



MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH PERTH

PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

master plan

May 3, 2017



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Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan

May 3, 2017

Prepared by:



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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of this Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Municipality of North Perth’s current assets and services and to use this information to identify opportunities to better serve the community and surrounding area, while recognizing the budget constraints of a small municipality.

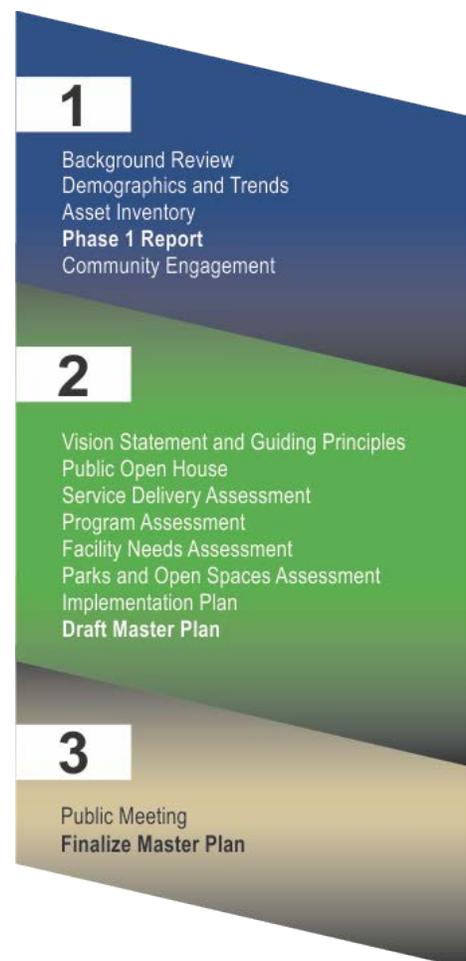
This is North Perth’s first comprehensive long-range Plan for parks and recreation services, although it utilizes the North Perth Recreation Study (2000), along with other municipal documents, as a baseline to determine the Municipality’s progress over the last sixteen years. The previous study is now out of date and the Municipality requires a new strategy to guide the current and future needs of the entire community over the next 10 years.

With the goal of enabling North Perth’s residents to enjoy a high quality of parks, recreation, and cultural services, this Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan will serve as a key reference document over the next ten years. It contains a detailed analysis and identifies promising approaches to cost effectively and proactively plan for future needs. This Plan provides a policy framework for the delivery and management of parks, recreation, and culture facilities and programs and serves as an action plan for Municipal Staff, Council, stakeholders and the community.

The development of the Master Plan has been undertaken in three phases:

- Phase 1: Background Research and Consultation
- Phase 2: Master Plan Development
- Phase 3: Master Plan Finalization

Figure 1: Master Plan Phases



1.2 Project Objectives

The Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan addresses the following objectives, as defined in the Terms of Reference:

- a) Provide a comprehensive review of parks and facilities by reviewing and assessing the Municipality's current inventory of public facilities, parks, trails and cultural assets through primary (site visits, public consultation, public survey, municipal staff/officials, etc.) and secondary data collection (review of related policies and documents).
- b) Conduct background research on the Municipality's current facilities, demographics and practices in comparable communities.
- c) Generate a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles to provide direction for the future of parks and recreation development within the Municipality.
- d) Evaluate the Municipality's ability to meet future needs by conducting a needs assessment and use this assessment to provide direction on current usage, future gaps and current rates and fees.
- e) Identify recommendations for the Listowel Memorial Arena and the planned future development phases of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex.
- f) Review and determine the Municipality's capacity to implement service improvements and the implications these improvements would have on municipal budgets.
- g) Develop a long-term framework for the advancement of arts, cultural, recreation and leisure opportunities.
- h) Recommend a staffing and governance structure for Parks and Recreation Services to support the implementation of this Master Plan.
- i) Investigate potential funding initiatives, sponsorship and partnership opportunities.
- j) Develop a dynamic implementation plan to meet the most urgent needs of the Municipality by pragmatically utilizing resources.

1.3 The Importance of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Parks, recreation and cultural services are an important part of a community's identity and are essential to fostering the well-being and quality of life of residents. Recreation services promote healthy, active communities and the provision of services and facilities allow for public spaces where residents can connect with each other. This connection facilitates cohesive neighbourhoods and unites the community through health-based exercise programs, sports for all age groups and social activities.

By continually improving upon the delivery of parks and recreation services in North Perth, residents will be more inclined to take advantage of local amenities rather than seeking services elsewhere. This not only promotes residents to stay in North Perth, but will attract prospective residents to the area, generating positive economic growth for the Municipality.

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association¹ highlights the importance of parks and recreation to community life according to the following key values:

Vital to Personal Health and Quality of Life

- Reduces the onset of disease including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer.
- Improves stress and depression by boosting mood.
- Improves mental well-being, self-esteem, self-image and life satisfaction.

Key to Balanced Human Development

- Improves motor skills, social skills, creativity and aids brain development.
- Allows adults and youths to develop to their full potential (intellectual, spiritual and social).

Reduces Anti-social and Destructive Behavior

- Provides a healthy alternative to involvement in smoking, substance abuse, suicide and depression.
- Can help reduce racism as it allows for the integration of diverse cultures.

Preserves Natural Environments and Species

- Green spaces act as a habitat for local species and encourage bio-diversity and ecological balance.
- Parks and natural areas improve air quality by reducing carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

¹ Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA). The Benefits Catalogue. 1997. Retrieved from: www.spra.sk.ca/resources-and.../benefits-of-recreation/BenefitsofParkandRec.pdf

- Parks and open spaces act as natural buffers and reduce the risks of flooding and erosion.
- Parks, trails and pathways encourage active transportation such as walking, running, cross-country skiing and cycling.

Parks and Recreation are Economic Generators

- Recreation and parks attract tourism and indirect revenues through hospitality, tourism, accommodation, fuel and spending in other private sector businesses.
- Parks increase property values and the local tax base. Increases in private property values are a result of close proximity to parks. This increases property tax revenues and improves the local economy.

1.4 Master Plan Organization

The Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan is organized as follow:

Section 1— Introduction

Describes the purpose, objectives and organization of the Master Plan and outlines the importance of recreation, leisure and culture.

Section 2—Community Profile & Local Context

Identifies the socio-demographic composition of the Municipality and policy context.

Section 3—Emerging Trends & Promising Practices

Reviews participation rates, trends in participation and service delivery in facilities.

Section 4—Inventory of Parks, Facilities & Programs

Contains information on the number, type and description of parks, facilities, clubs and local programs.

Section 5—Community Input

Contains data from public consultation including public input sessions, online survey, student questionnaire, stakeholder interviews and key themes that is used to evaluate the public's perception of current parks and recreation services in the Municipality.

Section 6—Vision & Guiding Principles

Outlines a series of guiding principles to be considered in the delivery of recreation, leisure and culture services in North Perth.

Section 7—Service Delivery Assessment

Examines the Municipality's service delivery system, including staffing, programming, communication, policy development, partnerships and the role of volunteers and local organizations.

Section 8—Recreation & Community Facilities Assessment

Examines the Municipality’s current supply of recreation, leisure and culture facilities and identifies possible improvements, including new development opportunities.

Section 9—Parks & Trails Assessment

Examines the Municipality’s current supply of parks, trails and open space and identifies policy considerations for parkland dedication and trails development.

Section 10—Implementation Strategy

Contains a summary of the Plan’s recommendations, including priorities and key implications. A process for monitoring and updating the Plan is also supplied in this section.

2. Community Profile & Local Context

This section outlines North Perth's demographic structure and provides information regarding population growth trends that can impact parks, recreation, arts and culture participation. In addition, there is a brief synopsis of other relevant studies and research involving North Perth.

2.1 About North Perth

Known for its small-town lifestyle and agricultural ties, the Municipality of North Perth is a prosperous community comprised of both rural and urban environments, located at the northwestern edge of Perth County in Southwestern Ontario. The Municipality is northwest of Kitchener/Waterloo and north of Stratford; most residents can access these regional centres with a drive of one hour or less.

The Municipality was formed in 1998 through the amalgamation of the Town of Listowel and Townships of Elma and Wallace and maintains each of these territories as municipal wards. This predominately rural municipality includes a variety of small settlement areas including Atwood, Britton, Donegal, Gowanstown, Kurtzville, Listowel, Monkton (split with West Perth), Newry and Trowbridge. North Perth's largest settlement areas are Listowel, Monkton, and Atwood.

The Municipality prides itself on its ability to offer residents an exemplary balance of rural and urban life and is pleased to consider itself a 'Community of Character'. North Perth is home to numerous annual events such as Paddyfest and the Teddy Bear Play Day that create a strong community identity and celebrate local culture.

With a current population of 13,130 residents (2016 Census), North Perth has been growing faster than the rest of Perth County for the last ten years. This growth is attributed to the Municipality's affordable housing, employment opportunities, proximity to Kitchener-Waterloo and advancements in the Municipality's business, education, healthcare and recreation facilities. The ongoing planned development of the new Steve Kerr Memorial Complex is a unique, major community initiative intended to respond to the needs of a growing population.

2.2 Community Profile

Population

North Perth has experienced population growth for decades and this growth is continuing. Since 2006, North Perth has grown by 7% (nearly 900 persons). During this period, North Perth was the only municipality in the County that drew more people into the community to fill local jobs, which may be linked to increases in overall population during this 10-year timeframe.

The initial release of 2016 Census data contains total population and dwelling counts – North Perth's population is listed at 13,130. Listowel is the largest population centre, with nearly

6,900 persons (representing 52% of the Municipality’s residents) and grew by 11% over the last five years (658 persons). Both Elma and Wallace experienced small population losses during the last census period.

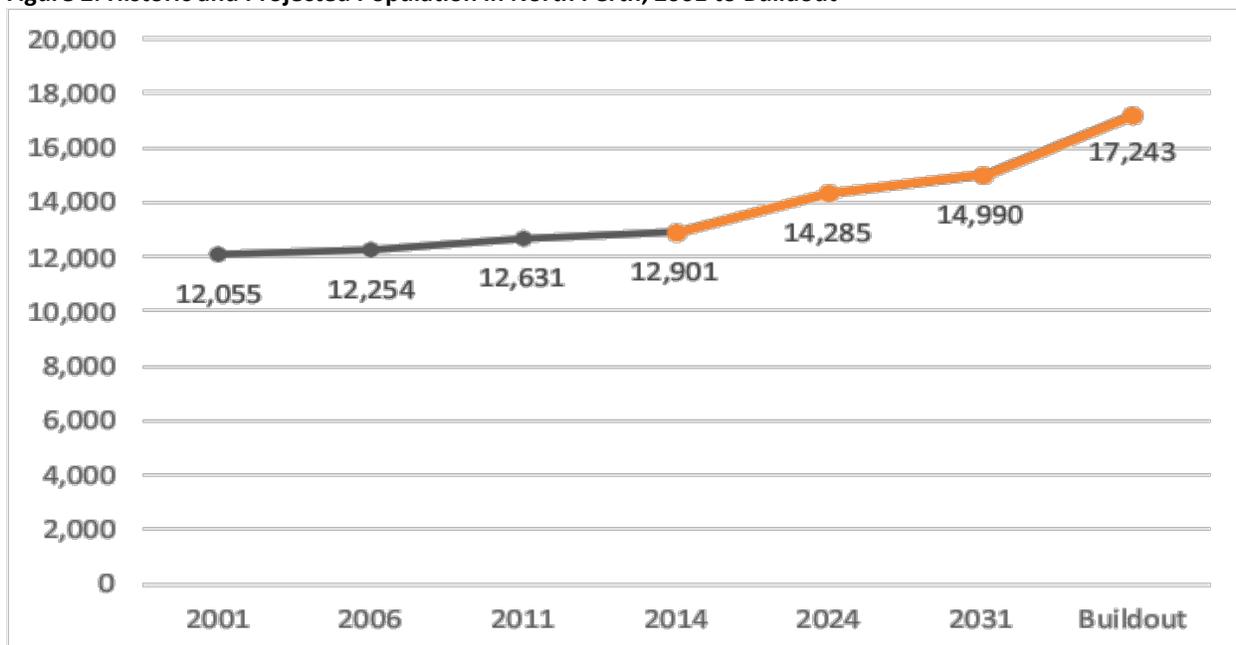
Table 1: Population by Community, 2011 and 2016

Community	2011 Population	2016 Population	Population Change	
Elma	4,020	3,981	-39	-1%
Wallace	2,397	2,277	-120	-5%
Listowel	6,214	6,872	658	11%
Total	12,631	13,130	499	4%

Sources: North Perth Master Growth Plan, 2014; Census of Canada, 2016

Looking to the future, the Municipality’s 2014 Consolidated Development Charges Background Study contains the most recent set of population forecasts, which are consistent with the North Perth 2014 Master Growth Plan Update (high scenario). The Municipality’s population is forecasted to grow to 14,290 by 2024 (9%), 14,990 by 2031 (14%), and 17,240 by build-out (31%)².

Figure 2: Historic and Projected Population in North Perth, 2001 to Buildout



Source: North Perth Development Charges Background Study, 2014

² North Perth Development Charges Background Study 2014

Housing & Location of Growth

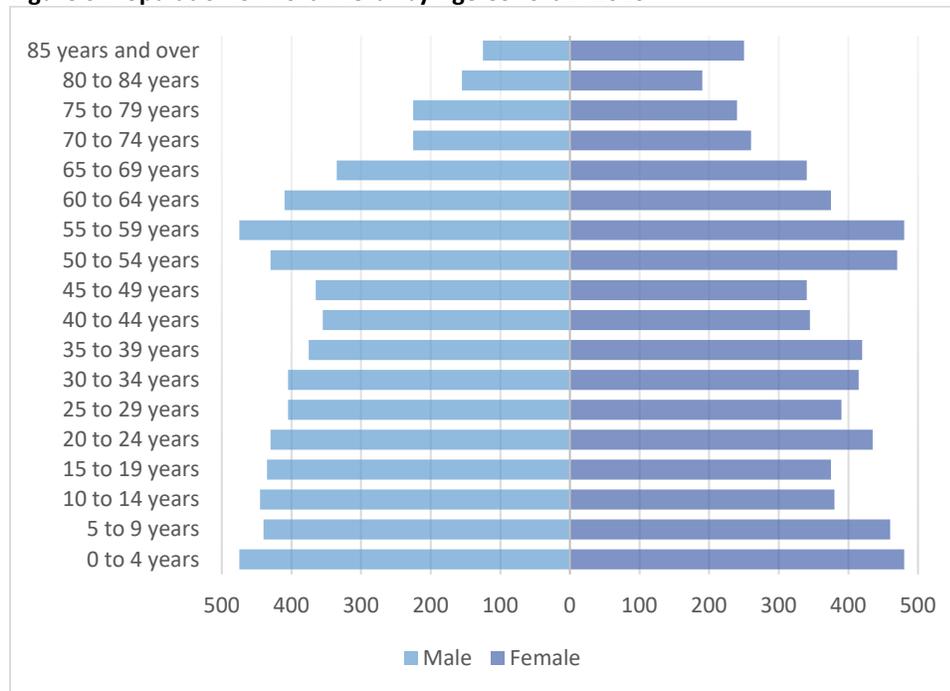
According to the North Perth 2014 Development Charges Background Study, from 2014 to 2031 the greatest amount of housing growth is expected to occur in the Listowel area (84%), followed by Atwood (11%), surrounding rural areas (4%), and Wallace (1%). The housing mix over the long-term forecast (2014-2031) is expected to be composed of 80% low-density (single-detached, semi-detached), 13% medium density (row-houses, town-homes) and 7% high-density (bachelor, 1 bedroom and 2 bedroom apartments). Population distribution is important in determining recreational needs and servicing based on residential density levels. It is clear from these future projections that Listowel’s population is high in relation to other North Perth communities and will continue to be the emphasis of future growth.

Age

North Perth’s average age is younger than that of Canadian and Perth County (39.9 years versus 41.6 years and 41.0 years, respectively). However, in line with national trends, North Perth’s growing population is aging as the number of older residents has grown faster than the number of younger residents.

The 2016 population pyramid for North Perth is shown below. Since 2011, the 0 to 9 age group grew by 10% and the 55 to 69 age group grew by 17%, higher than the Municipality’s 4% overall growth rate.

Figure 3: Population of North Perth by Age Cohort in 2016

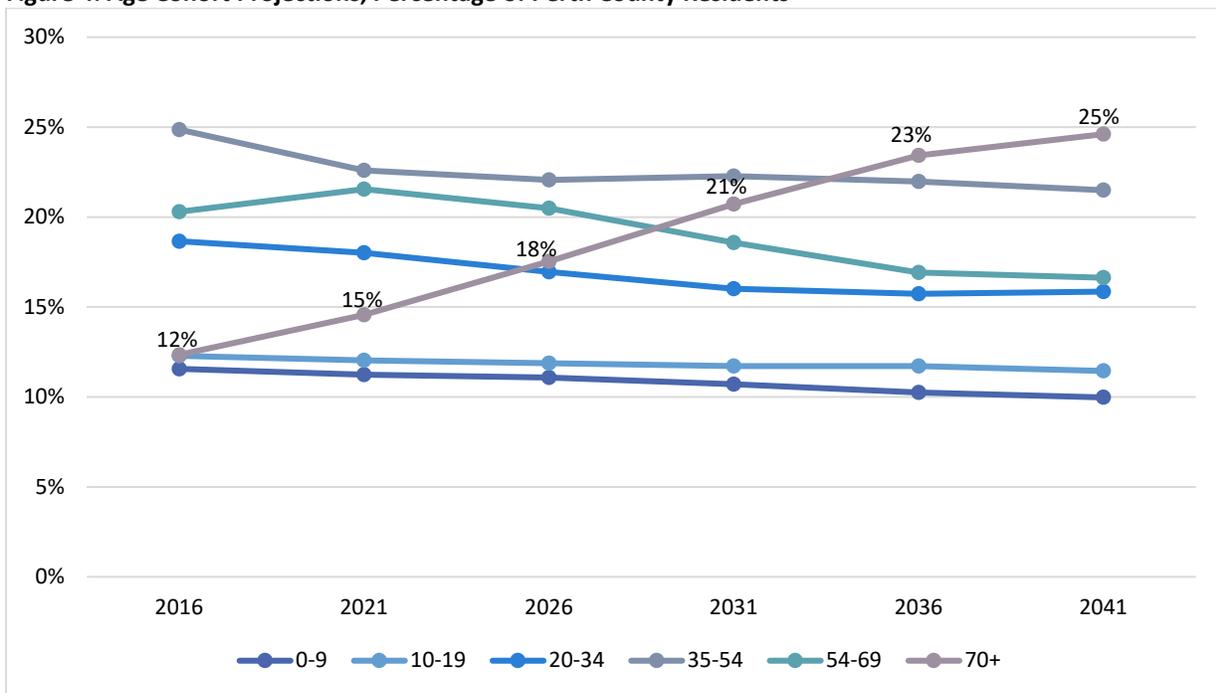


Source: Census of Canada, 2016

The 2016 Census reported that North Perth residents age 55 and over made up 31% of the population. This percentage is expected to continue increasing as the baby boomers generation enters this age bracket. With longer life expectancies and better health than previous generations, the meaning of being a ‘senior’ is changing with many older adults eschewing this label and continuing to lead healthy, active lives well into retirement. High quality “Over 55” adult programs and services are increasingly in demand and municipal programs are diversifying beyond the traditional markets of funding pre-school, children and youth activities.

Although age cohort projections are not available at the municipal level, an estimate prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Finance in 2013 indicates that Perth County as a whole is expected to experience a surge in its proportion of residents who are 70 years of age and over (an expected increase of 107% from 2016 to 2041), bringing a new emphasis to the influence of baby boomers in our society.

Figure 4: Age Cohort Projections, Percentage of Perth County Residents



Source: Statistics Canada Estimates, 2015, and Ontario Ministry of Finance Projections

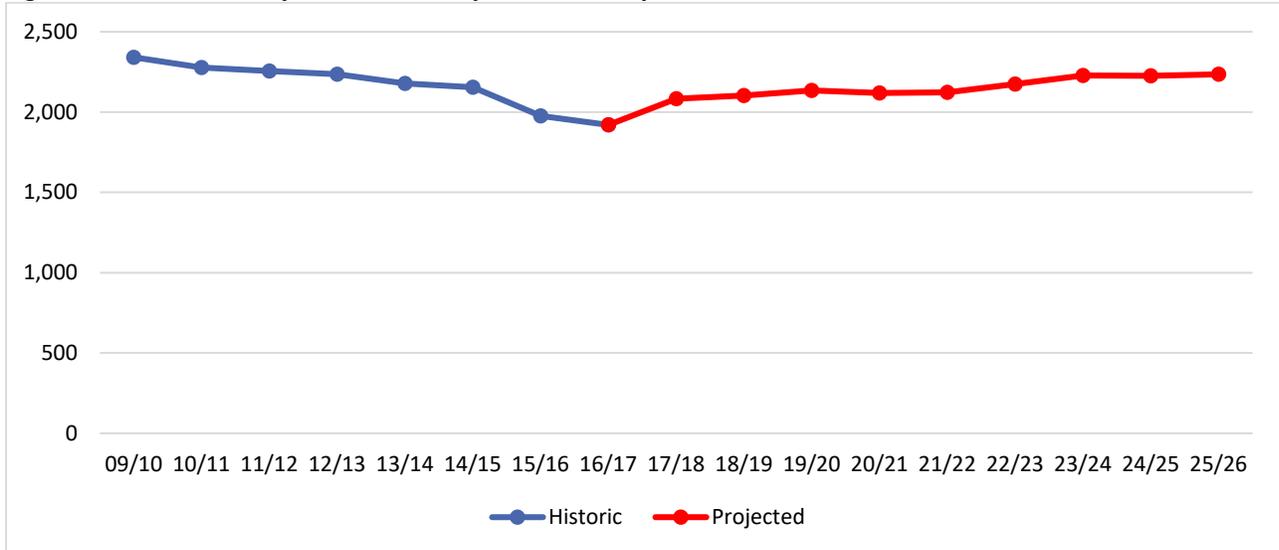
School Enrolment

Within North Perth are four schools operated by the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB), one school within the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board (HPCDSB), and two private schools.

In recent years, elementary and secondary school enrolments for both school boards have been in decline within North Perth and Board-wide. Between 2009/10 and 2015/16, AMDSB schools within North Perth experienced a 7% decline in elementary school enrolment and a 26% decline in secondary school enrolment. Despite these losses, the School Board’s projections indicate

that enrolment rates have bottomed out and will begin to rise. Between 2016/17 and 2025/26, AMDSB elementary and secondary school enrolment within North Perth are projected to increase by 22% and 8%, respectively.

Figure 5: Historic and Projected Elementary and Secondary School Enrolments, AMDSB



Source: Avon Maitland District School Board Preliminary Accommodation Analysis Report for 2015/2016

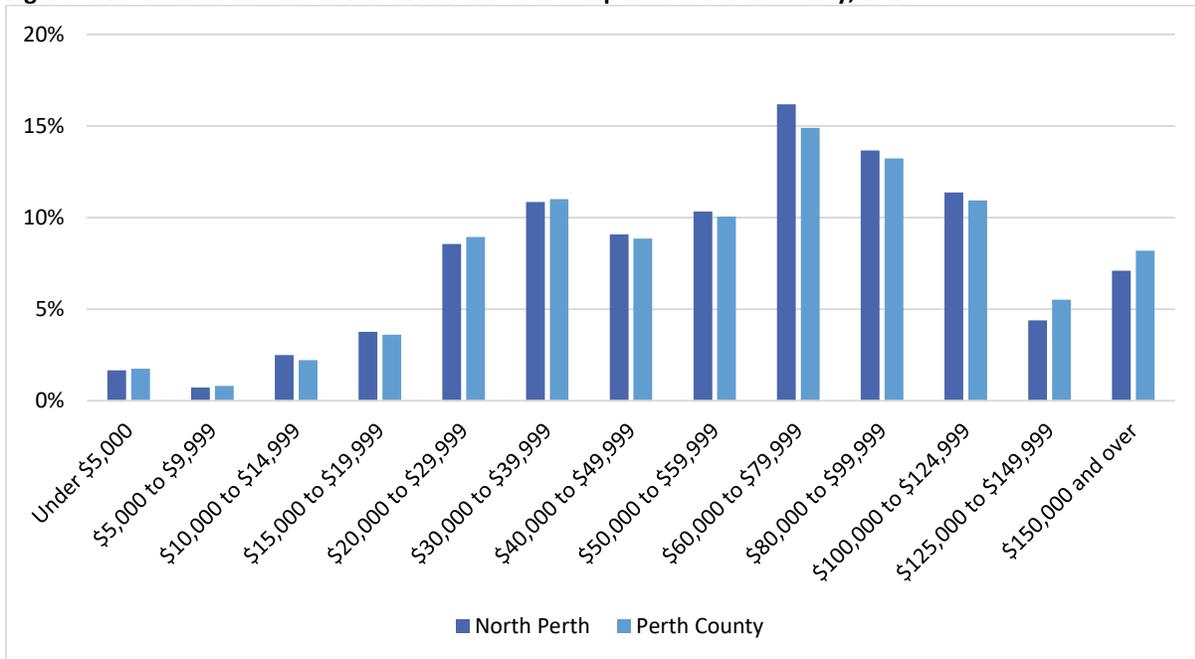
Overall enrolment at HPCDSB schools has also been in decline. However, full-time enrolment at St. Mary’s Catholic Elementary School in Listowel has rebounded by 8% from 2007-2013. Projections indicate that full-time enrolment at St. Mary’s is expected to increase by an additional 8% to 165 students by 2017. These projections suggest the local youth population is growing and the future demand for age-appropriate programs and activities may be on the rise.

Income, Education & Occupation

Income, education and occupation influence how much physical activity an individual may get in a day, their knowledge of health and wellness, as well as their access to a variety of indoor and outdoor physical activities.

According to the National Household Survey, in 2010 the median household income (after tax) in North Perth was \$56,704 and the average household income was \$64,787. North Perth’s average household income was less than that of Ontario (\$71,523) and of Perth County (\$65,304). The percentage of North Perth residents who fell below the low-income measure in 2010 was 12%, compared to 10% and 14% (Perth County and Ontario, respectively).

Figure 6: Household Income Levels in North Perth compared to Perth County, 2010



Source: Statistics Canada National Household Survey, 2011
 Global non-response rate: 26.7% (North Perth), 27.4% (Perth County)

Most of North Perth’s working age population has a high-school diploma, apprenticeship or trade certificate as their highest level of education. The prevalence of trades and college graduates (30%) over university graduates (9%) may be due to region’s prominent agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While local education attainment levels are correlated with potentially lower activity participation levels, it is likely that North Perth’s higher median income helps to reduce barriers to participation. Furthermore, the location of North Perth makes post-secondary education more accessible for residents, in turn enabling the attraction of a workforce with higher educational backgrounds.

Table 2: Educational Attainment in North Perth, 2011

Highest Education Attained	North Perth	Perth County
No certificate, diploma or degree	31%	26%
High school diploma or equivalent	31%	30%
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	38%	44%
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	10%	10%
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	20%	20%
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	1%	2%
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	8%	12%
Bachelor's degree	6%	8%
University certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor level	2%	4%

Source: National Household Survey, 2011; Global non-response rate: 26.7% (North Perth), 27.4% (Perth County)

Findings from the Municipality of North Perth Corporate Strategic Plan (2012) indicate that there were 7,450 jobs and 7,025 working residents in the Municipality (+425 jobs). Of all working residents, almost two-thirds (4,520 people) are employed in local jobs. The remaining one-third are employed in surrounding communities such as Woolwich Township, Stratford, Minto, Kitchener, etc. Commuting patterns indicate low levels of out-commuting and a strong live-work balance in the community.³

Labour force participation is slightly higher in North Perth than Perth County and Ontario (72% versus 71% and 66%, respectively) and the unemployment rate is appreciably lower (4% versus 6% and 8%, respectively). North Perth workers are also slightly more likely to be engaged in full-time work. The high labour force participation rate may influence how much time individuals and households have to participate in leisure activities and it is likely that full-time workers face pressure to balance work, family, and leisure activities.

The largest proportion of the population of North Perth works in sales and service (20%) and trades, transport, equipment and related occupations (20%). The type of work residents are engaged with (e.g., office work versus physical labour) also plays a role in how much physical activity residents participate in overall.

Table 3: Job Force Composition in North Perth, 2011

Occupation	North Perth	Perth County
Management occupations	12%	12%
Business, finance and administration occupations	14%	13%
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	3%	4%
Health occupations	6%	7%
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	7%	9%
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	2%	3%
Sales and service occupations	20%	21%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	20%	18%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	6%	4%
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	10%	10%

Source: National Household Survey, 2011; Global non-response rate: 26.7% (North Perth), 27.4% (Perth County)

³ Municipality of North Perth Corporate Strategic Plan. 2012-2017. (Part 1)

Diversity & Ethnicity

In 2011, the National Household Survey found that one in five Canadians are immigrants and the majority prefer living in larger urban centres, where they may have community ties. 7% of North Perth's population was born outside of Canada, in line with Canadian trends. 81% of North Perth's immigrant population arrived prior to 2000, indicating that the majority are established in the community and familiar with sports and activities offered in Canada. Most immigrants (73%) are of European descent and 7% are of Asian descent. Only 5% of North Perth residents identified a non-official language as their mother tongue; however, 94% of residents speak English at home.

The following table displays the most common ethnicities in North Perth. Like the Kitchener-Waterloo area, there are a high proportion of residents with a German and European backgrounds.

Table 4: Top Five Most Common Ethnicities in North Perth, 2011

Ethnic Origin	Persons	%
German	3,990	32%
Canadian	3,990	32%
English	3,645	29%
Scottish	3,150	25%
Irish	2,780	22%

Source: National Household Survey, 2011; Global non-response rate: 26.7%

As North Perth is expecting a population increase over the next 15 years and given the fact that more than half of Canada's growth is attributed to immigration, it is possible that the makeup of new residents may become more diverse. The Municipality should give consideration to how these demographic and population changes could impact demand and participation.

2.3 Policy Context

This section contains a description of selected municipal studies, with mention to directions that may be relevant to parks, cultural and recreation services. The information in these reports can be used to gain a better understanding of relevant past research, municipal policies and directions, and local initiatives.

Corporate Strategic Plan (2012-2017)

The Municipality of North Perth's Corporate Strategic Plan outlines the following VISION: To establish North Perth as a regional centre that enjoys strong working relationships with surrounding municipalities and provide services and employment while preserving agriculture and farmland for the future.

This Plan is guided by the following mission statement: To grow a strong and healthy North Perth, delivering responsible municipal government and efficient services while promoting growth and opportunities.

The Plan is premised on conducting municipal business on key principles that reflect the goals, valuations and aspirations articulated by the community at large including:

- Honest and accountable operational performance; Council and staff will seek out inclusive approaches that emphasize the community's vibrancy and positivity, while respecting diverse viewpoints in North Perth.
- Visionary and forward thinking; decisions will be made with the understanding of long-term implications of choices while keeping long-term planning goals in mind.

Throughout the Plan, municipal council and staff are guided by the following goals and objectives:

- Ensure all residents are being served by an efficient, cohesive and comprehensive service delivery model.
- Create an environment that supports and engages a diverse range of local businesses.
- Ensure the sustainability of municipal infrastructure with strong planning and execution of capital infrastructure initiatives.
- Support existing and new opportunities to attract new residents and retain North Perth's youth and adult populations.

The following initiatives set out in the Plan are relevant to the provision of parks and recreation programming:

- Developing a budget and funding strategy for the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex.
- Supporting the creation and operation of programming and events that are interesting and attractive to residents and that reinforce North Perth's unique characteristics.
- Partnering with community groups and business organizations to offer events that enhance North Perth characteristics. Developing, promoting and expanding municipal events that support youth and young adult populations (e.g., Teddy Bear Play Day, Cinderella Ball).
- Continually enhancing the Municipality's website to better reflect community information, service offerings and to ensure accessibility for all visitors to the site.
- Developing a communications strategy that provides direction to engage and report to residents, businesses and community organizations regarding community events. This strategy would examine a wide-variety of outreach tools including social media, e-newsletters and interactive web-based tools.

North Perth Recreation Study (2000)

The last comprehensive assessment of recreation, culture and parks services in North Perth took place in January 2000. A general public survey (361 households) revealed that residents believed their Municipality's changing population structure should be recognized when considering service delivery. Residents expressed the need to expand beyond team sports and increase opportunities for individual activities (skateboarding, cycling, etc.). Residents also called for attention to be placed on the development of arts and culture. Additionally, feedback suggested a need for increased senior citizen program because of a changing demographic structure. As a part of this new Master Plan process, there is a need to reassess the function, role and organization of the recreation service delivery system.

As an alternative to an indoor pool, the incorporation of a multi-purpose facility was supported. Residents suggested that this multi-purpose facility be used for arts/culture activities and senior citizens programming. This past feedback provided community insight that eventually led to support for the new Steve Kerr Memorial Complex that is currently under construction.

Key recommendations from the 2000 Study include:

- Programming should focus on increasing recreation and leisure opportunities for senior citizens
- Fine and performing arts should also become the primary focus of programming efforts
- A portion of the program budget should be allocated to making spaces for children in less privileged families in existing programs
- More recreational programs should be established in the daytime for young children and after-school for teenagers
- The recreation department should develop a sports and arts advisory council
- The municipality should consider the long-term implications of constructing and operating an indoor swimming pool
- There is a need for additional general programming (children/teenagers)
- Coordination between the library and recreation department should be encouraged (i.e. use of library addition for community programming area)

Business Plan for a North Perth Recreation Complex (2012)

With direction from studies such as the Financial Rationalization Study (2005), the Municipality considered replacing the Listowel Memorial Arena with a new multi-use facility, which led to the creation of this Business Plan. A Community Recreation Committee was formed to pursue the potential development of a North Perth Recreation Complex. This Plan recommended the development of an action plan for the replacement of Listowel Memorial Arena and the introduction of a new multi-use facility in Listowel, now referred to as the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex, now under construction on Binning Street West.

After assessing the feasibility of the new multi-use recreation complex, the Community Recreation Committee made the following recommendations to consider for future phases of construction:

- An indoor aquatic facility remains as a possible second phase priority, with potential development in the future.
- That a twin pad addition to the proposed arena cannot occur until utilization levels of the existing facilities are consistently above 90% of prime-time hours.
- A separate needs assessment should be conducted to determine the feasibility of an indoor walking track. (an indoor track has subsequently been included in the first phase)
- If a new public school were to be developed on the site, an effort should be made to develop reciprocal use opportunities, with the remaining parts of the site to be developed into sports fields, trails, natural areas and related community uses.

Community Development Business Plan, North Perth (2012-2017)

The goal of the Community Development Business Plan was to create an environment that supports and engages a diverse range of local businesses. Initiatives pertaining to recreation and culture include:

- Partnering with local stakeholders to develop new community events that will draw residents and visitors to North Perth communities (i.e., Farmer's Markets, art exhibits, tournaments, tourism events, etc.).
- Developing a Walking and Cycling plan and mapping out appropriate connections across the Municipality.
- Supporting the creation and operation of programming and events that are interesting and attractive to residents and highlight North Perth's unique characteristics.

Parks & Recreation Business Plan, North Perth (2012-2017)

The Parks and Recreation Business Plan serves as guide for Parks and Recreation staff to ensure they are providing residents with the best service possible. Four goals were established as follows:

Goal 1: "To ensure residents are being served by an efficient, cohesive and comprehensive delivery model." The strategic objective of this goal is to ensure investment in and support of community infrastructure, and services that reflect North Perth's rate of growth and rural nature.

Goal 2: "Create an environment that supports and engages a diverse range of local businesses." The strategic objective of this goal is to develop a heightened level of business activity in the Municipality with increased employment and diversity in the type of available positions.

Goal 3: “To ensure the sustainability of North Perth’s infrastructure with strong planning and execution of capital infrastructure initiatives.” The strategic objective of this goal is to develop and lead capital infrastructure initiatives that reflect community needs, sustainable planning, and a commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Goal 4: “Support existing and new opportunities to attract new residents and retain youth and adult populations.” The objective of this goal is to retain North Perth’s youth and young adults to ensure that professionals are enticed to come to the Municipality to live and work.

