

City of Quinte West
— Parks Master Plan —



CITY OF QUINTE WEST: PARKS MASTER PLAN
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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Recommendation 6.1: *The City will review the need for additional ball diamonds over the term of the Plan.*

Recommendation 6.2: *In co-operation with the voluntary sports groups and local sports associations, the City of Quinte West should conduct an audit of all ball diamonds currently scheduled by the municipality, to determine priorities for upgrading/improvement or replacement, to eliminate safety hazards, and to identify opportunities to improve tournament play. The City should work with local sports associations and user groups to identify improvement needs, and opportunities for these voluntary organizations to assist with fundraising, etc.*

Recommendation 6.3: *By the medium term of this plan, the City should re-assess interest in and demand for baseball diamonds, and work with the groups involved to continue to meet their facility needs. Anything beyond what would be required for community use should be supported by funding from other sources, - e.g. if tournament level facilities are considered, they should be supported by economic development and tourism objectives for the municipality.*

Recommendation 6.4: *To meet outstanding demand for soccer pitches, the City of Quinte West should develop the equivalent of one additional full-size soccer pitch (Class “B”) immediately (in progress at Centennial Park).*

Recommendation 6.5: *In cooperation with the organized soccer clubs, the City should undertake an audit of all scheduled fields to determine priorities for upgrading/improvement, to eliminate safety hazards, improve the quality of the fields to contemporary standards, and to identify requirements for adequate maintenance, resting periods, etc. It is anticipated that increased resources will need to be dedicated to field maintenance in the future.*

Recommendation 6.6: *Based on a revised ratio of supply, the equivalent of 2 additional full-sized soccer pitches will be required to meet population-based demand over the next 10 years. Opportunities to develop the required facilities in partnership with others should be explored.*

Recommendation 6.7: *The City should anticipate the need for multi-purpose playing fields to accommodate emerging interests beyond the term of the Plan.*

Recommendation 6.8: *The City should plan for at least two multi-purpose fields, located with other soccer pitches in a City-serving park, with access to the appropriate ancillary features and amenities. These fields may not be developed until after the period of this Plan, however space should be set aside now to ensure that future needs can be accommodated.*

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Recommendation 6.9: *Monitor community demographics, and where the youth market is confirmed, provide outdoor multi-purpose courts (half or full courts, depending on the market and site), with fundraising assistance from local community associations and service clubs.*

Recommendation 6.10: *No sand volleyball courts are required over the life of this Plan to meet population projections, however this should be reviewed through community consultation as new parks are developed or as existing parks are upgraded.*

Recommendation 6.11: *The new skatepark will continue to meet demand for skateboarding over the life of this Plan.*

Recommendation 6.12: *With the opening of the Centennial Park Splash Pad, the City will be well-supplied with outdoor waterplay facilities for the term of this Plan.*

Recommendation 6.13: *It is anticipated that the current supply of tennis courts will continue to meet demand for tennis over the life of this Plan, however this should be reviewed through community consultation as new parks are developed and existing parks upgraded.*

Recommendation 6.14: *As waterfront parks are upgraded and new open space areas are developed, the City should continue to consider on a site specific basis how to improve, informal, safe water access for swimming, fishing, and hand-launching of small boats such as canoes and kayaks.*

Parks and Open Space

Recommendation 7.1: *Add a City Park category to the existing Park Classifications to identify parks that have a specialized focus and serve a city-wide basis.*

Recommendation 7.2: *Add an 'Open Space' category to existing Park Classifications to ensure all managed lands (i.e. boulevards, cemeteries, and non-park lands) are identified.*

Recommendation 7.3: *Adopt Criteria and Standards for each park type in the Park Classifications as outlined in the Master Plan.*

Recommendation 7.4: *It is recommended that the City adopt a comprehensive, City-wide parkland provision standard of 3.0 ha./1000 population, which is consistent with the current total supply. This includes a breakdown of 2.4 ha./1000 population for combined City and Community Parks, and 0.6 ha./1,000 population for Neighbourhood Parks.*

Recommendation 7.5: *Undertake a full Master Plan for Centennial Park, in consultation with the community to review existing site and facilities conditions, and site capabilities and potentials, and to develop a conceptual plan for the park that considers current and future needs for active and passive recreation uses, waterfront and marina uses, and events planning.*

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Recommendation 7.6: *Identify/acquire a new site for a City/Community Park to support active recreation needs to 2024. The site should be located close to the concentration of population, likely the Trenton or Frankford urban service areas. To keep pace with projected sports field needs, the threshold for the development of this park is 2014.*

Recommendation 7.7: *Parkland opportunities in the Telephone Road Development Area, including opportunities for the location of a new City / Community Park on City-owned lands south of Tremur Lake, should be examined through a Master Plan.*

Recommendation 7.8: *To support a range of recreational opportunities in the west Frankford Service Area, investigate enhancement opportunities for the James Street Ballfield & Play area to better accommodate local community/neighbourhood uses. This evaluation should be undertaken in conjunction with the ball diamond audit which is recommended in this study, to be undertaken in co-operation with local sports organizations.*

Recommendation 7.9: *Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the north area of Trenton Ward.*

Recommendation 7.10: *Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the Telephone Road Development Area.*

Recommendation 7.11: *Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the West End Area.*

Recommendation 7.12: *Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the north-east and north-west areas of the Frankford Service Area.*

Recommendation 7.13: *In the case where Batawa is deemed to be an appropriate growth area based on ongoing studies, the City should plan for and develop new neighbourhood parks to meet population forecasts in accordance with the proposed provision standards.*

Recommendation 7.14: *Continue discussions with the Batawa Development Corporation related to potential partnerships with the City in providing parkland for community uses.*

Recommendation 7.15: *In the case where Bayside and South Sidney are deemed to be an appropriate growth area based on ongoing studies, the City should plan for and develop new neighbourhood parks to meet the needs of the Burns Avenue subdivision and surrounding area and population forecasts in accordance with the proposed provision standards.*

Recommendation 7.16: *Consider the role of undeveloped open space in Oak Lake, potentially engaging the local community in determining possibilities for the lands in providing areas of access for recreation and enjoyment of the lake.*

Recommendation 7.17: *Based on the location of future development, consider the need for the development of an additional neighbourhood park in the southern vicinity of Wooler.*

Recommendation 7.18: *Plan for the development of a neighbourhood park in Stockdale in conjunction with new development.*

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Recommendation 7.19: Consider the role of undeveloped open space along the Bay of Quinte shoreline, potentially engaging the local community in determining possibilities for the lands in providing areas of access for recreation and enjoyment of the Bay.

Recommendation 7.20: Document existing population, demographics and community preferences for Halloway, to determine if the development of a new neighbourhood park is required to meet existing population levels.

Recommendation 7.21: The City should develop a strategy for use and prioritization of cash-in-lieu (park reserve fund) to ensure that adequate funds are available to meet parkland acquisition needs such as: sports-focused community and city parks; acquisition of natural areas (not protected by Planning policy); or upgrading of parks (i.e. in the case of infill development where no new parks are needed).

Recommendation 7.22: The City should revisit its existing cash-in-lieu policies and consider how it might increase its collections on residential developments based on the collection methods available. The Official Plan policies should recognize these tools and provide for a more consistent approach throughout the City.

Recommendation 7.23: The City should revisit its Commercial / Industrial parkland dedication (cash-in-lieu) policies and consider opportunities allowed under the Planning Act to ensure maximum City benefit.

Recommendation 7.24: The City should review its Development Charges Bylaw with consideration of optimizing the eligible amounts for parkland and facilities development, and operations.

Trails

Recommendation 8.1: Continue efforts to plan and implement a City-wide trails system which contributes to the establishment of overall linked network of parks and open space lands, both within and between communities.

Recommendation 8.2: Continue to work with the Lower Trent Conservation Authority toward route securement and trail development strategies.

Recommendation 8.3: Continue to integrate trails planning into new developments and where possible support the securement of trail routes through legislative and non-legislative planning tools.

Recommendation 8.4: Continue to support the implementation the Lower Trent Trail Management Plan, and support further trail connections from the community of Trenton to the community of Batawa and Frankford.

Recommendation 8.5: Continue to support the connection of the Lower Trent Trail to the Waterfront Trail through Trenton, and consider recommendations coming out of the Detailed Route Options Study.

Recommendation 8.6: With the assistance of the Waterfront and Trail Development Committee and community partners, the City should continue efforts to plan and develop an east-west trail between Trenton and Belleville as part of the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail, as opportunities and funding permit.

Recommendation 8.7: Collaborate with the Public Works Department, local cycling organizations, and adjacent municipalities to plan and implement, where feasible, a system of road-based cycling routes to promote connectivity in, and between, communities and the use of alternative modes of transportation.

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Master Plan Implementation

Recommendation 9.1: *Update the term of the agreement with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board to 2007 to 2012, and periodically review and update or formalize all agreements as needs arise and/or situations change.*

Recommendation 9.2: *For significant projects involving community partners, (e.g. a major outdoor sports field complex), the City should develop and adopt a formal process to evaluate partnership proposals, similar to the one outlined in the Parks Master Plan, to be followed by the development and ratification of a cost-sharing agreement. The process should include mechanisms to determine the level of priority relative to other possible projects, and consistency with the City's identified goals and objectives, and clearly identify the nature of the City's and partners contribution to, responsibility for, and ongoing involvement in the project.*

Recommendation 9.3: *In conjunction with annual capital forecasts, review the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan to allocate funds, confirm priorities, timing, and costs and adjust the schedule for implementation based on resource availability, and other influencing factors.*

Recommendation 9.4: *Establish an annual budget to build a reserve fund for general parks planning and design, parks/facilities upgrading, and city greening and beautification. Establish priorities in conjunction with recommendations of the outdoor field assessment, recreation trends and community demographics, and identified community interests. Consult with local residents on major park redevelopment plans.*

Recommendation 9.5: *Establish an annual budget for trails toward achieving a planned program of trails development, with priorities and costs as identified through other investigations and detailed studies, i.e. Lower Trent Route Options Study.*

Recommendation 9.6: *On an annual basis, review the operational cost implications of implementing the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan and establish an annual budget to ensure that adequate staff and financial resources are provided.*

Recommendation 9.7: *Continue to gather and update the City's socio-demographic data, and monitor capacity and use of outdoor recreation facilities, and periodically update parks and facilities inventory and mapping, and supply standards.*

Recommendation 9.8: *Periodically, review the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan and update the parks and outdoor recreation facilities needs assessment, in response to resident demographics, program interests and emerging and developing leisure trends. Undertake a comprehensive Parks, Culture, and Recreation Master Plan in 10 years.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The City of Quinte West was formed on January 1, 1998 through the amalgamation of the former City of Trenton, the Townships of Sidney and Murray, and the Village of Frankford. The City is ideally situated with extensive shoreline frontage on both the scenic Bay of Quinte and the Trent River, and serviced by Highway 401 and both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways. The population of the City is dispersed over approximately 506 square kilometres, with concentrations in several distinct areas that reflect the original settlement patterns. The two primary settlement areas are the Trenton Urban Area and Frankford Urban Area with Trenton being the largest. The Trenton Urban Area is located at the mouth of the Trent River and the southern entrance to the 386 kilometre Trent Severn Waterway. The Frankford Urban Area is located in the geographic center of Quinte West along the Trent River. Quinte West is also home to 8 Wing/Canadian Forces Base Trenton, the largest military air base in Canada, and Canada's center for global air operations. The South Sidney Settlement area is classified as semi-urban and is located to the east of the Trenton Urban Area.

The surrounding predominantly rural lands, which comprise the balance of Quinte West, encompass agricultural lands, the scenic Murray Hills and Oak Hills, and the historic hamlets of Wooler, Stockdale, Halloway, Wallbridge, Smithfield and Carrying Place. Historic places include: Old Portage Rd, the oldest road in Ontario, and originally the portage route from Bay of Quinte to Lake Ontario; the Trent Severn Canal and Locks, the Murray Canal (constructed in the late 1800s to connect the Bay of Quinte to Lake Ontario); and Batawa, home to the original Bata shoe factory in 1939, and later a factory town.

In addition to the Trent River and Bay of Quinte shorelines, the City encompasses a number of significant natural features, many which are evidence of the area's glacial history. These include a number of provincially significant wetlands; Mount Pelion (glacial drumlin/esker); the Bleasdell Boulder (said to be North America's largest glacial erratic); the Trenton Escarpment; the Murray Hills and Oak Hills; and Oak Lake.

In addition to its many visitor attractions, Quinte West is home to major corporations in the manufacturing sector.



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1.2 Study Purpose

The City of Quinte West Official Plan, adopted in October 2001 sets strategic objectives regarding growth, land use policy direction, and policy on lands designated 'Open Space' in the rural area. However policies pertaining to parks classifications and standards in specific urban areas are still contained within the planning documents of the former municipalities (enacted as Secondary Plans through the new Quinte West Official Plan). These are: the Official Plan of the City of Trenton (1994), which applies to the Trenton Urban Area; the Secondary Plan for the Frankford Urban Area (1991) which applies to the Frankford Urban Area; and the South Sidney Secondary Plan (1992) which applies to the semi-urban area of South Sidney.

The former Sidney Township and the former City of Trenton completed parks and recreation master plans in 1984 and 1991 respectively. However these documents no longer provide valid direction for parks planning and development, in light of amalgamation, current recreational trends, and financial realities. The



former municipalities of Murray and Frankford did not complete parks master plans.

Through commissioning the *Parks Master Plan*, the City of Quinte West is moving towards the creation of a plan to guide future decision-making on the planning, development and management of parks—and open space, including trails, throughout the municipality. It will build on the historical planning and management efforts of the former municipalities to strategically approach decisions on the park system from a long-term and City-wide basis.

Building upon studies and plans done to date, the goals of this Parks Master Plan are to:

- Assess existing parkland and primary trail networks within the Municipality, and conduct a review of emerging trends in park planning and recreation within Ontario;
- Identify current and future needs of the community through public and stakeholder consultation and a review of projected growth areas and demographics;
- Develop park policies and parkland classifications that will guide the planning, development and management of existing and future parks and trails;
- Identify areas of opportunity for parkland allocation and primary trail linkages; and
- Prepare a Strategy for implementation, including priorities, phasing and recommendations for partnerships in the community.

2.0 COMMUNITY CONTEXT

2.1 Socio-Demographic Profile

Population and socio-demographic characteristics relevant to this study are profiled in this section of the report. They are based on Statistics Canada 1996 and 2001 Community Profiles and other demographic information provided by the City of Quinte West.

Population Estimates and Projections

The City of Quinte West was formed on January 1, 1998 as a result of the amalgamation of the former City of Trenton, the Townships of Sidney and Murray, and the Village of Frankford. For the purposes of identifying population change, Statistics Canada Census data for 1991 and 1996 were recalculated based on existing boundaries. This report adopts the following assumptions:

- The 1991 population of 42,645 was the sum of Statistics Canada population counts for the Village of Frankford, the Township of Murray, the Township of Sidney, and the City of Trenton;
- Statistics Canada identifies the 1996 population as 41,676 residents;
- The Statistics Canada 2001 Census population for the amalgamated City of Quinte West was 41,409, adjusted to account for boundary changes between the 1996 and 2001 Censuses.
- A recent report completed for the City of Quinte West¹ in support of a 2005 Development Charge Study estimated the mid-2004 population at 42,685.

Table 2.1 outlines the most recent growth projections for the City of Quinte West.

