and support efforts to create a variety of visitor packages.</li> <li>– Work with the Town's Economic Development and Culture Division to improve/expand marketing of Town events.</li> </ul>

Figure 3-18: Events summary and recommendations

### 3.3 Program Delivery

Program delivery is one component of the larger recreation delivery system, which is discussed in detail in Section 6. This discussion considers aspects of service delivery specific to programs, such as programming partnerships and program planning and evaluation. Other considerations that encompass not only programming, but parks and facilities (e.g. inclusivity, accessibility, affordability, regional collaboration etc.) are discussed in Section 6.

#### Partnerships

Partnerships are becoming increasingly important and prevalent in municipal recreation programming. Partnerships allow for greater efficiency by sharing resources and optimizing use of existing facilities/programming capacity, and reducing service duplication and costs. In addition, partnerships are an opportunity for continual community engagement, to receive feedback and respond accordingly, and a way for the Town to maintain 'ears on the street'. Orangeville currently works with a number of community partners in different capacities to deliver recreation programming:

- Orangeville and District Seniors Centre: As discussed previously, the organization operates, maintains and programs the Senior Centre, which is owned by Town.
- Dufferin Child and Family Services: offers inclusion help in camps, and subsidizes swim passes for people with special needs. In previous years inclusion help consisted of 1:1 staffing for participants with special needs. In 2019, this model was reduced to 1:3 staffing support, which reportedly led to increasing challenges in delivering assistance.
- Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC): works with the Town to deliver various programs at Island Lake Conservation Area, such as summer day camps in August, Canada Day celebrations (free parking and access to park, space for fireworks), free park membership passes at the library, allowing residents on foot or bike to enter the park free (through Home Hardware parking lot), the floating stage (constructed two years ago, through a partnership with Theatre Orangeville and funding by the Rotary Club) used by Blues and Jazz Festival, Canada Day concert, the Midsummer Night's Dream performance, etc. CVC is looking to expand shelter areas to provide more space for Town use (e.g. for camps), and to improve accessibility of trails.
- Theatre Orangeville: The Opera House, connected to Town Hall, is owned by the Town (and part of the building is occupied by municipal offices). The Theatre Company runs the Opera House portion.
- Orangeville BIA: Would like to work on some projects with the Town in the downtown core (e.g. movie nights downtown), and is interested in being

more actively is involved with Town initiatives in the downtown

recreation and event facilities in Town to help serve the Indigenous population.

Other potential programming partners in the Town include:

- Salvation Army, Compass Community Church, Athletes Institute and Teen Ranch: all have space and programs that could be leveraged through a partnership with the Town
- Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle (DCCRC): The DCCRC works to support the culture of Orangeville/Dufferin County's Indigenous population. They recently partnered with the Town to create the medicine wheel garden adjacent to Bravery Park. They indicated an interest in partnering with the Town to apply for Federal/Provincial grants open to Indigenous peoples to expand

- Special Olympics Ontario via the Dufferin County chapter

Volunteer organizations and sports clubs agreed that where they are willing to contribute funding for facility upgrades (through their own user fees or fundraising initiatives). They are of the opinion that the Town should take the lead in planning and executing improvement projects. The funding provided by community groups should not be considered replacement for funding from the Town, but as an addition.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partnerships allow for greater efficiency, less duplication, reduced costs, and continual community engagement by increasing the lines of communication between the Town, the community partners, and participants in programs.</li> <li>- The Town currently partners with a number of organizations including Dufferin County, the Seniors Centre, CVC, Theatre Orangeville, sports clubs and others to deliver programs</li> <li>- Existing partners/potential partners feel the Town should take a leadership role in partnerships</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to actively seek out partnership opportunities with community businesses, organizations, and agencies interested in contributing to recreation programming</li> <li>- The Town should take the lead in pursuing, formalizing, and managing programming partnerships.</li> </ul>

Figure 3-19: Programming partnerships summary and recommendations

## Program Planning and Evaluation

The following highlights key considerations specific to program planning and evaluation, many of which the Town includes in its current practices.

- monitor program registrations, participation levels and wait lists to determine program popularity;
- conduct pre and post-program surveys to compare expectations to resulting experiences, and to identify specific improvements to be made in design and delivery, including promotion and advertising;
- provide on-site (e.g. suggestion boxes) or online (e.g. Facebook, Town website) for immediate feedback during program season;
- hold periodic focus groups/meetings with residents (participants and non-participants) to determine new/revise program requirements, including solicited input from key target groups such as newcomers, low-income residents, at-risk residents, girls and women, teens, people with special needs etc.
- establish recurring individual or group meetings with programming partners to ensure that communication and consultation is occurring regularly
- conduct ongoing research to identify and integrate relevant, evidence-based trends in programming; in design and delivery

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Town should monitor registration levels, wait lists, and attendance, as well as offering multiple opportunities for participants to provide feedback/evaluation</li> <li>– Solicit feedback from key groups such as newcomers, low-income residents, at-risk residents, girls and women, teens, people with special needs etc.</li> <li>– Conduct ongoing research and meetings with community programming partners to address concerns and integrate relevant changes to programming</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Expand program evaluation and development practices to include focus groups with target populations (e.g. newcomers, low-income residents, at-risk residents, girls and women, teens, people with special needs etc.)</li> </ul>

Figure 3-20: Program Planning and Evaluation Summary and Recommendations



# Facilities

4.0

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## 4.0 Facilities

### 4.1 Approach to the Assessment

#### Strategic Directions

The facilities assessment comprises a comprehensive, strategic approach to meeting current and future community needs. It treats both Alder Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre as the primary indoor/outdoor community recreation hubs that will contribute to diversifying sport, and recreation, arts and culture. This dual-hub approach is particularly attractive, given: a) the historic importance of Tony Rose to the community, and b) the potential to integrate adjacent secondary school facilities as part of these hubs through partnerships with the Upper Grand District School Board. These two primary hubs, and facilities in other locations throughout the Town, will play complementary roles in service provision.

#### Scope of the Assessment

In keeping with the Town's role in recreation service provision, as discussed in the delivery system (see Section 6.0), the assessment focuses on meeting the need for facilities to accommodate and support community-based activity. Decisions to surpass this level of provision and accommodate high calibre sport tourism events should be based on formal policy that includes economic development goals, and is supported by business plans developed by proponents to justify the additional capital investment and ongoing operating costs.

## Confirming Actual Demand

The assessments are based on current levels of use and reasonable assumptions about the future. As such, they are valid indicators of future facility requirements. At the same time, there are factors that available information cannot provide, and potential changes in the market that will affect actual demand. Monitoring and confirming unmet demand for facilities throughout the term of the Plan, therefore, will be necessary to aligning final decisions for provision with actual need.

## 4.2 Potential Redevelopment of Alder Street Recreation Centre & Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre

### Background

The Town's major indoor recreation facilities are currently housed and duplicated in two facilities: Alder Street Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre. As the much older of the two facilities, and documented in the 2014 Indoor Facility Assessment Study<sup>1</sup>, the arenas and pool at Tony Rose are at the end of their lifecycles and decisions on their future are required. The 2014 Study came to the following conclusions:

- After completing a five-year arena monitoring exercise, undertake a comprehensive engineering review of the Tony Rose Rink B in 2019 to determine the feasibility and cost of lifecycle investments required to either retain the ice pad for arena use or repurpose Rink B to a warm-use facility.
- Consider repurposing the aquatics centre at the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre to provide space for a wide range of floor-based recreational activities geared to all age groups and interests (with priority possibly assigned to youth and/or older adults). However,

<sup>1</sup> Monteith Brown Planning Consultants. *Indoor Facility Assessment Study*. 2014

if the Town decides to retain the aquatic centre at Tony Rose Memorial Centre, the rationale for doing so should be on the basis that:

- Attendance, program participation and utilization rates continue to grow based upon sound aquatics scheduling practices at both municipal aquatic centres;
- It is the intention of the Town to achieve an over-supply of facilities to increase recreational objectives by providing surplus programming capacity and geographic coverage despite there being sufficient capacity at the newer Alder Recreation Centre pool tanks;
- It recognizes there will be an inability at the current location to address growing demands for warm-water uses unless undertaking a capital intensive expansion;
- The financial investment associated with \$800,000 in basic capital improvements along with the average annual operating deficit of \$200,000 is appropriate to provide the benefit associated with the aforementioned over-supply;
- Aquatics is deemed to be a higher priority community need at Tony Rose (Figure 4-1) than other possible uses such as spaces for general purpose activities, older adult and

youth programming, studio-based fitness, and/or administrative use.

In the years since the above-noted 2014 study, the challenges associated with continued use of the arenas and pools at Tony Rose have increased. The report indicated the need for \$800,000 in basic capital improvements. Of particular concern now is the HVAC system, which is no longer able to clear noxious gases from the water surface.

For the Town's arenas, a review of use and revenues from 2014/15 to 2018/19 reveals an overall 8% increase in hours of ice use. At the same time, total revenues decreased by almost 12% for the same period, due to the loss of Jr. A hockey and lower paying uses replacing higher paying renters. With less revenue available to offset the increasing costs of operating two separate recreation centres, consolidating and co-locating all major facilities at Alder Street is more feasible. Table 4-1 summarizes household survey results for the Master Plan on current use of, and opinions on additional need for, aquatic and arena facilities at both Alder Street and Tony Rose Recreation Centres.

It is important to note that, in both surveys, the total numbers of responses (R) indicating facility use are noticeably less for Tony Rose than for Alder Street (Figure 4-2). In both surveys, between 13% and 18% of responses indicated the need for more aquatic facilities and/or arenas, with total responses from the online survey almost double that of the random sample survey.



Figure 4-1: Lane pool at Tony Rose

Facility	Currently Use				Need for Additional Facilities	
	Telephone		Online		Telephone (R=323)	Online (R=635)
	Alder (R=579)	Tony Rose (R=369)	Alder (R=1,763)	Tony Rose (R=1,084)		
Pools					18%	13%
leisure	49%	-	49%	-		
lap	33%	46%	39%	38%		
Arena (ice-in)	38%	40%	60%	42%	14%	15%
Arena (ice-out)	16%	16%	23%	18%		

Table 4-1: Survey results on use of/need for arenas and aquatic facilities

\* R represents number of responses since participants were able to select more than one

Consultation also revealed that residents in general, and users in particular, are very attached to the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre, and so are concerned about its potential loss. The fact the Centre continues to be used is deemed by some as evidence it must be retained, and that to close or repurpose it would result in an undersupply of aquatic facilities and indoor ice pads. At the same time, requested improvements to facilities at Tony Rose B Rink reinforce the fact that considerable investment is needed to satisfy users. Several groups reported the need for larger dressing rooms and more spectator seating/viewing area, and clocks, sound system and lighting improvements are needed.

Regardless of the levels of use of the pool and arenas at Tony Rose, the facilities are at the end of their lifecycles. Consequently, costs to continue to repair, maintain and operate will escalate without significantly improving their functionality. Health and safety issues, in particular, present significant costs to address. While community attachment to the Centre is understandable, the investment that is - and will continue to be - required to maintain a 48-year-old facility is not the best use of municipal resources.

The future of the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre is directly tied to proposed facility development/redevelopment at Alder Street Recreation Centre - particularly in relation to maintaining a comparable supply of indoor ice and aquatic facilities. The following analyses consider individual facility components currently in place at both Centres, as well as potential additional, repurposed and/or

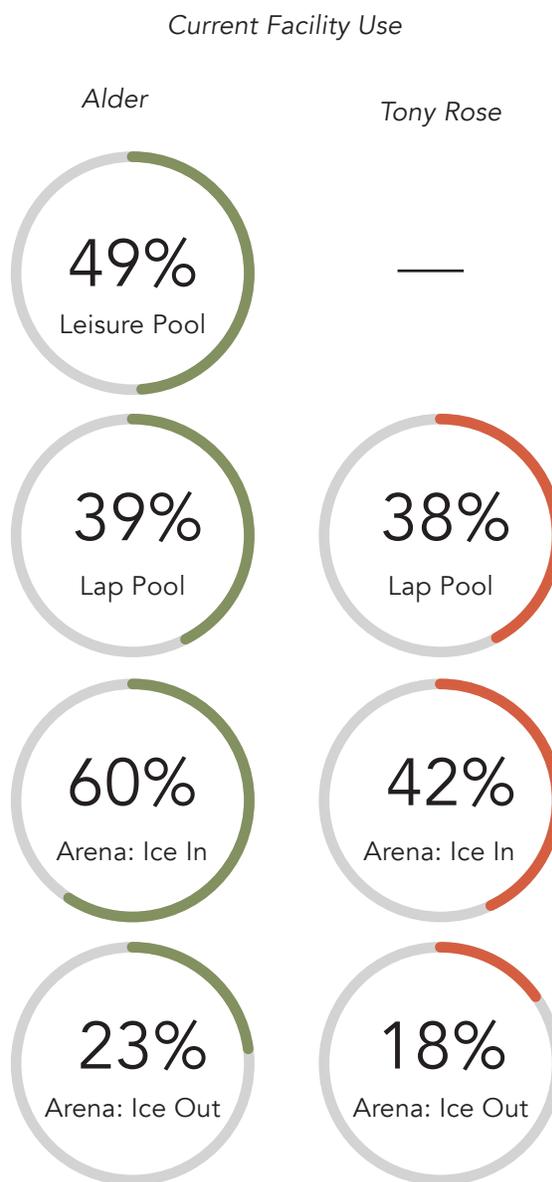


Figure 4-2: Current facility use - Online survey data

improved facilities for each location, as part of a coordinated strategy to optimizing the future service of both Centres to the community. In each section, information on relevant proposed facility changes at both Alder Street Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre are identified at the outset of the discussion.

## Arenas

The following relates proposed arena facility changes at Alder and Tony Rose.

Facility Changes at Alder Street Recreation Centre	Facility Changes at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add a third 185' x 85' ice pad</li> <li>- add a 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- remove B rink</li> <li>- assess repurposing A rink</li> </ul>

Table 4-2: Facility changes at Alder and Tony Rose

As noted above, there is concern in the community that the loss of indoor ice at Tony Rose will result in an overall shortage of facilities in the Town. It was also suggested this deficiency would be exacerbated in the future, as the population in the regional market increases.

The proposed facility changes identified here show there will be no loss in the total number of ice pads in Orangeville (Table 4-2). Two new pads will be added to the Alder Street Recreation Centre, for a total of four at that location. One of the two new proposed pads is a multi-use facility for programs and activities that do not require a regulation pad.

The assessment of need for additional ice pads during the term of the Master Plan is discussed under the following main headings:

- current and projected future ice use
- current and projected future floor use

- future facility requirements
- comparative supply
- summary and recommendations

## Current and Projected Future Ice Use

### Current Ice Use

Table 4-3 on the following page summarizes scheduled use of the four ice pads from 2019/20 Town data, and total prime time use of pads at each location, as reported by the user groups that responded to the survey.

These data illustrate several points:

- All four pads are used at or near capacity throughout the week during prime time, which comprises 53 hours per week per pad.
- In relation to total weekly operating hours scheduled, both pads at Tony Rose are noticeably less well used than those at Alder Street.
- Tony Rose B Rink is the least used of all four pads both in terms of total weekly hours and prime time.
- Among user groups responding to the survey, prime time use by youth hockey alone accounts for a total of 153.5 hours (78.5 + 75) or 2.9 prime time 'pad equivalents' (153.5/53).
- All prime time use for hockey equates to 3.1 prime time pad equivalents (164.5/53).
- Current demand is being met by available facilities.

Collectively, these findings suggest that aside from prime time use, the pads at Tony Rose are not the first choice among user groups when scheduling ice. At the same time, total weekly prime time use now requires four pads. The addition of a third 'traditional' (185' x 85') ice pad at Alder Street will meet a portion of existing demand, largely as a simple lateral transfer. One adult group reported interest in scheduling 1 additional hour of weekly use, and Orangeville Girls' Hockey indicated the transfer of up to 2 hours of use outside Town to local arenas. Potential additional prime time use by responding groups for more than 3 pads, therefore, would total 8.3 hours per week (0.1 of 53 hours + 3 additional hours).

### Redistribution of Current Ice Use

The addition of an 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad as the fourth ice surface at Alder Street Recreation Centre will reduce prime time demand for the three 'traditional' pads. This will improve capacity to accommodate increased use in both the short and long terms. This training/leisure pad will accommodate:

- non-hockey related programming such as public skate, figure skating, learn-to-skate, etc.
- introductory hockey programs/activities for entry level players
- training/cross-training programs such as power skating

This facility will allow current and future use of the four existing pads to be redistributed in a manner that better matches use/activity to

	Alder		Tony Rose		
	Red Rink	Green Rink	A Rink	B Rink	
Scheduled Use	Total Hours Scheduled 2019/20**	88.5	88.5	79.5	64
	% Total Hours Used 2019/20**	72%	72%	65%	52%
	% Prime Time Used 2018/19***				
	Weekdays	100%	98%	100%	98%
	Weekends	100%	91%	96%	89%
	Reported Total Youth Hockey Group Prime Time Use	78.5 hours		75 hours	
Reported Total Hockey Group Prime Time Use	87.5 hours		77 hours		
Reported Need for Additional Prime Time Use	3 hours				

Table 4-3: Scheduled and Reported Weekly Ice Use

\* includes ice maintenance

\*\*Operating hours: 6 am - 11:30 pm every day = 122.5 operating hours per pad per week

\*\*\*Prime time: M-F: 5-10 pm + Weekends: 8 am - 10 pm = 53 hours per pad per week

Youth Hockey groups reporting: Orangeville Minor Hockey, Orangeville Girls Hockey.

Adult Hockey groups reporting: Orangeville Wolves, Orangeville Oldtimers Hockey League, Lou’s Crew,

Eichhorn Hockey, Chuck and the Boys, Orangeville Oldtimers Hockey

the ice pad. A review of the 2019/20 schedule shows the following total weekly hours for programs/activities that could be candidates for relocation to the multi-purpose pad.

- open skates (public, adult, family, tiny tots): 23.5 hours
- learn to skate: 18.5 hours
- hockey skills: 3 hours
- private power skate: 3 hours
- figure skating: 7 hours
- shinny (supervised, ages 5 -13): 4 hours

Hours for these programs/activities total 59, of which 17.5 hours (30%) are scheduled during prime time. These figures do not include hours for entry-level minor boys and girls hockey, the time allocations for which cannot be determined from block bookings for these organizations. However, shifting the relevant activities that occupy prime time on existing pads to the multi-purpose pad would increase the prime time available for older age group hockey programs.

Using the current definition and use of prime time at the four existing pads, and adding reported demand for additional prime time (from Table 4-3), represents a total of 207 hours per week of prime time use that needs to be accommodated now (204 of 212 hours + 3 hours additional time needed).<sup>2</sup> Removing the above 17.5 hours of prime time from this total and allocating it to the training/pleasure pad leaves 189.5 hours of prime time to be accommodated on the remaining three pads

<sup>2</sup> percentage of weekday and weekend use per pad = 204 hours; 212 is all total prime time (4 x 53)

at Alder Street or 63.2 hours per pad (189.5 hours/3 pads). This is 10.2 hours per pad or 30.6 total in excess of currently available prime time at 53 hours per week per pad.

### Future Demand for Ice

The following estimates of future demand use 189.5 (the hours of prime time to be accommodated now on three traditional pads) as the basis for per capita supply. These hours include demand generated by non-residents.

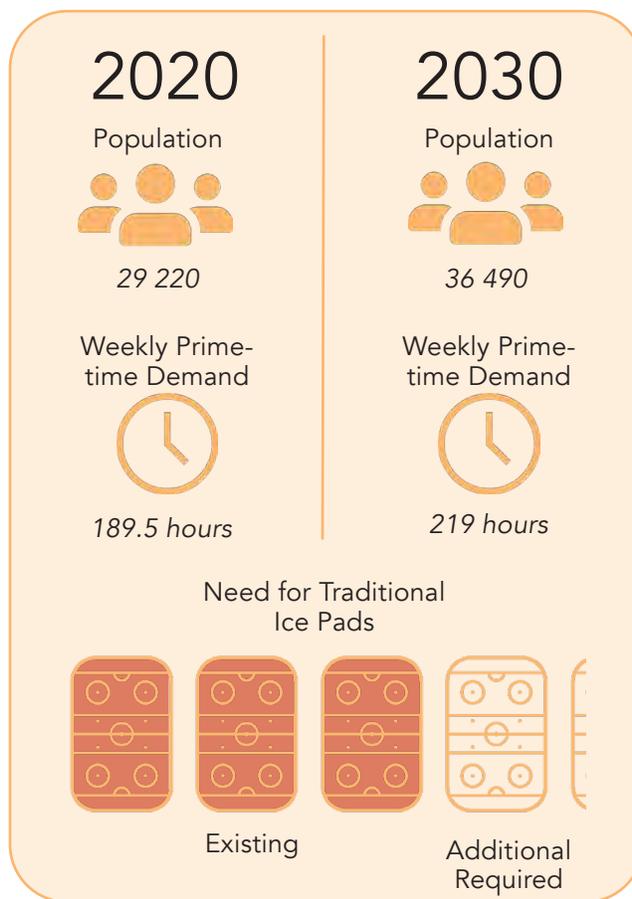


Figure 4-3: 2020 - 2030 future demand for ice

This figure illustrates the future demand for 4.1 traditional ice pads, including existing facilities

- The Town of Orangeville’s 2020 population is 29,220.<sup>3</sup> Current demand for prime-time ice of 189.5 hours per week represents a .006 per capita supply ratio of prime time.
- Applying this ratio to the Town’s projected 2030 population of 36,490 produces weekly demand for 219 hours of prime time or 4.1 traditional ice pads (219 hours/53 hours/pad), which is 1.1 pad more than will be available at Alder Street (Figure 4-3)

This calculation assumes consistent levels of participation in ice activities and proportions of non-resident representation in ice users throughout the term of the Plan. Population aging, however, will likely contribute to declining participation in ice sports. Figure 2-2 in section 2 shows that by 2030, the

<sup>3</sup> 2019 DC Background Study. For the purposes of the facilities analyses, the most recent population data were used over the 2016 Census.

proportions of County residents in age cohorts over 59 years will exceed their shares of the population in 2016. Conversely, there will be lower proportions in the child, youth and young adult age cohorts - i.e., those most likely to comprise the majority of ice users. While it is not possible to calculate a resulting hourly reduction in demand for ice use that this degree of aging will produce, it does not support inflating demand beyond one additional ice pad during the Plan’s term.

### Current and Projected Future Floor Use

Table 4-4 below summarizes total prime time use of arena floors during ice-out at each location, as reported by the user groups that responded to the survey. One hundred and sixteen (116) hours per week represents 2.2 arena floors at 53 hours per week of prime time.

Minor lacrosse indicated interest in transferring 20 hours from outside Orangeville to Town facilities. At the current levels of

User Group	Prime Time Hours Used	
	Alder	Tony Rose
Orangeville Jr. B Northmen Lacrosse	8	(4*)
Orangeville Minor Ball Hockey League	10	10
Minor Lacrosse	38	50
Total Both Centre	56	64
Total Both Centres	116	
*only in mid March to early April before ice comes out at Alder Arena; not included in weekly total		

Table 4-4: Reported weekly prime time floor use

use, however, it would appear this transfer could be accommodated both now and at a redeveloped Alder Street Recreation Centre with three traditional pads. Reported interest in additional prime time was non-specific (e.g., uncertain/don't know; would use lots of additional prime time). Total current and transferred use, at 136 hours per week, represents 2.5 arena floors during ice-out season. Using the same 53 hours of weekly prime time results in 23 hours per week of unused floor time at three pads (53 x 3 - 136).

Total current use of 136 hours represents 0.005 hours per capita (136/29,220). At this level of supply, population growth to the end of the Master Plan's term will generate demand for 182.5 hours of floor time for ball hockey, lacrosse, etc. While this exceeds

prime time based on the current 53 hours per week definition (by 0.4 'floors'), as with ice use, actual demand will likely be less than this estimate due to an aging population. The three pads at Alder Street, therefore, will meet these needs. As discussed below, intensifying facility use will accommodate additional floor activity due to future population growth locally and in the regional market.

Minor lacrosse indicated that Tony Rose B Rink is their favourite facility and that it should be retained (Figure 4-4). At the same time, several groups noted the need for improvements, including larger change rooms and more spectator seating. When designing the new arena at Alder Street, therefore, organized floor users at Tony Rose should be consulted to optimize replacement facilities and amenities.



Figure 4-4: Tony Rose B Rink

Interest in a year round floor facility was indicated, particularly to support tournament activity. This consideration is addressed in relation to repurposing A Rink at Tony Rose.

### Future Facility Requirements

The foregoing assessment points to the need for one additional 'traditional' ice pad during the term of the Master Plan to serve the Town of Orangeville, bringing the total to four. This assumes that prime time remains at 53 hours per week. The need for arena floor use during the ice-out season can be met with the three pads that will be provided at Alder Street.

One new pad could accommodate Town needs and a portion of non-resident demand [see page 158 on regional serving facilities]. Providing a fourth 'traditional' pad in the short or medium terms, however, is not warranted for the following reasons:

- There is potential to intensify the use of the existing ice pads before considering adding another to supply.
- Actual demand for a fourth pad will be a combination of the outcomes of redistributing ice uses at the two new pads at Alder Street and growth in subsequent demand.

Intensifying the use of existing pads: Prime time is a reflection of peak demand for ice use, which has changed in recent years. Fifty-three hours of weekly prime time is a narrow 'definition.' Historically, prime time was generally assumed to be at least 65 hours

per week, and included more hours in the mornings and evenings.

Within current operating hours at Orangeville's four pads, there is a total of 42.5 hours available for booking in the mornings between 6 am and 8 am, and 45 hours after the latest bookings to 11:30 pm. Shifting the programs that serve older age groups to later hours in the evenings could free up earlier prime time for children and youth. Holding more early morning practices, and related training programs would free up time for late afternoon and evening use. Currently there are 5 hours of ice use that occur before 8 am: 3 hours for hockey skills and 2 hours for figure skating. Intensifying the use of the three 'traditional' pads at Alder Street, therefore, could likely accommodate the above-noted 30.6 total weekly hours in excess of currently available prime time.

Resistance from users to early morning ice time has become typical in recent years, although it was previously a common practice. While it may not be desirable, it presents a rational means of increasing ice time for programs that need it. Maximizing use of available time is essential to guarding against oversupply of facilities in the long-term, maximizing operating efficiencies, and meeting municipal fiscal responsibilities to control expenditures.

Confirming actual demand: As noted above, the number of hours for entry-level minor boys and girls hockey that could be shifted to the 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad cannot be determined from available information but could, if moved, free up additional time on

the existing 'traditional' pads. Actual demand for providing a fourth traditional pad in the long-term, therefore, will require ongoing monitoring to establish the true extent of unmet need for an additional pad.

## Comparative Supply

Appendix C compares the supply of recreation facilities in Orangeville to that of 11 other Ontario municipalities, which were selected in consultation with the Town as being reasonably similar to Orangeville. Comparisons are made on the basis of municipal 2016 population per one facility, and revealed that Orangeville is the best supplied with traditional indoor ice pads among the communities considered. Population based supply across the 12 municipalities ranged from a high of 1 pad per 7,225 population (1:7,225) in Orangeville to a low of 1:18,403 in Clarington. Stratford and Halton Hills were the second and third highest provision levels, at 1:7,866 and 1:8,737, respectively. All other communities provide indoor ice pads within a range of approximately 1:10,000 to 1:16,000.

In keeping with the foregoing assessment, removing one pad from total supply in Orangeville results in a current ratio of 1:9,740. At this level of supply, the Town is still at the upper end of the comparative range - and is surpassed only by Halton Hills and Stratford.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At 53 hours per week of prime time, all four ice pads in Orangeville are currently used to capacity.</li> <li>- The addition of a third 'traditional' pad and an 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad to Alder Street Recreation Centre, along with the redistribution of use across the four pads at this location will accommodate the majority of current demand.</li> <li>- The three pads at Alder Street will accommodate demand for floor use during ice-out season.</li> <li>- New facilities at Alder Street provide an opportunity to optimize amenities currently lacking at Tony Rose for both ice and floor uses.</li> <li>- With three pads and at a population-based provision level, Orangeville will continue to be well supplied relative to reasonably comparable Ontario communities.</li> <li>- Population growth in Orangeville, along with population aging, indicate the possible need for one additional 'traditional' ice pad during the term of the Master Plan.</li> <li>- There is potential to intensify the use of the existing ice pads before considering adding a fourth to supply.</li> <li>- Actual demand for a fourth pad beyond 2030 will be a combination of the outcomes of redistributing ice uses at the two new pads at Alder Street and growth in subsequent demand.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add the two new pads to Alder Street Recreation Centre and keep the existing four pads operating until use at Tony Rose can be relocated and redistributed to the Alder Street pads. When designing the new arena at Alder Street consult with organized users at Tony Rose to optimize replacement facilities and amenities for both floor and ice uses.</li> <li>- Remove B Rink at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre.</li> <li>- Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for ice and floor time at all pads.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-5: Arenas summary and recommendations

## Aquatic Facilities

The following relates proposed aquatic facility changes at Alder and Tony Rose (Table 4-5). As with the arena, the community views the Tony Rose pool as essential to meeting the need for aquatic facilities in Orangeville both now and in the future. Seniors, who represent a key group of this pool's users, are also concerned about losing the proximity of parking to the pool. Alder Street is a considerably larger complex and, given its current layout, requires a much longer walk from the parking area to the pool.

The assessment of need for aquatic facilities during the term of the Master Plan is discussed under the following main headings:

- comparative supply
- current and projected future use of pools
- future facility requirements
- summary and recommendations

## Comparative Supply

The comparative facility supply (Appendix C) separates indoor lane pools and leisure pools. In both cases, the Town of Orangeville is extremely well supplied relative to other municipalities. With two lanes pools, its population based supply is 1:14,500, representing the highest level among the 12 municipalities. All others with lane pools ranged from approximately 1:20,400 to 1:92,000. For leisure pools, Orangeville's 1:28,900 is the second best supplied among the communities surveyed. All others ranged from approximately 1:31,460 to 1:97,500. Two communities do not currently have lane pools, two have no leisure pools, and one has no pools.

### Facility Changes at Alder Street Recreation Centre

- expand existing 6-lane lap pool to an 8 lane facility
- replace existing single wet slide with indoor aquatic play space (e.g., spray pad and water play features)
- add therapeutic pool
- replace existing cold walking track with warm/cold walking path throughout entire second floor

### Facility Changes at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre

- remove 6-lane pool

Table 4-5: Aquatic facility changes

## Current and Projected Future Use of Pools

### Town Programs

Available information shows that the lane pool at Alder Recreation Centre is programmed for 150 hours per week. The lane pool at Tony Rose is programmed for 54 hours per week. Together, both pools are programmed for 204 hours per week, of which the proportionate share is 73.5% and 26.5% for Alder Street and Tony Rose, respectively. Viewed in terms of a potential use level comparable to Alder Street pool, Tony Rose is operating at about 36% (54/150 hours) of possible capacity. In determining the feasibility of need for a new indoor pool, 36% use would be insufficient to justify a facility. As a much older and smaller facility, however, it is probably reasonable to suggest that the Tony Rose pool could not be expected to approach the same level of use as the Alder Street facility. At the same time, 54 hours per week represents an average of 7.7 hours per day, which is considerably less than optimal for any indoor pool in relation operating and maintenance costs.

Table 4-6 contains data on numbers of Town program users. Figures include participants in recreational swim (lane and public swim), fitness swim, learn to swim (lessons and advanced), and specialty and first aid courses. This information shows that between 2014 and 2018, over three-quarters of total use occurred at the Alder Street facility, and this proportion was highest in more recent years. Over the five-year period, total numbers of program users

increased by 45% at Alder Street and 19% at Tony Rose (Figure 4-6).

### Organized Community Activity

Two groups regularly use Town pools for their programs: the Orangeville Otters and Teamworks Dufferin. As shown in Table 4-7 on the following page, the Otters are major users of the Town's aquatic facilities, with 70% (32 hours) of total weekly use occurring at Alder Street, and the remaining 13.5 hours (30%) held at Tony Rose. Teamworks use a total of 2.5 hours of pool time per week.

While neither group reported potential transfers of use from outside Orangeville to facilities in Town, the Otters reported the need for additional pool space and 10 to 15 more hours per week for training. The group's interest in competitive facilities is addressed elsewhere in this section. This discussion focuses on facility needs for a community pool.

These findings suggest Tony Rose pool is largely supplementary to the aquatic facilities at Alder Street. This generates considerably below-capacity use of Tony Rose, the level of which is insufficient to warrant its retention from a use perspective. The above-noted health and safety concerns make it a less attractive option for some users, unless necessary.

The proposal to increase the lane pool at Alder Street from 6 to 8 lanes will provide sufficient capacity to transfer Town programming that currently occurs at the Tony Rose pool. Similarly, additional lanes will enhance the ability of organized user groups to consolidate

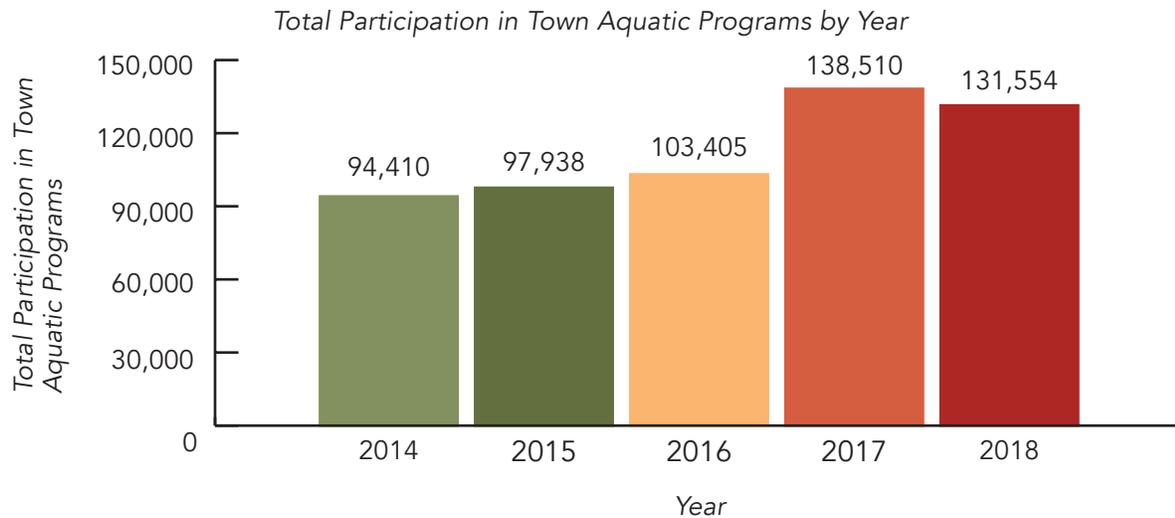


Figure 4-6: Participation in town aquatic programs by pool 2014-2018

	2014 # (% total)	2015 # (% total)	2016 # (% total)	2017 # (% total)	2018 # (% total)	# (%) increase
Alder Street Recreation Centre	75,266 (80%)	77,848 (79%)	82,256 (80%)	117,201 (85%)	108,810 (83%)	33,544 (45%)
Tony Rose Memorial Recreation Centre	19,144 (20%)	20,090 (21%)	21,149 (20%)	21,309 (15%)	22,744 (17%)	3,600 (19%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,410</b>	<b>97,938</b>	<b>103,405</b>	<b>138,510</b>	<b>131,554</b>	

Table 4-6: Participation in town aquatic programs by pool 2014-2018

User Group		Weekly Hours Used Now in Orangeville		
		Alder	Tony Rose	Totals
Orangeville Otters	a. Mon. to Fri. mornings	8.5	-	8.5
	b. Mon. to Fri. noon to 5 pm	7.5	3	10.5
	c. Mon. to Fri. after 5 pm	11.5	9	20.5
	d. Saturday & Sunday	4.5	1.5	6.0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>
Teamworks Dufferin*	a. Mon. to Fri. mornings	-	-	-
	b. Mon. to Fri. noon to 5 pm	1.5	-	1.5
	c. Mon. to Fri. after 5 pm	-	1	1.0
	d. Saturday & Sunday	-	-	-
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>48.0</b>

Table 4-7: Reported weekly pool use

\* During March break and summer camp use pool during public swim

hours at a single facility. However, the potential to provide additional time of up to 15 hours per week for the Orangeville Otters will depend on the approach to scheduling the larger pool for the club’s training program. Once all use is consolidated at Alder Street, it is anticipated that the 8-lane pool will be at capacity. This equates to a population-based ratio of 1 community pool for 29,220 population. At this level of supply, the Town is still at the upper end of the comparative range. It is surpassed only by Halton Hills and Lindsay

with provision ratios of 1:20,387 and 1:20,713, respectively.

Applying the ratio of 1:29,220 to the Town’s projected 2030 population of 36,490 suggests the need for 1.2 lane pools or 0.2 more to the end of the Plan’s term. This level of unmet demand, however, would be insufficient to support a second lane pool.

## Population Aging

Aquatic programs and activities are popular among all age groups and, although the balance in participation by age group may shift as the population ages, there is no reason to anticipate overall levels of engagement to decrease in future.

At the same time, an aging population makes the addition of a small therapeutic/spa pool a beneficial amenity to incorporate in the redevelopment plan. In addition to better accommodating seniors and infant programs, a warm water pool can be used for therapeutic and adapted programming. Therapeutic programming addresses age-related chronic diseases such as arthritis, and also provides facilities to support injury and illness recovery for people of all ages. This pool could also free up time in the main pool for use for other programs that do not require warm water. It would also allow for simple relaxation. A web-based search did not identify the availability of a therapeutic pool in Orangeville. If pool time is available beyond Town program requirements therefore, there may be opportunities to rent it to medical/therapy professionals for their client sessions.

## Future Facility Requirements

A new 8-lane lap pool at Alder Street Recreation Centre will meet community programming requirements to 2030, including time for both the Orangeville Otters and Teamworks Dufferin.

The pool at Tony Rose, therefore, is not required to accommodate community aquatic

activity from a use perspective. The existing shallow, leisure tank at Alder Street will remain. The water slide will be removed and the area expanded/reconfigured to accommodate the therapy pool and an aquatic play area.

Collectively, the aquatic centre will feature three bodies of water: a 3,660 square foot 8-lane pool, a 1,970 square foot instructional/shallow pool, and a 250 to 300 square foot therapy/spa pool. The splash/waterplay structure will comprise the fourth feature.

Programmatically, the lane pool can be used for competitive training, lap, advance instruction, and water sport swimmers of all ages. The shallower water can be used for older adult fitness, infant to younger children learn to swim, and larger programmed therapy fitness classes. The warm water therapeutic pool will accommodate more specialized uses. Facility design can address need for space or program scheduling to accommodate gender-segregated facility use. Interest in providing seniors with time or space for age-segregated use should also be considered.

As noted above, seniors are the primary users of the Tony Rose pool and are concerned about moving to the Alder Street facility, given the distance from the parking lot to the pool (Figure 4-7). The Centre's redevelopment includes plans to provide a second, new entrance with parking at the poolside of the facility. This would make the aquatic facilities readily accessible to seniors and others who need to park close to the pool entrance. In addition to a new therapeutic pool, the redevelopment plans for Alder Street include

other features that will improve seniors' access to a variety of recreation services in one location. The existing indoor cold walking track will be replaced with a warm/cold walking path throughout the entire second floor of the Centre.

The space vacated by Humber College in 2021 will be reconfigured to provide various large and small multi-purpose spaces. The proposed library expansion will total up to 16,000 square feet, and include program space, on the ground floor at Alder Street. On balance, therefore, the co-location of a range of activity/program opportunities under one roof with comparable access to a new pool will prove more beneficial to the Town's senior

population. An enhanced one-stop recreation hub will be particularly attractive during the fall and winter months when colder temperatures, snow and ice can make travel more difficult.

Once all use is consolidated at Alder Street, it is anticipated that the pool will be at capacity. It not anticipated that there will be sufficient Town-based demand to warrant providing a second indoor facility during the term of the Master Plan. Facility needs on a regional level are discussed elsewhere in the Plan.



Figure 4-7: Alder Recreation Centre Parking Lot



Figure 4-8: An expanded lane pool will support individual fitness and team training

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Tony Rose pool is largely supplementary to the aquatic facilities at Alder Street. This generates considerable below capacity use of Tony Rose, the level of which is insufficient to warrant its retention from a use perspective.</li> <li>– An expanded, 8-lane lap pool at Alder Street will provide sufficient capacity to transfer Town programming that currently occurs at the Tony Rose pool.</li> <li>– Organized community use by the Orangeville Otters and Dufferin Teamworks can also be accommodated at the new facility. The potential to provide additional pool time for the Orangeville Otters will depend on the approach to scheduling the club’s training program.</li> <li>– In addition to the lane pool, Alder Street aquatic facilities will include a reconfiguration/ expansion to retain the shallow leisure tank, and add a new therapeutic pool, and a splash/ waterplay area. These four components will meet requirements for a full range in community aquatic programs and activities with state-of-the-art facilities (Figure 4-8).</li> <li>– The Alder Street aquatic facilities will be sufficient to meet community needs to the end of the Plan’s term.</li> <li>– With one community pool and at a population-based provision level, Orangeville will continue to be well supplied relative to reasonably comparable Ontario communities.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Expand the existing 6-lane lap pool at Alder Street Recreation Centre to an 8-lane facility. Remove the waterslide and reconfigure/expand this area to retain the existing leisure tank, and accommodate the therapy pool and aquatic play area. When designing the new aquatic facilities consult with organized users to optimize potential use of the new lane pool.</li> <li>– Remove the 6-lane pool from the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Complex.</li> <li>– Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for pool time.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-9: Aquatics summary and recommendations

## Dedicated and Multi-Purpose Program Spaces

Table 4-8 relates the proposed dedicated and multi-purpose facilities at Alder and Tony Rose.

Table 4-9 on the following page summarizes household survey results for the Master Plan on current use of, and opinions on additional need for, various types of community and/or program/activity space.

The survey results indicate that, collectively, there is considerable use of multi-purpose spaces, with the possible exception of that Saputo Centre. Reported need for additional facilities focused on gym/fitness space.

As shown in Table 4-9, sports and recreation groups use time in both gyms and multi-purpose spaces, and reported interest in transferred or expanded gym time.

Orangeville Hawks Youth Basketball accounted for 82% of total gym use reported. Half of this

time could be transferred from elementary schools to a regulation municipal gym if provided, in additional to 30 more hours of prime time (Table 4-10). Minor baseball's transfer would depend on whether or not a field house was provided (new or repurposed Tony Rose).

Current use of multi-purpose space reported totaled 72 hours, 64 of which included three weekends of meeting room use by Twisters (Table 4-10). Teamworks Dufferin noted only random use of multi-purpose space during summer camp and that they are in the process of moving more programs to Orangeville parks.

Community groups (sports clubs, service clubs, non-profits, and community agencies) indicated need for permanent space for their use, such as offices, meeting rooms, dedicated space for Indigenous groups etc., for which they are willing to pay rent.

The assessment of need for dedicated and multi-purpose program spaces during the

### Facility Changes at Alder Street Recreation Centre

- add a third 185' x 85' ice pad
- add a 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad
- add library on main floor with 14,000 to 16,000 square feet, including program space
- re-purpose vacated Humber College space (2021) for programming, large banquet, meeting, office and other multipurpose uses

### Facility Changes at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre

- remove B Rink
- assess repurposing A Rink and redevelop

Table 4-8: Dedicated and multi-purpose facilities at Alder and Tony Rose

term of the Master Plan is discussed under the following main headings:

- comparative supply
- repurposing Tony Rose A Rink
- expanding the Library
- repurposing vacated Humber College space
- dedicated community arts space
- summary and recommendations

## Comparative Supply

Multi-purpose spaces vary widely in their size and function and the way they are defined or categorized by different municipalities. Comparisons between municipalities, therefore, are less reliable than are those for more standard facilities like ice pads and swimming pools. Among the municipalities selected for comparisons to Orangeville, most have one gym, about half have a fitness centre, and three have dance/fitness studios. All municipalities have multi-purpose rooms (includes meeting/board rooms), with numbers ranging from two to 26. Seven have one library, two have two libraries, and others have more locations. Nine have one or more banquet halls, and two have no facilities of this type.

## Repurposing Tony Rose A Rink

Major indoor facilities for sports and recreation in Orangeville are currently limited to arenas and pools. Community interest and trends in recreation indicate the need for diversification in opportunities to participate year round in structured and unstructured activity.

Repurposing Tony Rose A Rink as a dry floor field house could make use of the existing structure to provide year round access to facilities for various pursuits. A combination of sprung wood, poured in place urethane, and/or turf could provide space to accommodate:

- sports such as box lacrosse, field hockey, indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, pickleball, etc.
- active non-sport programming such as dance, martial arts, group fitness, etc.
- large community events such as markets, exhibits, holiday celebrations, presentations, etc.

These types of fieldhouses, which go beyond field provision/programming, can comprise a range of amenities to meet community-specific needs. Hastings Field House in Trent Hills, for example, features a 200m track, sports court, and an indoor sports field. It can accommodate golf, tennis, soccer, pickleball and basketball. It is also used for fitness programming, and houses fitness equipment.<sup>4</sup>

Converting A Rink into this type of multi-purpose space could provide a facility to diversify programming. Although not a gymnasium, it could house space and amenities to accommodate organized community sports, and Town programming for all age groups (both structured and supervised drop-ins), and private rentals. The entire space could be divided into small areas, as required,

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.trenthills.ca/en/recreation-and-culture/hastings-field-house-1.aspx>

Facility	Currently Use				Need for Additional Facilities	
	Telephone		Online		Telephone (R=323)	Online (R=635)
	Alder (R=579)	Tony Rose (R=369)	Alder (R=1,763)	Tony Rose (R=1,084)		
Gym / fitness space	-	-	-	-	7%	5%
Multi-purpose/ fitness rooms	12%/12%	24%	14%/8%	21%	3%	
Saputo	10%	-	9%	-		
Library	41%	-	49%	-		0.5%
Gymnastics Centre	20%	-	36%	-		
Banquet Hall	-	18%		17%		

Table 4-9: Summary of household survey findings on program space use/need

\* R represents number of responses since participants were able to select more than one

with the installation of an operable gym curtain suspended from the roof structure. The arena dressing rooms could be converted into male, female and universal change rooms.

Determining the types of uses to be accommodated in a multi-purpose space, however, is a key consideration in design and provision. Attempting to accommodate too many different sports and recreation activities may result in conflicts between uses/users in terms of scheduling and/or concurrent programs. Ultimately, this may result in failure to achieve the objective in providing the facility. In identifying the 'mix' of uses to

be incorporated in the design of the space, therefore, consideration could be given to those that currently do not have access to facilities in Town for their programs/activities. This approach would be in keeping with the intent to diversify opportunities for recreation.

Beyond the renovations required to provide the 'dry floor', there are other potential costs to repurpose the building and to ensure its effective operation over time as a year-round indoor recreation space. These costs can only be determined through more detailed engineering and architectural analyses. These reviews should include an assessment of

Weekly Hours Used Now		Currently Use		Need for Additional Facilities	
Gym	Multi-purpose Space	Gym	Multi-purpose Space	Gym	Multi-purpose Space
96-97	72	50 to 70	10	30	-

Table 4-10: Reported weekly gym and multi-purpose space use

*Groups reporting: Minor Lacrosse, Orangeville Otters, Teamworks Dufferin, Orangeville Hawks Youth Baseball, Minor Baseball, Twisters, Orangeville Girls Hockey*

the condition of the refrigeration system, to determine the value of retaining it for possible reuse in the long-term, should an additional pad need to be added to supply as part of a regional-serving facility. Converting A Rink is also tied to the following facility considerations, discussed elsewhere in the Plan:

- future requirements for playing fields to accommodate soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.
- the Town's goals with respect to sport tourism in field sports
- how these two factors translate into field provision (e.g., sole municipal provision vs. partnerships, dedicated vs. multi-purpose fields, indoor vs. outdoor artificial turf fields, etc.)
- the form that new/repurposed spaces at Alder Street take in providing various types of program space

be determined in conjunction with options chosen to meet playing field requirements and in balancing the provision of multi-purpose spaces.

The redevelopment of indoor facilities at Tony Rose Sports Centre would not occur until after the Alder Street Recreation Centre is completed and use at Tony Rose is transferred. At that time, the pool and B Rink would be removed and A Rink would be redeveloped. The possibility of including arts programming space at the Centre is discussed elsewhere in the report.

The desirability of repurposing A Rink, the uses to be accommodated (Figure 4-10), and the extent of capital investment, therefore, should



Figure 4-10: Activity examples for repurposing Tony Rose A Rink

### Expanding the Library

The proposed redevelopment of the Alder Street Recreation Centre includes the potential to add between 14,000 and 16,000 square feet of new library space.