These goals are set to be achieved through a number of measures, including (but not limited to):

- Secure financing, design and construct Phase 1 of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
- Implement Memorial Park Rehabilitation Plan
- Develop long-term use strategy for facility users at Wallace Community Centre
- Develop a long-term strategy for Listowel Memorial Arena
- Establish a Working Group for the Elma Memorial Community Centre; develop, design and implement rehabilitation plan
- Review bridge inspection reports for trails to ensure public safety
- Secure grants for eligible projects in North Perth
- Promote and share information through social media where applicable
- Ensure good attendance in recreational programs by both residents and non-residents —since higher participation rates increase retail opportunities for local businesses
- Offer programs throughout North Perth for all ages based on demand and need. Continue to partner with community groups and organizations to assist with event coordination
- Implement R-Zone Policy for all North Perth Facilities and establish smoke-free zones at facility entrances
- Work with and assist service clubs with municipality approved projects
- Implement energy audits

Financial Rationalization Study (2005)

The Financial Rationalization Study (2005) examines recreation and parks services and contains an inventory of current facilities, population profile (1991-2001), projected population growth, an analysis of current service delivery, and input from public and staff focus groups.

The following observations were made after analyzing facilities in North Perth:

- Residents of North Perth enjoy a high level of access to arenas in the Municipality; however, if a larger centre should develop new arenas, local arenas could become underutilized.

- Community input showed that most residents feel they have good service and that the current model is effective, but they are concerned about current and future costs of operations and maintenance for the facilities.
- Overall, there was consensus among the focus group that the service delivery model at the time was responding to the needs of the population.

There were several key themes that were generated after the focus group discussion, including:

- A preference for facilities to be distributed throughout the Municipality, not limited to the Listowel region.
- Concerns over the cost of access to facilities and the barrier that high costs present to residents.
- The ability to consolidate indoor facilities and sports fields during non-peak times to gain operational efficiencies.
- A need to enhance the maintenance of facilities and set a standard for quality among recreational areas, both municipally and school-based.

The focus group considered the fact that the Listowel Memorial Arena was reaching its 50th Anniversary and was an aging facility. This report helped to establish direction for a long-term assessment of Listowel Memorial Arena and its eventual replacement.

Listowel Greenway Master Plan (2009)

The goal of the Listowel Greenway Master Plan is to address the passive, outdoor recreational needs of the residents and visitors. The plan utilizes environmental best practices to implement trails, paths and greenspaces – it is the Municipality’s response to the needs of the community and its natural environment.

The objectives of the Listowel Greenway Master Plan are:

- To contribute to a sense of place and safe environment
- To establish a connection between local parks and the community
- To improve plant and animal diversity while maintaining environmentally sensitive areas

The Listowel Greenway Master Plan recommends that the Municipality develop a “Wayfinding Plan”. This Wayfinding Plan would include improved signage for parks, paths, and trails be implemented by the Municipality. The signage would acknowledge passive recreational areas within Listowel to promote greater awareness, education, and use.

Library Feasibility Study (2015)

Changing demographics are placing more pressure on the sustainability of rural communities including the ability to provide an array of services, such as public libraries. The goal of this Study was to determine if Monkton and Atwood had sufficient catchment population to support their library branches.

North Perth is expected to grow in population, and thus, services will be directed to future residential growth in the Listowel and Atwood areas. Other settlement areas are not expected to experience significant residential growth. The findings of this Study suggest that the Listowel library should be renovated and expanded to serve the anticipated future catchment population of 13,000. In addition, the Study suggests that the Monkton branch be renovated to update its aging infrastructure, and the Atwood branch be relocated to Elma Memorial Community Centre as an addition. Library development is not suggested for other settlement areas.

County of Perth Official Plan (1997/1999)

The County of Perth Official Plan applies to lands within the Wallace and Elma Wards. The Listowel Ward is considered a primary growth area and is governed by its own Official Plan.

Section 12.2 of the County of Perth Official Plan outlines the following goals for lands given a “Recreation” designation:

- a) To identify existing recreational developments, and where feasible, allow new recreational developments that will not conflict with agricultural land-uses within the County;
- b) To encourage recreational design that is compatible with the physical characteristics and natural features of their individual sites;
- c) To promote the delivery of those recreational activities that serve residents of the County; and
- d) To limit the location of new recreational activities to lands that have less fertile soil for agriculture (e.g. other than Class 1, 2 and 3 lands) or vacant lands within urban areas in the County.

With regard to the acquisition of parkland, the County Official Plan states that 5% or cash-in-lieu is required to ensure development or redevelopment is harmonious and sensitive to surrounding land uses. Up to 2% of a parcel of land (or cash-in-lieu) to be used for a municipal park or recreational uses is required for the development or redevelopment of commercial or industrial land.

Official Plan for Listowel Ward (2010)

This document contains goals, objectives, and policies for the Listowel Ward lands in North Perth. This lower-tier municipal Official Plan aims to manage and direct physical change and the effects on the social, economic, and natural environment. The Plan has a planning period of 20 years and supports and encourages the use of recreational facilities and the upkeep of parks, trails and open spaces under Section 16.0.

With regard to parkland dedication and the development or redevelopment of land, Section 5.5.13 of the Plan states that parkland dedication of up to 5% of the land area or cash-in-lieu shall be required for lands being subdivided for residential purposes. If land is proposed for

development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes, 2% of the total land area must be allocated for a municipal park or other public recreational purpose.

Section 14.0 of the Plan encourages subdivision designs that include open space, walkways and space for active living. Additionally, this section supports the development of recreational facilities, open space and trail systems that support recreation and healthy living. Section 9.0 of the Plan highlights the importance of recognizing and providing land for recreational services and facilities and to ensure they are located and designed to be compatible with surrounding land uses.

North Perth Master Growth Plan (2010) & Update (2014)

This Plan evaluates existing and current land use infrastructure and development patterns to project growth in the Municipality over the next 20 years. Settlement area boundaries, the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law are considered to evaluate where growth will occur and if more land exists than what is required.

Key recommendations of relevance to the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan include:

- Future growth should be directed towards the Serviced Urban Areas of Atwood and Listowel.
- Atwood should be classified as a 'Serviced Urban Area' in the Official Plan rather than a 'Village' due to growth in this area.
- That the land supply in Monkton and Trowbridge that is classified as Parks and Recreational Land be permitted only for the continued use of Parks and Recreation in the future, even if there is expansion in those areas.

A detailed outline of the necessary implementation measures required for the Master Growth Plan was provided through the 2012 Growth Plan Implementation Strategy. The 2010 Plan subsequently re-examined in 2014 through a Master Growth Plan Update. The Update projected that the future population in North Perth would be 14,285 by 2024, 14,990 by 2031, and 17,253 by buildout.

Key priorities of the North Perth Master Growth Plan (2014) include:

- Future residential growth should be largely accommodated within the Listowel and Atwood settlement areas, which currently have sufficient water and sanitary services available to support the plan. Focusing future growth in these areas allows for the preservation of agricultural land and environmental features.
- New development should be prioritized through infilling, intensification, adaptive reuse of existing buildings and brownfield redevelopment before urban expansions.

Community Improvement Plan (2012)

This Community Improvement Plan provides a framework for future planning studies, construction and redevelopment initiatives, and revitalization opportunities for private landowners in Atwood, Listowel, and Monkton. In relation to parks and recreation, the Community Improvement Plan provides the Municipality with the following recommendations:

- Provide connection opportunities between the downtown areas, parks, and recreational trails.
- Increase promotion of local activities to attract visitors from the surrounding area to parks and recreation centres for sports, arts and culture events.
- Offer more tourism packages, such as culinary or festival packages, which may extend visitor stays for more than one day and generate more overnight tourists.

Through tourism, revenue can be generated for the Municipality and the community, not only from event or registration fees, but also through indirect spending on hospitality, food, fuel, shopping, etc. The greater selection of parks, facilities and trails that the Municipality offers, the greater the opportunity for large events, sporting tournaments and festivals.

Downtown Streetscape Master Plan (2014)

The Downtown Streetscape Master Plan aims to enhance the appearance and flow of streetscapes and trails in North Perth and, by doing so, draw more residents and visitors to the downtown cores. The overall goals and objectives of the plan are:

- To beautify the downtown streetscapes through enhanced signage, pedestrian paths and planters.
- To create a memorable visit, encourage people to stop and take in their surroundings and to promote repeat visits.
- To balance pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular needs.
- To promote pedestrian safety and traffic calming.
- To ensure easy navigation.
- To strengthen community connections between the Urban Serviced Areas of Atwood, Listowel and Monkton.
- To capitalize on rail trails and provide formal trailhead areas with parking (both Atwood and Monkton have opportunities to capitalize on existing rail trails that cross main streets) and to develop memorable nodes within the streetscape, add landscaping and create reasons for people to stop and visit.

3. Emerging Trends & Promising Practices

Regional, provincial, and national trends are commonly used to supplement local trends to establish an understanding of what may occur in the North Perth's future. Lifestyle and participation trends can potentially impact a facility, program, or service and are important to identify when determining recreational service delivery challenges and responses. This section provides an overview of broad trends related to the parks and recreation sector across the Province and potential implications for North Perth to consider.

3.1 Physical Activity & Sport Trends

This section contains information related to broad recreation and sport activity levels. The themes summarized below consider a variety of factors that may impact participation in physical activities.

Increasing Physical Inactivity

Declines in physical activity can be linked to a preference for sedentary activities during leisure time such as browsing the Internet, socializing, gaming, etc. The Canadian Health Measures Survey (2007 to 2009) found that only 8% of boys and 4% of girls met the current guidelines for physical activity: at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity a day. Only roughly 15% of adults met current guidelines: 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per week. In ParticipACTION's 2015 Report Card, youth and children were graded a D- for overall physical activity levels for three years in a row. This data suggests that there has been limited progress in improving physical activity at the national level. However, data for the Perth District Health Unit indicates that 57% of residents age 12 and older were moderately active or active, up from 49% in 2012, suggesting that positive gains are being made locally⁴.

Lack of Free Time

Increasingly busy lifestyles leave many Canadians feeling as though they cannot make time for physical activity. The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute found that physical activity levels decrease with age. Many Canadians are instead choosing passive leisure activities and frequently choose vehicular transportation over active transportation.

Although lack of free time can be a barrier to participation, there are opportunities for the recreation industry to respond and meet the needs of residents. For instance, multi-purpose facilities provide opportunities for all ages to meet their recreation needs in one location. Drop-

⁴ Statistics Canada. Table 105-0501 - Health indicator profile, annual estimates, by age group and sex, Canada, provinces, territories, health regions (2013 boundaries) and peer groups, occasional, CANSIM (database). (accessed: October 2016)

in and unstructured play times allow for individuals and families to participate in activities at their leisure. Also, public recreation times (e.g., open skate, public swimming, etc.) and other programs that do not require registration allow opportunities for users to participate at their convenience without commitment. Overall, flexible, affordable recreation options could provide opportunities to further engage North Perth residents in physical activity.

Self-directed Recreation

Increasingly busy lifestyles have altered the leisure habits of many individuals and prompted a general transition from organized to unorganized recreation activities. Those who experience this “time crunch” are increasingly looking for spontaneous, non-programmed forms of activity that fit into their schedule. This trend has influenced the design of community facilities to be more flexible in accommodating both programmable and non-programmable space. For example, the provision of multi-purpose rooms utilized for structured programming or drop-in activities, open spaces utilized for a variety of outdoor sports, or hard surface courts to facilitate informal basketball, pickleball, or ball-hockey are some examples that respond to an increase in demands for drop-in, self-directed activities and pick-up sports.

The Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute notes the declining trend of active participation. In 2009, the Institute reported that 27% of Canadians participated in sports, which is a lower rate compared to previous years.⁵ While participation rates in organized activities (such as minor sports) remain strong in certain categories (such as soccer and girls hockey), the 2005 Sport Participation in Canada study observed a noticeable decline in other organized activities (such as baseball) as interests change or people try to find activities that fit within their busy schedules.⁶

With the growing emphasis on less competitive and more unstructured activities, many new forms of recreational activities are emerging, such as pickleball, dodge ball, skateboarding, off leash dog walking, low-impact outdoor exercise equipment, pole walking, bocce courts and more. Municipalities across Ontario have responded to requests for non-traditional sports through the design of flexible facility templates. Designing sports and recreation facilities that allow a broad range of uses and adaptability to activities that may emerge is essential to meeting future needs of the community as preferences change.

⁵ Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute. 2008 Physical Activity Monitor – Bulletin 3: Sport Participation in Canada.

⁶ Fidelis, I. 2008. Sport Participation in Canada, 2005. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 81-595. Ottawa: Minister of Industry. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-595-m/81-595-m2008060-eng.pdf>

Youth Participation in Sport

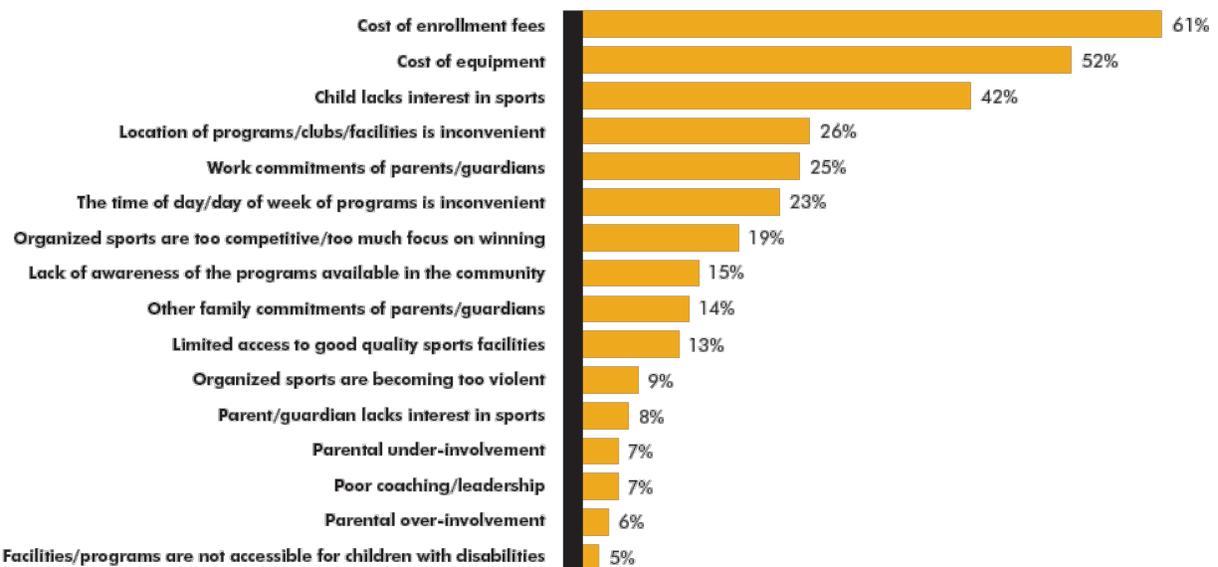
Physical activity is important for the healthy development of youth and adolescents. Recreational programming and facilities are often geared towards youth sports and facilitating athlete development.

The most recent Statistics Canada survey on youth participation in organized sports was conducted in 2005. This report highlighted that youth participation rates had been on the decline for years. More recently, the 2016 ParticipACTION Report Card reported that 77% of youth ages 5-19 participated in organized physical activity or sport. This development represents a positive change in youth participation rates. With greater youth participation rates in recent years, more sport promotion, local sponsorship and municipal financial assistance to families may be beneficial.

Though youth participation rates have increased, several barriers remain. Costs associated with sports are a primary barrier to many and often compete with other family demands. In addition, the pressure to succeed in school and greater time spent in front of video game or computer screens is deterring youth from sports. Pressures from parents cause many adolescents to view sports as overly competitive and cause early sport specialization, which may be detrimental to a child's enjoyment of that activity. Historically, gender inequality in sports was prevalent due to the perception of traditional gender norms, however, this thinking has largely changed as evidenced by a variety of female minor and international sport opportunities (such as women's hockey and soccer) in communities across North America.

The following graph displays the many barriers to youth participation in sport.

Figure 7: Barriers to Youth Participation in Sport



Source: 2015 ParticipACTION Report Card

Family involvement in sports also plays a role in a youth participation. Of children who participate, it is likely that one or more parent has a sporting interest and that they came from a higher income background. On the other hand, children of recent immigrants are less likely to participate in sports. As North Perth's population grows and potentially becomes more diverse, understanding the numerous factors that affect youth participation in sport will be essential in providing sufficient opportunities.

Adult Participation in Sport

The Canadian Fitness in Lifestyle Research Institute's 2014-2015 Physical Activity Monitor reported that 34% of Canadian adults participated in sports, although men were more likely to participate than women (46% versus 22%, respectively). The report generated trends from respondents' answers, including:

- Higher income households were more likely to participate than lower income households.
- There was a demand for more non-programmed and unstructured activities.
- There was a demand for non-traditional activities such as pickleball, dodgeball and ultimate Frisbee.

Skill Development and Year-Round Play

In the past, baseball, golf and soccer players played in the summer, hockey players played in the winter and football players played only in the fall. Today, there is a general trend towards year-round participation, which is creating maintenance and operational challenges for facility providers and demand for indoor practice in the 'off season'. For example, some municipalities provide year-round ice, while ice is removed at other arenas for arena floor activities, limiting opportunities to undertake repairs or renovations without disrupting service. Further, the demand for indoor turf facilities continues to rise as these venues can host a variety of sports over the winter season.

Ice and field sport governing bodies in Canada are also implementing a Long-term Athlete Development model that emphasizes athlete growth, maturation, and development. This model identifies the needs of athletes at various stages of their development, including training and competition needs and also addresses the appropriate stages for the introduction and refinement of technical, physical, mental and tactical skills.

As a result of this and other factors (such as the amalgamation of associations and changes to residency requirements that allow for greater player movement), competitive development experiences and opportunities are in high demand. The higher the level of play and the greater the focus on athlete development, the more time that is required for practices, games, experienced coaches and camps. Many organizations are altering their standards of play in order to offer their registrants more facility time during all seasons. Sports academies and other enhanced development experiences (e.g., power skating) are turning hockey, soccer, and other

sports into year-round activities. While this model allows for more time on the field of play, it also coincides with demands for dryland training spaces, which are important considerations for facility planning.

3.2 Arts & Culture Trends

Current research on arts attendance and participation in Canada is broad, but highlights the growing nature of this industry and the importance placed on it across the nation. For example, research conducted by the Ontario Arts Council found that visitation of historical sites was the most popular arts and cultural activity, followed by museums/art galleries, arts performances, and festivals and fairs. In turn, the 2011 Ontario Arts Engagement Study indicates that: 60% of Ontarians attend professional music concerts at least once a year; 55% attend professional plays or musicals; and 51% visit art museums or galleries. In 2008, Canadian consumers spent over \$27 billion on cultural goods, with spending on live performing arts being more than double what Canadians spend on live sports events.

On the whole, trends suggest that arts attendance by Canadians is on the rise and diversifying. However, expectations are rising for high quality, value-added arts and culture programs and events that fit with busy lifestyles and offer meaningful social experiences.

The presence of arts and cultural opportunities are highly desirable in any community as they play an important role in creating vibrant and livable communities and contribute to knowledge building, creative expression, and bolstering the local economy. Arts and culture includes a broad spectrum of activities including visual and creative arts (e.g., dance and music), festivals, special events, live-theatre and heritage appreciation. Volunteerism is critical to cultural vitality and growth.

North Perth has a thriving community of artists and artisans. The North Perth Arts and Culture Council provides the community with a variety of performances, workshops and art gallery shows throughout the year. There are also many heritage buildings and homes throughout the community.

New cultural activities and facilities can not only build quality of life for residents, but also promote communities as regional destinations. As a result, the Municipality's proximity to the Stratford Festival provides a unique opportunity to draw people in to experience all that North Perth has to offer, including special events like Paddyfest, Canada Day celebrations in Atwood, heritage buildings, trails and natural heritage lands, and much more; crafts and artisans and downtowns. Promotion and marketing opportunities, possibly in partnership with the regional tourism organization (RTO4), will be explored later in this Master Plan.

3.3 Accessibility & Affordability

Engaging Persons with Disabilities

According to the Canadian Survey on Disability, approximately 3.8 million Canadians were living with a disability in 2012, representing 13.7% of Canadians and 15.4% of Ontarians. If the Ontario average were applied to North Perth, based on 2016 population estimates, approximately 2,040 residents are living with a disability. Given these statistics, it is crucial that parks and recreation services include accessible and barrier-free elements wherever possible.

Barrier-free Features

Municipalities across the provinces have embraced principles of inclusivity through facility design and service delivery. Providing barrier-free access is now a requirement for new recreational facilities since mandatory compliance to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and changes to the Ontario Building Code (OBC) were introduced. However, barrier-free access poses a challenge for older facilities that did not formerly require this infrastructure and must now undergo costly upgrades to improve accessibility.

Affordability

Participation in recreational activities is often directly correlated to household income, particularly for competitive sports and personal training due to the high cost to participate. Nationwide, 62% of individuals living in households with incomes of less than \$20,000 were considered inactive. The 2014 Active Healthy Kids Report Card discovered that 85% of children between the age of 5 and 14 were involved in sports, whereas 58% of these children belonged to households earning less than \$40,000.

The Framework for Recreation in Canada highlights increasing income disparity as one of the trends impacting participation. In 2005, 51% of two-parent households with children were spending \$579 a year on equipment alone, not including the cost of facility rentals, club memberships, transportation, and competition fees. Due to the costs associated with program registration, transportation, equipment, and competitions, lower-income families face significant barriers to participating in sports and recreation. This reality is strongly reflected in the difference between sports participation by children in high-income households (69%) and children in lower-income households (44%)⁷. Between 1995 and 2011, family after-tax income inequality across Canada rose by 41%, with economic gains increasingly going to higher-income families⁸.

Per the 2011 National Household Survey, the average after-tax income for North Perth households was \$64,787. Based on income alone, this suggests that North Perth residents have

⁷ Clark, W. (2008). Canadian Social Trends: Kids' Sports. Retrieved May 17, 2016, from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2008001/article/10573-eng.htm>

⁸ CPRA. (2015). A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing. CPRA.

slightly lower activity levels than Perth County (average household income of \$65,304) and slightly lower than the Province (\$71,523). Statistics Canada also reported that 12% of North Perth residents are living in low-income households; more than the County (10%) and less than the Provincial average (14%). With approximately 1,590 residents living in low-income households, there is a need for affordable recreation opportunities in North Perth.

3.4 Facility Design Trends

Infrastructure Deficits

Many sectors, including the recreation industry, are coping with aging infrastructure and increasing maintenance backlogs. This presents a major challenge for municipalities which face pressures to provide newer and better facilities while maintaining standards at existing facilities, many of which were built with provincial assistance in the 1960s and 1970s.

A 2006 study by Parks and Recreation Ontario identified that 30-50% of recreation facilities in Ontario were near the end of their useful life at the time.⁹ Many of these now require significant repairs and renovations and are generally costlier to maintain due to operational inefficiencies. There are several challenges with older facilities, including (but not limited to):

- they were designed to different construction and design standards and may have antiquated facility components (structural, mechanical, electrical, etc.);
- they lack modern amenities, such as larger (or enough) change rooms, heated viewing areas, and multi-use designs;
- they have smaller footprints that are unable to accommodate evolving requirements and standards of play;
- many arenas are single pad designs that cannot offer the convenience and cost savings of multi-pad arenas;
- they may not be barrier-free for persons with disabilities; and
- they are not energy efficient and thus have higher operating costs.

Recognizing this, recent Federal and Provincial funding programs have contributed millions of dollars toward the renewal and construction of recreational infrastructure. Locally, the Municipality has been modernizing its arena infrastructure through upgrades and expansion at the Elma Logan Arena and replacement of the Listowel Memorial Arena.

⁹ Parks and Recreation Ontario. (2006). Ontario Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Study. Retrieved from <http://216.13.76.142/PROntario/index.htm>

Creative Partnerships

Efforts to provide facilities in the most cost-effective manner have led to an increased interest in and use of partnerships in both building and operating leisure facilities. Partnerships may be with private companies or, more commonly, with non-profit leisure providers such as YMCAs. The Municipality already has a strong history of engaging partners in the delivery of programs and services, especially local service clubs (e.g. Kinsmen, Lions Club, Kinettes, Rotary Club, etc.).

Successful public-private partnerships utilize the resources of each party and can be a beneficial way to increase the amount of publicly accessible facilities. A successful outcome is realized when the public interest is maximized and that partnerships fulfill the desired objectives of each party. For example, many communities provide facility space while operating responsibilities are provided by a partnering community organization. The range of potential arrangements is wide and dependent on the skills, resources, and needs of each partner.

Multi-purpose Facilities

In this era of user convenience and cost recovery, more often municipalities are centralizing multiple recreational facilities on individual sites. Further, there is a growing expectation that facilities contain something for everybody, rather than being designed solely for singular uses. Co-location of complementary facility components often creates convenient, centralized activity centres and generates operating efficiencies. The provision of high quality, multi-use, and multi-generational facilities encourages physical and social activity among all age groups, while also creating opportunities for sport tourism at a regional scale.

Multi-purpose facilities help to address time constraints and mitigate pressures that keep people away from physical activity. Facilities such as the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex will provide many opportunities for leisure for each member of a family, all in one place in the future. However, the drawback of multi-purpose facilities is that they are inherently more centralized compared to smaller neighbourhood facilities, increasing the need for more distant users to drive to facilities rather than bike or walk.

Environmentally Sustainable Building Design

Environmental sustainability is increasingly becoming a priority for public and private sector building construction, operation, and maintenance. Institutional buildings are an opportunity to educate the public on green building design, as well as reducing waste, water, and energy consumption. Leisure facilities are traditionally heavy consumers of energy with a large building footprint and reducing consumption can reduce long-term costs.

Certain municipalities have adopted policies that establish specific LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) construction and/or certification levels for particular types of buildings. While these models require additional capital investment during the construction phase of the project, there is normally a gradual payback from cost economies or expenditure avoidance. Consequently, there are civic, social and financial benefits of the greening trend.

4. Inventory of Parks, Facilities & Programs

This section identifies the inventory of parks, recreation, and cultural facilities and programs provided by the Municipality and other sectors. Where appropriate, support mapping is provided to illustrate the distribution of facilities (see **Appendix A**). A site visit to North Perth's recreation, culture and park facilities took place on October 5, 2016 to validate key amenities and facilities.

4.1 Municipal Parks & Recreation Inventory

The following tables identify the type, number and location of municipally-owned recreation facilities and parks in North Perth. After the tables are descriptions of all municipal parks and recreation facilities.

Table 5: Summary of Recreation Facilities (Municipally Owned)

Facility Type	Supply	Location
Arenas	3	Elma Logan Recreation Complex, Listowel Memorial Arena, and Wallace Community Centre
Community Halls and Program Spaces	6	Listowel Memorial Arena, Elma Memorial Community Centre (2), Elma Logan Recreation Complex (2), Wallace Community Centre
Ball Diamonds	9 lit/4 unlit	John Bell South, John Bell North, KIN South, KIN North, Memorial Park, Optimist/Davidson Park, Jackson Park, Atwood North, Atwood South, Trowbridge, Monkton North and Monkton South, Wallace Optimist
Tennis Courts	5	Optimist/Davidson (2), Atwood Lions Park (2), PUC Tennis Court
Basketball Courts	9 hoops	Wilson Park (2), Atwood Lions Park (4), Ward Subdivision Park, Elma Logan Park (2)
Splash Pads	1	Kinette Splash Pad
Outdoor Rinks	1	Atwood Lions Park
Soccer Fields	2 full 5 intermediate 2 mini	Elma Logan (1 full), Wallace Optimist (1 full, 2 intermediate, 2 mini fields), Memorial Park (1 intermediate), Kinsmen Park (2 intermediate) <i>Note: School fields are heavily used for youth soccer</i>
Skateboard Parks	1	Memorial Park
Volleyball Courts (outdoor)	4	Elma Logan Park, Ward Subdivision Park, Kinsmen Park (2)
Playgrounds	12	Atwood Lions Park, Boyne Park, Elma Logan Park, Jackson Park, Kinsmen Park, Livingstone Park, Memorial Park, Oke Park, Robert Mathers Park, Wallace Optimist Park, Ward Subdivision Park, Wilson Park

Facility Type	Supply	Location
Multi-use Courts	2	Wilson Park, Elma Logan Park
Outdoor Pools	2	Memorial Park, Atwood Lions Park
Bocce Courts	5	Memorial Park
Horseshoe Pits	7	Elma Logan Park (4), Kinsmen Park (3)
Pavilions	7	Atwood Lions Park, Elma Logan Park (2), Kinsmen Park, Memorial Park, Robert Mathers Park, Wallace Optimist Park
Bandshells	1	Memorial Park
Amphitheatres	1	Memorial Park

Table 6: Summary of Parks and Open Spaces (Municipally Owned)

Park Name	Location	Hectares
Atwood Lions Park	Atwood	3.85
Boyne Park	Listowel	0.60
Cenotaph Park	Listowel	0.35
Centennial Park	Gowanstown	0.57
Elma Logan Park	Monkton	6.24
Elma Memorial Cenotaph Park	Atwood	0.02
Gowanstown Greenspace (open space)	Gowanstown	0.14
Jackson Park	Listowel	1.79
Kinsmen Station Park	Listowel	5.91
Kinsmen Park	Listowel	5.27
Livingstone Park	Listowel	0.20
Memorial Park	Listowel	9.92
Millennium Park	Listowel	0.02
North Park	Listowel	0.79
Oke Park	Listowel	0.57
Optimist Park	Listowel	1.57
Listowel Community Garden	Listowel	0.34
PUC Tennis Court	Listowel	0.02
Robert Mathers Park	Trowbridge	5.23
Steve Kerr Memorial Complex	Listowel	6.5
Wallace Community Centre & Arena	Kurtzville	1.27
Wallace Optimist Park	Listowel	4.67
Ward Subdivision Park	Gowanstown	0.12
Wilson Park	Listowel	1.03
TOTAL	--	56.99

Atwood Lions Park & Elma Memorial Community Centre

Built in 1971, Elma Memorial Community Centre is located at the corner of Elma Centre Street and Main Street (Highway 23), adjacent to Atwood Lions Park. Popular for weddings and galas, this 5,000 sq. ft. hall contains a front lobby, coat area, a full kitchen and a bar area. It is powered by geo-thermal energy and on the municipal water system. The local Lions Club remains an active contributor to the centre.



Atwood Lions Park

Adjacent to Elma Memorial Community Centre lies Atwood Lions Park. Amenities present at the Park include two lit, crusher dust baseball diamonds used for slow-pitch and minor ball, a soccer field that overlaps with the baseball outfields, an enclosed batting cage, two lit tennis courts with four basketball hoops, a large pavilion with kitchen, memorial garden, an outdoor pool, a playground area and an outdoor rink.

The Atwood Pool, built in 1985, provides community members with swim lessons and recreational swimming in the summer months. This rectangular, heated outdoor pool contains six lanes of swimming, a deep end with springboard and a water-slide.

Funded by the Lions Club and fully operated by dedicated volunteers, the boarded natural ice rink was added in 2013 in place of a former lawn bowling facility; it is utilized for ball hockey and camps in the summer and ice hockey and skating in the winter (support building was constructed in 2016).

Boyne Park

Boyne Park is a land-locked park in Listowel located behind residential homes along Boyne Avenue, Ann Street, Riverview Drive and Victoria Avenue South. The park is mostly comprised of green space and a single playground area. Users must enter and exit the park through three informal grass paths between residences.

Cenotaph Park

Located adjacent to the North Perth Municipal Office is Cenotaph Park. Within the park there is a small gazebo, a clock tower and a statue honouring war veterans. This small, centrally located park acts as a meeting place for residents to gather for leisure and remembrance.

Centennial Park

Located on the corner of Road 164 and Perth Line 88 in Gowanstown is a passive park called Centennial Park.

Elma Logan Park, Arena & Community Centre



Elma Logan Park is in Monkton, in the southwest portion of North Perth. It is operated by the Municipality with contributions from the local Kinsmen and Lions associations. The amenities in the park include a lit clay ball diamond and an unlit ball diamond, two small pavilions with washrooms and storage, an older basketball court, a full soccer field, a beach volleyball court, open space, four horseshoe pits, memorial forest, and a junior playground area.

Located beside Elma Logan Park in Monkton, is Elma Logan Arena which was built in 1990. From 2011 to 2014, the arena was updated with two additional change-rooms and storage. The arena boasts a heated viewing area for spectators on the east end of the rink along with a large lobby, one ice pad (185ft x 85ft), a boardroom, a canteen, two referee rooms, washrooms and a first-aid room. Through community fundraising, a large hall with a kitchen was also added to host community events, dances and fundraisers. The facility is jointly operated by a Board of Management that includes the municipalities of West Perth (37%) and North Perth (63%).

Elma Memorial Cenotaph

Situated in the southwest corner of Monument Road and Highway 23 in Atwood, the cenotaph is a tribute to war veterans.

Gowanstown Greenspace

Located on the east side of Highway 23 South of Maple Lane Road is a vacant open space parcel owned by the Municipality referred to as the Gowanstown Greenspace.

Jackson Park

Jackson Park is located on Winston Boulevard in Listowel. Amenities include a single, unlit clay baseball diamond with a green in-field. The baseball field mostly caters to pee-wee and mosquito aged players. There is some off-street parking located at the park. Behind the baseball diamond is a junior and senior playground area. Greenspace throughout the park acts as a buffer between each of the activity sites.

Kin Station Park

This former rail station (owned by the local Kinsmen organization) on Binning Street West has been repurposed into a community hall. The Municipality owns the land and is responsible for ground maintenance which includes the junction of multiple trails.

Kinsmen Park

Kinsmen Park is located at Louise Avenue North in Listowel. Recreational facilities include two lit, clay/stone-dust baseball diamonds primarily used for slow-pitch and minor ball, a pavilion with washrooms, three horseshoe pits, two beach volleyball courts, a junior/senior swing-set and two intermediate soccer pitches.

Listowel Community Garden

Northeast of Perth Meadows Adult Lifestyle Community and located on Nelson Avenue South is Listowel Community Garden. Administered by a community gardening organization, the site contains roughly fifteen active plots. The Municipality is responsible for grass maintenance and rototilling and has also supplied gardeners with municipal water.

Livingstone Park

On the northwest corner of Livingstone Street South and Elma Street West in Listowel is Livingstone Park. This small park contains playground equipment, benches and a small pathway that runs diagonally, providing connection from the east to the west.

Memorial Park & Listowel Memorial Arena

Memorial Park is a large community park in Listowel composed of many different sports fields and amenities. It is intersected by the Maitland River, dividing the park into two sides.



Listowel Memorial Arena

Memorial Park contains the following park amenities:

- A lit stone dust baseball diamond and dug-outs (John Bell North)
- A larger baseball diamond with a clay infield, full size mounds and adjacent batting cage with storage ideal for competitive baseball play (John Bell South)
- A smaller, unlit diamond with no fencing is located on the corner of Royal Street East and Elizabeth Street East with a soccer field that overlaps the outfield
- A concrete recreational skate-park beside John Bell South
- A small bandshell open to the public
- The Rotary Pavilion
- A large playground area
- A rectangular outdoor pool (Kinsmen Pool) that contains a slide, one-metre springboard, six swim lanes and is accompanied with a small bathhouse with change rooms
- A splash pad (Kinette Splash Pad)
- Five bocce ball courts operated by the Listowel Bocce Club
- An outdoor amphitheatre with seating supplied by the Rotary Club
- A 'Partici-park' that contains outdated wooden outdoor fitness equipment

Also within the park is the Listowel Memorial Arena, which is home to the Junior 'B' Cyclone's Hockey Team named after local hockey legend Fred "Cyclone" Taylor. Built in 1953, the facility was rebuilt in 1961 after a structural failure and underwent a cosmetic renovation in 1988. Amenities include a single-pad rink (180ft x 80ft), a small front lobby, four changerooms, a small concession stand and an enclosed viewing area/hall on the second floor. This facility is slated to close as an ice venue once the new Steve Kerr Memorial Complex is open.

Millennium Park

Situated in front of the Listowel Public Library, Millennium Park was built and operated by the Rotary Club and consists of a variety of ornamental plantings.

North Park

Located at the northern entrance to Listowel along Highway 23, North Park contains a gateway feature and trail connection.

Oke Park

Oke Park is a linear park located along Barber Avenue North in Listowel and along the Gowanstown trail. There is a junior playground and four swings surrounded by greenspace. This community park serves residents in the immediate vicinity.

Optimist Park

Located on the corner of Davidson Avenue North and Campbell Street East in Listowel is Optimist Park. Optimist Park offers two well-maintained, lit tennis courts and one unlit ball diamond mainly utilized for rookie level baseball.

PUC Tennis Court

Located at Main Street West and Victoria Avenue South in Listowel is a single, asphalt-based tennis court known as the PUC tennis court. There are no lights on site, therefore, this court is only subject to day-use.