Year	1991	1996	2001	2004	2009	2014	2024	Build-out
Total Population	42,645	41,676	41,409	42,685	44,533	46,110	49,300	53,015

1991, 1996, and 2001 populations based on Statistics Canada Data 2004–2024, and build-out populations from the 2005, City of Quinte West Development Charge Background Study, Appendix A. By C.N. Watson and Associates Ltd. for the City of Quinte West.

The term ‘build-out’ refers to the point in time when lands currently designated for growth are fully developed. As noted above, ‘build-out’ population exceeds 53,000 for the City. **Appendix A**, provided by Quinte West’s Planning & Development Services Department, further defines build-out for Quinte West by identifying total remaining or potential developments in various growth areas in the City. These tables summarize all development projects, including existing, draft approved, and potential developments throughout Trenton, Sidney, Frankford and the rural areas of the City.

¹ 2005, City of Quinte West Development Charge Background Study, Appendix A. By C.N. Watson and Associates Ltd. for the City of Quinte West.

Location of Future Growth

According to the City of Quinte West Growth and Settlement Strategy, completed in April, 2004, planning areas with few constraints and the most opportunities to experience residential growth over the next 10 years include the area west of the Trenton Urban Area, and portions of the Frankford Urban Area. This document estimates between 1,880 and 3,960 new dwelling units may be constructed in the City from 2003 to 2025. Studies are on-going to determine the potential for growth in the South Sidney Planning Area and in Batawa. Currently, servicing issues restrict potential growth. If servicing issues can be resolved, both these areas have the potential to be significant settlement areas.

The City will be updating the 2004 Growth and Settlement Report to ensure consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005.

2.2 Population Change

The estimated 2004 population of the City of Quinte West was approximately 42,685 persons². This represents a population increase of 3.1% from the 2001 Census population. By 2024, the population is projected to reach approximately 49,300 residents. By buildout, the population for the City of Quinte West is projected at 53,015 residents, representing an increase of about 24% over 2005 levels³.

Changing Age Structure

Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of adults aged 45 and older increased, while the younger proportion of the population decreased. Table 2.2 outlines the change in age distribution for the City of Quinte West since 1991. The median age in 2001 was 38.3 years, representing an increase from 1996 when the median age was 35.4 years. The City of Quinte West's age distribution is comparable to the Province as a whole.

Table 2.2: Change in Age Structure

Age	1991	1996	% Change 1991-1996	2001	% Change 1996-2001
Age 0-4	7.5%	6.9%	- 0.6%	5.6%	-1.3%
Age 5-14	14.3%	14.9%	0.6%	14.8%	-0.1%
Age 15-19	6.7%	6.5%	- 0.2%	5.1%	-1.4%
Age 20-24	6.6%	5.3%	- 1.3%	5.1%	-0.2%
Age 25-44	32.9%	31.6%	-1.3%	29.5%	-2.1%
Age 45-54	11.1%	12.3%	1.2%	14.0%	1.7%
Age 55-64	9.2%	9.6%	0.4%	10.5%	0.9%
Age 65 +	11.7%	13.0%	1.3%	13.5%	0.5%

² See Quinte West Development Charges Background for details.

³ 2005, City of Quinte West Development Charge Background Study, Appendix A. By C.N. Watson and Associates Ltd. for the City of Quinte West.

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In 2001, the largest cohort of Quinte West's population was the 25 to 44 year old segment. Over the next 15-20 year period, this cohort will move into the older age categories and the Quinte region will experience a progressive shift in age structure reflective of that being experienced on a Provincial and National level. This shift is generally reflective of the "Boom, Bust and Echo" trends described by David Foot in his popular 1996 book on the impact of demographics in our society, and is echoed by Ministry of Finance projections. The "Baby Boom" generation comprises a significant percentage of the population on a national level, regional level, and within the study area. Over the next 15-20 year period, there will be a substantial relative increase in the population over 55 years of age as a result of the early "Boomers" growing older and moving into the older age categories. Over the next decade, the greatest increases are predicted first in the middle-age categories, followed by the older adult and senior age categories. The proportion of those aged 65 years and over is predicted to peak in 2036. This aging trend will be mitigated somewhat in areas of Quinte West where new subdivisions are being developed and young families are moving in. As well the continued presence of CFB Trenton may have some stabilizing influence in Quinte West on the general aging trend.

The Growth and Settlement Strategy developed by the City embraces this aging trend, and notes that it may be even more pronounced in some parts of the City due to an influx of retired and semi-retired persons from the Greater Toronto Area locating to the Quinte region. This report notes that this influx will create more demand for smaller single detached dwellings, multi-unit residential development, and seniors care housing, and that locations and policies guiding this form of development should be in place to support this.

Visible Minority Population

In 2001, City of Quinte West, with over 91% of its population born in Canada, was not as ethnically diverse as the Province of Ontario as a whole. As immigrants to the Greater Toronto Area migrate towards outlying areas in the coming years, the ethnic diversity of the Quinte region may increase, however it will not be as great as in those municipalities directly adjacent to the Greater Toronto Area, nor is this change anticipated to have a significant impact on the demand for outdoor facilities and parkland amenities.

2.3 Household Characteristics

In 2001, couples with children (33.4%) represented the largest proportion of household types in Quinte West, followed closely by couples without children (32.5%) and then one-person households (20.9%). The percentage of households including couples-with-children is comparable to the Province (33%) as a whole. The City of Quinte West's median family income in 2001 was \$52,922 compared to \$61,024 for all of Ontario. The median income for all households in Quinte West in 2001 was \$46,696 compared to \$53,626 for all of Ontario.

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2.4 Community Context Summary

The City of Quinte West is anticipating moderate growth over the next 20 year period. There will be a gradual shifting of the age structure of the population towards the older age cohorts, particularly in the rural areas not experiencing significant population increases. This may impact on demand for active outdoor recreation facilities, and result in increasing demand for more passive forms of leisure such as walking for pleasure, bird watching, nature appreciation, and seniors oriented activities.

In areas experiencing growth through new subdivision development, continued demand for outdoor facilities that cater to children and youth can be anticipated. These factors are considered in the outdoor facility needs assessment in Section 7.0 of the report.



3.0 TRENDS AFFECTING PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES

This section presents trends that will influence the demand for outdoor facilities and recreational components of the City's parks, trails, and open space system. This section describes general participation trends, lifestyle and social trends, and trends in participation in outdoor activities. These are presented as general background and to create a context for the assessment of needs. They are largely provincial and national trends, however in the sections that follow we have identified instances where local information and participation data may support or refute these trends.



3.1 General Participation Trends

The 2001 Physical Activity Monitor of the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute⁴ provides a profile of participation in physical activity in Ontario. According to this study, as many as 55% of Ontarians are insufficiently active for maintaining optimal health benefits. This represents a significant decrease in activity since 1998, when about 80% of residents were active (National Population Health Survey, 1998/1999). The top three activities for adults aged 18+ are walking, gardening/yard work, and home exercise.

For youth aged 12 to 19, parents report that over half (57%) are not active enough for optimal growth and development. According to Ontario parents, 66% of children participate in physical activities at locations other than home or school. The most popular physical activities for children aged 5 to 17 are walking, bicycling and swimming.

The recent Government of Ontario 2010 Physical Activity Action Plan targets the increasing of physical activity levels among adults and youth by the year 2010 (see Table 3.1 below) through marketing campaigns and an increase in human and financial resources for initiatives that support active living. The City of Quinte West, together with a number of community partners, has developed a Youth Physical Activity Strategy to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles among youth in the community. The strategy is identifying current levels of activity among youth (particularly low-income youth), identifying

⁴ See http://www.cflri.ca/cflri/pa/surveys/2000survey/2000_ns.html for detailed results.

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barriers to physical activity, and will recommend strategies for overcoming these and moving towards higher levels of youth activity.

3.2 Lifestyle and Social Trends

The following table outlines some of the changing societal trends influencing participation in recreation and leisure pursuits.

Table 3.1: Lifestyle and Social Trends

Topic	Trends
Time and Energy Deficit	According to the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute's 2002 Physical Activity Monitor survey, lack of time (75%), energy (64%) and motivation (62%) are the most frequently noted barriers to physical activity among Canadians.
Shifting Leisure Interests	Individual's interests in activities that can be pursued alone and relatively easily around more fixed time commitments are increasing in popularity. The 2001 Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Institute survey found the most popular physical activities for Ontario adults over 20 years of age were: walking, gardening and yard work, home exercises, swimming, social dancing, bicycling, golf, running/jogging, and weight training. According to the same survey, the most popular activities for youth are: walking for exercise, bicycling, swimming, jogging/running, basketball, social dancing, home exercise, in-line skating, and weight training. As an example of the range in popular response, 60% of youth respondents walked for exercise compared to 24% that weight train. Less than 20% of youth respondents participated in baseball or softball, exercise classes, skating, or golf.
Changing Nature of Work and Family Dynamics	Households with two working parents and single parent families are more common today than in the past, suggesting that demand for weekend programming and evening programs may increase. Trends and influences in work patterns such as job sharing, part-time employment, under-employment, and early retirement, suggest that daily or weekly schedules for leisure participation may be expanded. Leisure providers will have to increasingly target their facility schedules and marketing approaches to attract and accommodate these varying market segments.
Aging and Physical Activity	Older aged adults are being encouraged by health care professionals to get active based on research that suggests individuals with healthy weights and higher levels of physical activity are more likely to maintain independence and a high quality of life. Regular physical activity maintains strength and flexibility, and balance and coordination, and can help reduce the risk of falls among the elderly. Increasing age is associated with increased limitation in the ability to carry out basic activities of daily living. ⁵ Physical activity helps prolong good health and independence.

⁵ Public Health Agency of Canada. (2003). *Physical Activity Unit: The Benefits of Physical Activity*. Retrieved from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/pau-uap/fitness/benefits.html>.

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Topic	Trends
Health and Wellness	Wellness is a holistic approach to health, which relates overall quality of life to health. This view promotes a broad definition of the term “leisure activities” that encompasses both traditional sports and less strenuous - but nevertheless, beneficial - pursuits. Outdoor recreation facilities for wellness, therefore, range from high quality sports fields for organized activity to trails, parks and open spaces that support passive, unstructured leisure pursuits that may simply offer an opportunity to connect with nature.
Active 2010	The Government of Ontario recently launched a new campaign designed to increase physical activity participation levels from 48% to 55% among youth and adults by 2010 ⁶ . The 2010 Physical Activity Action Plan ⁷ is intended to provide resources and support to municipal decision makers and community -level organizations. Initiatives include: developing a social marketing campaign, expanding human and financial resources to support Active 2010 initiatives, increasing participation in sport and physical activity in Ontario schools, strengthening the capacity of leaders at the community level to plan and deliver quality and safe physical activity programs, supporting the revitalization of community infrastructure that supports physical activity participation, and continued monitoring of physical activity patterns. The recent trail initiatives in City of Quinte West are consistent with the Active 2010 strategy. The City has also completed a Youth Activity Strategy in keeping with the goals of Active 2010.
Volunteering	<p>Volunteer Canada’s National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating, identified a 32% decrease in the number of Ontario residents that volunteered between 1997 and 2000. Twenty-five percent of Ontario residents volunteered an average of 165 hours each according to the same survey. The nature of volunteering has also changed, including an increase in mandatory volunteering (school mandated volunteer work, workfare, etc.); importing management practices from the corporate and public sector to evaluate volunteer performance and outcome; the professionalization of “volunteer management”; volunteer boards that must act as supervisors and planners; and volunteer development initiatives to recruit and retain volunteers for longer periods of time⁸.</p> <p>Engaging volunteers and obtaining funding limits the ability of nonprofit and volunteer organizations to contribute to their communities. In the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations, a majority of organizations report difficulty planning for the future, difficulty recruiting the types of volunteers the organization needs, difficulty obtaining board members, and difficulty obtaining funding from other organizations such as government, foundations or corporations and individual donors.⁹ The community organizations and recreation associations in Quinte West, which are largely driven by volunteers, are likely facing similar issues. Many of their volunteers have likely contributed their service for many years, and there may be no plans for succession. Furthermore, recruitment of new volunteers is always an issue.</p>
Declining Interest in Team Sports	We are experiencing a national decline in active sport participation which is often attributed to increased time pressure on individuals at work, a desire for more flexible methods of engaging in physical activity, and a corresponding rise in individualism. ¹⁰ To some degree, this social trend can be expected to reduce demand for different types of facilities, but it will vary by activity and community. For instance, soccer participation is on the rise in most Ontario communities.

⁶ Province of Ontario. (2004). *Ontario Physical Activity Plan: Towards and Active 2010. Draft # 4.*

⁷ Government of Ontario. (2004) *The Government of Ontario’s Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.* Retrieved from: <http://www.tourism.gov.on.ca/english/sportdiv/physical/active2010.htm>

⁸ Volunteer Canada. (2000) *Trends in Volunteerism.* Retrieved from www.volunteer.ca/volcan/eng/volincan/

⁹ Cornerstones of Community: Highlights of the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations. Statistics Canada. 2005. Catalogue No. 61-533-XIE.

¹⁰ Sport Canada Report. (2005). *Strengthening Canada: The Socio-economic Benefits of Sport Participation in Canada.* Retrieved from http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/progs/sc/pubs/socio-eco/index_e.cfm.