Existing facilities in Orangeville do not meet current space standards for Ontario libraries and cannot provide the range of services that are common in today’s public libraries. In more recent years, libraries have evolved to function much more like community hubs than simply repositories for books. The Ontario Government’s website profiles the role and services of today’s libraries:

“The role of public libraries as community hubs continues to grow as libraries tailor services to meet a wide range of community needs...[They also] provide inviting places for people to gather or pursue their interests and goals and they offer programs and spaces for recreation and cultural activities as well as learning and personal development...[They]

are stimulating creativity with innovative digital services. Some offer maker spaces (spaces for creating, collaborating, and presenting, along with tools like 3D printers and training on how to use them), learning labs, and other interactive technologies...Libraries enrich Ontario’s cultural life with free access to books, music, and movies, as well as digital media such as educational apps, videos, and audio and e-books...[They offer] cultural programs, including community theatre, drumming or art workshops, poetry and story readings, and art exhibitions. Libraries also act as memory institutions, providing access to information about local history and culture.<sup>5</sup>”

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ontario.ca/document/environmental-scan-culture-sector-ontario-culture-strategy-background-document/sector-profile-public-libraries>

In Orangeville, the main library has served the Town for many years. As a heritage Carnegie library in the downtown, however, there are limits to what can be done to expand or update the building to optimize its function as the type of library described above. Redeveloping the Alder Recreation Centre presents an opportunity to provide needed additional space for a wider range of services in a single-storey, accessible facility on the main floor of the complex.

Co-locating libraries with community recreation facilities create synergies in service use, with both 'sides' of the complex benefiting from the resulting increased traffic. Depending on how library and recreation facilities are programmed, they can contribute to simultaneous participation by family members and/or children and caregivers. Moreover, the co-location of municipal recreation and library facilities can better facilitate program/service coordination and collective efforts in provision. This, in turn, can help optimize service 'coverage' in terms of the full range of community needs, while minimizing the potential for overlap or duplication. In practical terms, the design of the new library and repurposed program space within the existing Centre can occur concurrently and ensure the appropriate balance of spaces/amenities to accommodate intended programs/activities. As discussed in the programs and events section of the Plan [Section 3], community arts, culture and heritage is an area that requires development. Within the arts, a strong theatre arts base in Orangeville could be supplemented by greater development in other areas including the visual arts and

music. Given the increasing role of libraries in this program area, it would be appropriate to consider: a) the types of spaces that should be provided within the library to develop this arts programming, and b) other multi-purpose spaces at Alder Street that could be shared by the Town and the Library in arts, culture and heritage programming.

The following statement summarizes the Library Board's its recently clarified long-term vision as it relates to the Master Plan's directions: The Board is committed to a long term vision that continues to include a presence of the Orangeville Public Library at the Mill Street location in downtown Orangeville, and may involve an expanded Orangeville Public Library at the Alder Street Recreation Centre depending on acquiring capital funding.

### Repurposing Humber College Space

Humber College currently occupies approximately 8000 square feet of space on the second floor of the Alder Street Recreation Centre (Figure 4-11). The College will be vacating this space in 2021, which will permit incorporating it in the redevelopment of the complex. The space will be designed to provide additional program/activity space and amenities in the Centre. The following types of spaces/space uses that should be considered for this reconfiguration include (Figure 4-13):

- large banquet/multi-purpose room
- kitchen to serve multi-purpose rooms
- office space for organized sports groups
- community kitchen facilities

- arts studio spaces (music, dance, visual, digital, etc.)
- play/program spaces for infants, preschool and young children
- child-minding area
- informal social space
- youth drop-in/activity space
- meeting space

Existing program/activity space will be incorporated in the reconfiguration. The need to better locate and/or allocate additional space for amenities such as food services, skate sharpening, etc. should also be considered. Space could also be used in flexible ways to benefit both individual community members and the general public. Artists/artisans could rent space for their use (e.g., providing music



Figure 4-11: Humber College Classroom in Alder

Summary	<p><b>Repurposing Tony Rose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Repurposing Tony Rose A Rink as a dry floor field house could provide new indoor space to support diversify sport/recreation opportunities.</li> <li>– A wide range of uses can be accommodated in a dry floor field house. In Orangeville, the potential to repurpose Tony Rose A Rink to fulfill this function will also depend on: costs to repurpose the building and to ensure its effective operation over time as a year-round indoor recreation space; approaches to meeting future requirements for playing fields; balancing multi-purpose objectives against the potential for conflicting demand/uses when attempting to accommodate many various programs and activities; coordinating the function of multi-purpose spaces to be provided here and at Alder Street.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Expanding the Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Town of Orangeville library requires expansion to meet current standards and to be able to achieve an evolving role for libraries.</li> <li>– The main Orangeville branch is a heritage Carnegie library, which is limited in the extent to which it can accommodate improvements, to optimize the library's role in the community.</li> <li>– Co-locating libraries with community recreation facilities create synergies in service use, with both 'sides' of the complex benefiting from the resulting increased traffic.</li> <li>– Co-located municipal recreation and library facilities can better facilitate program/service coordination and collective efforts in provision.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Repurposing Humber College Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The space occupied by Humber College will be vacated in 2021, providing an opportunity for reconfiguration to meet community need for a variety of programming and social spaces, while incorporating existing spaces in its design.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– As part of the proposed redeveloped Alder Recreation Centre, incorporate between 14,000 and 16,000 square feet for library expansion including program space. The reconfiguration of Humber College space in terms of the type and design of spaces and their intended use(s) should coordinate and reflect the different programming objectives of the Town and the Library.</li> <li>– Assess feasibility of repurposing A Rink to indoor fieldhouse/gym. Upon complete transfer of use and full operation of Alder Street, redevelop the Tony Rose Centre. This will include removing the pool and B Rink, and the possible addition of arts programming space.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-12: Dedicated and multi-purpose program spaces summary and recommendations

instruction, crafting studio) with an option for reduced rent by providing community programs on behalf the Town. The Seniors Centre is interested in expanding programming and could potentially offer satellite programs at this the Recreation Centre in multi-use spaces. As noted above, the reconfiguration in terms of the type and design of spaces and their intended use(s) should reflect the complementary programming objectives of the Town and the Library. A variety of community program interests are discussed in Section 3.



Figure 4-13: Potential programming for repurposed humber college spaces

### 4.3 Dedicated Community Arts Centre

Orangeville’s 2014 Municipal Cultural Plan notes, “A lack of affordable space is a serious challenge to the development of the arts in Orangeville and there has been a long-term desire for a cultural centre. (p. 18)... Orangeville does not have a cultural centre that can accommodate multiple groups for entertainment, exhibitions or education and act as an anchor or hub for its cultural community and a resource for the larger community” (p. 39).

More specifically, with respect to facilities to support the arts sector, the Plan indicates the following: “Limitations of physical infrastructure, affordable space and programs are barriers to participation, inclusiveness and growth: Despite growing demand, there are challenges in finding appropriate, accessible and affordable performance venues, exhibition and gallery spaces and other cultural spaces, whether for groups, individual artists or youth programs...These space challenges are major factors in the decision to locate cultural businesses and activities in or outside of Orangeville. As well, the Town is facing growth pressures with limited land supply and increasing demands on current space” (p. 36).

The foregoing assessments consider the potential to incorporate spaces for arts programming in the redevelopment of the Alder Street Recreation Centre. To some extent, therefore, this would respond to a number of the Cultural Plan’s directives:

- "In the short term, the Town could consider integration of cultural activities into its existing facilities and recreation centres while developing a longer-term solution" (p. 18).
- "Integrate arts and culture into policies and activities across all departments such as Planning, Recreation, Library, Economic Development, and Communications" (p.42).
- "Take advantage of available capacity at municipal and other sites to enhance access to and availability of cultural programs" (p. 42).<sup>6</sup>
- "Further develop and promote the Library as a cultural hub and cultural gathering space through enhanced and innovative programming appealing to youth and the millennial generation" (p. 43).

In addition to smaller spaces for arts programming and/or instruction (e.g. studios, makerspace, etc.) that redevelopment at Alder Street will provide, the 2014 Plan points to the need for additional facilities. It recommends the development of "a Cultural Centre for Orangeville as a hub for cultural practitioners and artists, audiences, residents and youth" (p. 43). "A multipurpose cultural centre will act as an anchor or cultural hub for both the arts and the greater community. This centre will strengthen and improve Orangeville's

goal of becoming a cultural and tourism hub and its competitive positioning with other neighbouring communities that have or are building cultural spaces" (p. 37). The Cultural Plan recommends preparing a feasibility study and business plan for a cultural centre (p. 43). As with other facilities considered in the Master Plan, the option to consider a regional serving arts and cultural hub is discussed in further below.

Orangeville is currently a prominent centre for the performing arts, and it is anticipated that the Town will remain such in future. Theatre Orangeville, which operates out of the Opera House theatre (and occupies part of Town Hall), delivers a variety of productions and community programs. There is interest in growing this sector of the arts and providing additional facilities to do so. In keeping with the need to further investigate providing a dedicated arts and cultural centre - either as a local or regional undertaking - recommendations in this Plan focus on a simple, short-term solution to enhancing facilities for the performing arts: providing a black box theatre space.

"Black box theatre is a relatively recent innovation in theatre. A black box theater is a simple performance space that varies in size, and is usually a square room with black walls and a flat floor. The simplicity of the space is used to create a flexible stage and audience interaction. Such spaces are easily built and maintained. Black box theaters are usually home to performances requiring very basic technical arrangements, such as limited set construction. Common floor plans include

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<sup>6</sup> Since the Cultural Plan's adoption, the Town has worked with community organizations to enhance access to space for arts and culture activity.

thrust stage, modified thrust stage, and theater in the round. Due to their simple design and equipment they can be used for many performances each day. This simplicity also means that a black box theater can be adapted from other spaces.<sup>7</sup>

Two possible options to providing this type of space are apparent, in relation to other suggested directions in this Plan. Each poses its own particular advantages and disadvantages:

1. Incorporate a black box as part of redevelopment at Alder Recreation Centre: If added as part of the centre's redevelopment, it can be designed and equipped as a new space instead of a repurposed facility. Unless appropriately separated within the facility, the 'fit' within a hub of major indoor sports may be undesirable. The proposed concept for Alder Street suggests that this space would need to be located on the second floor, which may not be ideal for a public entertainment venue.
2. Incorporate a black box as part of redevelopment at Tony Rose Sports Centre: If added as part of the centre's redevelopment, it can be designed and equipped as a new space instead of a repurposed facility. Although possibly to a lesser degree than at Alder Street, unless it is appropriately separated within the facility, the 'fit' with sports and recreation facilities may not work. Co-locating here would mean provision at a later date than the above option.

Kelowna B.C.'s facility provides an example of black box. The black box is part of a community theatre that also includes a main stage, dressing rooms, and a green room. The black box itself is a 51.5' x 30' (1,200 square foot) multi-purpose room, which can be used as a separate performance space or added on as a rehearsal room or VIP meet and greet space. The Black Box rental includes a bar and refrigerator, the PA, Lighting and video systems, along with optional stage risers, tables and chairs. The PA system, lighting and main drapes are normally pre-set at the south end of the room. Full occupancy for Black Box Theatre/Rehearsal Hall is 125 people (106 when licenced).

Source: <https://theatre.kelowna.ca/rental-information/black-box-theatre>

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_box\\_theater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_box_theater)



Figure 4-15: Orangeville is a prominent centre for the performing arts

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– As established in the 2014 Municipal Cultural Plan, there is a lack of space for arts programming and development in Orangeville and ongoing interest in a dedicated cultural centre.</li> <li>– Whether a local or regional approach to providing an all-arts inclusive cultural centre is appropriate, community arts programs and activities can be met to some degree in the interim through integration of space in facility redevelopment/repurposing, and continuing to access existing municipal and community facilities for this purpose. This will support an enhanced cultural program role for both the municipality and the Library.</li> <li>– Orangeville is a prominent centre for the performing arts (Figure 4-15), and there is interest providing additional facilities to grow this sector. An interim solution to a dedicated cultural centre is the provision of a simple black box theatre.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Incorporate the provision of arts and culture program/activity space in the redevelopment of Alder Recreation Centre, coordinating the municipal and library ‘sides’ of design and development.</li> <li>– Provide a simple black box theatre in one of two potential locations: a component of the Alder Recreation Centre development, or as part of the Tony Rose Sports Centre redevelopment.</li> <li>– Prepare a feasibility study and business plan for a dedicated arts and culture facility. The scope of the study should be based on a determination of the potential to collaborate with other municipalities in its provision.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-14: Dedicated community arts centre summary and recommendations

## 4.4 Playing Fields and Outdoor Courts

### Background

Figure 4-16 on the following pages maps the playing fields and outdoor amenities in the Town, and Table 4-11 below summarizes the number, ownership and population-based provision level of scheduled outdoor facilities.

The provision level that combines municipal and school fields includes facilities that do not necessarily meet the same standards as municipal fields - although secondary school fields may be of better quality than those at elementary schools. At the same time, school fields are used for organized community activity and so need to be considered in overall supply.

Table 4-12 summarizes household survey results for the Master Plan on current use of, and opinions on additional need for, outdoor playing fields and courts.

Resident and group interest includes playing fields and courts that are not currently available in Orangeville, including facilities for lacrosse and pickelball, and artificial turf fields.

### Comparative Supply

Comparative provision information (details provided in Appendix C) suggests that Orangeville is well within the range of field and court supply among the 12 communities reviewed. While each municipality is unique in terms of program/activity interests that drive facility provision and the local balance of municipal, not-for-profit and private facilities, these figures are indicators of where Orangeville sits with respect to similar communities.

Compared to the eleven other municipalities for which information was collected, Orangeville falls in the mid-range of municipal ball diamond provision. St. Thomas (1:1,853) and Bradford West Gwillimbury (1:4,415) have the highest and lowest provision ratios, respectively. Among the remaining communities, five are better supplied, and four

Facility	# Municipal		# School Board		Provision Level (population 29,220)	
	lit	unlit	lit	unlit	Municipal	Municipal + School
Ball Diamonds	4	5	-	4	1:3,245	1:2,245
Soccer Fields	2	8	-	13	1:2,920	1:1,270
Football Fields	-	-	-	1	-	1:29,220
Tennis Courts	4	2	-	-	1:4,870	-

Table 4-11: Playing field and court supply

# LEGEND

- ① Alder Parklands
- ② Idyllwilde Park
- ③ Rotary Park
- ④ Fendley Park
- ⑤ Orangeville Lions Park
- ⑥ Murray's Mountain Park
- ⑦ Princess of Wziales Park
- ⑧ Springbrook Park
- ⑨ Erindale Park
- ⑩ Kin Family Park
- ⑪ Mother Teresa Park
- ⑫ Myr Morrow Park
- ⑬ Rebecca Hills Park
- ⑭ Parkinson Park
- ⑮ Karen Court Park
-  Ball Diamonds
-  Soccer Pitches
-  Tennis Courts
-  Basketball Courts
-  Lacrosse
-  Multi-Sport Court
-  Parking



Murray's Mountain Park





Mother Teresa Park





Kin Family Park





Parkinson Park






Alder Parklands





Fendley Park





Princess of Wales Park



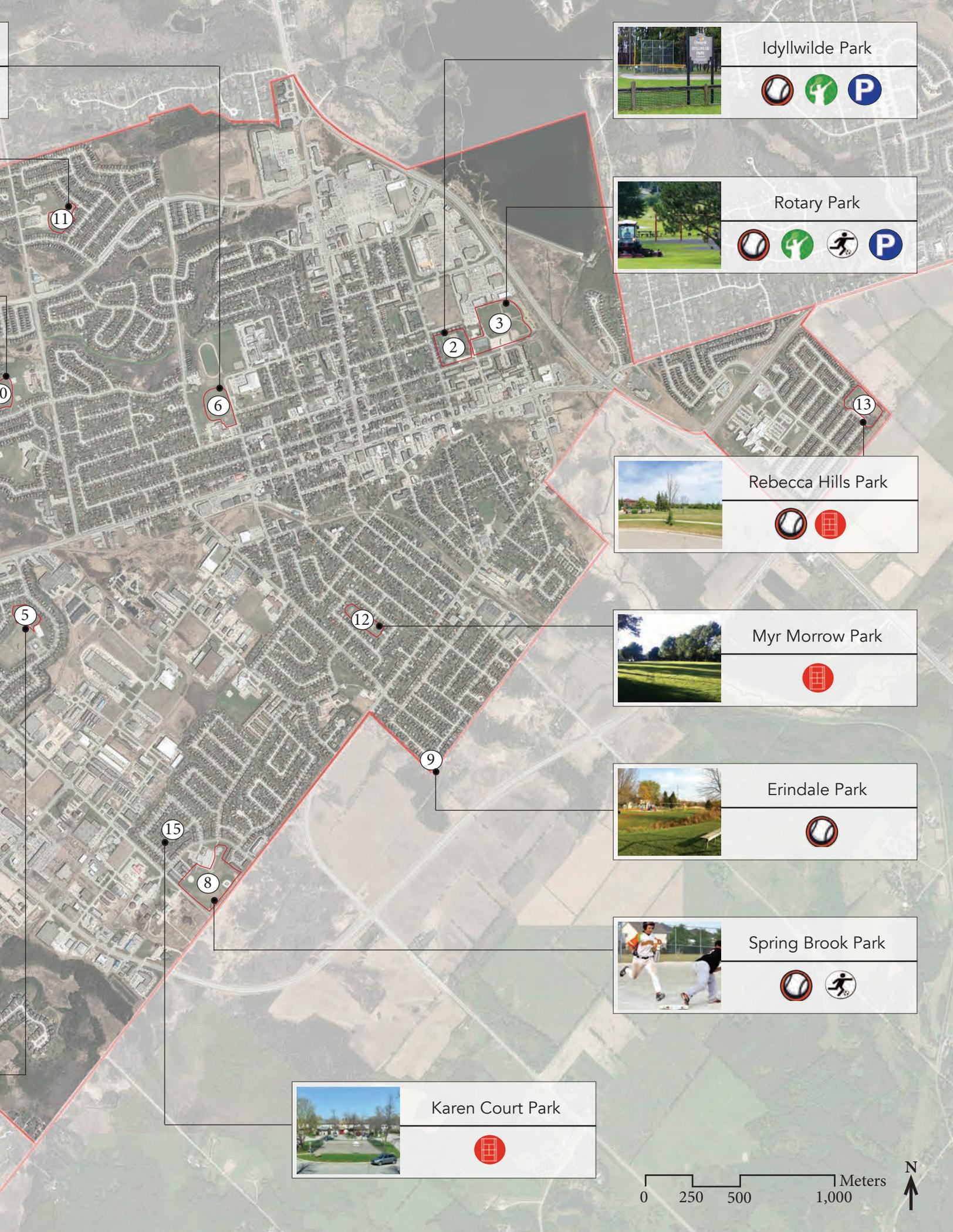


Orangeville Lion's Park





Figure 4-16: Location of Recreation Facilities in Orangeville



Idyllwilde Park



Rotary Park



Rebecca Hills Park



Myr Morrow Park



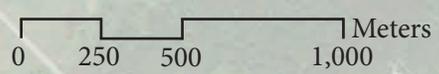
Erindale Park



Spring Brook Park



Karen Court Park



are less well supplied, with ball diamonds than Orangeville.

For soccer fields, supply ranges from a low of 1:12,187 in Brantford to a high of 1:1,768 in St. Thomas. Orangeville and Woodstock are comparably supplied at 1:2,920. Among the remaining municipalities four are better

supplied than Orangeville, and five are less well supplied with soccer fields.

Orangeville is in the mid-range of municipal tennis court provision at 1:4,870. Caledon has the highest level at 1:3,023 and Bradford West Gwillimbury is lowest with 1:11,775. Among the remaining communities relative to Orangeville, five are better supplied and four are less

Sport / Activity / Facility	Currently Participate		Need for Additional Facilities	
	Telephone (R= 235*)	Online (R=513)	Telephone (R=323)	Online (R=635)
Ball			12%	13%
– baseball	38%	49%		
– slo-pitch		19%		
– softball	17%	12%		
– 3-pitch	15%	11%		
Soccer	43%	46%	4%	4%
Lacrosse	21%	22%	4%	4%
Sports fields			5%	2%
Turf fields			2%	4%
Football field			1%	-
Tennis	12%	12%	2%	2%
Other	1% - 5%**	0.7% - 2%***	0.6% - 2%****	
** pickleball, basketball, football, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee				
*** football, ball hockey, pickleball, ultimate Frisbee				
**** football field, pickleball courts, Alder field				

Table 4-12: Summary of household survey findings on playing field and court use/need

\* R represents number of responses since participants were able to select more than one. Resident and group interest includes playing fields and courts that are not currently available in Orangeville, including facilities for lacrosse and pickleball, and artificial turf fields.

well supplied. Orangeville is very close to Clarington, however, with the latter providing courts at a ratio of 1:4,843.

Municipalities typically do not provide football fields, since football is largely part of secondary school athletic programs. While there is currently no high school football program in Orangeville, there is a community based football league. The Orangeville Outlaws Football Association was established in 2003. The Outlaws home base is Westside Secondary School, and the Association has exclusive use of fields at this site.

## Assumptions for Assessment

The playing field and court assessments are based on the following assumptions:

- the current regular field use season remains the same, and runs from the second week in May to the end of September
- scheduling information used represents a peak week during regular season
- current field scheduling approaches remain the same
- all scheduled time is actually used
- for the purposes of projecting field requirements over the term of the Master Plan, lit fields are considered to be the equivalent of two unlit fields
- calculations on the need for future fields or courts that produce 'partial' facilities (e.g., 2.3 fields) are rounded down (e.g., 2) based on the assumption that

facilities are not provided until there is sufficient demand to support 100% capacity use.

## Playing Fields: Ball Diamonds

### Community Use and Demand

As shown in Table 4-12, participation in ball, and reported need for additional diamonds, were among the most frequent responses to both community resident surveys. Ball groups reported the following regarding additional facility needs:

- A shortage of diamonds appropriate in size and/or quality requires minor baseball to play many games outside Orangeville
- Groups are turning away prospective players because they do not have enough diamonds/time on diamonds
- Need for an additional diamond to accommodate peewee+ level play, especially for peewee, bantam and midget age groups (U11 through U18)
- Need for additional facilities to accommodate adult slo-pitch
- Ball leagues also indicated the following needed improvements to existing diamonds:
- Baseball clubs noted that while they use municipal diamonds for practice, some are undersized for game use, and/or are lacking appropriate safety fencing

- Diamonds with limestone screenings prevent players from sliding due to the risk of injury
- Need for covering dugouts and home mound to shade players and protect the diamond from rain, respectively
- Need for equipment storage at Princess of Wales Park
- Construct batting cages/hitting tunnels at Springbrook and Princess of Wales Parks, to allow teams to practice and free up diamonds for game use
- Increasing the number of lit diamonds would provide access to needed additional time
- Overall improved maintenance

## Current and Projected Ball Diamond Use

The Town's schedule for a typical week in 2019, and information from the user group survey was used to total current prime time use and interest in more time on Town diamonds. This information is shown in Table 4-13.

Two of the groups requested to complete the survey did not respond. It was assumed, therefore, that their use of prime time aligns with that in the Town's schedule. Minor baseball's scheduled time was more than double that which was reported in the survey. It was verified that the scheduled time is correct. Collectively, therefore, ball groups use 122 hours per week of prime time on Town diamonds. Interest in additional time on diamonds totals 24 hours per week, while 33 hours of weekly use outside Orangeville could potentially be transferred to Town facilities. The three groups that use diamonds in other communities do so in Caledon, Mono, Amaranth, and New Tecumseth. For the 2020 season, minor baseball requested the following: 38 hours per week on three diamonds in Caledon, 12 hours per week on two diamonds in Mono, and 10 hours per week on one diamond in Amaranth. Figure 4-17 illustrates the proportion of prime time<sup>8</sup> used in a typical week on Town diamonds by various users, according to the 2019 schedule.

The figure shows the two Rotary and the Idyllwilde #1 diamonds are largely used by adult groups. The minor use that occurs on these fields and Idyllwilde #2 is softball. These

<sup>8</sup> Appendix D provides information on prime time by diamond.

diamonds are occupied on all weeknights, although several appear to be underused in terms of capacity. The three Springbrook diamonds, Princess of Wales, and Mother Teresa Park fields are almost exclusively used by minor baseball. With two exceptions, these diamonds are used to capacity on all weeknights.

In addition to Town diamonds, elementary school diamonds at St. Andrews, Credit

Meadows (2) and Parkinson Centennial are also used for community activity. Users book these facilities through the School Boards. Information from the boards indicates that St. Andrews is used five days a week from May through August. From 2013 and 2019 Credit Meadows north, Credit Meadow south, and Parkinson Central diamonds were booked an average of 213, 213 and 740 hours per year, respectively. These figures include all

Group	Town Schedule Hours/week	Information from Survey		
		Weekly Prime Time Used in Orangeville	Weekly Time to Transfer from Elsewhere	Additional Weekly Prime Time Needed
Minor Softball	14	14*	-	-
Minor Softball	14	14*	-	-
Minor Baseball	51	20	30	12
Ladies 3-pitch	10.5	10.5	0	0
Ladies Vintage 3-pitch	0	0	2	unsure
Ladies Slo-pitch	4	4*	-	-
Mixed Slo-pitch	12	12	0	4
Men's Slo-pitch (rec)	22.5	22.5	0	8
Men's Slo-pitch (mast)	4	4.15	0	0
Rockies Jr. Baseball	4	4	1	unsure
	122	91.15	33	24

Table 4-13: Municipal ball diamond use

\* assumed; no response to survey

categories of use; community ball league use is not specifically identified.

Among the seven groups that responded to the survey, participation in all except minor baseball has remained stable over the last three years. The number of participants in minor baseball has increased from 800 to 900 or 13%. Other groups range from 16 in for the Orangeville Rockies to 285 for men’s slo-pitch.

Collectively, this information suggests the need for additional access to ball diamonds, particularly if weekends are to be kept open for tournaments and rainouts. Men’s slo-pitch reported that growth as a league will include

hosting more tournaments, which will translate into more weekend use of diamonds.

Orangeville and Headwaters Minor Baseball Association (OHMBA) reported a diamond shortage starts at the Peewee level and continues up from there. The age groups most affected are those highlighted below:

- T-ball = 5U / U5
- Jr Rookie = 7U / U7
- Rookie = 9U / U9
- Mosquito = 11U / U11
- Peewee = 13U / U13
- Bantam = 15U / U15
- Midget = 18U / U18
- Junior = 21U / U21

Name	Class & Size	Lit	Unlit	Sunday Eve	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Municipal</b>										
Rotary North	A-medium	X		44%	44%	100%	89%	100%	89%	
Rotary South	A-meidum	X			78%	100%	33%	100%	89%	
Idyllwilde 1	B-large	X		33%	78%	78%	89%	67%	89%	
Idyllwilde 2	B-small		X			100%		100%		
Princess of Wales	A-large	X		Minor baseball, Giants Sr. Men Rookies Jr. various game times	100%	100%	44%	100%	Minor baseball various game times	Minor baseball various game times
Springbrook 1	B-large		X		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Springbrook 2	B-medium		X		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Springbrook 3	B-small		X		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Mother Teresa	B-small		X	Minor Baseball 4:00-6:00	100%	100%	100%	100%		

Figure 4-17: Ball diamond percentage use prime time

Minor Ball
  Adult Ball
  Various Users

Although the league uses a number of diamonds in the Town, Springbrook Park is its primary location. As the Association's 'home', it is reasonable to focus on enhancing diamonds at this location to provide additional time for older age groups. Lighting the large diamond at Springbrook would effectively add another 'unlit' diamond and provide extra capacity for the Peewee+ age groups.

Although the Town operates and maintains the Springbrook diamonds, they are located on property of the adjacent École Élémentaire des Quatre-Rivières. Adding lights to the large diamond, therefore, means investing capital in assets whose future is not controlled by the municipality. Given this situation, lighting the diamond should be preceded by one of the following arrangements with the school, in order of preference:

- Town purchase of a severed park parcel on which the diamonds are located;
- an agreement giving the Town the first option to purchase should the land be sold in the future and, ideally, at a price to be determined now;
- an agreement to ensure the Town's current arrangement regarding use, operations and revenue retention for the diamonds is extended to cover the projected life of the lighting infrastructure.

The OHMBA indicated willingness to help finance these (and other) improvements to the diamonds they use, and has prepared cost estimates for the desired improvements. The

Town and the Association should work together to confirm costs, and prepare an improvement program and shared financing agreement to implement needed upgrades.

Adult slo-pitch is looking for 12 more hours of prime time. Lighting the Springbrook diamond is not anticipated to provide additional capacity for other users since most 'new' use here will be transferred from facilities outside the Town. The schedule indicates some room to increase use on the diamonds currently used by adult slo-pitch, and the Town indicated that these groups have not requested more time when planning the season's booking schedule. Actual need for additional time, therefore, needs to be verified.

While noting the need to confirm unmet demand for adult slo-pitch, for planning purposes it is assumed here that lighting the Springbrook field will meet current demand for municipal diamonds in Orangeville. It is assumed that use of diamonds outside the Town will continue. As noted above, just as non-residents travel to Orangeville to use services, resident travel to other area municipalities to use facilities is also reasonable. The Plan also looks to the future when non-resident use will comprise a larger share of participation in Orangeville based groups. Providing facilities to meet total regional demand within the Town's boundaries is not warranted nor is it feasible given a limited land base. Moreover, suggested improvements at minor ball parks include adding batting cages which, if provided, could be used to shift some practice time away from diamonds.

## Facility Requirements

The current population-based provision level, therefore, is 1 diamond for every 2,087 people (29,220/14 'unlit' diamonds including the lit field at Springbrook). This ratio suggests the need for the equivalent of three (3.5) more unlit diamonds by the year 2030. Upon ensuring optimal use of existing diamonds for adult slo-pitch and confirming sufficient unmet demand, an additional diamond should be provided. Adding another adult diamond at Rotary Park should be considered, as this will provide an enhanced location for tournament activity by concentrating diamonds at Rotary and Idyllwilde, particularly as the eventual need for another diamond could be met by lighting this diamond. This is consistent with recommendations in the 2015 Parks Master Plan (p. 58). Appendix D illustrates the possible location of a new diamond at Rotary Park. As noted in the 2015 Plan, locating a ball diamond here would require the removal of the lit soccer field. Replacement options are discussed in relation to future soccer field requirements.

Beyond adding and lighting a diamond at Rotary Park, a number of factors should continue to be monitored to determine when to expand supply and add the equivalent of another unlit diamond (to accommodate the remaining level of demand for 1.5 diamonds without oversupply). actual use of existing diamonds, and requests for bookings that cannot be accommodated.

Options to providing a third diamond might be met should a partnership-based regional serving complex be developed in the long-term, as discussed elsewhere in the Plan.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town scheduling and user group responses to the survey show that, with a few exceptions, municipal diamonds are at capacity. This is particularly true of facilities used by minor ball.</li> <li>- One additional diamond is needed now to serve minor ball in Peewee and older divisions. Current need, therefore, totals the equivalent of 14 unlit diamonds (including the addition of one to accommodate minor ball), which translates into a population-based provision ratio of 1:2,087 for planning purposes or an additional three diamonds to the end of the Plan’s term.</li> <li>- Consider locating one of these diamonds at Rotary Park for adult slo-pitch, upon confirmation of need.</li> <li>- Ongoing monitoring beyond this point will establish the need for two more diamonds to the end of the Plan’s term, one of which could be provided by lighting the Rotary Park diamond.</li> <li>- Suggested improvements at minor ballparks such as adding batting cages for practice could free up more time on diamonds.</li> <li>- In comparison to other communities, Orangeville is now, and will continue to be, well supplied with diamonds.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Light large diamond at Springbrook Park, which is the home of the OHMBA and will provide the equivalent of one additional diamond. This initiative should be based on an agreement with the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde guaranteeing the Town continued access to this park through acquisition or a long-term lease covering the lifecycle of capital improvements.</li> <li>- Consider need for batting cages at fields used by minor baseball to free up diamond time.</li> <li>- Collaborate with OHMBA to confirm costs, and prepare an improvement program and shared financing agreement to implement needed upgrades.</li> <li>- Anticipate the need for the equivalent of three new unlit diamonds to be provided beyond lighting the Springbrook diamond.</li> <li>- Upon confirmation of demand for an additional diamond to accommodate adult slo-pitch, provide a new diamond. Consider locating it at Rotary Park.</li> <li>- Consider lighting the diamond in Rotary Park to add the equivalent of a second diamond.</li> <li>- Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for ball diamond time, and assess potential to add a third diamond to serve Town-generated demand as part of a partnership-based regional field complex.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-18: Ball diamond summary and recommendations



Figure 4-19: Orangeville is well supplied by municipal and school soccer fields.

## Playing Fields: Soccer, Lacrosse and Football

### Community Use and Demand

There are no regulation lacrosse fields in Orangeville.<sup>9</sup> Minor lacrosse uses soccer fields in Town, and lacrosse fields in other municipalities. As such, the assessment considers current field use for both sports collectively before addressing the need to designate separate facilities. As noted above, municipalities typically do not provide football fields.

Roughly one-fifth of households in both surveys reported participation in lacrosse and over 40% participate in soccer. Collectively, between 1% and 5% of respondents noted the need for

additional playing fields of the following types: soccer, lacrosse, sports fields, turf fields, and/or football. The community also expressed interest in an indoor turf field.

### Current and Projected Soccer Field Use

The 2015 Parks Master Plan indicated, “a need for additional sports field capacity particularly involving soccer and also multi-use considerations involving football, lacrosse and other field sports, with potential strategies involving lighting additional existing sports fields, an artificial turf facility, new natural turf field development and school board partnerships/agreements” (p.58).

The Plan recommended proceeding with the development of the Lions Club Sports Park (p. 59), which was completed the following year and added a national standard sports field with smart lighting, and two minor sports fields to the Town’s inventory along with amenities and increased parking.

<sup>9</sup> Google Maps from previous years showed a lacrosse field at Murray Mountain Park. No lacrosse fields were recorded in the Town inventory or schedule, and site visits did not indicate any facilities. For the purposes of the assessment, therefore, all scheduled Town fields are categorized as soccer.

The Town's schedule for a typical week in 2019, and information from the user group survey was used to total current prime time use and interest in more time on soccer and/or lacrosse fields. This information is shown in Table 4-14.

As with ball diamonds, reported use from the survey did not always match the Town's schedule. The formal schedule, therefore, was used for the assessment. Given current total weekly use of three hours by Orangeville Athletics Sports and Social, a reported need for an additional 140 hours (120 + 20 hours) is assumed to represent the entire season. Weekly need for additional prime time, therefore, would total 7 hours. The inclusion of Minor Lacrosse's interest in transferring time to Orangeville results in a total of 9 hours of additional time needed on soccer fields. Minor Lacrosse reported interest in a total of 30 hours per week (20 + 10 hours) on lacrosse fields, which is discussed below.

Figure 4-20 illustrates the proportion of prime time<sup>10</sup> used in a typical week on Town soccer fields by various users, according to the 2019 schedule.

Based on information collected for the Master Plan assessment, it appears that: a) the addition of the Lions Club Sports Park fields addressed the need for additional municipal facilities to accommodate soccer, b) there is no apparent reason the additional requested hours on soccer fields cannot be accommodated

now, and c) fields are not being used to any great extent for lacrosse.

As Figure 4-20 shows, during prime time hours (Monday through Thursday evenings), there are a number of nights on which fields are not used, and roughly 2/3rds of the remaining evenings are not used to capacity. The field at Mother Teresa Park is not used at all. Given that Minor Soccer reported 1,075 participants last year with 98% residing in Orangeville, municipal field use seems very low. Additional information was used, therefore, to crosscheck the above findings.

The complete season schedule for 2019 was used to calculate the total number of prime time hours used on soccer fields in relation to capacity. At 88 hours per week prime time on each field, a total of 1,760 hours was available for the 20 weeks of the 2019 season. Scheduled use totaled 555.5 hours, which represents 31.5% of capacity (555.5/1,760 hours). This information confirms that soccer fields are capable of accommodating additional use, while still allowing for turf resting periods.

It is important to note that the municipal supply of 10 soccer fields<sup>11</sup> is supplemented by a relatively large number of school fields (Figure 4-19). There are 14 playing fields on school board properties, of which six are located on secondary school sites (four at Orangeville District SS and two at Westside SS). School sites include three mini fields at ODSS, one of which is a formal mini field. Two are set

<sup>10</sup> For soccer fields, Town scheduling indicates prime time as Monday through Thursday evenings, based on peak demand for field time.

<sup>11</sup> Alder Parklands is included in the inventory as a single field; it comprises 5 mini fields and is rarely booked as a full field since there are no goal posts.

inside a full field, and are counted as a single larger field in the inventory. One of the WSS school fields is a football field. Both fields at WSS have been assigned exclusively for use by the Orangeville Outlaws Football Association since its inception. There are five school fields, therefore, that accommodate older age groups. The following elementary school sites have playing fields: Island Lake, Montgomery Village, Princess Margaret (3 fields), Spencer Avenue, Princess Elizabeth, and St. Andrew.

While school fields are often not maintained to the same level as municipal fields, they are still used for community sports. Information from

the boards indicates that, from 2013 to 2019, the two fields at WSS were booked an average of 897 hours per year, and those at ODSS were scheduled for an average of 521 hours per year for the same time period. St. Andrews is used five days a week from May through August. All hours booked at the WSS fields comprise the Outlaws' use for football games, practices and training from May through October. No other groups use these fields. Other figures include all categories of use; community soccer and lacrosse use by field is not specifically identified. Minor Lacrosse (women's) uses the field at Princess Elizabeth Public School. While

Group	Town Schedule		Information from Survey		
	Hours Booked		Weekly Prime Time Used Now In Orangeville	Weekly Time to Transfer from Elsewhere	Additional Prime Time Needed
	M-F	Weekly Total			
Minor Lacrosse*	2	12	16 hours	2 hours	0
Orangeville Minor Soccer	29.5	37	15 hours	0	0
Orangeville Athletics Sports and Social	3	3	no hours provided	120 hours**	20 hours**
Minor Lacrosse	-	-	-	20 hours	10 hours

\*women's \*\*assumed to be seasonal total; seasonal total for 2019 was 64 hours.

Table 4-14: Municipal soccer field use

it is not known if use between 2013 and 2019 was exclusively lacrosse, it averaged 209 hours per year. The remaining elementary school fields averaged between 180 and 296 hours per year.

Judging by the number of school fields and hours used at these locations, it is likely that a considerable amount of soccer league activity occurs on school property. Municipal fields, therefore, are accommodating only a portion of this use. This suggests that, assuming

school facilities continue to contribute to meeting demand for athletic fields, demand for additional fields will not require an expanded municipal supply for some time.

### Facility Requirements

Municipal fields total the equivalent of 11 unlit fields (Mother Teresa Park field is not used, and not included in the total). The current population based provision level, therefore, is 1:2,655 (29,220/11). Based on the extent

Name	Class & Size	Lit	Unlit	Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Prime Time
<b>Municipal</b>											
Princess of Wales	minor				75%		75%			1 hr	Mon-thurs. 6:00-8:00pm
Fendley Park	minor	X			125%	125%					Mon-thurs. 6:00-8:00pm
Amelia 1	minor		X	50%	50%	100%	=			5.0 hrs	Mon-thurs. 6:00-8:00pm
Amelia 2	minor		X	50%	50%	100%			50%	5.0 hrs	
Alder Parklands	5 mini		X	50%	50%	50%		50%			Mon-thurs. 6:00-8:00pm
Lions Sports Park 1	minor		X					100%		1 hr	Mon-thurs. 6:00-8:30pm
Lions Sports Park 2	minor		X					100%		1 hr	Mon-thurs. 6:00-8:30pm
Lions Sports Park 3	major	X		3 hrs	88%		50%	50%		1.5 hrs	Mon-thurs. 6:00-10:30pm
Rotary Park	major	X						50%	25%		Mon-thurs. 6:00-10:30pm
Mother Teresa Park minor	minor		X								not used

Figure 4-20: Soccer field percent use prime time



of scheduled use, it is estimated that 60% of existing fields - or 6.6 fields - would be sufficient to accommodate current use, and still allow turf resting periods. This translates into a provision ratio of 1:4,427, or the equivalent of 8 unlit fields to the end of the Master Plan's term. One of the mini fields at Alder Parklands will be lost to the redevelopment of the Centre (leaving four mini fields), and reducing the existing supply of full size fields to 10. Existing fields, therefore, should be able to accommodate demand into the years beyond 2030, assuming school fields remain available for community use. Should Rotary Park field be redeveloped as part of a baseball 'hub', however, the loss of a lit facility would reduce the total to the equivalent of 9 unlit fields, and only one lit field would remain. The current schedule, however, suggests that the use of both lit fields could be consolidated at Lions Sports Park. The potential addition of a lit artificial turf field to accommodate lacrosse, as discussed below, could also provide some additional capacity for soccer.

There are other factors that support a fairly conservative approach to anticipating demand for soccer in upcoming years. Table 4-15 shows trends in soccer participation in Ontario between the years 2012 and 2018, as published in Canada Soccer's Annual Reports. With the exception of a spike in total participation in 2013, numbers declined over this period by 18%. Within total participation, youth male and female (ages 18 and under) declined by 16% and 27%, respectively or 21% total. These data suggest that the rapid growth in soccer participation in earlier decades will not be a factor in facility demand

for the foreseeable future, and reversing trends may result in an oversupply of fields in some communities.

In Orangeville, the current use of soccer fields for lacrosse may also affect future demand should the Town decide to add regulation lacrosse fields to its facility supply. This possibility is discussed on the following page.

### Adding Lacrosse Fields to Town Supply

The 2015 Parks Master Plan indicated need for fields to accommodate a variety of sports, including soccer, lacrosse and football. As the preceding discussion indicates, current use of these facilities is almost exclusively soccer. Lack of demand for municipal fields for football is understandable. Although facilities can be designed to accommodate football in addition to other sports, there are no community based football groups in Orangeville. As in most communities, it appears that football in Orangeville is part of secondary school athletic programs.

With respect to lacrosse (Figure 4-21), Orangeville is unique. It is, and has historically been, a major lacrosse centre. The Orangeville Northmen Lacrosse runs a range of programs: senior men’s box lacrosse, and a minor program comprising box lacrosse, boys field lacrosse, and women’s field lacrosse. Programs include both house league and rep teams. The women’s lacrosse program is the largest in the province, and the Northmen has the

only small town Jr. A team in Canada.<sup>12</sup> In the group survey, the minor program reported 15% growth in participation over the last three years, from 650 to 750 registrants.

Both Tony Rose and Alder arena floors are key facilities for box lacrosse, for both regular and tournament activities during the ice-out season. Currently, however, there are no regulation lacrosse fields in Orangeville. Northmen Lacrosse uses a combination of regulation fields in other communities and soccer fields in Orangeville. The Town’s schedule records women’s Minor Lacrosse use as 12 weekly hours of prime time on municipal soccer fields. As noted above, this group also uses the field at Princess Elizabeth Public School. As shown in Table 4-14, their survey reported 20 weekly hours of use on lacrosse fields outside Orangeville that could be transferred to local fields, as well as the need for 10 additional prime time hours on fields. Although in-Town soccer fields are used for lacrosse now, a regulation lacrosse field is 100.6m (110 yds.) long by 55m (60 yds.) wide, which is 9.1m (10

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.northmenlacrosse.ca/page/show/438598-history-of-the-northmen->

Age/Sex	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Youth Male	164,215	164,693	157,837	171,023	160,738	147,971	138,262
Youth Female	124,341	121,556	113,904	115,427	106,586	98,457	90,299
Senior Male	40,329	42,978	41,191	27,797	38,449	36,696	38,954
Senior Female	24,351	26,044	24,402	14,233	21,186	19,540	20,726
Total	352,236	355,271	337,334	328,480	326,959	302,664	288,241

Table 4-15: Soccer Participation in Ontario 2012 to 2018

yds.) longer than a regulation soccer field. The Princess Elizabeth Public School soccer field, for example, is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  standard lacrosse field.

The long-standing presence and strength of the Orangeville Northmen suggests it would be appropriate to provide regulation lacrosse fields within Town. The 2015 Parks Master Plan recommended investigating converting a natural turf soccer field to a lit multi-use artificial turf field through a feasibility study/business plan, including the potential to enclose the field for year-round use. Possible locations for such an initiative included: Murray's Mountain Park/ODSS, Alder Street Parklands/WSS, or Rotary Park (p. 59, 60). With no regulation fields in the existing supply, starting with an artificial turf facility is a reasonable option. It would provide regulation lacrosse facilities that operate at greater capacity than a single natural turf field while conserving parkland.

From a community recreation hub perspective, the best location for an artificial turf field may be Tony Rose - either on the Sports Centre site or in Murray Mountain Park.<sup>13</sup> This would be new construction as opposed to a conversion. It would support the creation of an indoor/outdoor hub at this location, while anticipating the possible long-term need to add more fields. The Sports Centre, Murray's Mountain Park, ODSS, and Princess Elizabeth Public School together comprise a contiguous parcel of land with the Sports Centre (and the schools) occupying the perimeters of the site. The open

<sup>13</sup> Google Maps showed a natural turf lacrosse field at Murray Mountain Park in previous years.

Lacrosse thrives in this town and our players are nationally respected...There has been a lacrosse team in Orangeville since the 1860s, almost always a successful one. The Orangeville Dufferins were Ontario's first Provincial Champions in 1897. The Senior Northmen, founded in 1987, and the organization's Jr. A and B men's teams are perennial powerhouses in the historic sport. Now, there are also boys', girls' and women's house and rep leagues.

Local attendance is among the highest in the province, the Northmen women's organization is among Ontario's largest, and the list of Northmen championships, both provincial and national, is unparalleled at 20 gold medals and counting...Last August, the Orangeville Jr. B Northmen went on to win their league's national lacrosse finals in Saskatoon. Four other Northmen teams, including the undefeated senior girls' team, were Ontario champs.

Source: <https://www.inthehills.ca/2018/03/lacrosse/>

space areas in the interior can be designed as a single 'park' oriented to the Tony Rose Centre. An agreement with the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSS) would be required to guarantee long-term access to the property at both schools should additional fields be developed, and to establish shared costs/use.



Figure 4-21: Lacrosse

The existing field at Princess Elizabeth Public School, which would be part of this hub, could continue to be used as part of the lacrosse program. This initiative would effectively provide a lacrosse centre within the Town.

The Rotary Park option would be precluded if adult slo-pitch becomes the focus of the Rotary/Idyllwilde sites. Moreover, there is no space here to add another athletic field should one be needed in the long-term.

Artificial turf fields are often designed to include soccer, lacrosse, football and field hockey. A standard field hockey pitch - at 91.4m (100 yds.) long by 55m (60 yds.) wide - fits within the above overall dimensions. Accommodating football would require a longer field 109.7m (120 yds.). While a consideration in determining the scope of a multi-purpose design for a variety of uses, a single field will be limited in terms of its capacity to accommodate multiple sports, particularly given largely common prime times for all of these activities.

### Allocating Field Time

Community interest was expressed in an indoor soccer facility. Orangeville Minor Soccer reported the potential to transfer 16 hours of current indoor field use in Mono to a facility in Town. Orangeville Athletics Sports and Social indicated need for 30 hours of prime time at an indoor field. User groups generally agreed that sports groups and sports tourism would benefit from having an indoor artificial turf field, particularly for use by lacrosse and soccer for year-round training, winter play and tryouts, and starting the season earlier (focus group)

A new artificial turf field, particularly if covered, will inevitably be of interest to both lacrosse and soccer groups. At the same time, the rationale for providing a new field is to initiate a Town-based 'home' for Orangeville Northmen with a regulation field. Although soccer would benefit from a municipal indoor venue, there is no shortage of soccer fields in Town. While designing a new field to also



Figure 4-22: Playing on indoor artificial turf.

accommodate soccer, therefore, it may be necessary in the interests of equity to provide lacrosse with the largest share of total hours.

Foregoing discussions considered the possibility of including soccer as part of a multi-purpose field house by repurposing A Rink at Tony Rose. This approach would necessarily limit access to the facility for soccer. Other activities/uses - some of which currently are not provided with Town facilities - would also need to be accommodated at a repurposed A Rink. The field house could, however, provide some indoor floor time for soccer activity.

The feasibility of providing a new, seasonally or permanently covered artificial turf field (Figure 4-22) should consider the following factors:

- the willingness of user groups to pay a premium to use this facility that is reasonable in view of costs to the Town (and partner, if applicable) to provide it
- limiting prime time use (evenings and weekends) to use for games or tournaments

- directing all use for practices/training schools/camps, etc. to non-prime time or soccer fields
- assigning private rentals appropriate priority for generating non-subsidized revenues
- how time is to be shared between lacrosse and soccer

A second field at this location could be added (for lacrosse and soccer) with the intention of making this a community lacrosse centre. Local groups currently use indoor soccer facilities in surrounding municipalities. High quality indoor field facilities are provided in the Township of Mono at the Athletes Institute. Its indoor sports dome comprises 24,000 square feet of artificial turf for both soccer and lacrosse. The Erin Indoor Recreation Centre has a 110' x 60' artificial turf field that is used for a soccer, lacrosse, rugby & football. Future considerations to develop artificial turf fields to serve as a regional facility, therefore, should be assessed in relation to the availability and use of existing, comparable facilities, and

as a partnership venture with surrounding municipalities.