Robert Mathers Park

Established in 1987, Robert Mathers Park is in Trowbridge and offers a small sandbox area, a small wooden pavilion with benches, one lit ball diamond and some naturalized greenspace. The former washroom building is no longer in use due to the loss of the local water connection.

Steve Kerr Memorial Complex

The newest addition to North Perth's recreation inventory is the multi-use Steve Kerr Memorial Complex which is anticipated to be completed by late 2017. This new 63,500 square foot complex will cater to residents of all ages and will offer a single regulation sized ice pad (200ft x 85ft) with a two-lane indoor walking track, a community meeting space, approximately 800 seats and outdoor soccer fields. The building design was developed with the vision of accommodating future growth and potentially a second ice pad based on demand. The complex is located adjacent to Westfield Public School utilizing a shared drive off Binning Street West in Listowel.

Wallace Community Centre & Arena

Located in Kurtzville, Wallace Community Centre consists of an undersized ice pad (170ft x 70ft) with limited seating on the west-side (two-rows) and a raised upper-deck viewing area in the lobby. There are four small changerooms on the east side fronting onto the rink. The Wallace Community Centre is predominately used for minor hockey, but is also available for lacrosse and broomball when the ice is removed. There is also a large auditorium attached to the arena on the south-side with a full kitchen area and bar. There are washrooms located off the lobby beside a small canteen that is no longer in service.



Wallace Community Centre & Arena

Wallace Optimist Park

Located on Line 87 just north of Listowel, Wallace Optimist Park caters to the soccer community with two mini fields, two intermediate fields and one full-sized field. All fields are unlit, therefore, are only available for day use. There is a single pavilion located at the front of the park which provides washrooms and storage. There is also a single swing-set and one lit baseball diamond.

Ward Park

Ward Park is a small, neighbourhood park located on Crayton Court in Gowanstown. There are four swings, a half-court for basketball and a grass volleyball play area.

Wilson Park

Wilson Park is a newer park located in Listowel along Hutton Street West. The park contains a large concrete basketball court that can also be used for recreational ball hockey. There is a small, concrete pathway to provide park access for residents located at the rear of the park. Open greenspace separates the concrete play area from a junior/senior playground. There is a large stone positioned at the front of the park displaying the park name and history about the land.

4.2 Municipal Trails Network

The Municipality of North Perth offers several trails that provide users with the opportunity to travel through agricultural land, parks, along former railways and right into the heart of North Perth. These multi-use trails can be used for walking, running, cycling, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and snowmobiling (with some restrictions). They include:

- Rotary Walkway is a 2 km trail, which follows the Maitland River from the Municipal Building to Memorial Park.
- The Kinsmen Trail is 2 km long and parallels the former railway track from Main Street north past Kin Station to the end of Barber Avenue. It follows Main Street East to Wallace Avenue North and connects to the Rotary trail on its way to the Municipal Building.
- Gowanstown Trail runs along the former railway from Gowanstown to Line 87 and is 2.5 km in length.
- The Listowel-Henfryn Trail stretches from Main Street Atwood to Main Street Listowel and continues to nearby Henfryn along the rural countryside for 9 km. There is a shorter side trail from Elma Street West across town to Tremaine Avenue following the former rail line for 1.5 km. Composed of chips and dust, this trail is mostly used for walking, running and biking and is a popular route for snowmobiling in the winter months. To preserve the trails' condition and limit path destruction for users, all-terrain vehicles are not permitted.

In addition, a non-profit organization is working to establish the Goderich to Goderich Rail Trail (G2G) to connect the two communities and those along the 127 kilometre former rail line. Locally, the trail runs through Monkton and is available for public recreational trail (non-motorized) use.

4.3 Arts & Cultural Facilities & Key Service Providers

This section highlights arts and culture facilities, providers and assets in North Perth including arts organizations, festivals and other key places and organizations in the community.

North Perth Arts and Culture Council

The North Perth Arts and Culture Council was formed to unite the artistic and creative community together in North Perth. The Council's main function is to promote artistic and cultural programs for residents. Currently, there are two separate membership available: one for artists and one for members of the public. The North Perth Arts Council provides members with a connection to local arts and culture activities rather than providing facilities of their own.

Perth Arts Connect

Perth Arts Connect is a non-profit, member-driven organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and support arts, culture and heritage. Their goal is to enrich and enliven Perth County to ensure that creativity and imagination remain a vital part of the County's social and economic life. Perth Arts Connect provides the opportunities to connect members to services and activities and does not supply a facility of its own.

North Perth Public Library

The Library offers a variety of services to local residents including:

- Library book loans
- Rentable meeting spaces (Hay Room, seats 20; Program Room, seats 10)
- Internet and computer access
- Printing copying and faxing
- E-reading and technical assistance

The Library also offers programming and events that cater to infants and children (e.g. Baby Time, Kid's Club) and adults (e.g. Book Club) at each branch.

In collaboration with the North Perth Arts Council, the North Perth Public Library hosts events featuring local entertainment, culinary arts, music and comedy. The North Perth Public Library also features a local artist of the month as a way of promoting local art within the Municipality.

4.4 Notable Non-Municipal Facilities

Listed below is an inventory of local schools and facilities managed by non-municipal providers. All schools contain playgrounds and some have other amenities that are available for community use outside of school hours and in conjunction with the Community Use of Schools Agreements.

Schools

- Listowel District Secondary School (2 full soccer fields and running track)
- Listowel Eastdale Public School (2 mini soccer fields)
- North Perth Westfield Elementary School (1 intermediate soccer field)
- St. Mary's Elementary School (1 intermediate soccer field, 1 unlit diamond)
- Elma Township Public School (1 full, 1 intermediate, and 3 mini soccer fields, 1 unlit diamond)
- Donegal Community Christian School (1 intermediate soccer field, 1 unlit diamond)
- Listowel Christian School (1 mini soccer field)

Facilities Managed by Non-Profit/Private Sectors

- Anytime Fitness (Listowel)
- Dynafit (Listowel)
- Kin Station (Listowel)
- Listowel Agricultural Society (Listowel; event space, dancehall, outdoor racetrack and grandstands)
- Listowel Curling Club (Listowel; 4 ice sheets)
- Listowel Golf Club (Listowel; 27 holes, driving range, golf academy clubhouse)
- Listowel Legion (Listowel; 2 halls)
- Listowel School of Dance (Listowel; dance club)
- Listowel Upper Deck Youth Centre (Listowel; youth centre)
- New U Personal Training Studio (Listowel)
- North Huron Masonic Lodge (Listowel; community organization)
- Our Town CrossFit (Listowel)
- Tralee Golf (Listowel; 9 hole golf-course)

4.5 Local Programs & Services

The following chart contains a program and service inventory for the Municipality of North Perth. The inventory is not exhaustive and is intended to highlight key program areas in relation to parks, recreation and culture. The list contains municipally-owned service providers in addition to non-profit, volunteer and private service providers.

Table 7: Program Inventory with Service Provider (alphabetical order)

Name	Program/Service
Children/Youth Service Providers	
2 nd Listowel Scout Group	Boy Scouts
4H Club	Leadership club for youth aged 5-21
Atwood Athletics Swim Team	Swim Team at Atwood Lions Pool
Central Perth Minor Hockey (incl. Elma Logan)	Minor Hockey from Mite to Juvenile
Chess Club	For youth, children and adults and seniors
Day camps	Day Camp Programs for Summer, PA Days, Winterfest, March Break
Day care	Spinrite Child and Family Centre
Elma Minor Baseball	Minor Baseball ages 4-18
Elma Logan Minor Soccer	Soccer leagues for Kiddie Kickers to U18
First Aid, Babysitting Courses, Home Alone	Provided by the Parks and Recreation Department
Girl Guides	Leadership club for girls- Girl Guides (aged 9-11), Brownies (aged 7-8) and Sparks (aged 5-6)
Horseback Riding	Horseback Riding lessons children, youth, adult
Huron Perth Lakers Hockey Club	Midget 'AAA' Hockey Organization
Listowel Air Cadets	Air Cadet organization for youth aged 12-18 years that teaches life and leadership skills.
Listowel Lightning Swim Team	Swim team at Listowel Kinsmen Pool
Listowel Minor Baseball	Baseball association for Girls Softball (Atom-Junior and Boys Soft-ball (Tim-Bit to Midget)
Listowel Minor Hockey	Minor Hockey from Mite-Juvenile level and Listowel Cyclones Junior 'B'
Listowel Minor Soccer	Soccer Leagues from U3-U18
Listowel Skating Club	Pre-CanSkate, CanSkate and StarSkate Lessons
Mommy & Me Fitness	Dynafit
Monkton Skating Club	Pre-CanSkate, CanSkate and StarSkate Lessons
North Perth Early Years Centre (Perth Care for Kids)	Supporting the importance of early childhood education and development by offering a variety of flexible, quality programs and services for children, families and caregivers. Includes the Toddlers in Motion and Strollercise programs.
North Perth Minor Basketball (Grades 1-8)	Basketball leagues for children in grades 1-8
North Perth Outlaws Lacrosse	Lacrosse leagues for Paperweight-Intermediate
Panthers	Girls youth volleyball 12-18 years
Parent & Tot Skating	Listowel, Wallace and Monkton Arenas
Scouts and Cubs	Trinity United Church
Shinny Hockey	Youth's pick-up league run by Parks and Recreation
Skate Wallace	Pre-CanSkate, CanSkate and StarSkate Lessons
Splash Pad	Listowel Kinette Splash Pad (all ages)

Name	Program/Service
Swimming Lessons	Listowel Kinsmen Pool, Atwood Lions Pool (4 month-8+ years)
Toddlers in Motion	Active program for children 0-6 years and their families; Partnered with North Perth Early Years and Parks & Recreation.
Wallace Minor Hockey	Hockey leagues for Development, Tyke and Novice
Wallace Minor Soccer	Soccer Leagues from U3-U18
Youth Unlimited	After-school youth program
Adult Service Providers	
Commancheros Car Club	Social car club
Co-ed Recreational Soccer	League for 20 years and older
Dance Class (Fox trot, Social Ballroom, Waltz, Swing & Jive, Country Two Step, Rumba, etc.)	Couples dance classes run by Hutson Dance through Parks and Recreation
Gowanstown Women's Institute	Community services and educational programming for women in Gowanstown
Guided Meditation	Meditation program run by Susan James at Trinity United Church; Adults, Youth, Seniors
Huron Perth District Women's Institute	Community service and educational programming for women
Indoor Walking	After school at Listowel District Secondary School
Listowel Community Garden	Community-based initiative for individual garden plots
Listowel Curling Club	Adult and Junior and Senior Curling
Listowel Rifle and Revolver Club	Gun target practice and archery club
Listowel West Branch Women's Institute	Community services and educational programming for women in Listowel
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority	Government program to protect rivers, watersheds, soils and forests
Men's League Basketball	Adult (18+) men's recreational basketball league
Motivational Monday's Group Fitness	Atwood by Parks/Recreation
North Perth Co-ed Soccer League	Co-ed Soccer recreational league out of Listowel for adults 20+ years
North Perth Volleyball league	Co-ed, semi-competitive recreational league
Slo-Pitch Baseball	Co-ed, men's and ladies leagues
Women's Recreational Volleyball	Non-competitive league for adult women
Swimming	Adult swimming lessons, Family Swim, public and lane swimming at Kinsmen Pool and Atwood Lions Pool
Toastmasters (Linguists of Listowel)	Speech Workshops
Yoga	Classes offered by parks & Rec, and other fitness centres; Adults, Youth & Seniors
Seniors Service Providers	
Alzheimer Walking Program	Exercise program for residents with Alzheimers
Listowel Bocce Club	Bocce ball league at Memorial Park
North Perth Aquafit	Swim fitness classes at Listowel Kinsmen Pool and Atwood Lions Pool
North Perth Pickleball	Drop-in program run out of North Perth Schools by Parks and Recreation; All Ages
North Perth Seniors	Weekly musical lunch program; Dancing
Old Timer's Recreational Hockey	Listowel Classics, Wallace, Elma Logan
Perth Meadows	Seniors community in Listowel

Name	Program/Service
Senior and Adult Skating	Listowel and Monkton Arenas
VON	Homecare, personal support, fitness and community services
Service Club Providers	
Atwood Lions	Volunteer association providing community support in Atwood and surrounding area
Listowel Kinettes	Volunteer association offering community services, leadership and support in North Perth
Listowel Kinsmen	Volunteer association offering community services, leadership and support in North Perth
Listowel Knights of Columbus	Catholic-based Fraternal Organization engaged in charity (local and global in scope)
Listowel Legion	Non-profit organization providing assistance to war veterans and the community; Darts & Cards
Masonic Lodge	Charitable fraternal organization that provides community support
Monkton Kinsmen	Volunteer association providing community support in Monkton and surrounding area
Monkton Lions	Volunteer association providing community support in Monkton and surrounding area
Orange Lodge of North Perth	Protestant men's fraternal service club that fundraises for local charities
Rotary Club	Non-profit organization that contributes to local, community initiatives
Combined Service Providers	
Agricultural Society	Non-profit organization that aims to educate North Perth residents about agriculture and community traditions
Anytime Fitness	Full service fitness club (classes, memberships, personal training)
Molesworth Bowling	Bowling for children, youth, adults & seniors
Community Living North Perth	Non-profit organization assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities
Dynafit	Group and individual fitness classes, memberships and personal training, Bootcamp, Mommy & Me Fitness, Strollercise
Forman Fitness and Nutrition	Exercise classes, group fitness and personal training
Listowel Curling Club	Junior and Adult Curling; Bonspiels and provincial tournaments.
Listowel Golf Club	27-hole course offering public membership, practice facility and golf lessons for children and adults
Listowel School of Dance	Dance lessons for Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical/Contemporary and Hip Hop for ages 3+
Maitland Valley Snowmobile Club	Social club for snowmobilers in the Maitland Valley
Municipality of North Perth Skating	Public skating
Music at the Amphitheatre	Various local artists
New U Studio	Personal training
North Perth Arts Council	Volunteer arts and culture organization providing services to local artists

Name	Program/Service
North Perth Badminton	Drop-in program run out of North Perth Schools by Parks and Recreation
North Perth Community of Character	Volunteer organization focused on community well-being and advancement
North Perth Cycling Club	Junior and Adult Cycling
North Perth Family Health Team	Health team in Listowel that provides prenatal services, seniors support, wellness workshops and dietetic programs
North Perth Library	Provides books and reference rentals, technical and community space in Listowel, Atwood and Monkton
Our Town Crossfit	Offers group fitness classes in Listowel
Pick Studio	Store offering music lessons, art lessons, magic lessons, performances (indoors and outdoors)
Promar Karate	Karate ages 6 to Adult
Salvation Army and Family Services	Christian church foundation providing support to residents in need
Saturday Morning Runners	Social running club
Sponsored Skating	Listowel, Wallace and Monkton Arenas
Tralee Golf	9-hole golf course with driving range
United Way Perth Huron (North Perth Committee Started 2015)	Non-profit organization offering community programs and services
Zumba	Fitness class run by Anytime Fitness/ Dynafit

5. Community Input

This section outlines community engagement activities that were conducted during the Master Plan process in addition to results and feedback received from each consultation initiative.

The research tools utilized in this study include:

- Public Input Sessions (Community Open Houses / Public Meetings)
- Community Survey
- Student Questionnaire
- Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups
- Regular engagement with the Project Team, Municipal Staff, and Municipal Council

Summaries of each are included below, with key themes identified at the end of the section.

5.1 Public Input Sessions

There was a total of three public input sessions held for this Master Plan:

- November 16, 2016 (approximately 20 people in attendance)
- January 31, 2017 (approximately 30 people in attendance)
- April 27, 2017 (approximately 11 people in attendance)

A complete transcription of input from the sessions can be found in **Appendix B**.

The purpose of the first session was to introduce the Master Plan to the North Perth community. Members of the public were invited to the event to learn more about the planning process as well as offer input on key points of interest regarding the direction of the Municipality's parks and recreation facilities and programs.

- Integrity of trails
- Continued use of 'Community Connection' newsletter
- Indoor Pool
- Parks and facilities are well maintained
- Conversion of Listowel Memorial to a new use

The purpose of the second session was to provide an update on the Plan's progress, identify input received to date and discuss proposed Vision and Guiding Principles (see Section 6).

The purpose of the third session was to present the Draft Master Plan and receive feedback prior to finalization.

Table 8: North Perth Residents by Age Cohort

Age Category	# of Individuals Represented	% of Individuals Represented	2011 Census % for North Perth
Under 10 years	385	23%	13%
10-19 years	279	16%	13%
20-34 years	353	21%	19%
35-54 years	463	27%	26%
55-69 years	180	11%	17%
70 years and over	41	2%	12%
Total individuals	1,701		

n=483

5.2.2 Participation

The survey measured respondents' household participation in various related activities over the past 12 months. It found that the majority of households had walked or hiked for leisure (63%), attended local special events like the Listowel Fair (60%), swam recreationally (49%), participated in an ice sport such as hockey, ringette or skating (47%) and used playground equipment (45%). The following table displays the proportion of responding households that participated in select activities.

Table 9: Household participation in select activities within the past 12 months (n=702)

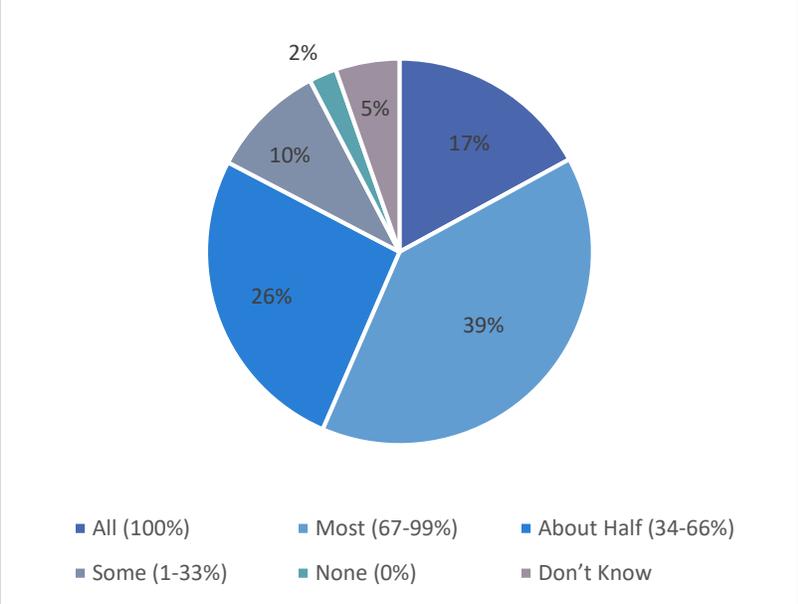
Activity	% Households
Walking or Hiking for Leisure	63%
Attending local special events (e.g. Listowel Fair)	60%
Swimming (recreational)	49%
Hockey, Ringette, Figure Skating or Ice Skating	47%
Use of Playground Equipment	45%
Aerobics, Yoga, Fitness or Weight-training	42%
Use of Splash Pad	38%
Dog Walking (on or off leash)	38%
Swimming (instructional or Aquafit)	33%
Baseball or Softball (or other forms)	32%
Cycling or Mountain Biking	28%
Running or Jogging	28%
Soccer	25%
Arts and Crafts	22%
Nature Appreciation (e.g. birding, conservation)	20%
Pre-School or Children's Programs, such as Early Years or drop-in	18%
Performance Arts (e.g. dance, music, drama)	18%
Curling	16%
Tennis	12%
Basketball	11%
Organized Teen Programs (e.g. summer camps, youth club, etc.)	11%

Activity	% Households
Visual Arts (e.g. painting, sculpture)	10%
Volleyball	7%
Gymnastics	7%
Skateboarding	6%
Organized Seniors Programs (e.g. luncheons, cards, special interest courses)	5%
Pickleball	3%

59% of households indicated that they are able to participate in active recreation pursuits as often as they would like, while 36% are not. The following table displays survey responses:

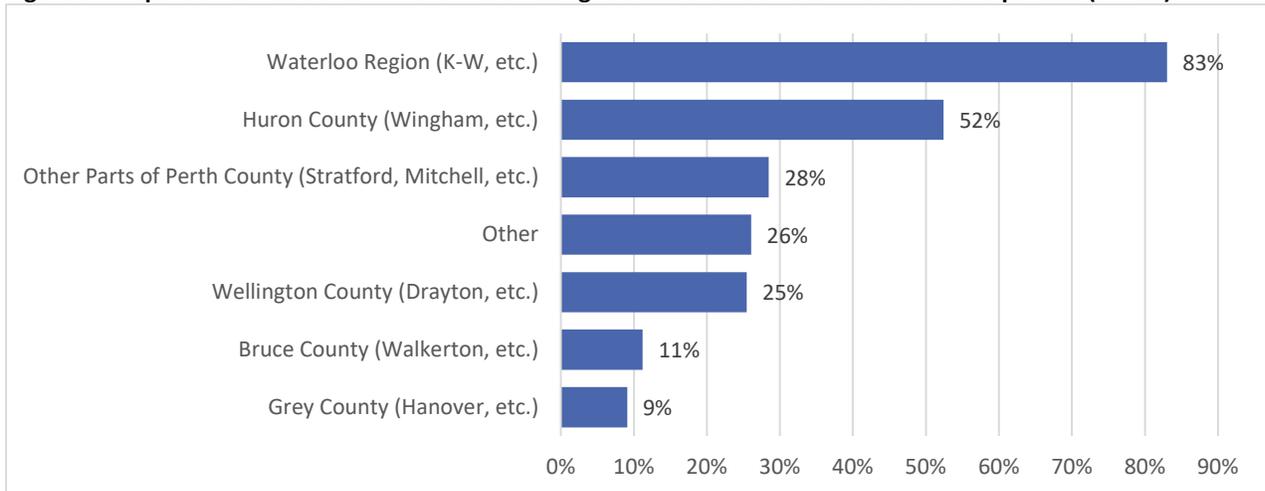
Respondents were asked about what proportion of their recreation needs are met within the Municipality of North Perth. 56% indicated that ‘all’ or ‘most’ of their recreation needs are met locally, while only 12% responded ‘some’ or ‘none’. The following pie chart presents a breakdown of response percentages.

Figure 8: Reported proportion of recreation needs met in the Municipality of North Perth (n=692)



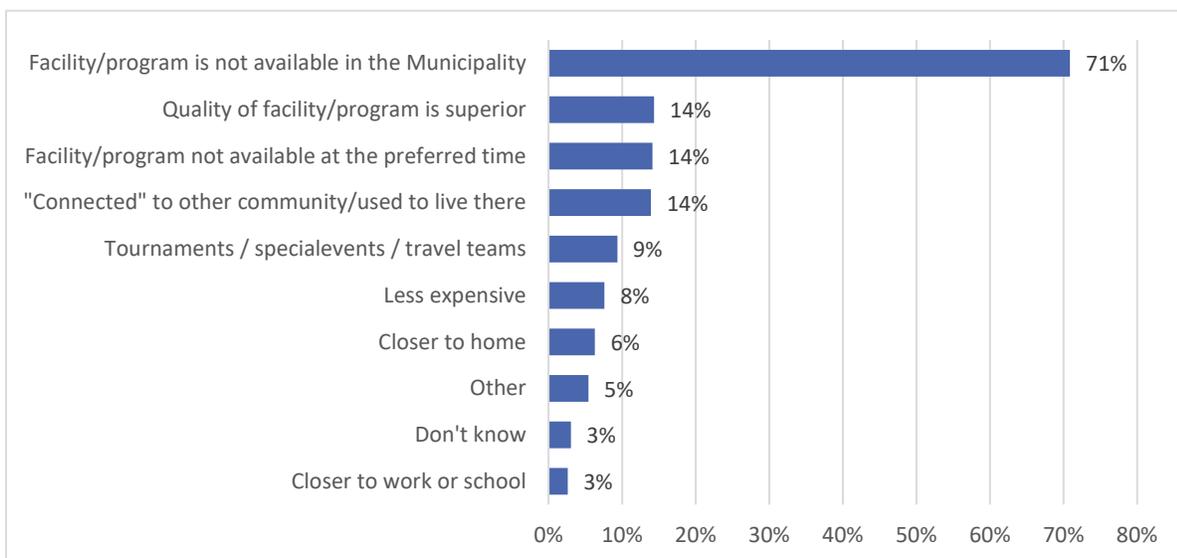
The two most popular recreational activities residents participated in outside of North Perth were swimming and hockey. Residents reported primarily participating in these activities in Waterloo Region (83%) followed by Huron County (52%) and other parts of Perth County (28%). The following graph displays where respondents primarily participate in activities outside of North Perth:

Figure 9: Proportion of residents in North Perth using recreational facilities in other municipalities (n=468)



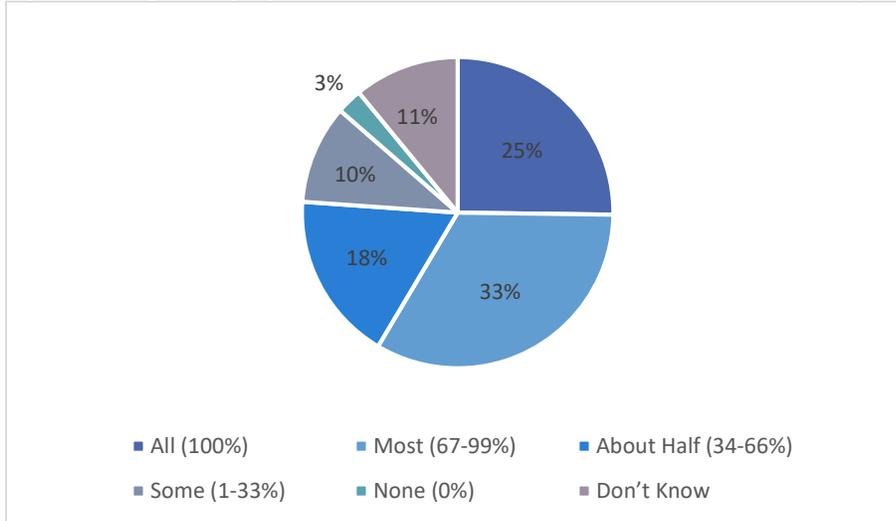
The main reasons for participating in these recreational activities outside of North Perth included the facility/program not being available in the Municipality (71%), the quality of the facility and program was superior (14%) and the facility/program not being available at the preferred time (14%). The following chart displays all possible responses:

Figure 10: Reasons why households participate in recreation activities outside of North Perth (n=460)



Respondents were asked what percentage of their households' social and cultural needs were met within the Municipality. 58% of respondents stated that 'all' or 'most; of their social and cultural needs were being met in North Perth, while only 13% responded 'some' or 'none'. The following pie chart displays participant responses.

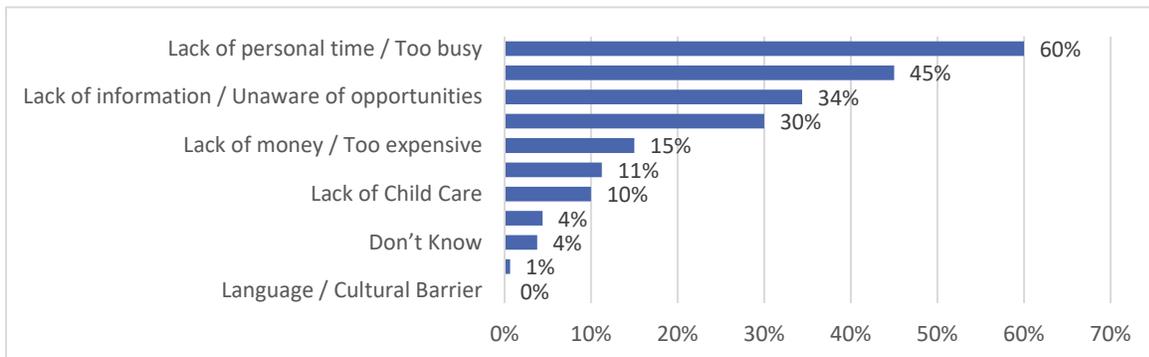
Figure 11: Reported proportion of social and cultural needs met in the Municipality of North Perth (n=603)



Respondents were asked if their household was able to participate in social and cultural activities (e.g. community gatherings, lifelong learning classes, arts and hobbies, etc.) as often as they would like. 60% responded 'yes' while 27% responded 'no' and 14% 'don't know' respectively.

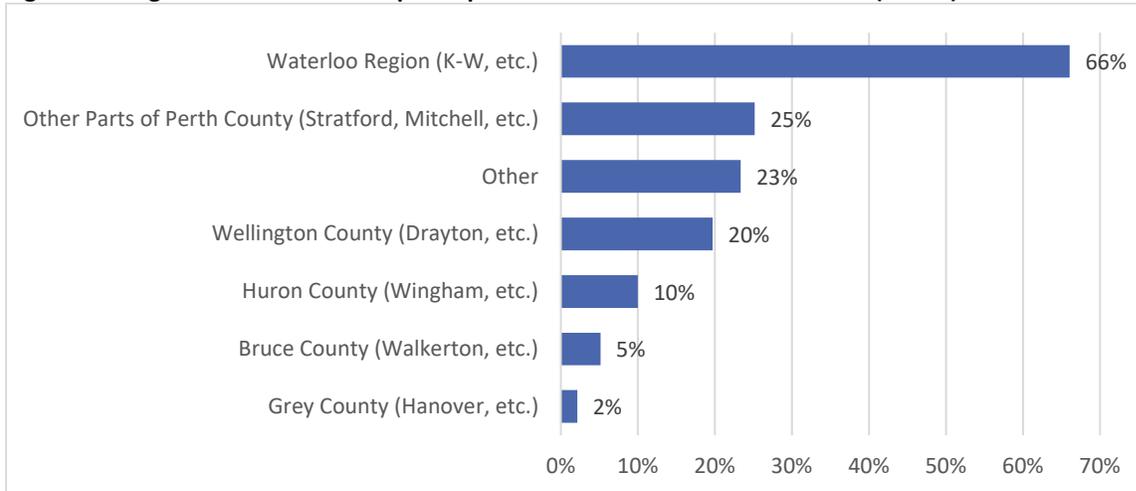
When respondents were asked why their household was unable to participate in social and cultural activities as often as they would like, the reasons included a lack of personal time (60%), lack of desired facilities or programs (45%) and lack of information or unaware of opportunities (34%). The following chart displays all respondent answers:

Figure 12: Reasons respondents were unable to participate in social and cultural activities as often as they would like (n=160)



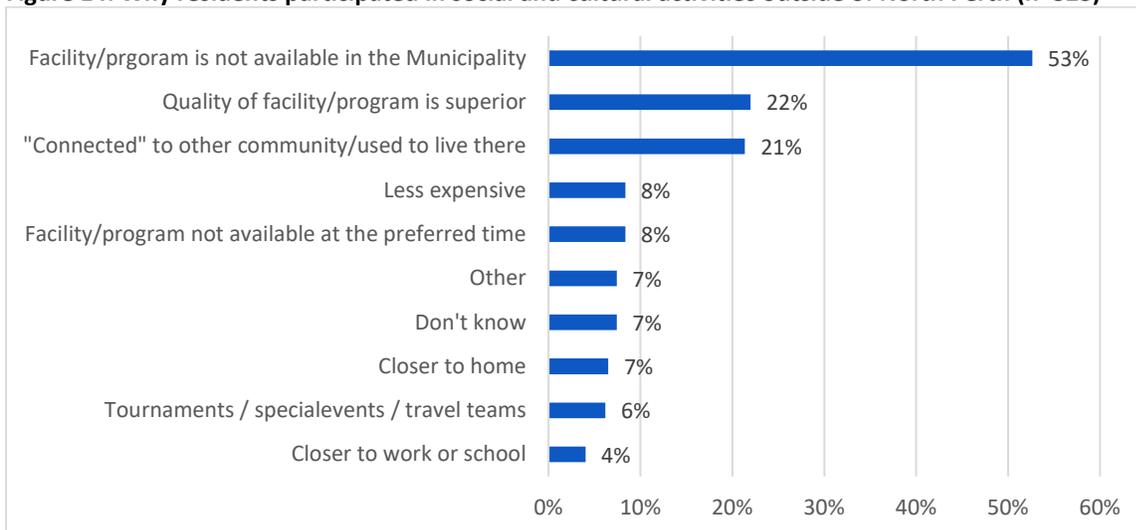
The two most popular social and cultural activities respondents have participated in the last twelve months were going to the theatre and dining out. When asked where they primarily participated in these activities, participants recorded Waterloo Region (66%) and other parts of Perth County (25%). The following charts displays all responses:

Figure 13: Regions where residents participated in social and cultural activities (n=330)



When asked why their household participated in these activities outside of North Perth respondents reported the facility/program is not available in the Municipality (53%), the quality of the facility/program elsewhere is superior (22%) and they felt connected to another community/used to live there (21%).

Figure 14: Why residents participated in social and cultural activities outside of North Perth (n=323)

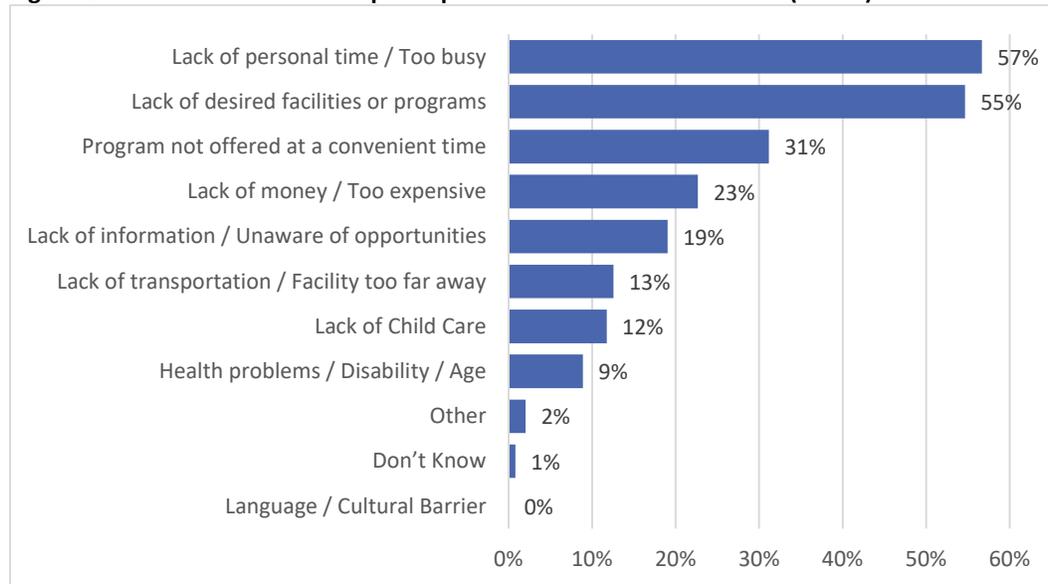


When asked what activities, participants would like to see offered in the Municipality, the top responses included swimming (47%), a dog park (7%), squash (5%), gymnastics (3%) and indoor soccer (2%).