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Topic	Trends
Youth Issues	<p>Youth have always been an important and influential consideration for public recreation services. Increasing social pressures, changes in family structure, inequities in the distribution of wealth, and the impact of popular culture and the media will influence leisure activity choices among youth. Feelings of social isolation and income disparity can lead to participation in more “unhealthy” forms of leisure such as gang participation or, in the worst case, criminal activity. The families’ response may be to limit participation in activities outside the home. This, in turn may lead to greater isolation and inactivity. The growing incidence of obesity among Canadian youth is a rising concern among health and leisure practitioners, requiring a multi-dimensional response.</p>
Outdoor Leisure	<p>Partly in response to the trend towards increasing urbanization, a growing number of people are seeking outdoor recreation experiences. Among the fastest growing sport and recreation activities are snowboarding, mountain biking, fishing, camping, and boating. Values in outdoor leisure participation are changing and focusing on the environment and conservation; many park goers look for natural play areas and habitat parks rather than planned landscaped parks. Increased environmental awareness and outdoor participation supports urban forestry, public access to waterfront opportunities, and environmental education programs and services.</p>
Market Segmentation Among Seniors	<p>On the whole, the next generation of seniors will have more disposable income, better health, and less interest in long-term work commitments and obligations than the current generation of seniors. The Boomer Project¹¹ notes that those born between 1946 and 1964 will focus on: how they look and feel, income and independence, enhancing their home, life and leisure and travel and exploration. These trends will directly impact their preferences for recreation, leisure and social programming and services at the community level. There will also be a growing segment of older, frailer, and less mobile seniors who will require different kinds of services from their younger, more active counterparts.</p>
Accessibility	<p>The World Health Organization defines disability as “...any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.” In 2001 the Government of Ontario passed the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, supporting improved opportunities for people with disabilities and providing a mechanism for involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, passed in 2005, sets legislative framework for the development and application of accessibility standards with the intent of having an accessible Ontario by the year 2025. This new legislation supports the right of persons of all ages and abilities to enjoy equal opportunity and to participate fully in the life of the Province. Many municipalities are engaged in developing their own Accessibility Technical Standards, as a tool to prevent the creation of new barriers and to reduce and remove existing barriers for people with disabilities. The Technical Standards typically respond to the design, development and construction of new facilities and the retrofit and renovation of existing facilities that are owned operated and leased by the municipality. For persons with disabilities, reducing the barriers to participation and ensuring that facilities and services are accessible and responsive to their needs will help to support participation in recreation and leisure activities.</p>

¹¹ Matt Thornhill. April 2005. *The Boomer Project*, www.boomerproject.com

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Topic	Trends
Green and Sustainable	<p>Increasingly, new and redeveloped recreation facilities are adopting sustainable building practices to support the “green movement”. Sustainable building practices for recreation facilities include the following: sensitivity to the ecology of each building site, use of recycled and recyclable materials; use of finishes which promote a healthy environment; use of locally derived material or exterior finishes which integrate well into their surroundings; and the use of passive solar design for energy efficiency.</p> <p>Not only are buildings going “green”. The “green” movement links active living and environmental stewardship by “encouraging outdoor physical activity that protects, enhances or restores the environment”. This movement has emerged in response to the need to both increase physical activity levels and reduce the negative environmental impacts of current lifestyles. Children growing up today in Ontario’s communities have a much greater “global awareness” and “social conscience” than they did in the previous decade, and are more aware of their ecological place in the world.</p>
Trails, Trails and More Trails	<p>Demand for trails is growing; on road, off road, hard surface, soft surface, use by all ages and all abilities – all types of trails are in demand. Whereas trails were once the domain of Provincial agencies and Conservation Authorities, municipalities are increasingly being asked to provide trails, provide assistance to groups wishing to develop trails, to redevelop obsolete rail lines into trails, and to maintain trails.</p>
Smart Growth	<p>There is increasing recognition that historic growth patterns, dominated by what has been characterized as “sprawl”, are no longer in the long-term interest of cities, suburbs, small towns, rural communities or natural areas. Proponents are questioning the economic cost of abandoning urban infrastructure only to rebuild in greenfield areas. Driving the “smart growth” movement are demographic shifts, a strong environmental ethic, increased fiscal concerns, and more balanced views of growth. Smart growth invests resources in restoring a sense of community health and vitality to centre cities and older suburbs. It is community -centered, transit and pedestrian-oriented, supports a greater mix of housing, commercial, and retail and recreational uses in developed areas, and is forward thinking in preserving open space systems, natural corridors, and other environmental amenities.</p>
Provincial Policy Statement, 2005	<p>“The Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. As a key part of Ontario’s policy-led planning system, the Provincial Policy Statement sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. It also supports the provincial goal to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Ontario. The Policy statement promotes healthy, active communities by requiring municipalities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. plan public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, and facilitate pedestrian and non- motorized movement, including but not limited to, walking and cycling; b. provide for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for <i>recreation</i>, including facilities, parklands, open space areas, trails and, where practical, water-based resources; c. provide opportunities for public access to shorelines; and, d. consider the impacts of planning decisions on provincial parks, conservation reserves and conservation areas

3.3 Activity Participation Trends

The participation trend information presented in this section is based on a variety of sources. In some cases, information is provided by sport and recreation organizations operating at the National or Provincial level; other trends are taken from secondary literature sources, and some trends reflect the consultant's experience working in North American communities. Trend information was gathered through a variety of methods including Internet searches, phone interviews, and through email correspondence. Participation trends reflect the most recent and available data; in most cases, this is for the 2004/2005 registration season. Where possible, we have included local data collected through focus group discussions with voluntary sports association representatives, community groups, and discussions with City staff. Finally, not all sport and recreation activities are reflected in the discussion. We have included those that would be applicable to this study.

Team Sports

Baseball: Baseball is a traditionally popular sport that continues to show stabilization or decline in participation rates, particularly at the minor level where youth are increasingly choosing soccer over ball. In some municipalities, adult-based demand for facilities is showing a slight increase, although predictions are this will drop in time as fewer youth are choosing baseball. According to Baseball Canada, Ontario players comprise 56% of the national registration. From 2003-2005 the number of registered players in baseball in Ontario decreased 7.5%. The division of male to female players remained stable with 97% male to 3% female.¹² In contrast to Provincial trends, City of Quinte West staff identified an active local youth baseball league, and are accommodating their needs for suitable facilities through the upgrading of a former softball diamond to regulation baseball standards.

Softball/Slow Pitch: In 2004, there were 148,307 players registered in Ontario, who participated in either fast pitch or slo-pitch. Of those players who registered in 2004, 62% (91,191) were male and 38% (56,846) were female.¹³ Softball Ontario indicated that its membership has been increasing slowly in recent years, primarily due to an increase in adult softball leagues. Softball Ontario and its member associations are introducing a new entry-level program, "Learn to Play", hoping to increase the participation levels by providing more fun, more activity, and more skill instruction to the game. Quinte West based adult softball leagues noted stable participation levels over the past 5 years, although this may change in the coming years as current players get older.

Field Lacrosse: In 2004, Canadian Lacrosse Association had 69,088 registered members, the majority of whom play field lacrosse as well as box lacrosse. Throughout Ontario teams compete in Men's and Women's Field Lacrosse, Box Lacrosse and Inter-lacrosse. Lacrosse has grown in most aspects of the sport. According to the Ontario Lacrosse Association, the Women's Field Lacrosse Program is one of the fastest growing sectors.

¹² Baseball Canada. (January 2006). Personal communication with Luc Hébert.

¹³ Softball Ontario. (2004). Personal communication with Wendy Cathcart.

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Golf: A participation report prepared by Sport Canada (2005) found that golf is the second most popular sport of choice in Canada, and has remained so since 1998. A recent (2004) Statistics Canada study reported rapidly increasing participation in golf at the National level.¹⁴ According to the 2003 Golf Participation in Canada Survey Report prepared by the Royal Canadian Golf Association, 4,895,000 Canadians (18.6%) played at least one round of golf in 2001. The 2000 Physical Activity Monitor prepared by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute found the Ontario golf participation rate to be 30% of the population. In Ontario, 75.4% of 1,862,000 golfers are male (mostly between 35 to 49 years of age), and the remaining 24.6% are female. Golf participation rates rise with income. Increasing participation in golf is expected to continue.

Soccer: Soccer participation is on the rise in most Canadian communities. The media attention to the 2006 World Cup likely contributed to soccer's current popularity. The Canadian Soccer Association estimates that well over one million Canadians are active soccer players – surpassing the number of Canadians who are registered hockey players.¹⁵ In Canada, approximately, 85% of the registered players are youth and 15% are adults. According to the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA), there has been an increase in female registration in the last ten years, with a 1.2% increase from 2003 to 2004 in Canada.¹⁶ In 2005, the Ontario Soccer Association reported that there were 364,960 registered outdoor soccer players in the Province, an increase of 2.3% over the previous year. There was noticeable registration growth in senior recreation soccer (7.5% increase) and in mini soccer (3.7% increase).¹⁷ In 2004, 42% of Ontario's registered soccer players were female (a 0.5% increase from 2003) and 58% were male. A representative from Quinte West's minor soccer association identified rising participation rates locally, resulting in increasing demand for soccer fields.

Field Hockey: According to Field Hockey Canada, membership rates have been variable over the past 5 years, with declines in 2001 and 2002, and increases in 2003 and 2004, resulting from new senior and junior teams. There were 39 senior teams (adult) and 19 junior teams (minor) affiliated with Field Hockey Canada in 2004. Field Hockey is predominately played by females in Ontario, but Field Hockey Ontario is creating programs to promote the sport to male participants.¹⁸

Football: Participation in football is primarily a school-based activity. A number of school boards are providing less funding to support this high school athletic activity than in the past, pointing to lower participation rates in the future. Total football participation of youth and high school students in Canada in 2004 was 57,507. In Ontario, there were 13,845 participants in the sport of football. Football Canada has introduced new youth community flag football programs to many communities across Canada, in an effort to boost participation rates.¹⁹

¹⁴ The report noted an almost 21% increase in golf course revenues in 2004 over the year before, linked to the growing popularity of golf and an increase in the number of active older adults.

¹⁵ Soccer Canada. (2004). Retrieved from www.canadasoccer.com

¹⁶ 2003 & 2004 Soccer Demographics, Canadian Soccer Association.

¹⁷ Ontario Soccer Association 2005 Annual Report.

¹⁸ Field hockey Canada. (2004). Personal communication with Ayana Nurse.

¹⁹ Football Canada. (September 2004). Email correspondence with Amie Van Soelen.

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Tennis: More than 1.6 million Canadians (age 12-64) played tennis regularly in 2003-2004. Canadian tennis participation increased by 13% between 2001-2004. Ontario tennis participation increased by 15% (89,000 players) over the same period. Ontario makes up the largest proportion (60%) of the Canadian tennis market. The tennis population has traditionally been older players (45-64 years old) but recent data from Ontario showed a 25% increase in teen tennis participation since 2003. Tennis is also experiencing a slight resurgence in the Greater Toronto Area due to growing numbers of immigrants and the popularity of the sport in their countries of origin. These trends are unlikely to affect tennis participation in Quinte West, which according to staff and local community group representatives, has been declining since tennis' peak popularity in the late 1980s.

Lawn Bowling: Lawn bowling is experiencing a decrease in participation across Canada, although the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association indicated stable participation levels over the past three years. Participation rates among men and women are relatively equal and members are typically seniors.²⁰ The Association expects participation to increase in the coming years as an outcome of its 2004 growth campaign. The campaign was geared to recruit younger players.

Ultimate Frisbee: The sport of Ultimate Frisbee is increasing in popularity throughout Ontario. Over the past five years (to 2006), the Ultimate Player's Association notes that its membership has increased by an average of 15%-20% each year. Ultimate Frisbee is a non-contact sport that stresses the importance of sportsmanship and fair play. The sport has flourished in many urban centres in Ontario. It's expected that the participation in ultimate Frisbee will continue to grow at a similar rate over the next decade as programs and outreach increases.

Outdoor Volleyball: One of the fastest growing areas of volleyball is played on any number of beaches or sand courts in Ontario. As with indoor volleyball, the majority of participants participate in recreational divisions and therefore are not represented in the statistics of the provincial. Women comprise almost half of the participants. An active sport, which attracts people between the ages of 15 and 34, can be played at Olympic calibre, doubles competition, or recreational co-ed pick-up.

Individual Sports and Recreation Activities

The term "individual recreation activities" is used to include those activities that individuals undertake in an impromptu manner, in other words with limited preparation needed, no group or team or playing partner to organize. This type of activity is often referred to as "unstructured" for the same reasons. As noted above, participation in unstructured recreation is increasing for a variety of reasons. The information provided below suggests participation rates in all trail-based activities, such as walking, running, cycling, and in-line skating have increased rapidly in recent years, and this trend is anticipated to continue into the future. In addition to the natural "fit" between hectic lifestyles, environmental stewardship and trail activities, demand for this type of involvement is also being driven by the needs of an aging population. Activities such as walking and gentle cycling are suitable for participation among older adults. Similarly, an aging population is

²⁰ Ontario Lawn Bowls Association. (July 2003). Personal communication with representative.

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generating greater participation in other unstructured and more passive forms of leisure such as birdwatching, nature study, and walking for pleasure.

Adventure Recreation and Sports: Activities such as climbing/bouldering, skateboarding, snowboarding and BMX biking are increasing in popularity among youth and outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Offering “extreme” sports in a controlled environment gives youth an alternate mode of participation in team sports and physical activity. The rapidly growing popularity of adventure sports at the amateur and professional levels has created a stable trend in youth-directed programs and services. As well use of motorized recreation vehicles such as ATVs are rapidly increasing in popularity, and municipalities are under pressure to provide recreation areas and trails where these can be used.

Geocaching (orienteering activity that involves using GPS coordinates to locate ‘time capsules’ placed by enthusiasts in remote outdoor locations, and posted on the internet) has also become popular in recent years, and the Quinte West Chamber of Commerce is working with interest groups to promote this activity.

Walking/Jogging: Between the 1998 and 2001 Physical Activity Monitor studies, walking increased in popularity to the most popular activity among Ontario adults (77% of adults reported participation in 2001 compared to 69% in 1998). Based on other trend research from 2003, walking among men increased 3.8% from 26.2% in 1987 to 30.1% in 2000. For women, walking increased by 6.6% during the same time period, from 40.4% to 46.9%.²¹ For young people the picture may be different, with over half of Canadian teenagers reportedly accumulating the equivalent of less than 1 hour of walking a day, although walking continues to be the most commonly reported activity among teens.²² Participation in walking as a recreational activity is expected to be one of the fastest growing areas of outdoor recreation.

Triathlon: Triathlon participation is experiencing an increase in membership numbers. Over the last decade, Triathlon Canada has experienced a 98% increase in national annual membership. The Ontario share of national membership has slowly been decreasing, from 27% in 1997 to 20% in 2004.²³ Out of the four disciplines (triathlon, duathlon, long distance and aquathlon), triathlon holds the most number of participants.²⁴

Skateboarding: The popularity and legitimacy of skateboarding has been growing in recent years, likely as a result of movement away from organized structured, comparatively more expensive team-based activities. Skateboarding offers the preferred type of involvement for youth aged 10-17 – unstructured and social, providing a desired element of risk, and resulting in a loose affiliation to a group.²⁵ Trends suggests continued growth in this activity, and concurrent concerns regarding increasing obesity among youth due to sedentary lifestyles emphasizes the importance of providing appropriate, attractive facilities to encourage increased participation by this age group. It is for these reasons that municipalities are beginning to provide

²¹ Simpson, M.E., Serdula M., Galuska, D.A., Gillespie, C., Donehoo, R., Macera, C., and Mack, K. *Walking Trends Among U.S. Adults: The Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1987-2000*. American Journal of Preventative Medicine, 2003.

²² *Increasing Physical Activity, Assessing trends from 1998-2003*, 2003 Physical Monitor.

²³ Triathlon Canada. (December 2005). Email Communication with Kerry Allen, National Office Manager Triathlon Canada.

²⁴ Triathlon Canada. (2004). Personal communication with representative.

²⁵ Canadian Recreation and Parks Association. (June 2003). *Skateparks 101*. A Supplement to Parks and Recreation Magazine.

safe and appropriate places for youth to enjoy this activity. The City of Quinte West has responded to this trend with the recent development of a permanent skatepark in Centennial Park.

Snowboarding: The popularity of snowboarding “exploded” through the 1990’s and early 2000’s when it appeared in the first Winter Games in 1997 and a year later at the Winter Olympics in Nagano. According to the Canadian Ski Council, in 2003 a total of 4.1 million Canadians aged 12 and over skied (downhill and cross-country), snowboarded or both.²⁶ Of those, 861,000 were exclusively snowboarders, 2.5 million were exclusively skiers and the rest did both. Most snowboarders are male (over 60%), of high-school age, with relatively high family incomes.

Downhill Skiing: After a record high of almost 20 million visits in 2003-2004, the Canadian ski industry recorded a decrease of 7% in 2004-2005. An alpine skier is typically, male, in his 30s, living in the urban centres of Montreal or Toronto area, with teens at home, working full-time, with high household income, who skis five times per season²⁷. Snowboarding is rapidly outpacing downhill skiing at the sport of choice for children and youth who are being introduced to snow sports for the first time.

BMX Biking: Although BMX surfaced in Canada in the late 1970’s, it did not become popular until around 1985.²⁸ The sport lost some momentum in the 1990’s but with the introduction of the sport as an official Canada Games activity, BMX has been steadily rising in popularity. It is a highly technical sport involving high levels of balance and coordination. Mountain biking is a more general term for this activity that typically occurs on trails and off-road areas and captures a wider range of recreational participants.