Summary	<p>Soccer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on information collected for the Master Plan assessment, there is no apparent reason the additional requested hours on soccer fields cannot be accommodated now, and fields are not being used to any great extent for lacrosse.</li> <li>- Judging by the number of school fields and hours used at these locations, it is likely that a considerable amount of soccer league activity occurs on school property. Municipal fields, therefore, are accommodating only a portion of this use.</li> <li>- Assuming school facilities continue to contribute to meeting demand for soccer, the equivalent of 8 unlit fields are required to the end of the Master Plan's term. This represents a provision level of 1:4,427. With the loss of one mini-field at Alder Parklands municipal fields will be reduced from 11 to 10 full-size unlit equivalents.</li> <li>- Broader trends suggest the rapid growth in soccer participation in earlier decades will not be a factor in facility demand for the foreseeable future, and reversing trends may result in an oversupply of fields in some communities.</li> <li>- Existing fields, therefore, should be able to accommodate soccer demand into the years beyond 2030, assuming school fields remain available for community use.</li> <li>- Should Rotary Park field be redeveloped as part of a baseball 'hub', the potential addition of a lit artificial turf field to accommodate lacrosse could provide some additional capacity for soccer, if needed.</li> </ul>
	<p>Lacrosse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The long-standing presence and strength of the Orangeville Northmen suggests it would be appropriate to provide lacrosse with regulation fields within Town. The 2015 Parks Master Plan recommended investigating converting a natural turf soccer field to a lit multi-use artificial turf field through a feasibility study/business plan, including the potential to enclose the field for year-round use. With no regulation fields in the existing supply, starting with an artificial turf facility is a reasonable option.</li> <li>- A new artificial turf field will be of interest to both lacrosse and soccer groups. At the same time, the rationale for providing a new field is to initiate a Town-based 'home' for Orangeville Northmen with a regulation field. While designing a new field to also accommodate soccer, therefore, it may be necessary in the interests of equity to provide lacrosse with the largest share of total hours. All uses should be allocated by rules that optimize the use of the facility.</li> <li>- From a community recreation hub perspective, the best location for an artificial turf field may be Tony Rose - either on the Sports Centre site or in Murray Mountain Park.</li> <li>- A second field could be added with the intention of making Tony Rose a lacrosse centre, and may require a formal agreement with the UGDSS.</li> <li>- Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for field time to add a second artificial turf field.</li> <li>- A regional-serving field complex that provides fields in numbers beyond this - for soccer and/ or lacrosse and whether natural or artificial turf - should only be considered in partnership with other area municipalities.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-23: Playing fields summary

Recommendation

- Prepare a business case to provide a seasonally or permanently covered artificial turf field in Orangeville to support both lacrosse and soccer, with an emphasis on the former to initiate Town-based lacrosse activity. Repurposing Tony Rose A Rink should provide more indoor time for soccer.

Figure 4-24: Playing fields recommendations



Figure 4-25: Tennis courts at Rotary Park

## Outdoor Courts: Tennis and Pickleball

### Tennis Courts

The Orangeville Tennis Club is based at the courts and clubhouse in Rotary Park (Figure 4-25). The courts are used full time by the Club for its programs and member leagues, under a lease agreement with the Town. As lit facilities, they operate for 100 hours per week during the outdoor tennis season. The Club reported difficulty in accommodating both tennis programs and league activity with available facilities. Weekday evenings, in particular, are in high demand. The Club indicated the need for two to four additional courts to reduce pressure on existing courts and to be able to simultaneously accommodate programming and casual use by members. The survey reported needing more time on courts to: accommodate additional participants in current programs; improve opportunities for preferred scheduling, and accommodate anticipated growth in participation.

The Club also reported need for upgrades to court surfaces (crack repairs and resurfacing) and fencing. Shade and seating are also lacking at the site.

### Assessment

As noted above, Orangeville sits in the middle of provision ratios for tennis courts compared to selected municipalities. Unlike ball diamonds and soccer fields, municipal provision of tennis courts can vary to a greater degree by market due to the presence of private clubs. Headwaters Racquet Club, which is immediately outside Orangeville in

Amaranth, provides tennis and squash to area residents. As a cursory indicator, however, provision levels suggest that Orangeville may be undersupplied with municipal tennis courts, which offer less expensive opportunities to participate in the sport than commercial clubs.

Trends indicate that tennis is experiencing resurgence in participation, according to Tennis Canada statistics<sup>14 15 16</sup> from recent years:

### All Players

- Findings from 2018 indicated that nearly 6.6 million Canadians played tennis at least once in the past year, representing 18% of the population; 4.5 million Canadians played the sport at least four times during the year, representing an increase of 15% compared to 2016 findings; 2.9 million played at least once a week during the summer tennis season, representing a 37% increase in frequent players from 2016.
- Findings from 2014 indicated that more than 6.5 million Canadians played tennis at least once in the past year, representing a 32% increase over 2012 findings; 5.3 million played at least four times per year; 1.7 million were considered frequent players (at least

14 <http://www.tenniscanada.com/news/tennis-in-canada-continues-remarkable-growth-in-participation-and-popularity-recent-study-shows/>

15 <https://sirc.ca/news/participation-tennis-and-popularity-sport-continue-grow-canada>

16 <https://www.tennisontario.com/clubs/agm-2017/an-nual-report-2016>

twice per month during the summer), which represented a 32% increase in frequent players over 2012 findings.

### Young Players

- Findings from 2018 indicated that over 510,000 children between the ages of 6 and 11 years played tennis in the past year; more than 70% played at least four times during the past year, representing an increase of more than 8% for this age group.
- Findings from 2016 indicated that 161,000 boys and girls under 12 played tennis at least once a week over an eight-week season, representing increases of 8% and 23% from 2015 and 2014, respectively.
- Findings from 2014 indicated that more than 600,000 children between the ages of 6 and 11 years played in the past year; over 300,000 of these children played at least four times during the year, representing an increase of more than 80% for that age group.

While not a long view of local trends, figures from the Orangeville Club show fluctuations in participation over the last few years: 143 three years ago, 176 two years ago, and 149 last year.

The majority (68%) of members reside in Orangeville. The Club also draws noticeably from Mono (14%) and Amaranth (10%).

With a view to constructing and lighting two new courts for tennis and eight pickleball

courts (area footprint of two tennis courts, as discussed below) the Town should monitor the use of existing courts as recommended in the 2015 Parks Master Plan, to confirm demand for additional tennis courts. Appendix D illustrates a possible location for these courts in Rotary Park.

As a life-long sport, the longevity of tennis clubs is influenced by the strength of its youth programs, which should also be a factor in determining municipal court provision. Junior members will form base of future facility use, and their participation in the sport will justify municipal investment in infrastructure for introductory level programs.

The Orangeville Tennis Club operates under a lease agreement with the Town. The addition of new courts should be based on an inclusion in the agreement that dedicated times are provided for community residents who are not members of the Club to access the courts for casual use during both weekly prime and non-prime times.

In the short term, the Town should assess the condition of the courts to determine and implement needed upgrades to surfaces (repairs and resurfacing) and fencing, and opportunities to integrate shade and seating on the site. This work should be done in such a way as to anticipate the possible court expansion, if it is implemented as a separate project.



Figure 4-26: Pickleball

### Pickleball Courts

The 2015 Parks Master Plan recommended that the Town... “consider new types of facilities such as pickleball courts, bocce courts, lawn bowling greens, cricket pitches...” (p. 63).

With the exception of pickleball, there are no indicators that the Town should provide new types of facilities at this time. Should demand emerge for facilities like bocce courts, lawn bowling greens, and cricket pitches during the term of the Master Plan, monitoring these interests can provide information for the next master plan. In the interim, the municipality can facilitate residents’ participation in programs in other communities as well as monitor the plans of area municipalities to expand services that Orangeville residents could use. A cursory web search revealed, for example, that Shelburne has been accommodating cricket on its playing fields.

### Assessment

Pickleball participation has been growing exponentially across North America in recent years, and appears not to have yet peaked. Pickleball Canada notes, “the number of players across Canada has grown from 6,000 to 60,000 in the past 6 years and the number of courts increased approximately 10 times... Every U.S. state and all Canadian provinces now have pickleball venues. The known places to play total of 6,885 at the end of 2018 represents (sic) an increase of 1,016 or approximately 85 locations per month.”<sup>17</sup>

Given the sport’s popularity, and that there are no courts in Orangeville, reported community interest in dedicated pickleball courts appears low. The municipality, however, is increasingly receiving requests from the community to provide pickleball courts. Organization around

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.usapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Pickleball-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

the sport will likely emerge if facilities are provided. Moreover, there are a number of factors that will likely support continued growth in pickleball participation,<sup>18</sup> including:

- its recognition as a legitimate sport, with both recreational and competitive categories
- play, in terms of rules and physical intensity, is relatively easy
- an all-ages appeal
- national organizational commitment to growing participation
- it can be played year-round indoors and outdoors, with appropriate facilities
- participants report that it is fun as well as physically beneficial

Pickleball courts are among the most commonly requested new facilities in Ontario communities (Figure 4-26). Adding tennis courts at Rotary Park will offer an opportunity to also include pickleball courts in this expansion project. Four pickleball courts occupy the footprint of one tennis court. Doubling the court area of the existing four tennis courts, therefore, will allow the two additional tennis courts noted above and eight pickleball courts to be provided. Co-locating both types of courts in the same vicinity will create a focus for court sports that - if the need arises over the longer term - can be shared or converted facilities depending on demand. Appendix D illustrates a possible location for these courts in Rotary Park.

Given there are no pickleball courts in Orangeville now, and tennis court development will not be immediate, the Town should consider lining the existing single tennis court in Idyllwilde Park for pickleball. This will provide a relatively inexpensive way to accommodate activity and to monitor use until such time as the new courts are developed. (Potential indoor options will also not be made available until redevelopment plans for Tony Rose are implemented). As with tennis, encouraging youth involvement should be a consideration in ongoing municipal support for organized activity.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.selkirk.com/pickleballs-growth>

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Orangeville Tennis Club reported need for 2 to 4 more courts at Rotary Park for casual use by members, a shaded seating area near the clubhouse, and improvements to existing court surfaces and fencing.</li> <li>- While broader trends indicate a resurgence in tennis participation, local participation in recent years has fluctuated.</li> <li>- As a cursory indicator, comparative provision levels suggest that Orangeville may be undersupplied with municipal tennis courts.</li> <li>- The need for additional tennis courts, therefore, needs to be confirmed by monitoring use and confirming unmet demand.</li> <li>- Pickleball courts should be added to the supply of facilities in Orangeville, to meet demand for this rapidly growing court sport.</li> <li>- Town investment in courts operated by not-for-profit community clubs should ensure facilities are also available to non-club members for casual use and that programs are in line with municipal objectives (e.g., introductory programming, serving children/youth, etc.).</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider lining the existing single tennis court in Idyllwilde Park for pickleball and monitor use.</li> <li>- Institute tennis court monitoring to establish demand for additional courts.</li> <li>- Assess the condition of the courts to determine and implement needed upgrades and opportunities to integrate shade and seating on the site. This work should be done in such a way as to anticipate the possible court expansion, if implemented as a separate project.</li> <li>- Add two more tennis courts and eight pickleball courts (equivalent footprint to two tennis courts) at Rotary Park.</li> <li>- Lease agreements with organized not-for-profit clubs should be reviewed/renewed to ensure time is provided for non-members' casual use and that programming addresses municipal objectives.</li> <li>- Monitor use and track unmet demand for court time on both tennis and pickleball courts, for possible additions to supply post-2030.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-27: Tennis and pickleball summary and recommendations

## 4.5 Location and Timing of Development

Figure 4-28 below organizes the above facility recommendations to serve the Town of Orangeville to 2030 into proposed recreation hubs. As discussed in the assessments, it assumes demand is confirmed for community facilities beyond those to be provided through currently proposed redevelopments.

Community recreation hubs should be the basis for facility distribution in the Town, and co-locate indoor and outdoor facilities in primary and secondary hubs. Table 4-16 on the facing

page presents proposed changes at Alder Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre in sequential phases, to illustrate how existing facilities/services will continue to operate to the extent possible during transitions.

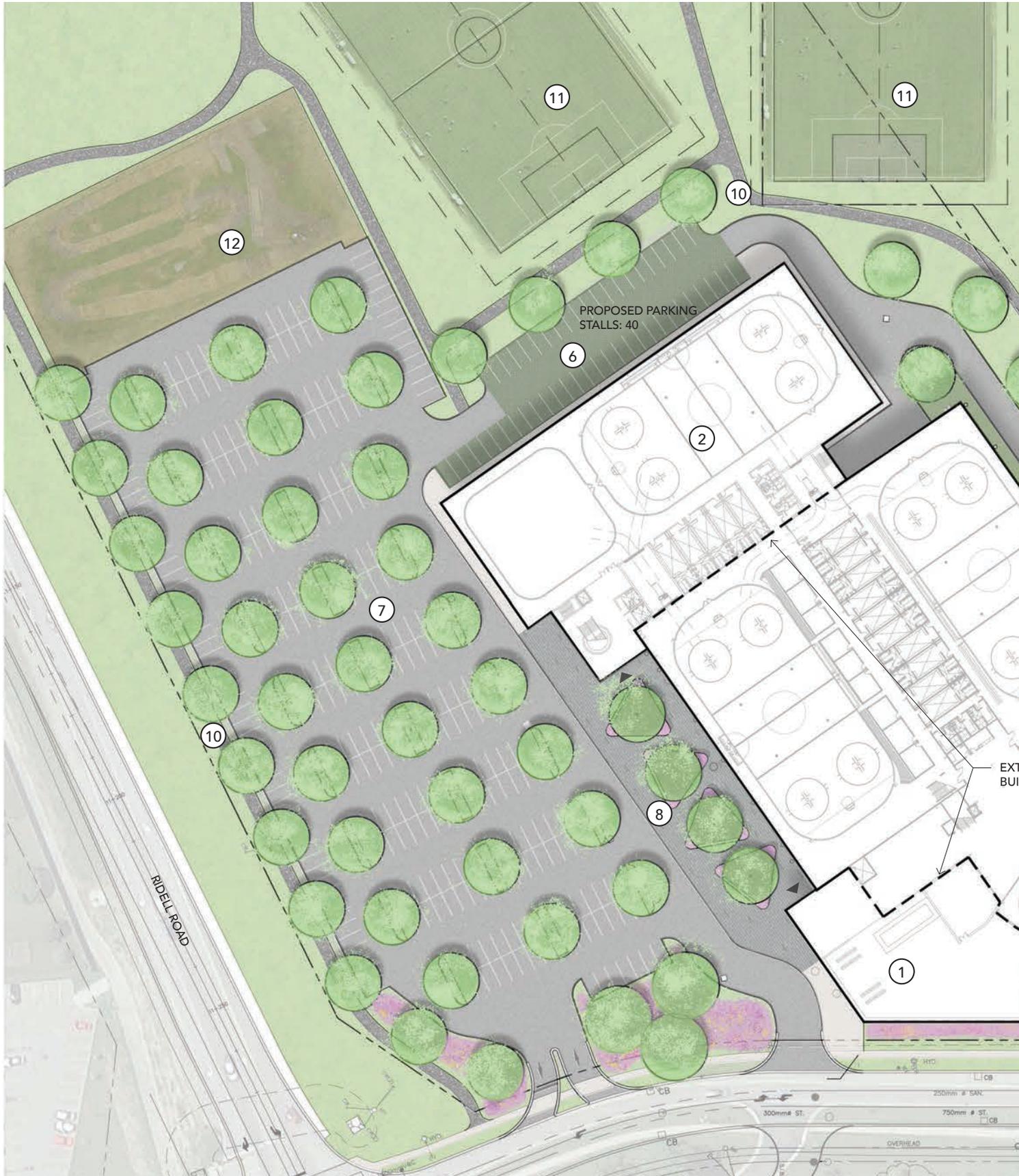
Figure 4-29 on the following pages presents a conceptual design of the facility changes at Alder Recreation Centre.

	Indoor	Outdoor
<b>Primary Hub</b>		
Alder Recreation Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- aquatic centre: 8-lane lap, leisure, and therapeutic pools; water play area</li> <li>- arenas: 3 'traditional' pads and one 85' x 85' leisure pad</li> <li>- warm/cold walking track</li> <li>- library</li> <li>- multi-purpose program spaces</li> </ul>	
Tony Rose Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- indoor fieldhouse/gym</li> <li>- black box theatre (optional location)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lacrosse/soccer hub: 2 lit artificial turf fields, seasonally or permanently domed</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary Hub</b>		
Springbrook Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minor baseball hub: light diamond now</li> </ul>
Idyllwilde/Rotary Parks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adult ball hub: add 1 diamond (repurpose Rotary soccer field)</li> </ul>
Rotary Park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- court sports hub: add 2 tennis and 8 pickleball courts</li> </ul>

Figure 4-28: Proposed recreation hubs

Phase 1: Facility Changes at Alder Street Recreation Centre (short-term)	Phase 2: Facility Changes at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre (medium term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expand existing 6-lane lap pool to an 8-lane facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- remove 6-lane pool</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- replace existing single wet slide with indoor spray pad and water play structure aquatic play space</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add therapeutic pool</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add a third 185' x 85' ice pad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- remove B Rink</li> <li>- repurpose A Rink to indoor fieldhouse/gym</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add a 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add library on main floor with 14,000 to 16,000 square feet, including program space</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- replace existing cold walking track with warm/cold walking path throughout entire second floor</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- re-purpose vacated Humber College space (2021) for programming, large banquet, meeting, office and other multipurpose uses</li> <li>- multi-purpose black box theatre and amenities (optional location)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- multi-purpose black box theatre and amenities (optional location)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- parking lot expansion and resurfacing, including construction of a new parking space to the east to serve Twisters Gymnastics and accessible entrance to the aquatics centre</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 artificial lit lacrosse/soccer fields, with seasonal or permanent domes</li> <li>- office, meeting, storage space for organized users (indoors)</li> </ul>

Table 4-16: Phased implementation of primary recreation hubs





## 4.6 Regional Serving Facilities

### Population Base

The following approach was taken to estimate current and future population in the regional market, for use in the facility assessments. The municipalities most likely to comprise the regional market for recreation services in the Town of Orangeville are: Shelburne, Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Mono, Grand Valley (Dufferin County), and Erin (Wellington County). Among these, key contributors to growing demand over the term of the Plan will be Erin, Shelburne and Mono. Although Caledon residents also use Orangeville's arenas, it is anticipated that communities to the east, west and north of the Town will comprise the dominant non-resident market.

As shown in Table 4-17, information from various sources was used to establish an approximate current population base of 67,535 that is served by Orangeville, including the Town. This total is estimated to be approximately 86,500 by 2031.

In addition to non-residents coming to Orangeville to use recreation services, ongoing reverse travel from Town to facilities in nearby communities will continue, as it is both necessary and reasonable. Surrounding municipalities can continue to contribute to the supply of facilities such as outdoor playing fields that accommodate Orangeville-based groups, as well as serving the residents of these communities. While residents in most Ontario municipalities express interest in

having all facilities of all types available within their home community, duplications can detract from the best use of limited resources by all municipalities in the market, and can lead to an oversupply of facilities in the area. Moreover, having facilities provided within the community does not always equate to greater proximity to individual households, and travel to adjacent municipalities may remain more convenient or required due to league rules/schedules.

Orangeville's projected 2031 population of 36,490 represents the build-out total, which is expected to remain stable beyond that point. Up to 2030, the majority of additional demand can be expected to come from municipal population growth. As Orangeville's population size stabilizes towards the end of the Plan's term, new residents in surrounding communities will be the primary source of demand for access to recreation services - both in their own communities and in the Town.

### Facility Provision in Area Municipalities

The Towns of Erin and Mono have current master plans<sup>19</sup> that outline facility needs in these communities for the current decade. Information from these plans, and from the websites of the other municipalities was used to summarize existing recreation facilities in Table 18. As communities identified as

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<sup>19</sup> *Town of Mono: Monteith Brown. Parkland Needs Study. 2018.*

*Town of Erin: Sierra Planning and Management. Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. 2019.*

the regional market, the services provided by these municipalities are most relevant to Orangeville’s Master Plan. Table 4-19 summarizes the municipally owned facilities in these communities that are comparable to those assessed in the foregoing discussions, and could be considered in a regional-serving context.

The Town of Erin has three community centres that house most of its facilities: Erin Community Centre/Centre 2000 (indoor/outdoor centre), Hillsburgh Community Centre, and Ballinafad Community Centre. Three school gyms and a not-for-profit indoor natural turf field - Erin

Indoor Recreation Centre in Hillsburgh - supplement municipal supply.

The Mono Community Centre and the Mono Park Pavilion are the two primary locations for indoor and outdoor municipal facilities. Although not identified in the Study as a municipal facility, the lawn bowling green is a community-run recreation service. School soccer fields and a commercial indoor turf facility - the Athlete Institute - supplements public/not-for-profit facilities.

Both these communities have performing arts facilities. Centre 2000 in Erin accommodates performance theatre, movie showings and

	2020*	2031	# increase	% increase
Orangeville	29,220	36,490**	7,270	19.1
Shelburne	8,354	10,000	1,646	19.7
Amaranth	4,079	4,680	601	14.7
East Garafraxa	2,579	3,150	571	22.1
Mono	8,609	9,770	1,161	13.5
Erin	12,098	14,940	2,842	23.5
Grand Valley	2,596	7,478	4,882	188.0
<b>Total Market</b>	<b>67,535</b>	<b>86,508</b>	<b>18,973</b>	<b>28.1</b>
<b>Market Outside Orangeville</b>	<b>38,315</b>	<b>50,018</b>	<b>11,703</b>	<b>30.5</b>

Table 4-17: Estimated current and future regional market population

\* approximate, using values for 2019/20/21 from sources noted below

\*\*build-out population

Sources:

1. Town of Orangeville Planning Department
2. <https://www.wellington.ca/en/resident-services/resources/Planning/Growth-Forecast-OPA99/Watson--Associates-Forecast-update-FINAL-May-5-2015.pdf>

3. [https://www.shelburne.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Documents/HEMSON\\_2020-Shelburne-Development-Charges-Study-12Mar20.pdf](https://www.shelburne.ca/en/town-hall/resources/Documents/HEMSON_2020-Shelburne-Development-Charges-Study-12Mar20.pdf)

4. <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/explore-county>

5. <https://www.dufferincounty.ca/sites/default/files/planning/officialplanconsolidated.pdf>

recitals. Fixed seating totals 212. Grace Tipling Hall in Shelburne is an historic performing arts theatre located in the Town Hall. Seating capacity is 195.

The Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in the Town of Shelburne is the location of most of the municipality's existing facilities.

Grand Valley & District Community Centre includes an arena and a hall with a community kitchen. The Township of Amaranth has agreements with both the Towns of Shelburne and Grand Valley for residents to access the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex and Grand Valley Arena and Community Centre. Library Services are also provided through agreements with the Towns of Grand Valley and Shelburne.

<sup>20</sup> The Township provides a ball diamond and a soccer field.

The Township of East Garafraxa has a small indoor hall and has an agreement with the Town of Grand Valley for residents to access the Grand Valley Arena and Community Centre. Library services are also provide through an agreement with the Town.<sup>21</sup>

## Estimates of Future Facility Requirements from a Regional Perspective

The following calculations estimate future facility needs in the 'collective' market outside Orangeville, using population based provision levels derived from foregoing assessments or total regional supply. They project current levels of supply to the end of the Master Plan's term in an attempt to anticipate potential need, all other things remaining equal. At the same time, these are very high-level estimates and assume existing facilities are used to capacity. All future facility needs would need to be confirmed based on actual use and documented unmet demand. As a regional exercise, this would require collaborative planning and service provision among all municipalities involved [see Section 6 for discussion].

### Arenas

A simple population-based ratio of supply in relation to the current number of seven traditional ice pads<sup>22</sup> in the region is 1:9,648 (67,535/7). At this level of supply, population growth outside Orangeville to 2031 of 11,703 will generate demand for an additional 1.2 ice pads.

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20 *Watson & Associates Ltd. Township of Amaranth. 2019 Development Charges Background Study. (for public circulation and comment). p.5-3.*

21 *Watson & Associates Ltd. Township of East Garafraxa. 2019 Development Charges Background Study. (for public circulation and comment). p.5-3.*

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22 *The current number of ice pads includes 3 at Alder Street and 4 in area municipalities.*

### Indoor Pools

Applying the Town's current 1:29,220 provision level to total 2031 population 2031 in the regional outside Orangeville indicates the need for 1.7 (50,018/29,220) indoor pools.

### Ball Diamonds

A simple population-based ratio of supply in relation to the current number of 24 ball diamonds in the region is 1:2,814 (67,535/24). At this level of supply, population growth outside Orangeville to 2031 of 11,703 will generate demand for an additional 4.2 ball diamonds, counting each lit and unlit ball diamonds as one. Using the Town-based provision ratio calculated above, need increases to 5.6 unlit diamonds for municipalities outside Orangeville (11,703/2,087).

### Soccer Fields

A simple population-based ratio of supply in relation to the current number of 23 ball soccer fields in the region is 1:2,936 (67,535/23). At this level of supply, population growth outside Orangeville to 2031 of 11,703 will generate demand for an additional 3.9 soccer fields, counting each lit and field as one. Using the Town-based provision ratio calculated above, need decreases to the equivalent of 2.6 unlit soccer fields for municipalities outside Orangeville (11,703/4,427). These figures assume the many school fields currently used for soccer continue to supplement municipal supplies.

### Lacrosse Fields (artificial turf)

If provided in Orangeville, these will be the first municipally owned fields of this type. As discussed above, the primary intent is to initiate a Town-based 'home' for the Orangeville Northmen. Interest in providing additional facilities - for soccer and/or lacrosse and whether natural or artificial turf - should only be considered in partnership with other area municipalities.

The supply and use of private and not-for-profit facilities in Erin and Mono should be taken into account determining need. Table 4-19 summarizes the above estimates.

## Future Facility Plans in Area Municipalities

The estimates of the regional facility needs are not supported by the master plans, development charges studies, and current budgets for the surrounding municipalities.<sup>23</sup> Local plans are much more detailed in their determination of needs than the above estimates, and are based on individual municipal needs as opposed to a regional perspective. None of the individual municipalities, for example, could reasonably support an indoor pool. The collective population base, however, suggests need for a facility. The differences in findings reflect different perspectives on the extent of how the geographic area functions as a service market.

Neither of the plans for the Towns of Erin and Mono recommend adding ball diamonds,

<sup>23</sup> As per web-based information on facility plans.

Municipal Facilities	Erin	Shelburne	Mono	Grand Valley	Amaranth	East Garafraxa	Totals
<b>Indoor Recreation</b>							
arena	2	1		1	*	*	4
<b>swimming pool</b>							
community space/banquet hall	3	4	6	1	*	1*	14
community kitchen				1	*	*	1
athletic field							
<b>Arts/Culture</b>							
community theatre	1	1					2
library	1	1		1	*	*	3
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>							
swimming pool		1					1
ball diamond	5	5	3	1	1		15
soccer field	9	4			1		14
tennis court	5		4**				9
pickleball court		yes					yes
lawn bowling			1				1

Table 4-18: Existing recreation facilities throughout the region

\*agreements with Town of Grand Valley; \*\*2 also used for pickleball

soccer fields (or tennis courts) to municipal supply in their respective planning periods. The Town of Mono's Plan points to environmental and land use legislation as constraints to sufficient future population growth to generate additional demand for these facilities.

Key recommendations in the Town of Erin's Plan that will represent expenditures for the municipality include upgrades/improvements to the three community centres. These costs were brought forward from previously prepared building condition assessments and represent a total of \$2,696,400 to 2029 (p.44).<sup>24</sup> The Plan noted a total of \$240,000 in the Town's 2019 and 2021 capital budgets for indoor facility improvements to Erin Community Centre (p. 23). The Town's current budget indicates an application has been submitted for a \$2.4m ICIP grant to cover capital expenditures for the Centre.

Council minutes from the Town of Shelburne indicate a cricket field (with regulation infield and no outfield) was approved for KTH Park for part of the 2019 season.<sup>25</sup>

Amaranth's 2019 DC Study allocates approximately \$2.7m in capital for parks and recreation services over ten years, including Township's share of improvements or expansion at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex, and an expansion to the Grand Valley Community Centre (p.5-3).

East Garafraxa's 2019 DC Study allocates approximately \$348,000 in capital for parks and recreation services over ten years, including the Township's share of an expansion to the Grand Valley Community Centre (p. 5-3).

One of the recommendations in the Town of Erin's Plan compares to proposed changes at Orangeville's Tony Rose Sports Complex:

"...it is recommended that the Town develop a new multi-use recreation facility within Hillsburgh's urban boundary, contingent on the decommissioning of the undersized Hillsburgh Arena as an ice pad. Barbour Field is the recommended site for a future multi-use recreation facility, as it is a large open parcel of land already in the Town's ownership and able to accommodate additional development (contingent on municipal servicing).

Recognizing the community value of the Hillsburgh site and repurposing it with the same level of activity will be important. Once the ice is decommissioned...there may be opportunities as a multi-purpose facility for use by a variety of community, private and/or sport groups (i.e. pickleball, rock climbing, gymnastics, etc.), however, the feasibility of this will require further assessment. It is also important to recognize that repurposing of this facility would not equate to a standard new municipal gymnasium or similar space and would require upgrades to meet AODA requirements" (p.46).

"As part of the feasibility and business planning exercise for a new multi-use recreation facility, consider the inclusion of a full-size gymnasium as part of the building

24 *Building condition assessments: Pinchin Ltd., Nov. 30, 2018, Jan. 11 and Jan. 14, 2019.*

25 *CAO report 2019-09*

program to accommodate a variety of program and rental opportunities” (p. 56).

The plans and budgetary commitments of surrounding municipalities to develop recreation facilities over the next ten years have implications for service provision in the Town of Orangeville. Decisions by other communities will affect areas in which Orangeville functions as a regional service centre or could potentially do so. As a major recreation complex, Alder Street Recreation Centre is already regional serving. Depending on their location and configuration, however, facilities such as ball diamonds and soccer fields can be local or regional serving. Facility plans, such as those for a Hillsburgh complex, that may duplicate services could detract from opportunities to serve a larger market collectively. Alternately, reducing existing services will also affect the overall market. At the same time, the plans/ studies of other municipalities and this Master Plan are all largely aligned temporally - all more or less cover the current decade. This may be an opportune time, therefore, to investigate participating in regional service planning

where appropriate and feasible. This topic is discussed in Section 6.

## Dedicated Community Arts Centre

Although it is difficult to separate ‘local’ and ‘regional’ arts facilities into mutually exclusive categories, the development of facilities in Orangeville to serve the arts could also be approached with a regional perspective in mind. If the focus is to serve the Town’s population only, the nature and extent of facility development might be limited to that proposed for the Alder Recreation Centre - provided a sufficient range of arts programming can be accommodated in the design and provision of spaces within the complex. Serving the regional market, however, should ideally involve all relevant municipalities in an approach that is based on collaboration as opposed to competition - both in service to residents and in leveraging visitors to the Orangeville/Dufferin County<sup>26</sup> area. For the

<sup>26</sup> Referred to as the Orangeville/Dufferin County economy in the Municipal Cultural Plan.

Future Facility Needs	In Orangeville	Outside Orangeville	Total
Traditional ice pad	1.1	1.2	2
Indoor swimming pool	0.2	1.7	1 to 2
Ball diamonds	3.5	4.2 to 5.6	7 to 9
Soccer fields	0	2.6 to 3.9	2 to 4
Lacrosse fields/artificial turf	2	0	2

Table 4-19: Estimated current and future regional market population

arts, the extent of the regional market may differ from that for sports and recreation, since the availability of existing facilities differs.

The Municipal Cultural Plan appears to support this approach: “Collaboration and Community: Partnerships and cooperation between cultural groups and the Town will be cultivated and cultural initiatives that build, coalesce and connect communities, both within Orangeville and throughout the region, will be fostered” (p.11).

A regional approach could better justify development of a dedicated cultural centre for the performing and visual arts and heritage/culture that integrates community and visitor programming (i.e., municipal programs for all ages, amateur/professional artists/artisans, and visiting spectators/patrons). It would also require a broad scope in determining the specific needs to be met at a facility in Orangeville in relation to facilities and services that already exist in the area. As noted above, both Erin and Mono have performing arts facilities.

With respect to arts facilities, the ‘region’ might also extend beyond the communities considered in this Plan. For example, Alton Mill Arts Centre in Caledon is a ten-minute drive from Orangeville. After a long process of restoration, it currently houses 25 studio artists, galleries, a heritage museum, café, shops and an event venue (e.g., weddings, banquets, etc.). The Town of Caledon, therefore, is one of a number of potential interests that could be part of a regional partnership model for providing enhanced facilities for the arts. Other

area municipalities would also have to be included in determining the needs/interests to be met at an arts centre in Orangeville. This level of investigation will require a detailed feasibility study and business plan.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current population base for the regional market for recreation services is 67,535 including the Town. It is anticipated to grow to approximately 85,500 by 2031.</li> <li>- Orangeville’s projected 2031 population of 36,490 represents the build-out total. Beyond that point, new residents in surrounding communities will be the primary source of demand for access to recreation services - both in their own communities and in the Town.</li> <li>- High level projections of recreation facility needs based solely on total regional population figures indicate need for the following additional facilities: 2 traditional ice pads, 2 community pools, between 7 and 9 ball diamonds, and between 2 and 4 soccer fields.</li> <li>- Future facility plans of other municipalities in the region do not reflect this level of provision, either individually or collectively.</li> <li>- Readily available plans, studies and budgetary commitments of other municipalities make provisions that will have implications for facility supply in the Orangeville in areas where the Town now functions, or may in future function, as a regional service centre.</li> <li>- The temporally aligned nature of all the plans of all of these municipalities suggests an opportunity to begin participation in regional service planning.</li> <li>- A collaborative, regional approach to providing an all-arts inclusive cultural centre might be an appropriate approach to provision.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Town of Orangeville should initiate discussions with all municipalities in the regional market to develop a collaborative approach to joint facility planning and provision, where appropriate and feasible.</li> <li>- The Town should consider approaching other municipalities in the regional market to jointly prepare a feasibility study for developing a regional-serving arts and cultural centre.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-30: Serving the regional market summary and recommendations

## 4.7 Regional Serving Recreation Hubs

As noted above, cursory projections indicate the following recreation facility needs for the following facilities:

- 2 traditional ice pads (one for Orangeville and one for the balance of the region)
- 2 community pools (both for the region)
- 7 to 9 ball diamonds (3 for Orangeville and balance for the region)
- 2 to 4 soccer fields (0 for Orangeville and balance for the region)
- 2 lacrosse/artificial turf fields (both for Orangeville)

Once all use is consolidated at Alder Street, it is anticipated that the pool will be at capacity, and Alder Street will be increasingly unable to accommodate non-residents. Collectively, the regional population may require two additional community pools and ice pads. Indicators also suggest a considerable number of ball diamonds and playing fields will be needed to accommodate regional population growth. Of course, any commitment to developing major recreation facilities must be assessed in terms of feasibility and ongoing monitoring of actual use/demand, and this work may reduce the need for the numbers shown above. At the same time, it is useful to consider how needed facilities might be provided in a manner that optimizes investment on the part of all

interested communities. Table 4-20 on the following page adds a third 'phase' to facility planning that focuses on joint efforts between Orangeville and other municipalities in the regional market to determine the feasibility of developing one or more regional-serving community recreation hubs.

Indoor facilities for consideration in a complex include a community pool, an ice pad and a municipal gym. An arts and culture centre would likely (although not necessarily) comprise a second, separate indoor facility. Field complexes for ball and lacrosse/soccer fields could comprise one or more outdoor hubs.

Each potential hub would require a jointly commissioned detailed study to determine feasibility and to select preferred locations. Some might combine both indoor and outdoor facilities. In particular, recommended changes to Tony Rose as part of this Plan's 'phase 2' should consider the long term potential to integrate any facility development that occurs here with regional intentions. Could this site, for example, accommodate an indoor/outdoor complex comprising a pool, an arena, and a lacrosse centre with sufficient fields for regional use or would the whole site be required to develop a facility to host lacrosse as a sport tourism venture? Alternately, could the Tony Rose site become the location for a regional arts and culture centre instead, with the 'phase 2' proposed indoor development in the Town of Erin becoming the regional centre for the purpose proposed in its Master Plan? A truly regional approach would consider locations outside Orangeville for some of these facilities and encourage inter-municipal travel for various

	Phase 1: Facility Changes at Alder Street Recreation Centre (short-term)	Phase 2: Facility Changes at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre (medium term)	Phase 3: Assess Feasibility for Regional-Serving Community Hubs (long-term)
Indoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– expand existing 6-lane lap pool to an 8-lane facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– remove 6-lane pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2nd community pool</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– replace existing single wet slide with indoor spray pad and water play structure aquatic play space</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– add therapeutic pool</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– add a third 185' x 85' ice pad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– remove B Rink</li> <li>– repurpose A Rink to indoor fieldhouse/gym</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 4th traditional ice pad</li> <li>– replace field house with double or triple gym</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– add a 85' x 85' mini training/leisure pad</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– add library on main floor with 14,000 to 16,000 square feet, including program space</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– replace existing cold walking track with warm/cold walking path throughout entire second floor</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– re-purpose vacated Humber College space (2021) for programming, large banquet, meeting, office and other multipurpose uses</li> <li>– multi-purpose black box theatre and amenities (optional location)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– multi-purpose black box theatre and amenities (optional location)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– arts and culture centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– parking lot expansion and resurfacing, including construction of a new parking space to the east to serve Twisters Gymnastics and accessible entrance to the aquatics centre</li> </ul>		
Outdoor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2 artificial lit lacrosse/ soccer fields, with seasonal or permanent domes</li> <li>– office, meeting, storage space for organized users (indoors)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– athletic field complex</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ball diamond complex</li> </ul>

Table 4-20: Phased implementation of recreation hubs (phase 3)

recreation programs/activities. As mentioned above, it is assumed that Orangeville residents will continue to travel to other area municipalities to use recreation facilities - particularly if future additional playing fields are provided in response to demand generated by new growth outside the Town. Assessments in foregoing discussions indicate that demand for sports fields to serve residents alone can be met with available municipal lands. Moreover, providing facilities to meet both local and regional demand within the Town’s boundaries will not be possible given its limited land base.

The 2015 Parks Master Plan indicated that the Town should “considering securing or otherwise allocating land for a new Major Park for the development of an outdoor sport complex for either soccer, baseball or multi-use purposes, only where the following conditions exist:

- “Demonstrated need cannot be met within the existing park/school site system in the Town;
- A sustainable joint venture/partnership can be negotiated; and
- The initiative is supported by the community and business case analysis” (p. 61).

Any development beyond diamonds and fields to serve the local population will require accessing land outside the Town boundaries. In any case, the 2015 recommendations with respect to securing a joint venture and preparing a business case should be the basis for providing regional-serving field complexes.

Two examples of sport field complexes are identified below.

### Ball Diamond Complex

A 2017 business case<sup>27</sup> for a four-diamond complex in Langdon Alberta, which is immediately east of Calgary, is referenced here for its specifications on facility design. This proposal is for a four-diamond natural turf community facility designed to accommodate youth and adult levels and various types of ball sports. The following table identifies the components and amenities that are proposed for the facility. The total capital cost of the Quad Ball Diamond facility project is estimated at approximately \$3.5m (2017 dollars), excluding site servicing and preparation.

Component/Amenity (for each diamond):

- Playing surfaces (grass/turf) \*Irrigated
- Shale infield and warning track
- Outfield fencing (8 feet)
- Side fencing (4 feet)
- Dugouts
- Support building
- (concession, washroom/showers, etc.)
- Tournament board and shelter area
- Lighting
- Bleachers
- Fenced and covered kids play area

<sup>27</sup> The full report is available at: <https://www.rockyview.ca/Portals/0/Files/Attachments/2017-04-25-Langdon-Quad-Ball-Diamonds-Facility.pdf>

## Sports Field Complex

The Burnaby Lake Sports Complex in British Columbia<sup>28</sup> comprises five lit artificial turf fields. These include a warm-up field with no markings and four regulation athletic fields, all of which comprise the following for field lacrosse, field hockey and soccer:

- 2 x 24' soccer goals
- 2 x 24' soccer goals
- 2 x lacrosse goals
- 2 x field hockey goals

Each field is sized and configured to accommodate the three sports noted above, and one field can also accommodate Canadian and American football. Amenities include a 10,000 s.f. clubhouse, six change rooms, two meeting rooms, and officials' room,

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.burnaby.ca/things-to-do/outdoor-facilities/burnaby-lake-sports-complex--west.html>

media coverage equipment, internet, and concessions. Appendix D contains a plan of this facility.

Available information indicates that in 2012, design and construction of one field at this location (which was a replacement) totaled \$1.1m. In 2020, the equivalent amount is \$1.2m. Generally, artificial turf fields can range in price from \$1m to \$1.5m. Four fields, therefore, would cost between \$4m and \$6m to provide, excluding all amenities, and site preparation/servicing. In Orangeville, land access/acquisition outside the Town boundaries is also a consideration since there is no land available within the municipality of sufficient size to provide a field complex.

The decision on the type of complex to provide should also consider the Town's goals with respect to sport tourism, as discussed elsewhere in the plan.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collectively, the region may require additional recreation facilities that could be co-located to optimize joint investment and use, on the basis of confirmed demand.</li> <li>- A third 'phase' of facility planning focuses on potential joint efforts between Orangeville and other municipalities in the regional market to determine the feasibility of developing one or more regional-serving community recreation hubs.</li> <li>- Planning for regional serving hubs anticipates inter-municipal travel to access recreation services and Orangeville's limited land base for significant facility development.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Town of Orangeville should initiate discussions with all municipalities in the regional market to identify interest in indoor and outdoor joint community hub options and in commissioning detailed feasibility studies for these.</li> <li>- The 2015 Parks Master Plan recommendations with respect to securing a joint venture and preparing a business case should be the basis of the Town's decision to consider participating in a regional-serving field complex.</li> </ul>

Figure 4-31: Municipal serving recreation hubs summary and recommendations

## 4.8 Municipal Provision of Competitive Sports Facilities

This discussion distinguishes between facilities for community level competitions and those that serve elite athletes in provincially, nationally or internationally sanctioned events. Community level tournaments can often be hosted with municipal recreation facilities, provided there are a sufficient number to permit concurrent play and space/seating to accommodate spectators, appropriate-scale amenities (e.g., parking, change rooms/washrooms, food services) are nearby, and activity is far enough removed from residential areas to prevent nuisance issues. Ten sports groups reported that they currently host competitions/tournaments/meets in Orangeville. Fifteen groups indicated they would do so or do so more often if appropriate facilities were made available. This Plan's recommendations to co-locate fields for minor ball, adult slo-pitch and lacrosse/

soccer are intended to support recreation level tournaments and meets. Similarly, the consolidation of arenas at Alder Recreation Centre will continue to support box lacrosse tournaments.

Competitive facilities for regional and larger sanctioned events represent significant capital and ongoing operating investment above and beyond those required for community-serving facilities (Figure 4-32). Therefore, the decision by municipalities to provide facilities that serve as competitive venues for elite sports should be based on formal policy that:

a) recognizes these services as supplementary to its mandate for community recreation: This requires definitions of community and elite level facilities and clarification of the difference between the two in terms of what they comprise, and the types of programs/activities they accommodate. This may include overlap. A community pool, for example, is suitable for training for sanctioned events even if it is not equipped to host them. For all sports, however, there is a point at which a different facility of



Figure 4-32: Competitive facilities represent significant capital and operational investment, and should only be provided based on formal policy.

much higher calibre must be provided in order to meet requirements for hosting sanctioned events. If the municipality chooses to provide these facilities, the rationale for doing so should be supported by goals and objectives in the area of sport tourism. In effect, this removes the facility from those intended to serve community level recreation, and places it in the realm of economic development since its primary purpose is to attract large-scale events to the municipality. This also justifies financing its development from economic development grants and budgets.

b) requires confirmation of current need and future sustainability of their primary function as competitive venues: This would take the form of a detailed business plan, prepared by the proponents of facility development. The municipality may decide to pursue an economic development goal to become a major centre for sanctioned events in a specific sport or community sports groups may propose the provision of a competitive venue for their sport. Either way, a business plan that demonstrates a current and future market for the facility, as well as its financial feasibility should be the basis for decision making. The business plan should assume that the primary purpose of the facility is to attract and host sanctioned competitions, meets, or tournaments (depending on the facility being considered). Although facilities designed for elite competition can also be expected to meet community recreation needs, these uses are secondary to confirming feasibility for its primary purpose. Its sustainability will depend on high levels of use for competitions, and so should be determined on that basis alone.

## Aquatic Facilities

The Orangeville Otters are interested in a new 10-lane competition tank for short course (25m) events with electronic timing, and without the loss of current pool space. It was noted that, once a new competitive pool is added to supply, the combination of it and the current Alder Street facilities would be suitable for current needs and anticipated growth. A competitive pool would provide increased lane space, a high quality training environment, and facilities to host sanctioned meets. At the same time, it would provide additional facilities for community programming.

Until recently, with the development of the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, the market for elite competitive facilities in the GTA and area may have been underserved. Previously, the region was served by three competitive aquatic facilities that have been in existence for some time: Douglas Snow in North York (built 1988), the Etobicoke Olympian (built 1975), and the University of Toronto Athletic Centre (built over 30 years ago).

The Pan Am Sports Centre, which was built for the 2015 Pan Am Games now serves both elite and recreational markets. It is home to Swim Canada, Dive Canada, Synchro Canada, Swim Ontario, Dive Ontario, Synchro Canada and local high performance clubs. The 50m, 10-lane competition pool was built to international standards. Facilities also include a dive tank and a training pool with two moveable floor sections to adjust depth level. Permanent

gallery seating totals 2,277 and 24 mobility-aided seats.<sup>29</sup>

If the Town is interested in providing a competitive pool to support economic development goals, a feasibility study and business plan should be prepared to determine if there is sufficient demand for another facility in the GTA and area, whether it should be developed in Orangeville, and if funding is available from upper levels of government to support the infrastructure required to host sanctioned meets.

### Athletic Field Facilities

Beyond provision of artificial turf fields to support community-based lacrosse activity, the Town may choose to provide a field complex as a sport tourism development goal. The strong, long-standing presence of the Orangeville-based Northmen makes lacrosse an obvious choice for sport tourism with a view to attracting both provincial and national competitions. Whether this level of provision could be accommodated at Tony Rose or would require access to land outside the Town's boundaries will depend on the determination of local and regional community recreation needs in relation to decisions to develop a niche in the sport tourism market.

#### Recommendation

- The Town should only provide facilities for elite sports if supported by economic development policy related to sport tourism and confirmation of a market for facilities that will be supported primarily by competitive events.

Figure 4-33: Municipal provision of competitive sports fields recommendations

<sup>29</sup> <https://tpasc.ca/facility/competition-pool>



# Parks

5.0

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# 5.0 Parks

## 5.1 Parks Overview

Orangeville has approximately 49 hectares of parkland, spread over 35 parks. Playing fields and playgrounds on school properties provide additional park space. The Island Lake Conservation Area in the Town of Mono, on the border with Orangeville, provides 332 ha of natural space and is used by many residents. The Town also has over 20 km of multi-use trails connecting various parks and neighbourhoods. In addition to sports fields, park features include 26 playgrounds, two splashpads, one bike skills park, one skateboard park, 6 tennis courts, and a variety of open spaces for enjoying active or passive activities. The map on the following pages (Figure 5-1) shows the locations and features of each Orangeville park. This information is also presented in table format in Appendix B.

## Municipal Inventory

Orangeville has 35 parks that invite a range of passive and active activities, host events, and beautify the Town. Parks are classified as follows:

### Major Parks

- Alder Parklands
- Idyllwilde Park
- Rotary Park

### Community Parks

- Fendley Park
- Harvey Curry Park
- Kay Cee Gardens
- Orangeville Lion's Park
- Murray's Mountain Park
- Off-leash Dog Park
- Princess of Wales Park
- Springbrook Park

### Neighbourhood Parks

- Erindale Park
- Kin Family Park
- Mother Teresa Park
- Myr Morrow Park
- Parkinson Park
- PH9/10 Park
- Rebecca Hills Park
- Ryan Meadows Park

### Urban Greens

- Alexandra Park
- Bennett Street Parkette
- Cedarstone Park
- Credit Lake Park

- Haley Parkette
- Island Court Park
- Karen Court Park
- Maywood Park
- Mill Street Park
- Railway Parkette
- Ridgewood Park
- Tweedy Parkette
- Village Green Park
- Walsh Crescent Park
- Young Court Parkette

#### Natural Areas

- Dragonfly Park

## Additional Contributions to Park Supply

### Island Lake CA

Island Lake Conservation Area is located on the north-east border of Orangeville, in the Town of Mono. It is easily accessible to Orangeville residents, with many choosing to enter the park on foot, parking their cars in the Home Hardware parking lot on 4th Avenue. The proprietor of the Home Hardware has supported this practice for a number of years. Island Lake provides an outdoor oasis with over 332 hectares of lake, wetland and forest and offers year-round recreation opportunities. In the summer, the park's 8-kilometer lakeside loop is a well-maintained accessible trail for hikers and cyclists. Visitors can also fish, play volleyball, and picnic. In the winter, snowshoeing, skating and ice fishing are available.

Island Lake is managed by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC). The CVC works with the Town to host Town-run summer camps, as well as events on the Floating Stage, which was a joint project between the CVC and the Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands, with additional funding from the Government of Canada and Home Hardware.<sup>1</sup> The floating stage also hosts performances as part of the popular Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival.

<sup>1</sup> <https://cvc.ca/news/story/canada-day-celebration-island-lake-marks-official-opening-waterfront-amphitheatre/>.