5.2.3 Barriers to Participation

Respondents were asked why their household was not able to participate in active pursuits as often as they would like. The most prevalent response was due to a lack of free time (57%) followed by lack of desired facilities or programs (55%) and programs not offered at a convenient time (31%). The following chart displays participant responses:

Figure 15: Household barriers to participation in recreational activities (n=544)

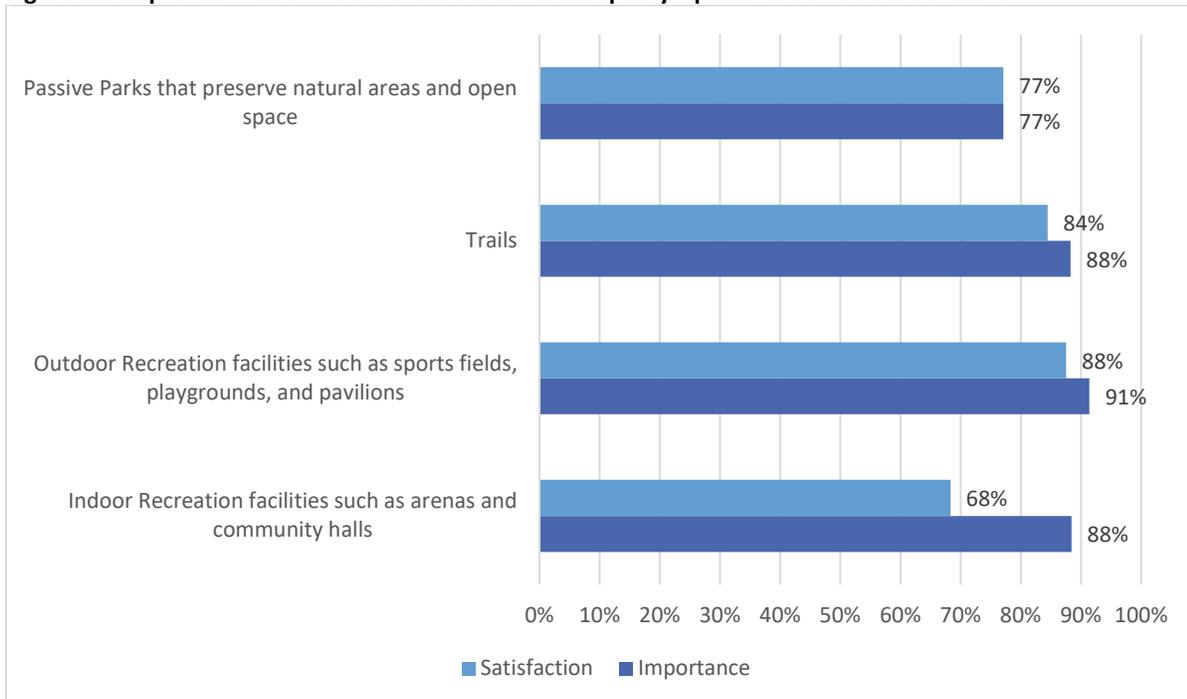


5.2.4 Importance and Satisfaction

The survey found that North Perth’s outdoor recreation facilities (e.g. sports fields, playgrounds and pavilions) were either important or very important to 91% of its residents. A similar level of importance (88%) was placed on the Municipality’s indoor recreation facilities (e.g. arenas and community halls) and trails (88%). For passive parks that preserve natural areas and open space, 77% of respondents considered them important/very important. These findings indicated that North Perth’s residents generally value the recreation and leisure opportunities offered in the Municipality.

Respondents were also generally satisfied with the Municipality’s facilities. Specifically, 68% of respondents expressed satisfaction (assigning a rank of “satisfied” or “very satisfied”) with regards to North Perth’s indoor recreation facilities, and 88% expressed satisfaction with various outdoor activities offered. For passive parks and trails, the respondents’ ratings of satisfaction were 77% and 84% respectively.

Figure 16: Importance and satisfaction with the Municipality's parks and recreation facilities

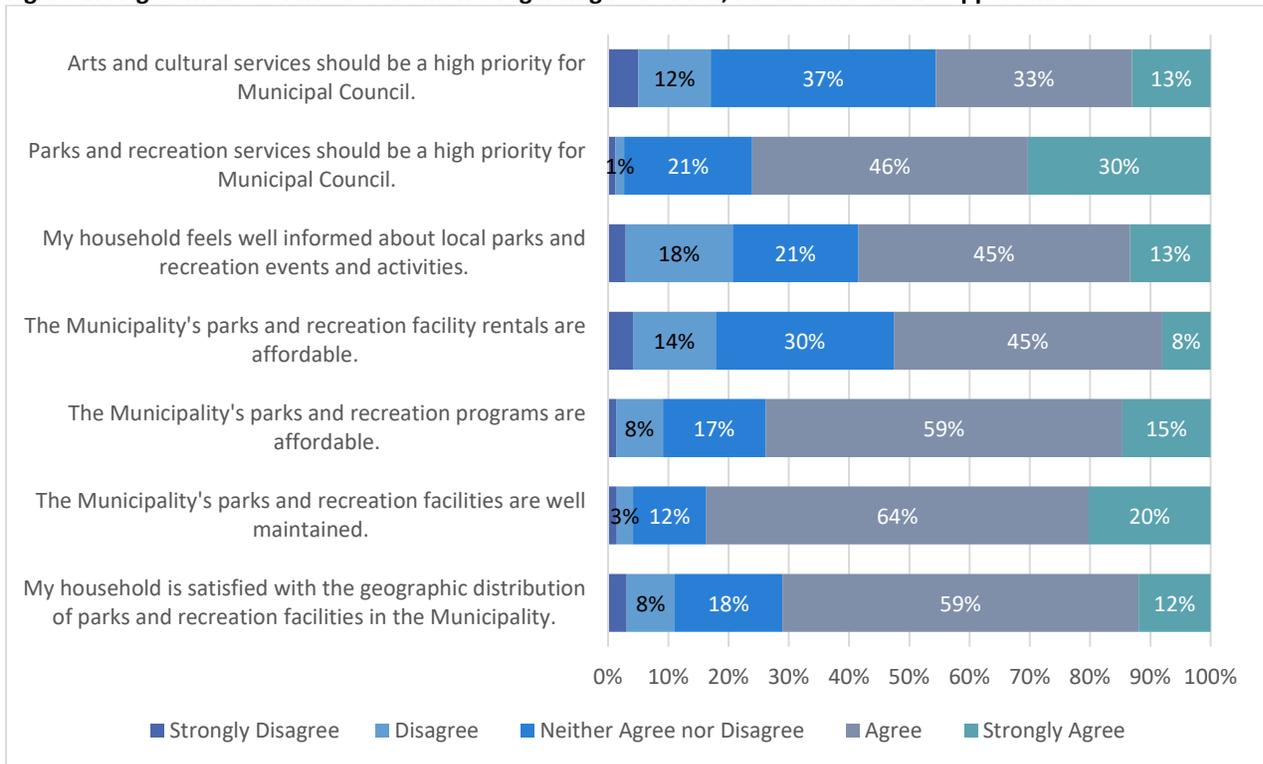


These findings suggest that North Perth's residents are generally content with the outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities available in the Municipality, but view the provision of indoor facilities (and the provision of all season activities) as something to be improved upon. Conversely, the Municipality's passive parks (e.g. natural areas and open space) are in alignment with respondents expectations as their importance and satisfaction ratings were the same.

Residents were then asked to rank their level of agreement with various statements regarding recreation, leisure and culture opportunities. The following responses were reported:

- 84% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Municipality's parks and recreation facilities are well maintained.
- 76% agreed or strongly agreed that parks and recreation should be a high priority for Municipal Council.
- 74% agreed that the Municipalities parks and recreation programs are affordable.
- 53% of respondents found that the Municipality parks and recreation facility rentals are affordable.
- 58% of respondents agreed to feeling informed about local parks and recreation events and activities.
- 71% of respondents were satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and facilities.
- 46% of respondents agreed that arts and cultural services should be a high priority for Municipal Council.

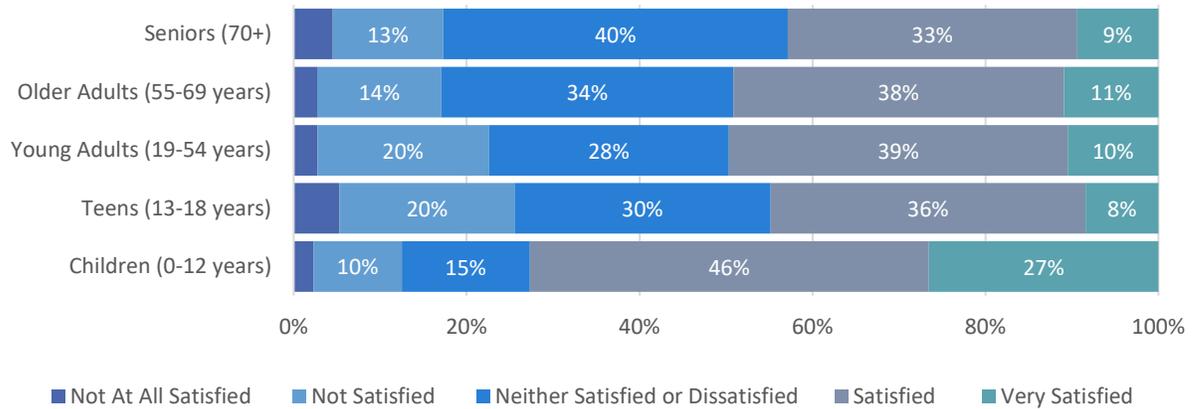
Figure 17: Agreement to various statements regarding recreation, leisure and culture opportunities



These responses indicate that the majority of residents feel that Municipal parks and recreation facilities are well looked after and that parks and recreation facilities are important for Council to consider, but believe arts and culture services are less of a priority. In addition, it appears that residents perceive parks and recreation programs to be affordable but that facility rentals are not as affordable. There is also a lack of awareness of local parks and recreation events and activities which could result in a need for additional promotion.

The survey asked about overall satisfaction with recreation and leisure opportunities for various age categories. 73% of all respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities available for children 0-12 years of age, followed by young adults aged 19-54 (50%) and older adults aged 55-69 (49%). Less than half of respondents reported satisfaction with opportunities available for teens 13-18 years of age (45%) and seniors 70 and over (43%).

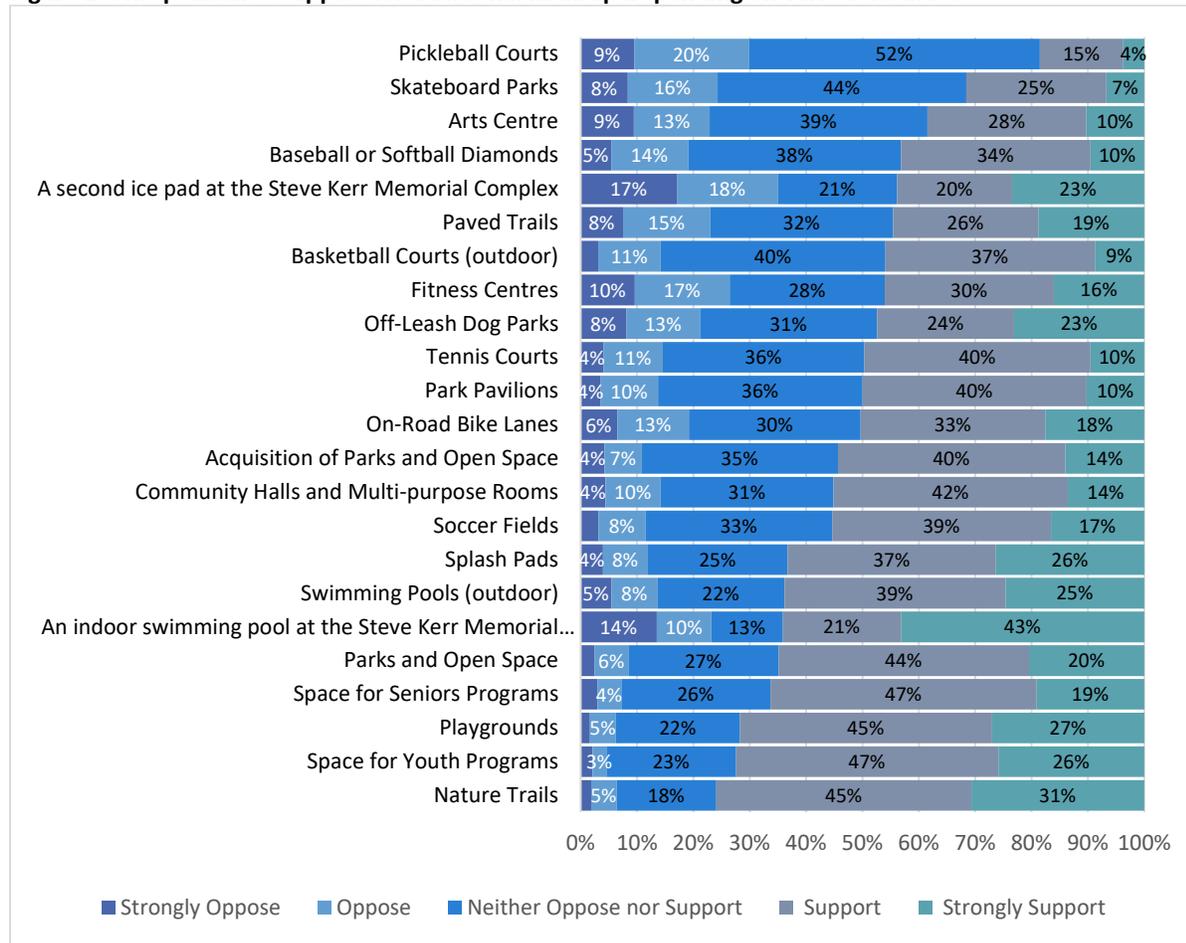
Figure 18: Levels of satisfaction with the Municipality’s recreation and leisure opportunities for each age group



5.2.5 Facility Priorities

The survey asked respondents their level of support for additional municipal spending on a number of recreation, leisure and culture facilities in North Perth. Funding for nature trails (76%), playground (72%) and space for youth programs (72%) garnered the most support. On the other hand, most respondents did not support additional spending on a second ice pad at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex (35% opposed or strongly opposed), pickleball courts (30%) and skateboard parks (24%). The full list of capital spending priorities is shown on the following graph.

Figure 19: Respondents' support for additional municipal spending on various facilities



5.3 Student Questionnaire

To better understand the parks and recreational needs of North Perth youth, an online questionnaire was distributed to Grade 7-12 students from North Perth Westfield Elementary School, Elma Township Public School, St. Mary’s Catholic School, Listowel Christian School and Listowel District Secondary School. Students were asked about the recreational activities they took part in, what facilities they valued the most and the least, and what new recreational facilities they would like to see in the future. A total of 295 responses were received and the findings are summarized below. Not all students responded to each question; the number of responses to each question is identified in the analysis. Detailed data from this survey is shown in **Appendix D**. The student survey offered an opportunity to gain valuable feed-back, however, like the community survey it is not statistically significant due to its voluntary nature.

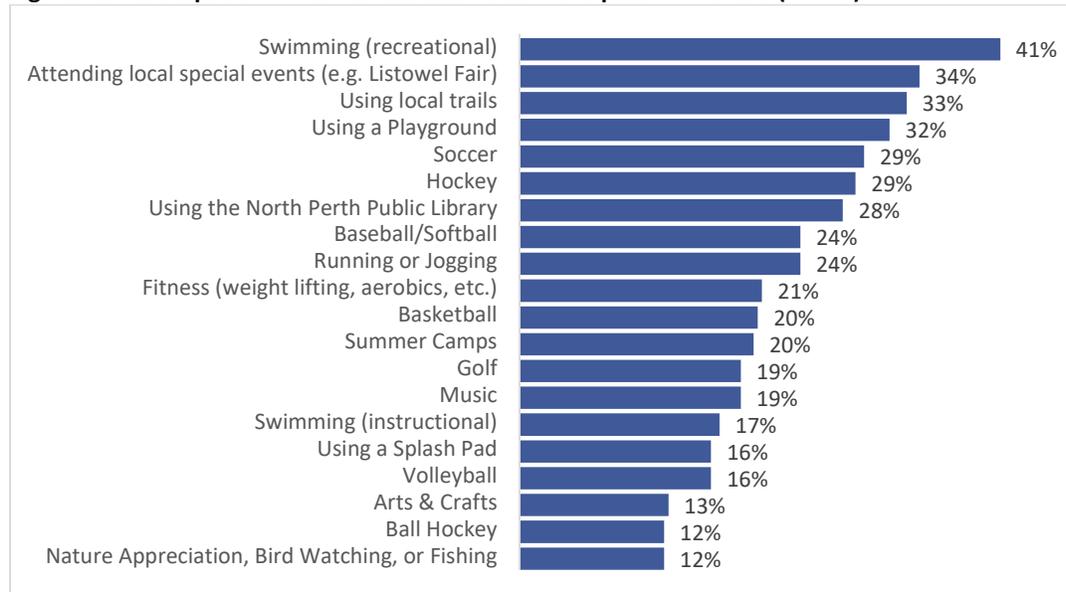
Demographic Data

Respondents to this questionnaire were primarily residents of North Perth (87%). The majority of respondents reported they lived in Listowel (71%) followed by Atwood (5%), Molesworth (5%), Gowanstown (5%), Monkton (4%), Kurtzville (4%), Newry (3%), Donegal (2%), Trowbridge (2%) and Britton (1%). Responses were from students in Grade 7 (26%) followed by Grade 8 (19%), Grade 9 (18%), Grade 10 (17%), Grade 12 (13%) and Grade 11 (8%).

Participation and Usage

Over the past twelve months, students reported participating in a diverse range of non-school activities, most notably recreational swimming (50%), attending local special events (34%), and using the playground (32%). Many students also reported playing soccer (29%), hockey (29%) and using the North Perth Public Library (28%). Respondents were able to select multiple activities and the following graph shows the twenty most popular choices, the majority of

Figure 20: Participation in non-school activities in the past 12 months (n=276)



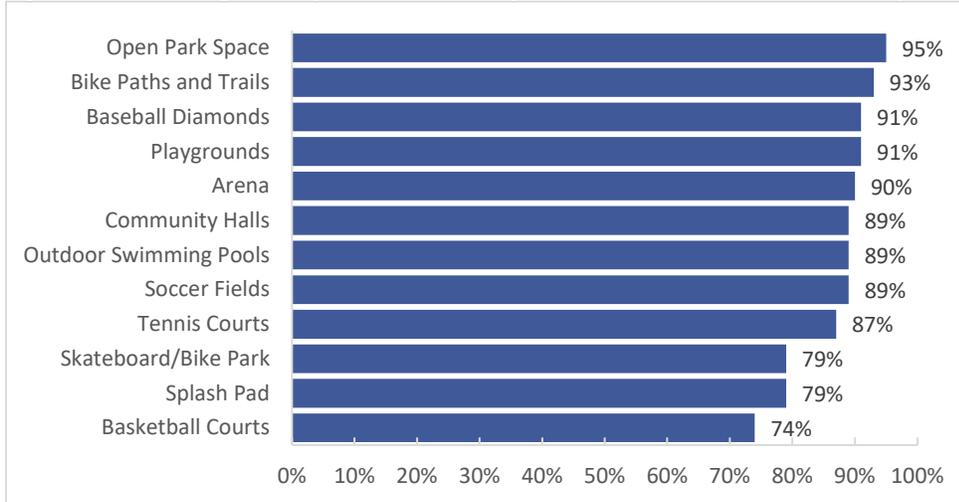
Satisfaction

Students were asked about their satisfaction regarding a variety of facilities available in North Perth. Respondents reported “I love this” or “I like this” as opposed to “I don’t like this” over 85% of the time for the following:

- Outdoor swimming pool (47% ‘love this’)
- Bike paths and trails (43% ‘love this’)
- Playgrounds (37% ‘love this’)
- Soccer fields (37% ‘love this’)
- Open park space (36% ‘love this’)

The least desired facility type was basketball courts with 26% reporting they did not like this, however, this may be reflective of the very small number of municipal courts. The following graph summarizes the percentage of respondents who responded ‘I love this’ or ‘I like this’ for each facility type.

Figure 21: Percentage of respondents who responded “I love this” or “I like this” (n=287)



Students were asked to rank facilities according to what was most important to them on a scale of 1 to 13, where 1 is the most important facility and 13 is the least important. The top three most important facilities were the arena, bike paths and trails, and an indoor swimming pool. The bottom three were the skateboard and bike park, tennis courts and splash pad. The following table summarizes the average rating each facility received:

Table 10: Most Important Facilities, Average Rank (n=235-247)

Facility	Average Rank*
Arena	5.19
Bike Paths and Trails	5.21
Indoor Swimming Pool	6.09
Baseball Diamonds	6.29
Open Park Space	6.51
Soccer Fields	6.59
Outdoor Swimming Pools	6.60
Basketball Courts	6.61
Playgrounds	7.31
Community Halls	8.24
Tennis Courts	8.58
Skateboard/Bike Park	8.68
Splash Pad	8.82

*The lower the rank, the more important the facility

Students were then asked to rank their most important programs and activities on scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important. Team sports, free and

unstructured play and swimming were most frequently ranked in the top three while dance/gymnastics, arts and crafts and music were most frequently ranked in the bottom three.

Table 11: Most Important Programs and Activities-Average Rank (n=264)

Facility	Average Rank*
Team Sports	3.11
Free/Unstructured Play	3.57
Swimming	3.61
Individual Sports	3.67
Music	4.20
Arts & Crafts	4.73
Dance/Gymnastics	5.19

*The lower the rank, the more important the activity

Finally, students were able to disclose what new parks, recreation and culture facilities or activities they would like to see available in North Perth. The most frequently mentioned responses were:

- Indoor Swimming Pool
- Arena
- Soccer Fields
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Trails

Other mentions include: playground equipment, a skate park, running track, dog park, baseball diamonds, mental health and gender awareness and arts and culture programming, among other responses. Through analysis, it is clear that students have a wide range of interests.

5.4 Focus Groups and Stakeholder Interviews

To identify key issues and points of interest relation to recreation, leisure and culture services in North Perth, a series of focus groups and stakeholder interview sessions were conducted during November 2016 with approximately 51 key service providers. Organizations that attended include:

- Agricultural Society
- AMDSB School Board
- Anytime Fitness
- Atwood Lions
- Carbon Footprint
- Community Living
- Community of Character
- Dynafit
- Elma Minor Soccer
- Listowel Business Improvement Area
- Listowel Christian School
- Listowel Curling Club
- Listowel District Secondary School
- Listowel Golf Club
- Listowel Junior 'B'
- Listowel Kinettes
- Listowel Kinsmen
- Listowel Minor Hockey
- Listowel Minor Soccer
- Listowel Skating Club
- Local Churches
- Middle Maitland Committee
- Monkton Kinsmen
- Monkton Lions
- Monkton Skating Club
- North Perth Arts and Culture Council
- North Perth Badminton
- North Perth Basketball
- North Perth Co-ed Soccer
- North Perth Cycling Club
- North Perth Early Years Centre
- North Perth Family Health Team
- North Perth Lacrosse
- North Perth Library
- North Perth Men's Slo-pitch
- North Perth Minor Baseball
- North Perth Pickleball
- North Perth Pool
- North Perth Seniors
- North Perth Skateboard Park
- North Perth Volleyball
- Our Town Crossfit
- Perth County 4H Club
- Perth Meadows
- Pick Studio
- Rotary Club
- Skate Wallace
- Upper Deck- Youth Unlimited
- VON
- Wallace Minor Hockey
- Wallace Minor Soccer

5.5 Public Input Summary – Key Themes

The public communication and engagement initiatives in this Plan provide valuable insight into the current state of North Perth’s parks and recreation facilities and services. Input gathered from these sessions included suggestions for improvements to facilities and programs, community support, staffing levels, and future directions for parks and recreation. Several themes arose from the public and stakeholder information sessions and surveys and are compiled below. These themes are not to be interpreted as recommendations, but as areas of public interest that require analysis and consideration.

Support for Local Groups and Volunteers

- Local organizations (volunteer, non-profit, private, etc.) are a vital component of North Perth’s parks and recreation provision system.
- Several groups expressed a desire for more support from the Municipality.
- Some stakeholders felt they required greater efforts to secure program space and help promote their organization/group to the rest of the community.
- There may be room to improve coordination between local groups and the Municipality in the delivery of parks and recreation services. For example, there was a desire for enhanced partnerships with the Municipality to provide more programming space and facilities.

Facility & Program Requests

- Some members of the public noted a need for additional wayfinding signage for trail networks that would improve trail awareness and utilization.
- Several individuals noted that the local arenas, pools and trails should be upgraded with accessible amenities (e.g. automatic doors, wide turning-radiuses, washrooms, ramps, etc.). Many residents would like to see more inclusive activities that take accessibility into consideration in new developments (e.g. playgrounds, pools, etc.).
- There was general public interest in retaining the Listowel Memorial Arena once it is closed as an ice arena, although there was no consensus around its end use.
- Significant interest was expressed regarding the provision of an indoor pool – both in support and opposition.

Engaging Youth and Older Adults

- Volunteer organizations and local service providers expressed some concerns around engaging youth in becoming involved in local volunteer and coaching roles.
- Some members of the public suggested that there was a lack of programming opportunities for youth and older adults.
- There were some suggestions regarding the provision of more, unstructured, drop-in programming to cater to busy lifestyles and beginners.

6. Vision & Guiding Principles

This section identifies a vision statement and guiding principles to guide the development and implementation of the Master Plan’s recommendations, as well as future decision-making relating to parks, recreation, and culture services and facilities for the Municipality of North Perth.

6.1 Vision Statement

A ‘vision’ is an inspiring statement describing an ideal future state. Setting a vision for the Municipality in the delivery of parks, recreation, and culture services is the initial step in setting a strategic path forward. A vision statement depicts how the Municipality wants to be viewed in the future and compels Council, staff, and residents to work together to achieve the vision over time.

To assist with this task, a visioning exercise was undertaken with the Master Plan Committee early in the process. The Committee felt that positioning parks and recreation services as a defining aspect of the Municipality’s quality of life, along with ensuring affordability for both users and taxpayers to be the two most important goals for the Master Plan. In addition, they wish to ensure that an emphasis is placed on engaging people of all ages and working in partnership with others.

The following vision statement is offered for consideration and adoption:

“Working together to enrich the quality of life of all residents through vibrant parks, recreation and culture opportunities.”

Over time, this vision will allow the needs of all residents to be considered and will encourage the appropriate provision of services and spaces that will assist in achieving a wide variety of individual and community goals.

6.2 Guiding Principles

The Master Plan's development and implementation are guided by a series of principles that reflect the goals, values, and aspirations articulated by the Municipality and community at large. The principles are also aligned with several foundational documents, including the Municipality's Corporate Strategic Plan and "A Framework for Recreation in Canada". Together, the principles articulate the core beliefs, values, and overall directions that the Municipality and its supportive partners should strive to achieve over time.

- 1. Responsive Service Delivery:** Keep pace with growth and changing needs through a focus on high quality customer service, programming, communication, coordination, and maintenance across the entire Municipality.
- 2. Opportunities for All:** Foster and support a diverse range of affordable and inclusive spaces, activities, and events that help to attract and retain residents, including young adults, families, and seniors.
- 3. Accessible & High Quality Facilities:** Adopt a strategic approach to capital planning by ensuring that facilities are accessible, sustainable, multi-functional, and reflective of North Perth's unique characteristics.
- 4. Connected Parks & Trails:** Maintain a well-designed network of parks and trails that connects our communities, preserves our natural environment, promotes tourism, and encourages healthy and active living.
- 5. Building Capacity & Partnerships:** Support volunteers and collaborate with community investors to enhance core parks, recreation, and culture services.
- 6. Responsible & Efficient Use of Resources:** Provide value through the balanced use of public resources, pursuit of non-municipal funding sources, and commitment to long-term fiscal responsibility.

7. Service Delivery Assessment

This section assesses the responsiveness and effectiveness of the Municipality’s Parks and Recreation Department. The intent is to identify areas of strength in the provision of parks and recreation services, while addressing areas of improvement through the introduction of new or more advanced strategies, techniques, and/or other mechanisms to ensure that programs, policies, staffing levels and related practices continue to align with changing community expectations and municipal realities.

7.1 Service Delivery Model

The Municipality of North Perth Parks and Recreation Department is proactive, forward-thinking and highly effective for a community of its size and prides itself on excellent customer service. The Municipality has a long history of working in partnership with multiple service providers including local organizations (e.g. Lions, Kinsmen, etc.), volunteers (e.g. minor sports), schools and private service providers through an ‘all hands on deck’ approach to the delivery of recreation and leisure events and programming.



Wallace Community Centre

“Friendly, caring staff. Well-kept facilities. North Perth Parks and Recreation has wonderful parks and recreation facilities and work hard to maintain the grounds. Great job – keep up the good work. Parks & Recreation services for North Perth are exceptional, especially for a small community. Would love to see more services and programs expanded to continue this trend.”
- community survey respondent

The role of the Municipality in the provision of parks and recreation services should continue as a shared service model with respect to both facilities and service delivery. It is recommended that the Municipality continue to serve as a core provider of space for parks, recreation and culture opportunities by offering the community access to indoor and outdoor facilities (through rentals, reciprocal use or other agreements). The success of the Municipality’s parks and recreation system is reliant on its ability to work in collaboration with the community to provide residents and visitors with high quality facilities, programs and events. Over half (55%) of respondents stated in the community survey that new parks and recreation programs and activities should be provided by a combination of the Municipality, non-profit providers, stakeholders, volunteers and the private sector.

It is essential that parks and recreation programs be accessible to residents across the entire Municipality. However, it is also important to consider consolidating programming to fewer

physical locations to create economies of scale that make programs viable. By combining activities at fewer locations, families and individuals may also participate in more than one activity or sport at the same time.

Among the core duties of the Parks and Recreation Department are the planning, development, operation and maintenance of facilities, parks and trails. This role is not expected to change. It is the Department's responsibility to provide appropriate services for the community that respond to widespread needs. The Municipality should consider the following responsibilities when refining and implementing primary service delivery roles for the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Understanding local trends, demographic profile, issues and opportunities;
- Identifying gaps and areas of improvements;
- Initiating and fostering partnerships with key service providers and stakeholders in the delivery of services by assuming a supporting role to community groups, partners and volunteers;
- Engaging the community in meaningful participation through planning, decision-making and service delivery;
- Promoting municipal services and opportunities for community participation and engagement;
- Providing facilities in response to demonstrated needs, in keeping with the Municipality's mandate;
- Supporting or facilitating community events and social activities that promote community interaction, vibrancy and cohesion;
- Working to include all residents and advocating for marginalized individuals and groups;
- Educating about and promoting the benefits of community services (e.g. physical activity and environmental initiatives, etc.);
- Advancing opportunities for arts, culture, and heritage (as directed by broader corporate initiatives);
- Developing effective and meaningful policies and procedures that enhance accountability and transparency;
- Providing exceptional customer service.

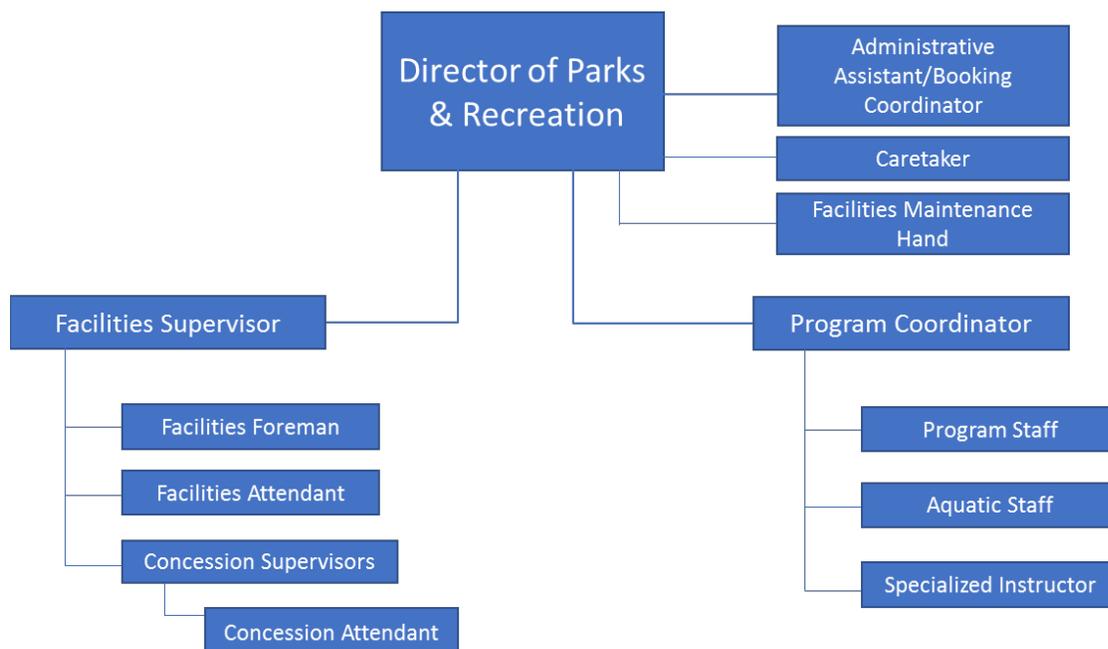
Recommendations:

1. Use this Master Plan as a guide to solidify the Parks and Recreation Department's role as a facility provider, community-wide event coordinator and program facilitator through consistent messaging in all communications, budgeting, policies and procedures.
2. Continue to employ a shared service model approach to parks and recreation programming and events in which activities are largely provided through local organizations and community groups, with the Municipality filling in the gaps (particularly where there are widespread community benefits).

7.2 Staffing & Governance

The Parks and Recreation Department is led by the Parks and Recreation Director, who reports to the Chief Administrative Officer, Council and Recreation Advisory Committee. The rest of the departmental structure includes full-time staff (Administrative Assistant/Booking Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Facilities Supervisor and Facilities Attendants), full-time seasonal staff (Facilities Attendant and Parks Maintenance) and part-time seasonal staff (Program, Aquatic, Instructors, Canteen and Bartending Staff).

Figure 22: Current Organizational Structure—Municipality of North Perth Parks and Recreation Department



Over time, workload pressures on staff can be expected to increase due to rising resident expectations, a growing network of parks and facilities, and the provision of a diverse range of services. As the Municipality grows, it will be necessary to review and evaluate additional staffing requirements, particularly in the area of recreation programming to address key socio-demographic areas such as older adults and seniors, children and youth. For example, the current Program Coordinator is responsible for supervising and coordinating events and activities, organizing and implementing fitness programs, and managing day camps. This leaves little time to focus on seasonal activities for children and older adults/seniors, two age cohorts that are growing in North Perth. Additionally, the opening of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex and its potential long-term expansion will warrant an evaluation of the Municipality's current staffing model and whether additional staffing resources will be needed.

Succession planning for the future remains of utmost importance. As the community grows, the provision of programming and facilities must adapt to servicing a larger population. This may trigger the need for additional staffing to care for new facilities and administer services. It is recommended that the Municipality establish a succession plan to proactively plan for retirements and the transition of employees into new roles.

It is important that staff training, health and safety measures, standard operating procedures (SOP's) and accessibility requirements be documented in writing and maintain legislative compliance. Presently, the Municipality has municipal Human Resources, Aquatics and Camp SOP's in writing, among others. It is recommended that the Municipality document all policies and procedures so that they may serve as staff reference and training manuals in the future.

It is also noted that the Municipality presently contracts out some duties for grass cutting and trail maintenance. It is recommended that the Municipality continue to evaluate options for alternate service delivery.

Recommendations:

3. Ensure that the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities remains a high priority for the Municipality through continued staff training and the implementation of customer service standards.
4. Ensure that staffing levels within the Parks and Recreation Department properly support population growth and service enhancements.
5. Develop a staff training and development plan to articulate responsibilities, skills and competencies needed to deliver on Departmental objectives.
6. Develop a succession plan to proactively plan for retirements and employee transition.

7.3 Programs & Activities

As stated earlier, the Parks and Recreation Department's key role is to provide and maintain facilities and supply programming to supplement those offered by local organizations. Through public consultation, residents and groups expressed a desire for the Municipality to increase its support of local programs and services and provide a greater range of activities and services for residents.



Elma Logan Park

Ensuring that a wide-variety of quality programs that are affordable and accessible is paramount in promoting healthy, active lifestyles in a community. Lack of free time remains a persistent barrier to participation. In fact, the community survey reported that 36% of respondents were unable to participate in recreational activities as often as they would like, with the majority of respondents indicating that this was due to lack of free time. To the degree possible, it is vital that program offerings remain convenient, accessible, affordable and flexible to allow families and individuals to incorporate recreation and leisure as part of their lifestyle. Over time, the opportunity to provide more unstructured, drop-in programs such as open gym time and yoga should be explored by the Municipality to help address this barrier.

There are currently a wide variety of recreation, leisure and culture opportunities provided by the Municipality, community organizations, volunteers and the private sector, and this has been a strength of the Municipality. The types of programs offered can be classified into three broad categories: sport, leisure (including camps and educational opportunities) and culture (arts, music and drama). The majority of programs offered are sports and physical activities including soccer, baseball (slo-pitch, softball, fastball) and ice sports (hockey, figure skating, ringette and curling). Through a reciprocal agreement with local schools, the Municipality also offers indoor, drop-in programming such as badminton and pickleball which is organized by the Program Coordinator. The 'Community Connection' newsletter does an excellent job at promoting municipal activities and programs and is well-received by the community. The newsletter should continue to be utilized as promotional material in conjunction with social media platforms and the municipal website.

With rising physical inactivity and obesity rates across with province, it is important that the Municipality remains actively engaged in providing health and wellness opportunities to the community at large. The community survey found that respondents were least satisfied with parks, recreation and cultural activities for children (0-12 years), older adults (55-69 years) and seniors (70+ years), which may suggest a gap in service for these age segments. Efforts should be made to ensure that program offerings appeal to all ages and abilities.