Climbing and Bouldering: Climbing walls, once the domain of private climbing clubs and entertainment complexes, are slowly making their way into the municipally-owned recreation inventory. Climbing walls can be added to gymnasias or indoor field houses or built as stand-alone outdoor facilities located in parks. Climbing walls are not always “walls” -- some are freestanding, multi-sided structures that can be permanent or moved from site to site. While climbing walls usually involve protective gear and rappelling lines, there are walls designed for the edge of waterways for use without gear and lines, and movable structures designed for “bouldering” practice.

Recreational Boating: Approximately 48.6% of all recreational boats in Canada are licensed to Ontario residents. In 2001 there were almost 2 million excursion and fishing boats chartered in Ontario, Quebec and the 8 Great Lakes States. This number decreased to 1.5 million in 2003. Recreational boating will continue to be popular in Quinte West, where residents can take advantage of the Trent-Severn Waterway, the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario through a variety of public access points, public docks, and marinas.

²⁶ Duncan McCue. “The popularity and perils of snowboarding.” CBC. March 6, 2000.

²⁷ Alpine Skier: are defined as those who ski or snowboard exclusively, plus those who participate in any combination of skiing, snowboarding and/or cross-country skiing. Those who cross-country ski exclusively are not included.

²⁸ Canadian Cycling Association. (December 2006) www.canadian-cycling.com

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Canoeing and Kayaking: Canoeing and kayaking are popular recreation activities according to recent studies. The Outdoor Industry Association's Outdoor Recreation Participation Study 2002 found that in 1998, 60% of the population participated at least once in these recreation activities. By 2001 this percentage had increased 67%. Canoeing and kayaking as family-based activities are growing in popularity, as evidenced by the popularity of Ontario's Provincial parks during peak season.

Sport Fishing: In 1996, of the estimated 4.2 million Canadians who fished for recreation in Canada, 1.5 million (36%) were residents of Ontario. This represents a participation rate in recreational fishing of 17.2% of the Ontario population²⁹. A 2001 estimate indicated that approximately 2.4 million Ontarians participate in hunting and fishing activities every year across the Province³⁰. Ontario has the largest recreational fishery in Canada, contributing \$1.56 billion to Ontario's Gross Domestic Product each year³¹. Long-term trends suggest that the demand for fishing opportunities remains high, in part due to the growth of population centres, increasing affluence, the popularity of the sport among seniors, and tourism draws³².



²⁹ Environment Canada. (1996). The Importance of Nature to Canadians: 1996 Survey Highlights.

³⁰ Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. (2001). Ontario invites public input on proposed heritage hunting and fishing act.

³¹ Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. (2003). The Economics of Recreational Fishing in Ontario.

³² Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. (2004). Issues Facing Ontario Fisheries.

4.0 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES SERVICE DELIVERY

The scope of the Parks Master Plan does not extend to a departmental operational review, however for context it is important to note the organizational structure and responsibilities of the Community and Leisure Services Department, and its working relationships with committees and other leisure service providers.

4.1 Community and Leisure Services Department

The Community and Leisure Services (CLS) Department is responsible for parks and facilities development and maintenance; indoor and outdoor facilities, including two Marinas and the Frankford Golf Course; sportsfields and facilities bookings; recreational programs; trails development and special events. The Parks component of the Department is as follows:

- 1 Manager of Parks & Operations;
- 2 Parks Working Forepersons;
- 3 Full-time Labourers (spending 6 months with Parks & the Golf Course; 6 months with Arenas);
- 1 Full-time Labourer committed to garbage pick-up;
- 4 Casual Operators; (April to October)
- 5 Casual Labourers; (April to October)
- 5 Students (June to August).

With respect to parks and recreation facilities planning and development, the CLS Department has a close working relationship with other City departments including Planning and Public Works.

4.2 Committees and Boards

There are several committees in the City of Quinte West that have been established to assist Council on matters of community planning and capital budget prioritization. The typical make-up of each Committee includes a Chairperson, 5 members of Council, 4 members of the public representing each ward, and a staff resource person, with other representation as appropriate to the Committee function.

Planning Advisory Committee

The Planning and Development Services Committee is a Council appointed committee that was established to assist the Planning and Development Services Department, and Council in the identification of priorities for the planning and development of land use issues including parks planning. The Committee makes recommendations to Council on parks policy and parks development works in cooperation with the Community and Leisure Services Advisory Committee.

Community and Leisure Services Advisory Committee

The Community and Leisure Services Advisory Committee is a Council appointed committee that was established to assist the Community and Leisure Services Department in the identification of parks and related facilities priorities for the use and development of public parkland. The Committee works in cooperation with local organizations, volunteers and other committees.

Waterfront and Trail Development Committee

This Committee reports to the Community and Leisure Services Advisory Committee with a mandate to assist with the planning, fundraising and partnerships for the development of the waterfront and trails throughout Quinte West. The Committee includes two members from the C & L Advisory Committee, one member from the Planning Advisory Committee, a representative from Quinte Conservation, a representative from Lower Trent Conservation, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, and a public member from each Ward.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Quinte West Accessibility Advisory Committee, comprised of seven persons with disabilities and two others from the Community, was appointed in 2003 to advise the Council of the City on matters pertaining to equal opportunity and access for all persons.

4.3 Community Partners and Other Leisure Providers

Agencies

Lower Trent Conservation

The majority of conservation lands within the City are under the jurisdiction of the Lower Trent Conservation Authority. This CA provides an important role in conservation efforts to help protect watersheds, and manage over 3,500 acres of natural open space, held in public trust in the Lower Trent Region, which includes the drainage basins of the lower section of the Trent River, and smaller watercourses flowing into Rice Lake, Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte. Within the City, this agency owns and manages a significant amount of conservation land including the Trenton Escarpment, Keating-Hoards, Glen Miller, Sidney Conservation Areas as well as others. These areas typically provide activities such as low-impact hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain bicycling, fishing, canoeing and picnicking for residents and visitors.

Quinte Conservation Authority

Quinte Conservation is the second Conservation Authority that extends into the City of Quinte West. This agency covers the drainage basins of the Moira, Napanee and Salmon Rivers and all of Prince Edward County. Quinte Conservation owns and manages over 30,000 acres of land ranging from small parcels at water control structures, to large tracts of over 1,000 acres, many with significant natural features. Within the City of Quinte West, Quinte Conservation owns and manages a number of natural areas with trails, including Quinte, Sidney and Hallway Conservation Areas on the east end of the City.

Community Associations

Trenval

Trenval Business Development Corporation is a federally supported, not-for-profit Community Futures Development Corporation, administered by a volunteer Board of Directors in partnership with Industry Canada to help develop and diversify the local economy through community strategic planning, business information, counselling and investment in small business. The City has received funding for Waterfront

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Trail initiatives and a feasibility study for a recreation complex through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund administered by Trenval. Further funding opportunities may be available for parks and trails initiatives through Trenval.

Quinte West Community Development Council

The recently established (2006) Quinte West Community Development Council (QWCDC) is a non-profit, charitable volunteer organization comprised of local residents, established with objectives toward City improvements. The Council, made up of 14-20 individuals, aims to improve the quality of life for both human and non-humans. Among other programs focused around community benefit in the City, its members are involved in fundraising efforts in support of amenity-related park enhancement projects, with the current initiative to develop a splashpad in Centennial Park.

Sports Coperative

The Sports Cooperative is a longstanding organization that has contributed to sports field and park development in the City for almost twenty years. Projects for which the organization has fundraised and worked with the City include: the development of fields the shelter at Bain Park, soccer field development and other large park initiatives including contributions to the splash pad and skate park.

Dog Park Committee

The Dog Park Committee was established to plan and fundraise for the development of an off-leash area in Hanna Park. The Dog Park is now completed and the Dog Park Committee maintains a role in monitoring park activities, annual clean-ups, fundraising and events.

Friends of the Trails Inc.

The Friends of the Trail Inc. is a non-profit organization, with objectives for fundraising, development and management of a multi-use, non-motorized trail along the Lower Trent Trail – a former CN rail line, extending approximately 16km from Glen Ross (near Stirling) to Trenton. The majority of the trail (approx. 12km) is owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), with several segments in private ownership by corporations, and approximately 1 km. owned by the City of Quinte West near the village of Glen Ross. The organization was incorporated in 2005.

Service Groups & Community Organizations

Service Groups in the City of Quinte West including: the Rotary Club; the Kinsmen Club of Trenton; Quinte Sunrise Service Club; the Frankford Lions Club; the Kiwanis Club of Trenton; Trenton and Frankford Legions; and the Kente Kiwanis Club. These clubs have a long history of partnering with the City on the development of parks and recreation facilities. Facilities completed by service groups include the Hanna Park Dog Park; the “Sky is the Limit” Skate Park at Centennial Park; the amphitheatre at Centennial Park; Outdoor amenities at William Bain Park; outdoor amenities at the Frankford Tourist Park and the James Street Ball field and Play Area.

In addition to the service clubs, there are a number of community organizations that are contributing significantly to park improvements, community enhancement initiatives, local events and other initiatives, including City beautification projects (i.e. floral displays, clean-up, vegetation management). These

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community organizations include the Trenton Horticultural Society, the DBIA, the Chamber of Commerce, the Frankford Business Association, and the Batawa Development Corporation to name a few.

Other Organizations

8 Wing / Canadian Forces Base Trenton

Located just outside the community of Trenton, CFB Trenton is an air base used by the air force element of the Canadian Forces. The base has a mission to provide flexible forces, search and rescue (SAR), and to have a national presence in deploying support. It is the largest employer in the City, providing work to over 2800 personnel and their families. The Base has a number of recreation programs designed for military personnel, some of which connect with municipal programs. There are a number of recreation facilities on the base including: parks, playing fields and trails on the Base, along with several indoor recreation facilities; some of which are publicly accessible to residents of the City.

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

This Catholic Board is one of the two largest school boards in Quinte West. It has a jurisdiction of over 16,000 square kilometres from Seeley's Bay in the east; Trenton in the west; Picton in the south and Whitney near Algonquin Park in the north. The Board is responsible for 3 Catholic Schools in Quinte West including St. Peter's, Sacred Heart, and St. Mary's. The school board has a long standing joint-use agreement with the City's Community and Leisure Services Department for use of the baseball fields at St. Mary's Elementary School.

Hastings and Prince Edward Public District School Board

The Public School Board covers a district of over 7,000 square kilometres bordered by Maynooth in the north; Deseronto in the east; Prince Edward County in the south and Quinte West in the west. There are over 10 secondary and elementary schools in the City. This board also has a joint-use agreement that has been in place for over 8 years, and relates to the shared use of fields.

4.4 Recent Studies and Initiatives

The City of Quinte West, its partners and community organizations have undertaken a number of studies in recent years pertaining to parks, trails and recreational activities. As a waterfront community with significant lengths of shoreline along both the Trent River and the Bay of Quinte, the focus of several of these studies has been on improvements to waterfront parkland, including environmental management and the development of linkages.

The following is a summary of the recent key initiatives and studies that have influence on the Parks Master Plan.

Studies

Quinte West Waterfront Regeneration Plan

The Quinte West Waterfront Regeneration Plan was undertaken in 2000, to guide and focus restoration of 3.5 kilometres of shoreline, extending from the Duncan McDonald Bridge on the Trent River eastward along the Bay of Quinte to Bain Park. The study lands encompass approximately 3 kilometres of shoreline owned by the City of Quinte West and including Centennial Park, Bain Park, and open space lands along the Trent River. The study was a collaborative effort involving Lower Trent Conservation, the City of Quinte West, and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, with assistance from the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and Ministry of Natural Resources.

The comprehensive Plan addresses both ecological and public use issues and includes the following detailed studies:

- Phase 1 Environmental Assessment for the former Benedict-Proctor site (north of the Dundas St. Bridge);
- Shoreline Planting Plan;
- Stormwater Management Wetland Rehabilitation Concept Plan;
- Robert Patrick Marina Enhancement Project;
- Trent River Bank Stabilization Project;
- Centennial Park Concept Plan;
- Bain Park Concept Plan.

Lower Trent Trail Management Report

In 2006, Friends of the Trail Inc. prepared a management plan for the Lower Trent Trail to direct the development, and maintenance of the trail as a public use, non-motorized recreational trail. The comprehensive plan addresses: health and economic benefits of recreational trails; long term objectives for access to privately held segments of the rail bed; public awareness of the trail and its features and attractions; and establishes standards and guidelines to direct trail development and maintenance.

Site and Market Analysis for Frankford Tourist Park

In 2001, the City commissioned the Foresight Management Group to conduct a site and market analysis for the Tourist Park located in Frankford. This site, located on the banks of the Trent River, is leased from Parks Canada. The market analysis study, designed to develop ideas on the 'best use' of the site, drew upon a local and contextual market assessment as well as the site's existing conditions. The study concluded that in light of the site's proximity to Frankford and its amenities, there was great potential for full service camping (at the time no camping was offered), as well as associated facilities. Issues related to servicing and the site's use for both events and community park functions, were cited as potential issues. The analysis suggested further consultation and study.

Detailed Route Options for the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and Route Options Study from Quinte West-Belleville

In efforts to foster a strategic approach to connecting the Waterfront Trail between Bellville and Trenton, Quinte Conservation conducted a detailed Route Options Study both along the waterfront and to the eastern end of the City. The studies includes guidelines for Trail development including design, signage, and maintenance standards, all of which meet the standards set by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, the provincial organization established to coordinate regeneration efforts and trail development along the Ontario waterfront. The preferred route set out in this Study includes a number of detailed variations, but generally proposes an extension of the trail along the Bay of Quinte from Bain Park all the way to Belleville. This Plan is dependant on landowner participation and support and also makes use of existing trails, abandoned railways, and protected lands.

Community, Cores and Vital Connections: Charting a Course for Quinte West, 2005

This was a study completed by John MacDonald Architect to assist the City with its Community Improvement initiatives in the commercial core areas of Trenton and Frankford. While the study was not specific to open space and recreation, it does refer to importance of open space and recreation opportunities in relationship to community revitalization.

Lower Trent Trail Route Options Study

Heartland Design Landscape Architects was retained by the City in March 2006 to complete a Route options Study for connecting the Lower Trent Trail to the Waterfront Trail through Trenton area. The study, which is still ongoing, aims to build on the existing trails planning work done to date, and recommend detailed routes, trail standards and costs for creating linkages among some of the larger north-south and east-west trail systems in the City.

City of Trenton Trails Master Plan

In 1994 the former City of Trenton Parks and Recreation Department conducted a Trails Master Plan to create a network of linked pedestrian and cycling trails throughout the community, connecting parks, marinas, cultural attractions, and other public open space areas. The Plan prioritized the development and enhancement of trails with high usage and noted long-term projects, and identified priorities for signage, and focal points / locations to be enhanced by Trails. It noted the potential for linking trails outside the community of Trenton to some of the nearby Rail Trails and existing municipal trails. A number of trails identified in the Plan were the Jack Lange Memorial Walkway; Mount Pelion Trails (connecting Mount Pelion to the Greenbelt); Film Street Trail (connecting Hanna Park to Mount Pelion); the Trenton Greenbelt Trail; the Hanna Park Trail System; a Trail along the Trent-Severn Waterway Property (the Murray Canal); Trails for Centennial and Bain Parks; as well as an optimal alignment for the Waterfront Trail.