## LEGEND

- ① Alder Parklands  
- ② Idyllwilde Park   
- ③ Rotary Park     
- ④ Fendley Park     
- ⑤ Harvey Curry/Everyday Kids Park     
- ⑥ Kay Cee Gardens   
- ⑦ Orangeville Lions Club Sports Park    
- ⑧ Murray's Mountain Park   
- ⑨ Off-leash Dog Park 
- ⑩ Princess of Wales Park   
- ⑪ Springbrook Park  
- ⑫ Erindale Park  
- ⑬ Kin Family Park  
- ⑭ Mother Teresa Park  
- ⑮ Myr Morrow Park  
- ⑯ Rebecca Hills Park  
- ⑰ Ryan Meadows Park  
- ⑱ Dragonfly Park 
- ⑲ Island Court Parkette 
- ⑳ Young Court Parkette 
- ㉑ PH 9/10 Park  
- ㉒ Parkinson Park  
- ㉓ Alexandra Park 
- ㉔ Bennett Street Park 
- ㉕ Cedarstone Park  
- ㉖ Credit Lake Park 
- ㉗ Haley/Morrow Cres. Parkette  
- ㉘ Karen Court Park
- ㉙ Maywood Park  
- ㉚ Mill Street Park  
- ㉛ Railway Parkette 
- ㉜ Ridgewood Park  
- ㉝ Tweedy Parkette  
- ㉞ Village Green Park  
- ㉟ Walsh Crescent Park  





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 Playground

 Parking

 Splash Pad

 Seating

 Washrooms

 Bike Pump Track

 Tobogganing

 Skateboard Park

0 250 500 1,000 Meters



## Cemeteries

Cemeteries currently fall under the care of the Town Infrastructure Department, but there is a possibility they will be moved under the purview of Community Services. Orangeville has one Town-owned cemetery, the Greenwood Cemetery, located at the western edge of Town, just north of Broadway. The cemetery was created in 1876, and as such has tall, mature trees, and historic headstones dating back to the 1800s (Figure 5-2).

In other municipalities, historic and mature cemeteries like Orangeville's Greenwood Cemetery have constituted an important part of the green space system, particularly in dense/land-limited municipalities. For example, both Mount Pleasant and Park Lawn Cemetery in Toronto, have drawn condo developers and buyers to the adjacent areas, attracted by the park-like settings and guarantee of greenspace that can never be built on. Other examples include Meadowvale Cemetery in Brampton, and Streetsville Memorial in Mississauga, which include walking paths and nature-observation areas together with more formal gardens, encouraging people to visit and spend time on the grounds.

Picturesque cemeteries have increasingly been used for wedding photos, and even wedding ceremonies. The Williamsburg Cemetery in Kitchener, for example, also includes a chapel that can be rented for weddings. The City planned the development of the cemetery with this goal in mind and markets the rentals on a variety of wedding sites:

"We're trying to encourage people to see this area as more than just a place where we bury our dead," [the Cemeteries Manager] said. "I see this cemetery as multi-use. It's here for the community to enjoy...Kitchener doesn't have an abundance of land,... The city planned very carefully to make the site inviting, with ponds, extensive landscaping, a long bridge snaking across the water, a wooden pergola and gazebo. The chapel itself is made of reclaimed honey-coloured brick, fir beams from the Newlands Textile building in Galt, and features a simple wood and white interior, a soaring ceiling and a wall of windows looking onto the fountains."

These and other opportunities to make the Greenwood Cemetery a more multi-use park space, while respecting its primary character as a quiet, restive space, should be considered if cemeteries come under the responsibility of the Parks Division.

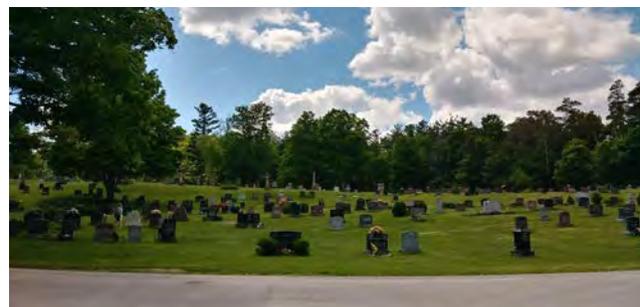


Figure 5-2: Orangeville Greenwood Cemetery

## School Properties

School properties in Town also contribute playgrounds, ball diamonds, fields, hard top surfaces and basketball nets that are accessible to the community after school hours. Residents often use these areas for informal recreation, and organized sports clubs also use the ball diamonds and soccer fields at certain locations. School board-owned playgrounds, hard tops, and open fields are not included in the inventory considered in this chapter. However, soccer fields and ball diamonds that are booked by Town clubs are considered in the inventory discussed in section 4 Facilities.

## Classification

Orangeville's parks are organized per the parks classification system presented in the 2015 Parks Master Plan. The table on the following pages (Table 5-1) summarizes the classification system according to the six types of parks (Major Park, Community Park, Neighbourhood Park, Urban Greens, Natural Areas, and Trails), their general characteristics, location, facilities/amenities, and provision targets.

	Major Park	Community Park	Neighbourhood Park
General Characteristics	A park with major cultural, recreational or historical significance, that draws visitors from surrounding municipalities. May also serve as a neighbourhood or community park for nearby residents. Generally 4 ha in size or greater.	A park that may serve multiple neighbourhoods, and serve a limited community-wide function. Has some specialized facilities and support amenities. Generally 2 ha in size or greater.	Parks intended to serve the needs of residents within 5 to 0 minutes walking distance, and serve as a neighbourhood focal point. Generally 1 – 2 ha in size.
Parks in this Category	Rotary/Idyllwilde Park, Alder Street Parklands, Dragonfly Park	Fendley, Harvey Curry, Kay Cee Gardens, Lions Park, Murray's Mountain, Off-leash Dog park, Princess of Wales, and Springbrook	Erindale, Kin, Mother Theresa, Myr Morrow, PH 9/10, Rebecca Hills, Ryan Meadows, Parkinson Crescent, Young Court
Current Provision and Targets	3 locations; total 22.54 ha (0.78 ha/1000 people) Target: maintain	9 locations; total 14.57 ha (0.5 ha/1000 people) Target: maintain	7 locations; total 8.61 ha (0.3 ha/1000 people) Target (carried over from 2015 Plan): 1ha/1000
Access and Location	Connected to trail network, near public transit, near major road, may share site with recreation facility or school	Connected to trail network, near public transit, near major road, may share site with recreation facility or school	Central to neighbourhood, connected to trail network, prominent street frontage, may be adjacent to schools or stormwater management facilities

Urban Greens	Natural Areas	Trails
<p>A small park that can be located in any part of the Town, including along trails. Depending on amenities and location, they can serve different purposes. Generally less than 1ha in size</p>	<p>Conservation lands that are compatible with some public access, such as for trails, outdoor education, fishing, birdwatching, nature appreciation. Located along natural corridors, watercourses, waterbodies, wetlands, wooded areas etc. Provide ecosystem services and support eco-tourism</p>	<p>Includes unpaved hiking trails, paved multi-use trails, as well as on street cycling facilities. Located throughout Town, in all types of land uses.</p>
<p>Alexandra, Bennett Drive, Cedarstone, Credit Lake, Haley, Island Court, Karen Court, Maywood, Mill Street, Railway, Ridgewood, Tweedy, Village Green, Walsh Crescent</p>	<p>Dragonfly Park (only 'natural area' that is formalized for public access)</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>14 locations; total 2.87 ha (0.1 ha/1000 people) Target: maintain</p>	<p>One location; total 115.6 ha (4 ha/1000 people) Target: maintain</p>	<p>19.5 km (13.1 km trails and 6.4 km walkways/pathways/linkages) Target: maintain</p>
<p>Connected to pedestrian/cycling network, may be integrated with natural areas, stormwater management facilities, and trails; high elevation points with scenic views; downtown core/mixed-use areas</p>	<p>Protected areas, reintroduced natural areas in urban area. Public access to be determined based on conservation/management objectives</p>	<p>Walking/hiking trails located in natural areas, multi-use trails located in natural areas and urban areas</p>

Table 5-1: Parks classification system adapted from the 2015 Orangeville Parks Master Plan

	Major Park	Community Park	Neighbourhood Park
Examples of Design, Facility and Program Considerations	Mix of manicured, natural and hardscape Supports for special events, sports fields, multi-use courts, play structures, splash pads, BMX/skateboard facilities, passive space, trails, gardens, lighting, seating, washrooms, parking	Mix of manicured, natural and hardscape Sports fields, multi-use courts, play structures, splash pads, BMX/skateboard facilities, passive space, trails, gardens, lighting, seating, washrooms, parking	Mix of manicured, natural and hardscape Informal sports fields/courts, play structures, passive space, trails, gardens, lighting, seating

## Use

As illustrated by Figure 5-3 on the facing page, the random and online resident household surveys revealed that parks are well-used by residents, with three quarters (76%) of telephone respondents, and 90% of online respondents visiting parks for unstructured activities, such as using playgrounds and splash pads, walking, observing nature, picnicking etc. The most popular parks for these activities are Fendley Park, Rotary and Idyllwilde Parks, Harvey Curry/Every Kids Park (Figure 5-4). Use of parks for structured activities (organized sports) is discussed in section 4 Facilities.

For those who do not visit parks, the most common reasons included lack of time/too busy, not interested, not aware of locations/what's offered, insufficient variety for different ages, and lack of amenities. Figure 5-5 shows the frequency that these and other reasons were selected in the online and telephone survey.

Urban Greens	Natural Areas	Trails
Mix of manicured, natural and hardscape	Sensitive to natural functions, habitats etc.	Design based on trail type
Paved courts, play structures, passive space, trails, gardens, lighting, seating	Clear access points and wayfinding signage, trails, benches, educational opportunities, passive open space	Clear access points and wayfinding signage, benches, lighting, fitness stations, trailheads with parking, bike racks, washrooms, mapping

Table 5-1 continued: Parks classification system adapted from the 2015 Orangeville Parks Master Plan

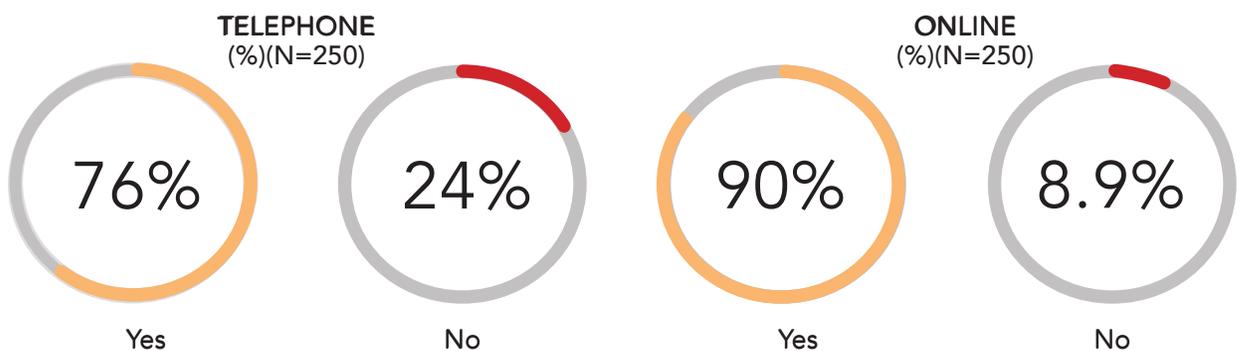
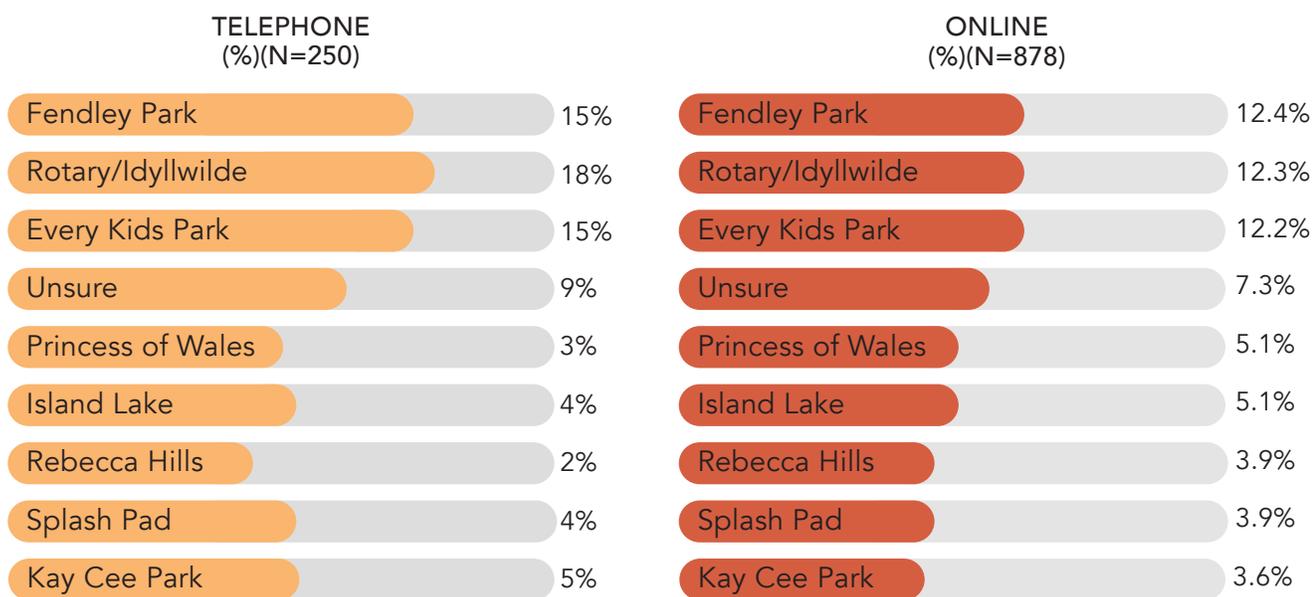


Figure 5-3: Percent of residents who visit Town parks for unstructured activities



**Figure 5-4: Most Popular Parks for Unstructured Activities**

*Top responses only are included here. Multiple responses allowed. Additional parks selected in the survey received 3% of votes or less, and are not listed here.*

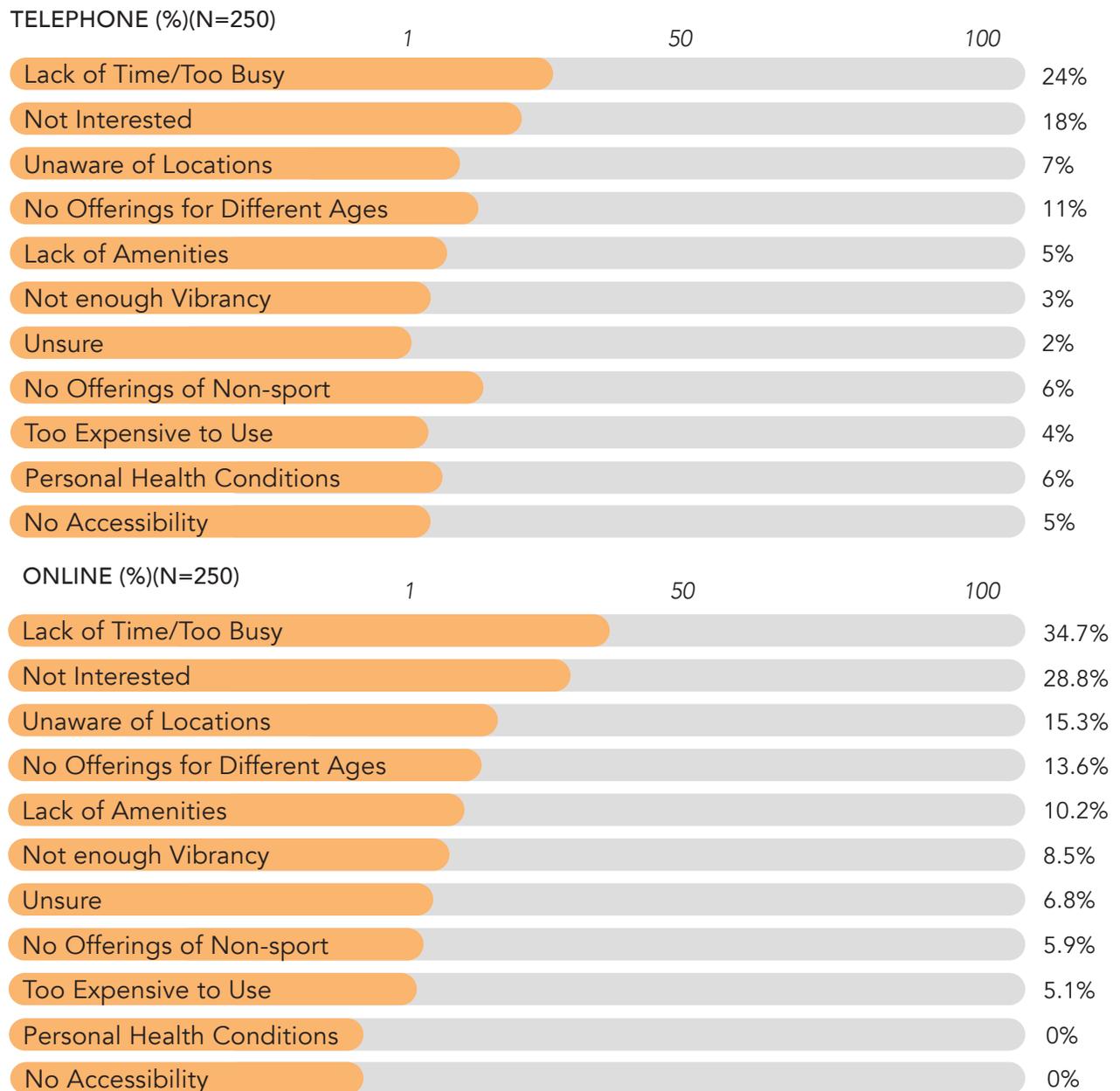


Figure 5-5: Reason for Not Visiting Parks

## Supply

Feedback obtained during consultation activities indicated that the community is generally satisfied with the amount and quality of parks in Orangeville, with a few exceptions that are discussed later in this section.

Community feedback on the supply of sport facilities at parks (ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, multi-sport courts) is discussed in the Facilities Section.

Orangeville offers a total of 1.8 hectares of parkland per 1,000 people. Through a comparative analysis of similar municipalities, it was determined that on average, park provision is approximately 4.24 ha/1,000 people, with Orangeville providing the least (along with Orillia (also 1.8 ha, and Bradford close with 2.0ha/1,000 people) (Table 5-2). The comparative analysis in Appendix C has a detailed discussion of these numbers and how they were obtained.

By this measurement, Orangeville's total of 1.8 ha/1,000 people (not including Island Lake) is deficient in parkland. In order to better understand where this deficiency is occurring, Orangeville's provision, by park type, was compared to the average provision of each park type in other municipalities (Table 5-3 on facing page). The comparison shows that Orangeville is deficient in all categories, but to a greater extent in Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Natural Areas (however, if Island Lake is included as a Natural Area, this category would not be considered deficient). Orangeville is only slightly deficient in Major Parks and Urban Greens. Orangeville

is a more densely populated town compared to the municipalities reviewed, so while it may not be possible to increase Orangeville's park provision to the average of 4 ha/1,000 people, it is still possible to increase the amount of park space in Town.

Orangeville total park provision	1.8 ha/1,000 people
Average total park provision	4.24 ha/1,000 people

Table 5-2: Total hectares of parkland per resident in Orangeville and on average in comparable municipalities.

Orangeville Park Type	Orangeville Provision	Average Provision	Municipalities included in Calculation
Major	0.78	0.9	Brantford, Clarington, Lindsay, St. Thomas (regional/community)
Community	0.5	2	Bradford, Brantford, Caledon (Community/Neighbourhood), Clarington, Georgina, Lindsay, Orillia, St. Thomas (regional/community)
Neighbourhood	0.3	1.1	Bradford, Brantford, Caledon (Community/Neighbourhood), Clarington, Georgina, Lindsay, Orillia, Stratford, St. Thomas (neighbourhood/sub-neighbourhood)
Urban Greens	0.1	0.3	Brantford, Caledon, Clarington, Georgina, St. Thomas (neighbourhood/sub-neighborhood)
Natural Areas	0.1	0.8	Brantford

Table 5-3: Orangeville park provision compared to average provision in other municipalities

## Distribution

Understanding the distribution of parks across the Town is important in ensuring residents are provided a reasonable level of access to parks, and their associated amenities. Based on this evaluation, any areas deficient in parkland will be identified. This information will prove particularly important to supporting parks planning moving forward, and the development of new parks. As per the 2015 Parks Plan, each park type is meant to service a specific area:

Major: serves the whole Town, may be a regional attraction

Community: serves multiple neighbourhoods, possibly a town-wide attraction

Neighbourhood: serves residents within a 400-800m radius (5-10 minute walking distance)

Urban Green: varies by location - may act as a neighbourhood park if in a residential area, may act as a Major or Community Park if located downtown or near other attractions

Natural Area: varies depending on size, location, and amenities - may act as Neighbourhood, Community, or Major park

Trails: varies depending on size, location, and amenities - may act as Neighbourhood, Community, or Major park

Most municipalities are moving toward a 400m maximum as a best practice. In line with this, we have based our assessments on the assumption that ideally, all residents should be within a 5-minute walk (400 metres) to a park.

The map on the following pages shows the 400 metre-radius around each park. Figure 5-6 on the following page shows that, for the most part, the Town is well served by parks in terms of geographic distribution and access. Key areas that appear to be underserved include:

- North of Broadway, along First Street: the gap would be hard to address without acquiring land, demolishing what is existing and creating a new park. Given the density of parks just south and north-east, that would not be warranted.
- Parkview Drive: residents there have access to the fields and playgrounds at Parkinson Centennial School and Ecole Quatre-Rivieres as well, although school radii are not shown on this map.
- Spencer-Sandringham area: residents in this area are further outside the boundary of nearby parks, and the commercial/industrial area north-east of the neighbourhood further separates them from other parks.

To some extent, gaps are mitigated by green space on school properties, which the map does not show. For the Spencer-Sandringham area, however, the gap is significant. Possibilities for a new park in this area are discussed later in this section.

## 5.2 Park Features

### Playgrounds

Orangeville has 26 playgrounds distributed throughout the Town. The comparative analysis revealed an average playground number of 34.5 (and a median of 29), indicating Orangeville is somewhat below other municipalities in playground provision.

Community and staff consultations revealed very few complaints about the number and quality of playgrounds. One comment was received noting a need for a new play structure at Lions Club Sports Park, a couple comments emerged on the need for a playground downtown, and multiple comments were received regarding upgrades to play equipment at Rebecca Hills Park. These parks will be discussed further in the Existing Parks and New Parks sections below.

### Splash Pads

Orangeville has two splash pads, one each at Fendley and Harvey Curry Parks. The comparative analysis showed an average of 4 (median of 3) splash pads in comparable municipalities, indicating Orangeville is relatively low in splash pad provision.

The splash pads are well used according to community and staff consultations. Fendley and Harvey Curry Parks were the most frequently used parks, as reported in the online survey (at 12%, tied with Rotary Park), and the second most used park according to the telephone survey, with 15% of residents visiting the two parks most often. The splash pads are

the main features at both parks, suggesting that residents are visiting these parks for that specific feature. While actual numbers were not available, staff mentioned that visitors come from out of Town to use the splash pads.

The splash pad at Harvey Curry Park is undergoing an extensive renovation that will include accessible amenities for kids of all abilities. Possibilities for adding a third splash pad will be discussed further in the Upgrades to Existing Parks section below.

### Skate parks

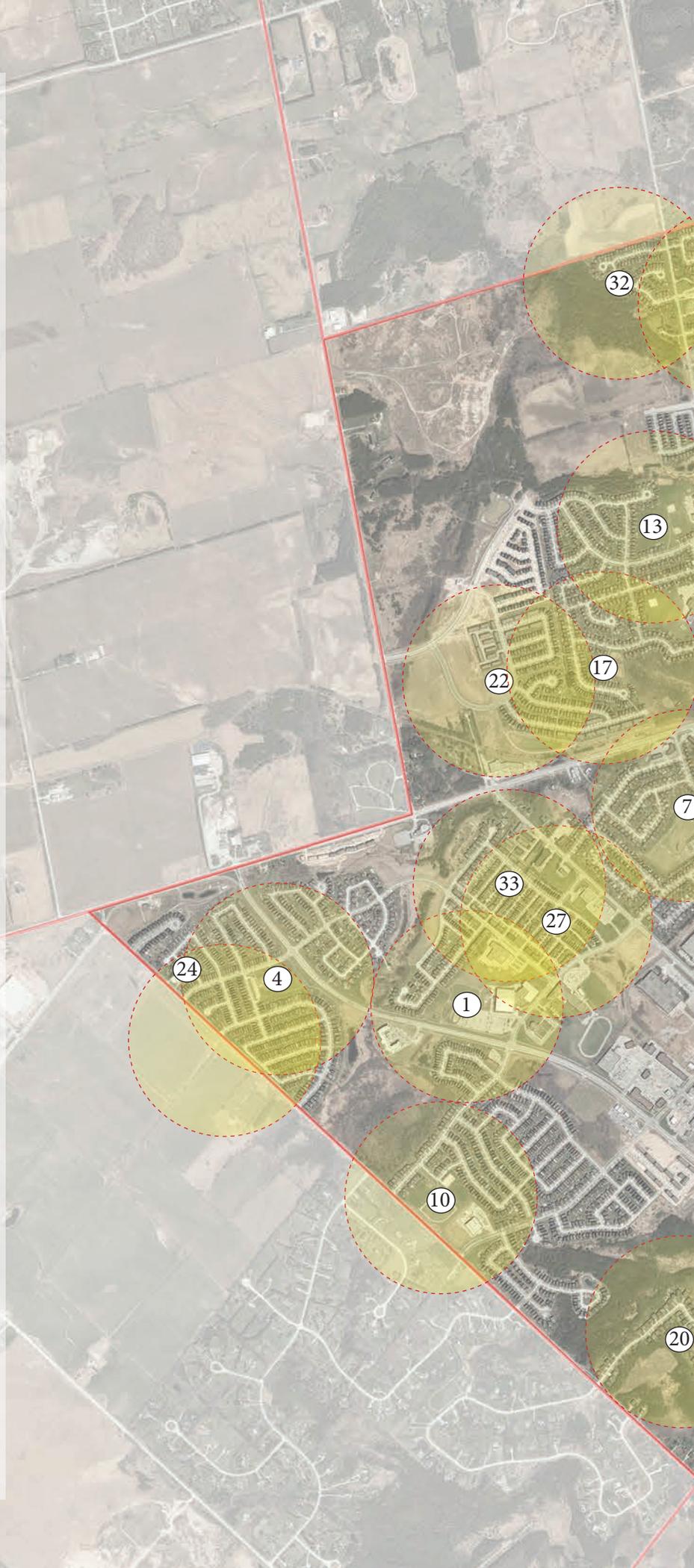
Orangeville has one skateboard park located in Rotary Park. Supply is in line with the comparative analysis, which showed an average of 1.5 skateboard parks per municipality. Consultations indicated the skateboard park is very popular, with considerable interest in the possibility of adding a second skateboard park, or mini skateboard pads.

### Bike Pump Tracks

The bike pump track was constructed by the Lions Club at the Alder Parklands, with the original plan involving a bike club that would maintain it. However, it has fallen into disrepair and is often unusable, according to consultations. The Lions Club is in discussion with the Town to convert it to an asphalt pump track. In addition to converting the Alder dirt pump track to asphalt, consultations revealed some desire for adding a second pump track at a different location. The average frequency of bike skills parks in the comparative analysis was 0.3, indicating that Orangeville is currently relatively well supplied with these facilities.

## LEGEND

- ① Alder Parklands
- ② Idyllwilde Park
- ③ Rotary Park
- ④ Fendley Park
- ⑤ Harvey Curry/Every Kids Park
- ⑥ Kay Cee Gardens
- ⑦ Orangeville Lions Club Sports Park
- ⑧ Murray's Mountain Park
- ⑨ Off-leash Dog Park
- ⑩ Princess of Wales Park Springbrook
- ⑪ Park
- ⑫ Erindale Park
- ⑬ Kin Family Park
- ⑭ Mother Teresa Park
- ⑮ Myr Morrow Park
- ⑯ Rebecca Hills Park
- ⑰ Ryan Meadows Park
- ⑱ Dragonfly Park
- ⑲ Island Court Parkette
- ⑳ Young Court Parkette
- ㉑ PH 9/10 Park
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- ㉓ Alexandra Park
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- ㉕ Cedarstone Park
- ㉖ Credit Lake Park
- ㉗ Haley/Morrow Cres. Parkette
- ㉘ Karen Court Park
- ㉙ Maywood Park
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- ㉛ Railway Parkette
- ㉜ Ridgewood Park
- ㉝ Tweedy Parkette
- ㉞ Village Green Park
- ㉟ Walsh Crescent Park





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## Dog Parks

Orangeville has one designated off-leash dog park on Hansen Boulevard. It is located on land that will soon be developed as a 600-unit condominium. Part of the development plan includes a new, smaller (1.6 hectare /4 acre) dog park on the same parcel of land, but in a different location. Consultations indicated an interest in a second dog park, in another part of Town, preferably the southwest. Dog parks were not included in the analysis of comparative municipalities.

## Outdoor Rinks

Orangeville has four outdoor skating rinks at Idyllwilde Park, Lions Park, Princess of Wales Park, and beside Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre (five, if including skating at Island Lake). The rinks are natural ice, and are built and maintained by Town staff. Additional volunteer-supported ice rinks may be available in varying numbers and locations from year to year, depending on volunteer interest. Multiple comments were received during consultations requesting an outdoor rink, which could mean that many residents are not aware of the outdoor rinks available. There were also requests for a skating trail, which Orangeville does not currently have. Average outdoor rink provision in comparable municipalities was 4.9, meaning Orangeville's supply is in keeping with the norm.

## Exercise Equipment

Orangeville has adult exercise equipment at Kay Cee Gardens and Lions Club Sports Park. Anecdotally, staff mentioned equipment at Kay Cee Gardens was very popular with seniors, but it was not mentioned in other community consultation.

## Community Gardens

Orangeville currently has one community garden located on Dufferin County property at the Edelbrock Centre. There are 24 plots, with one dedicated to growing food for the food bank. There is a waitlist of residents who are interested in renting a plot, when one becomes available. There are plans to develop a bus station on the property, and shifting the location of the garden. However residents have expressed resistance to this plan, not wanting the garden to be close to the bus station and road. In consultations, staff mentioned other possible sites for the garden were provided, however, garden volunteers rejected the suggested locations on the grounds that they are not easily accessible and they feel the garden should remain downtown.

## Trails

New trails, connections, and maintenance was a clear priority in consultations, and can be summed up in two main requests:

- more maintenance in the winter
- a connected trail system throughout the Town

The Town adopted a new Cycling and Trails Master Plan in 2019, which assessed trails in depth. As this Master Plan was just recently completed, the Town has only begun to act on its recommendations. Trails are also outside of the scope of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. However, due to the overwhelming number of comments received pertaining to trails, they are clearly of primary interest to Orangeville residents and should be prioritized.

## Memorials

There is a cenotaph and various plaques and war memorials at Alexandra Park, and in addition, a new Bravery Park is planned for the Alder Parklands. The Bravery Park was supported by community fundraising, and will feature a playground, a memorial stone and a statue honouring Canadian soldiers. Also at the Alder Parklands is the Medicine Wheel Garden, featuring an accessible pathway, a stone bench, interpretive signage with Anishnawbe teachings in English and Ojibway, and native plants that are sacred and medicinal.

## 5.3 General Park Considerations

### Accessibility

Parks need to be upgraded over time to address the need for accessible and safe paths of travel, with connections to amenities. Infrastructure needs to meet AODA requirements regarding seating (benches and picnic tables), playground equipment, playground safety surfaces, and pavement surfaces/paths of travel (including tactile warning strips, handrails, and ramps).

As a matter of community health and safety, adequate shade needs to be provided in each park, either through tree canopy or a built structure. This is particularly important in playgrounds where young children and their caregivers often spend considerable time, and should be protected from prolonged sun exposure.

Priority should be given to improvements to parks based on public/user safety and accessibility as per the Canadian Standards Association's requirements (CSA), Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements. This includes but is not limited to:

- playground safety (protective fall surfaces and CSA approved equipment)
- accessible routes through parks
- seating (location and configuration)
- wayfinding and user information
- shade (built structures and planting)
- bicycle parking

The Town is in the process of making accessibility upgrades to parks as part of ongoing maintenance and upgrades.

## Naturalization

Naturalization is the process of allowing natural plant growth to occur, while managing that growth typically by removing/limiting non-native and invasive species, and planting and encouraging the growth of native species. Naturalization is an important strategy for improving ecosystem health, and in turn, building climate change resilience (both goals in the Town's Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), and Climate Change Adaptation Policy). Naturalization, for all its benefits, comes with two main challenges. First, some residents interpret naturalized landscapes as messy and unkempt, leading them to complain and lobby the Town to remove it. Second, contrary to appearances, in the early stages of plant growth, naturalized spaces can require more maintenance and specialized knowledge than mowed lawns, increasing demand on already stretched staff resources. However, over time naturalized spaces will require less maintenance and resources than mowed fields.

Municipalities are often caught in the middle as they attempt to moderate between residents who complain about naturalization in parks, and/or on their neighbour's yard, and residents who want more naturalization. Indeed, the Town of Orangeville has received complaints from residents who do not support the naturalization implemented at Morrow Crescent

Park. Joan Iverson Nassauer is a landscape architect in the field of ecological design, who has studied this problem extensively:

"Novel landscape designs that improve ecological quality may not be appreciated or maintained if recognizable landscape language that communicates human intention is not part of the landscape. Similarly, ecologically valuable remnant landscapes may not be protected or maintained if the human intention to care for the landscape is not apparent. Landscape language that communicates human intention, particularly intention to care for the landscape, offers a powerful vocabulary for design to improve ecological quality. Ecological function is not readily recognizable to those who are not educated to look for it. Furthermore, the appearance of many indigenous ecosystems and wildlife habitats violates cultural norms for the neat appearance of landscapes."<sup>2</sup>

A key direction from that paper that could support the Town's efforts in naturalization is to increase the intentionality of naturalized spaces so that it is obvious the Town is caring for and grooming them – referred to as "cues to care" in her study. Some of those 'cues' or grooming practices are:

- mowing: consider a mowed strip around the border
- bold patterns/clean lines: while naturalized areas will naturally drift and change over time, the initial plantings

<sup>2</sup> Nassauer, J. I. 1995. *Messy ecosystems, orderly frames*. *Landscape Journal*. 14(2): pp. 161-170.

should be laid out and confined to clear patterns or lines. This will help slowly introduce the idea to residents who request neat gardens

- bird feeders and pollinator gardens: bird feeders and plants for pollinators (e.g. butterfly and bee gardens) communicate the intention of the place (a place for nature), and reinforce the fact that it is not abandoned or neglected. Also, encouraging birds could increase wildlife sighting and appreciation by residents
- borders: borders have the quick ability to make any collection of plants look neater, and can be made by fences, plantings, shrubs, or by mowing as mentioned above.

Educational signage describing the plants and/or process in the naturalized area, may also help increase community understanding and, therefore, acceptance. The Town should implement some of these practices in their naturalized areas to increase resident support and acceptance.

Potential sites for naturalization should be chosen in consultation with the community. Consultation is an opportunity to educate about naturalization, and to come up with a design plan that pleases residents. Island Court Parkette, Ryan Meadows Park and Railway Parkette are potential suitable sites for naturalization, as they include large grass areas that are not likely used for sports or recreation. A naturalized garden, border, or section could be added to almost any park if the resources

are available. Erindale Park, Bennett Drive Park and Kin Family Park, for example, could accommodate naturalized borders or gardens.

## Tree Canopy

The Town is taking action to increase the tree canopy to 40% by 2040, (from a current estimated 30%), as outlined in the recently adopted Municipal Tree Canopy Policy. The policy identifies seven key directions for achieving the goal: inventory of trees, plantings, types of plantings, maintenance, open space/conservation areas, planning and development, and education.<sup>3</sup> During consultations, comments were received requesting the Town to protect mature trees, and not remove them for park redesigns/ upgrades (e.g. one comment referred to the loss of trees during the construction of Every Kids Park). This policy, along with the also recently adopted Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP, 2019), which includes direction to maintain existing open space, park and street trees, indicates the Town is taking actions to protect trees and increase their numbers.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.orangeville.ca/news/2020/02/12/council-highlights-february-10-2020>

## Native Edible Plants and Fruit Trees

The Orangeville SNAP also contained a recommendation to include native edible plants and fruit trees in Town landscaping, for the role they play in improved ecological function, habitat for pollinators, food security and building community. Given the long-term commitment required for growing fruit trees, policy and formal agreements are usually required before planting. Edible plant gardens on the other hand could be piloted for one growing season without the requirement for a long-term commitment.

Other municipalities have approached edible planting with varying degrees of municipal involvement, from providing and maintaining the plants (high municipal involvement), to allowing community groups to plant and maintain edible plants/trees on public land (low municipal involvement). One example of such a program is from Strathcona County, Alberta (see sidebar:

These arrangements are appealing in that they provide programs that would otherwise be impossible with limited municipal staffing and funding. However, a sophisticated and dedicated group of volunteers is required to make it work. Also, the amount of effort required on behalf of the volunteers is considerable, and may deter groups from taking on the responsibility.

There are grants available to support growing food in public spaces. For example, Tree Canada offered grants up to \$4,000 to



Figure 5-7: Planter in Strathcona County

### Strathcona County

Stemming from their Urban Agriculture Strategy, the County started the Edible Plants in Public Places Pilot, that comprises planters of vegetables at different locations (Figure 5-7), free for the public to pick:

“Vegetables, such as peas, tomatoes, carrots and lettuce, herbs and edible flowers, have been planted in seven planters near the spray park entrance at Broadmoor Lake Park. Each planter is unique, with different edible plants!

Pick some leave some

Visit the planters spring, summer and fall to see how the plants are growing. The edible planters are for the you to enjoy. Bring a bag and garden scissors, and help yourself to some of what’s growing. Each planter will have a plant list so you know what’s growing.”<sup>14</sup>

It is not clear from the website how provision and care of the planters is divided, aside from mentioning that they are cared for by ‘various groups’.

1 <https://www.strathcona.ca/agriculture-environment/urban-agriculture/edible-plants/>

municipalities, schools and community gardens to purchase, plant, and maintain fruit and nut trees, through their Edible Trees program. Park People also provides grants to community groups that host nature-based activities that foster environmental education, sustainability and stewardship through their TD Park People Grants.

A simple way to test municipally-provided edible gardens, is to replace some annual ornamental gardens with vegetables, in a suitable location with high foot-traffic (e.g. near recreation centres, in the downtown). Ornamental gardens require a similar amount of work as vegetable gardens, so the Town could make this switch without adjusting staffing levels, and monitor the success of pilot projects to inform longer term initiatives. If the edible gardens are replacing already existing Town-maintained ornamental gardens, this pilot can be implemented by the Town alone. A second phase of the pilot could include expanding the number and locations of gardens with the help of volunteers. Partnerships and agreements with community groups/volunteers are encouraged, and policies to support such arrangements are discussed elsewhere in the Plan.

## Community Gardens

The Orangeville SNAP includes direction to “pursue partnerships for the continued development and ongoing maintenance of community gardens” (p. 60), in order to increase equitable access to, and affordability of, healthy food. The Orangeville SNAP identifies Sustainable Orangeville (a Committee of Council) as the municipal lead for community gardens, but this does not preclude the Facilities and Parks and Recreation and Events Divisions from taking an active role in providing community gardens.

Municipalities across Ontario follow a variety of models in providing community gardens, based on where they are situated (municipal lands, school, or other institutional lands), the role of community partners, and the department’s capacity to provide oversight or facilitate the delivery of programs. The direction the Town wishes to take on community gardens will depend on the interest of local champions and community groups, and the capacity of the Town to provide required administration.

For example, the City of Kingston’s Recreation Department allocates land for community gardens on municipal properties, including parklands. The City works with the local Community Garden Network that is responsible for its operations. The City’s responsibilities include providing annual funding to address enhancements, maintenance, and providing information regarding development and maintenance. Other communities, such as the Town of Milton, engage in partnerships with local schools with onsite gardens by

incorporating community gardening as part of its summer day camp programs.

Given the strong connection between growing food, well-being, and food security, food banks and public health units are obvious potential partners for community garden developments. This is already the case in Orangeville, where the garden is located at a Dufferin County social service hub, with dedicated plots for the food bank. The Town can contribute by offering municipal land (including but not limited to parkland) as space for gardens, and in discussion with possible partners (e.g. the food bank, the County, Sustainable Orangeville) define its role in, and types of support provided to, community gardens. Also, as discussed in the Programs section, programs related to food (eg. gardening, cooking, preserving, etc.) are growing in popularity, and Town-owned gardens at Alder and Tony Rose would provide easy access to food for these activities and a site to host gardening and related programs.

## Outdoor Programming at Parks

As discussed in the Programs section, the Town should look for opportunities to develop new/ move existing recreation programs outdoors (for example fitness classes, sports and physical activities, drawing/sketching, etc.), providing there are suitable spaces and amenities. Currently the Town partners with CVC to run camps at Island Lake in the summer, where there is ample space, washrooms and shade structures available to support campers and staff.

Parks for programs should have the following amenities at minimum:

- parking for pick-up and drop-off
- washrooms and a water fountain
- shade (either by mature trees, or a structure)
- seating

Existing parks that meet these criteria include (Table 5-4):

- Rotary/Idyllwilde, Fendley, Lions and Island Lake (continuing partnership with CVC) are suitable as-is to host outdoor programming.
- Alder Parklands and Murray's Mountain could be suitable provided participants are able to access Alder Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Sports Centre, respectively to use washrooms, and access drinking water and shade.
- Kay Cee Gardens is directly across from the Seniors Centre, and it features outdoor exercise equipment that,

according to consultations, is popular with seniors. A partnership with the Seniors Centre for programs held in Kay Cee Gardens would be feasible as long as participants have access to the Seniors Centre for washrooms, water, and shade.

Springbrook, Princess of Wales, and Rotary Parks are all used frequently by sports organizations on evenings and weekends throughout the summer. At these locations, opportunities for programming may need to focus on weekday summer/school break activities.

For all of these parks, the amount/capacity/quality of the amenities would need to be assessed to determine if they are adequate to support programming, and if so, what intensity of programming (e.g. full day summer camps versus a one-hour program). The Town could then decide which locations are ideal, and any required improvements to amenities to accommodate programs.

Additional options for outdoor programming that would require partnership with school boards include:

- Springbrook: has seating and parking (at school), no washroom or playground – however there are playgrounds and washrooms at the school (Ecole Elementaire des Quatre Rivieres), and the day care (Garderie Petit Baobab).
- Princess of Wales: playground, seating, parking, no washroom, although there are washrooms at the school on the same site, Spencer Avenue Elementary School.

The Town may be able to establish an agreement with the schools to use the washrooms and drinking fountains and potentially locate programs at these sites. A consideration to note however, is that

Park	Parking	Washrooms	Shade	Seating	Additional Features
Rotary/ Idyllwilde Park	y	y	Structure, trees	y	Skateboard park, playground
Harvey Curry Park	y	y	Trees	y	Accessible playground Splash pad
Fendley Park	y	y	Structure	y	Splash pad, playground
Lions Park	y	y	Structure	y	Multi-sport court, exercise equipment, playground,
Kay Cee Gardens*	y	y	Trees, structure	y	Exercise equipment, playground
Alder Parklands*	y	y	Recreation centre	y	Possibility of joint indoor/ outdoor programming at Alder
Tony Rose/ Murray Mountain*	y	y	Recreation centre	y	Possibility of joint indoor/ outdoor programming at Tony Rose
Island Lake	y	y	Structure, trees	y	Nature-based programming

Table 5-4: Orangeville Outdoor Programming

\*-washrooms and parking available at adjacent buildings

## Pop-Up Parks

Pop-up parks are gaining in popularity, as a way to bring new activities and play equipment to residents around the community, rather than committing it to one location. Pop-up parks come in many forms, for example pop-up skateboard parks (Figure 5-9), adventure parks, 'loose parts' parks that feature movable items (such as tires and boxes etc.), and obstacle courses. Portable parks add interest and excitement to parks, and can spawn organized activities and events, such as mobile skateboard workshops. With the ability to move the equipment to different locations, it can be made easily accessible to everyone in the community, including neighbourhoods that feel disconnected from the rest of the Town.

The Calgary mobile adventure playground (Figure 5-8) consisted of old bathtubs, tires, boxes, tubes and more. A 2016 pilot project by the City of Calgary, it was made possible through a donation of \$160,000 from the Lawson Foundation. Most of the equipment was donated or acquired fairly inexpensively, but there is a cost in moving it around the city, and staffing the site for safety reasons. The pilot had many visitors, and lasted one summer, with rotating visits to 5 different parks.



Figure 5-8: Calgary Mobile Adventure Playground



Figure 5-9: Kitchener Pop-up Skate Park

- Considerations that are applicable to all, or multiple (depending on suitability) parks include accessibility, naturalization, tree canopy coverage, native edible plants and trees, community gardens, outdoor programming at parks, and pop-up park equipment.
- Parks need to be upgraded over time to address accessibility and AODA requirements regarding: safe and accessible paths of travel through parks, with connections to amenities, seating, playground equipment and safety surface, pavement surface/path of travel, and adequate shade.
- Naturalization is an important strategy for improving ecosystem health, and in turn, building climate change resilience. Some residents interpret naturalized landscapes as messy and unkempt. Establishing naturalized spaces can require more staff resources in the early stages, however, over time they require less maintenance and resources than mowed fields.
- The Town is taking action to increase the tree canopy to 40% by 2040, (from a current estimated 30%), as outlined in the recently adopted Municipal Tree Canopy Policy. During consultations, comments were received requesting the Town to protect mature trees, and not remove them for park redesigns/upgrades.
- Providing and/or supporting edible plantings and community gardens helps improve food security and community wellbeing, and is in-line with directions from the Orangeville SNAP. Potential partners for these projects include the food bank, County Public Health, School Boards, and other community groups.
- It is recommended in the Programs section to move programs outdoors when possible. In order to host programs, a park should have at minimum, adequate parking, shade, water source, washrooms, and seating.
- Pop-up parks are gaining in popularity, as a way to bring new activities and play equipment to residents around the community, rather than committing it to one location. Pop-up park equipment can also enable outdoor programming initiatives.

Figure 5-10: General Park Considerations Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations

- Meet minimum AODA accessibility standards for all new Town parks and major park renovations.
- Develop a strategy and begin to implement improvements to existing parks to achieve AODA compliance by the end of the term of this Plan (2030).
- Implement naturalization grooming practices in parks and open space areas.
- Select new sites, and implement naturalization. Site selection and design should be done in consultation with parks maintenance staff and the community.
- Protect mature trees when possible when upgrading and maintaining existing parks
- Continue to work towards Municipal Tree Canopy target of 40%.
- Pilot edible gardens by replacing already existing Town-owned and maintained annual ornamental gardens with vegetable gardens.
- Support the planting of fruit and nut trees on municipal land by community groups.
- Investigate the suitability of developing community gardens at Alder and Tony Rose to facilitate food-related programs.
- Work with Sustainable Orangeville, the Orangeville Food Bank, and Dufferin County to expand community gardens in Orangeville.
- Work with programming staff to assess the suitability of parks for hosting outdoor programs.
- If it is determined to be necessary, improve and/or expand park amenities required to support outdoor programming.
- Consider the potential to establish agreements with relevant school boards for access to indoor amenities to support programs at adjacent park sites.
- Introduce mobile play equipment at parks and other locations.

## 5.4 Specific Park Considerations

### Rebecca Hills Park

Rebecca Hills Park (Figure 5-11) is located in the Rolling Hills neighbourhood, which is separated from the rest of the Town by both Highway 10 and Highway 9. It is a neighbourhood of approximately 700 – 1,000 people, served primarily by this park. The park includes a playground, a half-court paved surface with one basketball net, benches, trees, and an open field.

The residents of Rolling Hills are very engaged and participated extensively in consultations for this Plan. Residents generally need to drive to access other parks in the Town, and the distance to these and major streets bounding the neighbourhood precludes their children from walking or cycling to other parks. Given their reliance on Rebecca Hills Park, therefore, the Town should consider expanding and improving its amenities to better serve the local population. Some examples of potential additions include:

- full-sized multi-sport court that is convertible to a (volunteer-supported) outdoor rink in winter
- additional playground structures, particularly for preschool ages
- soccer goal posts for the field for pick up play
- a trail
- bike skills area (e.g. pump track)
- a mini splash pad

The potential additions listed above are based on residents' suggestions, and considering the need for these park features throughout the Town, it is not unreasonable to introduce additional facilities here. However, whether or not Rebecca Hills Park is the ideal location for a third splash pad or second bike skills area will require further assessment and consultation. As with all park plans, redesigning Rebecca Hills should include consultation with the residents of the neighbourhood.



Figure 5-11: Backstop and basketball net at Rebecca Hills Park

## Myr Morrow Park

Myr Morrow Park is located in the south-east area of Orangeville. It is bounded on all sides by houses, and is accessible through footpaths in between houses on the north and south ends. The park has a large open field, a playground, and a full sized basketball court with two nets. However, this court is in very poor shape (see Figure 5-12). During consultations, Orangeville Hawks Basketball indicated interest in collaborating with the Town to improve the court, so that they may use it for some of their practices. Upgrading the court so that it could be used for programming is also supportive of the recommendation in the Programs section to

move programs outdoors where possible. In addition to re-paving the surface, supporting amenities could include seating, a shade structure, and drinking fountain. It is important to note, however, that there is no parking at Myr Morrow, and it is located on a quiet residential street, so any programming would have to be sensitive and suitable to the context. For example, the court could host some practices particularly for older children where parents drop-off and pick-up, rather than park and stay for the duration of the program. As usual, upgrades to this park should be planned in consultation with the community, as well as interested sports groups such as Orangeville Hawks.