As North Perth's population continues to age, opportunities to engage older adults in recreational activities becomes increasingly important. For older adults, being involved in

recreation can provide them with a sense of belonging, social network and skill development. Ensuring activities are accessible, affordable and 'age-friendly' are essential when considering programming for this age cohort.

To respond to changing preferences over time, it is recommended that the Municipality keep an up to date inventory of programs and services offered in North Perth. By having registration data on file, the Municipality will be able to track program demand over time and plan accordingly.

Recommendations:

7. Maintain an up to date inventory of recreation opportunities within the Municipality (including a database of community groups and their contact information) to ensure that a full-range of activities are available for all age groups. This database will serve to enhance awareness of local activities, programs, leagues and events.
8. Support opportunities to develop informal, unstructured and inclusive active recreation experiences, including drop-in programs and non-registered special or one-time events (where resources and availability allow).
9. Investigate opportunities to engage older adults in recreational programming as North's Perth's senior population grows.

7.4 Volunteer Support

Traditionally, older adults have provided many volunteer hours, although there has been a drive in recent years to involve youth in volunteering through mandatory community service hours. There is some concern that as the population ages across the province, there will be a shortage of volunteers if communities are not proactive through recruitment. Adequate promotion of opportunities and providing municipal support to volunteers is the preferred approach to securing a long-term volunteer presence.

There are many volunteer groups that currently exist in North Perth including minor sports, special interest clubs and non-profit organizations, among others. These groups mainly plan and execute local programming and events on their own, with the Municipality playing a supporting role and providing facilities.

Recognizing the achievements of volunteers is important as it can serve as incentive for involvement as well as aid in the retention of existing volunteers. There is a growing need for volunteer assistance and management resources (e.g. recruitment, screening, training, recognition, grant writing, etc.). The Municipality could develop a corporate-wide (i.e. not just parks and recreation) recognition program to show their appreciation for local volunteers. The coordination of a volunteer fair may also be considered as a way to encourage local residents to give back to their community. The number one barrier to volunteerism is a lack of time, which

can lead to volunteer 'burnout' and frustration. By implementing some form of recognition, the Municipality can convey to volunteers that their efforts are respected and worth the commitment, while also bringing awareness to volunteerism from the community.

The challenge of recruiting volunteers can be made simpler through the development of a volunteer database. Specific information such as skills (i.e. coaching) and contact information from past volunteers can be recorded into the database and be retrieved when necessary. Presently, the United-Way Perth Huron is in the process of developing a volunteer database and this may be a future resource for the Municipality.

Recommendations:

10. Provide promotional material to local schools to advertise volunteer opportunities for youth to obtain mandatory community service hours.
11. Support the efforts of other providers in creating a volunteer database that is updated regularly to include contact information, skills and volunteer history.
12. Develop a corporate-wide recognition program to celebrate the contributions of local volunteers and encourage greater levels of volunteerism.

7.5 Policy Development

It is essential that the Municipality continue to ensure that there is legislative compliance in all areas of operation. As a best practice, there should be a focus on creating and updating policies and procedures to guide matters related to risk and liability management, health and safety for staff and facility users, government regulations, inter-departmental coordination, operating performance, facility allocation, customer service, etc. To account for changing requirements, a staff member should be assigned to complete a full listing and ensure that all staff are aware of and complying with the legislation related to the Parks and Recreation Department. Some of the Municipality's practices and procedures are not formally documented and there is a need to preserve managerial and operational knowledge.

It is suggested that the Municipality consider the following policy or procedural actions, though it is recognized that this is not an exhaustive list:

- Tracking registration numbers associated with sports groups and community organizations can be leveraged to identify facility utilization levels, trends and changing demands. This data is also essential in developing provision targets (i.e. number of ice pads) needed in the future based on population and demand. It is recommended that the Municipality track annual registration data from all groups that frequently use municipal facilities. This may be achieved through bi-annual meetings suggested in this Master Plan, or other opportunities such as rental contracts.

- As mentioned previously, documentation of the Municipality’s standard operating procedures is important. This could include a description of how staff should respond to community requests, a record of day-to-day operations, and other guidelines to address matters related to parks, recreation and culture in the Municipality. It is recommended that the Municipality create a Policies and Procedures Reference Manual that would be made available within each facility so staff may easily access information on the Municipality’s protocols and customer service standards. This Reference Manual should contain all policies affecting the Parks and Recreation Department and the provision of parks, recreation and culture opportunities, in addition to procedures for engaging with members of the community, facility and service requests, facility management, park and sport field maintenance, dispute resolution, complaint forms and relevant legislation (i.e. *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*).
- To identify potential risks and mitigate liability, a risk management plan should be developed by the Municipality. This is particularly relevant when considering accessibility and persons with disabilities, especially given the accessibility constraints of the Municipality’s older infrastructure. For example, as of January 1, 2016, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* maintains that all new public spaces, buildings and renovations are required to comply with accessible built environment standards. The continued application of this Act and others will need to be a priority for the Municipality.
- Consultation with community groups revealed a need for more education surrounding park and trail encroachment in North Perth. It is recommended that the Municipality develop an education strategy to educate the community about issues affecting trails and parks such as trespassing, dumping, clear-cutting and respect for natural habitats. This could be achieved through added signage along trail paths, providing information on the municipal website and through the Community Connection Newsletter.

Recommendations:
13. Conduct an annual review of all applicable Department policies to ensure that they are relevant and fair to all parties involved.
14. Create a Policies and Procedures Reference Manual that is to be made available in each municipal facility as a staff resource.
15. Develop a risk management plan to identify potential risks and protocols regarding liability.
16. Track registration numbers annually for groups that frequently use municipal facilities.
17. Prepare trail and park encroachment promotion material to be displayed in key locations and dispersed through appropriate channels to educate the public on issues surrounding trails and parks.

7.6 Rates & Fees

To offset a portion of the costs associated with parks and recreation facilities and associated services, the Municipality charges rental rates and program fees that are updated based on inflationary factors and compared to rates charged by surrounding municipalities. Ensuring that rates and fees consider the appropriate balance between cost factors and affordability is important.

To ensure that parks and recreation opportunities remain affordable and consistent, it is recommended that the Municipality review its fee structure annually (with a comprehensive review every five years) and compare fees with similarly sized municipalities and those within the region. This practice should be continued to ensure that costs to participate and access to services are indicative of a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits and are relative to the broader regional market.

It is also important for the Municipality to communicate to groups that rates are not set at full cost recovery levels and are instead subsidized through funds from general taxation and the degree of subsidization usually varies by municipal cost recovery models, level of service and facility quality.



John Bell Diamond/Listowel Skate Park

The Municipality's current rates and fees schedule identifies charges for halls, meeting spaces, arenas, sports fields, pavilions, pools, day camps, arena advertising, and associated services. Some stakeholder groups were confused about the consistency in charges and applications. A review of the schedule finds a wide variety of rate categories. There is little standardization as the Municipality has purposely established rates that reflect the unique level of amenity and service provided at each facility. Halls are a good example of this approach, as are arenas (the smaller ice surface at Wallace Arena commands a lower rate). The Municipality should complete an audit of rentals over the past three years to determine if any of the fee categories and associated services are unnecessary, with a view toward streamlining the fee schedule and rental agreements.

For indoor rental spaces, the rates and fees schedule rightly makes a distinction between prime and non-prime times/days, as well as youth and adult ice rentals. For outdoor sports fields, there is also a delineation between youth and adult rentals, although the unit rate varies from per person, per team, or per hour depending on the sport and type of use. The same rate is charged for ball games whether lights are used or not, which is not congruent with contemporary models that link rates to true costs. Furthermore, while ball diamond rentals are generally higher than soccer fields due to the higher level of service associated with infield

dragging and lining, minor participants in both sports carry the same per person charge. Anecdotally, some stakeholders suggested that fees are part of the reason why some minor soccer organizations rely solely on school fields. At the time of the next fee review, the Municipality should examine sports field rates, including charges to minor groups and lit fields.

Recommendations:

18. Assess rates and fees annually (with a comprehensive review every five years) for parks and recreation programs and facilities and compare to municipalities of similar size and around the Region to ensure that they represent a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits.
19. Complete an audit of rentals over the last three years to determine if any fee categories and associated services are unnecessary.
20. Examine sports field rates, including charges to minor organizations and lit fields to determine if they are fair and relative to rates charged in similar municipalities.

7.7 Communication & Marketing

There was some lack of awareness of activities and programs reported by residents and organizations throughout the consultation phase. This issue is common within rural communities, as people are geographically dispersed and word-of-mouth remains the preferred form of communication. Enhancing communication should remain a priority for the Municipality as participation in leisure activities, special events and volunteer opportunities can be impacted if the public is unaware of the offerings that exist.

The use of the Community Connection newsletter, social media and the municipal website demonstrate the Municipality's initiatives to connect with the community in today's digital age. It is important to develop technology-based marketing techniques to ensure the community is engaged, while maintaining traditional resources for less tech-savvy residents.

"I LOVE the Community Connection Newsletter. I enjoy getting it (non-digital!) because I can set aside the time and actually read it without digital distractions. It's nice to have it around the house as a reminder of events too."
- community survey respondent

Although the municipal website contains plentiful information on programs and services, residents expressed a desire for the website to be more 'user-friendly'. The Municipality should assess the website regularly to ensure that it is navigable and up to date. According to the community survey, 37% of respondents preferred social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) and 33% preferred the North Perth website as their main source of information on parks, recreation and cultural programs and events in North Perth, emphasizing the need for the Municipality to have a strong online presence.

The Municipality's role as a provider and facilitator of recreation and leisure opportunities requires effective collaboration with local organizations, stakeholders and residents to provide a variety of activities that respond to community needs. As a result, it is important that the Municipality continue to actively engage these groups to ensure that their needs, desires, concerns and suggestions are heard and addressed. Meeting with groups provides an opportunity for the Municipality to develop rapport, but also obtain information on trends and utilization rates for each organization. These meetings can serve as an opportunity for stakeholders to network and share information. It is recommended that the Municipality host bi-annual meetings with all groups to discuss issues and opportunities related to service delivery, local needs, marketing and general communication.

A Draft Marketing Plan (prepared by Dickson Consulting) has been prepared and submitted under separate cover for the Municipality's consideration. The Draft Marketing Plan is intended to promote a local planning and decision process and to create the potential for the municipality to seek leverage funding (such as grants). The plan identifies a process for developing a marketing strategy and proposes creative projects to help enhance the awareness of North Perth as a new destination and recreational centre.

Recommendations:

21. Conduct regular assessments of the Municipal website to ensure it provides up-to-date information that is displayed in a navigable format.
22. Continue distributing the Community Connection newsletter in hard-copy and digital format.
23. Meet with community groups together bi-annually to discuss issues and opportunities affecting the Municipality.
24. Work with key partners to develop strategies for marketing and branding with consideration given to the process and actions outlined in the Draft Marketing Plan (submitted under separate cover).

7.8 Partnerships & Working with Others

Partnerships (formal or informal) play a key role in the provision of parks and recreation facilities and services. Economic pressures may prompt the Municipality to pursue partnerships as a means of containing capital and operating costs, gaining management expertise, sharing risks, expanding the availability of capital, increasing revenues, enhancing facility maintenance and improving the cost-efficiency of service delivery. The most successful relationships stem from common objectives (e.g. environmental conservation, community involvement, physical activity, trail development, etc.) maximizing the strengths of each party and mitigating risks such as costs and liability.



The Municipality currently works with a number of groups including the Atwood Lions, Listowel Kinsmen and many others to ensure its residents have access to programs and services that are beyond its scope (e.g. Paddyfest, Canada Day celebrations, etc.). These organizations offer a variety of programs and services that enhance the quality of life of local residents.

The reciprocal agreement between local schools and the Municipality through the *Education Act* (which enables local groups to access gymnasiums at no cost) provides cost effective programming space for the Municipality and this agreement should continue. In the future, the Municipality should consider strengthening their relationship with the school boards and seek opportunities to aid schools in incorporating physical literacy in their programs and classrooms.

For example, the close proximity of Steve Memorial Arena to Westfield Public School provides the prospect of shared-use model in the future for both students and users. The Municipality should capitalize on this opportunity through the continued facilitation of community access to the school's gymnasium and programming space, while allowing students to benefit access to municipal facilities.

There are many organizations within the Municipality that may be good candidates for partnership, however, before entering into an agreement it must be established that potential agreements need to be mutually beneficial. There are a number of criteria that must be considered before establishing a partnership with any entity (public, private, not-for-profit, etc.) wishing to introduce a new level of service with municipal assistance. At the very least, it is important for the Municipality to consider:

- That the proposed partnership is consistent with the municipal mandate and philosophies;
- That there is a role for the Municipality to play in the provision of the program/service;
- Whether there is a quantifiable or justified need for the service in the community;
- That the service can be properly accommodated within the Municipality's long-term capital and/or operating resources;
- Whether the partner is sufficiently capable/qualified (e.g. financially, staffing, internal expertise) to be able to deliver the service over the long-term and in compliance with legislated policies and municipal standards;
- That the level of risk (e.g. financial, liability etc.) is acceptable and that there is a plan in place to manage the risk;
- Whether the partner can provide the service on a sole basis; and/or
- That there is a full agreement of terms, conditions, standards and responsibilities amongst all parties.

Recommendations:

25. Maintain reciprocal agreements with local schools to promote the usage of recreation opportunities for students and residents.
26. Use a standardized framework to evaluate appropriate partnership opportunities with public, not-for-profit and/or private organizations in the delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services.

7.9 Direction for the Arts and Culture Sector

Arts and culture is important to a vibrant society and is expressed in the many ways we tell stories, celebrate and remember the past, entertain ourselves and imagine the future. A community's creative expression helps define who they are and helps residents see the world through the eyes of others. By bringing people together, cultural activities such as festivals, fairs or classes can create social solidarity and cohesion, foster social inclusion, community empowerment and capacity building and enhance civic pride and tolerance.

Residents participate in arts and culture in many ways—as audiences, performers, volunteers, artists and artisans, donors and investors. Within the scope of this Master Plan, 'culture' is defined as the arts, cultural industries and heritage resources. It includes, but is not limited to, the following opportunities and assets:

- Artistic talent and expression (music, theatre, dance, visual art, film, media arts, literature, etc.);
- Built heritage;
- Natural heritage landscapes;
- Museums and archives; and
- Events, festivals and tourism.

In addition to its intrinsic value, arts and culture provides important social and economic benefits. With collaborative learning, increased tolerance, and opportunities to come together, culture enhances quality of life and increases well-being for individuals and communities. It provides a way to express creativity, forge an individual identity and preserve a community's sense of place. Arts-based initiatives can result in direct economic benefits to the community through new uses of existing facilities and new jobs for local artists. Culture activities and sites help develop local narratives and distinctive brands with unique selling points for tourists and business investors. In short, culturally rich communities enhance competitiveness by attracting talent and businesses.

Coordination between local and regional service providers is essential, in addition to effective marketing techniques to promote arts tourism and economic development. Local organizations such as the North Perth Arts and Culture Council aim to bring together members of the artistic

and creative community together for personal and professional betterment and create experiences for the community to appreciate local arts and culture.

Currently, there are no galleries, museums or historic sites in North Perth. The local theatre is under new ownership and the new owner intends to revitalize the facility. There are some private studios and artists that cater to the creative community. According to the 2011 Census, roughly 2% of residents in North Perth are employed in art, culture, recreation or sport. Apart from residents employed in the creative class, there are numerous local residents that enjoy art-based hobbies and these activities are supported in venues throughout the Municipality, including North Perth's parks and recreation spaces.

In the future, the Municipality may want to assume a more prominent role in the provision of arts and culture, whether it be as a service provider or by guiding and directing local groups. A more comprehensive guide to addressing arts and culture, such as an Arts and Culture Strategy, may assist the Municipality in determining local needs and how these needs will be addressed moving forward. As part of this strategy, the Municipality should work in collaboration with its community partners (including the North Perth Arts Council) to respond to the needs of residents and visitors. Through an Arts and Culture Strategy and part of the Department's mandate, the Municipality should consider the following tasks (at a minimum):

- Locate cultural resources and create accessible mapping
- Identify the area's cultural distinctiveness; promote this unique identity
- Work with key stakeholders (including tourism and economic development) and develop strategies to address arts and culture needs and build upon past strengths
- Incorporate arts and culture into municipal departments, policies and practices
- Promote local activities and events that support and celebrate local heritage and culture

Recommendations:

27. Develop an Arts and Culture Strategy that will assist the Municipality in determining its role supporting arts and culture services and programs. Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to build upon current strengths and create a direction for arts and culture in North Perth.

8. Recreation & Community Facilities Assessment

Providing recreation and facilities is a primary role for the Parks and Recreation Department and promotes physical activity, healthy lifestyles, positive interactions and economic growth in North Perth. This Section assesses the Municipality's supply of a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities and identifies recommendations regarding future needs.

8.1 Arenas

Arena Supply

The Municipality maintains three single pad arenas:

- **Elma-Logan Recreation Complex (Monkton)** is used by several minor and adult ice sports. It is operated under a shared use arrangement with the Municipality of West Perth as Monkton is a split community (North Perth manages the facility and is responsible for 63% of the costs). Built in 1990, it is the newest of the Municipality's arenas and recently underwent an internal renovation. The arena and attached community centre consists of one ice pad (185ft x 85ft), boardroom, canteen, several change rooms, multi-use room and hall. Through community fundraising, a large hall with a kitchen was also added to host community events, dances and fundraisers.
- **Wallace Community Centre and Arena (Kurtzville)** is home to several minor and adult ice sports. The arena consists of a single ice surface (170 ft. x 70 ft.), four small change rooms, and an attached hall.
- **Listowel Memorial Arena** is home to the Listowel Cyclones Junior 'B' team, minor and adult ice sports, and North Perth lacrosse in the summer. The arena is a single pad ice surface (180 ft. x 80 ft.) with small lobby and second-floor hall. The Listowel Memorial Arena will be closing with the opening of the new Steve Kerr Memorial Complex, although an end use for the building has not been determined.

Utilization

Across Canada, hockey and figure skating are the primary winter sports and many arenas serve as community hubs, particularly in rural areas. Due to demographic changes (e.g., aging and diversity), affordability concerns, and competing activities, participation in organized ice sports has been steadily declining at the national level since 2008/2009. As a result, many communities have observed declining utilization and have undertaken strategies to cope with shifting arena needs, such as reducing hours of operation, changing ice allocation practices and/or decommissioning ice pads. On the other hand, communities with strong growth are experiencing increased demand for ice time, although typically at rates lower than overall population growth.

In North Perth, there are gaps of unutilized ice in the mornings before 9am during the week and on weekends. Ice is also more commonly available later in the evening (10:30pm or 11:00pm) at all locations. Weekday daytime use is also low, although this is common in all arenas. The Municipality does not currently provide ice during the summer.

A review of prime-time hours¹⁰ based on typical ice schedules supplied by the Municipality reveals the following:

- Listowel Memorial Arena: 94% of prime-time hours are typically in use (and 37% of non-prime hours)
- Elma Logan Arena: 73% of prime-time hours are typically in use (and 11% of non-prime hours)
- Wallace Community Centre: 65% of prime-time hours are typically in use (and 6% of non-prime hours)

The following tables display prime time and non-prime hours by organization type for each of the three arenas based on typical ice schedules from the 2016/17 season. Usage rates at Listowel Memorial Arena are indicative of a rink that is at full capacity; however, there is opportunity to accommodate more users at the other arenas.

Table 12: Typical Weekly Usage Rates at North Perth Arenas, 2016/17

Organization Type	Prime Time Hours (55 hours/pad)	Non-Prime Time Hours (71 hours/pad)
Listowel Memorial Arena		
Minor	39.75 hrs	3 hrs
Adult	4.5 hrs	2 hrs
Public	7.25 hrs	21.25 hrs
Total	51.5 hrs	26.25 hrs
% of total hours	94%	37%
Elma Logan Arena		
Minor	28 hrs	2 hrs
Adult	10.5 hrs	1 hr
Public	1.5 hrs	4.5 hrs
Total	40 hrs	7.5 hrs
% of total hours	73%	11%
Wallace Community Centre		
Minor	26.5 hrs	1 hr
Adult	6.75 hrs	0 hr
Public	3 hrs	3 hrs
Total	36.25 hrs	4 hrs
% of total hours	65%	6%

¹⁰ For the purposes of this study, prime time hours are defined as 7am-10pm Saturday and Sunday and 5pm to 10pm Monday to Friday.

Public Input

The community survey indicated that 47% of respondents had at least one family member that participated in hockey, ringette or figure skating in the past 12 months, and was the most popular organized sport that respondents participated in. 44% of survey participants stated that they would support or strongly support additional funding towards a second ice pad at Steve Kerr Memorial Arena, while 35% chose to oppose or strongly oppose additional funding. Input received from local groups during consultation identified several areas for arena improvement including more and larger change rooms, improved washrooms, expanded and improved lobbies and viewing areas and dedicated referee rooms.

Input from ice groups indicate that registration has been stable or growing over the past few years. Listowel Minor Hockey expressed an interest in moving quickly to add a second ice pad within the community (either at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex in the short-term or through keeping Listowel Memorial Arena open until the Complex can be twinned). Users of the Wallace Community Centre expressed concerns about the design of the facility, including its undersized ice pad and insufficient change rooms, and were inquired about the Municipality's future plans for the facility (i.e., whether it should be maintained or closed/replaced over the long-term).

Needs Assessment

A market-specific approach to determining current and future ice pad requirements has been used as it takes into account the impact of participation trends, accepted standards of play, population growth, and demographic factors. It can also be set at a level that is consistent with local circumstances and public expectations, making it responsive to the specific needs of the residents of North Perth.

A typical arena profile within urban/rural communities would accommodate approximately 400 to 450 youth users during prime-time hours, with the bulk of adult usage relegated to daytime, late evenings and Sunday mornings. The 2016 Recreation & Leisure Services Master Plan for the Municipality of West Perth utilized a provision target of one ice pad per 425 youth participants and this service level would also be applicable to North Perth. As shown in the following table, there are approximately 792 youth registrants using the Municipality's arenas, although it is noted that some groups have regional memberships (e.g., Central Perth Minor Hockey).

Table 13: North Perth Ice Sports Registration (youth)

Organization	Registration (2016/17)
Listowel Minor Hockey	328
Listowel Skating Club	60
Wallace Minor Hockey	61
Skate Wallace	105
Monkton Skating Club	40
Central Perth Minor Hockey* (shared with Milverton)	170
Listowel Junior 'B'	28
Total	792

* Estimated based on number of teams

Ringette excluded (home base is Mitchell Arena)

Source: Input from various user groups

Counting Elma Logan Arena as 0.6 rinks given the shared use agreement (and that Mitchell Ringette and Minor Hockey have been excluded from the participation figures), the Municipality's 2.6 arenas are each accommodating an average of 305 youth players at present. This is below the target of 425 youth users per ice pad, suggesting that there is capacity for greater usage, a finding that is consistent with the schedule analysis presented earlier.

Looking to the future, it is likely that the demand for ice will grow at a rate slower than population growth given sport trends and population characteristics. By 2031, a population of 14,990 is projected for the Municipality – 14% growth over the next fifteen years. Even if youth ice participation increases at this rate (to 900 players in 2031, for an average of 350 players per rink), the Municipality would still be below the recommended threshold for a fourth ice pad. There remains demand for three ice pads in the Municipality, however, a fourth ice pad is not recommended during the timeframe of this Master Plan.

Arena Viability

A closer look at the numbers indicates that the arenas in Listowel and Monkton are well used, but the Wallace/Kurtzville Arena has substantial available capacity. This is partially due to its location outside of major population centres and its functional limitations (e.g., small ice dimensions) that do not allow for a full minor hockey program.

The possibility of twinning the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex has been discussed as a way to accommodate additional demand for ice sports in the future.

A long-term plan is needed for the Wallace Community Centre as the facility is dated and nearing the end of its lifecycle. Such an assessment would require a condition analysis, cost options, long-term needs, and community consultation. Options may include: closure, major renovation, or closure and twinning of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex. While there are notable benefits to twinning the new Complex (including operational efficiencies and

tournament potential), the impact on residents in the Wallace Ward would need to be considered further.

While Municipal Council has decided that Listowel Memorial Arena will not be used for ice activities once the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex opens, a future use for the old arena has not yet been determined. The survey also asked respondents about options for Listowel Memorial Arena and, based on a set of potential options, the responses were quite varied. With 29% support, the leading alternative – also mentioned frequently during stakeholder consultations – was to repurpose the arena into an indoor sport facility that could accommodate activities such as ball hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and more.

Table 14: Survey Responses to Possible Options Presented for Listowel Memorial Arena

Answer Options	Response Percent
1. Keep the arena floor and hall open for event and non-ice sport rentals	29%
5. Combination of options 2, 3, and 4	23%
7. Other (please specify)	14%
2. Demolish it and redevelop the site for park purposes, such as a memorial garden	12%
6. Don't Know	11%
4. Put it up for private sale, possibly for residential development	10%
3. Demolish it and use the space for additional parking	1%

The potential for re-purposing Listowel Memorial Arena is supported by residents and should be given further evaluation. Future uses, however, may be limited by the facility’s accessibility requirements as investment in the building will trigger the need for accessibility compliance. Additional renovations may also be required depending on the program requirements of its future use.

Several Canadian communities have explored the adaptive re-use of their surplus arena facilities for a wide range of purposes, including:

- Community centre space—Kingsdale Community Centre, Kitchener
- Event space and floor activities—Queensmount Arena, Kitchener and Alliston Memorial Arena, Alliston
- Indoor soccer—Syl Apps Community Centre, Paris
- Gymnastics—Ken Giles Recreation Centre, Brampton
- Commercial or institutional usage—former Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto
- Indoor playgrounds—Vancouver, BC
- Ball hockey/lacrosse facility—Stephen Leacock Arena, Toronto
- Roller derby facility—New Hamburg Arena, Wilmot
- Indoor Skatepark—Zurich Arena, Zurich
- Works Depot, storage – Amherstburg

Repurposing can allow an existing facility to be used for a longer period but, depending on the type of refurbishment required, may be costly. Because of this, the most common response in

Ontario has been to decommission and demolish surplus arenas. However, this is a choice with many complicating factors and requires a case-by-case assessment of each facility.

As a first step, it is recommended that the site remain in Municipal ownership and that a request for proposal be issued to determine the degree of public interest for a third-party operator to use the facility on a year-to-year basis with little to no municipal reinvestment.

Curling

The Listowel Curling Club provides opportunities for curling in the Municipality. Their facility is located adjacent to Listowel Memorial Arena and is managed and funded independently from the Municipality. There are currently 135 members within the Club for an average of 34 members per rink, which is well below a typical program capacity of 100 members per sheet.

Community-based curling clubs are the most common model in Ontario, many of whom own and operate their own private facilities. Very few new curling facilities have been built in Ontario in recent years and more notably, several curling rinks have been phased out of operation over the past two decades due to aging infrastructure and declining membership.

Given the size of the club's membership and the age of the building and physical plant, there may be concerns over its long-term sustainability. There is presently insufficient demand to justify the development of a replacement facility, thus it is in the club's best interest to seek opportunities to enhance usage and optimize the longevity of its current facility. Should this fail, the potential to accommodate curling within a municipal ice sheet (as is done in Mitchell, for example) would have to be evaluated further.

Recommendations:

28. Develop a long-term plan for the Wallace Community Centre, considering its condition, costs, long-term needs and community input.
29. Explore potential repurposing options for Listowel Memorial Arena through the issuance of a Request for Proposal for a third-party operator. Partnerships that emphasize non-municipal funding sources should be prioritized, as should negotiated community access to enhanced recreational services.

8.2 Community Space/Halls

The Municipality currently provides four community halls/auditoriums – each space varies in size and capacity and boasts access to washrooms and kitchen facilities:

- Elma Memorial Community Centre (plus multi-purpose room)
- Wallace Community Centre
- Elma Logan Recreation Complex (plus multi-purpose room)
- Listowel Memorial Arena (second floor, not accessible) – will be removed from inventory when arena closes

The new Steve Kerr Memorial Complex will feature a community meeting space to complete the ice pad and walking track.

Gymnasium space is available to the Municipality through their reciprocal agreements with local schools. The Municipality currently runs programs for residents at Listowel District Secondary School, North Perth Westfield Public School, Eastdale Public School and St. Mary's Catholic School and facilitates community access to other sites. Elma Township Public School is also available for programming; however, it is currently not being utilized.

Multi-purpose space provides opportunities for a variety of uses. The community benefits from having this space distributed throughout the Municipality as it provides residents with accessible facilities for programs, meetings, community events, social gatherings, and other functions. While it was once common to provide community halls as single-use stand-alone facilities, co-location of multi-use space with other amenities (both outdoor and indoor) has become the preferred model. Multi-purpose spaces often facilitate cross-programming opportunities and offer savings in both the construction and operation and should be the model moving forward (e.g., Steve Kerr Memorial Complex).

88% of survey respondents reported that indoor recreation facilities, such as arenas or community halls, were either important or very important to their household, while 68% indicated that they were satisfied with these facilities. This indicates a gap in expected level of service. Additionally, 55% of respondents stated that they would support or strongly support additional municipal spending on community centres and multi-purpose rooms.

As North Perth grows, it is recommended that the Municipality continue to explore opportunities to increase utilization of its community spaces and consider options to promote them for a diverse and flexible range of uses. When assessing community halls and similar spaces, consideration should be given to the following items:

- **Adaptable Design:** Can the facility accommodate various current and future opportunities and can it serve the functional needs of numerous activities at one location?

- **Community Wellness:** How does the facility benefit the health, wellbeing and social development of the community?
- **Accessibility:** Is the facility barrier-free and inclusive of all potential users?
- **Sustainability:** Is the facility economically sustainable?
- **Geographic Coverage:** How does the facility contribute to the geographic spread of facilities throughout the Municipality?

Over time, the Municipality should identify and prioritize improvements to existing multi-purpose spaces to ensure that they remain responsive to the needs of mainstream users. This includes, but may not be limited to the following projects:

- 1) Internal renovations to the Elma Memorial Community Centre will be required to modernize the building and improve accessibility as this is the Municipality’s largest banquet venue. This investment could provide increased revenue and benefits for the Municipality by ensuring that the centre remains a prime destination for community events and gatherings.
- 2) The proposed inclusion of a meeting space within the first phase of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex will serve facility users and local groups. During consultation, additional activity space that was affordable and accessible was desired. If the Complex is expanded in the future, consideration should be given to additional multi-use spaces capable of meeting broader community needs.
- 3) To support a co-located civic presence, the relocation of the Monkton Branch Library to the Elma Logan Community Centre has been recommended.

Recommendations:

30. Consult with stakeholders to identify and prioritize improvements to municipal community centres/halls, including potential upgrades and renovations to the Elma Memorial Community Centre in Atwood.

8.3 Youth Space

The Municipality does not provide any dedicated youth space, but does provide recreation spaces that are used by community partners and also facilitates youth programming such as summer camps. A community partner – the Upper Deck Youth Centre – provides youth with a dedicated classroom, kitchen, computer lab, recreation room and meeting room in a drop-in setting. The Upper Deck also has plans to add a gymnasium that would be open for public use through donations.

The process of providing engaging, interesting and safe opportunities for youth is important in all communities. The facilitation of positive choices through the provision of spaces (both indoor and outdoor) is a core component of healthy youth development. This is particularly important given North Perth’s large base of children and youth (in 2011, 14% of North Perth’s

population was between the ages of 10 and 19. Given that this age group is commonly considered a vulnerable age cohort, ensuring that meaningful leisure opportunities are available to youth is essential.

The survey indicated that 11% of respondents had at least one family member that had participated in organized teen activities (e.g. summer camps, youth clubs, etc.) over the past 12 month. Under half (45%) of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with activities for teens; this was the second lowest satisfaction rating for all age groups. 72% of respondents support additional funding for youth spaces, which was the second highest ranking behind trails, indicating that this is a priority among residents. The need for more parks, recreation, playgrounds, arts and culture opportunities for youth was made apparent during the public consultation process.

Recently, Perth County and area municipalities (including St. Marys and Stratford) launched the Perth4Youth initiative, a strategy to engage, attract, and retain youth. The input received through the Perth4Youth initiative will help to identify issues and opportunities that affect local youth, including ideas relative to parks and recreation programs and facilities. While there is currently no apparent need for North Perth to provide dedicated space for youth, the recommendations of the Perth4Youth initiative should be considered by the Municipality once they become available.

8.4 Seniors' Space

The Municipality currently does not provide any dedicated seniors' space for older adults and seniors; however, municipal community centres, local schools and the library are utilized for older adult oriented activities. There are also a number of community partners that provide senior-oriented opportunities through a variety of spaces throughout the community.



Unlike previous generations, older adults are becoming increasingly interested in active recreation and leisure opportunities (such as fitness, walking, pickleball, arts and culture) and lifelong learning opportunities. This has given a new meaning to being a 'senior', with this age cohort typically having more disposable income and time to devote to active recreation opportunities. There is still a proportion of the population that enjoys typical older adult activities (e.g. curling, cards, etc.), but greater emphasis is being placed on active recreation and leading healthy, active lifestyles. Service providers must aim to meet the expanded needs of older adults, an age category that is more segmented than ever (by age, activity level/interests, mobility/health, etc.).

According to the 2011 census, 28% of North Perth residents were over the age of 55. The Ontario Ministry of Finance projects that between 2016 and 2041, residents over the age of 70

in Perth County are projected to grow by 107%. This emphasizes the need to provide recreational programming and services for this large and growing age cohort.

The community survey revealed that only 5% of respondents had at least one person in their household that participated in organized senior's programs in the past 12 months. This may suggest that there are limited opportunities existing in the Municipality or perhaps a lack of awareness. 43% were satisfied or very satisfied with parks, recreation and cultural opportunities for seniors (70+) and 49% were satisfied with opportunities for older adults (55-69), indicating some room for improvement. 66% of respondents stated that they supported additional funding for seniors' programs, indicating support for more programming and services.

While the Municipality does not provide dedicated seniors space, it does provide community facilities and programs that accommodate this age cohort through third-party rentals and community use of schools. For instance, the Municipality provides indoor walking at the local high school as well as drop-in programs such as pickleball, badminton, etc. The addition of an indoor walking track at the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex will enhance service levels to this age group and the community as a whole.

Many seniors' events are advertised through the Community Connection Newsletter and through social media. Groups such as North Perth Seniors, Perth Meadows, North Perth Library, VON, Listowel Curling Club, and more are vital in serving the Municipality's older adult and senior population. The Municipality should continue to strengthen their partnerships with organizations serving older adults and look to promote and raise awareness about the services and programs they offer.

One such group is the North Perth Seniors, which is a local volunteer organization that provides social opportunities and activities for older adults (ages 55+). They had 309 members in 2016, up from 250 members the year before. The group hosts weekly senior's dances at the Listowel Legion and provides monthly bus trips for members. The group receives funding from the Municipality but currently does not use its facilities. The group indicated an interest in making better use of municipal facilities for dances and social gatherings, but noted that affordability is a concern.

During consultation, the availability of affordable and accessible programming space for seniors was raised as an issue. It was expressed that seniors and older adults facing mobility constraints and fixed incomes are in need of a centralized, accessible location for meetings, events and activity space. Currently, many seniors and older adults have turned to the Carnegie Library for this space, however, this room is not enclosed and is unsuitable for large groups.

It is recommended that the Municipality coordinate with local partners to assess the facility needs for older adults and identify ways to provide an accessible community space for older adults and seniors. With older adult populations on the rise, this may warrant the development

of a dedicated seniors space (i.e., a seniors' room), possibly as part of the next phase of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex.

Recommendations:

31. Coordinate with local service providers to identify suitable meeting and activity space for North Perth Seniors and older adults. Determine if there is a need for dedicated municipal senior space, possibly as part of the next phase of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex.

8.5 Aquatic Facilities

The Municipality provides two outdoor pools in Atwood and Listowel. Both facilities (and their support buildings) are aging and have barrier-free accessibility constraints, which may eventually trigger their enhancement, redevelopment or closure. The bathhouse for the Kinsmen Pool could especially benefit from upgrades to modernize the changerooms.



Atwood Lions Pool

Across Ontario, there has been a gradual transition away from outdoor pools due to their high operating costs, limited season and competing options (e.g. backyard pools, splash pads, other activities, etc.). Many older outdoor pools also do not have interactive or fun elements, lessening their appeal to children and families who are seeking a more expansive experience. Given the high renewal and operating costs of outdoor pools, many municipalities have replaced these facilities with splash pads since they require lower capital and operating costs while providing similar benefits.