Programs and Initiatives

Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Roadway Program

The City has recently developed an Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Roadway Program to assist in the clean-up and beautification of roadsides and parkland. The program provides for city parks, roadways, and greenbelt areas to be 'adopted' by local clubs, residents groups, schools, or other organizations. The volunteers plan

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and carry out environmental activities within their adopted parks, in co-operation with City staff, with the potential for specific projects to be supplemented by funds from local sponsors, such as businesses or service clubs. Some adopt-a-park initiatives include the Trenton Horticultural Society adopting Victoria and Centennial Park, and the Quinte Sunrise Service Club adopting Montrose Park, among others.

Children's Splashpad

The Quinte West Community Development Council (QWCDC) has committed to undertaking the development of a children's splash pad in Centennial Park in 2007. The QWCDC is committed to raising \$250,000 toward the development of this splashpad, which includes \$75,000 in funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and \$50,000 from the City (Public Works) for servicing costs. Future planned endeavours under consideration by the QWCDC include the development of one-on-one basketball courts and an outdoor skating rink.

Iris Awards

The Iris Awards is a program conducted by the City of Quinte West in cooperation with the Trenton Horticultural Society & Garden Club to encourage beautification of residential properties. Throughout the summer months residential properties in each ward are judged at random, with winners recognized with an Iris Awards garden marker and at a Council presentation.

GIS Interactive City Mapping

The City has recently initiated a new interactive community mapping system, using a GIS web application. Users can access City wide aerial photography (1:10,000 scale), and mapping that shows such data as: topography, lot configuration, street addresses, and official plan zoning. Specific features such as parks, local businesses, schools, churches, heritage buildings, cemeteries, woodlands, watercourses etc. are also mapped. Also included in the database are events and festivals as well as government agencies and associations.

Greenhouse Committee

The Greenhouse Committee is a non-profit organization with a focus on providing floral displays for the Kiwanis Riverside Park. The group, made of volunteers from the area, owns a local greenhouse near the Police Station in Trenton. They also provide a source of locally grown food to the community.

5.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

5.1 Survey of Voluntary Sports and Recreation Organizations

As part of the study consultation process, Quinte West staff identified 14 voluntary sport and recreation organizations that currently use municipal outdoor facilities in Quinte West parks. Representatives were contacted by e-mail or mail and invited to complete an on-line questionnaire and provide information on the types of programs and services they provide, membership trends, use of and satisfaction with outdoor facilities and amenities, and anticipated demand for additional or new facilities or services over the coming years.



Of those contacted, the following organizations responded to the online survey request:

- Sidney Slo Pitch
- Bay of Quinte Women's Soccer
- Quinte Mixed Slo Pitch

5.2 Consultation Activities

In order to better build a contextual understanding of the existing parks system, four Focus Group sessions were conducted with community representatives from volunteer, service, environmental, and recreation groups. The list of invited participants was based on the City's understanding of interested groups with involvement in parks and parks planning, as well as existing and potential partnerships. The question guides for these sessions focused on perceptions of the quality of parks, trails, outdoor facilities and amenities available, issues related to use or outstanding demand, working relationships with the City, and opportunities for partnerships and future collaboration.

The consultant team also conducted meetings with members of staff, including a roundtable with all Department Heads, as well as a more focused meeting with staff from the Planning Department.

In addition to the focus group sessions, two public meetings were held over the course of the study: to gain an understanding of public interests and issues pertaining to parks and recreation; and to review the Draft Master Plan.

5.3 Summary of Community Issues and Opportunities

The following is a summary of the issues and opportunities raised in the consultation sessions.

General

- Some participants noted a disconnect between the four amalgamated communities, and that feelings of “us and them” create a challenge in moving towards a unified City.
- There are feelings that the City’s Park and trail system is an enviable one with many unique spaces that the community and staff are proud of and has worked hard to establish. There are also a number of newly designated parks that should be considered assets.
- Horticulture displays and park aesthetics were noted as something the City was active in coordinating and supporting. A number of staff and community representatives noted the sense that these displays attract people to areas like downtown Trenton and Frankford.
- Participants noted that the City is well endowed with waterways and there needs to be greater consideration of how to provide access for swimming, canoe-launching and other water-related activities.
- It was suggested that greening and beautification of parks and open space areas should be a higher priority, and that this should extend to planting of street trees.

Parks & Trails Planning

- The City views this Plan as providing recommendations for policies to support adequate provision of parkland and trails for the future. It is seeking a strategic vision for parkland acquisition including recommendations on cash-in-lieu policies. Also looking for direction related to park design standards quality of land dedications, and developer contributions to parkland development.
- Community representatives highlighted the importance of having a strategic approach to parks classifications that address the use of parks for the local community, sports & recreation, as well as events. These all contribute to the parks experience for residents and visitors.
- There is potential for increased planning at the community level. Representatives from the community also noted the value of local involvement in planning for parks and trails. It leads to a sense of ownership, increased usage and safety. A number of suggestions were made about small trail loops in various communities that could be investigated.
- The desire to connect some of the smaller trail systems together, providing support for cycling as alternative transportation and supporting year round activities in parks & trails was noted.
- Participants at the public meetings indicated a desire to include motorized recreation vehicles such as ATVs in planning of the Quinte West trails, to support an inter-regional system. It was noted, however, that through previous consultation and Council ruling, that on-road use and use of the rail-trails for ATVs was not presently supported, or being planned for.

Amenities & Park Design

- A lack of washrooms in parks was identified as an issue for park user groups. In a large community (City) park such as Centennial in Trenton, there is only one set of permanent washrooms, and those are accessible only to boaters at the nearby marina.
- There is a feeling that some parks are lacking in amenities such as benches and clear wayfinding signage. This may be a problem considering the demographics of the community indicate an older population. The Department has a program of sponsorship to assist in the provision of new park furnishings, lighting and trees and is planning new parks signage to be consistent with City marketing.
- A number of community representatives noted need for and opportunities to expand parking in parks, and improve lighting. Local authorities suggest considering accessibility for safety and emergency vehicles in all parks and trail design and standards.
- Playground and parking accessibility standards were also noted as something that should be taken into consideration.
- There is a perception that the quality of the active playing fields in the City of Quinte West lags behind that of other comparable municipalities.
- There appears to be growing participation in soccer locally, and outstanding demand for soccer pitches at the present time.
- It was requested that consideration be given to providing a splash-pad and other specialized amenities, such as found in Trenton, in the north areas of the City.
- Although the waterfront facilities were not part of the scope of work, mention was made about needed improvements to the marina, channel wall in Centennial Park, and to the launch ramps.

Maintenance & Implementation

- There is an overall perception that maintenance of active playing fields and parks in general could be vastly improved. There was recognition that existing staff are doing a good job with the resources available to them, but that more resources (money and staff) are required to make the necessary improvements and to maintain fields to an acceptable level.
- There are good working relationships between the departments involved in Parks maintenance. There is often cost-sharing between the Public Works when Community & Leisure Services finds themselves short on resources for operational activities. Ongoing maintenance costs for parks need to be taken into consideration when developing/upgrading parks.
- Staff and representatives of local organizations noted the need for a more focused implementation strategy, with a list of priorities. Some questioned the decision to take on certain projects in light of other priorities and requests.
- There were suggestions from the Community to examine how to better use existing facilities before building new ones.

Public Safety

- Staff and community representatives noted issues with vandalism in parks, most often related to damage to washroom structures in Centennial Park (both permanent and portable).
- Local authorities noted the benefit of having a local skate park for youth to gather and recreate at. This not only decreases loitering in the downtown area, but provides authorities accessibility to a specific location to connect with youth.
- Some representatives of the community noted a lack of proper signage along trails such as the Trenton Escarpment Area, accessible through Hanna Park. (Note: land ownership along the escarpment is fragmented). There is a feeling of remoteness in this woodland and some expressed concern over using these trails alone for fear of getting lost or, other safety related issues.

Education & Promotion

- A number of community representatives and members of staff expressed concern over the lack of parks and trail promotion in the City. Focus group participants noted a problem in communication of what amenities are offered and where.
- There are a number of popular park events throughout the year and parks that should be promoted. There is a City-produced community guide that provides useful general information about the City, and the Chamber of Commerce is also very active in promoting events to visitors as well as residents, and provides information of parks and trails in the City. Economic Development can also contribute further to marketing efforts.
- Community members noted that areas suitable for visitation should be highlighted. There is potential for innovative marketing/tourism strategies that utilize parks and nature areas, such as the geo-cacheing program which is becoming a popular activity.

Community Involvement & Collaboration with the City

- There has been a long history and successful involvement and support for Parks provided through community service groups such as the Kiwanis Club, Kinsmen Club, Rotary Club, Kente Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Sports Cooperative, Quinte Sunrise Rotary Club, and Quinte West Community Development Council. These groups are often involved in fundraising for capital projects for parks and amenities.
- Several community organizations are currently contributing to City beautification projects (floral displays, clean-up, vegetation management), including the Trenton Horticultural Society, the DBIA, the Chamber of Commerce, Frankford Business Association, and Friends of the Trail Inc. All expressed interest in continuing their work the city parks and open space system.
- Friends of the Trail Inc. and its partners are committed to developing and managing the Lower Trent Trail, a former rail-trail, which will benefit several local communities, and serve city and regional interests.
- There are existing joint-use agreements between the school boards and the City. These are reciprocal use agreements that have been successful so far. The school board noted that because the community is not growing, they are not planning for future schools in this area, which limits opportunities for collaboration in parks planning and development. City staff noted that the school boards have constructed expansions at several schools over the past ten years to accommodate projected growth –

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school boards do not actively participate in planning like they use too, and may unaware at this time of the future plans of the community and the potential growth.

- The Representative from the Hastings & Prince Edward School Board noted the potential for trail connections through the Bayside (elementary & secondary) School Complex property. This property has been naturalized, and has significant historical ties to local industries and the community.
- Principals at schools also noted the opportunity for connections in programming and education for school students. They are interested in contributing to maintenance of trails and possibly the Adopt-A-Trail program. The Horticultural Society also noted potential connections with students who require community service hours.
- There is opportunity for collaboration between the Bata Development Corporation and the City in terms of additional parkland, and the provision of uses such as mountain biking, cross country skiing, etc.
- There are opportunities for future partnerships with the 8 Wing/Canadian Forces Base Trenton in the area of active sports facilities.
- Community members noted the potential development of a GeoCentre in Quinte West to promote the area's natural and geological history. This is a multi-ministry initiative involving the province and the Trentval Business Development Corporation. The planned location would be along the Trent River, connecting into the local parks and trails system and serving local educational as well as tourism purposes.



6.0 OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community demographics, participation trends and best practices, and initial consultation with staff, facility users, and community groups provides the context for conducting an assessment of the outdoor facilities available to Quinte West residents for their sport and recreation needs and interests. Using facility inventory information supplied by staff, this section provides a high-level analysis undertaken to identify deficiencies in the provision of outdoor facilities and services.

The needs assessment examines both the quantity and characteristics of the facilities, as well as their consistency with trends and any outstanding demand reported by scheduling staff, facility user groups, or through consultations. This analysis deals primarily with facilities and attractions that are owned by the City, or in which the City is involved in some way as a partner. *Note that for projecting facilities needs, the 'term of the Plan' used was 10 years, with some forward projecting beyond this timeframe*, while the parks assessment reviewed population growth over a twenty year period.

The analysis is divided into two sections: Scheduled Facilities (ball diamonds and soccer pitches), and Unscheduled Facilities (all other outdoor facilities found in City parkland). **Appendix B** includes a detailed inventory of outdoor recreation facilities available to residents of Quinte West, based on information provided by City staff.

6.1 Scheduled Facilities

The City of Quinte West schedules ball diamonds and soccer pitches that are rented by volunteer sports organizations. The majority of these facilities are municipally-owned, however a few are owned by local Boards of Education. In one instance, the municipality provides the facility on land that is leased from a private owner.

The assessment of scheduled facilities considers a number of factors, including:

- **Number of Facilities** includes only those facilities that are scheduled by the City of Quinte West and used by volunteer sports organizations.
- **Average Utilization Levels** were established based on the current use of facilities that are scheduled. City of Quinte West staff supplied current utilization data. A rating of **AC** (at capacity) indicates that, on average, 90% of prime time hours are utilized for the facility type. A rating of **NC** (near capacity) means that between 70-90% of prime time hours are utilized. Finally, a rating of **UC** (under capacity) suggests that fewer than 70% of all prime time hours are utilized.
- **Participation Trends** are based on an understanding of Provincial trends, but also considering local participation, local leadership, and socio-demographic factors.
- **Service Ratio** for the City as a whole, expressed as one facility per number of residents. The 2005 population figure for the City (42,800) was used to calculate each ratio.
- **Comparable Service Ratios** have been identified for some types of facilities for similar-sized municipalities in Ontario. These service ratios, where available, are an average from municipalities

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surveyed with between 10,000 and 50,000 residents³³. These ratios represent per capita supply levels based on 2005 data.

Factors of supply and outstanding demand are documented, and an assessment is conducted for each facility category. Where applicable, recommendations are made. The municipality provided a distinction between Class “A”, “B”, and “C” facilities, whereby Class “A” facilities refer to premier facilities that are lit and prepared before each rental, Class “B” refers to facilities that may have lights available, but are not serviced or lined every day, and Class “C” refers to very basic unlit facilities that are not serviced or lined regularly and receive only occasional maintenance.

Ball Diamonds

Table 6.1: Supply of Ball Diamonds

Facility	Number of Facilities*	Average Utilization	Participation Trends	Service Ratio (2005 pop.)	Comparable Service Ratio (10,000-50,000 pop.)
Lit Ball Diamonds	6	AC	↔ In short-term for adults, ↔ for children and youth**	1:2,853 for all diamonds	1:2,045
Unlit Ball Diamonds	9	NC	↘ over long term as population ages		

*Does not include one original softball diamond currently under construction, being upgraded to accommodate hardball. First phase will be open 2008, 2nd phase will involve lighting.

**Provincial trends show declining participation in minor ball, however local leadership and participation numbers show stable demand over the term of the Plan.

Supply Factors

- The inventory of ball diamonds that are scheduled by the City includes 3 Class “A” lit ball diamonds, 3 Class “B” lit ball diamonds, and 9 additional unlit diamonds, one of which is a Class “B” facility. The remainder are Class “C” facilities. The City is currently upgrading one softball diamonds to hardball specifications, which will be open for the 2008 season. The second phase will include lighting.
- The overall service ratio for ball diamonds is slightly lower than for other similar sized municipalities; however the ratio of lit to unlit diamonds was higher for Quinte West (40%) than for other municipalities (29%).
- Only the lit diamonds are used to capacity during prime time. Unlit diamonds generally experience below capacity use.

³³ dmA Planning & Management Services (2006). Municipal Recreation Facility Inventory Study. Based on 36 municipalities surveyed with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 residents.