Figure 5-12: Basketball court at Myr Morrow Park

## Rotary and Idyllwilde Park

Rotary and Idyllwilde Parks are a focal point in the Town, and many of those consulted think changes and improvements are needed. Ideas for improvements or redesign ranged from upgrading amenities such as washrooms, spectator seating, and the pavilion; adding fields or diamonds to facilitate tournament play; or removing sport fields altogether and transforming the park to a Town hub with outdoor event space, a splash pad, and a skating trail throughout.

The facilities assessment (Section 4) recommends adding a ball diamond (as well

as additional tennis and pickle ball courts) to Rotary Park to consolidate adult play in one location, and facilitate tournaments opportunities. Figure 5-13 on the previous provides a conceptual design for how this could look. Proceeding with this direction, the Town should also consider upgrading the supporting amenities such as washrooms, spectator seating, and the pavilion. A skate trail could also be added, winding throughout Rotary Park, to further establish the park as a Town-wide and visitor attraction (illustrated in Figure 5-14).

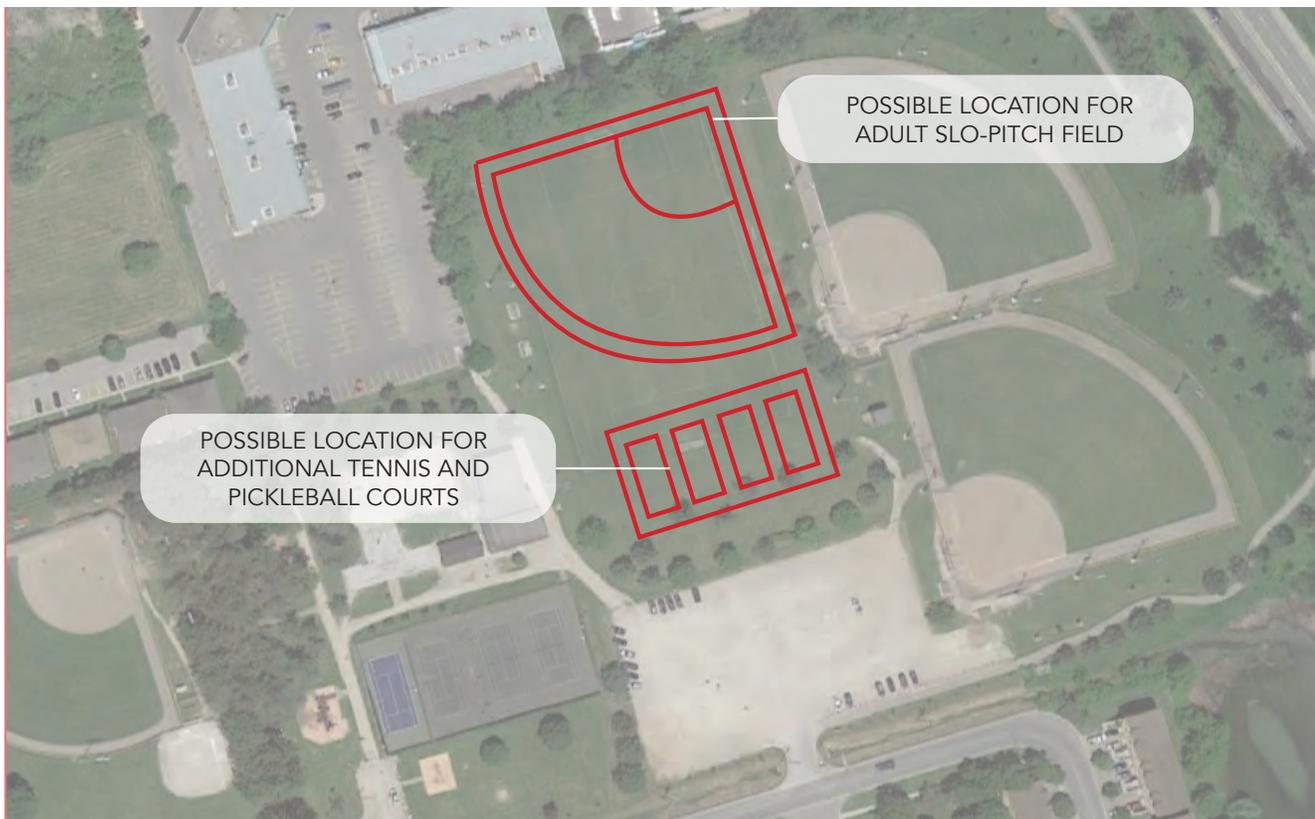


Figure 5-13: Aerial view of additional court and diamond locations at Rotary Park

- LEGEND**
- ① EXISTING BASEBALL DIAMONDS
  - ② PROPOSED SKATING TRAIL
  - ③ EXISTING TRAIL
  - ④ PAVED SKATE TRAIL ENTRANCE
  - ⑤ SHELTER
  - ⑥ EXISTING PARKING
  - ⑦ EXISTING SOCCER FIELD

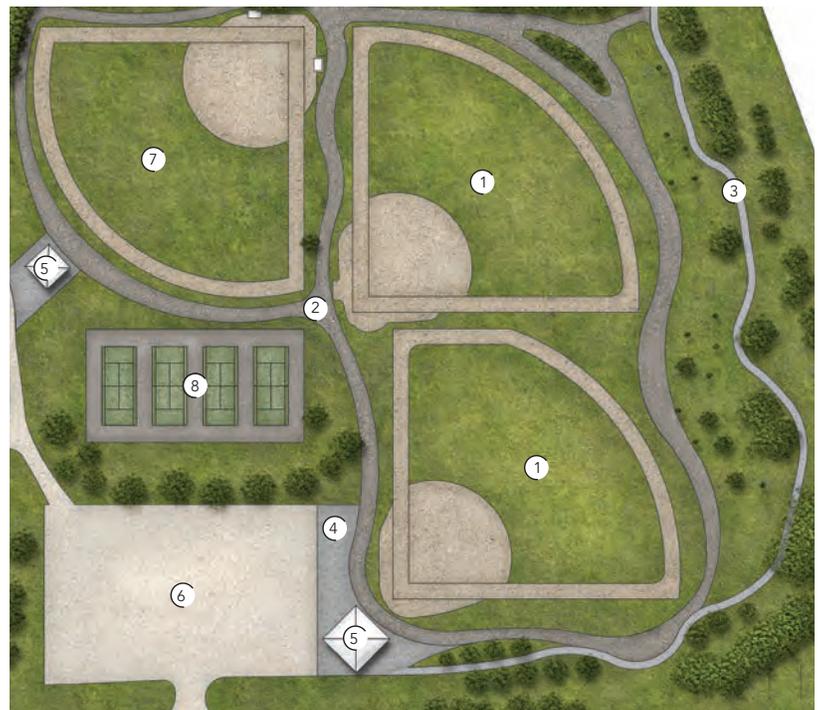
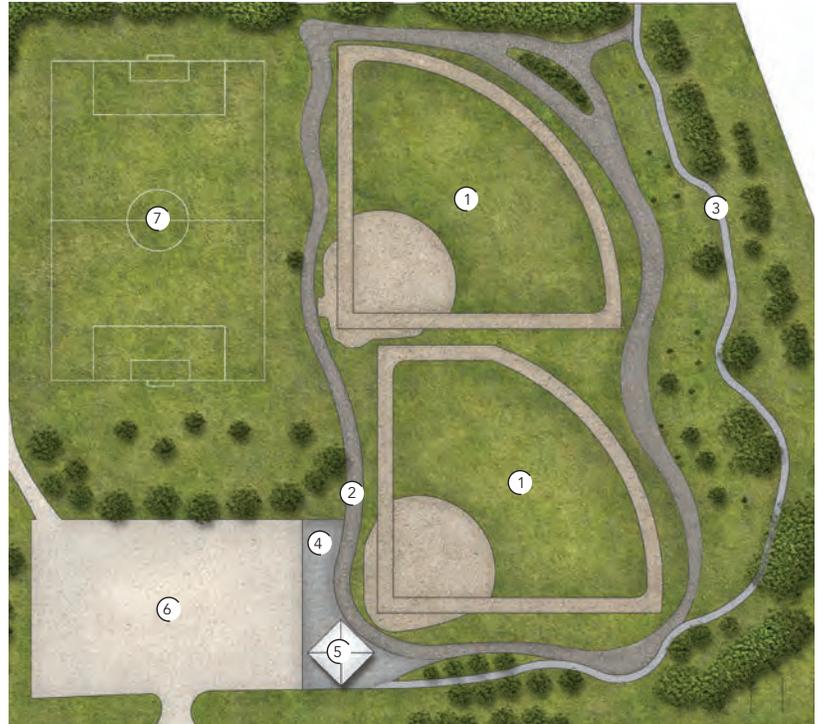


Figure 5-14: Proposed skating trail in Rotary Park. Phase 1 (top) and Phase 2 (bottom).

## Lions Club Sports Park

The Lions Club Sports Park has a playground, three soccer fields (2 minor and 1 major), and a multi-sport court that converts to a skating rink in winter. Consultations indicated a desire for improved and expanded playground equipment including preschool structures, and baby swings (Figure 5-15).

The facilities assessment (Section 4) found that the Town is well supplied with soccer fields, and has more than enough fields to accommodate use to the end of the term of this Plan – assuming access to school fields remains the same. The existing fields at Lions Park are not used to capacity, particularly the two minor fields, which were used only twice in a typical week in summer 2019. This suggests that Lions could be a potential location for one of the park features requested in community consultations, even if it requires the removal of one minor field. A potential limitation to the suitable uses of this park is that it is surrounded on all sides by residential backyards, so uses should be sensitive to excessive noise and lights in the evening.

Given these considerations, Lions Park could be an ideal location for a community garden, edible garden, edible orchard, and/or naturalization, as these are not particularly noisy or disruptive uses at night. Actual field use of all soccer fields should be monitored to determine facility requirements including long-term projections. This will identify potential opportunities to intensify use on fewer fields, which would allow existing fields to be repurposed to provide other amenities.

Another option that did not come up in consultations but is in keeping with broader trends, would be to supplement the existing playground with a challenge course. These facilities cater to a wider range of ages than typical playground equipment, including teenagers and adults, and can support small scale events like family challenges, as is done at Legacy Park in Lethbridge, Alberta:

**“Taking a slightly different approach, Lethbridge opened the first challenge course in Canada at Legacy Park. The outdoor obstacle course is meant to engage the whole family in competitive fun and features a professional-grade timing system and a scoreboard so that people can see how they stack up against their neighbours.”<sup>4</sup>**

A challenge course at Lions Park would attract residents from all around Town (and likely some from outside of Town), and with parking and washrooms already available at Lions, it should be able to accommodate higher usage brought by the obstacle park.

<sup>4</sup> [https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/downloads/pp\\_canadiancityparksreport\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/downloads/pp_canadiancityparksreport_2019_web.pdf)



Figure 5-15: Minor soccer fields (top) and play structure (fenced off due to COVID-19, bottom) at Lions Club Sports Park

## Tony Rose Precinct

The Facilities section recommends options for repurposing the Tony Rose facility and surrounding lands (Figure 5-16; Murray's Mountain, Princess Elizabeth Public School and Orangeville District Secondary School, in partnership with the school board), as a Town lacrosse and recreation hub.

Redevelopment of Tony Rose will depend on changes made at Alder, and the results of a feasibility study of the various options for Tony Rose. It is possible that in the medium term, an artificial turf could be added to the Tony Rose Precinct, that could be open or domed. Figure 5-17 show various possibilities for the location of future fields.

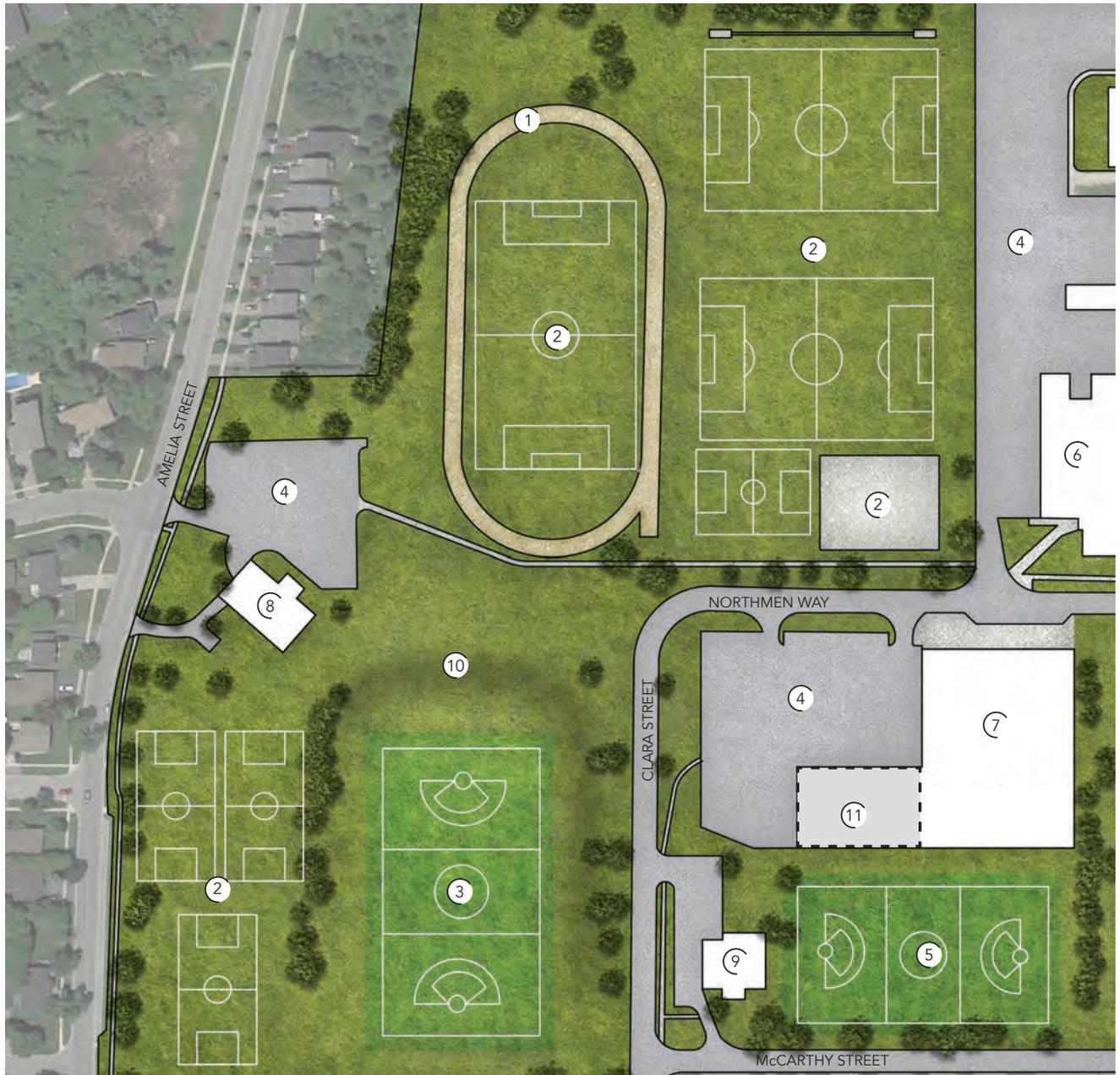
A number of potential lacrosse fields are shown in Figure 5-17, and the Town could decide to dome fields 5, 3, or 2 (these options are discussed further in Section 4 Facilities). The addition of the field along McCarthy Street would result in the loss of the outdoor skating rink, though it would be 'replaced' by the proposed skating trail at Rotary Park, so there would be no change in the Town's inventory of outdoor rinks.

Any of these options would likely occur in the medium or long term, once decisions are solidified for Alder, and feasibility studies for proposed changes to Tony Rose are completed (see recommendations in the Facilities section). In the short term, the Tony Rose site would be ideal to pilot an Town-provided and operated edible garden and/or additional community garden site, as many residents already visit the location to attend programs at Tony Rose.



Figure 5-16: Existing Aerial View of Tony Rose Precinct

*\*Photograph from Google Earth Pro*



- ① EXISTING TRACK
- ② EXISTING SPORT FIELDS
- ③ PROPOSED DESIGNATED LACROSSE FIELD
- ④ EXISTING PARKING
- ⑤ PROPOSED MULT-USE LACROSSE FIELD
- ⑥ ORANGEVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL
- ⑦ TONY ROSE MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTRE
- ⑧ GRANT EVANS EDUCATION CENTRE
- ⑨ JEAN HAMLIN DAY CARE CENTRE
- ⑩ MURRAY'S MOUNTAIN PARK
- ⑪ POOL



Figure 5-17: Proposed Tony Rose Precinct

## Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is located downtown directly behind Town Hall on 2nd Street. The park has a Cenotaph, Veterans Memorial, mature trees, a gazebo, and is often used to host events, such as the Blues and Jazz Festival. However, it is not ideally suited for this purpose due to:

- soil compaction and subsequent grass death due to heavy foot traffic
- limited space/capacity for events
- some residents expressed concern that holding these large events around the war memorial is disrespectful. Staff also need to erect pylons and barricades around the cenotaph during events, creating additional work and further reducing the usable space of the park

There was a strong consensus among staff during consultations that an outdoor event venue in downtown is needed. On the other hand, just under half of respondents (45%) to the telephone survey do not think the Town needs an additional outdoor event space, with 41% responding 'yes' a new space is needed, and 14% responded 'unsure'. Support for a new outdoor event space was higher in the online survey, with 48% responding 'yes', 28% responding 'no', and 24% responding 'unsure'. The program section discusses Town events, and the possibilities for attracting out of Town visitors. A park specifically designed for this type of event would play a vital role in the success of visitor-oriented events.

A concept for a new Downtown Event precinct, which includes Alexandra Park, is presented

in the New Parks section. In this concept, the Cenotaph, Veteran's Memorial and other interpretive and memorial elements would be relocated to a new park adjacent to Alexandra Park, on the north side of First Ave. This new Cenotaph Park (discussed below in the New Parks sections) would be a purpose built space designed for ceremony and reflection. Relocating the Cenotaph would free space for large gatherings and special events in a re-designed Alexandra Park (Figures 5-18 and 5-19). However, recommended changes to Alexandra Park would be contingent on relocating the Cenotaph to the new purpose-built park space across the street, and consultations with Orangeville's Royal Canadian Legion.



- |                         |                               |   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| ① MULTI-USE EVENT SPACE | ⑤ STRING LIGHTS               | ⑨ RAMPED RAISED WALKWAY CONNECTION TO CENOTAPH PARK |
| ② PAVING PATTERN        | ⑥ MULTI-USE STAGE             | ⑩ BENCHES   |
| ③ PROPOSED PLANTING     | ⑦ CONNECTION TO CENOTAPH PARK | ⑪ LIGHTING  |
| ④ EXISTING PLANTING     | ⑧ EXISTING PARKING            |   |

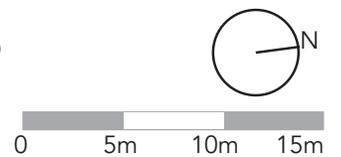


Figure 5-18: Proposed redesign of Alexandra Park



Figure 5-19: Conceptual view of Alexandra Park as an event space

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residents in the Rolling Hills neighbourhood need to drive to access other parks in the Town, and the distance to these and major streets bounding the neighbourhood precludes their children from walking or cycling to other parks. Given their reliance on Rebecca Hills Park, therefore, the Town should consider expanding and improving its amenities to better serve the local population.</li> <li>- The basketball court at Myr Morrow Park is in disrepair, and community consultations indicated interest in upgrading the court to facilitate use by residents and Orangeville Hawks Basketball.</li> <li>- To support tournament use at Rotary and Idyllwilde Parks, the Town should consider upgrading the supporting amenities such as washrooms, spectator seating, and the pavilion. A skate trail could also be added, winding throughout Rotary Park, to further establish the park as a Town-wide and visitor attraction.</li> <li>- Residents requested expanded playground equipment at Lions Park. The Facilities section indicated that the Town is well supplied with soccer fields, and that the fields at Lion's are underused.</li> <li>- Given these considerations, Lions Park could be an ideal location for additional features such as a community garden, edible garden, edible orchard, naturalization, and obstacle course.</li> <li>- As discussed in section 4 Facilities, a domed artificial turf may be developed on the Tony Rose site. In the short term.</li> <li>- This location would be ideal to pilot a Town-provided and operated edible garden and/or additional community garden site, as many residents already visit the location to attend programs at Tony Rose.</li> <li>- Alexandra Park is often used to host events, however, it is not ideally suited for this purpose due to the presence of the Cenotaph, limited capacity, and grass. Redevelopment of Alexandra Park as part of a larger Event Precinct, would protect the Cenotaph, and make the park suitable for hosting events.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In consultation with neighbourhood residents, redesign and upgrade Rebecca Hills Park.</li> <li>- In consultation with neighbourhood residents, and Orangeville Hawks Basketball, upgrade the basketball court and associated amenities at Myr Morrow Park.</li> <li>- Upgrade the washrooms, pavilion, and spectator seating to support tournament play at Rotary/ Idyllwilde.</li> <li>- Undertake a full design process, including community consultation, to assess feasibility of a skate trail throughout Rotary park.</li> <li>- Undertake a full design process, including community consultation, to assess the suitability of adding new features to Lions Park.</li> <li>- Implement a Town-provided and operated edible garden pilot project and/or additional community garden plots on the Tony Rose site.</li> <li>- Develop a plan and transform Alexandra Park into a civic space for hosting gatherings and special events, as part of the Downtown Event Precinct.</li> </ul>

Figure 5-20: Park Specific Considerations Summary and Recommendations

## 5.5 New Parks Assessment

### Downtown Event Precinct

Figures 5-21, 22, 23, and 24 show concept designs of an event precinct in the downtown. It has three main sites (Multi-use Parking/Event Space/Farmers' Market, Alexandra Park, and Cenotaph Park), all of which are connected by special paving to delineate the event precinct area. Each site can be used alone or, for larger events, Broadway and 2nd Street can be closed to create a single contiguous space. Together, they work on a gradient from busier, louder uses (at the Event Space), to quiet, restful uses

(at the new Cenotaph Park), with Alexandra Park being a transition space connecting the two. This design is a suggested concept only, and further assessment and community consultation should be undertaken to plan the event precinct and its components. Figure 5-21 shows the space during a farmers market, 5-22 shows the layout from above during a farmers market, 5-23 shows the space being used for parking, and 5-24 shows the entire proposed Event Precinct. The east end of the event precinct between Town Hall and the Festival/Parking space introduces an enhanced downtown streetscape for the length of the commercial core north of this area



Figure 5-21: Conceptual view of multi-use parking and event space

## Multi-Use Parking and Event Space

As discussed previously, there is currently a lack of flexible space for hosting special events and festivals in the Town (concerts, farmers markets, celebrations, etc.). The existing municipal parking lot on the south side of Broadway (0.35 ha, 120 spaces) is the ideal site for an event space due to its central downtown location across from Town Hall. In addition, its location allows it to form part of the larger Downtown Event Precinct concept, including the proposed Cenotaph Park, and changes to Alexandra Park. The design for the Event Space would leave the southern half of the site open to be developed into a mixed-use development (at grade retail/office with residential above) to help subsidize development of the Event Space. Development on the southern portion of the site would ideally include underground parking to accommodate the increased use of the site. The north half of the site would be developed into an Event Space including specialty paving to provide a plaza aesthetic, and integrated power and lighting to allow for a wide range of activities and events. The space is designed to accommodate a range of events in terms of size, type and frequency

- ① EVENT SPACE
- ② PARKING PAVING PATTERN
- ③ PLANTING BUFFER



Figure 5-22: Event Space - Farmers Market

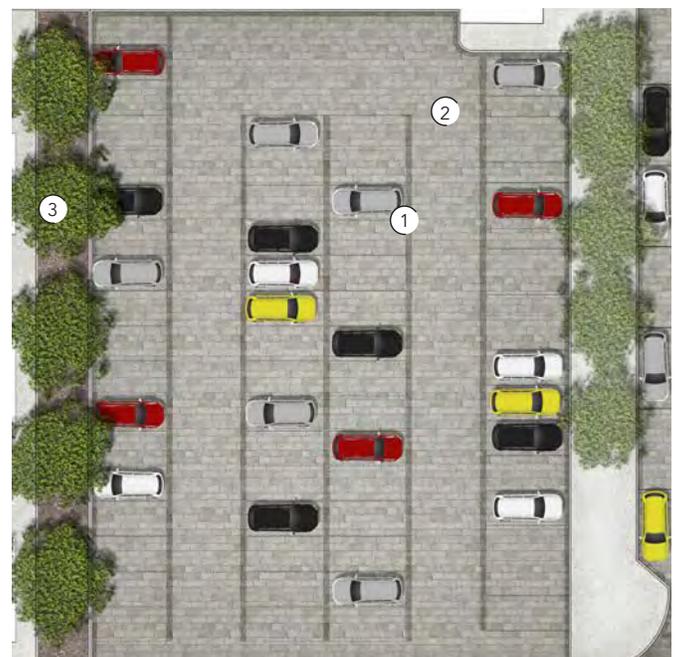


Figure 5-23: Event Space - used for parking outside of event times

# LEGEND

- ① PARKING AND EVENT SPACE
- ② TRAFFIC BY-PASS ROUTE
- ③ STREET UNIT PAVING & RAISED PARK CONNECTION
- ④ STREET UNIT PAVING DARKER ACCENTS
- ⑤ PARK AND STREET CONNECTION (EXISTING LANE/ DRIVEWAY)
- ⑥ STREET PAVING EXTENSION/PARKING
- ⑦ WALKING AREA UNIT PAVING
- ⑧ ALEXANDRA PARK
- ⑨ NEW CENOTAPH LOCATION
- ⑩ CENOTAPH PARK
- ⑪ VETERANS MEMORIAL

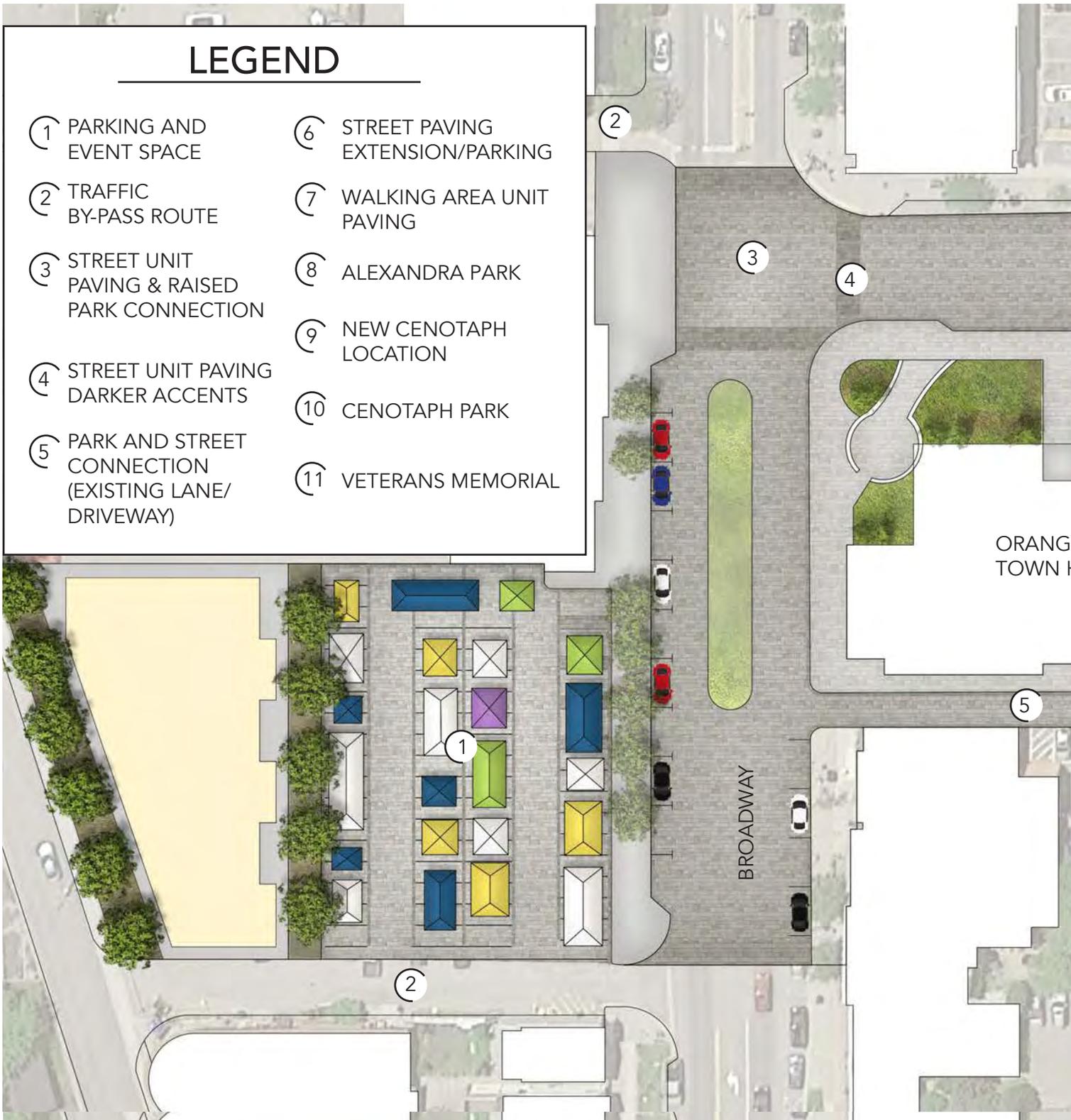


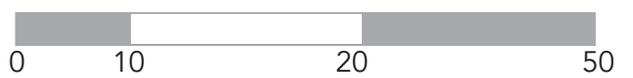
Figure 5-24: Downtown Event Precinct



ORANGEVILLE HALL

2<sup>ND</sup> STREET

FIRST AVE



as well as providing a site for a weekly farmers market. When not hosting events, the space would continue to be used for parking (approximately 60 stalls). The plan for the space should include signage and road improvements to provide vehicle diversion around Broadway during larger events requiring road closure.

## Cenotaph Park

The Town owns an underdeveloped parcel of land (approximately 0.1 ha) on the north side of Alexandra Park, on First Avenue. This parcel could be developed as a dedicated space for visitors to pay their respects to veterans and fallen soldiers, with the relocation of the Cenotaph, Veterans' Memorial and other artifacts and interpretive features (Figures 5-25 and 5-26). The park design should be developed in consultation with the community and veterans' groups, including the Orangeville Royal Canadian Legion.. The Cenotaph Park will provide a connection to Alexandra Park and form part of a larger precinct plan for the area, with the Cenotaph Park acting as a quiet, contemplative space. As part of the greater precinct plan, the park would be an integrated piece of the area, using similar style and materials.



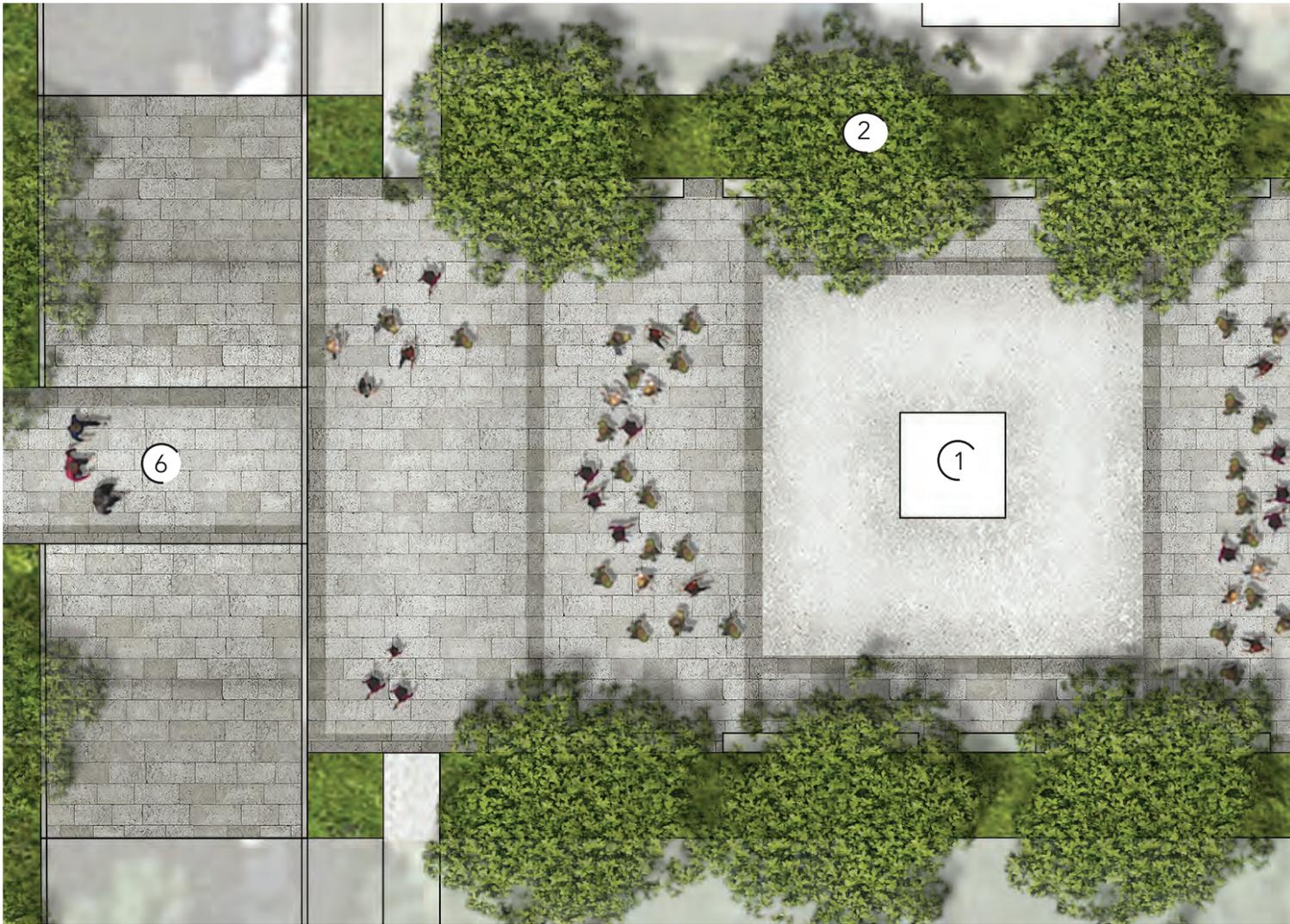


Figure 5-25: Conceptual view of new Cenotaph Park

① CENOTAPH

② PROPOSED PLANTING

③ VETERANS MEMORIAL



## ELEVATION



Figure 5-26: Cenotaph Park concept plan (top) and elevation (bottom)

3 VETERANS  
MEMORIAL

4 LIGHTING

5 BENCHES

6 RAMPED RAISED  
WALKWAY CONNECTION  
TO CENOTAPH PARK



## Downtown Streetscape

Given the lack of space for new parks in Town, enhancements to the downtown streetscape can be made such that the public realm acts like a park, or public space. This can be achieved along Broadway by adding enhanced planting, seating, lighting, and other gathering spaces. In addition, the medians along Broadway can be designed to address some challenges identified in the previous Downtown Destination Assessment by Roger Brooks, and at the same time add to the public realm by:

- Removing existing trees in the east and west medians, to improve sightlines across Broadway and visibility of businesses, and addressing tree health issues due to limited soil availability for mature trees
- Introducing additional perennial planting of greater variety for seasonal interest
- Improving pedestrian safety, comfort and space on the medians

Figures 5-27, 28 and 29 illustrate these proposed changes. For additional plans and elevations pertaining to recommended improvements to the Broadway medians, please refer to Appendix E.

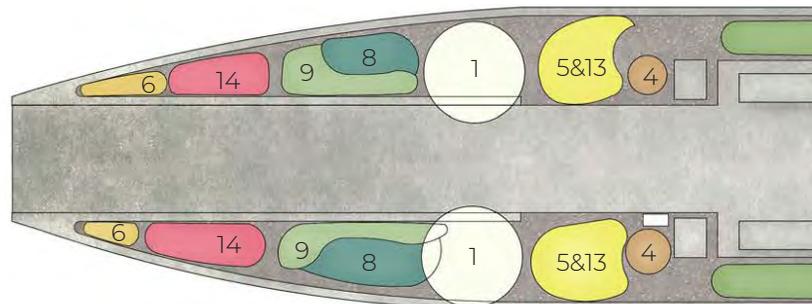




Figure 5-29: Elevation of Existing Median Planting



Figure 5-28: Elevation of Proposed Median Planting

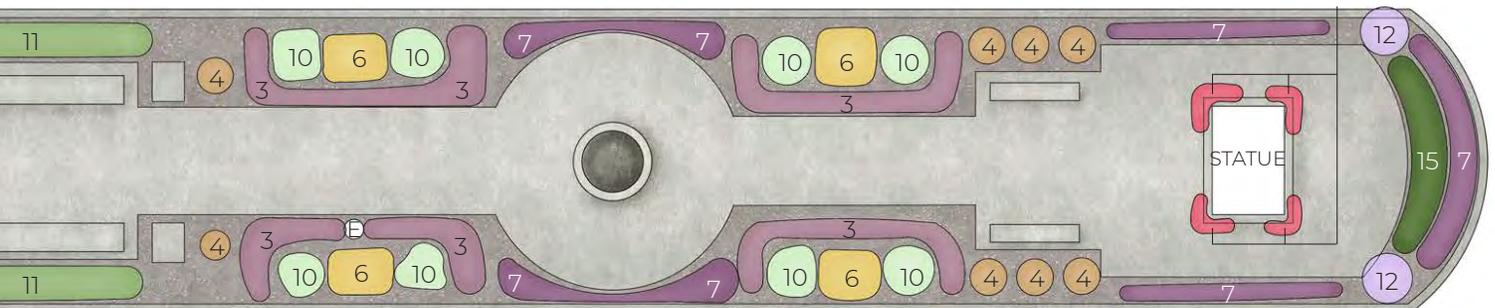


Figure 5-27: Proposed Median Planting Plan

## Stormwater Management Ponds (SWM Ponds)

Many municipalities combine SWM ponds with parkland. For example, Lake Aquitaine in Mississauga is a very large pond integrated into a park and trail system. It has a dock for fishing (Figure 5-30), and a playground, splash pad and community centre on its banks:

**“This multi-use trail runs south from Derry Road through the scenic Lake Aquitaine Park, an active recreational area that was developed around a storm water management lake. Pedestrian walkways fan from the trail through the neighbourhoods, connecting schools and recreational facilities”<sup>5</sup>**

Lake Aquitaine is one example of integrating a very large SWM pond with parkland. However, the majority of SWM pond parks in Ontario, particularly in newer developments, are much smaller and feature a naturalized buffer around the pond, a walking trail, and possibly seating. These examples are more in line with possibilities in Orangeville, since most of the land around existing ponds is already developed.

For new developments, the Town should clarify, by way of a new community benefits and/or SWM pond policy (discussed further in the policy section) if stormwater ponds



Figure 5-30: Fishing at Lake Aquitaine

can be packaged and accepted as a park in development applications.

An inventory and assessment of stormwater ponds in Orangeville is beyond the scope of the Master Plan. However, an opportunity to explore the possibility of further developing a park around two stormwater ponds exists in the Spencer-Sandringham area. This area was noted in consultations as being in need of a park, and the map in Figure 5-6 demonstrates that portions of the neighbourhood are beyond a 400-metre walk to a park.

The area has no undeveloped land to build a new park, but it does have two stormwater management ponds. The pond on Sandringham Circle is a naturalized area

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.discovermississauga.ca/see-and-do/item/lake-aquitaine-trail>

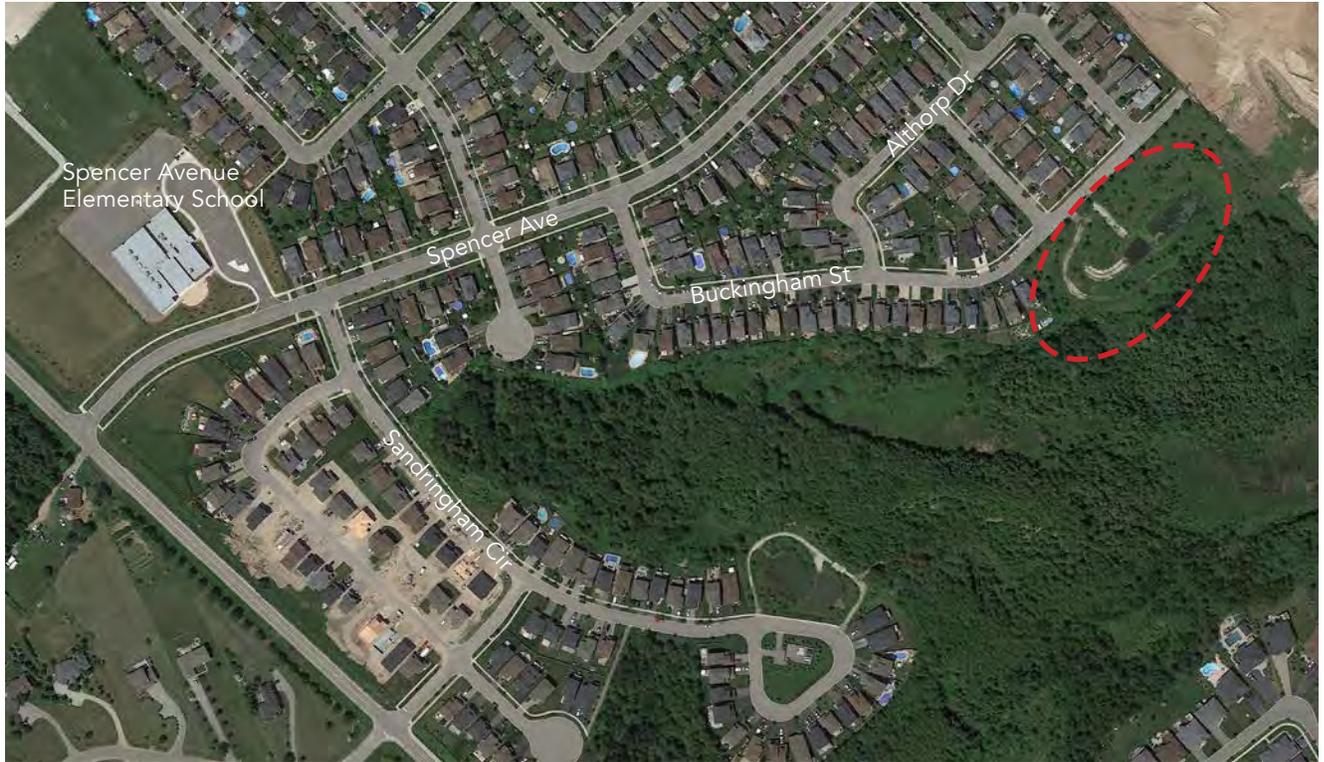


Figure 5-31: Buckingham Street stormwater management pond

with mature trees, and a steep slope to the pond. There is already has a trail around it, but because of the grade it may be difficult to expand the area to include a playground space.

The pond on Buckingham street is within a very large naturalized area that is fenced from Althorp Drive to Northampton Street, with no public access (Figure 5-31). Due to restricted access and mature plant growth that reduces visibility, it is not clear if any part of that area would be suitable to develop for a playground. If development at either SWM pond is possible, they could serve the Spencer-Sandringham area residents who are currently outside a 400 m walk to a park. A feasibility assessment would need to be done to determine if either

of these ponds is a safe, suitable location, and if enough space is available, to develop them further into a park that includes a playground at minimum.

## Off-Leash Dog Park #2

There is a growing expectation in municipalities by both dog owners and non-dog owners that leash free areas be provided to allow safe areas for people to run their dogs without conflict with other park uses. This was reflected in the consultations for this Plan, as many suggested the need for a second off-leash dog park. The location of a second off-leash dog park should be determined in consultation with the community. Key features to consider in the development of off-leash areas include:

- Proper surfacing with sub drainage to balance maintenance requirements with user experience
- Double gated entry
- Adequate fence height
- Small dog area
- Dog drinking fountain
- Seating
- Shade

Considering both the tendency for residents to reject off-leash areas near their homes, and

the limited land availability in Orangeville, the Town could consider partnerships with public or private landholders for a second location, preferably in a non-residential part of Town. A second option could be the large open space at Princess of Wales Park, beside the ball diamond (Figure 33 on the following page). The area is large enough for dogs to run, is not currently used by any sports teams, and is located in the opposite end of Town from the existing dog park, making it more accessible to residents in this area. There are some homes on Alder Street that back on to the parcel, but there is sufficient space that the dog park would not need to be immediately adjacent to their properties.

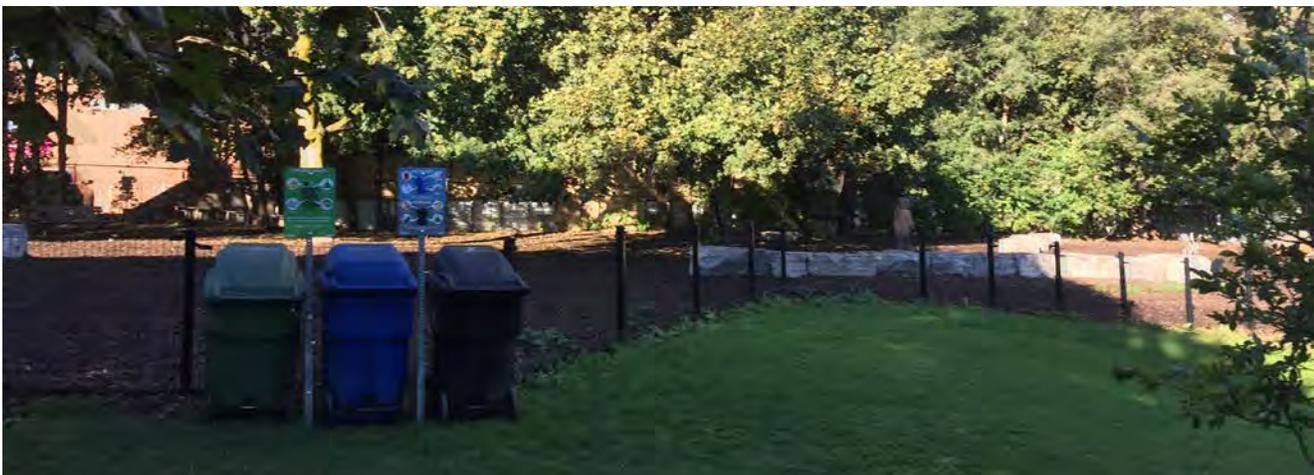


Figure 5-32: Off-Leash Dog Park Example



Figure 5-33: Potential Off-Leash Dog Park Area at Princess of Wales Park

## Humberlands Park

The Humberlands are a Town-owned parcel of undeveloped land in the northwest portion of Town, on the border of the Township of Amaranth. On the Amaranth side of the border, the land is zoned for estate lots. On the Orangeville side, it is zoned for housing and employment. However, with uneven terrain and a ravine running through the parcel, it poses some challenges for development. The terrain also makes it unsuitable for certain purposes discussed in the facilities section, such as sport tournament facilities. Once developed, this area of Town will require a park, as residents will be outside of a 400 m radius (5-minute walk) to nearby parks. It makes sense, therefore, to set aside a portion of the Humberlands, following the path of the ravine on both sides, for a naturalized linear park with walking trails, benches, signage and a playground (if possible). Ideally the park and trails within it would extend from Hansen

Boulevard and County Road 16 in the south, to Ridgewoods Park in the North, with a connection to Kin Family Park/Credit Meadows Elementary School to the east.

In addition to serving the surrounding community as a neighbourhood park, the Humberlands Park would be an asset to the Town's park supply by adding a second large naturalized park. The only other large naturalized park, Dragon Fly Park, is at the opposite end of Town, so the location of Humberlands is well suited to making natural spaces more accessible to residents in different parts of Town. Adding another naturalized, linear park, that connects to different parks and destinations is supported by directions in the Dufferin County Official Plan, and SNAP, which both recommend creating connections and protecting natural environments.

# DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR OFF LEASH AREAS

## FENCING AND ENTRANCES



Not all off-leash areas (OLA) need to be fenced. However, for leash-free areas in more urban or high activity parks, fencing should be considered.

- 🐾 Use high quality latches that can withstand repeated use with minimal maintenance. Latches should also be quiet (especially around residential areas)
- 🐾 Use a double gated system at all entrances and exits
- 🐾 Use 1.5 metre (5') high steel fencing
- 🐾 Provide a concrete pad at all entry/exit points

## AMENITIES



A wide number of amenities should be considered in off-leash areas to improve accessibility and the experience for both dogs and their owners.

- 🐾 Install dog agility equipment
- 🐾 Accommodate a Small/Shy Dog Area
- 🐾 Provide an accessible pathway to and within the off-leash area
- 🐾 Provide recycling, garbage and green bins outside main entry/exits
- 🐾 Provide accessible seating away from entrances and exits
- 🐾 Provide by-law signage within OLA and prior to entry

## LIGHTING



Lighting increases safety and extends the hours when OLAs can be used in the winter. Lighting should address issues regarding access, safety, environmental impacts, and community concerns.