North Perth residents value their two outdoor pools; however, their capital renewal requires close examination. Costs to redevelop outdoor pools and support structures can be in the millions of dollars to conform to barrier-free standards, replace mechanical or structural components, integrate waterplay feature, etc. It is recommended that the Municipality continue to operate both pools as long as they remain feasible. When major capital improvements are required to the pools or their support structures, pool usage trends should be examined and the community consulted on future options, ranging from redevelopment to repurposing. To inform this analysis, an audit of the Kinsmen Pool and bathhouse should be completed to identify options for achieving barrier free accessibility and other matters that may influence its long-term viability.

The Municipality provides one splash pad, which is located behind Kinsmen Pool in Listowel Memorial Park. This splash pad was installed by the local Listowel Kinette organization in 2012. This is a free and accessible facility for residents and visitors to use in the summertime. Splash pads appeal to families with young children that are looking for a fun and affordable way to cool off in the warmer weather. Splash pads offer added benefits in comparison to outdoor pools in that they tend to be free, drop-in facilities that can be enjoyed by people with no swimming experience. They are also more cost effective to build and operate than outdoor pools as they do not require lifeguards, although they are still subject to standards imposed by public health agencies.



Kinette Splash Pad

38% of survey respondents had at least one family member who used a splash pad in the past 12 months. 63% of respondents supported or strongly supported additional public spending on splash pads, while 12% opposed or strongly opposed additional funding.

In determining the need for splash pads, a population based provision target of one splash pad for every 1,500 to 2,000 children between the ages of 0-9 years old is recommended. The 2011 Census reported 1,690 children in the age group in North Perth. The splash pad at Listowel Memorial Park is sufficient to meet resident needs and further splash pad development is not recommended within the timeframe of this Master Plan.

There are no public indoor pools in North Perth. Regionally, indoor pools are available in Wingham and Elmira (about a 30-minute drive) and Stratford and Hanover (about a 45-minute drive).

49% of survey respondents had at least one family member who participated in recreational swimming in the past 12 months. During the public consultation process, it was noted that residents were largely divided on the provision of an indoor pool. Approximately 64% of respondents either supported or strongly supported additional public spending on an indoor pool. On the other hand, 23% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed the development of an indoor pool (indoor pools garnered the most opposition of the 23 facility types, likely due to the high costs and resultant impact on taxes).

Indoor aquatic facilities are highly sought after public facilities as they accommodate a wide-range of interests and abilities. Learning to swim is an essential life skill that all residents can benefit from. While private backyard pools and outdoor pools provide swimming opportunities, they are weather dependent and only available during warmer weather months.

Despite a desire for an indoor pool in the Municipality, they are amongst the most expensive facilities to operate and are seldom provided in smaller communities (and particularly in

municipalities with access to pools in nearby communities). The provision of an indoor pool would surely result in a sizable tax increase for residents, which is a fact that may not be fully appreciated for all those that expressed support for this type of facility.

Municipal indoor aquatic facilities are essentially assured of running an operational deficit each year, even in communities with a large population base (generally requiring annual subsidies ranging between \$250,000 to \$500,000 depending on the type of pool and the market it serves). Furthermore, depending on site and pool design, construction costs could exceed \$10 million. The small size of the North Perth primary market suggests that an aquatic facility of any design would require substantial usage from the secondary market (e.g. nearby municipalities, some of which have indoor pools) to sustain a viable operation.

In terms of population requirements for an indoor pool, a common threshold of 40,000 residents is typically considered when planning for such a facility. The population base for a more financially sustainable operation would be even higher than this threshold. North Perth's population of 13,130 residents is well below the industry standard. Despite local interest, the North Perth market is not large enough to adequately support an indoor pool facility. Given these considerations and the availability of indoor pools in the region, it is not recommended that the Municipality develop an indoor aquatic facility.

Recommendations:

32. Continue to operate both outdoor pools as long as they remain feasible. When major capital improvements are required to the pools or their support structures, pool usage trends should be examined and the community consulted on future options, ranging from redevelopment to repurposing. To inform this analysis, an audit of the Kinsmen Pool and bathhouse should be completed to identify options for achieving barrier free accessibility and other matters that may influence its long-term viability.

8.6 Ball Diamonds

There are currently 13 municipal ball diamonds within North Perth including:

Lit Diamonds (9)

- Listowel Memorial Park (2)
- Kinsmen Park (2)
- Atwood Lions Park (2)
- Wallace Optimist Park (1)
- Elma Logan Park (1)
- Robert Mathers Park (1)

Unlit Diamonds (4)

- Listowel Memorial Park (1)
- Optimist/Davidson Park (1)
- Jackson Park (1)
- Elma Logan Park (1)

In terms of capacity, each lit diamond is equivalent to 1.5 ball diamonds due to increased evening usage afforded by the lighting. Thus, the effective supply of ball diamonds is equivalent to 17.5 unlit fields.

Ball diamonds are generally well distributed throughout the Municipality and many are co-located with other community facilities and parks. Residents may also have access to practice diamonds located at some area schools.



John Bell South Diamond

Across Ontario and locally, registration in baseball and softball has increased in recent years and remains a popular sport in rural communities. Compared to soccer and other field sports, baseball and softball are now played by more adults than youth, although local organizations have been attempting to build participation amongst children to help sustain the sport long-term.

The community survey indicated that 32% of respondents had at least one family member that participated in baseball or softball over the past year. 43% of respondents support additional spending on the development of new or improved ball diamonds (ranking it 20th out of 23 facility types). Levels of satisfaction remain high in comparison to other facility types.

The Listowel Minor Ball Association stated during consultation that they expect growth of about 5% per year. Through their interview, they stated that there were an adequate number of fields, but required creative scheduling to match times and dimensions to their levels of play. The group requested more flexible diamonds that could be easily adjusted for slo-pitch, in addition to larger fields to accommodate a junior level team in the future. A safety fence along the baseline at Optimist/Davidson Park was also requested to contain foul balls and ensure the safety of spectators.

Men's Slo-pitch expect stable registration over the next few years. They currently use Kinsmen Park on a regular basis and Robert Mathers Park twice a week. The organization is currently well served but noted that they would prefer using an additional diamond in Listowel over their current diamond in Trowbridge. They also suggested that more parking was needed at Kinsmen Park.

A market specific provision target is the preferred method to evaluate the need for ball diamonds. In smaller communities, a target of one diamond (unlit equivalent) per 80 participants is reasonable and allows flexibility for frequent weekend tournaments. With a supply of 17.5 unlit equivalents and an estimated total of 880 registrants, the Municipality is accommodating an average of 50 players per diamond. The current provision level is below the recommended provision target and no additional diamonds are required to meet current needs.

Table 15: North Perth Ball Registration

Organization	Registration (2016)
Listowel Minor Baseball	326
Elma Minor Baseball	75
Men's Slo-Pitch*	160
Women's Slo-Pitch*	144
Co-ed Slo-Pitch*	120
Other*	50
Total	880

*Estimated based on number of teams

Participation levels and schedules suggest that there is currently a surplus of diamonds, part of which is a result of the need to maintain an equitable geographic distribution. Diamonds at Atwood Lions Park (youth diamond) and Robert Mathers Park are experiencing particularly low usage. Should significant investment be required in any of these low-use sites (e.g., replacement light standards, support buildings, etc.), the Municipality should evaluate options for accommodating users at other locations and removing the diamonds from the active inventory (possibly converting them to other uses).

While some growth can be expected in local ball registration into the future, the current network of facilities has capacity to accommodate this growth and no new diamonds are recommended to be built during the next ten years. Instead, the Municipality should be focused on enhancing existing diamonds on an as-needed basis in partnership with local organizations. Long-term diamond field needs should be evaluated through the monitoring of annual registration figures (and application of the recommended provision target of one diamond/unlit equivalent per 80 registered participants). The Municipality should regularly communicate with ball organizations to receive trends data and identify any pressing concerns.

Recommendations:

33. Work in partnership with local ball organizations to identify and prioritize improvements to existing ball diamonds and seek collaborative funding opportunities.
34. Prior to undertaking capital repairs or improvements to low-usage sites, evaluate options for converting underutilized ball diamonds to in-demand uses.

8.7 Soccer Fields

There are a total of 8 soccer fields within municipal parks; all are unlit. They include:

Full Fields (2)

- Wallace Optimist Park (1)
- Elma Logan Park (1)

Intermediate Fields (3)

- Kinsmen Park (1)
- Wallace Optimist Park (2)

Mini Fields (3)

- Listowel Memorial Park (1)
- Wallace Optimist Park (2)

Fields at Listowel Memorial Park and Elma Logan Park receive little use from organized groups, but are available for casual, non-permitted use. In addition, the outfield of the youth diamond at Atwood Lions Park is occasionally used for soccer under the lights.

Organized youth soccer groups primarily use school fields, of which there are at least 12 in North Perth (largely at Elma Township Public School and various schools in Listowel).

Due to low equipment costs, international appeal and high fitness exertion, soccer has become a very popular sport amongst youth. During the mid-1990s, soccer took over from hockey as the most popular organized sport for Canadian youth. However, soccer registration has since levelled off in Canada, partially due to an aging demographic. Adult soccer participation has grown in recent years at the national level.

The Master Plan survey revealed that 25% of responding households contained at least one member that participated in soccer in the past 12 months. Just over half of respondents (55%) supported additional municipal spending on soccer fields. Other public feedback included requests for regulation sized fields (with lights) and an indoor turf facility.

During consultation, groups indicated that the current supply of fields is generally meeting their needs, aside from the lack of a full-size lit field. Elma Logan Minor Soccer is satisfied with their current access to a centralized soccer complex at Elma Township Public School, while Listowel Minor Soccer might consider using municipal fields in the future if the youth rate was more affordable to them.

Table 16: North Perth Soccer Registration

Organization	Registration (2016)	Primary Fields
Elma Minor Soccer	200	Elma Township Public School (5)
Wallace Minor Soccer	150	Wallace Optimist Park
Listowel Minor Soccer	300	School fields (6)
North Perth Adult Soccer	30	Kinsmen Park Atwood Lions Park (practice)
TOTAL	680	

Wallace Minor Soccer and a small number of adult teams are the only groups that currently use municipal fields on a regular basis. With approximately 180 outdoor participants using six fields, this equates to an average of 30 players per field. Based on a common standard of 60 users per

field, there is opportunity to accommodate greater use, either through growth or the absorption of groups back into the municipal system. While it is assumed that Listowel Minor Soccer will continue to rely on school fields, if they choose to move their program to municipal fields, there may be a need for additional fields into the future.

It is understood that a full-size lit soccer field is being planned for the Steve Memorial Complex; there is only one full-size field in this part of the Municipality. A lit outdoor field will help accommodate more adult programs and maximize existing fields (with proper turf maintenance, a lit soccer field is equivalent to 1.5 unlit fields due to extended hours of play). If there is increased demand for soccer in the future, lands adjacent to the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex would be a suitable site for further field expansion given the proximity to supporting amenities such as washrooms, parking and change rooms. Where possible, new fields should be full-size, allowing for them to be divided into smaller fields for younger age groups.

At present time, there is a full-size soccer field located adjacent to the Elma Logan Arena that is not in active use, although it is maintained during the season. There is no active soccer organization in this area, and it is not ideally located to serve residents outside of Monkton. The Municipality may investigate opportunities to either convert this large parcel of land into another use based on further community interest (e.g., naturalized park, Frisbee golf, walking path, etc.).

Recommendations:

35. Supply one full-size lit soccer field at the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex in the short-term. Should there be a need for additional soccer fields in the future, expansion of this site should be considered.

36. Identify possible uses for the soccer field and open space in Elma Logan Park. Consult the local community to determine a community need for the land.

8.8 Playgrounds

The Municipality currently provides playgrounds at 12 sites throughout North Perth:

- Atwood Lions Park
- Boyne Park
- Elma Logan Park
- Jackson Park
- Kinsmen Park
- Listowel Memorial Park
- Livingstone Park
- Oke Park
- Robert Mathers Park
- Wallace Optimist Park
- Ward Subdivision Park
- Wilson Park



Atwood Lions Park

In addition, residents may also have access to playground sites located at non-municipal locations such as schools and religious institutions.

Playgrounds serve as neighbourhood level amenities, which can provide opportunities for early childhood leisure and social interaction. Modern design templates for these facilities focus on providing safe structures that are consistent with Canadian Standards Association guidelines. Some playgrounds also feature barrier free components to enhance inclusivity for children with disabilities. It should be noted that new built

environment regulations of the *Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act* apply to municipal playgrounds installed or redeveloped in 2016 and beyond.

The Municipality's playgrounds are generally in good condition and most traditional structures have been replaced with creative play equipment. The Municipality should continue to regularly inspect these playground structures to identify maintenance and repair needs on a regular basis, together with other parks and recreation equipment.

45% of survey respondents had a family member who used outdoor playgrounds over the last 12 months. The popularity and demand for play structures was made apparent during the public consultation process. In fact, 72% of survey respondents either support or strongly support additional public spending on playground, second only to nature trails. Other public consultation initiatives revealed support for an accessible playground to promote inclusivity of children with disabilities. The Municipality should prioritize the installation of a barrier-free playground in a destination park (e.g. Memorial Park).

Within the Municipality, equitable access to playgrounds in each major community is essential for the healthy development of young children. Primary residential areas should be located within 500m of a playground (or about a 5 to 10-minute walk). This ensures that residents in each major settlement area have equitable access to these facilities without having to cross major barriers such as high volume regional roads, rail lines or waterways.

An analysis of playground locations indicates that most of North Perth's urban settlement areas are well-serviced. Future residential development in southwest Listowel may necessitate the installation of a playground to provide an accessible local opportunity to this part of the community.

The provision of outdoor fitness playgrounds is increasing in popularity in several communities. The Municipality currently has a Participark (challenge/fitness course made comprised of wooden features) located at Listowel Memorial Park, which is outdated and does not meet current safety standards. Although the consultation program identified an interest in revamping

the Participark, it is a growing liability that should be removed when the new trail loop is installed.

Recommendations:

37. Strive to provide playgrounds within 500 metres of all residences within major settlement areas, unobstructed by pedestrian barriers such as high volume roads, rail lines and waterways. Opportunities to address these gaps should be explored through future parkland dedication.
38. Work with local partners (e.g., service clubs, etc.) to develop a barrier-free playground that is accessible to persons with disabilities.
39. Remove the wooden Participark features from Listowel Memorial Park to reduce the safety hazard of the outdated equipment.

8.9 Tennis Courts



Memorial Park

There are five public tennis courts in North Perth, two at Optimist/Davidson Park, two at Atwood Lions Park and one unlit court at the PUC.

Tennis courts are inclusive facilities that accommodate most age groups and a variety of skill levels. Interest in tennis varies across communities, but is generally not as high as it once was and many municipalities have a surplus of courts as a result. 12% of survey respondents had at least one family member participate in tennis over the last 12 months

and 50% support additional public spending on tennis courts. This is indicative of a lower priority for tennis among other facility types. With multiple courts in both Listowel and Atwood, there is an adequate geographic distribution and no new tennis courts are recommended.

While tennis has been a stable to declining sport, there is growing interest in the emerging sport of pickleball – one of the fastest growing sports in North America. This lower intensity paddle sport can be played on modified tennis courts (requiring a badminton sized court and lower net). Pickleball is relatively easy for beginners to learn and for advanced players it is a quick and fast-paced game. The fact that players are largely seniors and retired persons (many are part of the more active baby boomer generation) has helped to support the proliferation of clubs across Canada. There was notable demand expressed during public consultation for outdoor pickleball courts in the Municipality. Currently, indoor pickleball is provided by the Municipality in a drop-in setting at local schools.

Despite growing interest, only 3% of survey respondents have participated in pickleball over the past year and 19% support additional funding towards pickleball courts. These findings may be indicative of the community's low awareness of the sport. Many municipalities in Ontario (such as London, St. Thomas, etc.) have responded to pickleball demands and have modified under-used tennis courts or built dedicated outdoor courts. Adding pickleball lines on existing tennis courts is a very low-cost method of quickly creating a shared use facility.

The single tennis court on the PUC property in Listowel is an ideal candidate for conversion to pickleball as it does not appear to be well used for tennis and has access to nearby parking. It is recommended that this pad be converted into 2-3 pickleball courts to address growing needs.

Recommendations:

40. Modify the PUC tennis court to accommodate pickleball (2 to 3 courts).

8.10 Basketball Courts

The Municipality provides nine basketball hoops at the following locations: Wilson Park (2 hoops), Atwood Lions Park (4 hoops), Ward Subdivision Park (1 hoop) and Elma Logan Park (2 hoops, although they are in disrepair). Additional hoops are provided at schools for community use outside of school hours.

Basketball is a popular sport amongst teens and children with outdoor courts providing opportunities for unstructured play, particularly when courts are incorporated into neighbourhood parks for easy access.



Wilson Park

As for indoor basketball, there is a youth basketball league operating in the North Perth for children in grades 1-8 with approximately 100 players. The league currently uses Listowel District Secondary School and Eastdale Public School twice a week for games and practices. The group expressed a need for more indoor basketball court time. The Municipality should work with the league to determine alternate locations or gym times for the league through their reciprocal agreements with local school boards.

11% of respondents from the survey indicated at least one member of their household had participated in basketball in the last twelve months, although the survey did not specify whether this was indoor or outdoor. 46% of survey respondents indicated that they support or strongly support additional municipal funding towards outdoor basketball courts (ranking it in the lowest quartile). The student survey revealed that 20% of respondents had participated in

basketball over the last 12 months with 74% of respondents responding ‘I like this’ or ‘I love this’ when asked about basketball. These results indicate higher levels of importance among youth.

Outdoor courts are community level facilities and accessibility is an important consideration. There is an equitable distribution of outdoor basketball courts across the Municipality, with outdoor and indoor court opportunities in Listowel, Monkton, Atwood, and Gowanstown. The court at Elma Logan Park is in very poor condition and should be removed from the active inventory as demand in this community appears to be quite low. No additional basketball courts are anticipated to be required during the timeframe of this Plan.

It is important to note that the basketball court located at Elma Logan Park is quite overgrown. To ensure adequate access to basketball in Monkton, it is recommended that this court is replaced with a new surface depending on resident needs. If it is determined that residents can access local school courts in Monkton, then the court at Elma Logan park may be re-purposed to a new use, or naturalized.

Recommendations:

- 41. Remove the basketball court at Elma Logan Park from the active inventory due to low demand. The space may be repurposed to other uses.

8.11 Skateboard Parks

The Municipality has a skate park located in Listowel Memorial Park, adjacent to the John Bell ball diamonds.

Skateboarding (and BMX biking) has become a mainstream recreational sport among youth, and to a lesser extent, children and young adults. The unstructured, unscheduled and low cost nature of skateboarding adds to its appeal. By providing an authorized venue for skateboarding, damage to community infrastructure and private property can be reduced. The design and configuration of skate parks may vary and can include permanent or modular structures.

The survey revealed that 6% of respondents reported that at least one family member had been skateboarding in the last 12 months. 32% of respondents supported additional public funding for more or improved skateboarding facilities. These findings suggest that skateboarding is a lower priority for community survey respondents. Respondents from the student survey ranked skateboarding 9th of 13 activity types when asked to rank the importance of activities, indicating a lower priority among youth respondents as well. Despite this, the development of a second phase of the park has been a recent topic of discussion among the skateboarding community.

Youth are commonly identified as a vulnerable age group in many communities and it is important that the Municipality provide access to a variety of recreation facilities—skateboard

parks are venues that attract local teens from the community and surrounding area. The current skate park is in phase one of its initial design and there is interest to proceed with the second and final phase of its development to provide better flow to the park (flow is a critical element to a well-designed skate park as it allows skaters to easily travel from one feature to the next).

Recommendations:

42. Work with local volunteers, skate parks users and partners to expand the existing skate park to enhance usability.

8.12 Off-Leash Dog Parks

The Municipality currently does not provide a designated off-leash dog park. With local by-laws restricting dogs to be leashed while in public, dedicated off-leash areas provide opportunities for dogs to exercise and socialize in a controlled area. Dog parks should not only be viewed as places for dogs but also areas of social interaction for dog owners who share a common interest.

National and provincial trends suggest that pet ownership is on the rise. The provision of dog parks is usually less frequent in rural municipalities as there is more private land for dogs to run freely; it is urban areas with smaller properties where demand is typically higher. Dog parks can be a polarizing topic in communities and their provision is often conflict-driven. In North Perth, 47% of survey respondents support or strongly support additional public funding on dog parks.

Selecting appropriate lands for dog parks that are supported by residents can be difficult. Many factors must be considered, including the safety of users, setbacks from residential and other sensitive uses and the provision of amenities (e.g. parking, benches, garbage containers, etc.). Often, municipal dog parks are managed by affiliated organizations that act as park stewards, an approach which should be considered in North Perth if the Municipality decides to develop an off-leash park.

There may not be sufficient demand to develop an off-leash dog park at this time. The Municipality may consider one in the future, subject to community demand and an organization volunteering to manage the site. To support such an initiative, a site evaluation exercise should be completed to consider neighbourhood and site characteristics, compatibility with park size, design and use, and potential impacts on park condition and the natural environment.

8.13 Other Facilities

Requests for new facilities and emerging services that are not traditionally provided by the Municipality may be presented in the future. The Municipality should be prepared to consider these requests on a case-by-case basis.

The Municipality's response will depend on their capacity to participate in such projects, the focus on wide community benefits (versus individual benefits), and the specific aspects of the proposal. If the Municipality were approached by a community partner for the development of a facility, the organization should provide the following (at minimum) for the Municipality to evaluate the advantages of the proposal: justification of needs and business plan; statement of the organization's capacity; a demonstration of project sustainability; evidence of community benefits; and risk analysis. The development of new facilities should only be undertaken with the full cooperation and involvement of interested community partners.

Two local examples of requests for specialized facilities are described below:

- The Atwood Lions have begun fundraising to construct a roofed structure over the outdoor rink at Atwood Lions Park. The organization has taken a leading role on projects within Atwood and especially Atwood Lions Park, with some Municipal support and funding. This type of project is beyond a typical municipal level of service and raises questions related to facility management, maintenance, programming, and more. The degree of Municipal participation in future improvements and/or operations of this facility requires further study.
- Public requests were also received for an indoor pool, squash courts, and an indoor soccer facility. These are specialized and/or cost-intensive facilities and are not commonly provided in municipalities the size of North Perth. Should viable opportunities to accommodate these types of facilities be presented (e.g., partnerships, etc.), the Municipality may wish to evaluate them further.

Recommendations:

43. On a case-by-case basis, evaluate unsolicited requests for facilities that are not part of the Municipality's core mandate. Proponent-led business plans should be developed to determine demand, the net benefit to North Perth, and the degree of municipal involvement (if any).

9. Parks & Trails Assessment

This section examines the Municipality’s current supply of parkland, identifies future needs, reviews parkland policies, and examines ways to improve the Municipality’s network of trails and parks.

9.1 Parkland Policies & Guidelines

Parkland

Parkland and trails are an invaluable component of the Municipality’s landscape and support opportunities for passive and active recreation and nature appreciation. It is essential that these amenities are preserved and enhanced to extend the quality of life for current and future generations.



Parks can take many different forms, ranging from small parkettes and open spaces to large naturalized tracts of ecologically valuable areas. Primary considerations for the parks system include, but are not limited to:

- Planning the appropriate function and use for each park;
- Achieving a satisfactory distribution of parkland to ensure that parks are easily accessible and maintain the integrity of natural heritage systems; and
- Maintaining a high degree of walkability and connectivity among parks through active transportation infrastructure, key linkages, etc.

Parkland Classification System

Land use planning in the Municipality is guided by Official Plans for the County of Perth and Listowel, which are adopted in accordance with the Ontario Planning Act. The Plans provide policies relative to parkland dedication and associated uses; there is a great deal of similarity in these policies between the two Plans.

Neither Official Plan contains a prescribed parkland classification typology, which is often used to assist communities in defining the functional hierarchy of a municipal parks and open space system. This type of hierarchy system is helpful in advancing the sustainable planning of active and passive forms of parkland by directing many aspects of park usage as defined through size, form, function, and/or amenity level. Moving forward, it is recommended that the Municipality consider the parkland classification system identified in the following table in the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces.

Table 17: Proposed Classification System

Park Type	Amenities/Design Features	Average Size (ha)
Neighbourhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves a distinct residential neighbourhood. • Designed for small scale recreation activities and may include a playground, courts and generally no more than one sports field. • Centrally located within the neighbourhood to optimize accessibility and visibility/safety. • May be served by on-street parking depending on its size. 	0.5 ha- 3.0 ha
Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves the entire Municipality • Contains a wide range of amenities, such a major sport fields, special event spaces, indoor facilities, etc. • Generally located along main roads, linked to bicycle and/or pedestrian networks, and contains sufficient off-street parking. • Select portions may also be naturalized/open space. 	4.0+ ha
Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipally-owned lands that are predominately naturalized or protected due to significant features. May also contain storm water management ponds. • May be used for passive recreation such as walking or hiking. 	Variable

Recommendations:

44. Utilize the Master Plan’s parkland classification hierarchy to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level and amenities.

Parkland Policies and Acquisition Strategies

There are several provincial and municipal regulations, policies and guidelines governing the acquisition of parkland. The Official Plan is one of these tools for implementation. Parkland acquisition policies are found within Sections 5.5.13 of the Listowel Official Plan and 6.4.11.1 of Perth County Official Plan. Neither the Municipality nor the County have a Parkland Dedication By-law, which some municipalities use as a primary implementation tool for decisions and requirements relative to parkland acquisition.

Parks are identified under the 'Institutional' designation. Specifically, the Listowel Official Plan (section 5.5.13) states that:

“parks and playground areas be acquired and developed through the following actions:

(a) a parkland dedication of up to 5 per cent of the land area or cash-in-lieu shall be required for lands being subdivided for residential purposes pursuant to Section 51 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990. Cash-in-lieu may be used to purchase parkland, upgrade park facilities, or for other public recreational uses as provided in Section 51 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990;

(b) as a condition of development or redevelopment of land, Council may, by by-law applicable to the Listowel Ward or to any defined areas or areas thereof, require that land in an amount not exceeding, in the case of land proposed for development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes, 2 percent and in all other cases 5 per cent of the land be conveyed to the Municipality for park or other public recreational purposes;

(c) through public purchase, donations, gifts and bequests of land and/or monies. “

The County Official Plan (section 6.6.1.17) states that “neighbourhood parks and playground areas shall be permitted. Such uses should be located and designed in such a way as to harmonize with and enhance the surrounding uses.”

As noted above, the Municipality may require parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland to be dedicated to the Municipality as a condition of development or redevelopment of land. This is a common practice for subdivisions and other development applications. It should be noted that the cash-in-lieu requirements were recently altered when Bill 73 or the *Smart Growth for Our Communities Act* received Royal Assent.

The Planning Act now allows municipalities to collect parkland or cash-in-lieu using an alternate rate of 1 hectare per 300 units (land) or 1 hectare per 500 units (cash) where supported by a local parks plan. The alternative rate is typically applied in areas of higher density development, when it would achieve parkland amounts greater than 5% of the total land area (this is typically around densities of 15 or more units per hectare). Should the Municipality of North Perth anticipate that it may experience residential densities in this range, it should contemplate the

development of an Official Plan policy authorizing use of the alternative rate. Official Plan policies are already in place that allow for Section 37 community benefits (“bonus zoning”).

When deciding on whether or not to accept cash-in-lieu, it is important to consider land requirements and constraints of the land parcel under development. It is recommended that the Municipality consider accepting cash-in-lieu of parkland where:

- The required dedication fails to provide an area of suitable size, shape, or location for development of public parkland;
- The required dedication of land would render the remainder of the site unsuitable or impractical for development;
- It is determined that existing park and recreational facilities in the immediate area of the proposed development are adequate to serve the projected increase in population; and
- Funds are required to acquire, upgrade or expand land, parks and recreational facilities elsewhere in the Municipality to meet the needs of the projected population.

Woodlots and environmentally sensitive areas typically excluded from parkland dedication, although the Municipality may assume these lands (over and above the required amount) for the purposes of protecting natural areas for passive recreation and educational uses.

Based on these criteria, municipal parkland development should be of an appropriate size and configuration to effectively utilize municipal resources and facilitate meaningful activities. Site visits to local parks reveal that there are examples (such as Gowanstown Greenspace) that are undersized and offer limited recreational value. The Municipality must carefully examine the type of land it requires for future parkland.

Future parkland development should concentrate primarily on providing neighbourhood level amenities. As recommended in the parkland hierarchy, the provision of undersized neighbourhood parks less than 0.5 hectares is discouraged unless there is a need to reconcile gap areas and/or address parkland shortfalls. In cases where development is too small to result in a meaningful park parcel or where the immediate area already has suitable and unimpeded access to sufficient parkland, then the Municipality should consider accepting cash-in-lieu.

If there is a need to supplement parkland supplies beyond the mechanisms permitted by the Official Plans and the Planning Act, there are a number of other park acquisition strategies that the Municipality may pursue, including (but not limited to):

- Municipal land purchase or lease
- Land exchanges or swaps, particularly if development is to occur in natural areas highly valued by the community;
- Off-site conveyance of parkland;

- Establishment of a Parks Foundation (e.g. community, corporate, or municipal donations towards parkland acquisition);
- Reallocating surplus municipal lands to park use; and/or
- Partnership/joint provision of lands with local partners.

Recommendations:

45. Avoid developing or accepting active parkland parcels of less than 0.5 hectares in size unless the Municipality has determined that there is a need to fill a gap and other options are inadequate.
46. Accepting undevelopable open space lands (e.g. storm water management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement is strongly discouraged. The Municipality may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement if appropriate.
47. Where necessary, employ alternative acquisition tools to enhance future parkland opportunities to serve current and future residents.
48. Consider updating the Listowel Official Plan to reflect the alternate parkland dedication rate of 1 hectare per 300 units (or 1 hectare per 500 units where cash-in-lieu is proposed).



Wilson Park

9.2 Parkland Supply & Demand

Municipal Parkland Supply

The following table identifies all public parks in North Perth, along with their size in hectares. The total municipal supply of parkland is used to determine current parkland service levels and future parkland needs.

Table 18: Classification of Parks in North Perth

Park Name	Area (ha)	Proposed Classification
Atwood Lions Park	3.85	Community Park
Boyne Park	0.60	Neighbourhood Park
Cenotaph Park	0.35	n/a
Centennial Park	0.57	Neighbourhood Park
Elma Logan Park	6.24	Community Park
Elma Memorial Cenotaph Park	0.02	n/a
Gowanstown Greenspace (open space)	0.14	Open Space
Jackson Park	1.79	Neighbourhood Park
Kinsmen Station Park	5.91	Neighbourhood Park
Kinsmen Park	5.27	Community Park
Livingstone Park	0.20	Neighbourhood Park
Memorial Park	9.92	Community Park
Millennium Park	0.02	n/a
North Park	0.79	Open Space
Oke Park	0.57	Neighbourhood Park
Optimist Park	1.57	Neighbourhood Park
Listowel Community Garden	0.34	Open Space
PUC Tennis Court	0.02	Neighbourhood Park
Robert Mathers Park	5.23	Neighbourhood Park
Steve Kerr Memorial Complex	6.5	Community Park
Wallace Community Centre & Arena	1.27	Neighbourhood Park
Wallace Optimist Park	4.67	Community Park
Ward Subdivision Park	0.12	Neighbourhood Park
Wilson Park	1.03	Neighbourhood Park
TOTAL Parkland	56.99	
Service Level (population = 13,130)	4.3 ha /1,000 residents	

Beyond those properties identified in the parks inventory, there are presently no additional park blocks to be conveyed to the Municipality through approved development.

For the purposes of this assessment, emphasis is placed on the supply of municipally-owned parks as these lands serve to meet the primary outdoor recreation needs of the community. Neither the Listowel nor the Perth County Official Plan establish a minimum level of service with respect to parkland, although the Municipality's current supply equates to approximately

4.3 hectares per 1,000 population based on the 2016 population of 13,130 residents. Most rural municipalities seek to provide active parkland at a rate between 2.5 to 4 hectares per 1,000 population, suggesting that North Perth residents are well-served. This finding is supported by public input that found strong satisfaction levels with existing parks, with few suggestions of gaps or park facility shortfalls.

Parkland needs vary based on the characteristics and needs of the immediate vicinity. For instance, community parks that are capable of accommodating a broad range of activities are generally in demand, as are neighbourhood parks that provide close-to-home opportunities for young children. Open spaces (e.g. woodlots, natural corridors, etc.) are also desired, but need to be thoughtfully provided and managed. The majority of the Municipality's parks are functioning well for their intended use and are indicative of a reasonable distribution, within neighbourhood or community parks located within established areas.

In the future, it is recommended that the Municipality adopt a minimum service level target of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to be applied to new growth from this point forward. This target is lower than those used by many other municipalities, but recognizes the Municipality's high level of current provision and opportunities to maximize this inventory over time. This target should be applied to active parkland only (exclusive of open space lands and natural areas) and should largely be achievable throughout the parkland dedication requirements in local Official Plans.

Based on this target and a forecast of 1,860 new residents between 2016 and 2031, the Municipality is projected to need approximately 3.7 hectares of additional parkland by 2031. This is expected to be achieved through park expansions and/or new neighbourhood park development in future subdivisions, as discussed below. If this additional parkland is secured, the Municipality's provision rate would be approximately 4.0 hectares per 1,000 residents in 2031, which remains at the upper end of typical provision levels in comparable communities.

Potential for future residential growth exists in several of the Municipality's settlement areas, including Listowel and Atwood. Applications received for plans of subdivision will have the opportunity to consider future parkland needs. To maintain a walkable park system, the Municipality should consider neighbourhood park development in residential areas that are of sufficient size and are beyond the recommended distance from existing active parklands (approximately 500 metres). Based on current settlement area boundaries, this may include new park construction in southwest Listowel and possibly northeast Atwood, pending approval of significant residential development. There is also the potential to seek an expansion to the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex site for park purposes. Together, these opportunities should be sufficient to address the projected long-term need of 3.7 hectares.

Recommendations:

49. Adopt a parkland service target of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to be applied to new growth from this point forward. Where additional parkland is not required, cash-in-lieu may be applied to park development projects.
50. To maintain a walkable park system, the Municipality should consider neighbourhood park development in residential areas that are of sufficient size and are beyond the recommended distance from existing active parklands (approximately 500 metres).

9.3 Parkland Design Considerations

Parkland Design Considerations

There are a number of key design features that the Municipality should consider as it acquires and redevelops parkland to ensure that parks are functional and responsive to current and emerging needs. Parks should be perceived by the community as destinations, where residents and visitors can engage in meaningful activities and events. This can be achieved by enhancing parks through unique designs that allow for traditional activities to take place, yet are flexible in accommodating informal and emerging activities.

Parkland Renewal

Most of North Perth's parks are in good condition, however, improvements and enhancements may be necessary in response to growth pressures, changing neighbourhood demographics, age of parks, availability of funding, volunteer initiatives, etc. Parkland redevelopment opportunities can also be used to improve the recreational benefit offered to residents living in the Municipality's rural settlement areas. The possibilities for parkland renewal are limitless, but may include enhanced landscaping, provision of shade structures and other comfort amenities, improved parking, facility upgrades, and more. As required, the Municipality should consider undertaking strategic parkland renewal and redevelopment projects, which may be accompanied by area-specific consultation, park-specific master plans, facility fit diagrams and business planning to receive feedback from local residents, better understand opportunities and constraints, and obtain accurate costing associated with any capital works. The timing of this potential endeavor is based on the Municipality's discretion, based upon needs determined through consultation, demand indicators and the availability of funding.

Inclusive Park Design

It is essential that parks are inclusive and barrier-free to meet the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. Design features that should be considered include accessible seating, shade areas, parking, connections to key destinations, safety, among others. Where applicable, environmental protection and naturalization should be sought to preserve sensitive spaces. The Municipality should also continue to encourage the organized

and non-programmed use of its parks and support its community partners in local beautification, environmental management and stewardship. With very few open space or passive parks at present, the Municipality should place a priority on tree planting where applicable.

Enhanced Park Signage

Signage is an important component of design and plays a role in establishing a visual identity and communicating what amenities are available in the community. The Municipality has erected signage at some parks and facilities but they are inconsistent with the Municipality's branding and offer limited information only (name of park and facility only). It is recommended that standardized, branded signage design (through a template) be implemented at all indoor and outdoor municipal facilities. By ensuring that signage is consistent throughout the Municipality, a number of benefits are achieved, including:

- Serving as an indicator of the quality of the local parks system as a whole. As a first impression, a high-quality sign can lead people to perceive that the park is also of high quality.
- Communicating the corporate brand, carrying consistency throughout the Municipality and promoting tourism.
- Promoting awareness among all residents that are part of the larger community, in addition to non-residents from other municipalities.
- Informing residents and visitors of the location of public property, thereby avoiding confusion regarding access.
- Developing a sense of place to create unique park experiences and foster aesthetic development, while improving wayfinding among residents and visitors.
- Providing interpretive information connecting users to the park and encouraging them to take interest in their surroundings.