Demand Factors

- National and provincial minor baseball participation trends indicate declining participation for baseball, however City staff identified a strong (in terms of leadership and participation) local youth baseball league, and are accommodating their demands for suitable facilities by upgrading a former softball diamond to regulation baseball standards. Softball/slow-pitch participation trends suggest demand will remain stable at least over the next 10 years as these activities remain popular with adults.
- Mid-way during the study process, the QWABA indicated a need for better baseball facilities to accommodate a youth Rep league, and regional/Provincial tournaments. Such a facility would require: a baseball complex, with a minimum of 3 diamonds, changerooms, refreshment booth and adequate parking. As an interim measure upgrades to the diamond at Bain Park were suggested by the QWBA including: expanding the field to 300', lighting improvements and installation of a pitcher's mound.
- Two slo-pitch leagues responded to the user group survey. Both have experienced stable membership for at least the last 2 seasons. One predicts a slight increase in the future, whereas the other feels membership will remain stable. Neither of the groups requires additional time at any of the facilities they use.
- One group responding to the survey felt the maintenance of diamonds could be improved, particularly in the area of drainage. Another group felt that in general, upgrades are required in the area of parking, washrooms, canteens, and landscaping, and that these improvements are needed to accommodate more tournaments.
- One group noted that the cost to rent diamonds may have been prohibitive for some teams, however they also noted that they would be interested in paying higher fees to improve the quality of existing facilities they use.
- Focus group participants felt that the maintenance of existing facilities could be improved, particularly in terms of drainage, leveling, etc. Participants also identified the need to improve ancillary facilities to accommodate tournament play.

Assessment

The City of Quinte West's existing supply of ball diamonds, in addition to the planned upgrade of one facility to hardball specifications, will meet the community's needs over the next 10 years. Existing facilities are not used to capacity and trends, local participation patterns, and reported demand by user groups all indicate future demand can likely be accommodated. The exception to this is the request by the QWABA to develop a tournament level baseball complex.

Although not intended to provide a tournament facility, at the time of writing, the City was proceeding with the upgrading of the ball diamond at Montrose Park to meet the group's immediate needs. Other opportunities to meet facilities demand were also being sought, including: securing permits with the Hastings County Board of Education for use of school diamonds, negotiating with a private owner to use Owl's Field, recommending the QWABA to consult directly with the Batawa Community Development Council regarding opportunities with Bata land holdings, and assisting with the group's efforts to secure a Trillium grant for their organization.

This approach is appropriate as, in the consultants' experience, a tournament complex of hardball diamonds capable of hosting OBAS and EOBA tournaments is beyond what would be required for community use – and would represent a higher level of service than should typically be provided by a community recreation department. In addition to expanding the level of play available, economic development and tourism are often objectives for these types of facilities, and as such funding often comes from these other departments and outside sources (corporate partnerships, fundraising, etc) in municipalities pursuing these initiatives.

However, user groups attending the focus group sessions and responding to the survey noted many deficiencies with existing ball diamonds that they use. A number of those in use are not regulation size and are not suitable for adult/older youth baseball, or require upgrading/improvement to eliminate safety hazards, and in at least one case, replacement is likely warranted. Since the quality of diamonds is a factor in meeting demand, it is recommended that the City, in consultation with the local sports groups, should conduct an audit of all ball diamonds currently scheduled by the municipality to determine priorities for upgrading/improvement or replacement to meet the needs of users. In addition, by the medium term of the Plan, the City should re-assess interest in, and demand for hardball diamonds, and work collaboratively with the groups involved to identify and meet their facility needs.

Recommendation 6.1: *The City will review the need for additional ball diamonds over the term of the Plan.*

Recommendation 6.2: *In co-operation with the voluntary sports groups and local sports associations, the City of Quinte West should conduct an audit of all ball diamonds currently scheduled by the municipality, to determine priorities for upgrading/improvement or replacement, to eliminate safety hazards, and to identify opportunities to improve tournament play. The City should work with local sports associations and user groups to identify improvement needs, and opportunities for these voluntary organizations to assist with fundraising, etc.*

Recommendation 6.3: *By the medium term of this plan, the City should re-assess interest in and demand for baseball diamonds, and work with the groups involved to continue to meet their facility needs. Anything beyond what would be required for community use should be supported by funding from other sources, e.g. if tournament level facilities are considered, they should be supported by economic development and tourism objectives for the municipality.*

Soccer Pitches

Table 6.2: Supply of Soccer Pitches

Facility	Number of Facilities	Average Utilization	Participation Trends	Service Ratio (2005 pop.)	Comparable Service Ratio (10,000-50,000 pop.)
Lit Soccer Pitches	1	AC	↑ for children and youth, ↗ for women, adults	1:2,518 for all soccer pitches	1:3,002
Unlit Soccer Pitches*	15	NC-AC			

* Includes one facility not available during 2006 season due to maintenance.

Supply Factors

- The inventory of soccer pitches that are scheduled by the City includes 1 Class “A” premium, lit soccer pitch, 1 Class “B” regulation unlit soccer pitches, and 15 additional unlit pitches, three of which are Class “B” facilities, the remainder are Class “C” facilities.
- The overall service ratio for soccer pitches is slightly higher than for other similar sized municipalities, yet the percentage of lit fields is lower for Quinte West (6%) than for similar-sized municipalities (15%).
- The majority of pitches scheduled by the municipality are used to capacity during prime time. Where fields are not used to capacity, users identified problems associated with over-use and poor maintenance.

Demand Factors

- Nationally, provincially and locally, soccer participation is increasing. This trend is expected to continue during the period of the Parks Master Plan.
- Two soccer clubs responded to the user group survey. These two groups had a total of 1,640 participants in 2005. Both show increasing participation over the past 5 years, and both anticipate that participation numbers will continue to increase over the next 5 years. They cite population growth and interest in soccer as the primary reasons for these increases.
- Both groups responding to the survey maintained waiting lists of participants wishing to participate. In total, 40 potential participants were on these waiting lists.

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- One group indicated that they require 3 additional hours per week on Class “B” soccer pitches. The second group declined to respond to the question, however during the focus group session, they indicated they required the equivalent of one additional full-sized soccer pitch for the upcoming season, just to meet growing participation numbers and resulting outstanding demand.
- When asked on the survey and during the focus group sessions to identify inadequacies with existing soccer pitches, groups identified the following problems: field conditions are generally very poor – uneven playing surfaces, poor grass conditions due to lack of watering; parking is a serious issue, particularly at Bain Park when ball diamonds are also used, lack of lighting in Bain Park parking lot is a safety issue; bleachers at Centennial Park are insufficient to meet seating demands; at least 1 field at Centennial Park not available for use due to poor field condition; general sentiment that quality of soccer pitches is much worse than in neighbouring municipalities or in municipalities of a similar size.
- Staff have noted that most of the pitches in question were not developed as soccer fields per se, to any contemporary standard (i.e. with sub-drainage, improved soil mix). Existing open space was utilized to meet increasing demand, with goal posts, and line markings installed.
- Groups attending focus group sessions acknowledged that municipal staff responsible for field maintenance are responsive to issues and do the best job they can with the resources available, but that more resources are likely required to bring fields up to acceptable standards.

Assessment

Population growth, coupled with rising participation numbers and indications of outstanding demand warrant an improvement in the supply of soccer pitches at the present time. Because the outstanding demand is primarily for minor soccer, options to increase supply by lighting existing fields would not necessarily meet the needs of younger players (78% of participants registered in the Quinte West Minor Soccer Association are under 12 years of age). Provision of one additional full-size field in the immediate term is recommended, recognizing that the minor soccer league using this field may divide it into 2 junior or 4 mini pitches for simultaneous play.

Results of the survey of volunteer sports groups and the focus group discussions indicate that adding more soccer pitches to the current inventory will not be sufficient to improve the current level of supply. Groups noted many instances of inadequate field conditions caused by lack of routine maintenance, safety concerns, etc. which resulted in fields being unavailable for regular play. In addition to providing one additional full sized soccer pitch immediately, the City, in cooperation with the organized soccer clubs, should undertake an audit of all scheduled fields to determine priorities for upgrading/improvement, and to determined requirements for routine maintenance, resting, etc. It is anticipated that resources dedicated to field maintenance will need to be increased in the future.

A revised service level for soccer pitches of 1:2,300 (full-size, unlit equivalent) is recommended over the next 10 years. Sustained demand is anticipated over the next 10 years, therefore application of this revised service ratio to population growth results in a need for at least the equivalent of two additional full-sized soccer pitches over the life of this plan³⁴, in addition to the one recommended above. Results of the focus

³⁴ Recognizing, of course that for minor league play, each of these may be divided up into 2 junior or 4 mini fields.

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group sessions indicate there may be opportunities to develop recommended facilities in partnership with others. Specifically, a representative from the Trenton CFB indicated that the Base may be interested in pursuing a partnership with the City around sportsfield development, since a number of their sportsfields are being displaced due to the construction of residences for Base members.

Recommendation 6.4: *To meet outstanding demand for soccer pitches, the City of Quinte West should develop the equivalent of one additional full-size soccer pitch (Class “B”) immediately (in progress at Centennial Park).*

Recommendation 6.5: *In cooperation with the organized soccer clubs, the City should undertake an audit of all scheduled fields to determine priorities for upgrading/improvement, to eliminate safety hazards, improve the quality of the fields to contemporary standards, and to identify requirements for adequate maintenance, resting periods, etc. It is anticipated that increased resources will need to be dedicated to field maintenance in the future.*

Recommendation 6.6: *Based on a revised ratio of supply, the equivalent of 2 additional full-sized soccer pitches will be required to meet population-based demand over the next 10 years. Opportunities to develop the required facilities in partnership with others should be explored.*



Playing Fields to Accommodate Emerging Interests

Demand and Supply Factors

The existing inventory of outdoor sports fields and the existing user groups in Quinte West reflect traditional Ontario sports – primarily ball and soccer. Demand for other outdoor sports fields was not identified, and may not emerge over the next 10 years. The potential for emerging new interests, however, should be anticipated over the long term for the following reasons:

- Broader trends suggest interests and participation are shifting to field sports outside the historically popular activities of ball, soccer, and football. Rugby, field hockey, field lacrosse and Ultimate frisbee are gaining momentum across Ontario;³⁵
- Many GTA communities experiencing an influx of new Canadians are experiencing significant demands for less traditional sports, including cricket. Over the long term, this demand may affect communities beyond the GTA.

Assessment

While demands for facilities to accommodate these emerging field sports have not yet been identified in Quinte West, the City's long-range plans for playing fields should consider them. In other municipalities, multi-purpose fields have been used to accommodate a variety of activities including soccer, football, field hockey, rugby and, more recently, Ultimate frisbee. Field dimensions and layout meet requirements for all activities being accommodated, and structures such as goal posts and nets are incorporated so as not to present obstructions. In some municipalities experiencing demand for cricket, these needs have been met by developing overlapping cricket/soccer fields. Since peak demand times for soccer typically differs from peak demand for cricket, these overlapping field templates work well.

Overuse, and wear related to the different traffic patterns of various sports, is of particular concern in the provision of multi-purpose fields. To some extent, these issues can be addressed through scheduling procedures that incorporate adequate rest periods. These are issues that the municipality may have to address in the future.

Recommendation 6.7: *The City should anticipate the need for multi-purpose playing fields to accommodate emerging interests beyond the term of the Plan.*

Recommendation 6.8: *The City should plan for at least two multi-purpose fields, located with other soccer pitches in a City-serving park, with access to the appropriate ancillary features and amenities. These fields may not be developed until after the period of this Plan, however space should be set aside now to ensure that future needs can be accommodated.*

³⁵ Annual participation report of the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association, as published in the Toronto Star. February 1, 2006. p D8.

6.2 Unscheduled Facilities

Unscheduled facilities are all those facilities that are available to Quinte West residents that residents can use on their own time, at a level of participation that they choose. In Quinte West, the inventory includes a municipal golf course, a leash-free zone/dog park, natural outdoor ice rinks, outdoor multi-purpose courts, sand volleyball courts, a skate park, a splash pad (planned), tennis courts, walking trails, marinas and boat launches. The sections which follow discuss unscheduled facilities available in the City in terms of supply and demand, and, where applicable, needs for the future: golf courses, leash-free zone/dog parks, natural outdoor ice rinks, outdoor multi-purpose courts, sand volleyball courts, skate parks, splash pads, and tennis courts.

Golf Courses

Supply Factors

The Frankford Golf Course is a 9 hole, par 3 golf course and Club House operated by the municipality for members and general public use. Youth lessons and leagues are also available through a third-party operator at the course. Compared to other similar-sized municipalities, only 33% provide a golf course, and of those, most provide one course.

Demand Factors

National and Provincial trends show rising participation in golf. Studies indicate that the avid golfers are more likely to be male, between 18 and 64 years of age, and with higher income levels than the Provincial average. Sustained demand for golf can be anticipated in Quinte West over the life of this Plan. The consultation activities yielded no outstanding demand for golf, and staff have indicated that the existing 9 hole course can accommodate greater levels of use.

Assessment

The Frankford Golf Course will continue to meet community demand for reasonably priced, consistent quality golf opportunities over the life of this Plan. This facility provides opportunities for entry-level players and, with the supply of private courses in the area, will adequately meet community needs.

Dog Leash-Free Zones

Supply Factors

Through the efforts of a local community group (the QWCDC), a dog leash-free zone was established in Hannah Park. Experience with leash-free zones is relatively new and there is limited data on trends or provision levels, although many municipalities are now incorporating these zones in existing and new parks on a trial basis.

Demand Factors

It is too early to determine an adequate provision level for dog parks/leash-free zones in Quinte West. This ultimately depends on the number of dogs on a community-by-community basis, and a sufficient level of interest among local dog owners. The consultation results yielded no outstanding demand for additional

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leash-free zones, although there were comments related to the need for better maintenance and signage of the trails through Hannah Park, and more benches and shade structures in the park.

Assessment

The supply of leash-free zones/dog parks available to residents of the City of Quinte West should be based on expressed community demand and the experience at Hannah Park. Leash free zones are often only provided if community volunteers play a role in the development and management of the facilities and this model seems to be appropriate in Quinte West. Improved signage, more benches and shade structures could be implemented through partnerships with community groups.

Natural Outdoor Ice Rinks

Supply Factors

There are 2 seasonal, natural outdoor ice rinks available to residents of Quinte West. Compared to other similar-sized municipalities, 56% provided outdoor ice rinks, with most providing an average of 4.

Demand Factors

There was no outstanding demand for natural outdoor ice rinks recorded through the consultation process. The current model of community involvement in the maintenance of natural outdoor ice surfaces appears to be meeting local needs. Trends support increasing participation in unscheduled activities, such as recreational skating.

Assessment

At least one non-profit group (QWDC) has indicated an interest in supporting the development of outdoor ice surfaces for community use. Given trends supporting year-round active living, increasing participation in unscheduled activities, and probable long term trends towards milder winters which limit the potential for informal flooding of areas for natural surface ice, the City may wish to consider the feasibility of developing an outdoor artificial ice surface as a winter destination. If considered feasible, fundraising assistance should be sought from local community groups and service clubs.

Outdoor Multi-Purpose Courts

Supply Factors

There are 3 multi-purpose outdoor courts available to Quinte West residents. Two of these are provided by the municipality, and one is on School Board property. Only 22% of similar sized municipalities provided multi-purpose outdoor courts, and of those, the average number provided was 2.