- 🐾 Provide user activated lights at entrance(s) to allow lights to turn off when not in use
- 🐾 Use solar lighting if no electrical service exists
- 🐾 Provide lighting along paved pathway within OLA
- 🐾 Ensure lighting does not impact adjacent residences or encourage noise or illicit activities after hours

Off-leash areas have their own unique design and maintenance considerations to ensure a safe, attractive and practical space for dogs and dog owners. While each space is unique and must be assessed for its own merits in regards to its ability to successfully host an off-leash area, the following recommendations are based on best practices employed throughout the world.

## SURFACING AND DRAINAGE



Appropriate selection of surfacing is critical from a number of perspectives including maintenance, drainage, health, dog and human comfort, accessibility, safety and cost. Ideally an off-leash area will use more than one surface and will be selected based on site characteristics.

- ❧ Provide a minimum of 2% slope to ensure positive drainage and avoid pooling (mud)
- ❧ Use multiple surface types, select type based on level of use and budget
- ❧ Use durable fescue mix where level of use permits
- ❧ Use wood chips or engineered wood fibre in well drained, sunny locations
- ❧ Avoid gravel or crushed granite surfaces except in poorly drained locations or small, high intensity use areas

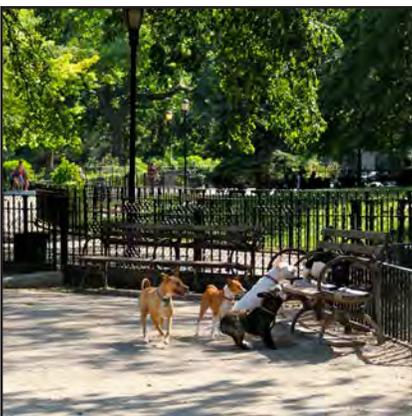
## WATER



Water should be provided for: drinking (both dogs and humans); play for dogs; and irrigation (surface dependent). All the water recommendations are dependent on having access to water service and require the installation of gravel/concrete pad at the water source to prevent puddling and erosion.

- ❧ Provide an accessible multi-tier drinking fountain
- ❧ Install spray feature for cooling and play
- ❧ Install irrigation if using crushed granite surfacing to rinse urine and reduce dust

## SHADE



Shade is important for both dogs and humans by way of trees and/or shade structures with special consideration required for long-term tree health:

- ❧ Provide a minimum 20% shade coverage within off-leash area
- ❧ Protect trees within off-leash area (fencing) to prevent dogs from accessing tree
- ❧ Install a shade structure (open on all sides) if tree planting is not possible

- A proposed concept design of an Event Precinct in the downtown has three main sites (Multi-use Parking/Event Space/Farmers' Market, Alexandra Park, and Cenotaph Park), all of which are connected by special paving to delineate the event precinct area. Each site can be used alone or, for larger events, Broadway and 2nd Street can be closed to create a single contiguous space.
- The parcel of land (approximately 0.1 ha) on the north side of Alexandra Park, on First Avenue, is proposed as a quiet, contemplative Cenotaph Park to house the cenotaph, Veterans' Memorial and other artifacts and interpretive features.
- The existing municipal parking lot on the south side of Broadway (0.35 ha, 120 spaces) is the ideal site for an event space due to its central downtown location. The design for the Event Space would leave the southern half of the site open to be developed into a mixed-use development (at grade retail/office with residential above). The space is designed to accommodate a range of events in terms of size, type and frequency as well as providing a site for a weekly farmers market. When not hosting events, the space would continue to be used for parking (approximately 60 stalls).
- Given the lack of space for new parks in Town, enhancements to the downtown streetscape and medians can be made such that the public realm acts like a park, or public space.
- Many municipalities combine SWM ponds with parkland. The possibility of further developing a park around a stormwater pond in the Spencer/Sandringham area, could be explored to address the gap in park provision for that neighbourhood.
- There is a growing expectation in municipalities by both dog owners and non-dog owners that leash free areas be provided to allow safe areas for people to run their dogs without conflict with other park uses. Considering both the tendency for residents to reject off-leash areas near their homes, and the limited land availability in Orangeville, the Town could consider partnerships with public or private landholders for a second location.
- The Humberlands are a Town-owned parcel of undeveloped land in the northwest portion of Town, on the border of the Township of Amaranth. The site is ideal for the development of a naturalized linear park along the ravine with walking trails, benches, signage and a playground, that connects the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Figure 5-34: New Parks Summary and Recommendations

## Recommendations

- Create a new Cenotaph Park on First Avenue, with the Cenotaph, Veterans’ Memorial, and other artifacts and interpretive features transferred from Alexandra Park.
- Create a Multi-purpose Event Space on the north half of the municipal parking lot on Broadway, across from Town Hall. The space should have specialty paving that integrates it with the greater precinct plan, and suitable lighting and power connections to host a variety of events. When not hosting events, the space can be used for parking.
- Develop the south half of the Multi-purpose Event Space site as a mixed-use building with underground parking.
- Undertake a design process and develop the downtown streetscape, public realm and Broadway median enhancements.
- Explore the possibility of developing one of the stormwater management ponds in the Spencer Ave. and Sandringham Circle area as a park with playground and other suitable amenities.
- Undertake a comprehensive study and community consultation to determine the need for, and location of, a second off-leash dog park.
- Consider partnering with public and/or private land holders in industrial areas, who may have land available for an off-leash dog park.
- Consider incorporating dog off leash areas in new park developments or revitalization of existing parks, including both fenced and time-limited off-leash areas
- Plan for a naturalized park in the Humberlands that extends from Hansen Boulevard and County Road 16 in the south, to Ridgewoods Park in the North, with a connection to Kin Family Park/ Credit Meadows Elementary School to the east. The park should include a buffer on both sides of the ravine, trails, benches, signage and a playground at minimum.

## 5.6 Park Development, Improvements and Maintenance

Concerns about maintenance of parks, facilities and trails were prominent in consultations. Sports groups described soccer fields and baseball diamonds that needed considerable improvements and increased maintenance to facilitate use for games, and the UGDSB requested increased winter trail maintenance to enable their efforts for encouraging active transportation to school. Achieving higher levels of maintenance standards will require expanded staffing and partnerships, as discussed below.

### Staffing

As discussed previously, detailed analysis of trail needs was completed in the 2019 Cycling and Trails Master Plan, and the Town will take direction related to trails from that Plan. However, considering the frequency of comments received requesting more trail connections, and the need for clear trails to support other initiatives (e.g. walk to school programs) and recommendations surrounding active transportation (SNAP, Cycling and Trails Master Plan), priority trails should be identified for clearing, and staffing requirements addressed. Likewise, increased maintenance of selected Town and school board-owned sport facilities should be accounted for in staffing levels. Town maintenance of school board-owned facilities will require a formal agreement and partnership between the two, which is discussed further below, as well as in section 6 Service Delivery.

The parks maintenance crew consists of one supervisor and three staff (one lead hand, one horticulturalist, one general labourer), plus additional student hires for the summer months to assist with grass cutting. Staff agreed that in order to improve maintenance of parks, fields and trails, at least one or two more staff is required. Staff also noted that the previous model of having maintenance staff work outdoors for 9 months (April to December) and inside for 3 months (January to March) allowed more time for them to complete park maintenance.

Staff suggested that a new 'parks complaint form' would help improve Town responsiveness

and maintenance levels. The current method (emailing or calling the general line listed on the parks webpage) often does not capture enough information, and they suggested that park complaints should include name, phone number, and detailed descriptions, particularly the location within the park. Staff mentioned that residents often take to social media (Facebook and Twitter particularly) to mention issues, and that it can be a very effective way to receive complaints because it is real-time – the complaint/comment is posted, and maintenance staff can see it right away rather than having to wait for someone to relay a message sent to the general mailbox.

## Partnerships

This section discusses partnerships specifically related to parks. The service delivery system (Section 6) provides additional discussion on partnerships and agreements that include, but also extend beyond, parks.

The possibilities for partnerships are many, and are not limited to those discussed in the Master Plan. However, this section identifies a number of current or potential opportunities for collaboration in parks provision, such as:

- playing field improvements and maintenance
- park improvements
- community gardens/edible gardens/fruit/nut trees
- naturalization and tree planting
- dog parks

Potential partnerships are summarized in Table 5-5.

## Playing Field Improvements and Maintenance

As discussed in the facilities section, sport teams that use Town and school board-owned soccer fields and ball diamonds reported concerns about the conditions and maintenance of some of these facilities. For Town-owned facilities, maintenance falls to Parks staff, and for facilities that are school-owned, maintenance is sometimes divided between the school and municipality. Schools fields require greater maintenance to maintain their quality due to daily use (recesses, gym class etc.). Sport clubs interviewed for this Plan mentioned that certain fields and diamonds are not currently used due to poor condition, but could be if maintenance (and safety measures) were improved. Groups also expressed willingness to participate in maintaining designated facilities, if the baseline condition was improved. All three partners in this case (Town, school board, sports clubs) would benefit from identifying priority facilities and coming to a maintenance arrangement in which responsibilities and costs for improvements and maintenance are equitably distributed, to improve the usability and quality of the facilities.

The Town, School Boards and the Sports Council (if reinstated, as discussion in Section 6) could collectively negotiate such an agreement to:

1. Identify which school fields will be required to meet needs over the

term of the Plan, and potential Town-School Board agreements for joint improvements/use/maintenance.

2. Specify required improvements (some of which the OHMBA have already identified).
3. Come to an agreement about sharing the costs of facility improvements and ongoing maintenance. A multi-year improvement plan and annual maintenance program could be developed to guide incremental investment in facilities in terms of priorities, and to maintain them once upgraded.

## Park Improvements

The Orangeville Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Orangeville have been active in providing recreation opportunities in the Town for many years. In addition to supporting Rotary Park and Lions Club Sports Park, both clubs have contributed to many park development projects including the Fendley Park Splash Pad, Murray's Mountain, Tony Rose Memorial Arena, and the BMX Park at Alder Parklands (Lions). Both clubs have well established relationships with the Town, and there are ongoing discussions on a number of improvements: paving the BMX track, converting the old pool house at Lions Park to a storage area and upgrading the multipurpose court, and potential upgrades to Rotary Park. In consultations, the Clubs expressed they would like to see the Town take the lead on projects, with the clubs acting primarily as funders. Apart from service clubs, local businesses and non-

profits may also be interested in contributing to park improvements. The Town should continue to work with interested organizations to improve and expand parks, including optimizing policies and procedure to support these partnerships (discussed further in the policy section below).

## Community Gardens/Edible Gardens/Fruit/Nut Trees

As discussed previously, the food bank and the County are natural partners with which the the Town could pursue the development of community gardens/edible gardens and the planting of fruit/nut trees/orchards. In addition, private partners may be interested in donating space on their land, donating funds as part of their corporate social responsibilities and/or for naming rights/advertising. Small businesses may be interested in contributing funds or helping with fundraising in return for publicity. Community groups, either existing or new ones that form for that specific purpose, are often the primary drivers that keep community gardens/orchards thriving. This is discussed in more depth below.

## Naturalization and Tree Planting

The Town may wish to seek support from the County and Credit Valley Conservation Authority for naturalization and tree planting efforts, as these activities impact the whole County and CVC ecosystem. Other municipalities often also work with community groups dedicated to specific parks or environmental issues to clean up, plant trees, and restore degraded landscapes (Figure 5-36). Engaging the community in tree planting

promotes environmental stewardship while also mobilizing residents to take an active role in addressing climate change.

A major benefit of partnering with established nature-based community groups, is that any naturalization/tree planting event or initiative by the Town, or supported by the Town, will be amplified through an established

organization's list of contacts. The Town in turn can support their efforts with funding, marketing resources, planting supplies and more. Headwaters Nature, a chapter of Nature Ontario, is a community group that operates in the Town, and may be interested in developing a partnership with the Town in this regard.

**“Headwaters Nature organizes a variety of field trips (Birds, Flowers, Amphibians, Butterflies, Animal Tracks, Woodland Walks, etc) throughout the year, including the ever-popular Spring and Christmas bird counts. The regular monthly meetings are a cornerstone activity of the club at which top-notch speakers are brought in to inform and delight all who attend.**

**These informal and friendly meetings are open to the public, and are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month (September through November and January through April) at the Orangeville and District Senior Citizens Centre at 26 Bythia Street in Orangeville. The club produces a quarterly newsletter which contains further information and field trip reports.”<sup>6</sup>**

6 <https://ontarionature.org/about/nature-network/>



Figure 5-35: Nature Network in Great Lakes West

Orangeville already has a tree planting event organized by the CVC and Sustainable Orangeville that occurs annually. With the new Municipal Tree Canopy Policy, the Town may want to increase the number of tree planting events. The City of Mississauga has a similar initiative, One Million Trees, with the goal of planting one million trees over a 20-year period. It is supported by a partnership between the City, Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER), CVC, LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and Conservation Halton. On the One Million Trees website, individuals, community groups, churches, schools, companies etc. can sign up to attend a tree planting event, or set up their own planting event (with help from One Million Trees). Even individuals who plant a tree on their property can register their tree to have it counted in the initiative's tracking. This flexible arrangement that reaches everyone in the community (including residents, schools, non-profits, small businesses, community groups, etc.), could be successful in Orangeville.

A 2019 Canadian City Parks Report by Park People suggested that one way to engage volunteers and support community groups is by implementing a formal park program for community groups:

“While many cities offer opportunities for residents to volunteer at events like park clean-ups or tree-plantings, only 52% have a formal park program for community groups. These programs differ from event-based volunteering by providing the opportunity for community members to self-organize and take on responsibility for a park in an ongoing way—whether through stewardship or programming. Some of these groups are adopta-park groups, while others are focused on a specific feature, like Delta’s adopt-a-rain garden program. Generally, these programs allow volunteers to sign up directly online and may require volunteers to commit to a formal policy or agreement that outlines roles and responsibilities for both city and group (for example, Mississauga’s Community Group Registry Program). The group may also benefit from the support of a city staff liaison or access to special grants and permit discounts. If your city runs a program like this, you can find a link to it in the City Profiles. (p56)”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> [https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/downloads/pp\\_canadiancityparksreport\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/downloads/pp_canadiancityparksreport_2019_web.pdf)

Such an arrangement could help the Town mobilize volunteers to be able to proceed with fruit/nut tree plantings, community gardens, and naturalization efforts at different parks throughout Town.

### Dog Parks

Given the limited land-base in Orangeville, and the importance of maintaining existing park spaces for the growing population, it may be challenging to site a second dog park. However, as second dog park is needed, a possible solution is to reach out to private and institutional land holders who may be willing to lease a portion of their land for that purpose. A scan of satellite imagery of industrial/commercial areas of Orangeville shows a number of apparently unused parcels of land that could be assessed for suitability for a dog park, and the owners approached to determine their interest in an agreement.

Community groups, such as dog owners associations can play an important role in the success of off-leash areas, as they create an avenue to communicate dog owners’ needs, maintenance requests, and other relevant issues with the Town. In the City of Toronto, for example, an individual dog owners association often adopts a specific off-leash park and may help with the funding and/or management of the park. Working with an association also ensures there is adequate demand for an off-leash park, and that the potential users of the park are involved in its development. In Orangeville, The Orangeville and Area Dog Owners group has a Facebook page with 366 members. The group description reads, “This

group is for dog owners in the Orangeville area to get together and discuss issues and share dog/pet related information. While the Dog Park is one topic, this group is not just about the Dog Park!”. This group should be consulted, and engaged in the provision, of a new dog park in Orangeville.

Dufferin County	– Community gardens, edible gardens, edible trees, naturalization, tree planting
Credit Valley Conservation Authority	– Naturalization, tree planting
Community/service Groups	– Community gardens, edible gardens, edible trees, naturalization, tree planting, park improvements/maintenance
Institutions: Upper Grand District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, local churches	– Community gardens, edible gardens, edible trees, naturalization, tree planting, field maintenance
Private Sector	– Community gardens, edible gardens, edible trees, naturalization, tree planting, dog parks, park improvements
Non-profits: Food bank, park organizations	– Community gardens, edible gardens, edible trees, naturalization, tree planting, park improvements

Table 5-5: Summary of Potential Partnerships

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To achieve higher levels of maintenance standards in playing fields and ball diamonds, and increased trail clearing, additional staff resources will be required. A new park complaint process/method should be established that ensures detailed information is recorded, with a streamlined path between complaint submittal (via form, social media, email etc.) and park staff.</li> <li>- There are many opportunities for partnering with community groups, agencies, sports clubs, non-profits, business, etc. for park provision, including for: playing field improvements and maintenance; park improvements; community gardens/edible gardens/fruit/nut trees; naturalization and tree planting; and dog parks.</li> <li>- The Town should take the lead in pursuing partnerships, and developing formal programs and policies, in consultation with potential partners, to guide these relationships.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hire at least one more full-time parks maintenance staff person to support implementation of parks and trails maintenance requirements identified in the Master Plan and other related plans and policies.</li> <li>- Consider new methods, including social media, for receiving park maintenance comments and complaints that will capture more detailed information, and relay the information more quickly to maintenance staff.</li> <li>- Work with sports groups and relevant school boards to develop partnerships for joint improvements and maintenance of selected fields and diamonds.</li> <li>- Collaborate with community groups and service clubs that wish to make contributions to park improvements, and take the lead in these initiatives.</li> <li>- Approach the Orangeville Food Bank, Dufferin County and interested community groups to partner in expanding community gardens, edible gardens, fruit/nut tree cultivation, naturalization and tree planting initiatives.</li> <li>- Put a call out to businesses, institutions, and non-profits in Orangeville interested in partnering in/contributing to community gardens, edible gardens, and fruit/nut trees.</li> <li>- Approach the CVC, Dufferin County and community groups to partner in naturalization and tree planting initiatives.</li> <li>- Develop a formal park volunteer program for individuals and community groups.</li> <li>- Include the Orangeville and Area Dog Owners group in consultations on, and operations of, a new dog park.</li> </ul>

Figure 5-36: Park Development, Improvements and Maintenance – Summary and Recommendations

## 5.7 Parks Policy

This section reviews existing Town policies related to parks, identifies recommended updates to existing policies, and provides recommendations for development of new policies.

### Urban Forestry Policies

#### *Overview*

This policy provides guidelines for the planting and maintenance of trees in the Town of Orangeville. It is based on the principles of accessibility, equity, health and well-being, environmental sustainability and community cohesion and vitality - principles the urban forest fosters.

It reviews the benefits and importance of an urban forest generally, and reports on the economic value of the Town's boulevard trees in stormwater management. The directives of the policy are outlined under four main urban forestry categories: Boulevard Trees, Natural Areas, Parks and Open Spaces, and Site Plan and Subdivisions. Each of these sections contains guidance to relevant parties (e.g., Town staff, developers, landowners) under the following headings:

- Definition
- Goals and objectives
- Approved species list
- Planting guides and sizes
- Prohibited/undesirable trees

The policy's section on Town Parks stipulates that "It is the Town's intention to preserve active park spaces and balance it with no-to-low maintenance areas for passive park activities. A diversity of tree species is recommended to protect against blights, pests and adverse weather conditions." It further instructs Town staff to focus tree planting in parks in naturalized areas, and to create canopied areas near sports fields.

Appendices comprise: planting details, prohibited or undesirable trees, and Credit Valley Conservation's Regulation Area map, since CVC's Regulated Area may encompass all or parts of the various areas of the policy, and CVC generally requires the use of non-invasive, common (i.e. not rare) species that are native to the watershed in their Regulated Area.

#### *Assessment*

The policy supports the Official Plan directives for: enhancing and preserving the urban forest; maintaining a pleasant residential setting; promoting sustainability, health, quality of life, and parks/trail-based recreation; and increasing the forest cover through native species plantings on private lands as the community develops. The policy is also intended to be used to further the Town's low impact development strategies. At this time, an update to this policy is not required, as it continues to uphold Official Plan directives, and in addition, the Town recently adopted a Tree Canopy Policy that complements and builds on this policy, with the aim to help the Town achieve 40% canopy cover.

## Parkland Dedication By-Law (47-2012)

### Overview

This By-law was put in place in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act, and contains the standard provisions outlining how much land is required to be set aside for parkland in any given development:

- 2% of the area of the lot where the development or redevelopment is for commercial or industrial purposes;
- 5% of the area of the lot where the development or redevelopment is for purposes other than commercial or industrial; or,
- despite Section 5(b), 33.3 square metres per dwelling unit, where the development or redevelopment on its own lot has a density exceeding 15 dwelling units per hectare

It then specifies that the Town may accept cash in lieu of land, and describes how the amount will be determined.

### Assessment

This by-law may need to be updated/replaced if the Town opts into the new Community Benefits Charge (CBC), per the *More Homes, More Choices Act*, 2019. If the Town does not opt-in to the CBC, they will still be able to collect parkland dedication and cash-in-lieu under s.42, with some restrictions (which have not been released at the time of this writing). However, in either case, the Town will

no longer be able to collect payments under section 37. The loss of s.37 benefits means many municipalities are left with little choice than to opt-in to CBC to recoup funding lost from the cancellation of s.37.

The CBC is not yet in effect, as regulations have not been released. Once they are released (which is anticipated to be in 2020), the Town will likely have one year to transition, and develop a CBC Strategy and by-law (if opting-in).

The most important impacts to consider regarding how the More Homes, More Choices Act will affect parks are:

- The CBC has a cap, whereas Parkland Dedication did not. Previously, with increased density, park dedication or cash-in-lieu would also increase. Under CBC, density may continue to increase but CBC will hit a cap.
- The proposed CBC/development charge system increases the development charges of low-rise developments, and decreases the charges for high-rise developments.

Collectively the changes encourage higher density, high-rise development, and less park space. As Orangeville develops by higher-density infill, the Facilities and Parks Division should work with the Planning Department, and be an advocate for sufficient park land to meet community needs.

This policy change could reduce the amount of funds or land the Facilities and Parks Division receives. A Community Benefit Charge By-

Law that protects park provision targets and sets expectations for future funding/land is required for the Division to budget and plan accordingly.

## Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program

### Overview

This policy allows the Town to support community groups interested in enhancing neighbourhood parks, by matching contributions for community-based projects. Funds are allocated through a competitive application process. ‘Parks’ includes parks, town-owned open spaces, and trails.

The fund awards up to \$5,000 in matching grants to eligible project, which can be used for professional services, materials and supplies, shipping and delivery expenses, equipment rental, administrative costs (up to 2.5%), and a mandatory plaque/sign acknowledgment of participants, including the Town.

Funds received from other Town grants or programs cannot be used as a match. The number of projects funded overall is by the amount of funding available, the number of applications received per region, and the amount requested by the applicants. Every effort is made to share the money as equitably as possible throughout the Town.

### Eligible Projects:

Projects should build a sense of community through implementation and enhance the park once complete. Proposals should be for

General Eligibility Requirements to be Met (5)	Review Criteria Used to Score (8)
Be contained within the Town of Orangeville boundaries.	The budget is realistic, appropriate, secure, and supported with quotes
Be for a Town of Orangeville public park, open space, and/or trail.	The match is realistic, appropriate, secure, documented, and comes from various sources.
Be sponsored by a community-based organization.	The organization is capable of completing the project.
Include a timeline to be completed within three to six months.	The work plan is detailed, specific, and feasible.
Include a match that equals or exceeds the amount requested	The project is supported by the community partners.
	The project implementation process will build a sense of community.
	The completed project will enhance the park making it more welcoming fun, and safe.
	The application overall is clear and logical.

Table 5-6: General Eligibility Requirements

physical improvements aimed at making parks more welcoming, fun, and safe. Although other types of projects may also be considered if they meet general eligibility requirements, all proposals must be consistent with established Parks and Recreation policies and objectives. The process is competitive and the maximum amount of funding available is determined prior to the application submission date as part of the annual Town budget process.

Applications are accepted from:

- community based organizations that can be one of two types: a recognized organization or association based in the Town of Orangeville
- an informal group of five or more individuals that reside or own property within the Town of Orangeville and have formed a group solely for the purpose of completing a park improvement project. The application requires the listing of a Head of Organization and a Project Manager, which must be separate individuals. Partnerships with other entities are encouraged for contributions such technical assistance, volunteers for the project, donations of materials and services, and/or cash.

The five general eligibility requirements must be met before a project can be scored against eight criteria, described in Table 5-6.

Town staff process the applications, the Parks and Recreation Committee reviews scores the applications, and a report recommending projects to be funded is submitted to Council.

Successful organizations sign a Letter of Agreement, and funds are disbursed either by reimbursement or directly to a vendor.

### *Assessment*

There are two potential partnerships discussed in this Plan that would not be covered under this policy in its current form:

- Partnering with the OHMBA to make improvements to the Springbrook Diamonds
- Partnering with community groups or other agencies for the development of edible gardens, community gardens, and edible tree plantings.

The OHMBA's interest in helping to finance improvements at the diamonds they use should also be documented in an agreement that outlines the process, responsibilities and financial commitments of both the Association and the Town in implementing a facility improvement program. The general intent of this type of agreement falls under the existing Town policy Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program. At the same time, the Springbrook diamonds do not meet eligible projects since they are not on Town-owned property. The policy also states that eligible projects, "may include such things as landscaping projects, tree plantings, benches, flower planters, trash receptacles, signs, kiosks, and/or play equipment." It is not clear if improvements to sports fields could be the basis for a proposal or if eligibility is limited to amenities of the types described above. The policy itself could be revised to accommodate

a broader range of projects. Alternately, the OHMBA and the Town could enter into a separate agreement to cover a Springbrook diamonds improvement program.

Additionally, the partnerships discussed earlier between a municipality and community group or other agency to plant, program, maintain, etc. edible gardens and community gardens could also be covered by this policy. The policy in its current form best covers discrete improvements that 'end' once construction is complete, unlike an edible/community garden that requires ongoing involvement. However, it would only require the addition of one or two review criteria (for example, to include an ongoing maintenance and operating plan for such projects), and the policy could accommodate edible or community garden projects.

Edible tree planting on the other hand, as discussed previously, requires a much longer commitment, with various stipulations on the type and locations of trees etc. that such agreements would be better served by their own policy and agreement.

## Commemorative Tree and Bench Policy

### Overview

This policy allows residents to honour individuals who reside/resided in Orangeville through dedication of "a bench, tree, park facility, flowerbed, etc.". The cost of the amenity, installation and renovation, must all be covered by the proponent. The policy was approved in 2001, and should be updated.

### Assessment

The City of Greater Sudbury's Parks Services Donation and Memorial Program is a similar policy, but the wording is more detailed, and provides additional clarity on the purpose of the program, and kinds of amenities that can be donated: "to commemorate a special person, a momentous occasion or simply donate as a philanthropic gesture to beautify a community park. Donations towards the purchase of park enhancements or memorial gifts can include: park benches, trees, bike racks, picnic tables, sun shelters, sports equipment (basketball standards, tennis nets, soccer goals, etc.), playground structures, other options to be discussed with Parks Services." The policy also notes that donations for parks amenities are guided by site-specific plans.

Orangeville's Commemoration Policy does not currently mention site-specific plans in their selection criteria (the criteria are that the person must have contributed in a tangible way, and that the person being commemorated, or their next of kin, is in agreement with the method). Orangeville may

wish to add site-plan considerations to this set of criteria. For example, Strathcona County's (Alberta) Parkland Memorial Program notes:

**“The Parkland Memorial Program provides individuals, groups and organizations with the opportunity to beautify Parkland in Strathcona County by planting trees or installing Parkland Amenities in remembrance, observance or acknowledgment of an appropriate event, occasion or individual. Approval of applications will be based on aesthetic considerations, improvements to the level of service to our Parkland users and with the intention of facilitating planned development in our Parkland. “Amenity” means any bench, table, park furnishing or other structure or development that increases the physical or material comfort of the park. It may include a memorial plaque.”**

The policy should also clearly state which department/division/committee is responsible for receiving and approving applications under this policy. Examples of more specific policies to donate parks-based amenities show that fees vary considerably by municipality.

## Land Sale and Purchase Policy

### Overview

This policy sets out the procedure and stipulations for the sale or disposition of municipal land. It states that Council may declare land surplus by by-law or resolution and does not detail any factors that Council should consider in their decision; the decision is open to Council discretion. Public notice must be given once declaring land surplus, with the opportunity for the public to submit comments.

The policy describes how valuation should be undertaken, and lists exemptions (both land exempt from the sale procedure laid out in this policy, and land exempt from valuation). It states that sale price, terms of disposition, timing, and ultimate purchase, are all for Council consideration and approval. It is a lean, minimalistic policy written to comply with section 270 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, which requires a municipality to adopt and maintain a policy with respect to its sale and other disposition of land, indeed it states that “The procedures set out in this policy are minimum requirements, and at their discretion Council or staff may exceed the requirements”.

### Assessment

In an effort to protect land for community services (including recreation and parks), some municipalities have included policies in their Official Plans that stipulate certain restrictions on the sale/use of surplus lands. For example, the Orangeville Official Plan contains a policy

whereby institutional land deemed surplus by the appropriate school board may be developed for low density residential or open space recreation, subject to review by Council and in consideration of the Town's parkland needs (E6.3.1).

Aside from this one consideration for institutional lands, there are no detailed considerations for deciding to sell or otherwise dispose of Town land in the Official Plan, or in this Land Sale and Purchase Policy. For this reason, the Town may wish to update this policy to offer more guidance to Council in these decisions, particularly to protect existing and potential parks and open spaces, as well as recreation services. For example, the policy could specify that Council consider:

- The park needs in the Town/ neighbourhood of the parcel of land in consideration
- The recreation and/or community wellness needs of the Town/ neighbourhood of the parcel of land in consideration

Such considerations may help prevent the disposition or sale of needed community services such as parkland, recreation facilities, community gardens etc.

## 5.8 New Policies

### Park By-Law

The Town should adopt a Park By-law that outlines acceptable/prohibited activities, and information on permits, enforcement and penalties. For example, most park by-laws cover the following topics:

- General conduct (violence, nuisance, firearms, fireworks)
- Vandalism/removal of park property
- Encroachment (building on park property)
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Campfires and barbecues
- Activities and special events (size of gatherings, speakers, furniture etc.)
- Swimming and sunbathing
- Sports and activities (golf, model aircraft, gliders and hot air balloons, team sports, skiing, tobogganing, kite flying, tennis, skateboarding)
- Vehicles (bicycles, motorized recreational vehicles)
- Animals (dogs, horses, wildlife, fishing)
- Commercial enterprises (merchandise, business, trades, film and photography)
- Regulations, Enforcement and Penalties

A sample Parks By-law from the City of Kingston is provided in Appendix F.

## Stormwater Management (SWM) Ponds in Parks Policy and Design Guidelines

If the Town is interested in developing some of their SWM ponds as parks, and/or providing this as an option in new developments, it would be beneficial to have a policy and design guidelines in place to support it.

The Town of Oakville for example, has a Stormwater Management Pond Policy and Procedure that recognizes SWM ponds may be integrated into parks, but the content of the policy and procedure is focused on safety:

“Stormwater management facilities have been incorporated into parks and open space areas in accordance with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Guidelines and Best Management Practices. The design is intended to allow public accessibility to trails and park lands adjacent to and surrounding these facilities. The promotion of safe use of SWM ponds is intended to protect workers and the public. The use of safety signage and perimeter fencing shall be carried out in accordance with the established procedure.”

The accompanying procedure outlines the required signage, prohibited activities in SWM ponds, fencing requirements, maintenance, monitoring, and responsibilities. The policy and procedure are included in Appendix F for reference.

Further, the Town could establish its own set of design guidelines for the integration of SWM ponds with parks. These guidelines could be an appendix to the SWM pond policy, or could

be added to the Official Plan’s Design Policies. Design considerations include, but are not limited to:

- minimum amount of publicly accessible greenspace around pond
- amenities and facilities provided around pond (seating, trails, lookouts, playground structures, picnic areas, open space etc.)
- safe design of pond such that water level does not experience large fluctuations or flooding in locations with public amenities
- enhanced warning and educational signage and safety equipment

By setting down the requirements and expectations of SWM ponds in parks, the Town is well positioned to ensure that future developments/redevelopments that seek to integrate SWM ponds and parks will have sufficient direction to create safe, quality spaces for the community.

## Fruit/Nut Tree Policy

The Town should develop a Fruit/nut Tree Policy and Agreement to direct and support such projects by community groups. The policy can include specifications such as approved locations for planting, acceptable species, design recommendations, community consultation requirements, maintenance expectations, and the roles and responsibilities of each party and anything else pertinent to the Town.

An example is the City of Kingston's Community Orchard & Edible Forest Policy, which "establishes a framework to permit community led planting, management and harvesting of fruit trees, nut trees and/or shrubs on City owned lands". The City provides considerable assistance to groups who wish to establish a community orchard, including:

- assisting interested groups in determining the suitability of land, and design, for Community Orchards
- providing grants
- assisting with public consultation process (the Town requires this as part of the application process)
- providing at least one accessible path, or flat surface, to the Community Orchard.
- from the applicants, the City requires considerable contribution including (not an exhaustive list):
  - a design plan
  - Evidence of community consultation and support
  - Proof of general liability insurance
  - A 10-year agreement with the City
  - Long term operational and maintenance plan approved by the City

The full policy is included in Appendix F for reference.

- The Urban Forestry Policy provides guidelines for the planting and maintenance of trees in the Town. The directives of the policy are outlined under four main categories: Boulevard Trees, Natural Areas, Parks and Open Spaces, and Site Plan and Subdivisions. The policy supports enhancing and preserving the urban forest; maintaining a pleasant residential setting; promoting sustainability, health, quality of life, and parks/trail-based recreation; and increasing the forest cover.
- The Parkland Dedication By-Law may need to be updated/replaced if the Town opts into the new Community Benefits Charge (CBC), per the More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019. Unlike section 42, the new CBC introduces a cap on the amount of CBC that can be charged. This policy change could reduce the amount of funds or land the Parks Department receives.
- The Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program allows the Town to support community groups interested in enhancing neighbourhood parks, by matching contributions for community-based projects up to \$5000. Projects should build a sense of community, and make parks more welcoming, fun, and safe. This policy should be amended to clarify the inclusion of projects to improve sports fields, and ongoing projects such as community gardens.
- The Land Sale and Purchase Policy sets out the procedure and stipulations for the sale or disposition of municipal land. It states that Council may declare land surplus by by-law or resolution and does not detail any factors that Council should consider in their decision.
- Many municipalities have a Park By-law that outlines acceptable/prohibited activities, and information on permits, enforcement and penalties. Orangeville does not currently have such a By-law.
- If the Town is interested in developing some of their SWM ponds as parks, and/or providing this as an option in new developments, it would be beneficial to have a policy and design guidelines in place to support it, and guide the appropriate development of SWM pond parks for public use.
- A Commemorative Tree and Bench Policy is designed to encourage citizens to commemorate people or events through donations that ‘purchase’ parks- based amenities (such as park benches, trees, bike racks, picnic tables, sun shelters, sports equipment, playground structures etc.), some of which are eligible for charitable tax receipts.
- The Town should develop a Fruit/nut Tree Policy and Agreement to direct and support such projects by community groups. The policy can include specifications such as approved locations for planting, acceptable species, design recommendations, community consultation requirements, maintenance expectations, and the roles and responsibilities of each party and anything else pertinent to the Town.

Figure 5-37: Parks Policy Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations

- Update the Parkland Dedication By-law or replace with a new policy for the collection of Community Benefits, and include stipulations for the inclusion/exclusion of stormwater management ponds in parks in the calculations of community benefits.
- Update the Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program to accommodate a broader range of projects, including projects related to sports fields, projects on non-municipal land that are for public use and enjoyment, and projects that include ongoing partnerships.
- Update the Commemorations Policy to add further details on types of acceptable amenities, and approval criteria.
- Update the Land Sale and Purchase Policy to include considerations for protecting land required for community services, parks, and recreation.
- Consider developing a policy and associated design guidelines for integrating stormwater management ponds with parks and trails.
- Develop a general Park By-law outlining acceptable and prohibited activities in parks.
- Develop a Fruit/nut Tree Policy and Agreement to direct and support such projects by community groups.



# Service Delivery

6.0

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## 6.0 Service Delivery

### 6.1 Introduction

The delivery system comprises the network of organizations, and their respective roles and day-to-day work in providing parks and recreation services to Orangeville residents. The municipality is the primary provider of services, both directly and indirectly: directly through staff delivered programs in municipal facilities and spaces, and indirectly by supporting other organizations in providing their programs using municipal facilities, support services, and financial assistance.

This section considers the Town's role in providing recreation services to the community, and its relationship to other service providers. It addresses opportunities to improve and enhance the Town's position within the community-wide delivery system, and the

policies, partnerships, and human resources to strengthen this role. In addition to considering service delivery at the Town level, it looks at the potential for a regional approach to providing facilities and programs. The discussion is presented under the following main headings:

- the Town's role in recreation service provision
- review of existing and suggested new policy
- partnerships and agreements
- updating policies and agreements
- regional collaboration in service planning and provision
- human resources

## 6.2 Town’s Role in Recreation Service Provision

### Municipal Role in Recreation

A Framework for Recreation in Canada - 2015 - Pathways to Wellbeing<sup>1</sup> defines recreation as, “the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing (p.4).”

In the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) publication Recreation and Collaboration (2013), municipal recreation is positioned as a key provider of opportunities for the whole community, and all its residents, to participate in this broad range of experiences.

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Parks and Recreation Association/ Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council (February 2015). A Framework for Recreation in Canada - 2015 - Pathways to Wellbeing. Ottawa: Canadian Recreation and Parks Association.

Through direct programming, supporting the volunteer sector in providing programs, developing amenities for self-directed pursuits, or a combination of these, municipalities provide recreation services on what can be viewed as a continuum comprising the three elements of sport, physical activity (PA) and non-sport/PA experiences (Figure 6-1). Each of these components of the municipal role is briefly described below.

### Sport

The municipal role in providing opportunities for participation in sports is long-standing and well instituted. As noted by CS4L, “In most communities the greatest single benefactor of (municipal) support has been the sport delivery system - especially in terms of the use of municipally owned indoor facilities and outdoor sport fields.”<sup>2</sup> In addition to facilities for community-level activity, some municipalities provide these for sport hosting/sport tourism.

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Sport for Life. Recreation and Sport Collaboration. 2013. p. 5.



Figure 6-1: Continuum of municipal recreation services

In addition to providing facilities that serve as a 'home' to volunteer community sport groups, other municipal supports to this sector typically include subsidies and allocation policies, joint use agreements with other providers such as the education sector, coordination and communication, and volunteer development. Among municipalities that provide programs directly, community sports groups benefit through residents' early exposure/introductory and skills development programs, and municipal assumption of responsibility for providing sport programs not supplied by volunteer groups.<sup>3</sup>

### Physical Activity (PA)

In addition to the traditional role in supporting community sport, the municipal role in providing opportunities to be physically active extends to other areas. Engaging residents of all ages and abilities in active lifestyles has become a priority in the last 15 to 20 years, as physical activity levels have declined and associated health issues have increased. To this end, municipal facility provision extends to those such as fitness centres, rooms designed for aerobics and other classes, and pre-school program spaces. Parks and trails have also taken on more importance in terms of providing infrastructure and amenities for self-directed outdoor pursuits such as walking, cycling, skate boarding, in-line skating, pleasure skating, etc.

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<sup>3</sup> *Canadian Sport for Life. Recreation and Sport Collaboration. 2013. p. 9.*

### Non-sport/PA

Recreation services in these areas include performing, visual and decorative arts, culture, learning, skills development, personal improvement, environmental stewardship, themed events, built and natural heritage, etc. Municipal facility provision in non-sport/PA recreation can range from support to community groups in accessing municipal or other spaces, to developing dedicated, purpose-built arts and culture venues. In line with sport hosting/sport tourism, there is also a growing role for municipalities in providing infrastructure for event hosting/event tourism.

### Balancing the Three Elements

The capacity of individual municipalities to provide a full range of facilities and direct programming in all three areas varies widely. The level of service provision tends to be directly related to a community's size. At the same time, each municipality in Ontario is autonomous in prescribing its role in recreation relative to its capacity to provide these services while meeting other legislated responsibilities. Municipal councils, therefore, make policy decisions on the scope and delivery of recreation services in their communities. The result is a variable landscape of municipal recreation services across the Province. Historically, however, the emphasis has been on the provision of sport facilities. Almost all municipalities in Ontario, no matter how small, provide a community park with a ball diamond.

Typically, only larger communities generate both the market and tax base needed to support significant investment in recreation

infrastructure for community sport, physical activity and non-sport/PA, and to operate in the areas of both direct and indirect programming. Some municipalities are also home to highly sophisticated facilities for competitive sports, which rely on funding from other levels of government and are positioned to serve a significant population base. On balance, however, there are not many communities in Ontario that are large enough to provide such a wide range of services.

National sport policy and the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) model of engagement help frame the mandate of municipal recreation departments in service provision.

*The Canadian Sport Policy (CSP, 2012) sets a direction for the period 2012-2022 for all governments, institutions and organizations committed to realizing the positive impacts of sport on individuals, communities and society. F/P/T Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation endorsed the policy in June 2012. CSP sets out 5 broad objectives, including "Recreational Sport: Canadians have the opportunity to participate in sport for fun, health, social interaction and relaxation". Participants are introduced to the fundamentals of sport through programs delivered primarily by clubs, schools and local recreation departments. Participants develop sport-specific skills with an emphasis on fun, a positive*

*attitude, healthy human development and remaining active for life.*<sup>4</sup>

The 2012 policy "earmarked a fundamental shift in sport" ...away from excellence to... "a broader focus...that placed greater emphasis on building participation, interaction, and support systems."<sup>5</sup>

The 2012 policy directions are reflected in the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) development model, which proposes that a solid foundation in 'physical literacy' for all is the prerequisite to producing high performance competitive athletes within the larger population that is active for life - from infancy to the senior years. Alongside its corollary that describes Long-term Athlete Development (LTAD) ranging from 'Fundamental Movement Skills' to 'High Performance Sport', the former aligns with the early phases the CS4L's 7-stage progression:

4. Active Start, beginning in infancy
5. FUNdamentals, with the emphasis on 'fun'
6. Learn to Train
7. Train to Train
8. Train to Compete
9. Train to Win
10. Active for Life, continuing into late life

The model "has considerable strengths and principles that can be embraced by municipal recreation. Perhaps the areas of greatest connection are within Physical Literacy (stages 1-3) and Active for Life (stage 7), as well as

<sup>4</sup> Canadian Sport for Life. *Becoming a Canadian Sport for Life Community 2.0*. 2013. p.15

<sup>5</sup> Canadian Sport for Life. *Recreation and Sport Collaboration*. 2013. p. 16

through providing the supports...for sport training and competition in stages 4-6".<sup>6</sup>

The areas of focus that the CS4L model assigns to municipalities are in keeping with their long-established involvement in community recreation services, which are largely funded through taxes paid by all residents. They are locally based, designed for/open to all regardless of skill level/ability, comprise introductory experiences/basic instruction in a wide variety of activities, and promote fun and social interaction. It is important to keep in mind that 'activities' include those related to PA and non-sport/PA as well as sport, and that activities other than sport - such as performing arts - can contribute equally to objectives such as teaching 'fundamental movement skills.'

## Relevance to the Town of Orangeville

The Town is well engaged in all three components of the municipal role in providing recreation services, which must continue to be balanced in future service development. To some extent, expanding services in the physical activity (PA) and non-sport/PA areas will be needed to improve the balance across the continuum.

Over the Master Plan's term, the Town of Orangeville is expected to grow from 29,220 (2020) to about 36,490 (2031). While it will remain a moderately sized community, it will also continue to function as a regional service

centre within Dufferin County. Its total market population will increase from an estimated 67,500 (2020) to approximately 86,500 (2031). Pressure to provide an increasingly sophisticated level of service will grow, but the municipality will be limited in terms of the extent to which it can expand services via the local tax base alone. Recommendations on developing a regional approach to program and facility provision [Sections 3 and 4] are directed to sharing the costs of service provision among all users. At the same time, the Town should articulate its role in recreation service provision to clarify its own focus in the years to come.

As noted above, the Canadian Sport Policy and the CS4L model position municipal recreation largely within the context of physical literacy in sport and life-long physical activity. At the same time, municipalities have latitude to position themselves in the delivery of recreation services. They are not limited, therefore, to providing community recreation only. The municipality, therefore, should consider developing a policy or policies to clarify and document its intended role in recreation service delivery, and relating it to the three elements identified here to: ensure PA and non-sport/PA are formally recognized and included as distinct components of the recreations system; distinguish between sport in promoting physical literacy and as elite training and competition.

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<sup>6</sup> Recreation and Sport Collaboration 2013, p. 19.

Physical literacy is the cornerstone of both participation and excellence in physical activity and sport. Individuals who are physically literate are more likely to be active for life. Becoming physically literate is influenced by the individual's age, maturation and capacity. Ideally physical literacy should be acquired prior to the adolescent growth spurt. Thus the physical literacy of its citizens should be of high priority to every community.

Source: *Canadian Sport for Life. Becoming a Canadian Sport for Life Community 2.0. 2013. p.2*

Policies on the role of municipalities in recreation services are not common. The Town of Canmore's Recreation Services Operating Policy [provided in Appendix G] is an example of this type of statement for reference in developing a Town-specific policy. As discussed in Section 4 on facilities, policy that relates to municipal provision of competitive sports facilities is also required to address a complete range of potential facility interests in the community.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although municipalities in Ontario are autonomous in prescribing their roles in recreation relative to their capacity to provide these services, historically the emphasis has been sports.</li> <li>- Municipalities now typically provide recreation services on a continuum comprising three elements: sport, physical activity (PA) and non-sport/PA experiences, and the focus now is to improve the provision of programs/activities outside the area of sport to better balance the whole.</li> <li>- The policy-based Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) sees municipal recreation as responsible for 'Physical Literacy' and 'Active for Life' components of its development model.</li> <li>- The areas of focus that the CS4L model assigns to municipalities are in keeping with the notion of 'community recreation services', which are largely funded through taxes paid by all residents. They are locally based, designed for/open to all regardless of skill level/ability, comprise introductory experiences/basic instruction in a wide variety of activities, and promote fun and social interaction.</li> <li>- The Town of Orangeville has a strong sports community, with a network of well-established organizations that are supported by the municipality. While continuing its commitment to the sports community, further development in PA and non-sport/PA programming is required. In all three areas, however, the Town's role in community recreation should be framed by the CP4L's suggestion for a municipal focus on: Active Start, FUNdamentals, Learn to Train, and Active for Life.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an overarching policy that defines the meaning of community parks and recreation and articulates the role of the Town in providing these services.</li> <li>- Position this policy in relation to others related to providing competitive sports [see Section 4] facilities and other relevant municipal departments.</li> </ul>

Figure 6-2: Town's role in recreation service provision summary and recommendations

## 6.3 Review of Existing and Suggested New Policy

As noted above, recreation services at the non-sport/PA end of the continuum include arts, culture and heritage programming. In Orangeville, responsibility for culture services is assigned to Economic Development and Culture (ED&C). With respect to policy, therefore, there may be some overlap between those of ED&C, Recreation and Events, and Facilities and Parks, especially in the areas of events and visitor-related attractions. This discussion focuses on policy of/for Community Services, and assumes that arts, culture and heritage related community programming will become an increasing component of the department's responsibilities. This may require some realignment with policies that guide ED&C. For example, municipal grants for all visitor-related events - sports, physical activity or arts related - might require a policy that is administered by the ED&C. Events that fall under this 'umbrella' could include: regional tournaments/meets (sports); major fundraising runs/walks (physical activity); regional theatre festival (performing arts).

### Existing Community Assistance Policies

#### Registered Minor Sport Groups Fee Reduction Policy (no date)

This policy (sometimes referred to as a community affiliation policy) outlines the benefits accruing to volunteer sports groups in Orangeville that meet the criteria for eligibility to register. Application must be made each year and is reviewed by the Town for compliance.

Benefits to qualifying groups include:

- 20% reduction in the base prime-time facility rental fee;
- free Town space for annual general meetings when elections are held;
- free access to semi-annual central registration events hosted by the Facilities and Parks Division;
- access to Town of Orangeville advertising and promotion opportunities;
- opportunities to participate in volunteer training and recognition as available.

Eligibility criteria are:

- the primary mandate of the organization must be to provide equal opportunity and access for Orangeville residents under the age of 18 to participate in sport and recreation activities;
- the organization must be a non-profit organization and operate under the

authority of a volunteer board or committee;

- the organization must be operated in an open and democratic manner through the holding of an annual membership meeting and elections of an executive/ board from the membership to carry out the wishes of the general membership;
- the organizations base of operation must be in the Town of Orangeville;
- the organization must have a minimum of 60% of its registrants as residents/ rate payers of the Town of Orangeville or (if less than 60%) it must be the only organization providing the activity to Orangeville residents;
- the organization must be in good financial standing with the Town.

The Town should consider enlarging the scope of this policy to include other types of volunteer organizations that offer community programming, with the intention of building services in the areas of physical activity (PA) and non-sport/PA. Opening up applicability to other types could encourage organization in activity areas not currently offered, and facilitate the entry of new activities as they emerge.