A good sign is aesthetically pleasing, and clearly designed with contrast colours to enhance visual recognition, and has regard for its context and local surroundings. Signs should clearly state the name of the park or facility, provide an address for emergency purposes and/or state the name of the local organization that assisted with its development.

Recommendations:

51. As necessary, undertake strategic parkland renewal and redevelopment projects to ensure that parks effectively service their intended populations.
52. Continue to design parks in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
53. Implement a standardized, branded signage program and install at all municipal parks, recreation facilities and trailheads.

9.4 Trails Network & Development Strategy

The Municipality's trails network is highly valued by the community (88% of survey respondents indicated trails were important or very important). Some residents felt the current supply of trails could be improved upon. Additionally, many residents expressed the need for greater promotion of local trails, along with enhanced wayfinding (e.g. signage, maps, etc.) to ensure that both residents and visitors are aware of trail opportunities.

There have been initiatives brought forth by local organizations, such as the Middle Maitland Conservation Authority, to improve trails in North Perth. This includes a recent project from the Greenway Master Plan that would include formalizing a portion of the trail loop in Memorial Park for greater accessibility and connectivity. The completion of the Memorial Trail Park loop should be a high priority for the Municipality to ensure greater accessibility for users throughout the park.

The Municipality coordinates trail maintenance and enhancement, largely through the implementation of the Greenway Master Plan. Given the level of importance placed on trails by North Perth residents, the Municipality should prioritize trails as part of the Recreation Advisory Committee's mandate. Formal acknowledgement of this would assist in elevating the profile of the trail network and create momentum around its expansion and/or continued improvement. In the short-term, this Committee could implement enhanced signage and trail mapping and begin planning for future trail extensions.

Trail networks connect the various communities and neighbourhoods within North Perth and provide residents and visitors the ability to enjoy the outdoors while pursuing active transportation. Currently, North Perth's trail system runs through Listowel up to Gowanstown and down towards Atwood to Henfryn. There is potential to expand the trail network to include more neighbourhood trails, such as around stormwater management ponds. In terms of a long-term vision, the Municipality should consider extending the Listowel to Henfryn Trail to connect with the Goderich to Guelph Trail (G2G) which runs through Monkton. The G2G trail is a 127-kilometre trail and one of the longest continuous cycling and walking paths in Canada. Creating a connection to other communities outside North Perth may bolster eco-tourism opportunities.

The Official Plans are supportive of active transportation (e.g., walking, cycling, etc.) and policies and plans should be put into place to allow the Municipality to capitalize on opportunities that are presented over time. Specifically, both the County Official Plan (Section 3B) and Listowel Ward Official Plan (Section 14.0) contain specific direction on “healthy communities” that encourage active transportation, trails, and open spaces that create physical linkages and support the recreational and healthy lifestyle needs of residents. These policies rightly place an emphasis on trail and cycling infrastructure, however additional policy modifications may be considered to strengthen the Municipality’s active transportation network. It is recommended that the County consider a policy to allow the Municipality to require the dedication of land for the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a condition of plan of subdivision approval as permitted by Section 51(25) of the Planning Act. Future development in the Municipality should be supportive of active transportation choices.

Recommendations:

54. Complete the Memorial Park trail loop in the near term.
55. Prioritize active transportation and trail planning and coordination as key roles of the North Perth Recreation Advisory Committee.
56. At the Municipality’s discretion, require the dedication of land for the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a condition of plan of subdivision approval as permitted by Section 51(25) of the Planning Act.
57. Address trail gaps and potential connections at the neighbourhood level, in addition to planning for a long-term vision to connect the Listowel-Atwood Trail to the G2G Trail.

10. Implementation Strategy

This section identifies key funding and implementation issues, a framework for reviewing and updating the Plan, and a summary of all recommendations, along with their suggested priority and timing.

10.1 Funding & Implementation Considerations

Throughout the body of this Master Plan, recommendations have been identified at the end of each subsection or topic area. This is not intended to be a definitive list, as additional capital repairs, operating expenditures, and other initiatives outside the scope of this Master Plan may be identified and prioritized on a case-specific basis. By approving this Plan, the Municipality is not bound to implementing every recommendation or providing facilities/services in the order, amount, or timing indicated; rather, this Plan provides guidance on community priorities and sets a general course for meeting the needs as they are presently defined. It is expected that the Municipality of North Perth will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the capital budget process.

This implementation strategy provides guidance for ensuring that the most critical recommendations are dealt with in a timely fashion, while the less urgent (but still important) ones are implemented over time. It is expected that capital cost budgeting and an analysis of operating budget implications and partnership options would be undertaken prior to approving any capital project.

The timing of the projects proposed in this Master Plan recognizes the need for phased implementation as some recommendations are based upon what is needed and not necessarily what is financially achievable at the present time. As such, the timing proposed for some recommendations may not align with the Municipality's funding capacities as time goes by. As part of the annual budget process, this Plan should be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of implementation. Municipal parks and recreation has traditionally been a subsidized service within North Perth and this is expected to continue.

Determining priorities is an exercise that should be revisited each year prior to the Municipality's capital and operating budget development exercise. Readjusting resource allocations is critical in a climate where base funding is not increasing substantially and resources need to be maximized in order to garner the greatest gain to the community.

In addition to funding availability, factors that might change priorities year to year may include:

- capital lifecycle and considerations of safety
- legislation and mandated requirements
- changes to service standards
- public input and community interests
- emerging trends and changes in participation rates
- availability of alternate providers
- socio-demographic changes and growth forecasts

The Municipality has limited resources and cannot afford to do everything that the community desires; this is one of the primary reasons for undertaking a Master Plan in the first place. Despite limited financial means, it is in the Municipality's best interest to make every reasonable effort to implement these strategies through a variety of appropriate and acceptable means. The full implementation of this Plan will require the pursuit of development charges, grants, alternative funding, fundraising, and the establishment of various partnerships and collaborations with community organizations, schools, agencies, and other partners.

Recommendations:

58. Use the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan as a resource in developing North Perth's long-term capital forecast.
59. Ensure that Municipal Council is fully aware of the operating cost implications when deciding on the approval of capital projects.
60. Continue to seek alternative funding sources (e.g., fundraising, sponsorships, grants, etc.) to supplement existing resources and to enable full implementation of the Master Plan.

10.2 Monitoring & Updating the Plan

The Municipality of North Perth should regularly review and assess, and periodically revise the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan in order to ensure that they remain reflective of local conditions and responsive to community needs. This will require monitoring of activity patterns, tracking user satisfaction levels, dialogue with community organizations, annual reporting on implementation and short-term work plans, and undertaking a detailed ten-year update to the Plan. Through these mechanisms – or as a result of other internal or external factors – adjustment of resource allocations and priorities identified in this Plan may be required.

Reviewing the Plan requires a commitment from staff, Council, and the public. An appropriate time for this is prior to the annual budgeting process. The following steps may be used to conduct an annual review of the Master Plan:

- a) review of the past year (recommendations implemented, capital projects undertaken, success/failure of new and existing initiatives, changes in participation levels, etc.)
- b) review of the Plan to identify short term projects and priorities based on staff review and considerations (e.g., financial limitations, public input, partnership/funding potential, etc.)
- c) identification of issues or constraints anticipated for the coming year;
- d) communication to staff and Council regarding the status of projects, criteria used to prioritize projects, and upcoming projects
- e) budget requests/revisions as necessary

Recommendations:

- 61. Implement a system for the regular implementation, monitoring, and review of the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, including the creation of an annual work plan.
- 62. Undertake a complete review and update of the Master Plan no later than 2027.

10.3 Summary of Recommendations

For ease of reference, all Master Plan recommendations are summarized in this section. Priority has been determined based on an assessment of need, as identified throughout the planning process (including public engagement, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of facilities, parks, services, etc.). The size of the Municipality’s population and tax base restricts the resources that can be allocated to facilities and services. In turn, meeting the widest range of needs possible through the efficient use of resources is paramount.

Within the tables that follow, the priority and timing of recommendations are identified. Priority is often aligned with timing – generally, the higher the priority, the sooner the recommendation should be implemented.

Priority

High Priority: Immediate attention is recommended during the timeframe recommended.

Medium Priority: Attention is required when high priority recommendations have been initiated or completed, or when suitable partners have been identified for funding.

Lower Priority: Attention is required when high and medium priority recommendations have been initiated/completed.

Timing

Short-term: Next Five Years (2017 to 2021)

Medium-term: Six to Ten Years (2022 to 2026)

Longer-term: More than Ten Years (2027 and beyond)

Ongoing: Best practices to be followed on a continual basis

Note: In the following tables, the recommendations are numbered according to the order in which they are presented in the body of the Master Plan. They are not listed in priority order.

Table 19: Summary of Service Delivery Recommendations

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
1. Use this Master Plan as a guide to solidify the Parks and Recreation Department's role as a facility provider, community-wide event coordinator and program facilitator through consistent messaging in all communications, budgeting, policies and procedures.	High	Ongoing	All
2. Continue to employ a shared service model approach to parks and recreation programming and events in which activities are largely provided through local organizations and community groups, with the Municipality filling in the gaps (particularly where there are widespread community benefits).	High	Ongoing	1,2
3. Ensure that the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities remains a high priority for the Municipality through continued staff training and the implementation of customer service standards.	High	Ongoing	1

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
4. Ensure that staffing levels within the Parks and Recreation Department properly support population growth and service enhancements.	Medium	Ongoing	1
5. Develop a staff training and development plan to articulate responsibilities, skills and competencies needed to deliver on Departmental objectives.	Medium	Short-term	1
6. Develop a succession plan to proactively plan for retirements and employee transition.	High	Short-term	1
7. Maintain an up to date inventory of recreation opportunities within the Municipality (including a database of community groups and their contact information) to ensure that a full-range of activities are available for all age groups. This database will serve to enhance awareness of local activities, programs, leagues and events.	High	Ongoing	1,2
8. Support opportunities to develop informal, unstructured and inclusive active recreation experiences, including drop-in programs and non-registered special or one-time events (where resources and availability allow).	High	Ongoing	1,2
9. Investigate opportunities to engage older adults in recreational programming as North's Perth's senior population grows.	High	Medium-term	1,2
10. Provide promotional material to local schools to advertise volunteer opportunities for youth to obtain mandatory community service hours.	Low	Ongoing	1,5
11. Support the efforts of other providers in creating a volunteer database that is updated regularly to include contact information, skills and volunteer history.	Medium	Medium-term	5
12. Develop a corporate-wide recognition program to celebrate the contributions of local volunteers and encourage greater levels of volunteerism.	High	Medium-term	5
13. Conduct an annual review of all applicable Department policies to ensure that they are relevant and fair to all parties involved.	High	Ongoing	1

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
14. Create a Policies and Procedures Reference Manual that is to be made available in each municipal facility as a staff resource.	High	Short-term	1
15. Develop a risk management plan to identify potential risks and protocols regarding liability.	High	Short-term	1
16. Track registration numbers annually for groups that frequently use municipal facilities.	High	Ongoing	1
17. Prepare trail and park encroachment promotion material to be displayed in key locations and dispersed through appropriate channels to educate the public on issues surrounding trails and parks.	Low	Short-term	1,4
18. Assess rates and fees annually (with a comprehensive review every five years) for parks and recreation programs and facilities and compare to municipalities of similar size and around the Region to ensure that they represent a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits.	High	Ongoing	6
19. Complete an audit of rentals over the last three years to determine if any fee categories and associated services are unnecessary.	Medium	Short-term	6
20. Examine sports field rates, including charges to minor organizations and lit fields to determine if they are fair and relative to rates charged in similar municipalities.	Medium	Short-term	6
21. Conduct regular assessments of the Municipal website to ensure it provides up-to-date information that is displayed in a navigable format.	Medium	Ongoing	1
22. Continue distributing the Community Connection newsletter in hard-copy and digital format.	High	Ongoing	1
23. Meet with community groups together bi-annually to discuss issues and opportunities affecting the Municipality.	High	Ongoing	1,5
24. Work with key partners to develop strategies for marketing and branding with consideration given to the process and actions outlined in the Draft Marketing Plan (submitted under separate cover).	Medium	Medium-term	1

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
25. Maintain reciprocal agreements with local schools to promote the usage of recreation opportunities for students and residents.	High	Ongoing	1,3,5
26. Use a standardized framework to evaluate appropriate partnership opportunities with public, not-for-profit and/or private organizations in the delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services.	High	Ongoing	5
27. Develop an Arts and Culture Strategy that will assist the Municipality in determining its role supporting arts and culture services and programs. Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to build upon current strengths and create a direction for arts and culture in North Perth.	Medium	Short-term	1,2,5

Table 20: Summary of Facility Recommendations

Facility Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
28. Develop a long-term plan for the Wallace Community Centre, considering its condition, costs, long-term needs and community input.	High	Short-term	3,6
29. Explore potential repurposing options for Listowel Memorial Arena through the issuance of a Request for Proposal for a third-party operator. Partnerships that emphasize non-municipal funding sources should be prioritized, as should negotiated community access to enhanced recreational services.	High	Short-term	3,6
30. Consult with stakeholders to identify and prioritize improvements to municipal community centres/halls, including potential upgrades and renovations to the Elma Memorial Community Centre in Atwood.	High	Short-term	3
31. Coordinate with local service providers to identify suitable meeting and activity space for North Perth Seniors and older adults. Determine if there is a need for dedicated municipal senior space, possibly as part of the next phase of the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex.	High	Medium-term	2,3

Facility Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
32. Continue to operate both outdoor pools as long as they remain feasible. When major capital improvements are required to the pools or their support structures, pool usage trends should be examined and the community consulted on future options, ranging from redevelopment to repurposing. To inform this analysis, an audit of the Kinsmen Pool and bathhouse should be completed to identify options for achieving barrier free accessibility and other matters that may influence its long-term viability.	Medium	Medium-term, Ongoing	3,6
33. Work in partnership with local ball organizations to identify and prioritize improvements to existing ball diamonds and seek collaborative funding opportunities.	Medium	Ongoing	3,6
34. Prior to undertaking capital repairs or improvements to low-usage sites, evaluate options for converting underutilized ball diamonds to in-demand uses.	Low	Ongoing	3
35. Supply one full-size lit soccer field at the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex in the short-term. Should there be a need for additional soccer fields in the future, expansion of this site should be considered.	High	Short-term	3
36. Identify possible uses for the soccer field and open space in Elma Logan Park. Consult the local community to determine a community need for the land.	Low	Medium-term	3,6
37. Strive to provide playgrounds within 500 metres of all residences within major settlement areas, unobstructed by pedestrian barriers such as high volume roads, rail lines and waterways. Opportunities to address these gaps should be explored through future parkland dedication.	High	Ongoing	3
38. Work with local partners (e.g., service clubs, etc.) to develop a barrier-free playground that is accessible to persons with disabilities.	High	Short-term	2,3,5
39. Remove the wooden Participark features from Listowel Memorial Park to reduce the safety hazard of the outdated equipment.	Medium	Short-term	3
40. Modify the PUC tennis court to accommodate pickleball (2 to 3 courts).	Medium	Short-term	3

Facility Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
41. Remove the basketball court at Elma Logan Park from the active inventory due to low demand. The space may be repurposed to other uses.	Low	Short-term	3
42. Work with local volunteers, skate parks users and partners to expand the existing skate park to enhance usability.	Medium	Short-term	3,5
43. On a case-by-case basis, evaluate unsolicited requests for facilities that are not part of the Municipality's core mandate. Proponent-led business plans should be developed to determine demand, the net benefit to North Perth, and the degree of municipal involvement (if any).	Medium	Ongoing	3,5

Table 21: Summary of Parks and Trails Recommendations

Parks and Trails Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
44. Utilize the Master Plan's parkland classification hierarchy to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level and amenities.	High	Ongoing	4
45. Avoid developing or accepting active parkland parcels of less than 0.5 hectares in size unless the Municipality has determined that there is a need to fill a gap and other options are inadequate.	High	Ongoing	4
46. Accepting undevelopable open space lands (e.g. storm water management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement is strongly discouraged. The Municipality may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement if appropriate.	High	Ongoing	4
47. Where necessary, employ alternative acquisition tools to enhance future parkland opportunities to serve current and future residents.	Medium	Ongoing	4
48. Consider updating the Listowel Official Plan to reflect the alternate parkland dedication rate of 1 hectare per 300 units (or 1 hectare per 500 units where cash-in-lieu is proposed).	Medium	Short-term	4

Parks and Trails Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
49. Adopt a parkland service target of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents to be applied to new growth from this point forward. Where additional parkland is not required, cash-in-lieu may be applied to park development projects.	High	Short-term	4
50. To maintain a walkable park system, the Municipality should consider neighbourhood park development in residential areas that are of sufficient size and are beyond the recommended distance from existing active parklands (approximately 500 metres).	High	Ongoing	4
51. As necessary, undertake strategic parkland renewal and redevelopment projects to ensure that parks effectively service their intended populations.	Medium	Ongoing	3,4
52. Continue to design parks in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.	High	Ongoing	3,4
53. Implement a standardized, branded signage program and install at all municipal parks, recreation facilities and trailheads.	Medium	Short-term	1,4
54. Complete the Memorial Park trail loop in the near term.	High	Short-term	4
55. Prioritize active transportation and trail planning and coordination as key roles of the North Perth Recreation Advisory Committee.	Medium	Short-term	4,5
56. At the Municipality's discretion, require the dedication of land for the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure as a condition of plan of subdivision approval as permitted by Section 51(25) of the Planning Act.	High	Ongoing	4
57. Address trail gaps and potential connections at the neighbourhood level, in addition to planning for a long-term vision to connect the Listowel-Atwood Trail to the G2G Trail.	High	Ongoing	6

Table 22: Summary of Implementation Recommendations

Implementation Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Guiding Principle(s)
58. Use the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan as a resource in developing North Perth's long-term capital forecast.	High	Ongoing	6
59. Ensure that Municipal Council is fully aware of the operating cost implications when deciding on the approval of capital projects.	High	Ongoing	6
60. Continue to seek alternative funding sources (e.g., fundraising, sponsorships, grants, etc.) to supplement existing resources and to enable full implementation of the Master Plan.	High	Short-term	All
61. Implement a system for the regular implementation, monitoring, and review of the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, including the creation of an annual work plan.	High	Short-term	All
62. Undertake a complete review and update of the Master Plan no later than 2027.	High	Short-term	All

Appendix A – Parks & Facility Mapping

See following pages.

The Municipality of North Perth

Municipal Parks, Recreation, Parkland and Schools Map



Monteith•Brown
planning consultants



Kurtzville

Gowanstown



Molesworth

Legend

Parks & Greenspace

1. Listowel Memorial Park
2. Optimist/Davidson Park
3. Cenotaph Park
4. Jackson Park
5. Oke Park
6. Kin Station Park
7. Kinsmen Park
8. Millenium Park
9. Livingstone Park
10. Boyne Park
11. Listowel Community Garden
12. Wilson Park
23. North Park
24. Wallace Optimist Park
25. Robert Mathers Park
26. Elma Logan Park
27. Gowanstown Greenspace
28. PUC Tennis Court

Community Centres & Arenas

20. Listowel Memorial Arena
21. Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
22. Elma Memorial Community Centre
29. Elma Logan Recreation Complex
30. Wallace Community Centre

Trails & Pathways

- Gowanstown Trail
- Kinsmen Trail
- Listowel-Henfryn Trail
- Rotary Walkway
- G2G Trail



Schools

13. Listowel District Secondary School
14. Listowel Eastdale Public School
15. St. Mary's Catholic Public School
16. Westfield Public School
17. Listowel Christian School
18. Elma Township Public School
19. Donegal Christian School

Trowbridge

Listowel

Britton

Atwood

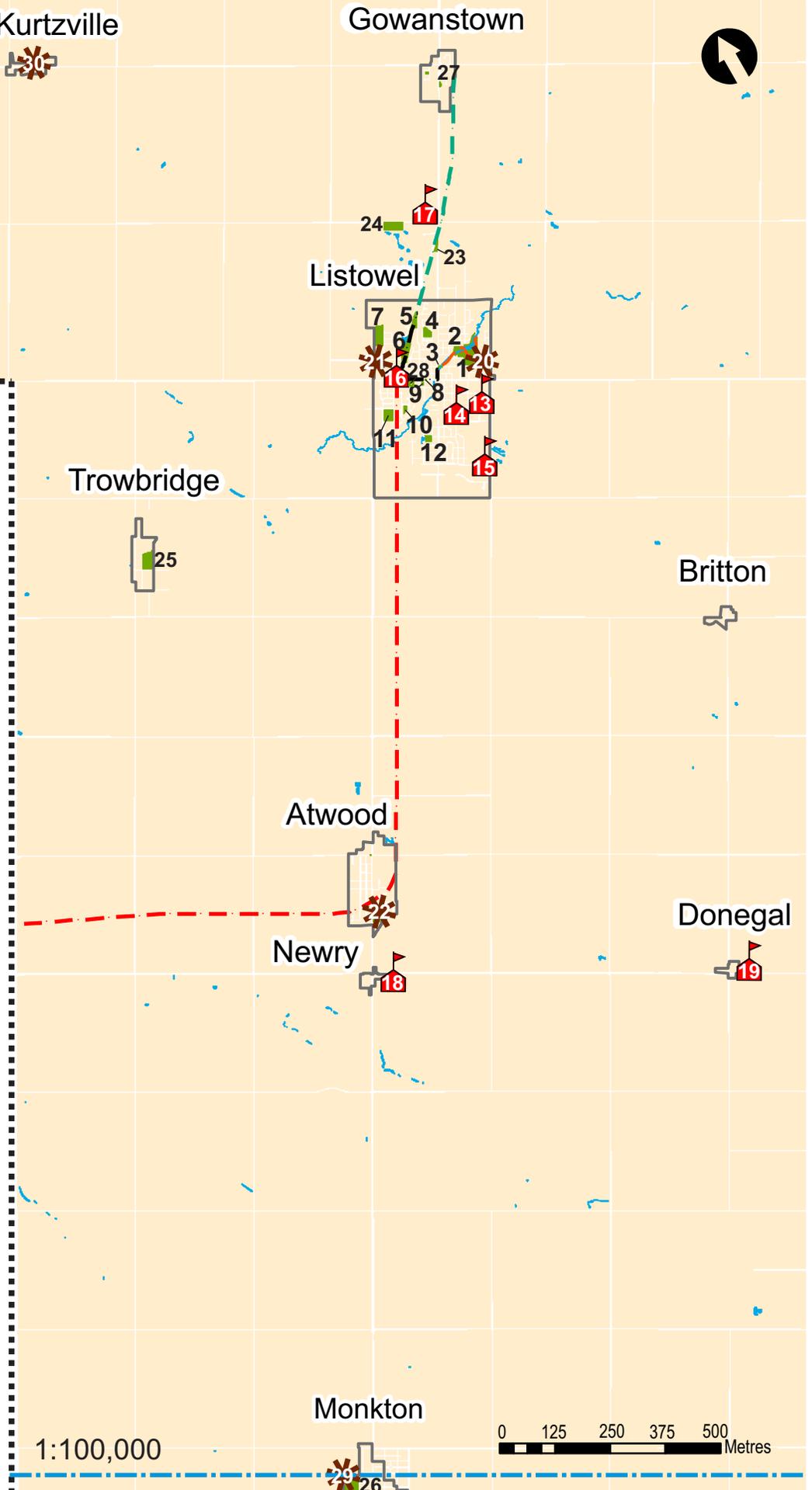
Donegal

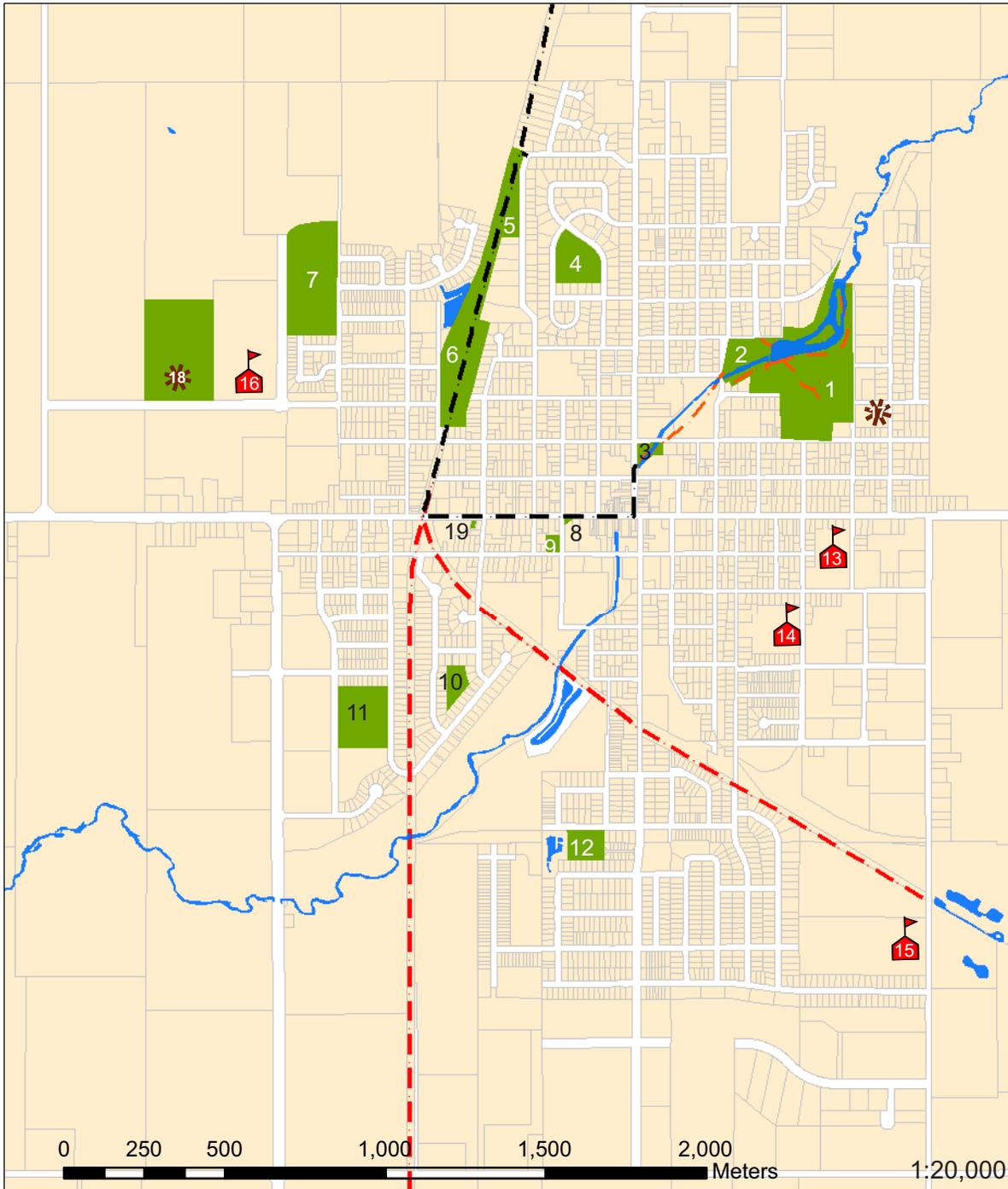
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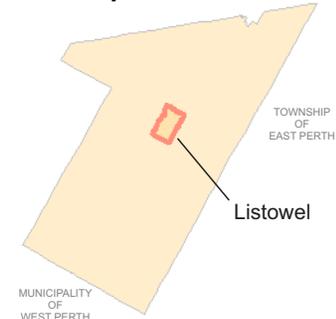
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Context Map



Municipal Recreation,
Parkland & Schools Map

**Listowel
Ward**

Legend

Parks & Greenspace

- 1. Listowel Memorial Park
- 2. Optimist/Davidson Park
- 3. Cenotaph Park
- 4. Jackson Park
- 5. Oke Park
- 6. Kin Station
- 7. Kinsmen Park
- 8. Millenium Park
- 9. Livingstone Park
- 10. Boyne Park
- 11. Listowel Community Garden
- 12. Wilson Park
- 19. PUC Tennis Court

Schools

- 13. Listowel District Secondary School
- 14. Listowel Eastdale Public School
- 15. St. Mary's Catholic Public School
- 16. North Perth Westfield Elementary School

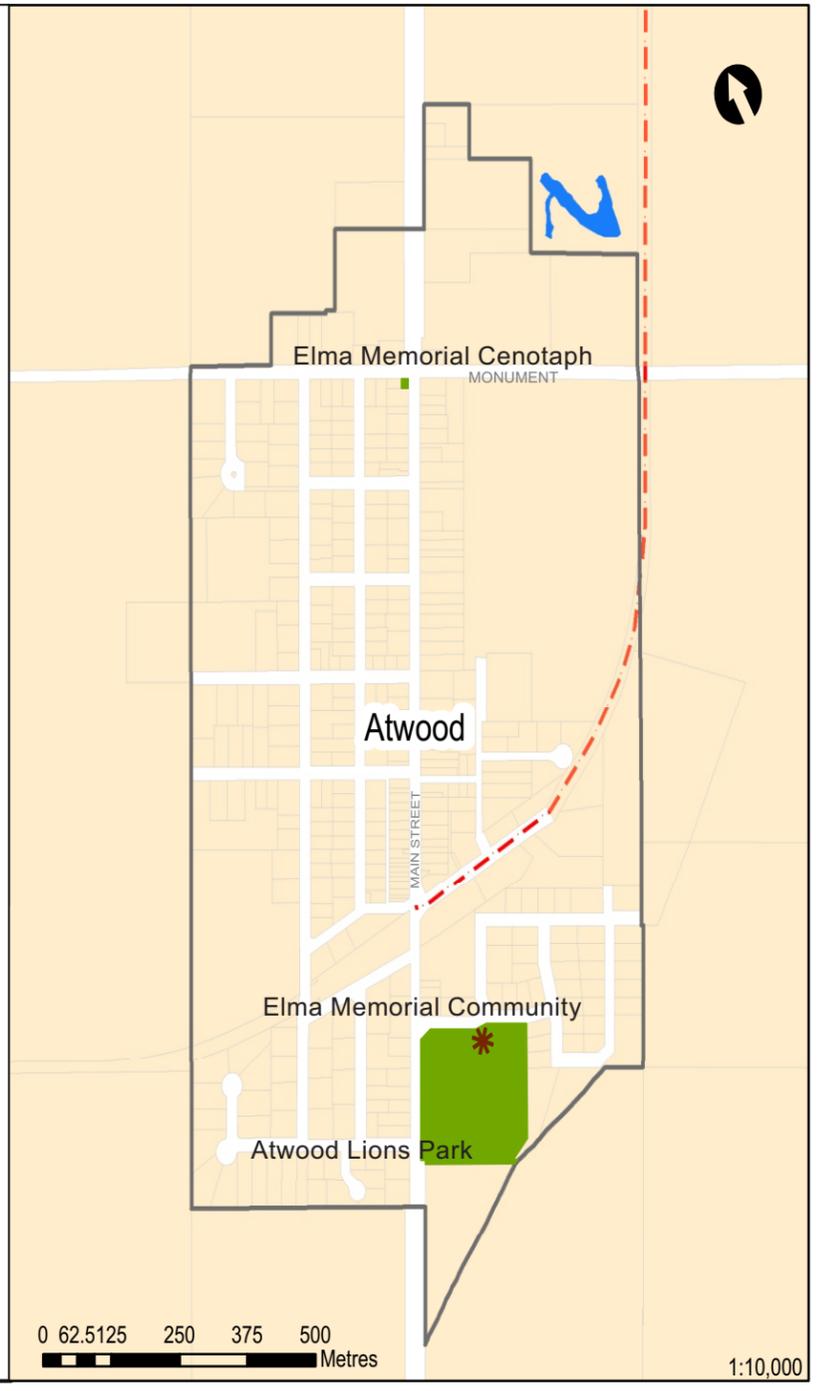
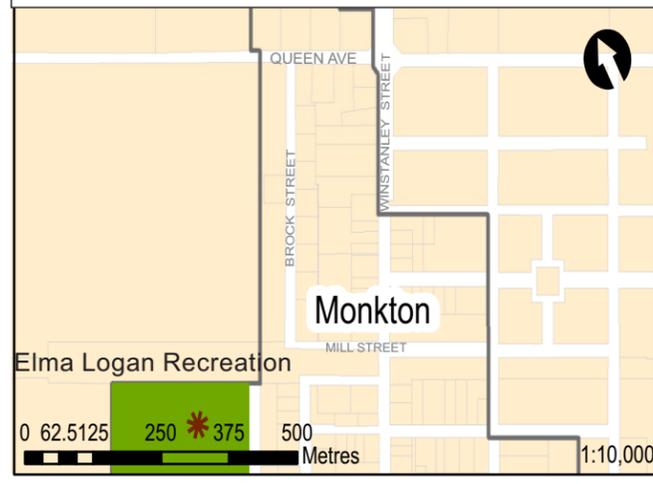
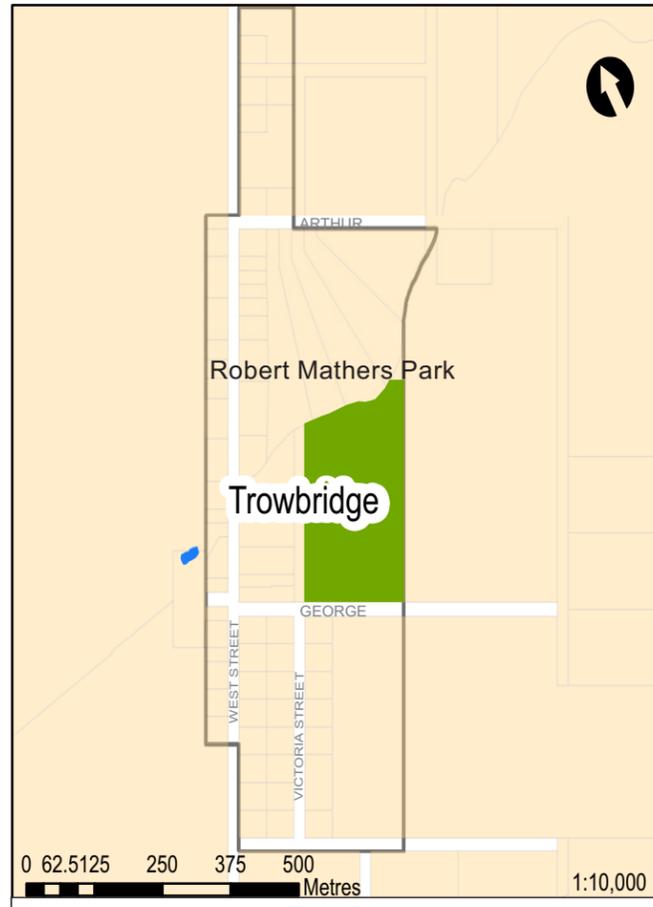
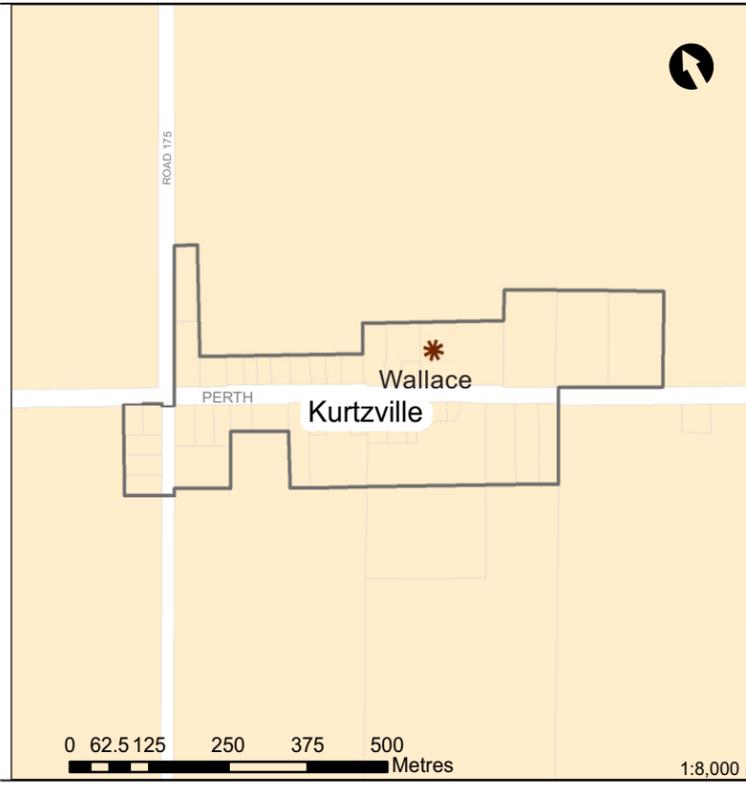
Community Centres & Arenas

- 17. Listowel Memorial Arena
- 18. Steve Kerr Memorial Complex

Trails & Pathways

- Rotary Walkway
- Kinsmen Trail
- Listowel-Henfryn Trail





Legend

Trails & Pathways

-  Gowanstown Trail
-  Kinsmen Trail
-  Listowel-Henfryn Trail
-  Rotary Walkway

* Community Centres & Arenas

-  Parks & Greenspace
-  Water



Appendix B – Public Input Sessions

November 16, 2016 Open House Transcript:

How can we improve our parks, open space and trails?