Demand Factors

Multi-purpose outdoor courts are a youth-oriented facility, attracting a similar market to skateboard parks and for the same reasons. Aside from basketball, the paved surface of these multi-purpose courts provides children, youth, and families with opportunities for other types of unstructured play including ½ court tennis, ball hockey, in-line skating, in-line hockey, and beginner skateboarding. Trends show increasing participation in basketball and other outdoor court activities among youth, however a City-wide standard of

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supply is not recommended. The development of new multi-purpose courts should be guided by an understanding of community demographics. New subdivisions are more likely to have higher numbers of children and youth than older, more established neighbourhoods and rural areas, therefore multi-purpose courts should only be considered for new subdivisions or areas with higher numbers of children and youth. Some municipalities plan for multi-purpose courts on the basis of a confirmed youth population: i.e., 1 court for 1,500 youths aged 10 to 15. Half court basketball/multi-purpose courts are better suited to neighbourhood-level parkland, and often attract younger participants within walking distance. Full court basketball/multi-purpose courts are better suited to community or City parkland where they can be sufficiently buffered from residential neighbourhoods, since they attract the older teens and there are often issues with late night use and noise. In some communities, full court facilities are not provided because they attract high levels of extended use and undesirable behaviour.

Assessment

In new subdivisions, the City should monitor community demographics to determine potential demand for outdoor multi-purpose courts. Where warranted, and with the assistance of community groups, neighbourhood associations, and service clubs, multi-purpose courts should be developed to serve the youth market. At least one not for profit association (QWCDC) has indicated an interest in assisting with the development of outdoor multi-purpose courts in the Quinte West area.

Recommendation 6.9: Monitor community demographics, and where the youth market is confirmed, provide outdoor multi-purpose courts (half or full courts, depending on the market and site), with fundraising assistance from local community associations and service clubs.

Sand Volleyball Courts

Supply Factors

There are two sand volleyball courts in Quinte West –provided at the Tourist Park in Frankford Ward. The Tourist Park courts are used primarily for community and special events. Sand volleyball courts are not among the facilities that are traditionally included in municipal facility inventories. Compared to similar sized municipalities, 53% provided outdoor volleyball courts (mostly sand courts), and of those that did, the average number provided was 3 courts. Municipalities in Eastern Ontario were more likely than others to provide sand volleyball courts.

Demand Factors

Sand volleyball attracts participants between the ages of 15 to 34, and is most commonly played at the recreational level. Although it is a sport that is growing in popularity across Ontario, participation statistics are not readily available because there are very few organized leagues, and most play is recreational or pick-up. There was no outstanding demand for sand volleyball courts recorded during the consultation activities, however suggestions have been made by residents that parks should provide more local-serving facilities, with volleyball courts suggested as possible additions, along with tennis and multi-purpose courts.

Assessment

There appear to be sufficient sand volleyball courts to meet community demand over the life of this Plan, however this should be reviewed .

Recommendation 6.10: *No sand volleyball courts are anticipated over the life of this Plan to meet population projections, however this should be reviewed through community consultation as new parks are developed or as existing parks are upgraded.*

Skate Park

Supply Factors

The recently opened Kinsmen “Sky is the Limit Skate Park” in Centennial Park is a 16,000 sq. ft. permanent outdoor skate park, created by the Quinte West Skate Park Task Force. Compared to other similar sized municipalities, 81% provided skateboard facilities, and those that did provided only one. With the opening of the Kinsmen Skate Park, the City is well-supplied with skateboard facilities at the present time.



Demand Factors

Trends suggest continued growth in skateboarding participation, since the activity offers the preferred type of involvement for youth aged 10-17: unstructured and social, providing a desired element of risk, and resulting in a loose affiliation to a group. Although there was no outstanding demand for skateboard facilities recorded during the consultation process, many participants noted that the new facility offers local youth with an appropriate alternative to less desirable activities.

Assessment

The recently opened Kinsmen “Sky is the Limit Skate Park” will continue to meet the demand for skateboarding among the youth population over the life of this Plan.

Recommendation 6.11: *The new skatepark will continue to meet demand for skateboarding over the life of this Plan.*

Splash Pad

Supply Factors

Through a committed fundraising effort, a local community group recently agreed to fund a \$250,000 splash pad for community use at the Centennial Park location. Compared to other similar sized municipalities, only 22% provided splash pad facilities, and those that did provided only one. Larger municipalities offering splash/spray pads on a community basis typically apply a ratio of 1 splash pad per 50,000 residents. While splash pads are sometimes provided at the neighbourhood level, these tend to be very modest facilities with limited appeal. We support the development of major, community serving splash pads such as that proposed at Centennial Park.

Demand Factors

An emerging trend across the Province has seen the decommissioning of outdoor pools and traditional wading pools and replacement with spray/splash pad facilities. These spray/splash pads are being developed to provide summer cooling relief and unstructured waterplay opportunities to children, youth, and families. Because splash/spray pads have no standing water, they are considered safer, have less maintenance and staffing requirements, have much lower operating costs, and are typically attractive to a wider range of users (2-16 years, depending on the features). With the planned opening of the Centennial Park Splash Pad, the City of Quinte West is well ahead of many similar-sized municipalities in responding to this trend.

Assessment

With the opening of the Centennial Park Splash Pad, the City will be well supplied with Splash Pad facilities over the life of this Plan.

Recommendation 6.12: *With the opening of the Centennial Park Splash Pad, the City will be well-supplied with outdoor waterplay facilities for the term of this Plan.*

Tennis Courts

Supply Factors

A total of 5 tennis courts are available to residents of Quinte West, for a service ratio of 1:8,560, which is lower than the average service ratio for similar sized municipalities (1:3,682). Despite this, the consultation results yielded no outstanding demand for tennis courts, and staff indicated that the existing courts are typically used below capacity. The public courts at Hannah Park and Tucker's Corners were recently upgraded.

Demand Factors

The popularity of tennis peaked in the late 1980s and participation has been declining slowly since that time. Tennis is also experiencing a slight resurgence in the Greater Toronto Area due to growing numbers of immigrants and the popularity of the sport in their countries of origin, however these trends are unlikely to affect Quinte West over the life of this Plan.

Assessment

Given no outstanding demand for tennis and trends showing declining participation over time, no new tennis courts are recommended over the life of this Plan. In the future, the municipality should only consider development of new tennis courts or upgrading of existing courts if a local tennis club shows a willingness to: a) develop a league that maximize use of the facility and b) commit to fundraising at least half the capital cost of the facility or upgrade as well as ongoing contributions to one-time maintenance item costs (i.e., net replacement, resurfacing, etc.).

Recommendation 6.13: It is anticipated that *the current supply of tennis courts will continue to meet demand for tennis over the life of this Plan, however this should be reviewed through community consultation as new parks are developed and existing parks upgraded.*

Marine / Waterfront Facilities

Supply Factors

There are two Public Marinas and two Private Marinas in the City. In addition there are seven launch ramps throughout the City, located on the major waterways and at Oak Lake. There are no formal swimming areas on the Bay of Quinte waterfront, although there is a swimming beach at Frankford Tourist Park on the Trent River, and Oak Park has open space areas that are used informally for water access, as well as a private beach area.



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Fraser Park Marina: a 20 slip public marina for overnight, transient docking with hydro hook-ups, fuel, 24 hour security, showers, washrooms and boat launch.

Robert Patrick Marina: 30 slip seasonal use marina, with hydro hook-ups, canteen / marina office, showers/washrooms (in separate, exclusive-use building), boat launch, and limited transient mooring. Owned by the City and operated by contract to private operator.

Boat Launches: there are 7 launch ramp areas throughout the City, as follows:

<p><i>Trenton Ward</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiwanis Park – 2 ramps – 3 sets of docks • Centennial Park Arena Site – 1 ramp, 2 sets of docks • Trenton Green Belt – 1 ramp • Dufferin Road Allowance – 1 ramp 	<p><i>Murray Ward</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Portage Road – 1 ramp
<p><i>Sidney Ward:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Lake – 1 ramp 	<p><i>Frankford Ward</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frankford Tourist Park – 1 ramp, 1 set of docks

Demand Factors

It was determined at the outset of the study that the waterfront and marine facilities were not part of the study scope of work, as they required a focused evaluation. However, public consultation revealed that there is an interest in improving access to the waterways for swimming, canoe launching, fishing, and boating, and it was suggested by several that a public beach be developed on the Bay of Quinte. Consultation and review of background documents also revealed that there are historic issues with the marina facilities, in particular the condition of the concrete channel wall at the Marina in Centennial Park, and problems with maintaining water depths.

Assessment

The City is well endowed with waterfront lands, including major waterways: the Bay of Quinte, the Trent River, the Murray Canal, as well as smaller recreational water bodies such as Oak Lake. Given the popularity of activities such as boating and fishing, and Quinte West’s premier waterfront location, it will likely be important for residents and visitors of Quinte West to continue to have access to marinas and boat launches. However, a more detailed assessment of market demand, feasibility, and operations would be needed to determine the adequacy of the number, size and location of these types of facilities, and whether they should be municipally or privately run.

Informal access to the water for swimming, fishing, and canoeing are recreational activities that will continue to be in demand in a waterfront community. There are opportunities for these activities already in locations throughout the City, and year-round recreational swimming will be available at the new aquatic centre. With the development of the splash-pad in Centennial Park, the City has also provided opportunities for water-play and cooling. With current regulations the development of a formal beach area would be difficult, and water quality is frequently of concern along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Other water access opportunities such as swimming or fishing docks, or hand-launch areas could be considered in appropriate locations, providing safety concerns could be met, and demand warrants the maintenance considerations.

Recommendation 6.14: *As waterfront parks are upgraded and new open space areas are developed, the City should continue to consider on a site specific basis how to improve, informal, safe water access for swimming, fishing, and hand-launching of small boats such as canoes and kayaks.*



Special Facilities

The City has a number of specialized facilities within its parks and open space system. These types of facilities are not typically assessed quantitatively, but provide additional, desirable, amenities for the community, and are noted here as part of the inventory of facilities.

Amphitheatre: a seasonal facility with 40'x60' covered stage, outdoor spectator capacity of 7,000; washrooms, showers and rehearsal space, located at Centennial Park. Hosts weekly summer concerts, and bookable for corporate / community events and picnics.

Lawn Bowling Club: located in Centennial Park and owned/managed by the Trenton Lawn Bowling Club

Frankford Tourist Park: day-use picnic area, beach, and campground, including RVs, with electrical hook-ups, water and washrooms

7.0 PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Existing Parks and Open Space System

The City of Quinte West offers a diversity of parkland with opportunities for a range of active and passive recreation activities. The City's extensive frontage on the Bay of Quinte and the Trent River provides for an excellent waterfront greenspace system, which is enhanced by the Parks Canada lands along the Trent Severn Waterway and the Murray Canal, as well as Conservation Lands and other natural heritage features and areas. The Trenton and Frankford waterfronts have received a great deal of attention in recent years with respect to parks development, with both recreational and ecological interests being considered and implemented through shoreline, trails and facilities improvement projects – most notably in Centennial Park, Bain Park and the Frankford Tourist Park.



The waterfront parkland and extensive rail-trails in the area have provided for an impressive trails system for a municipality of this size. Significant progress has been made on both the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and the Lower Trent Trail, toward linking the communities of Quinte West. Other significant improvements include trail development in Frankford Tourist Park; and the purchase of the rail-line, and establishment as a trail corridor, from Dufferin Street to Prince Edward County. Recently, the City also received a Landscape Ontario Award for the redevelopment, beautification and maintenance of Fraser Park in Trenton. This initiative involved a \$200,000 grant from Trenton Cold Storage, and will contribute significantly to the tourism at the waterfront and near the marina.

In addition to the waterfront and trails initiatives, the City has undertaken a number of other parks improvement projects, in Trenton, Frankford and Murray wards, many in collaboration with community organizations. A playground replacement project was implemented to bring all playground equipment in

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Quinte West parks to current CSA standards. Other initiatives include: an off-leash dog park, a permanent state-of-the-art skatepark, lookout and stairs at Mount Pelion, redevelopment of the Frankford Tourist Park, and park beautification projects. Plans and fundraising are underway for the development of a new, large children's splashpad in Centennial Park, as a collaborative effort with the Quinte West Community Development Council. The Community and Leisure Services Department also has several programs underway to enhance parkland and open space in the City including the establishment of an Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Roadway program, and a sponsorship program for park furnishings, light standards and trees.

Quinte West's parks host special events throughout the year, most notably Centennial Park, which is home to several large festivals. The events occupy a large percentage of the site, necessitating closure of portions of the park.



The following is a summary of key events held in Quinte West parks:

- Country Music Reunion and Jamboree – Centennial Park
- Ride for Sight – Centennial Park
- BMW Rally– Centennial Park
- CANATS– Centennial Park
- Christmas Fantasy – light display in Frankford Tourist Park, and Fraser Park
- Trenton Scottish Irish Festival – Buster Alyea Park
- Fiddlers on the Trent – Frankford Tourist Park
- Riverfest – Frankford Tourist Park

The parks also play host to various daycamps and summer programs, and soccer and ball tournaments (e.g. at Centennial Park, Bain Park, and Buster Alyea Park).

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Because the City is comprised of a number of communities, there are wide variations between the parks with respect to both size and range of facilities, particularly in the developed areas outside of Trenton. As in most areas of Ontario, the older parks were often developed to minimal standards, with the typical community park including free-standing playground structures such as swings, slides and climbers; a ball diamond; and open space. Few of the parks offer shade, seating areas, or other amenities that encourage passive and informal use. Many of the parks in the hamlets are now aging, and are in need of facilities upgrades (playground structures have been replaced). In some instances sites are constrained in size and the sportsfields layout is tight without the benefit of buffers that are standard in today's field design. As well, the demographics of these communities are changing, as are leisure and recreation interests, and the parks may not be meeting the needs of all residents. This is also true of older neighbourhood parks in Trenton.

Notwithstanding that differences in parks will continue to exist, and there is moderate growth projected for the City, there is a benefit to developing **more formalized parks standards and policies**, to ensure that future decisions concerning development are based on sound planning and design principles. As well there is a need to **assess and prioritize the upgrading of existing parks** to address such issues as: replacement of sports facilities in accordance with current standards; and/or their replacement with other new facilities that respond to leisure trends, community demographics and interests; as well as enhancing the character of the parks with shade trees, seating areas, landform, and landscaping and/or naturalized areas.

The following sections examine existing parks standards and policies in place in Quinte West. As well they provide recommendations for a new comprehensive set of standards, and a forecast of parkland needs across the City to help direct planning decisions.

7.2 Parkland Classifications

Existing Parkland Classifications

With respect to park planning, there are three Official Plan documents that are in effect: the Quinte West Official Plan (2001) which applies to rural areas, the Trenton Official Plan (1994) which applies to the Trenton Urban Area, the Frankford Official Plan (1991) which applies to the Frankford Urban Area. The Quinte West Official Plan recognizes the former City of Trenton Official Plan and the Village of Frankford Official Plan as Secondary Plans.



The existing South Sidney Secondary Plan (1992) is also in effect and applies to the semi-urban area of South Sidney

The City is in the process of consolidating and updating the urban area policies for Trenton, Frankford and South Sidney. The City is also undertaking the mandated 5-year review of the Quinte West Official Plan which applies to the rural areas.

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The current parkland hierarchy and characteristics of each classification as contained within the above noted planning documents are described in **Table 7.1**, following. For comparison purposes the chart compares the standards and provision level of the parkland classifications that typically comprise a municipal parkland inventory, those being: **City Park**, **Community Park**, and **Neighbourhood Park**. The Trenton Official Plan additionally identifies classifications of Regional/Special Park to recognize parkland and open space under the jurisdiction of the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority and Parks Canada; and Boulevards/Landscapes that are intended for visual appreciation or to perform a buffer function.