## Facility and Venue Allocation Policy (March 20, 2017)

This policy governs the distribution of use on the Town's recreation facilities and venues by organized user groups to ensure equitable access, optimum usage and programming. As required, local parks and smaller venues are also allocated using this policy. The intent of the policy is to:

- achieve a coordinated allocation of facilities and venues to make the most effective and efficient use of such facilities;
- provide appropriate time slots and opportunities for all levels and types of users;
- promote and allow growth toward optimization of facilities;
- serve the demand and warranted change resulting from changing demographics and recreation/leisure trends by maintaining sufficient flexibility of scheduling;
- accommodate local community user groups; and
- establish clear priority for allocation of available facility time.

The process occurs annually and recognizes the contribution that volunteer organizations make to providing community recreation, while allocating access to a limited number of facilities that are publicly funded community resources. Allocation is determined by

balancing a number of factors. Factors that are assigned priority are the user profile and the function profile. Other more general factors are also considered and may affect placements based strictly on priority assignment. These factors and priorities are tabled in Appendix G.

In reviewing this policy, the Town should consider the following changes:

- removing specific reference to sports organization, to align with enlarging the scope of its application to other types of volunteer organizations;
- expanding the description/intent of achieving equity, and include other factors such as cultural diversity, social inclusion, etc.;
- past performance indicators could include relevant facility use monitoring data discussed in Section 6 (these would not be applicable to new groups applying for facility time/space);
- in keeping with other directions in the Master Plan, assigning local tournaments and special events priority over national and provincial meets, particularly as a significant economic benefit to the Town from hosting a major event would likely prompt a specific, time-limited adjustment to a community-first priority;
- multi-purpose rooms may need to be further categorized and priorities assigned by type of space, given that in some types of space community programming will be the best fit, and should also be encouraged;
- differentiating between adult and youth playing fields for the purpose of matching users to facilities when assigning priority;
- removing reference to gymnasiums, as there are no regulation municipal facilities.

Depending on the facilities that are added to supply over the term of the Master Plan, the policy will need to be updated periodically to include these, and reflect any specific criteria related to assigning priority to their use.

## Additional Policies to Consider

The discussion in Section 6.2 on the Town's role in service provision and a policy to support it forms the basis for shaping other, more specific policies. Municipal practices often operate like policy. It is beneficial, however, to create formal policy wherever the Town wishes to: clarify for the community the parameters of its role/philosophy/capacity in providing parks and recreation services; provide Council and staff with guidelines for consistent decision-making in its application. While additional policy needs may emerge during the term of the Master Plan, this section identifies areas that should be considered.

### Events/Festivals

Municipal policies and procedures addressing community and visitor-attractive events serve to provide consistency in the planning and delivery of events and festivals held on municipal property, as well as those held on non-municipal properties that could impact municipal services. Items addressed can include:

- defining an event/festival
- differentiating between community and visitor-oriented events and festivals
- articulating the municipality's role in the planning and delivery of events and festivals
- providing details on municipal supports and services such as in-kind staffing, service provision, cost recovery, and

grants to community groups through the relevant programs

- supporting inter-departmental teamwork and clarifying roles and responsibilities for municipal staff and volunteers for event planning, promotion, attendance, and management (inter-departmental teams may include Community Services, Clerk's Office, By-law Enforcement, etc.)

As discussed in Section 3 Programs and Events, differentiating between community and visitor-oriented events can include identifying their respective purposes, and the levels of support the Town is willing to provide in each case. It also provides the framework for determining the support to be provided by Recreation and Events or Economic Development and Culture in relation to the type of event, as well as tracking resources directed to community vs. visitor attractions.

Policies and procedures vary and can be directed internally to clarifying municipal staff support and inter-departmental collaboration and establishing cost recovery approaches, or oriented externally to organizations on guidelines and fees, adherence to municipal by-laws, and impacts on municipal service requirements. The externally published policy components could include a procedural guide or manual on how to ensure the event meets all requirements related to risk management, health and safety. This special events manual could include both an introductory section stating the policy, and the detailed procedural guide to organizing/executing events.

## User Fees

While the Town has a schedule of fees for recreation services, a comprehensive user fees policy is not in place. Municipalities are increasingly being requested to provide more high-quality parks and recreation services with limited resources. While senior government and private sector capital funding for recreation infrastructure is periodically available, these programs cannot accommodate the amount of demand for new and replacement infrastructure. Moreover, when funding does become available, eligibility criteria are specific to each program and application periods are often very short. Unless municipalities are prepared with “shovel ready” projects that anticipate funding opportunities, there is often insufficient time to prepare the required studies and applications.

While service expectations rise, local taxpayers continue to resist increases in their assessments for municipal services. This perspective also prevails in Orangeville, as evidenced by the household survey results. Municipalities, therefore, are challenged to generate a larger share of capital and operating funds from sources other than the local tax base, to maintain and expand community access to parks and recreation services. At the same time, affordability needs to be addressed. Ideally, therefore, a user fees policy should be developed in consultation with the community, within the larger framework of affordability and with the following points in mind:

- a clear rationale for the policy, and cost recovery objectives should be stated
- costs to be covered should be consistent across all types of facilities, keeping in mind that municipal costs are directly related to level of service provided to users, and service levels can be altered to reduce costs
- fees should recover some specified portion of municipal costs without unduly restricting community access to services; while initial costs may be too high to be recovered through fees, revenues can be generated to cover at least some portion of operating costs
- determining the desirability of differential fees for prime and non-prime time at all scheduled facilities to help optimize use and reduce pressure for additional capacity
- working with community partners to align program fees for comparable services can help preclude competition among different sectors, while balancing equity and cost recovery objectives. In particular, fees within the municipal corporate structure (e.g., Recreation, Library) should be comparable.
- The Town of Canmore’s Recreation Services User Fee & Rental Rate Policy (provided in Appendix G) is an example of this type of statement for reference in developing a Town-specific policy.

## Inclusion and Access to Recreation

Inclusion policy is often developed at the corporate level to recognize a broader need for social inclusion, of which recreation is one part. Implementing inclusion policy in parks and recreation services works to ensure all who want to participate in programs/activities are provided with safe opportunities to do so. Awareness of the various populations in need in any community is a prerequisite to reaching everyone and encouraging participants/potential participants to convey their needs/interests at the point of program and facility design and development. Municipalities can help foster inclusion by:

- supporting staff training and development opportunities
- maintaining safe spaces (through training, marketing, and signage)
- providing opportunities for free and low-cost activities (discussed further below)
- showcasing inclusive programs broadly in the community to increase awareness of availability
- sharing and posting messages about respectful behavior in facilities<sup>7</sup>

There are publicly available resources that the Town can use in staff training to elevate the inclusiveness of programming, and in turn

<sup>7</sup> <https://sportforlife.ca/portfolio-view/quality-sport-for-communities-and-clubs/>



Figure 6-3: The City of Mississauga offers a limited number of Freedom Passes to residents aged 12 to 14 years old, during July 1st to Aug 31st, each summer. They are free to obtain, and allow youths to ride Mississauga Transit (MiWay) and attend public swims for free all summer.

increase the participation of at-risk groups. For example, the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport offers practical resources for training coaches/recreation staff for working inclusively and respectfully with LGBTQ athletes and for increasing/supporting participation of girls as they reach their teens and beyond. The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario is another organization that offers on-line recreation staff training.

Service accessibility comprises several elements: geographic distribution; affordability; physical access to facilities, programs and activities by people with limited mobility or other disabilities. Improved physical access to serve all age groups and abilities is addressed in the AODA. The Town of Orangeville addresses this aspect of accessibility through Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation Policies and Procedures. It addresses how the

Town of Orangeville achieves accessibility by meeting the regulation's requirements and provides the overall strategic direction that the Town will follow to provide accessibility supports to Ontarians with disabilities. Of particular importance to recreation services are the standards related to information and communications and the design of public spaces.

This discussion relates to affordability. In practice, the Town of Orangeville ensures that economic barriers do not preclude residents' participation in recreation programs and activities. A policy that provides the rationale and approach to facilitating access to recreation services would be in keeping with what other municipalities are doing (for example, see Figure 6-3).

Affordable access relates to all service areas and is a current provincial policy initiative.

*The following links, active at the time of writing, provide examples of Access to Recreation policies.*

*Municipality of the District of Shelburne  
Affordable Access to Recreation Policy*

*<https://www.municipalityofshelburne.ca/375-affordable-access-to-recreation-policy/file.html>*

*Corporation of the Township of  
Otonabee-South Monaghan Access to  
Recreation Policy*

*[http://www.osmtownship.ca/en/township-hall/resources/Documents/Access\\_to\\_Recreation\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.osmtownship.ca/en/township-hall/resources/Documents/Access_to_Recreation_Policy.pdf)*

The Provincial framework<sup>8</sup> sets out a vision, objectives and strategic directions to guide public policy development, and related service decisions, to establish affordable access to community recreation. It is intended to provide municipalities with the framework to "encourage the creation of access policies and to inform decisions related to recreation programs, spaces and community outreach" (p.7).

The scope of this policy framework includes access to spaces (i.e., facility rental fees), increasing provision of opportunities for self-directed activity, new program development, partnerships between the municipality and other providers to ensure affordability, and a proactive approach to building awareness of affordable opportunities to participate in recreation. It recommends developing a policy for recreation fee reduction for low-income participants, as well as providing a core set of free, universal programs available to all. Municipalities are encouraged to spearhead initiatives in these areas, and to work with community partners to ensure that participation fees are designed within the larger "affordability" framework.

<sup>8</sup> *Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians Policy Framework: Every One Plays. The Ontario Task Group on Affordable Access to Recreation for Low-Income Families, supported by Parks and Recreation Ontario with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion. <https://www.prontario.org/public/policy/RecAccessPolicyFinal.pdf>*

## Community Financial Support

### Donation Programs

A more general donation program could also be considered in Orangeville, although parks, trails and recreation services would be only one of a number of areas to which residents could donate. The City of Toronto includes an opportunity to donate to specific service areas in its tax mailouts. This Voluntary Contribution program notes, “You can make a voluntary contribution (donation) to support a variety of City programs and services that matter to you. You can make a donation in any

amount from \$1 up to \$50,000 [which include]: children; youth and parenting; history art, and culture; parks, gardens and beaches.” These are only four of 12 categories listed on the insert, including general revenues. Potential categories for Orangeville could include recreation services in general or further refined to allow contributions to be directed to parks or specific facility or park projects, trails or trail segments, signage, etc. Table 6-1 contains more examples of community financial support policies.

Although it represents a different type of donation, opportunities for corporations or

Location	Options	Fee (excludes tax)
Town of LaSalle (2019) <sup>1</sup>	New branch and plaque	\$1,800.00
	engraved plate only on existing bench	\$1,000.00
	new tree (species options outlines in application form)	\$600.00
	memorial brick	\$100.00
Township of Tiny (no date) <sup>2</sup>	commemorative bench and plaque	\$550.00
	commemorative stewardship project	varies
City of Windsor (no date) <sup>3</sup>	new tree (includes tree, planting, watering, mulching and trimming)	\$500.00
	tree and bronze plaque	\$1,080.00

Table 6-1: Examples of community financial support policies

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lasalle.ca/town-hall/resources/Policies/MEMORIAL-PROGRAM.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tiny.ca/Shared%2-Documents/Recreation/Policy%20and%20guidelines%20bd.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.citywindsor.ca/residents/parksandforestry/Commemorative-Programs/Pages/Commemorative-Tree-Program.aspx>

qualified individuals to contribute professional services and/or materials for parks or facilities projects could also be part of such a policy.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Existing policies should be reviewed and updated, and new policies developed, to support Master Plan recommendations in service development and delivery.</li> <li>– The current focus on sports groups and sports facility allocation in existing facilities should be broadened to include other areas of recreation while addressing any areas of overlap between Facilities and Parks and Economic Development and Culture.</li> <li>– While additional policy needs may arise during the term of the Master Plan, areas that should be addressed include: events/festivals; user fees; access to recreation; community financial support.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review and update existing policies including Registered Minor Sport Groups Fee Reduction Policy; Facility and Venue Allocation Policy.</li> <li>– Develop new policies for Events/Festivals; User Fees; Access to Recreation; Community Financial Support.</li> <li>– Address additional policy needs as they emerge.</li> </ul>

Figure 6-4: Review of existing and suggested new policy summary and recommendations

## 6.4 Partnerships and Agreements

The nature of partnerships for parks and recreation services varies, both by definition and complexity. For the purposes of this discussion, partnerships are defined as working collaborations in which each party commits resources and assumes some risk in a proposed venture. As such, partnerships should be supported by formal agreements that identify each party's position in relation to resource commitments and risks. By this definition, other types of arrangements that are often called partnerships are more appropriately called informal agreements. For example, use of municipal recreation facilities and/or outdoor spaces that is guided by policy alone does not require formal agreements.

This section reviews existing partnerships between the Town and other service providers, and agreements that support these arrangements. It identifies areas for potential improvements to these and provides direction on new agreements that might be needed to implement the Master Plan.

### Existing Partnerships and Agreements

#### Springbrook Park Ball Diamonds

As noted in the facilities discussion, the municipality operates the Springbrook ball diamonds under an agreement with the Le Conseil Scolaire Viamonde. The recommendation to purchase (now or in future) the land on which the diamonds sit for a

municipal park would require a severance and a purchase agreement. The option to continue the current arrangement and implement capital improvements would require reviewing and updating the agreement to ensure its duration covers the life of any investments by the Town and/or the OHMBA.

#### Orangeville Tennis Club

As noted in the facilities discussion, the Orangeville Tennis Club operates under a lease agreement with the Town. Assuming demand for additional courts is verified, and the Town expands the facility, the lease should be renewed and ensure that non-members of the Club can access dedicated weekly prime and non-prime time on the courts for casual use and that junior programs continue as a core service offered by the Club.

In the short term, the Town should assess the condition of the courts to determine and implement needed upgrades to surfaces (repairs and resurfacing) and fencing, and opportunities to integrate shade and seating on the site. This work should be done in such a way as to anticipate the possible court expansion, if it is implemented as a separate project. Options for arranging Club contributions to capital improvements through fundraising/advertising could also be considered as, similar to the OHMBA's relationship to Springbrook Park, the courts and clubhouse are a 'home base' for the Club.

## Potential New Partnerships and Agreements

### Facility Development, Use and Revenue Generation

#### Lacrosse Centre

The facilities recommendations contained several future development options that would require new partnership agreements:

- Should the Tony Rose site, Murray's Mountain Park, Orangeville District Secondary School (ODSS), and Princess Elizabeth Public School be jointly developed as a community lacrosse hub, the Town and the UGDSS would proceed on the basis of a joint development and use agreement.
- Accessing the football field at Westside Secondary School for community use, or redesigning it to also accommodate lacrosse, would also require agreements with the UGDSS. An agreement to use the existing field for football only might be between the organized user group and the School Board, with no need for Town participation. The latter, however, would involve both the Town and the Board in shared development and use of new/repurposed fields.

Developing new fields, whether natural or artificial turf, and potentially covering fields to provide indoor facilities, would be major projects. As community users would be key beneficiaries of these facilities, the Town would be a major partner in their provision.

#### Pickleball

An agreement with an organized pickleball group would be comparable to the agreement between the Town and the Orangeville Tennis Club. If a pickleball club is established at the site of the Tennis Club, there may be a need to coordinate both leases to clarify any arrangements for sharing the clubhouse.

#### Advertising Rights

The Orangeville Headwaters Minor Baseball Association (OHMBA) is interested in entering an agreement with the Town granting the Association advertising rights at Springbrook Park, which is their 'home' base. This type of agreement would allow the Association to generate revenue to support capital improvements and programming. The agreement would specify the locations within the park where advertising can be posted, and the rights and responsibilities of the two parties to the agreement, the type of advertising that is appropriate to post, and the expiration/review term. An advertising rights agreement may need to be supported by a statement that officially designates Springbrook Park as the OHMBA's home base and formalizes the Association's contributions to capital improvements to support its programs.

## Facility Operating Agreements

### Sports and Recreation Facilities

Municipalities sometimes opt to enter agreements with not-for-profit agencies to operate major recreation facilities. In Ontario, the YMCA operates a number of municipal recreation complexes. The typical approach to these arrangements is municipal provision of facilities, which are programmed and operated as a YMCA. In instances where the complex includes arenas, these facilities are typically not included in the agreement and the municipality continues their operation. This 'split' is referred to as the 'hot side' and the 'cold side' of the facility, with the YMCA taking responsibility only for the former component.

There are advantages and disadvantages to this approach, and the success of individual partnerships will depend on local circumstances and expectations. The key advantage to the municipality is the opportunity to indirectly provide a range of high-quality services and staff to its residents. However, the different operating models of the YMCA and municipalities are not necessarily compatible. The YMCA is a not-for-profit agency that must cover its costs. Fees for services, therefore, are typically higher than comparable municipal tax-supported services. The YMCA also operates on a membership model with fees set according to its financial obligations. As such, there is limited ability to participate in 'a la carte' programming of the type offered by municipal recreation departments. In some communities, residents question the rationale for municipal investment in infrastructure

that is operated by an outside agency whose services are less financially accessible to the taxpayers providing the facilities. While many YMCA-municipal partnerships are successful, the experience of the Towns of Fort Erie and Georgina indicate these arrangements are not necessarily optimal in all situations.

The E.J. Freeland YMCA in Fort Erie closed in early 2020 and the building and property were transferred back to the Town (along with designated equipment) for the price of \$1.00. The facility, which opened in 1990, includes a gym and fitness centre, a cycle studio and indoor track, a three-lane pool with a slide, and squash and racquetball courts. The YMCA indicated the facility had generated more than \$3m in operating expense losses over the last decade and that the building needs \$6m worth of repairs, \$2.3m of which would need to be done within the next three years. Members were able to directly transfer to other YMCAs in Niagara with the lower fees at the Fort Erie location being honoured until the end of 2020. The Town has entered an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club to offer programs at the Freeland location.<sup>9</sup> In the interests of continuing to offer indoor recreation services to residents and use this municipal infrastructure, the Town assumed the liabilities associated with the property. At the same time, media reports provided no reason for the noted backlog in required capital investment in the complex.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9778888-transfer-of-fort-erie-ymca-to-town-a-done-deal/>

In 2019, the Town of Georgina opted to forego a partnership by which the YMCA would operate its \$42m multi-use recreation complex (MURC), which is in the early stages of development. The MURC will feature a 6-lane lap and leisure pool, a small therapeutic pool, full gymnasium, meeting and multi-purpose rooms, and a Discovery Library branch. Partnership options proposed by the YMCA were:

- The YMCA would own the land and the facility. The Town would pay for two-thirds of construction costs and the YMCA would pay operating costs, except for programming that did not fall under its membership model, such as the library, and seniors and youth areas.
- The YMCA would operate a Town built and owned facility, and the Town would be responsible for any operating deficit.

The Town was concerned about the projected need for 7,500 to 9,000 members to generate the YMCA's need for \$3.5m in annual revenue to make its operations viable and sustainable. It was suggested that these numbers would not be attainable and there would be need for subsidies to offset potentially considerable losses. As a Town owned and operated facility, an estimated \$1m annual net deficit was projected, with the understanding that while efforts would be made to reduce that amount, municipal recreation facilities typically operate at a loss. Attempting to operate a break-even

facility would put the cost of services out of reach for many residents.<sup>10</sup>

These two cases point to the need to carefully consider the potential short and long-term implications of operating agreements on a case-by-case basis. It is interesting to note that the Town of Orangeville's current and build-out population falls between those of Fort Erie and Georgina - at 30,700 and 45,700,<sup>11</sup> respectively. While many factors enter into the feasibility of these types of arrangements in service delivery, this immediately suggests that there is a minimum population threshold required to anticipate a successful municipal-YMCA operating agreement, and that populations in this range are likely insufficient. Another consideration in Orangeville in any agreement with a non-municipal operator would be the need to guarantee the Otters Swim Club access to aquatic facilities for their training program.

### Arts and Culture Facilities

The potential for, and configuration of, partnerships in providing a cultural centre in Orangeville would be part of a detailed study and business plan to determine feasibility.

The Weston Common<sup>12</sup> project in Toronto is one example of current trends in operating

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9359902-georgina-passes-on-ymca-partnership-for-murc/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.forteriecanada.com/development/demographicsandstats.shtml>; <http://population.city/canada/georgina/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.blogto.com/arts/2019/06/artscape-weston-common-toronto/>

agreements for community arts and culture facilities. Artscape is a not-for-profit developer/manager/operator of community space, with a portfolio of 12 cultural facilities in Toronto - including community cultural hubs, multi-purpose creative spaces, artist live/work studio spaces, and 42 performance, exhibition and event spaces. Each of its projects comprises various components and partners.

Opening in spring 2019, Artscape Weston Common is its newest community cultural hub, located in Toronto's Weston-Mount Dennis community. It is the first Artscape project outside the downtown core and is a collaborative venture with the Weston-Mount Dennis community, the City of Toronto and the Rockport Group (residential and commercial property developer). While privately owned, Artscape operates the hub with partners UrbanArts and Shakespeare in Action - tenants that provide community programming and events.

The facility is a redeveloped supermarket that was left unfinished for 40 years. It includes 8,200 square feet of indoor, and 12,400 of outdoor, programming space. A number of amenities are free for use by community members including a bookable boardroom, a Flex Studio, a green room, a catering kitchen, and a performance hall that can be booked for events and shows. A corridor gallery through the building provides exhibit space for emerging artists. As part of the project, Weston Common provides homes for 26 artists and artist-led families, who live and work in affordable units adjacent to the hub, made

possible through a partnership with the City of Toronto.

This type of partnership-based approach to providing a cultural hub in Orangeville would have implications for its design, development and programming. As such, it would need to be anticipated as part of the feasibility study/business plan and negotiated at the development stage.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partnerships are defined as working collaborations in which each party commits resources and assumes some risk in a proposed venture. As such, partnerships should be supported by formal agreements that identify each party's position in relation to resource commitments and risks.</li> <li>- Existing agreements should be reviewed and updated, and new agreements developed, to support Master Plan recommendations in service development and delivery.</li> <li>- The potential for new agreements in terms of type, complexity and partners will depend on the service development options chosen by the Town.</li> <li>- Facility operating agreements with non-municipal agencies present both advantages and disadvantages, and their suitability depends on a variety of locally specific factors and should be investigated as part of facility feasibility/business plans for future facility development.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An agreement with the OHMBA for advertising rights at Springbrook Park should be put in place, with the understanding that the Association will assist the Town with financing required capital improvements to the facilities they use for their programs at this location.</li> <li>- Existing agreements with Le Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, and the Orangeville Tennis Club, should be reviewed and updated as part of facility expansion or improvement plans to ensure municipal capital investment will benefit the Town's community recreation objectives.</li> <li>- Agreements for the provision of pickleball courts as part of a tennis court expansion will depend on the existence of an organized pickleball group, and the relationship between this group and the tennis club in any shared facility use at the site. An agreement with a pickleball group should be modeled on that recommended for the Tennis Club.</li> <li>- If the Tony Rose site, Murray's Mountain Park, ODSS, and Princess Elizabeth Public School are jointly developed as a community lacrosse hub, the Town and the UGDSS should proceed on the basis of a joint development and use agreement.</li> </ul>

Figure 6-5: Partnerships and agreements summary and recommendations

## 6.5 Updating Policies and Agreements

### Updating Tasks

The procedure for updating existing, and developing new, policies and agreements should be consistent. All documents should:

- be dated, numbered and, reference other relevant documents; forms, as appropriate, should be appended and contain consistent information on the same topics
  - have fixed terms identified, document procedures for review and renewal at the end of the terms, and how it applies in the interim if the review date should be missed; for agreements, negotiating and conflict resolution procedures are needed
  - detail accountability requirements / procedures of the agreement holder to the municipality
  - include cross-references to other, related policies and forms, etc.
- their cycles for review and renewal are sequential (e.g., several each year, on a rotating basis)
  - related policies and/or agreements are reviewed simultaneously (e.g., review management agreements and related private rental documents together)

All policies and agreements should be reviewed and updated, as required, on a regular basis. Five-year terms are considered appropriate for management/operations and use agreements. Major agreements would be legal documents and so include all relevant clauses. Policies may have longer cycles. Ideally, policies and agreements should be grouped such that:

Grouping and rotating will help ensure that work involved in reviewing and updating, etc. is more evenly distributed over time by limiting the number of documents to be addressed in any given year. Reviewing and updating all related documentation together will help ensure cross-consistency in content.

Policy development should also occur in open consultation with residents and organized users to promote understanding on the need for policy, to incorporate community values in the resulting directions, and to generate support for implementation.

Section 6.6 below discusses the possibility of a regional approach to facility planning and provision. The Master Plan cannot anticipate the implications this might have on the Town's current policies and practices. In addition to developing policies specifically related to any regional undertakings, there might be a need to review Town-specific policies and practices to align them with those governing a regional partnership. For example, should the participating municipalities decide to coordinate fees structures, all local practices would need to be reviewed and revised - as appropriate - to conform to the regional policy.

Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Develop a coordinated cyclical and rotating process for reviewing and updating policies and agreements.</li><li>– Ensure all documentation is dated, terms are identified, and related policies and agreements are cross-referenced.</li><li>– Develop policy in consultation with the community.</li><li>– Regional service initiatives may require reviewing Town-specific policies and practices to align them with new policies governing a regional partnership.</li></ul>
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Figure 6-6: Updating policies and agreements recommendations

## 6.6 Regional Collaboration in Service Planning and Provision

As discussed elsewhere in the Master Plan, the Town of Orangeville now serves a regional market with many of its parks and recreation services. Moreover, as the population in Dufferin County increases in upcoming years, the Town's role as a regional serving centre will also grow. Notwithstanding the need to consider Town-specific needs for parks and recreation services, this discussion focuses on regional collaboration in service planning and provision where it is appropriate to do so. It considers facilities and programs separately, and looks at collaborative opportunities and approaches, and the Town's role in a regional partnership.

### Facilities

#### Opportunities for Collaboration in Facility Provision

The Town of Mono 2018 Parkland Needs Study refers to Orangeville as a key provider of recreation services to its residents. The Town of Erin's 2019 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan noted Orangeville first among several communities to which 53% (187 survey respondents) of residents travel to use aquatic facilities (p. 57). The Parks Plan contains the following recommendation: "Through discussions with neighbouring municipal pool providers, explore opportunities to better facilitate access for Erin residents to utilize nearby indoor aquatic facilities. This could be

done through a variety of means, including negotiating a 'preferred' rate for Erin residents, provision of transportation services to facilities, among others" (p. 58).

This Master Plan looks to better align facility provision with the Town's capacity to both provide existing services and diversify recreation opportunities for its residents while being fiscally accountable. Although current facility-use levels include non-residents, the capacity for the Town to continue accommodating use related to regional population growth will be increasingly limited. Upon consolidation of all pool use at Alder Street Recreation Centre, for example, aquatic facilities in Orangeville will be close to capacity and local population growth will also need to be accommodated. At some point, therefore, it may be necessary to defer non-resident use until residents have ample time to register for aquatic programs. Worst case, there would be no space for non-residents in programs after resident registration.

Realistically, however, individual municipalities in the regional market around Orangeville will not be in a position to develop the major recreation facilities that will be needed. This presents an opportunity to take a regionally collaborative approach to service provision. Municipalities in the region are already familiar with collaborative facility provision and use. As noted elsewhere in the Plan, both Amaranth and East Garafraxa formally contribute to the Grand Valley Community Centre, and Amaranth contributes to Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne. In return, their residents are provided with access to

services that is comparable to those who live in the municipalities.

The facilities discussion estimated a total regional market population of about 86,500 by the end of the Master Plan's term, of which 50,000 will live in municipalities surrounding Orangeville. This figure was based on totaling the 2031 populations of municipalities located north and west of Orangeville within roughly a 30-minute drive of Town (see Figure 2-1 in section 2). Further, by about 2031, Orangeville will have achieved its projected build-out population of 36,490. Additional demand for services past 2030, therefore, will be largely generated by growth in the surrounding area. Available information from other local plans and municipal websites suggests that, viewed individually, limited demand is anticipated for new facilities in surrounding communities. Cursory estimates in this Plan, however, indicate demand for additional recreation facilities if future population growth is viewed collectively. While confirming actual demand for facilities will require considerably more work over time, it is anticipated that population growth alone will generate some level of need. Any collaborative initiatives would need to be supported by formal joint development and/or use agreements, depending the cost sharing method selected.

The publication "Options for Enhancing Regional Recreation" (February 2020, RC Strategies + PERC) notes, "The Province of Alberta introduced new legislation in 2016 to the Modernized Municipal Government Act which included Inter-municipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF). These frameworks are legislatively required to be in place for all municipalities that share a common boundary by March 31, 2020" (p.8). While a different context than Ontario, it provides relevant information on regional service provision in the Calgary Alberta area, and a review of other regional governance structures including those in Ontario and B.C. At the time of preparing the Master Plan, this publication was available at the following link:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb3220bf77e9b62db665c54/t/5ed6fb1d9ef9011534c7aa/1591147300045/2020-02-26%2BFNL%2BApproved\\_RecTAG%2BReport.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb3220bf77e9b62db665c54/t/5ed6fb1d9ef9011534c7aa/1591147300045/2020-02-26%2BFNL%2BApproved_RecTAG%2BReport.pdf)

## Approach to Collaborative Facility Planning

### Facility Hierarchy

At a high level, it will be necessary to determine the types of facilities that should be deemed regional-serving and those that should be designated local-serving. Those in the former category would comprise major facilities such as indoor or outdoor sports/recreation complexes and, consequently their numbers would be limited to that required to serve the population of the entire regional market. Local-serving facilities would be duplicated within each municipality, largely to serve its own population.

For some facilities, distinguishing between regional and local is relatively simple. Based on the potential to support from a use perspective, and to finance from both capital and operational perspectives, it is reasonable to assign facilities such as indoor aquatic centres to the regional category. Conversely, as individual facilities, ball diamonds and soccer fields for community play can reasonably be categorized as local.

Where the distinction becomes less clear, however, is in situations where facilities could 'straddle the line' between regional and local serving. This could occur, for example, in instances where the choice between natural turf or artificial turf fields is an option, or where co-locating a number of fields in a sports complex rather than in dispersed locations is a possibility. To some extent, however, the hierarchy can be developed as part of the planning process. If, for example, two

municipalities in the region have established or anticipate the need for an arena, twinning two existing facilities or building a separate twin-pad arena emerge as options to consider in the early stages of collaboration. At the same time, this requires coordination in determining the long-term need for facilities. This is particularly relevant for facilities like playing fields, to be able to consider joint complexes.

Assuming the number of needed facilities by type is established, examples of indicators that can be used to allocate facilities to a regional or local category in planning for their provision include:

- possible facility configuration(s)
- population base needed to support
- municipal capacity to provide the facility alone
- availability of municipal land
- land acquisition costs
- capital costs to build
- annual operating costs
- annual operating deficit
- efficiencies to be realized in joint provision
- contributions to costs of potential partners

As noted above, some facilities will clearly fall into one or the other category on the basis of indicator findings. For others, the determination may be the resulting balance of indicators in both categories. Once a regional-local facility determination is made, other factors can be considered for those that are to be regional serving.

### Facility Distribution

If municipal boundaries are overlooked and the regional market is viewed as a whole, it may be reasonable to consider distributing facilities throughout the larger geographic area. As noted elsewhere in the Master Plan, inter-municipal travel in both directions to use facilities is expected to continue. Individual municipalities, therefore, will provide both their own residents, and those of other communities, with certain facilities. Facility distribution can reflect this factor and, by doing so, improve equity of access. It can also be used to better align local needs with facility provision. Consultation for the Master Plan, for example, did not reveal community interest in providing a cricket pitch in Orangeville. The Town of Shelburne, however, has initiated accommodation for cricket on its sports fields, indicating the potential to consider Shelburne the primary market for these facilities. Consequently, it could be the location for any future development of cricket fields for the region.

### Facility Location

Again, if municipal boundaries are not considered, the location of facilities within the regional market to optimize access might favour sites in municipalities other than Orangeville. Moreover, given the Town's land constraints, providing a large regional serving facility may preclude an Orangeville location.

### Town of Orangeville's Role in a Collaborative Model

As the existing primary provider of regional services, with a formal recreation division, it is reasonable for the Town to take the lead in developing a collaborative approach to facility planning and provision. Approaching other area municipalities to gauge their interest in regional initiatives is the first step. While ad hoc discussions of this nature are occurring now, the Town should extend a formal 'invite' to all area municipalities to begin the process of creating, and committing to, a standing collaborative model for facility provision. Outreach to potential municipal partners and facilitating the process of 'model-building' would require an internal strategy and dedicated staff time to ensure it happens. Moreover, an agreed upon approach will require ongoing staff resources to ensure it is implemented in a way that realizes its purpose.

One of the key reasons for considering a regional approach to facility provision is to leverage potential fiscal efficiencies by working together. For this reason, the decision to build and operate new facilities should be firmly based on actual need among all partner municipalities. This will require a single, coordinated approach to monitoring facility use and tracking unmet demand. Soccer fields are used to illustrate the need to differentiate between uses by type as well as age group, and the types of information that should be regularly collected. Designing the data collection process and tools would occur collaboratively, as would evaluating the outcomes of monitoring on facility

planning and development. Ongoing data collection would be a staff function, with each municipality assigning the task internally for input to a shared platform.

Annual input from organized facility users would supplement the 'hard' data and provide qualitative information that cannot be captured in the monitoring process (e.g. facility improvement/maintenance concerns, interests in scheduling changes, etc.). This process would also permit potential new user groups to initiate scheduled use. Staff would facilitate these sessions and integrate confirmed needs in facility use and provision planning. Working with facility users collectively would help streamline this process. Consultation with user groups for the Master Plan revealed interest in reinstating a sports council in Orangeville to act as the representative of all members in working with the Town. Whether a comparable region-wide body can be effective, or work with groups in other partner municipalities is best done separately, is something to consider. Too many groups could make the process unwieldy. Consulting with region-wide umbrella groups representing different facility users is a possible option to dealing with all groups simultaneously. Annual input from field users in all municipalities, for example, could occur collectively in the winter to plan for the upcoming spring/summer, while the planning session(s) for arena ice and floor users would occur in the summer.

The regional response to facility needs would be the subject of joint municipal planning activities based on relevant indicators (as suggested above), and approaches to cost

sharing. The basis for cost sharing would be part of the model's framework. While a single approach to cost sharing would be the simplest, the best arrangement might vary depending on the initiative. The selected formula would be documented in joint provision agreements. Examples of the basis for cost sharing might be: per capita contribution based on municipal population; percentage contribution based on proportion of total regional population; proportion of use by residents. Regardless of the method chosen, the relative shares of participating municipalities will likely change over time. Contributions based on share of population would likely be the easiest to set with periodic adjustments and would provide the most stability in terms of finance. The proportion shares might apply to all aspects of costs. If, for example, six municipalities were to share equally in providing a twin pad arena their shares of capital and operating costs, as well as hours of use for programming/group access, would be one-sixth each. Prime and non-prime time would be shared on the same basis. Sharing costs based on use levels would vary annually and would either need to be made after the operating year or, if before, have a mechanism for over/under payment adjustments. Fluctuating contributions are also unreliable in terms of budget planning. A process for addressing unforeseen budget priorities in individual partner municipalities that might detract from annual commitments to facility provision/operations would also be required.

Ideally, fees would be consistent across all similar facilities in each partner municipality and would be based on a common fee setting

formula. At the same time, this may be difficult to implement, particularly if facilities are not directly comparable. A key objective in a collective approach should be to eliminate surcharges for non-residents users of facilities in all partner municipalities - either as groups or individuals. The Town currently charges a 20% non-resident fee for all programs and facility/activity passes, and all facility rentals. Cost sharing at the municipal level would eliminate need to charge individual users or user groups a premium to use facilities in communities other than their own.

Policies and agreements to govern the partnership, as well as ongoing facility planning, use, and operating functions, would need to be prepared and adopted, including designated review cycles and conflict resolution procedures. In all of these activities, the Town is in the best position to take a leadership role and would need to commit staff resources to this work.

The potential benefits of reinstating a Town-based sports council are discussed in Section 6.7. Depending on the extent to which regional planning occurs, it may be desirable for all communities involved to create a regional sports council to replace local bodies. The Northumberland Sports Council (<http://www.northumberlandsportscouncil.ca>) is an example of a regional-serving organization. From a practical perspective, a regional council may better represent patterns of membership/participation and facility use, particularly if Orangeville-based groups increasingly draw from other area municipalities and use facilities outside the Town.

## Programs

### Opportunities for Collaboration in Program Provision

As mentioned previously, it is anticipated that population growth alone (in and around Orangeville) will generate a greater need for recreation services, including formal and informal programs. As the primary - and in certain cases only - program provider in the regional market, opportunities may exist for interested municipalities to leverage Orangeville's support in developing and delivering local services.

In addition to partnering with neighbouring municipalities and Dufferin County, there are other regional agencies, organizations, and commercial facilities that may be interested in collaborative programming with Orangeville. Potential partners include:

- Special Olympics Ontario: the Special Olympics Dufferin County Chapter currently uses Orangeville facilities
- The Teen Ranch in Caledon: Teen Ranch is a Christian not-for-profit that offers non-denominational programming (open to all faiths). Their facilities include a horse ranch, ice arena (home to Dufferin Peel Skating Club), trails, sports field, bunk houses and dining hall
- Orangeville Agricultural Centre: this facility in Mono is used for events, tradeshow, festivals etc.
- Athlete Institute: This facility is located in Mono and provides a field house with

NBA regulation nets, fitness training centre, domed artificial turf, bunk house and dining hall, outdoor basketball courts and soccer field.

- Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle (DCCRC): The DCCRC is an indigenous-led not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and revival of traditional Indigenous Culture in the Dufferin County area, through community building events, educational workshops and spiritual gathering

Program provision depends on available facilities, parks and amenities. Planning around program expansion, therefore, will necessarily involve the nature and capacity of these assets in each municipality. In some areas (e.g., indoor aquatics) area residents will likely continue to travel to Orangeville where facilities are available. In other program areas, however, regional residents - including those from Orangeville - could travel to other communities where the Town would provide (either directly or by facilitating other agencies/volunteer groups' efforts) services for local and regional residents.

## Approach to Collaborative Program Planning

Orangeville can collaborate with other municipalities to provide programs both in Orangeville, and in the respective municipalities. In the first case, participants travel to Orangeville to attend programs (and paying a non-resident surcharge to enroll). Demand for these programs by non-residents is captured through enrollment numbers, waitlists, and attendance.

For programs located in other municipalities, Orangeville can take on administration, staffing, training, and program delivery, but the programs take place in the respective municipalities. This would only work where necessary facilities exist and, as this would be a new service, data on demand for various types of programs would need to be collected, as described above in section 6.6.1. Day camp is an option that can be used as an example of how this arrangement might look:

- Orangeville and partnering municipalities would meet to establish camp locations, demand, capacity, and staffing needs
- registration would be centralized through Orangeville's camp registration system
- Orangeville, which is High 5 Certified, would be responsible for staff recruitment and training
- Orangeville would be responsible for all administrative and operational aspects of camp delivery

- partnering municipalities would provide for example, the facilities/space, maintenance of the facilities/space, and marketing/promotion of the camp

Planning for regional programs would include several general tasks that align with annual budget planning:

- Verifying community service needs/demands

- Determining which of these can be addressed
- Detailing the service response by area (parks, trails, facilities, programs, and/or delivery)
- Determining the service delivery method and organizations to share in provision
- Developing budgets to support the action(s)

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although current use levels of Orangeville facilities include non-residents, the capacity for the Town to continue accommodating use related to regional population growth will be increasingly limited.</li> <li>- At the same time, individual municipalities in the regional market will not be in a position to develop the major recreation facilities that will be needed. Where demand for regional serving facilities is confirmed, this presents an opportunity to take a collaborative approach to provision.</li> <li>- Similarly, program demand could be supported by a collaborative approach to provision, involving the Town, other area municipalities, and other service providers such as the County and not-for-profit/volunteer organizations.</li> <li>- As the primary recreation services provider in the area, it is reasonable for the Town of Orangeville to take the lead in extend a formal 'invite' to all area municipalities to begin the process of creating, and committing to, standing collaborative models for facility and program provision and facilitating their implementation over time.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an internal strategy with dedicated staff time for developing standing collaborative models for facility and program provision and implementing them on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>- Formally investigate the interest of municipalities in the regional market in creating, and committing to, a collaborative approach.</li> <li>- With interested municipalities, collectively design and implement a workable model and process for ongoing collaborative facility planning.</li> <li>- With interested municipalities, collectively design and implement a workable model and process for ongoing collaborative program provision, including ongoing data collection on participant needs and interests, and establishing guiding policies and agreements.</li> <li>- Consider establishing a single regional sports council to align with the regional model for facility provision.</li> <li>- Activate the models as part of operating procedures to establish facility and programming needs and, as required, to jointly develop and operate facilities and programs.</li> </ul>

Figure 6-7: Regional collaboration in service planning and provision summary and recommendations

## Town of Orangeville's Role in Collaborative Model

As with facilities, it is reasonable for the Town to take the lead in collaborative program planning and provision. Its role would include the following activities, to be assigned to Town staff:

- formally approaching area municipalities and other potential partners to gauge their interest in regional programming initiatives
- in consultation with partners, developing a model for ongoing program planning and delivery
- taking responsibility for overseeing the collection of and analyzing, data relevant to planning and evaluation
- developing (in consultation with partners) policies and agreements to govern partnerships

## 6.7 Human Resources

### Municipal Staff

There are a number of tasks recommended in the Master Plan that will generate additional work for staff. The following summarizes areas where assigning staff will need to occur to implement recommendations:

- Facility recommendations: The Master Plan contains a number of major facility recommendations that will require staff time to implement. Facility redevelopment at Alder Recreation Centre, followed by changes at Tony Rose, will comprise considerable work in planning, executing and managing the work of outside consultants and contractors, while continuing to operate programs through the transition. Feasibility studies/business plans are also recommended for major facility proposals, which will also require administration. Studies that are pursued collaboratively will require staff time to prepare and execute joint RFPs in consultation with participating municipalities.
- Park and trail expansion and maintenance: The parks section contains recommendations regarding expanding park features, and improved maintenance of sport fields and trails, which will require additional staff time.
- Service planning, monitoring and evaluation: This is an ongoing process that currently occurs but will require

review, optimization, and expansion if a regional approach to service planning is to be instituted. It will initially require confirmation of existing/addition of new tools to be used and the day-to-day tasks that will be involved in information collection and application. Once the specifics regarding tools and methods are in place, information collection and evaluation will be an ongoing process. Ideally, a dedicated ongoing research function on trends and promising practices will be part of this process to anticipate/consider needs for new interests/increasing diversity.

- Working with non-Town service providers: The Town currently works with volunteer sports groups to meet their facility needs via its allocation policy and day-to-day scheduling activities. It also engages other community partners to provide recreation programs to residents. This will become a larger task in view of efforts to grow Physical Activity (PA) and Non-sport/PA program areas, and to undertake regional collaboration in service provision. In developing more programs/services in the area of PA and non-sport/PA, the Town will be required to expand existing or establish new partnerships, recruit new instructors, etc. and facilitate access to indoor/outdoor space, equipment and other types of support. New services will also need to be integrated into service planning, monitoring and evaluation practices. As the lead in developing a

regional approach to service provision, the Town will be responsible for engaging with each of the 'partner' municipalities and its local program/activity providers to initiate and maintain a workable arrangement.

- Policies and agreements: This work will require time and effort in terms of review/updating existing and developing new policy - both internally and in consultation with external stakeholders. Agreements, and particularly those related to joint party collaborations, will require time to negotiate and finalize (including working with municipal legal and financial staff).

Over the long-term, the Town may determine additional staff is required to carry on these tasks (and may seek to share these costs with other municipalities in terms of any collaborative work). Initially, however, there may be opportunities to redeploy current staff to initiate this work, particularly if it is introduced in phases. Current programming areas that are/will continue to be significant revenue streams for the Town should be provided sufficient departmental staffing to support their growth. Programs/services in other areas should - at least in the short-term - be supported primarily through facilitation and partnerships. This work is part of the current responsibilities of staff in Community Services. The following section discusses a more formal role for the volunteer sector in program/service provision.

## Community Volunteers

### Sports

Town-based volunteer sports groups that participated in the consultation program for the Master Plan expressed interest in reinstating a sports council to facilitate communication between groups and the Town, and to provide collective representation at the municipal level.

While the specific functions of individual sports councils may vary, Brantford Sports Council's (<http://brantfordsportscouncil.ca>) mission, vision and goals are generally descriptive of their purpose.

**Mission:** The Brantford Sports Council is a collaboration of sport organizations that work cooperatively to provide a collective voice for the ongoing education and promotion of the benefits of sport in our community.

**Vision:** To advocate for local sports organizations and to improve the delivery of sports in our community.

**Goals:**

- Celebrate the sport achievements of local athletes, teams and the value of volunteers
- Develop partnerships throughout the community that contribute to the betterment of sport and recreation in Brantford.
- Advocate for equitable sport opportunities and facility development.

- Provide opportunities for integrated program development.
- Work towards communication and co-operation among individuals, organizations and sectors.
- Develop opportunities for networking, mentoring and leadership development in the sport and recreation community.
- Work towards maximizing resources, while eliminating duplication.
- Continue to work with Tourism and Parks & Recreation on sports related issues.
- Undertake an ongoing review relating to municipal venues in conjunction with our members.
- Advocate for Fair Play and Sportsmanship in all sports.

In addition to the work involved in furthering these types of goals, there are other functions identified in the Master Plan in which the Town and a sports council could collaborate to facilitate implementation. A key area would be working together to gather the data/information necessary for monitoring and evaluating facility use, with the intent of creating a seamless process for doing so annually. Ideally, the facility allocation process would also be simplified, and this would allow both the Town and sports council more time to address other issues/topics of interest.

In the user group survey, about 1/3 of those that responded reported need for municipal assistance, particularly with upgrading/improving advertising and promotion, and communicating with the Town. In the focus group with sports organizations, it was indicated that: on-line communications (e.g., Town website, Facebook) require improvements; an online platform to submit parks and facilities maintenance requests is needed.

In terms of financing the provision of new facilities, almost half the groups responding to the survey supported assisting the Town with fundraising for new facilities. Slightly smaller proportions disagreed with the other options of paying higher user fees and contributing to capital costs for new facilities. At the focus group, participants indicated their membership base would push back if fundraising efforts were increased, considering current fees to participate, the extent of fundraising they currently support, and high taxes in Orangeville. Some groups have contributed to, or are willing to contribute to, the provision of facilities/amenities for their programs, with the Town taking the lead in project implementation. Participants noted that the availability of facilities to host competitions and tournaments (e.g., swim, soccer, lacrosse) would allow for significant revenue generation, all or some of which could be directed to recreation services. Accessing grants through groups and instituting other revenue generating practices such as skate and helmet rentals, expanded advertising sales, etc. were also suggested by the groups.

All of the issues/topics noted by user groups are areas for further investigation that could be jointly addressed by the Town and a sports council to arrive at plans on how to improve services while limiting additional expenditures by the groups and their memberships.

### Arts

The Town of Orangeville is a member of the Dufferin Arts Council, which takes a regional approach to supporting and promoting arts and culture. This structure is in keeping with the facilities discussion on the potential to develop a regional service cultural centre. At the same time, the Cultural Plan Task Force is responsible for local program/service development in the areas of arts, culture and heritage including: monitoring and regularly evaluating all plans and policies which are expected to have an impact on the cultural life of the community; monitoring the strategic directions in the Cultural Plan and advise Council on the progress of these objectives through an Annual Report. This work will continue to help build local community programming, as well as visitor-related events and festivals, in Orangeville. The direction the Town takes in potentially developing a cultural centre will determine the scope of involvement of local versus regional bodies.

Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In addition to ensuring sufficient staff resources to support continued growth in existing areas of programming, the Master Plan’s recommendations will require the Town to commit staff to additional work in a number of areas to support Town-based recommendations as well as regional planning initiatives.</li> <li>– In the long-term, the Town may determine additional staff is required to carry on these tasks (and may seek to share these costs with other municipalities in terms of any collaborative work).</li> <li>– In the short-term, there may be opportunities to redeploy current staff to initiate this work, particularly if it is introduced in phases and it is supported primarily through facilitation and partnerships. This work is part of the current responsibilities of staff in Community Services.</li> <li>– Town-based volunteer sports groups that participated in the consultation program for the Master Plan expressed interest in reinstating a sports council, which would provide an opportunity to more formally engage providers in assisting the Town with service provision.</li> <li>– Program and service development of arts, culture and heritage are supported by the Dufferin Arts Council and the Town’s Cultural Plan Task Force. The scope of local or regional involvement in future cultural facilities will depend on the option chosen at the outset of the study process.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Recognizing the need to continue growing existing programs/services, formulate work plan to implement Master Plan recommendations, and assign tasks to staff according to their sequencing.</li> <li>– Reinstigate Town-based Sports Council as a collaborative municipal-community working group.</li> <li>– As appropriate, the Town’s Culture Plan Task Force should work with Dufferin Arts Council in planning/developing a cultural centre.</li> </ul>

Figure 6-8: Regional collaboration in service planning and provision summary and recommendations

# Implementation

7.0

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## 7.0 Implementation

### 7.1 Introduction

The implementation strategy for the Recreation and Parks Master Plan organizes the plan's 142 recommendations into the following six groups:

- Community Programs (24)
- Parks (36)
- Recreation Hubs (15)
- Events and Tourism (12)
- Collaboration (24)
- Administration (31)

A complete list for all 142 recommendations is provided in Figure 7.5 at the end of this section. For a more complete explanation of each recommendation, please refer to the corresponding analyses in the preceding sections.