- Cross country skiing/groomed trails which are not used by snowmobiles
- Trail connection from Atwood-Henfryn back to Listowel
- Integrity of trails- ensuring proper maintenance and that trails are free obstructions
- Pave roadways in Memorial Park (more accessible)
- More paved trails for cyclists

How can we improve our facilities and indoor spaces?

- Indoor pool would be a significant draw to this community
- Pool would be an activity for my daughter and a life skill; would be fitness for me
- Indoor skateboarding at the old arena
- Convert arena for racquet sports (tennis, pickleball, lacrosse, badminton, etc.)

What do you like most about recreation, parks and culture in North Perth?

- Seems to be a good amount of organized activities
- Culture is very inclusive and small town
- Great parks, trails and ball diamonds
- Well maintained. (Memorial Park) Love the bridge!
- Easy access
- Hockey
- Love community connection newsletter

How can we improve our activities, programs and events for people of all ages?

- Add lights at the outdoor rink at Wilson to be maintained by town
- Increase emphasis on 'wellness' not just organized sports (meditation, yoga, other?)

January 31, 2017 Open House Transcript:

Is there anything in particular that you would like to see addressed in the North Perth Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan?

- Full-size soccer fields with lights
- Continued maintenance for native spaces, trails/parks et.
- I don't think we need a swimming (indoor) pool due to the cost to operate it. Wingham and Elmira have pools we can support. I don't think my family would swim more if there was one near us.
- Not in a favor of an indoor pool (tax implications).
- Questions on:
 - How the G2G rail trail will be incorporated into the Master Plan
 - Promoting the trail on North Perth media, website
 - Available funding or grant opportunities to help develop the G2G trail in North Perth
- Indoor swimming pool, kiddie wading pool, hot tub
- Accessibility in ramps, lifts, tables (for adults) in 'attendant' changerooms *Note: outdoor swimming pool has none of these*
- Indoor walking track

How can we improve parks, recreation and culture opportunities in North Perth?

- Volleyball at Listowel Memorial Arena (like Agriplex in Stratford)
- Snowmobile trail access (private vs public ownership)
- Performing Arts Studio

April 27, 2017 Open House Transcript:

- Would like the Municipality to consider an off-leash dog park
- Who maintains the Municipality's trails? Felt that the committee / volunteers should look after this and that maintenance should not be fully taxpayer funded
- Pleased to see succession planning as a municipal priority

Appendix C – Community Survey Results

Q1. In the past 12 months, which of the following activities have you or anyone in your household participated in, in North Perth or elsewhere? By participation, we mean situations where you or a member of your household actively participate (which does not include attending an event or watching others), either at home or in public. (select all that may apply)	#	%
Walking or Hiking for Leisure	444	63%
Attending local special events (e.g. Listowel Fair)	422	60%
Swimming (Recreational)	342	49%
Hockey, Ringette, Figure Skating, or Ice Skating	332	47%
Use of Playground Equipment	318	45%
Aerobics, Yoga, Fitness, or Weight-training	293	42%
Use of Splash Pad	269	38%
Dog Walking (on or off leash)	266	38%
Swimming (Instructional or Aquafit)	231	33%
Baseball or Softball (or other forms)	222	32%
Cycling or Mountain Biking	195	28%
Running or Jogging	194	28%
Soccer	172	25%
Arts and Crafts	157	22%
Nature Appreciation (e.g. birding, conservation)	139	20%
Pre-School or Children's Programs, such as Early Years or drop-in activities	125	18%
Performance Arts (e.g. dance, music, drama)	123	18%
Curling	109	16%
Tennis	84	12%
Basketball	78	11%
Organized Teen Programs (e.g. summer camps, youth club, etc.)	78	11%
Visual Arts (e.g. painting, sculpture)	71	10%
Volleyball	51	7%
Gymnastics	48	7%
Skateboarding	40	6%
Organized Seniors Programs (e.g. luncheons, cards, special interest courses, etc.)	36	5%
Pickleball	24	3%
n=	702	

Q1. Other:

4H Club	Futsal	Rugby
ATV	Golf	Scouts
Badminton	Horse-back riding	Service Club Meetings
Biking	Karate	Squash
Broomball	Lacrosse	Summer Camp
Camping	Library Resources	
Field Hockey	North Perth Seniors Program	
Fishing	Roller Derby	

Q2. Are you and members of your household able to participate in active recreation pursuits (e.g. sports, physical wellness, outdoor play, etc.) as often as you would like?	#	%
Yes	411	59%
No	251	36%
Don't Know	40	6%
n=	702	101%

Q3. Why are you and members of your household not able to participate in active recreation pursuits as often as you would like? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Lack of personal time/Too busy	140	57%
Lack of desired facilities or programs	135	55%
Program not offered at a convenient time	77	31%
Lack of money/Too expensive	56	23%
Lack of information/Unaware of opportunities	47	19%
Lack of transportation/Facility too far away	31	13%
Lack of Child Care	29	12%
Health Problems/Disability/Age	22	9%
Other	5	2%
Don't Know	2	1%
Language/Cultural Barrier	0	0%
Other	8	1%
n=	544	

Q3. Other:

- Lack of dog park
- No pool
- No tai chi available
- To play other sports

Q4. Generally, what proportion of your household's active recreation needs are met within the Municipality of North Perth?	#	%
All (100%)	118	17%
Most (67-99%)	273	39%
About Half (34-66%)	181	26%
Some (1-33%)	67	10%
None (0%)	16	2%
Don't Know	37	5%
n=	692	99%

Q5. What is the most popular active recreation activity you or members of your household typically participate in outside of the Municipality of North Perth?			
Activity	Count	Activity	Count
Swimming	139	Roller Derby/ Roller Skating	2
Indoor Swimming	31	Skateboarding	2
Hockey	27	Snowmobiling	2
Gymnastics	20	Zumba	2
Squash	18	Advanced swimming	1
Hiking	14	Archery	1
Walking	12	Away games	1
Indoor Pool	10	Ballroom dancing	1
Baseball	9	Batting Cages	1
Soccer	9	Boating	1
Aquafit	5	Boxing	1
Bicycling	5	Canoeing	1
Camping	5	Cultural Activities	1
Golfing	5	Dining Out	1
Skiing	5	Drop-in Indoor Play Zone	1
Yoga	5	Fairs	1
Dance	4	Family Swimming	1
Fishing	4	Figure Skating Competition	1
Girl's Hockey	4	Going to the Beach	1
Indoor Soccer	4	Hunting	1
Broomball	3	Indoor Running Track	1
Curling	3	Indoor Tennis	1
Dog Park/Dog Walking	3	Karate	1
Exercise Class	3	Lacrosse	1
Parks	3	Old-timers hockey	1
Pickleball	3	Paintball	1
Shopping	3	Rowing	1
Theatre	3	Running	1
ATVing	2	Snowboarding	1
Basketball	2	Softball	1
Beach	2	Speedskating	1
Downhill Skiing	2	Tobogganning	1
Horseback Riding	2	Volleyball	1
Off leash dog parks	2	Watersports	1

Q6. Where do you primarily participate in this activity?	#	%
Waterloo Region (K-W, etc.)	274	83%
Huron County (Wingham, etc.)	173	52%
Other parts of Perth County (Stratford, Mitchell, etc.)	94	28%
Wellington County (Drayton, etc.)	84	25%
Bruce County (Walkerton, etc.)	37	11%
Grey County (Hanover etc.)	30	9%
Other	86	26%
n=	330	

Q6. Other

Across Canada
 Across GTA
 All of them
 Algonquin Park
 Alma, Brussels, Harriston
 At home
 Atwood
 Blue Mountain
 Bruce Peninsula
 Collingwood
 Cottage

Dufferin County
 Elmira
 Fergus
 Georgian Bay
 Goderich
 Guelph
 Huron Perth
 Kincardine
 Kitchener-Waterloo
 Lambton Shores
 London

Mount Forest
 Muskoka
 Niagara
 Nipissing
 Ontario
 Sauble Beach
 Stratford
 Toronto
 Wingham
 Woolwich

Q7. What is the second most popular active recreation activity you or members of your household typically participate in outside of the Municipality of North Perth?			
Activity	Count	Activity	Count
Swimming	37	Parks	2
Gymnastics	18	Trails	2
Hiking	16	Volleyball	2
Indoor swimming	13	Aerobic Classes	1
Hockey	12	Basketball	1
Walking	10	Beach Sports	1
Baseball	9	Boxing	1
Skiing	9	Broomball	1
Cycling	7	Canoeing	1
Arts	5	Conservation	1
Exercise Classes	5	Curling	1
Soccer	5	Dirt Biking	1
Playgrounds	4	Futsal	1
Running	4	Gardening	1
Skating	4	Hot Yoga	1
Squash	4	Hunting	1
Trampoline	4	Indoor biking	1
Yoga	4	Indoor baseball	1
ATV	3	Indoor beach volleyball	1
Bowling	3	Indoor Tennis	1
Camping	3	Jogging	1
Children's Programs	3	Ladies Softball	1
Dance	3	Mini Golf	1
Girls Hockey	3	Motor Cycling	1
Kayaking	3	Public Skating	1
Leisure Walking	3	Racquetball	1
Music	3	Rec Hockey	1
Off leash dog park	3	Rugby	1
Theatre	3	Sailing	1
Aquafit	2	Sightseeing	1
Baby Groups	2	Snowmobiling	1
Biking	2	Softball	1
Downhill Skiing	2	Track	1
Fishing	2	Water skiing	1
Golf	2	Weight lifting	1

Indoor Walking	2	Women's Hockey	1
Mountain Biking	2	Wrestling	1
Movies	2		

Q8. Where do you primarily participate in this activity?	#	%
Waterloo Region (K-W, etc.)	274	83%
Huron County (Wingham, etc.)	173	52%
Other parts of Perth County (Stratford, Mitchell, etc.)	94	28%
Wellington County (Drayton, etc.)	84	25%
Bruce County (Walkerton, etc.)	37	11%
Grey County (Hanover etc.)	30	9%
Other	86	26%
n=	330	

Q8. Other

All of the above	Elmira	Muskoka
All over Ontario	Goderich	Niagara
All over Southern Ontario	Home	Other parts of Perth and Huron
Bruce Peninsula	London	Sauble Beach
Collingwood	Markham	Toronto
Cottage	Mount Forest	Wellington County

Q9. Why does your household participate in these activities outside of the Municipality of North Perth? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Facility/program not available in the Municipality	326	71%
Quality of facility/program is superior	66	14%
Facility/program not available at the preferred time	65	14%
"Connected to other community/used to live there	64	14%
Tournaments/special events/travel teams	43	9%
Less expensive	35	8%
Closer to home	29	6%
Don't know	14	3%
Closer to work or school	12	3%
Other	25	5%
n=	460	

Q9. Other

Amalgamation of Monkton and Milverton	Higher level sports	Prefer indoor swimming lessons
Better hiking terrain	Hiking trails	Roads are better for cycling
Better outdoor spaces	Indoor pool	Scenery
Central Perth Minor Hockey	No fishing in North Perth	Something different
Cleaner water and space at Cottage	No indoor pool	Unable to ride ATV's in North Perth
Do not have facility in North Perth	Not as busy	Vacation property

Q10. Are you and members of your household able to participate in social and cultural activities (e.g. community gatherings, lifelong learning courses, arts and hobbies, etc.) as often as you would like?	#	%
Yes	366	59%
No	164	27%
Don't know	85	14%
n=	615	100%

Q11. Why are you and members of your household not able to participate in social and cultural activities as often as you would like? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Lack of personal time/Too busy	96	60%
Lack of desired facilities/Programs	72	45%
Lack of information/Unaware of opportunities	55	34%
Program not offered at a convenient time	48	30%
Lack of money/Too expensive	24	15%
Lack of transportation/Facility too far away	18	11%
Lack of child care	16	10%
Health Problems/Disability/Age	7	4%
Don't know	6	4%
Language/Cultural Barrier	0	0%
Other	1	1%
n=	160	

Q11. Other

Distance to travel; all services are in Listowel
 Don't feel there are others with similar interests
 Facility rentals are pretty expensive
 Multiple events on same day in Listowel

Q12. Generally, what proportion of your household's social and cultural needs are met within the Municipality of North Perth?	#	%
All (100%)	152	25%
Most (67-99%)	201	33%
About Half (34-66%)	106	18%
Some (1-33%)	62	10%
None (0%)	16	3%
Don't know	66	11%
n=	603	100%

Q13. What is the most popular social or cultural activity you or members of your household typically participate in outside of the Municipality of North Perth?			
Activity	Count	Activity	Count
Theatre	52	Social gatherings	2
Dining out	16	Symphony	2
Live Theatre/Music	13	4H Club	1
Drama performances	11	Aquafit	1
Shopping	8	Army Cadets	1
Movies	7	Bowling	1
Plays	7	Cinema	1
Art	6	Fairs	1
Festivals	5	Girl Guides	1
Concerts	4	Huron Perth Quilters	1
Family Gatherings	4	Learning Courses	1
Visiting family	4	Library (Port Elgin)	1
Watching sports	4	Night classes	1
Church	3	Oktoberfest	1
Cottage	3	Parades	1
Crafting	3	Peer support groups	1
Food fests	3	Photography	1
Museums	3	Restaurants	1
Camping	2	Science activities	1
Community Events	2	Service clubs	1
Continuing education	2	Singing	1
Cultural activities	2	Stratford theatre	1
Dancing	2	Wellness classes	1
Dog park	2		

Q14. Where do you primarily participate in this activity?	#	%
Waterloo Region (K-W, etc.)	132	40%
Other Parts of Perth County (Stratford, Mitchell, etc.)	54	16%
Wellington County (Drayton, etc.)	52	16%
Huron County (Wingham, etc.)	23	7%
Bruce County (Walkerton, etc.)	11	3%
Grey County (Hanover, etc.)	5	2%
Other	53	16%
n=	330	100%

Q14. Other

All Counties	Greater Toronto Area	Ottawa Region
Ancaster	Halton	Oxford County
Barrie	Kincardine	Stratford
Dayton	London	Toronto
Stratford	Muskoka	Waterloo
Elmira	Newmarket	Wellington County
Grand Bend	Other neighbouring counties	

Q15. What is the second most popular social or cultural activity you or members of your household typically participate in outside of the Municipality of North Perth?			
Activity	Count	Activity	Count
Live theatre	16	Crafting	1
Dining out	10	Dance classes	1
Art	9	Events for women	1
Movies	8	Fairs	1
Concerts	7	Galleries	1
Music events	7	German programs	1
Shopping	6	Glass and ceramic classes	1
Sporting events	4	Lectures	1
Food festivals	3	Live music	1
Church	2	Meditation	1
Community fundraisers	2	Networking	1
Films	2	Oktoberfest	1
Museums	2	Opera	1
Parades	2	Parent groups	1
Plays	2	Pottery	1
Adult/Senior Programs	1	Shows	1
Amusement parks	1	Sightseeing	1
Attending pow wows	1	Trivia nights	1
Bingo	1	Volunteering	1
Camping	1	Woodworking shows	1
Cinema	1	Workshops	1
Cooking class	1		

Q16. Where do you primarily participate in this activity?	#	%
Waterloo Region (K-W, etc.)	86	51%
Other Parts of Perth County (Stratford, Mitchell, etc.)	29	17%
Wellington County (Drayton, etc.)	13	8%
Huron County (Wingham, etc.)	10	6%
Bruce County (Walkerton, etc.)	6	3%
Grey County (Hanover, etc.)	2	1%
Other	24	14%
n=	170	100%

Q16. Other

- All of the above
- Port Elgin
- Hamilton
- Toronto
- Hanover
- Various locations
- Huron County
- Waterloo
- Larger centres in USA and Canada
- London
- Niagara Falls

Q17. Why does your household participate in these activities outside of the Municipality of North Perth? (select up to 3 responses)	#	%
Facility/Program is not available in the Municipality	170	53%
Quality of facility/program is superior	71	22%
“Connected” to other community/used to live there	69	21%
Facility/Program is not available at the preferred time	27	8%
Less expensive	27	8%
Don’t know	24	7%
Closer to home	21	7%
Tournaments/special events/travel teams	20	6%
Closer to work/school	13	4%
Other	24	7%
n=	273	

Q17. Other

- | | |
|--|--|
| Atmosphere, price and service | More availability |
| Better choices elsewhere | More variety |
| Concerts tend to be in various locations | North Perth doesn’t have hiking trails or canoeing |
| Family and friends live there | Not offered in my location |
| Geography; not North Perth’s fault | Personal preferences |
| More advanced courses for work/education | Where my family is located |

Q18. Are there any parks, recreation, and cultural activities that you or members of your household would like to see offered in the Municipality of North Perth that are not currently available?	#	%
Yes	283	52%
No	125	23%
Don’t know	135	25%
n=	543	100%

Q19. What activities would you like to see offered?					
Activity 1	Count	Activity 2	Count	Activity 3	Count
Indoor pool	128	Badminton	2	Indoor soccer	4
Dog park	26	Beach volleyball	2	Food festivals	2
Gymnastics	20	Continuing education	2	Concerts	2
Squash	18	Crafting	2	Tennis	2
Indoor track	12	Indoor running	2	Comm. centre with fitness	1
Theatre	8	Music festivals	2	Agricultural programs	1
Aquafit	6	Roller-skating	2	Community clean up	1
Art events	5	Scrapbooking	2	Community game days	1
Basketball	3	Activities in nature	1	Community band	1
Waterpark	3	Adult art classes	1	Concert hall	1
Adult courses	2	Barre classes	1	Craft night	1
Archery	2	Baseball (indoors)	1	German culture activities	1
Camping	2	Batting cages	1	Golf (indoors)	1
Cycling	2	Bigger parks/trails	1	Improved parks	1
Live theatre	2	Bigger fair	1	Large dance studio	1
Meditation classes	2	Canoeing	1	Outdoor floor hockey	1
Outdoor hockey rinks	2	Cross country skiing	1	Parkour gym	1
Festivals	2	Disabled pool	1	Pottery class	1
Outdoor fitness	2	Evening women's groups	1	Rock climbing	1
Outdoor pickleball	2	Exercise classes	1	Rollerblading	1
Paint nights	2	Free CPR class	1	Sauna	1
Accessible Playground	2	Gallery for art	1	Skateboarding lessons	1
YMCA	2	Hobby programs	1	Trampoline	1
4H meetings	1	Hot yoga	1	Ultimate frisbee	1
ATV trails	1	Indoor tennis	1	Year-round ice	1
Bike trails in Wallace	1	Large/upgraded skate park	1		
BMX bike track	1	Markets	1		
Concerts	1	Active transportation	1		
Cooking classes	1	Adult skating	1		
Dances	1	Dance classes for kids	1		
Festivals	1	Pickleball	1		
Field hockey for adults	1	Pilates	1		
Figure skating competition	1	Tai chi	1		
Fitness classes with daycare	1	Outdoor plays			
Formal art lessons	1				
Indoor baseball	1				
Indoor beach volleyball	1				
Indoor racquet sports	1				
Lecture series	1				
Low impact stretching	1				
Affordable children's programs	1				
Pre-teen hockey programs	1				
Trails	1				
Racquetball	1				
Tech programs	1				
Volleyball	1				
Wrestling	1				
Yoga	1				

Q20. In your opinion, which of the following organizations should provide these new programs/activities?	#	%
A combination of the above providers	149	55%
Municipality of North Perth	95	35%
Don't know	17	6%
Community/volunteer organization	7	3%
Private sector	2	1%
Other	3	1%
n=	273	101%

Q20. Other

Community organizations

Municipal taxes

Municipality should provide facilities

Q21. In general, how important are the following items to your household?	Not at all Important		Not Important		Neither Important or Not Important		Important		Very Important		n=
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Indoor Recreation facilities such as arenas and community halls	8	2%	15	3%	28	5%	165	32%	293	58%	509
Outdoor Recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds, and pavilions	4	1%	15	3%	17	3%	156	31%	313	62%	505
Trails	4	1%	10	2%	37	7%	186	37%	265	53%	502
Passive Parks that preserve natural areas and open space	9	2%	22	4%	71	14%	200	40%	194	39%	496
Cultural Facilities such as art centres and performing museums	31	6%	67	14%	149	30%	155	31%	91	18%	493

Q22. Thinking about those facilities that currently exist in the Municipality of North Perth, what is your level of satisfaction with the following?	Not at all Satisfied		Not Satisfied		Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied		Satisfied		Very Satisfied		n=
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Indoor Recreation facilities such as arenas and community halls	20	4%	25	6%	97	22%	111	25%	195	43%	448
Outdoor Recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds, and pavilions	19	5%	4	1%	26	7%	58	15%	286	73%	393
Trails	19	5%	5	1%	39	10%	83	20%	259	64%	405
Passive Parks that preserve natural areas and open space	48	10%	5	1%	52	11%	177	39%	177	39%	459

Q23. What is your level of satisfaction with the parks, recreation, and cultural opportunities in the Municipality of North Perth for the following age groups?	Not at all Satisfied		Not Satisfied		Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied		Satisfied		Very Satisfied		n=
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Children (0-12 years)	9	2%	40	10%	58	15%	181	46%	104	26%	392
Teens (13-18 years)	17	4%	65	15%	195	46%	117	28%	27	6%	421
Young Adults (19-54 years)	12	3%	87	20%	122	27%	172	39%	46	10%	439
Older Adults (55-69 years)	8	3%	42	14%	99	34%	112	38%	32	11%	293
Seniors (70+)	12	5%	34	13%	106	40%	89	33%	25	9%	266

Q24. To what degree do you oppose or support the Municipality spending additional public funds on the following types of facilities?	Strongly Oppose		Oppose		Neither Oppose or Support		Support		Strongly Support		n=
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
An indoor swimming pool at the Steve Kerr Memorial Complex	67	13%	48	10%	63	13%	104	21%	214	43%	496
A second ice pad at the Steve Memorial Complex	83	17%	87	18%	103	21%	99	20%	114	23%	486
Arts Centre	45	9%	64	13%	184	39%	134	28%	49	10%	476
Acquisition of Parks and Open Space	20	4%	31	7%	164	35%	190	40%	66	14%	471
Baseball or Softball Diamonds	26	5%	66	14%	182	38%	162	34%	46	9%	482
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	5	3%	53	11%	191	40%	178	37%	42	9%	479
Community Halls and Multi-Purpose Rooms	21	4%	47	10%	147	31%	199	42%	65	13%	479
Fitness Centres	46	10%	81	17%	132	28%	144	30%	77	16%	480
Nature Trails	9	2%	22	4%	86	18%	220	45%	149	31%	486
Off-Leash Dog Parks	39	8%	63	13%	151	31%	117	24%	111	23%	481
On-Road Bike Lanes	31	6%	61	13%	146	30%	157	33%	84	17%	479
Park Pavilions	17	3%	49	10%	174	36%	191	40%	49	10%	480
Parks and Open Space	12	2%	29	6%	129	27%	215	44%	99	20%	484
Paved Trails	36	7%	74	15%	155	32%	123	26%	90	19%	478
Pickleball Courts	41	9%	88	20%	223	52%	64	15%	16	4%	432
Playgrounds	8	2%	22	5%	106	22%	215	45%	130	27%	481
Skateboard Parks	40	8%	76	16%	211	44%	119	25%	32	7%	478
Soccer Fields	15	3%	40	8%	158	33%	185	39%	79	17%	477
Space for Seniors Programs	14	3%	20	4%	125	26%	223	47%	90	19%	472
Space for Youth Programs	10	2%	12	2%	110	23%	223	46%	124	26%	479
Splash Pads	19	4%	38	8%	119	25%	177	37%	126	26%	479
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	26	5%	39	8%	107	22%	187	39%	117	25%	476
Tennis Courts	19	4%	50	11%	169	36%	190	40%	45	9%	473

Q24. Other

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| An accessible park | Curling ice pad | Nature park |
| An indoor walking track | Extended walking trails | Outdoor hockey rinks |
| Appropriate space for badminton | Indoor basketball courts | Racquetball/squash |
| ATV trails | Indoor beach volleyball courts | Lighting along trails |
| Babysitting at fitness centre | Indoor play centre | Portable washrooms on trails |
| Bowling alley | Indoor pool | Volleyball courts |
| Dance/Gymnastics | Indoor soccer fields | Washrooms |
| Community events/tournaments | Indoor sports facilities | Youth friendly spaces |
| Concert hall | Lifelong learning | |

Q25. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		n=
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
My household is satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities in the Municipality	15	3%	39	8%	87	17%	288	59%	58	12%	487
The Municipality's parks and recreation facilities are well maintained	7	1%	13	3%	59	12%	308	63%	98	20%	485
The Municipality's parks and recreation programs are affordable	6	1%	35	8%	77	17%	267	59%	66	15%	451
The Municipality's parks and recreation facility rentals are affordable	16	4%	53	14%	114	30%	172	45%	31	8%	386
My household feels well informed about local parks and recreation events and activities	14	3%	85	18%	100	21%	216	45%	64	13%	479
Parks and recreation services should be a high priority for Municipal Council	6	1%	7	1%	103	21%	222	46%	147	30%	485
Arts and cultural services should be a high priority for Municipal Council	24	5%	57	12%	178	37%	155	33%	62	13%	476

Q26. Ice activities will be shifted from Listowel Memorial Arena to Steve Kerr Memorial Complex when the new complex opens. Which of the following options for the Listowel Memorial Arena would you most support? (Select one only)	#	%
1. Keep the arena floor and hall open for event and non-ice sport rentals.	147	29%
2. Demolish it and redevelop the site for park purposes, such as a memorial garden	59	12%
3. Demolish it and use the space for additional parking	5	1%
4. Put it up for private sale, possibly for residential development	48	10%
5. Combination of options 2,3, and 4 above	117	23%
Don't know	54	11%
Other	71	14%
n=	501	100%

Q26. Other

Affordable housing	Indoor playground	Racquet sport facility
Artificial turf facility	Indoor soccer	Senior's centre
Continue using as second ice pad	Keep it as a practice facility	Squash courts
Dog park	Keep it as a rink	Storage
Indoor beach volleyball	Multi-purpose sports facility	Use for lacrosse or ringette
Indoor gymnastics	Outdoor arena	

Q27. How do you currently obtain information about parks, recreation and cultural events and activities available in North Perth?	#	%
Community Connection Newsletter	202	41%
Municipality of North Perth social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	184	37%
Municipality of North Perth spring & summer and fall & winter recreation guide	173	35%
Municipality of North Perth website	161	33%
Listowel Banner	107	22%
Public signs	75	15%
Sports/recreation/community organizations	67	14%
Word of mouth/personal social network	62	13%
Schools	61	12%
Radio	40	8%
Don't know	22	4%
Other websites	11	2%
Other	8	2%
n=	493	

Q27. Other

Combination of all sources	Independent plus paper	Newspaper
Family members	Municipal staff	

Q28. Which of the following communication methods would be your preferred choice for receiving municipal communication about parks, recreation and cultural events and activities happening in the Municipality?	#	%
Community Connection Newsletter	202	41%
Municipality of North Perth social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	184	37%
Municipality of North Perth spring & summer and fall & winter recreation guide	173	35%
Municipality of North Perth website	161	33%
Listowel Banner	107	22%
Public signs	75	15%
Sports/recreation/community organizations	67	14%
Word of mouth/personal social network	62	13%
Schools	61	12%
Radio	40	8%
Don't know	22	4%
Other websites	11	2%
Other	8	2%
n=	493	

Q28. Other

At local libraries	Mail
Email	Newspaper

Q29. Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding parks, recreation and cultural services in the Municipality of North Perth.

Due to the open-ended, voluntary nature of this question, survey responses have not been included. Individual responses have been analyzed and incorporated where appropriate in this Master Plan.

Q30. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	#	%
1 person	23	5%
2 persons	127	26%
3 persons	92	19%
4 persons	147	30%
5 persons	69	14%
6+ persons	30	6%
n=	488	100%

Q31. Please indicate the total number of persons within your household that fall into the following age categories?	#	%
Under 10 years	385	23%
10-19 years	279	16%
20-34 years	353	21%
35-54 years	463	27%
55-69 years	180	11%
70 years and over	41	2%
Total persons	1,701	100%
n=	483	

Q32. In what year were you born?	#	%
1939 or earlier (76 years or older)	8	2%
1940-1949 (66 to 75)	18	4%
1950-1959 (56 to 65)	46	10%
1960-1969 (46 to 55)	73	16%
1970-1979 (36 to 45)	95	21%
1980-1989 (26 to 35)	156	34%
1990 or later (25 years or younger)	59	13%
n=	455	100%

Q33. Are you a resident of the Municipality of North Perth	#	%
Yes	461	94%
No	25	5%
Unsure	6	1%
n=	492	100%

Q34. You indicated that you are not a resident of the Municipality of North Perth. In which community do you reside?	#	%
Mapleton	3	13%
Perth East	3	13%
Wellington	3	13%
West Perth	3	13%
Howick Township	2	8%
Huron East	2	8%
Minto	2	8%
Bruce County	1	4%
Georgian Bluffs	1	4%
Kincardine	1	4%
Moorefield	1	4%
Morris	1	4%
Palmerston	1	4%
n=	24	100%

Q35. Which community do you live closest to?	#	%
Listowel	341	74%
Atwood	42	9%
Gowanstown	24	5%
Monkton	12	3%
Trowbridge	10	2%
Kurtzville	7	2%
Britton	6	1%
Newry	3	1%
Molesworth	3	1%
Donegal	2	0%
Prefer not to say	8	2%
n=	458	100%

Q36. How did you hear about this survey?	#	%
Municipality of North Perth Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	165	36%
Personal Social Network	62	14%
Recreation/Sports/Community Organization	41	9%
Schools	27	6%
Community Connection Newsletter	26	6%
Municipality of North Perth Website	25	5%
From a Councillor	10	2%
Listowel Banner	5	1%
Poster at a Community Facility	4	1%
Other (please specify)	93	20%
n=	458	100%

Appendix D – Student Questionnaire Results

1. Do you live in North Perth?	%	#
Yes	87%	257
No	13%	38
n=	100%	295

2. What grade are you in?	%	#
7	26%	77
8	19%	57
9	18%	52
10	17%	50
11	7%	22
12	13%	37
n=	100%	295

3. What community do you live closest to?	%	#
Listowel	70%	179
Atwood	5%	13
Molesworth	5%	13
Gowanstown	5%	12
Monkton	4%	9
Kurtzville	4%	9
Newry	3%	7
Donegal	2%	5
Trowbridge	1%	4
Britton	1%	3
n=	100%	254

4. You indicated you are not a resident of the Municipality of North Perth. What Municipality do you reside in?	%	#
Huron	24%	8
Perth East	24%	8
Wellington	21%	7
Howick	6%	2
Mapleton	6%	2
Clifford	3%	1
Harriston	3%	1
Millbank	3%	1
Minto	3%	1
Wallaceville	3%	1
Wingham	3%	1
n=	99%	33

5. In the past 12 months, what activities that were not organized by your school have you participated in?	%	#
Swimming (recreational)	41%	113
Attending local special events (e.g. Listowel Fair)	34%	94
Using local trails	33%	91
Using a playground	32%	87
Soccer	29%	81
Hockey	29%	79
Using the North Perth Library	28%	76
Baseball/Softball	24%	66
Running or Jogging	24%	66
Fitness (weight lifting aerobics, etc.)	21%	57
Basketball	20%	56
Summer Camps	20%	55
Golf	19%	52
Music	19%	52
Swimming (instructional)	17%	47
Using a Splash Pad	16%	45
Volleyball	16%	45
Arts & Crafts	13%	35
Ball Hockey	12%	34
Nature Appreciation, Bird Watching or Fishing	12%	34
Skateboarding/Bike Park	12%	32
Theatre/Performing Arts	9%	25
Curling	8%	21
Dance	7%	19
Figure Skating	6%	16
Lacrosse	5%	15
Martial Arts	5%	15
Gymnastics	4%	11
Scouts/Girl Guides	4%	11
Ringette	3%	8
Other (please specify)	10%	28
n=		276

6. How satisfied are you with each of the following community facilities in North Perth?	'I love this'		'I like this'		'I don't like this'		n=
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Outdoor Swimming Pools	117	47%	104	42%	29	12%	250
Bike Paths and Trails	107	43%	124	50%	16	6%	247
Playgrounds	86	37%	125	54%	19	8%	230
Soccer Fields	83	37%	115	52%	25	11%	223
Open Park Space	85	36%	138	59%	10	4%	233
Arenas	82	35%	130	55%	25	11%	237
Baseball Diamonds	65	30%	134	61%	21	10%	220
Tennis Courts	52	26%	121	61%	25	13%	198
Splash Pads	48	25%	106	54%	41	21%	195
Skateboard/Bike Park	48	23%	117	56%	43	21%	208
Basketball Courts	40	21%	102	53%	50	26%	192
Community Halls	19	11%	115	69%	33	20%	167

7. Rank from 1 to 13, with 1 being the most important and 12 being the least important, how important these facilities are to you.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Rating Average	n=
Arena	66	31	23	10	12	11	13	16	14	9	4	14	19	5.19	242
Bike Paths and Trails	18	28	42	32	23	23	24	10	9	11	8	7	4	5.21	239
Indoor Swimming Pool	24	27	16	22	32	15	20	15	14	10	13	14	13	6.09	235
Baseball Diamonds	33	33	18	14	21	7	13	16	15	16	18	20	15	6.29	239
Open Park Space	13	15	18	21	26	31	23	27	19	20	17	6	5	6.51	241
Soccer Fields	29	14	14	20	21	26	11	23	16	26	13	12	14	6.59	239
Outdoor Swimming Pool	13	30	26	16	13	23	30	13	16	20	15	20	11	6.60	246
Basketball Courts	21	15	28	24	20	20	20	8	15	18	20	20	13	6.61	242
Playgrounds	5	13	8	21	24	28	12	36	28	16	27	10	7	7.31	235
Community Halls	3	13	14	19	14	17	18	16	23	28	22	24	31	8.24	242
Tennis Courts	6	10	16	18	14	12	18	15	15	24	18	37	42	8.58	246
Skateboard/Bike Park	3	10	10	13	12	12	23	20	30	26	20	27	36	8.68	242
Splash Pad	10	6	7	11	10	15	19	23	26	18	40	25	37	8.82	247

8. Rank from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important, how important these programs and activities are to you.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Rating Average	n=
Team Sports	108	27	17	14	15	23	39	3.11	243
Free/Unstructured Play (i.e. activities without adult guidance)	31	53	44	40	17	25	25	3.57	235
Swimming	18	49	49	52	35	21	11	3.61	235
Individual Sports	12	46	55	55	30	22	11	3.67	231
Music	28	3	31	39	47	40	27	4.20	235
Arts & Crafts	23	21	19	16	50	48	50	4.73	227
Dance/Gymnastics	18	13	16	19	35	49	78	5.19	228

9. What new recreation, leisure, and culture facilities or activities would you like to see in North Perth?			
Indoor pool	33	Rock climbing space	1
Improved skate park	8	Trampoline	1
Basketball courts	8	Track club	1
Indoor soccer fields	7	Badminton	1
New arena	6	Batting cages	1
Baseball diamonds	4	Field hockey field	1
Playgrounds	2	Football field	1
Indoor volleyball	2	Four wheeling trail	1
Indoor baseball	2	Golf course	1
Waterpark	2	Music	1
YMCA	2	Horseback trails	1
Arcade	2	Roller derby	1
Animal centre	2	International activities	1
Community centre	2	Tennis	1
Youth spaces	2	Paintball	1
Hiking trails	2	Beach volleyball	1
Dog park	2		
Bike paths	2		
Parks	2		