Of these 142 recommendations, 83 of these can be considered Operations/Administration

/Strategy based. These recommendations can for the most part be undertaken by staff by using existing resources. In some cases, however, the Town may choose to hire outside specialists (e.g., complex policy development) to support internal work. These initiatives can start in the short term and be implemented throughout the duration of the plan. These recommendations are in Table 7-1.

Of the remaining 59 recommendations, these are organized into 16 projects (Table 7-2):

11. Accessibility/AODA improvements
12. Parks Maintenance
13. Alder Street and Tony Rose Recreation Centre
14. New Off-Leash Dog Parks
15. Park Programming
16. Ball Field Supply Improvements
17. Playing Field Supply Improvements

18. Rotary / Idyllwilde Park Improvements
19. Downtown Festival Precinct
20. Rebecca Hills Park Improvements
21. Myr Morrow Park Improvements
22. Lions Park Improvements
23. Stormwater Management Ponds as  
Parks
24. Naturalization
25. Edible Gardens/Fruit Trees
26. Cultural Facilities

Each of these projects have either planning/ design costs, capital costs or both associated with them. An estimated budget value has been applied to each task. This information is provided in Table 7-3.

## Community Programs (24)

- 1 CP1 Monitor enrollment and wait lists to identify increases in demand for new/more 'parent and tot' programs.
- 2 CP2 Consider adding time slots for popular preschool classes.
- 3 CP3 Expand non-sport and sport preschool programs, with a particular emphasis on non-sport programs.
- 4 CP4 Aim to align preschool program timing with adult programs on the weekend and evenings after 6:00 pm.
- 5 CP5 Consult with teens (surveys, focus groups, creating a youth committee etc.) before developing teen-oriented programming and spaces.
- 6 CP6 Partner with school boards in consultation and engagement activities directed to teens.
- 7 CP7 Offer programs or volunteer opportunities to teens where they can build their resume or obtain high school volunteer hours.
- 8 CP8 Expand teen non-sport and sport programming at the introductory levels.
- 9 CP9 Evaluate options to incentivize lifeguarding/instructing positions.
- 10 CP10 Expand targeted aquatics recruitment efforts beyond students.
- 11 CP11 Expand children's programming at the introductory level in sports, physical games and activities, etc.
- 12 CP12 Look for opportunities to develop new, or move existing, programs to outdoor locations for all ages.
- 13 CP13 Improve branding and advertisement of adult programs, and include encouraging and inclusive messaging.
- 14 CP14 When implementing a new adult program, pilot it as a registered program as opposed to drop-in to assist in evaluating success.
- 15 CP15 Expand both sport and non-sport weekend programming for adults.
- 16 CP16 Attempt to align children's programming times with adult programs to facilitate participation of adults with children.
- 17 CP17 Expand non-sport programming for adults.
- 18 CP18 Pilot new adult programs using short-duration workshop-style lessons.

Table 7-1: Summary list of all 83 Operations/ Administration / Strategy Recommendations

Community Programs (24)

- 19 CP19 The Town should partner with the Seniors Centre to support seniors programming, using available space in Town facilities and administered and organized by the Seniors Centre.
- 20 CP20 Continue to provide aquafit classes and facilitate participation by making necessary changes to program schedules/facilities to improve age-friendliness.
- 21 CP21 Ensure that “family/all-ages” events and programs are accessible and inclusive of seniors.
- 22 CP22 Expand sport and non-sport programming for families/all-ages.
- 23 CP23 Train staff and/or hire specialists to develop and implement programs that are suitable for different ages and different abilities to maximize the success of family/all-ages programs.
- 24 CP24 Pilot new non-sport programming (particularly for adults, seniors, and family/all-ages) using a short duration model.

Parks (9)

- 25 P1 Meet minimum AODA accessibility standards for all new Town parks and major park renovations.
- 26 P5 Protect mature trees when possible when upgrading and maintaining existing parks.
- 27 P6 Continue to work towards Municipal Tree Canopy target of 40%.
- 28 P8 Support the planting of fruit and nut trees on municipal land by community groups.
- 29 P9 Investigate the suitability of developing community gardens at Alder and Tony Rose to facilitate food-related programs.
- 30 P10 Work with Sustainable Orangeville, the Orangeville Food Bank, and Dufferin County to expand community gardens in Orangeville.
- 31 P11 Work with programming staff to assess the suitability of parks for hosting outdoor programs.
- 32 P33 Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for field time to add a second artificial turf field.
- 33 P36 Monitor use and track unmet demand for court time on both tennis and pickleball courts, for possible additions to supply post-2030.

Table 7-1: Summary list of all 83 Operations/ Administration / Strategy Recommendations *continued*

### Recreation Hubs (1)

- |    |     |   |
|----|-----|---|
| 34 | R1  | Community recreation hubs should be the basis for facility distribution in the Town, and co-locate indoor and outdoor facilities in primary and secondary hubs. |
| 35 | R9  | Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for pool time.   |
| 36 | R10 | Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for ice and floor time at all pads.  |

### Events and Tourism (5)

- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 37 | E1 | Continue to work with the Dufferin County, and neighbouring municipalities to strategize, plan, and offer visitor-directed events.  |
| 38 | E2 | The Town should take the lead in determining, along with the Dufferin County, Orangeville's tourism objectives with relevant public agencies, local volunteer groups, interested commercial operators, etc.                       |
| 39 | E3 | Work with the Town's Economic Development and Culture Division and support efforts to create a variety of visitor packages.   |
| 40 | E4 | Work with the Town's Economic Development and Culture Division to improve/expand marketing of existing Town events.   |
| 41 | E5 | The Town should only provide facilities for elite sports if supported by economic development policy related to sport tourism and confirmation of a market for facilities that will be supported primarily by competitive events. |

### Collaboration (18)

- |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 42 | C1 | Continue to actively seek out partnership opportunities with community businesses, organizations, and agencies interested in contributing to recreation programming.   |
| 43 | C2 | The Town should take the lead in pursuing, formalizing, and managing programming partnerships.   |
| 44 | C3 | Expand program evaluation and development practices to include focus groups with target populations (e.g. newcomers, low-income residents, at-risk residents, girls and women, teens, people with special needs etc.). |
| 45 | C4 | Actively pursue partnership opportunities with community organizations and businesses to develop and implement non-sport programming.  |
| 46 | C5 | Consider the potential to establish agreements with relevant school boards for access to indoor amenities to support programs at adjacent park sites.  |
| 47 | C6 | Approach sports groups and relevant school boards to develop partnerships for joint maintenance of selected fields and diamonds.   |

Table 7-1: Summary list of all 83 Operations/ Administration / Strategy Recommendations *continued*

Collaboration (18)

- 48 C7 Collaborate with community groups and service clubs that wish to make contributions to park improvements, and take the lead in these initiatives.
- 49 C8 Approach the Orangeville Food Bank, Dufferin County and interested community groups to partner in expanding community gardens, edible gardens, fruit/nut tree cultivation, naturalization and tree planting initiatives.
- 50 C11 Reinstitute Town-based Sports Council as a collaborative municipal-community working group.
- 51 C12 The Town of Orangeville should initiate discussions with all municipalities in the regional market to develop a collaborative approach to joint facility planning and provision, where appropriate and feasible.
- 52 C13 The Town should consider approaching other municipalities in the regional market to jointly prepare a feasibility study for developing a regional-serving arts and cultural centre.
- 53 C14 The Town of Orangeville should initiate discussions with all municipalities in the regional market to identify interest in indoor and outdoor joint community hub options and in commissioning detailed feasibility studies for these.
- 54 C15 The 2015 Parks Master Plan recommendations with respect to securing a joint venture and preparing a business case should be the basis of the Town’s decision to consider participating in a regional-serving field complex.
- 55 C16 Formally investigate the interest of municipalities in the regional market in creating, and committing to, a collaborative approach.
- 56 C17 With interested municipalities, collectively design and implement a workable model and process for ongoing collaborative facility planning.
- 57 C18 With interested municipalities, collectively design and implement a workable model and process for ongoing collaborative program provision, including ongoing data collection on participant needs and interests, and establishing guiding policies and agreements
- 58 C19 Consider establishing a single regional sports council to align with the regional model for facility provision.
- 59 C20 Activate the models as part of operating procedures to establish facility and programming needs and, as required, to jointly develop and operate facilities and programs.

Table 7-1: Summary list of all 83 Operations/ Administration / Strategy Recommendations *continued*

## Administration (23)

- |    |     |   |
|----|-----|---|
| 60 | A2  | Consider new methods, including social media, for receiving park maintenance comments and complaints that will capture more detailed information, and relay the information more quickly to maintenance staff.  |
| 61 | A3  | Work with community partners as well as other Town Departments to identify and mitigate barriers to affordability.  |
| 62 | A4  | Invest in specialized inclusivity training for staff.   |
| 63 | A5  | Work with marketing to develop inclusive marketing materials and signage for programs and recreation facilities.  |
| 64 | A6  | Recognizing the need to continue growing existing programs/services, formulate work plan to implement Master Plan recommendations, and assign tasks to staff according to their sequencing.   |
| 65 | A7  | Develop a formal park volunteer program for individuals and community groups.   |
| 66 | A8  | Update the Parkland Dedication By-law or replace with a new policy for the collection of Community Benefits, and include stipulations for the inclusion/exclusion of stormwater management ponds in parks in the calculations of community benefits.                        |
| 67 | A9  | Update the Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program to accommodate a broader range of projects, including projects related to sports fields, projects on non-municipal land that are for public use and enjoyment, and projects that include ongoing partnerships. |
| 69 | A10 | Update the Commemorations Policy to add further details on types of acceptable amenities, and approval criteria.  |
| 70 | A11 | Update the Land Sale and Purchase Policy to include considerations for protecting land required for community services, parks, and recreation.  |
| 71 | A13 | Develop a general Park By-law outlining acceptable and prohibited activities in parks.  |
| 72 | A14 | Develop a Community Financial Support Policy to receive donations for park amenities.   |
| 73 | A16 | Develop an overarching policy that defines the meaning of community parks and recreation and articulates the role of the Town in providing these services.  |
| 74 | A17 | Position this policy in relation to others related to providing competitive sports facilities and other relevant municipal departments (e.g., Economic Development and Culture).  |

Table 7-1: Summary list of all 83 Operations/ Administration / Strategy Recommendations *continued*

Administration (23)

- 75 A18 Review and update existing policies including Registered Minor Sport Groups Fee Reduction Policy; Facility and Venue Allocation Policy.
- 76 A19 Develop new policies for Events/Festivals; User Fees; Access to Recreation; Community Financial Support.
- 77 A20 Address additional policy needs as they emerge.
- 78 A26 Develop a coordinated cyclical and rotating process for reviewing and updating policies and agreements
- 79 A27 Ensure all documentation is dated, terms are identified, and related policies and agreements are cross-referenced.
- 80 A28 Develop policy in consultation with the community.
- 81 A29 Regional service initiatives may require reviewing Town-specific policies and practices to align them with new policies governing a regional partnership.
- 82 A30 Develop an internal strategy with dedicated staff time, for developing standing collaborative models for facility and program provision and implementing them on an ongoing basis.
- 83 A31 Lease agreements with organized not-for-profit clubs should be reviewed/renewed to ensure time is provided for non-members' casual use and that programming addresses municipal objectives.

Table 7-1: Summary list of all 83 Operations/ Administration / Strategy Recommendations *continued*

## 7.2 Cost/Budget

An important consideration in forecasting project implementation is understanding the other initiatives that will also need to be implemented within the same budget period. To help balance costs and ensure project implementation is reasonable from a financial perspective, the proposed forecast balances spending across the Plan's ten-year period. This includes the costs associated with project planning/design and management costs as well as capital/construction costs.

Ongoing (increased) maintenance costs are not factored into this budget. Table 7-2 lists the anticipated soft costs and capital construction costs, where applicable.

Prior to implementation of capital projects, further consultation should be undertaken to address specific issues associated with each project. It is anticipated that each capital project would go through a process of concept design (in consultation with the community), detailed design, contract documents, and tendering. The costs associated with this work are included in the budget numbers below (soft costs). The hard costs are high level estimates which are based on an understanding of the project's requirements at this time. Further consultation and refinement of a design concept will result in a more accurate construction estimate.

### Planning (Soft Costs)

These costs are based on a percentage of capital construction costs anywhere from 8% to 20% depending on the size and complexity of the project. This includes but is not limited to planning, consulting design fees, permits and approval fees, and internal costs for staff time and resources.

### Capital Construction Costs (Hard Costs)

These costs are an estimate only, based on the description/programming described earlier in the plan. Therefore, the numbers provided here should be used for preliminary planning and budgeting purposes only, and should be reviewed and refined once further investigative work is completed. Actual costs will be influenced by community-based decisions on the level of expenditure to be made. High, medium or low expenditures can result for the same project, depending on selections made in design, construction, furnishings, equipment, finishes, etc. For the purposes of the Plan, we have assumed a medium level of expenditure. It is also important to note that there may be some cost savings and efficiencies found by consolidating multiple smaller recommendations/projects into one larger initiative.

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
<b>1 Accessibility / AODA Improvements</b>				
P2	Develop a strategy and begin to implement improvements to existing parks to achieve AODA compliance by the end of the term of this Plan (2030).	\$50,000	\$800,000	\$850,000
Total Accessibility / AODA Improvements		\$50,000	\$800,000.	\$850,000
<b>2 Park Maintenance</b>				
A1	Hire at least one more full-time parks maintenance staff person to support implementation of parks and trails maintenance requirements identified in the Master Plan and other related plans and policies.			\$60,000
Total Park Maintenance				\$60,000
<b>3 Alder Street &amp; Tony Rose Recreation Centre</b>				
R2	The redevelopment of Alder Street Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Sports Centre should occur in phases to minimize disruption to service provision as changes are implemented			
R3	Add the two new pads to Alder Street Recreation Centre and keep the existing four pads operating until use at Tony Rose can be relocated and redistributed to the Alder Street pads. When designing the new arena at Alder Street consult with organized users at Tony Rose to optimize replacement facilities and amenities for both floor and ice uses.	\$3,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$22,000,000

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
R4	Expand the existing 6-lane lap pool at Alder Street Recreation Centre to an 8-lane facility. Remove the waterslide and reconfigure/expand this area to retain the existing leisure tank, and accommodate the therapy pool and aquatic play area. When designing the new aquatic facilities consult with organized users to optimize potential use of the new lane pool.	\$450,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,450,000
R5	Provide new library space on the ground floor of the proposed redeveloped Alder Recreation Centre, to comprise between 14,000 and 16,000 square feet including program space. The reconfiguration of Humber College space in terms of the type and design of spaces and their intended use(s) should coordinate and reflect the different programming objectives of the Town and the Library.	\$850,000	\$6,500,000	\$7,350,000
R6	Incorporate the provision of arts and culture program/activity space in the redevelopment of Alder Recreation Centre, coordinating the municipal and library 'sides' of design and development.			
R11	Assess feasibility of repurposing A Rink to indoor fieldhouse/gym. Upon complete transfer of use and full operation of Alder Street, redevelop the Tony Rose Centre. This will include removing the pool and B Rink, and the possible addition of arts programming space.	\$50,000		\$50,000
R7	Remove B Rink at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre.		\$250,000	\$250,000
R8	Remove the 6-lane pool from the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Complex.	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$115,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,365,000</b>	<b>\$28,850,000</b>	<b>\$33,215,000</b>

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
<b>4</b>	<b>New Off-Leash Dog Parks</b>			
P20	Undertake a comprehensive study and community consultation to determine the need for, and location of, a second off-leash dog park.	\$60,000		\$60,000
C10	Include the Orangeville and Area Dog Owners group in consultations on, and operations of, a new dog park.			
P21	Consider partnering with public and/or private land holders in industrial areas, who may have land available for an off-leash dog park.			
P22	Consider incorporating dog off leash areas in new park developments or revitalization of existing parks, including both fenced and time-limited off-leash areas.			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>		<b>\$60,000</b>

<b>5</b>	<b>Park Programming</b>			
P12	If it is determined to be necessary, improve and/or expand park amenities required to support outdoor programming.	\$75,000	\$500,000	\$575,000
P13	Consider introducing mobile play equipment at parks and other locations.	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$115,000
	<b>Total Park Programming</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$690,000</b>

<b>6</b>	<b>Ball Field Supply Improvements</b>			
A21	An agreement with the OHMBA for advertising rights at Springbrook Park should be put in place, with the understanding that the Association will assist the Town with financing required capital improvements to the facilities they use for their programs at this location.			
C23	Collaborate with OHMBA to confirm costs, and prepare an improvement program and shared financing agreement to implement needed upgrades.			
C24	Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for ball diamond time, and assess potential to add a third diamond to serve Town-generated demand as part of a partnership-based regional field complex.			

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
C25	A regional-serving field complex that provides fields in numbers beyond those required for community use - for soccer and/or lacrosse and whether natural or artificial turf - should only be considered in partnership with other area municipalities. (See Regional Recreation Planning Project #3)			
P30	Light large diamond at Springbrook Park, which is the home of the OHMBA and will provide the equivalent of one additional diamond. This initiative should be based on an agreement with the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde guaranteeing the Town continued access to this park through acquisition or a long-term lease covering the lifecycle of capital improvements.		\$750,000	\$750,000
P31	Consider need for batting cages at fields used by minor baseball to free up diamond time.			\$92,000
P32	Anticipate the need for the equivalent of three new unlit diamonds to be provided beyond lighting the Springbrook diamond.			
<b>Total Ball Field Supply improvements</b>			<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$842,000</b>

## 7 Playing Field Supply Improvements

A24	If the Tony Rose site, Murray's Mountain Park, ODSS, and Princess Elizabeth Public School are jointly developed as a community lacrosse hub, the Town and the UGDSS should proceed on the basis of a joint development and use agreement.			
R12	Prepare a business case to provide a seasonally or permanently covered artificial turf field in Orangeville to support both lacrosse and soccer, with an emphasis on the former to initiate Town-based lacrosse activity. Repurposing Tony Rose A rink should provide more indoor time for soccer.	\$25,000		\$25,000
R13	Develop an artificial turf lacrosse field as part of a Tony Rose recreation hub, either on the Sports Centre site or in Murray Mountain Park.	\$260,000	\$3,700,000	\$3,960,000

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
R14	Add a second artificial turf field (upon confirmation of demand) at the Tony Rose hub, which may require a formal agreement with the UGDSS			
<b>Total Playing Field Supply Improvements</b>		\$285,000	\$3,700,000	\$3,985,000

### 8 Rotary / Idyllwilde Park Improvements

A22	Existing agreements with Le Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, and the Orangeville Tennis Club, should be reviewed and updated as part of facility expansion or improvement plans to ensure municipal capital investment will benefit the Town’s community recreation objectives.			
A23	Agreements for the provision of pickleball courts as part of a tennis court expansion will depend on the existence of an organized pickleball group, and the relationship between this group and the tennis club in any shared facility use at the site. An agreement with a pickleball group should be modeled on that recommended for the Tennis Club.			
P25	Undertake a full design process including community consultation to assess feasibility of a skate trail throughout Rotary Park.	\$80,000		\$80,000
P24	Upgrade the washrooms, pavilion, and spectator seating to support tournament play at Rotary/Idyllwilde.	\$30,000	\$200,000	\$230,000
P26	Consider lining the existing single tennis court in Idyllwilde Park for pickleball and monitor use.	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
P27	Upon confirmation of demand for an additional diamond to accommodate adult slo-pitch, provide a new diamond. Consider locating it at Rotary Park.	\$65,000	\$900,000	\$965,000
P28	Consider lighting the diamond in Rotary Park to add the equivalent of a second diamond.		\$750,000	\$750,000
P29	Add two more tennis courts and eight pickleball courts (equivalent footprint to two tennis courts) at Rotary Park.	\$75,000	\$600,000	\$675,000
P34	Institute tennis court monitoring at Rotary Park to establish demand for additional courts.			

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
P35	Assess the condition of the courts at Rotary Park to determine and implement needed upgrades and opportunities to integrate shade and seating on the site. This work should be done in such a way as to anticipate the possible court expansion, if implemented as a separate project.	\$15,000		\$15,000
<b>Total Rotary / Idyllwilde Park Improvements</b>		<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>\$2,470,000</b>	<b>\$2,740,000</b>

## 10 Downtown Festival Precinct

P17	Create a new Cenotaph Park on First Avenue, with the cenotaph, Veterans' Memorial, and other artifacts and interpretive features transferred from Alexandra Park.	\$150,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,150,000
P18	Undertake a design process and develop the downtown streetscape, public realm and Broadway median enhancements.	\$240,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,240,000
E6	Develop a plan to transform Alexandra Park into a civic space for hosting gatherings and special events, as part of the Downtown Event Precinct.	\$150,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,150,000
E7	Create a Multi-purpose Event Space on the north half of the municipal parking lot on Broadway, across from Town Hall. The space should have specialty paving that integrates it with the greater precinct plan, and suitable lighting and power connections to host a variety of events. When not hosting events, the space can be used for parking.	\$75,000	\$500,000	\$575,000
E8	Develop the south half of the Multi-purpose Event Space site as a mixed-use building with underground parking.			

<b>Total Downtown Festival Precinct</b>		<b>\$615,000</b>	<b>\$5,500,000</b>	<b>\$6,115,000</b>
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Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
<b>11 Rebecca Hills Park Improvements</b>				
P14	In consultation with neighbourhood residents, redesign and upgrade Rebecca Hills Park.	\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
Total Rebecca Hills Park Improvements		\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
<b>12 Myr Morrow Park Improvements</b>				
P15	In consultation with neighbourhood residents, and Orangeville Hawks Basketball, upgrade the basketball court and associated amenities at Myr Morrow Park.	\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
Total Myr Morrow Park Improvements		\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
<b>13 Lions park Improvements</b>				
P16	Undertake a full design process, including community consultation, to assess the suitability of adding new features to Lions Park.	\$75,000	\$500,000	\$575,000
Total Lions Park Improvements		\$75,000	\$500,000	\$575,000
<b>14 Stormwater Management Ponds as Parks</b>				
A12	Consider developing a policy and associated design guidelines for integrating stormwater management ponds with parks and trails.			
P19	Explore the possibility of developing one of the stormwater management ponds in the Spencer Ave. and Sandringham Circle area as a park with playground and other suitable amenities.	\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
Total Stormwater Management Ponds as Parks		\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
<b>15 Naturalization</b>				
C22	Approach the CVC, Dufferin County and community groups to partner in naturalization and tree planting initiatives.			
P3	Implement naturalization grooming practices in parks and open space areas.	\$45,000	\$300,000	\$345,000
P4	Select and implement new sites for naturalization. Site selection and design should be done in consultation with parks maintenance staff and the community.	\$75,000	\$500,000	\$575,000
P23	Plan for a naturalized park in the Humberlands that extends from Hansen Boulevard and County Road 16 in the south, to Ridgewoods Park in the North, with a connection to Kin Family Park/Credit Meadows Elementary School to the east. The park should include a buffer on both sides of the ravine, trails, benches, signage and a playground at minimum.	\$45,000	\$300,000	\$345,000
<b>Total Naturalization</b>		<b>\$165,000</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$1,265,000</b>

## 16 Edible Gardens/Fruit Trees

A15	Develop a Fruit/nut Tree Policy and Agreement to direct and support such projects by community groups.			
C9	Put a call out to businesses, institutions, and non-profits in Orangeville interested in partnering in/contributing to community gardens, edible gardens, and fruit/nut trees.			
P7	Pilot edible gardens by replacing already existing Town-owned and maintained annual ornamental gardens with vegetable gardens.	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$115,000

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
R15	Implement a Town-provided and operated edible garden pilot project and/or additional community garden plots on the southern portion of the Tony Rose site along McCarthy Street.	\$20,000	\$150,000	\$170,000
<b>Total Edible Gardens/ Fruit Trees</b>		<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$285,000</b>

**17 Cultural Facilities**

E9	Provide a simple black box theatre in one of two potential locations: a component of the Alder Recreation Centre development, or as part of the Tony Rose Sports Centre redevelopment.	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$115,000
E10	Prepare a feasibility study and business plan for a dedicated arts and culture facility. The scope of the study should be based on a determination of the potential to collaborate with other municipalities in its provision.	\$60,000		\$60,000
E11	As appropriate, the Town’s Culture Plan Task Force should work with Dufferin Arts Council in planning/developing a cultural centre.			
<b>Total Cultural Facilities</b>		<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

Table 7-2: Project Costs by Recommendation *continued*

## Summary Cost by Project

#	Project Description	Planning	Capital	Total
1	Accessibility / AODA improvements	\$50,000	\$800,000	\$850,000
2	Parks Maintenance			\$600,000
3	Alder Street and Tony Rose Recreation Centre	\$4,365,000	\$28,850,000	\$33,215,000
4	New Off-Leash Dog Parks	\$60,000		\$60,000
5	Park Programming	\$90,000	\$600,000	\$690,000
6	Ball Field Supply Improvements		\$750,000	\$842,000
7	Playing Field Supply Improvements	\$285,000	\$3,700,000	\$3,985,000
8	Rotary / Idyllwilde Park Improvements	\$270,000	\$2,470,000	\$2,740,000
9	Downtown Festival Precinct	\$615,000	\$5,500,000	\$6,115,000
10	Rebecca Hills Park Improvements	\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
11	Myr Morrow Park Improvements	\$37,500	\$250,000	\$287,500
12	Lions Park Improvements	\$75,000	\$500,000	\$575,000

Table 7-3: Summary Cost by Project

## 7.3 Implementation Sequence

The implementation sequence is based on the information available at the time of plan development with consideration of the following:

- Project dependencies and efficiencies
- Advancement of projects
- Budget considerations
- Project Forecast

### Project Dependencies and Efficiencies

While recommendations are described as individual initiatives, many are interrelated and need to be considered in context. Some recommendations must be initiated and completed before other recommendations, while others may benefit from being undertaken simultaneously for process efficiency.

### Advancement of Projects

A number of recommendations have been scheduled early in the timeline to respond to immediate need, closing a gap in service, and making required infrastructure improvements.

### Budget Considerations

The implementation sequence attempts to evenly distribute the costs of all recommendations over a ten-year time frame as well as the total cost of all projects undertaken each year. This includes costs associated with both planning/design and

implementation. The total cost of all projects over the ten-year schedule is just over \$52 million or an average expenditure of \$5.2 million per year. Over half of this amount is connected to improvements to Alder Street Recreation Centre and changes to Tony Rose Memorial Sports Complex.



## 7.4 Project Forecast

Figure 7-4 illustrates the proposed roll-out of the 17 projects. The tables include costs for design/planning and implementation, and tallies the estimated budget allocation for each year across the bottom.

Ideally, all recommendations would be initiated in the short-term (1 to 3 years), particularly as most are cumulative/interdependent in nature, and for which the first step has to be taken before any others can commence. As this is not achievable in terms of the resources available in light of work to be done, recommendations are distributed in a rationale sequence over the ten-year period. The plan shows the years in which individual activities are initiated as ongoing activities or are completed as discrete projects.

These tables should be used for staff to establish budgets and to track progress of the Plan's implementation. However, this forecast should be used as a guide only, as there are many external factors that may impact the sequence and timing of projects. Projects may be advanced or delayed depending on these external forces. As other priorities emerge, or efficiencies are discovered, it might facilitate one project's advancement over another.

### Staff Resources

The need for staff resources to do the work requires both a distribution of tasks over time and, in some cases, the hiring of additional staff to take responsibility for implementation. It will also require coordinated efforts both internally and externally.

### Flexibility

The proposed forecast reflects a reasonable roll-out, assuming no major obstacles to activation. However, it is expected that some projects may need to be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. There may also be opportunities to 'fast-track' other initiatives and these should be leveraged wherever possible. Ongoing initiatives are carried through each year to the end of the Plan's term. Their applicability throughout the entire period, however, will depend on evolving needs in relation to service development. Program expansion for specific age groups, for example, may be sufficient to meet demand in considerably less than ten years (subject to potential changes based on continuation of monitoring and verification of need). The point at which this will happen, however, is unknown and so not identified as an 'end-date' in implementation. The recommendations shown as time-limited endeavors may also extend beyond the years shown. It may take longer to complete the identified activities and/or completion of a recommendation may result in a new system component or procedure.

### Living Document

In monitoring and evaluating the Master Plan, changes that result from work completed should be reflected in systematic reviews that track the initiation, progress and completion of each item as they are implemented in annual work plans and budgets.

## Implementation Forecast Table

	Year Number	1	2	3	4	5
	Anticipated Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	<b>Project</b>					
1	Accessibility / AODA Improvements	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
2	Parks Maintenance	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
3	Alder Street Recreation Centre		\$1,250,000	\$11,400,000	\$14,900,000	\$5,250,000
4	New Off-Leash Dog Parks	\$60,000				
5	Park Programming	\$75,000	\$515,000	\$100,000		
6	Ball Field Supply Improvements	\$12,000	\$830,000			
7	Playing Field Supply Improvements					
8	Rotary / Idyllwilde Park Improvements	\$25,000				
9	Downtown Festival Precinct					
10	Rebecca Hills Park Improvements	\$37,500	\$250,000			
11	Myr Morrow Park Improvements					
12	Lions Park Improvements					
13	Stormwater Management Ponds as Parks					
14	Naturalization					
15	Edible Gardens/Fruit Trees					
16	Cultural Facilities					
<b>Total Budget Each Year</b>		<b>\$319,500</b>	<b>\$3,005,000</b>	<b>\$11,660,000</b>	<b>\$15,060,000</b>	<b>\$5,410,000</b>

Table 7-4: Implementation Forecast Table

6	7	8	9	10	Beyond	Total
2026	2027	2028	2029	2030		
\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000			\$850,000
\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000		\$600,000
\$50,000	\$365,000					\$33,215,000
						\$60,000
						\$690,000
						\$842,000
\$25,000	\$260,000	\$3,700,000				\$3,985,000
\$265,000	\$2,450,000					\$2,740,000
\$495,000	\$2,120,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000			\$6,115,000
						\$287,500
			\$37,500	\$250,000		\$287,500
			\$75,000	\$500,000		\$575,000
			\$37,500	\$250,000		\$287,500
				\$165,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,265,000
				\$35,000	\$250,000	\$285,000
				\$75,000	\$100,000	\$175,000
<b>\$995,000</b>	<b>\$5,355,000</b>	<b>\$5,860,000</b>	<b>\$1,810,000</b>	<b>\$1,335,000</b>	<b>\$1,450,000</b>	<b>\$52,259,500</b>

## 7.5 List of Recommendations

Figure 7-5 provides a complete list of all 142 recommendations organized into the 6 types:

- Community Programs (24)
- Parks (36)
- Recreation Hubs (15)
- Events and Tourism (12)
- Collaboration (24)
- Administration (31)

For a more complete explanation of each recommendation, please refer to the corresponding analyses in the preceding sections.

1. Community Programs (24)

1	CP1	Monitor enrollment and waitlists to identify increases in demand for new/more 'parent and tot' programs.
2	CP2	Consider adding time slots for popular preschool classes.
3	CP3	Expand non-sport and sport preschool programs, with a particular emphasis on non-sport programs.
4	CP4	Aim to align preschool program timing with adult programs on the weekend and evenings after 6:00 pm.
5	CP5	Consult with teens (surveys, focus groups, creating a youth committee etc.) before developing teen-oriented programming and spaces.
6	CP6	Partner with school boards in consultation and engagement activities directed to teens.
7	CP7	Offer programs or volunteer opportunities to teens where they can build their resume or obtain high school volunteer hours.
8	CP8	Expand teen non-sport and sport programming at the introductory levels.
9	CP9	Evaluate options to incentivize lifeguarding/instructing positions.
10	CP10	Expand targeted aquatics recruitment efforts beyond students.
11	CP11	Expand children's programming at the introductory level in sports, physical games and activities, etc.
12	CP12	Look for opportunities to develop new, or move existing, programs to outdoor locations for all ages.
13	CP13	Improve branding and advertisement of adult programs, and include encouraging and inclusive messaging.
14	CP14	When implementing a new adult program, pilot it as a registered program as opposed to drop-in to assist in evaluating success.
15	CP15	Expand both sport and non-sport weekend programming for adults.
16	CP16	Attempt to align children's programming times with adult programs to facilitate participation of adults with children.
17	CP17	Expand non-sport programming for adults.
18	CP18	Pilot new adult programs using short-duration workshop-style lessons.
19	CP19	The Town should partner with the Seniors Centre to support seniors programming, using available space in Town facilities and administered and organized by the Seniors Centre.
20	CP20	Continue to provide aquafit classes and facilitate participation by making necessary changes to program schedules/facilities to improve age-friendliness.

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations

## 1. Community Programs (24)

- |    |      |   |
|----|------|---|
| 21 | CP21 | Ensure that “family/all-ages” events and programs are accessible and inclusive of seniors.  |
| 22 | CP22 | Expand sport and non-sport programming for families/all-ages.   |
| 23 | CP23 | Train staff and/or hire specialists to develop and implement programs that are suitable for different ages and different abilities to maximize the success of family/all-ages programs. |
| 24 | CP24 | Pilot new non-sport programming (particularly for adults, seniors, and family/all-ages) using a short duration model.   |

## 2. Parks (36)

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| 25 | P1  | Meet minimum AODA accessibility standards for all new Town parks and major park renovations.  |
| 26 | P2  | Develop a strategy and begin to implement improvements to existing parks to achieve AODA compliance by the end of the term of this Plan (2030).             |
| 27 | P3  | Implement naturalization grooming practices in parks and open space areas.  |
| 28 | P4  | Select and implement new sites for naturalization. Site selection and design should be done in consultation with parks maintenance staff and the community. |
| 29 | P5  | Protect mature trees when possible when upgrading and maintaining existing parks.   |
| 30 | P6  | Continue to work towards Municipal Tree Canopy target of 40%.   |
| 31 | P7  | Pilot edible gardens by replacing already existing Town-owned and maintained annual ornamental gardens with vegetable gardens.                              |
| 32 | P8  | Support the planting of fruit and nut trees on municipal land by community groups.  |
| 33 | P9  | Investigate the suitability of developing community gardens at Alder and Tony Rose to facilitate food-related programs.                                     |
| 34 | P10 | Work with Sustainable Orangeville, the Orangeville Food Bank, and Dufferin County to expand community gardens in Orangeville.                               |
| 35 | P11 | Work with programming staff to assess the suitability of parks for hosting outdoor programs.  |
| 36 | P12 | If it is determined to be necessary, improve and/or expand park amenities required to support outdoor programming.  |
| 37 | P13 | Introduce mobile play equipment at parks and other locations.   |
| 38 | P14 | In consultation with neighbourhood residents, redesign and upgrade Rebecca Hills Park.  |

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

## 2. Parks (36)

39	P15	In consultation with neighbourhood residents, and Orangeville Hawks Basketball, upgrade the basketball court and associated amenities at Myr Morrow Park.
40	P16	Undertake a full design process, including community consultation, to assess the suitability of adding new features to Lions Park.
41	P17	Create a new Cenotaph Park on First Avenue, with the cenotaph, Veterans' Memorial, and other artifacts and interpretive features transferred from Alexandra Park.
42	P18	Undertake a design process and develop the downtown streetscape, public realm and Broadway median enhancements.
43	P19	Explore the possibility of developing one of the stormwater management ponds in the Spencer Ave. and Sandringham Circle area as a park with playground and other suitable amenities.
44	P20	Undertake a comprehensive study and community consultation to determine the need for, and location of, a second off-leash dog park.
45	P21	Consider partnering with public and/or private land holders in industrial areas, who may have land available for an off-leash dog park.
46	P22	Consider incorporating dog off leash areas in new park developments or revitalization of existing parks, including both fenced and time-limited off-leash areas.
47	P23	Plan for a naturalized park in the Humberlands that extends from Hansen Boulevard and County Road 16 in the south, to Ridgewoods Park in the North, with a connection to Kin Family Park/Credit Meadows Elementary School to the east. The park should include a buffer on both sides of the ravine, trails, benches, signage and a playground at minimum.
48	P24	Upgrade the washrooms, pavilion, and spectator seating to support tournament play at Rotary/Idyllwilde.
49	P25	Undertake a full design process including community consultation to assess feasibility of a skate trail throughout Rotary park.
50	P26	Consider lining the existing single tennis court in Idyllwilde Park for pickleball and monitor use.
51	P27	Upon confirmation of demand for an additional diamond to accommodate adult slo-pitch, provide a new diamond. Consider locating it at Rotary Park.
52	P28	Consider lighting the diamond in Rotary Park to add the equivalent of a second diamond.
53	P29	Add two more tennis courts and eight pickleball courts (equivalent footprint to two tennis courts) at Rotary Park.

 Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

## 2. Parks (36)

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| 54 | P30 | Light large diamond at Springbrook Park, which is the home of the OHMBA and will provide the equivalent of one additional diamond. This initiative should be based on an agreement with the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde guaranteeing the Town continued access to this park through acquisition or a long-term lease covering the lifecycle of capital improvements. |
| 55 | P31 | Consider need for batting cages at fields used by minor baseball to free up diamond time.  |
| 56 | P32 | Anticipate the need for the equivalent of three new unlit diamonds to be provided beyond lighting the Springbrook diamond.   |
| 57 | P33 | Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for field time to add a second artificial turf field.   |
| 58 | P34 | Institute tennis court monitoring at Rotary Park to establish demand for additional courts.  |
| 59 | P35 | Assess the condition of the courts at Rotary Park to determine and implement needed upgrades and opportunities to integrate shade and seating on the site. This work should be done in such a way as to anticipate the possible court expansion, if implemented as a separate project.   |
| 60 | P36 | Monitor use and track unmet demand for court time on both tennis and pickleball courts, for possible additions to supply post-2030.  |

## 3. Recreation Hubs (15)

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| 61 | R1 | Community recreation hubs should be the basis for facility distribution in the Town, and co-locate indoor and outdoor facilities in primary and secondary hubs.   |
| 62 | R2 | The redevelopment of Alder Street Recreation Centre and Tony Rose Sports Centre should occur in phases to minimize disruption to service provision as changes are implemented   |
| 63 | R3 | Add the two new pads to Alder Street Recreation Centre and keep the existing four pads operating until use at Tony Rose can be relocated and redistributed to the Alder Street pads. When designing the new arena at Alder Street consult with organized users at Tony Rose to optimize replacement facilities and amenities for both floor and ice uses.               |
| 64 | R4 | Expand the existing 6-lane lap pool at Alder Street Recreation Centre to an 8-lane facility. Remove the waterslide and reconfigure/expand this area to retain the existing leisure tank, and accommodate the therapy pool and aquatic play area. When designing the new aquatic facilities consult with organized users to optimize potential use of the new lane pool. |

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

### 3. Recreation Hubs (15)

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| 65 | R5  | As part of the proposed redeveloped Alder Recreation Centre, incorporate between 14,000 and 16,000 square feet for the library expansion including program space. The reconfiguration of Humber College space in terms of the type and design of spaces and their intended use(s) should coordinate and reflect the different programming objectives of the Town and the Library. |
| 66 | R6  | Incorporate the provision of arts and culture program/activity space in the redevelopment of Alder Recreation Centre, coordinating the municipal and library 'sides' of design and development.   |
| 67 | R7  | Remove B Rink at Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre. Assess feasibility of repurposing A Rink   |
| 68 | R8  | Remove the 6-lane pool from the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Complex.  |
| 69 | R9  | Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for pool time.   |
| 70 | R10 | Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for ice and floor time at all pads.  |
| 71 | R11 | Assess feasibility of repurposing A Rink to indoor fieldhouse/gym. Upon complete transfer of use and full operation of Alder Street, redevelop the Tony Rose Centre. This will include removing the pool and B Rink, and the possible addition of arts programming space.   |
| 72 | R12 | Prepare a business case to provide a seasonally or permanently covered artificial turf field in Orangeville to support both lacrosse and soccer, with an emphasis on the former to initiate Town-based lacrosse activity. Repurposing Tony Rose A rink should provide more indoor time for soccer.  |
| 73 | R13 | Develop an artificial turf lacrosse field as part of a Tony Rose recreation hub, either on the Sports Centre site or in Murray Mountain Park.   |
| 74 | R14 | Add a second artificial turf field (upon confirmation of demand) at the Tony Rose hub, which may require a formal agreement with the UGDSS  |
| 75 | R15 | Implement a Town-provided and operated edible garden pilot project and/or additional community garden plots on the southern portion of the Tony Rose site along McCarthy Street.  |

### 4. Events and Tourism (12)

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| 76 | E1 | Continue to work with the Dufferin County, and neighbouring municipalities to strategize, plan, and offer visitor-directed events.  |
| 77 | E2 | The Town should take the lead in determining, along with the Dufferin County, Orangeville's tourism objectives with relevant public agencies, local volunteer groups, interested commercial operators, etc. |
| 78 | E3 | Work with the Town's Economic Development and Culture Division and support efforts to create a variety of visitor packages.   |

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

#### 4. Events and Tourism (12)

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| 79 | E4  | Work with the Town's Economic Development and Culture Division to improve/expand marketing of existing Town events.  |
| 80 | E5  | The Town should only provide facilities for elite sports if supported by economic development policy related to sport tourism and confirmation of a market for facilities that will be supported primarily by competitive events.  |
| 81 | E6  | Develop and transform Alexandra Park into a civic space for hosting gatherings and special events, as part of the Downtown Event Precinct.   |
| 82 | E7  | Create a Multi-purpose Event Space on the north half of the municipal parking lot on Broadway, across from Town Hall. The space should have specialty paving that integrates it with the greater precinct plan, and suitable lighting and power connections to host a variety of events. When not hosting events, the space can be used for parking. |
| 83 | E8  | Develop the south half of the Multi-purpose Event Space site as a mixed-use building with underground parking.   |
| 84 | E9  | Provide a simple black box theatre in one of two potential locations: a component of the Alder Recreation Centre development, or as part of the Tony Rose Sports Centre redevelopment.   |
| 85 | E10 | Prepare a feasibility study and business plan for a dedicated arts and culture facility. The scope of the study should be based on a determination of the potential to collaborate with other municipalities in its provision.   |
| 86 | E11 | As appropriate, the Town's Culture Plan Task Force should work with Dufferin Arts Council in planning/developing a cultural centre.  |

#### 5. Collaboration (24)

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| 88 | C1 | Continue to actively seek out partnership opportunities with community businesses, organizations, and agencies interested in contributing to recreation programming.   |
| 89 | C2 | The Town should take the lead in pursuing, formalizing, and managing programming partnerships.   |
| 90 | C3 | Expand program evaluation and development practices to include focus groups with target populations (e.g. newcomers, low-income residents, at-risk residents, girls and women, teens, people with special needs etc.). |
| 91 | C4 | Actively pursue partnership opportunities with community organizations and businesses to develop and implement non-sport programming.  |
| 92 | C5 | Consider the potential to establish agreements with relevant school boards for access to indoor amenities to support programs at adjacent park sites.  |
| 93 | C6 | Approach sports groups and relevant school boards to develop partnerships for joint maintenance of selected fields and diamonds.   |

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

5. Collaboration (24)

94	C7	Collaborate with community groups and service clubs that wish to make contributions to park improvements, and take the lead in these initiatives.
95	C8	Approach the Orangeville Food Bank, Dufferin County and interested community groups to partner in expanding community gardens, edible gardens, fruit/nut tree cultivation, naturalization and tree planting initiatives.
96	C9	Put a call out to businesses, institutions, and non-profits in Orangeville interested in partnering in/contributing to community gardens, edible gardens, and fruit/nut trees.
97	C10	Include the Orangeville and Area Dog Owners group in consultations on, and operations of, a new dog park.
98	C11	Reinstitute Town-based Sports Council as a collaborative municipal-community working group.
99	C12	The Town of Orangeville should initiate discussions with all municipalities in the regional market to develop a collaborative approach to joint facility planning and provision, where appropriate and feasible.
100	C13	The Town should consider approaching other municipalities in the regional market to jointly prepare a feasibility study for developing a regional-serving arts and cultural centre.
101	C14	The Town of Orangeville should initiate discussions with all municipalities in the regional market to identify interest in indoor and outdoor joint community hub options and in commissioning detailed feasibility studies for these.
102	C15	The 2015 Parks Master Plan recommendations with respect to securing a joint venture and preparing a business case should be the basis of the Town's decision to consider participating in a regional-serving field complex.
103	C16	Formally investigate the interest of municipalities in the regional market in creating, and committing to, a collaborative approach.
104	C17	With interested municipalities, collectively design and implement a workable model and process for ongoing collaborative facility planning.
105	C18	With interested municipalities, collectively design and implement a workable model and process for ongoing collaborative program provision, including ongoing data collection on participant needs and interests, and establishing guiding policies and agreements.
106	C219	Consider establishing a single regional sports council to align with the regional model for facility provision.
107	C20	Activate the models as part of operating procedures to establish facility and programming needs and, as required, to jointly develop and operate facilities and programs.

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

## 5. Collaboration (24)

- 108 C21 Approach the CVC, Dufferin County and community groups to partner in naturalization and tree planting initiatives.
- 109 C22 Collaborate with OHMBA to confirm costs, and prepare an improvement program and shared financing agreement to implement needed upgrades.
- 110 C23 Monitor use and confirm unmet demand for ball diamond time, and assess potential to add a third diamond to serve Town-generated demand as part of a partnership-based regional field complex.
- 111 C24 A regional-serving field complex that provides fields in numbers beyond those required for community use - for soccer and/or lacrosse and whether natural or artificial turf - should only be considered in partnership with other area municipalities.

## 6. Administration (31)

- 112 A1 Hire at least one more full-time parks maintenance staff person to support implementation of parks and trails maintenance requirements identified in the Master Plan and other related plans and policies.
- 113 A2 Consider new methods, including social media, for receiving park maintenance comments and complaints that will capture more detailed information, and relay the information more quickly to maintenance staff.
- 114 A3 Work with community partners as well as other Town Departments to identify and mitigate barriers to affordability.
- 115 A4 Invest in specialized inclusivity training for staff.
- 116 A5 Work with marketing to develop inclusive marketing materials and signage for programs and recreation facilities.
- 117 A6 Recognizing the need to continue growing existing programs/services, formulate work plan to implement Master Plan recommendations, and assign tasks to staff according to their sequencing.
- 118 A7 Develop a formal park volunteer program for individuals and community groups.
- 119 A8 Update the Parkland Dedication By-law or replace with a new policy for the collection of Community Benefits, and include stipulations for the inclusion/exclusion of stormwater management ponds in parks in the calculations of community benefits.
- 120 A9 Update the Community Matching Fund Parks Improvement Program to accommodate a broader range of projects, including projects related to sports fields, projects on non-municipal land that are for public use and enjoyment, and projects that include ongoing partnerships.
- 121 A10 Update the Commemorations Policy to add further details on types of acceptable amenities, and approval criteria.

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

## 6. Administration (31)

- 122 A11 Update the Land Sale and Purchase Policy to include considerations for protecting land required for community services, parks, and recreation.
- 123 A12 Consider developing a policy and associated design guidelines for integrating stormwater management ponds with parks and trails.
- 124 A13 Develop a general Park By-law outlining acceptable and prohibited activities in parks.
- 125 A14 Develop a Community Financial Support Policy to receive donations for park amenities.
- 126 A15 Develop a Fruit/nut Tree Policy and Agreement to direct and support such projects by community groups.
- 127 A16 Develop an overarching policy that defines the meaning of community parks and recreation and articulates the role of the Town in providing these services.
- 128 A17 Position this policy in relation to others related to providing competitive sports facilities and other relevant municipal departments (e.g., Economic Development and Culture).
- 129 A18 Review and update existing policies including Registered Minor Sport Groups Fee Reduction Policy; Facility and Venue Allocation Policy.
- 130 A19 Develop new policies for Events/Festivals; User Fees; Access to Recreation; Community Financial Support.
- 131 A20 Address additional policy needs as they emerge.
- 132 A21 An agreement with the OHMBA for advertising rights at Springbrook Park should be put in place, with the understanding that the Association will assist the Town with financing required capital improvements to the facilities they use for their programs at this location.
- 133 A22 Existing agreements with Le Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, and the Orangeville Tennis Club, should be reviewed and updated as part of facility expansion or improvement plans to ensure municipal capital investment will benefit the Town's community recreation objectives.
- 134 A23 Agreements for the provision of pickleball courts as part of a tennis court expansion will depend on the existence of an organized pickleball group, and the relationship between this group and the tennis club in any shared facility use at the site. An agreement with a pickleball group should be modeled on that recommended for the Tennis Club.
- 135 A24 If the Tony Rose site, Murray's Mountain Park, ODSS, and Princess Elizabeth Public School are jointly developed as a community lacrosse hub, the Town and the UGDSS should proceed on the basis of a joint development and use agreement.
- 136 A25 Develop a coordinated cyclical and rotating process for reviewing and updating policies and agreements

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*

## 6. Administration (31)

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| 137 | A26 | Ensure all documentation is dated, terms are identified, and related policies and agreements are cross-referenced.  |
| 138 | A29 | Develop policy in consultation with the community.  |
| 139 | A30 | Regional service initiatives may require reviewing Town-specific policies and practices to align them with new policies governing a regional partnership.                                   |
| 140 | A31 | Develop an internal strategy with dedicated staff time, for developing standing collaborative models for facility and program provision and implementing them on an ongoing basis.          |
| 141 | A32 | Lease agreements with organized not-for-profit clubs should be reviewed/renewed to ensure time is provided for non-members' casual use and that programming addresses municipal objectives. |

Table 7-5: Complete List of all 142 Recommendations *continued*