Table 7.1: Existing Parkland Classifications In Use in the City of Quinte West

Park Classifications	Quinte West Official Plan	Trenton Official Plan	Frankford Official Plan	South Sidney Secondary Plan
City Parks	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designed primarily to support major facilities and City serving specialized programs, and should accommodate any leisure facility of top quality. ▪ May accommodate neighbourhood functions however market is city-wide. 	N/A	The South Sidney SP does not have formal park classifications /standards. A general statement is made regarding open space lands that have municipal-wide, community-wide and neighbourhood significance.
Size	N/A	6. 1 to 8.1 hectares (a specialized facility may be developed on a smaller site)	N/A	N/A
Provision Level	N/A	7.41 acres / 1,000 pop. 3.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A
Community Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designed to support major facilities and City serving specialized programs. ▪ May accommodate neighbourhood functions however market is city-wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designed to support several neighbourhoods and would include facilities such as intermediate level sports fields, playground equipment, passive sitting areas, washrooms and parking. ▪ A community park could also serve a neighbourhood park function. 	<p><i>Equivalent category.</i> Community Active Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide outdoor and indoor recreational facilities on a larger scale than provided by local active parks and may include arenas, playing fields, swimming pools and similar facilities generally used by organized groups. 	The South Sidney SP does not have formal park classifications /standards. A general statement is made regarding open space lands that have municipal-wide, community-wide and neighbourhood significance..
Size	Minimum 6.0 ha.	3.2 to 10.1 ha. (if possible be located adjacent to a secondary school)	N/A	N/A
Provision Level	7.41 acres / 1,000 pop. 3.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	2.47 acres / 1,000 pop. 1.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	2.45 acres / 1,000 pop. 1.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	N/A

Table 7.1: Existing Parkland Classifications In Use in the City of Quinte West (cont'd)

Park Classifications	QW Official Plan	Trenton Official Plan	Frankford Official Plan	South Sidney Secondary Plan
Neighbourhood Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to serve local neighbourhood residents within walking distance of a park site without having to cross major barriers such as a major road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to serve local neighbourhood residents within walking distance of a park site without having to cross major barriers such as a major road, rail line, etc. Although intended to serve all residents, major users are often children and seniors. A city, community, or regional park could also function as a neighbourhood park if it is located in an appropriate location. 	<p><i>Equivalent category:</i> Local Active Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide outdoor recreation facilities for all segments of the population and may include such facilities as children's swings and slides and places for ball games but may include passive recreation areas. 	The South Sidney SP does not have formal park classifications /standards. A general statement is made regarding open space lands that have municipal-wide, community -wide and neighbourhood significance.
Size	Minimum 1.0 ha.	1.6 to 2.4 ha.	N/A	N/A
Provision Level	2.47 acres / 1,000 pop. 1.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	2.47 acres / 1,000 pop. 1.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	1.25 acres / 1,000 pop. 0.5 ha. / 1,000 pop.	
Passive Recreation Areas	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide such facilities as flower gardens and landscaped spaces, walking trails, picnicking and nature observation and natural features which may be improved to provide public access and enjoyment 	N/A
Size			N/A	
Provision Level			2.47 acres / 1,000 pop. 1.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	
Total Parkland Provision Level	2.47 acres / 1,000 pop. 4.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	2.47 acres / 1,000 pop. 5.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.	6.15 acres / 1,000 pop. 2.5 ha. / 1,000 pop.	N/A

New Parkland Classifications

The categories of Community Park and Neighbourhood Park are common to all of the former planning areas and policies, and can serve the needs of both hamlets, rural areas (which are typically oriented to a local centre) and the Trenton and Frankford Growth areas with respect to local-serving parks, and the provision of recreation facilities that are used on a community basis. However, the addition of a category of City Park would identify those parks that have a specialized focus and serve a City-wide basis, such as the waterfront parks, or the one-of-a-kind facilities, e.g. a permanent skatepark. For example Centennial Park, Bata Island, Frankford Tourist Park, Hanna Park, Mount Pelion Park, and Hollinger Park are sites that serve a city-wide function, or offer unique attributes that have broader appeal. The Trenton Official Plan, which serves to guide parks planning in the Trenton Urban Area, currently has a City Park classification. City Parks are further categorized into 'active' and 'passive' use in order to differentiate between those that offer local or neighbourhood functions from those that do not.

Recommendation 7.1: Add a City Park category to the existing Park Classifications to identify parks that have a specialized focus and serve a city-wide basis.

In addition to parkland, the City owns and manages an extensive inventory of other open space lands, including boulevards, cemeteries, leased land or land for which agreements exist, picnic areas and other non-park lands, such as the Frankford Golf Course. These lands are not included in the parkland assessment, for the purposes of evaluating supply, but form part of the open space inventory. At present they are identified within the City's current inventory, but are not represented in the Park Classifications.

Recommendation 7.2: Add an 'Open Space' category to the existing Park Classifications to ensure all managed lands (i.e. boulevards, cemeteries, and non-park lands) are identified.

Criteria and standards for each park type have been developed in conjunction with a revised parks classification to address: parcel size; service radius (where applicable); location standards; facilities and amenities and quality of land dedications. Service standards to direct the distribution of parks are frequently based on a 'reasonable walking distance', with the Trenton OP identifying a 400m walking distance for neighbourhood parks. This is a commonly used standard, however a number of municipalities are increasing it to 600metres to reflect more realistic financial scenarios for neighbourhood parkland acquisition and development.

Recommendation 7.3: Adopt Criteria and Standards for each park type in the Park Classifications as outlined in the Master Plan (refer to Table 7.2, following).

Table 7.2: Proposed Quinte West Parkland Classifications and Standards

Park Type	Provision Level (OP Standard)	Size	Service Area	Characteristics
Neighbourhood Park	0.6 ha./ 1,000 pop. or 1.48 acres / 1,000 pop.	0.8 ha (2.0 acres) guideline minimum	<p>Generally located to serve neighbourhood areas of 2,000 to 5,000 residents within an approximate 600m radius. May also be provided to serve outlying hamlets with lesser population.</p> <p>May respond to a smaller service area where there are major barriers such as roads, railways, or valley systems that result in an unserviced area.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are intended to serve the needs of the immediate neighbourhood for outdoor active and passive recreation, which may include: playground(s), shade structure, multi-purpose court, tennis courts, seating areas, walkways, lighting, open activity area, landscaping, floral displays, and buffer areas. Where appropriate may include natural or cultural heritage features; • Shall be planned and designed central to the neighbourhood where feasible as a focal point, and strategically located to discourage the crossing of arterial roads; • Shall be located with frontage on local or collector roads; • Shall be connected where possible to walkways, trails, and sidewalk systems; • May be located with a school to take advantage of shared use opportunities for facilities development. In these instances integration of design and development is encouraged, with no physical separation of shared facilities. <p>Specific sizes, locations, and functions of Neighbourhood Parks and linkages shall be detailed in Secondary Plans, Plans of Subdivision or Site Plans, as appropriate.</p> <p>The conveyance of land to the City for parks purposes shall conform to the following standards:</p> <p>Hazard lands, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, including significant woodlots, buffer lands/ setbacks to natural features and poorly drained or low-lying lands shall not be acceptable as part of the dedication of parkland for public recreation purposes or cash-in-lieu payments under the Planning Act.</p> <p>Land for parks shall be free of encumbrances and contamination, be generally flat, and satisfy minimum standards for grading, and drainage. The developer shall prepare a Grading and Drainage Plan to be approved by the City, prior to undertaking grading activities, and all grading shall be undertaken in accordance with the Grading and Drainage Plan. Clean topsoil suitable as a growing medium shall be provided over the entire park site to a minimum depth of 150mm. Temporary stabilization of the site shall be provided in the form of seeding, with a seed mix suitable to the site and approved by the City.</p> <p>Where residential lots abut the parkland, perimeter fencing shall be provided by the developer. At a minimum fencing shall be 1.2m high, 38mm black vinyl coated galvanized chain-link, with concrete footings, or equivalent, and as approved by the City. Gates to private lots are not permitted.</p>

Table 7.2: Proposed Quinte West Parkland Classifications and Standards (cont'd)

<p>Community Park</p>	<p>Combined with City Parks at 2.4 ha./ 1,000 pop. or 5.93 acres / 1,000 pop.</p>	<p>4.0ha (10 acres) guideline minimum. Size and configuration will depend on the shape and constraints of the property, and the specific program for the park.</p>	<p>Generally located to serve concentrations of population in urban areas within a 3.0 kilometre (1.86 mile radius). May also be provided to serve smaller populations in outlying hamlets that are removed from the urban park system.</p>	<p>Community Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are intended to serve the needs of several neighbourhoods or a community area for active and passive recreation, which may include: one or more sports fields (incl. unlit and lit), junior/senior playground(s), parking, shade structure, multi-purpose court, splash pad, tennis courts, seating areas, walkways, lighting, open activity areas, landscaping, floral displays, and buffer areas. • Shall be planned as focal points for the community, generally located on, or at the intersection of major collectors or arterial roads, with significant frontage. Parking shall be accommodated with minimum exposure to the street. • Shall be connected where possible to walkways, trails, and sidewalk systems. • May be located with a school to take advantage of shared use opportunities for facilities development. In these instances integration of design and development is encouraged, with no physical separation of shared facilities. <p>Due to the existing inventory of parks, and anticipated overlaps in the park classifications, Community Parks may also serve the function of Neighbourhood Parks.</p> <p>Specific sizes, locations, and functions of Community Parks and linkages shall be detailed in Secondary Plans, Plans of Subdivision or Site Plans, as appropriate.</p> <p>Should the situation arise, the conveyance of land to the City for Community Parks purposes shall conform to the standards outlined under Neighbourhood Park.</p>
<p>City Park</p>	<p>Combined with Community Parks at 2.4 ha./ 1,000 pop. or 5.93 acres / 1,000 pop.</p>	<p>No required minimum. Depends on shape and constraints of property and program</p>	<p>Whole City or a major sector. No specific service radius.</p>	<p>City Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are intended to serve the entire City with a range of opportunities for indoor/outdoor active and passive recreation, civic, cultural, natural area and heritage opportunities. • May contain specialized facilities or uses such as: "family attractions", skatepark, splash pad, sports park, recreation facilities with specialized location requirements. • May contain indoor recreation facilities, such as: arena(s), indoor soccer field(s), indoor courts, swimming pool, fitness centre, snack bar, and community space. Where appropriate may include natural or cultural heritage features. • May be located to take advantage of unique site attributes, such as natural or cultural heritage features, and including riverfront and lakefront locations. <p>Due to the existing inventory of parks, and anticipated overlaps in the park classification, City Parks which provide for activity based pursuits may also serve the function of community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks.</p>

Table 7.2: Proposed Quinte West Parkland Classifications and Standards (cont'd)				
Open Space	N/A	Varies	Varies	Open Space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes Cemetery, Picnic Area, Leased School Land, and (municipal) Golf Course, Conservation lands, Trails, Natural Environment Areas, Pathways and Boulevards. May have some recreational opportunities, but are not eligible as parkland dedications or included in the calculation of parkland supply.

With the assistance of staff, the City's existing inventory of parks and open space has been re-classified and documented using the new parkland classifications. The revised parkland inventory assigning the new category of City Park is provided as **Appendix C**, and illustrated on **Figure 1**.

7.2 Parkland and Open Space Supply Standards

Existing Parkland Supply

Parkland classifications and standards for the Trenton and Frankford Growth-areas as well as the South Sidney Secondary Planning Area are now contained in separate planning documents, and differ from those established in the 2001 City of Quinte West Official Plan for the 'rural area', and from each other. In light of amalgamation, there is a need to take a comprehensive municipality-wide approach to parks planning and to develop a consolidated set of standards that can be applied on a population basis to all areas of the City.

Table 7.3 and **Table 7.4** summarize the City's parkland supply, on both a city-wide basis and by ward, using the new classifications.

Table 7.3: Existing City-wide Parkland Supply

	City Park (CiP)	Community Park (CmP)	Neighbourhood Park (NP)	Total (CiP, CmP, NP)	Open Space (OS)	Total (incl. 'Open Space**')
Parkland Totals	87.91 ha 217.24 ac	17.58 ha 43.43 AC	26.85 ha 66.34 ac	132.34 ha 327.01 ac	549.02 ha 1356.56 ac	681.36 ha 1683.59 ac
Provision Level / 1,000 pop**	2.06 ha 5.08 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.41 ha 1.01 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.63 ha 1.56 ac / 1,000 pop.	3.10 ha 7.66 ac / 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A

**'OpenSpace' includes Conservation Lands, City-owned Cemetery, City-owned undeveloped land, Picnic Area, Leased School Land, Trails and (municipal) Golf Course

** Provision Level based on population of 42,685 (2004)

Table 7.4: Parkland Supply by Ward

WARD	City Park (CiP)	Community Park (CmP)	Neighbourhood Park (NP)	Total (CiP, CmP, NP)	Open Space (OS)	Total (incl. 'Open Space')
Trenton	68.40 ha 169.06 ac	1.54 ha 3.80 ac	15.38 ha 37.99 ac	85.32 ha 210.82 ac	40.59 ha 100.26 ac	125.91 ha 311.11 ac
Parkland Dist'n / 1,000 pop. 16,770 **	4.08 ha 10.08 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.09 ha 0.23 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.92 ha 2.26 ac / 1,000 pop.	5.09 ha 12.57 ac / 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A
Sidney	10.60 ha 26.18 ac	8.13 ha 20.09 ac	7.42 ha 18.34 ac	26.15 ha 64.61 ac	474.83 ha 1173.26 ac	500.98 ha 1237.91 ac
Parkland Dist'n / 1,000 pop. 15,376 **	0.69 ha 1.70 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.53 ha 1.31 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.48 ha 1.19 ac / 1,000 pop.	1.70 ha 4.20 ac / 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A
Murray	0 ha 0 ac	5.98 ha 14.78 ac	3.41 ha 8.43 ac	9.39 ha 23.21 ac	25.98 ha 64.19 ha	35.37 ha 87.41 ac
Parkland Dist'n / 1,000 pop. 8,167 **	0 ha 0 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.73 ha 1.81 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.42 ha 1.03 ac / 1,000 pop.	1.15 ha 2.84 ac / 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A
Frankford	8.91 ha 22.0 ac	1.93 ha 4.76 ac	0.65 ha 1.61 ac	11.49 ha 28.39 ac	7.61 ha 18.80 ac	19.10 ha 47.16 ac
Parkland Dist'n / 1,000 pop. 2,202 **	4.05 ha 10.0 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.88 ha 2.16 ac / 1,000 pop.	0.37 ha 0.91 ac / 1,000 pop.	5.22 ha 12.90 ac / 1,000 pop.	N/A	N/A

**'Open Space' includes Conservation Lands, City-owned Cemetery, City-owned undeveloped land, Picnic Area, Leased School Land, 'Path' lands, and (municipal) Golf Course

**Provision Level based on 2001 populations (Quinte West Development Services Planning Department)

New Parkland Standards

Parkland classifications and standards for the Trenton and Frankford Growth-areas as well as the South Sidney Secondary Planning Area are now contained in separate planning documents, and differ from those established in the 2001 City of Quinte West Official Plan for the 'rural area', and from each other. In light of amalgamation, there is a need to take a comprehensive municipality-wide approach to parks planning and to develop a consolidated set of standards that can be applied on a population basis to all areas of the City.

For comparison purposes, parkland standards and actual provision levels were examined for several municipalities of a similar size and/or make-up, i.e. an amalgamated municipality with one main urban centre and outlying developed areas and rural areas, and for which there is recent parks data available.

Table 7.5 summarizes the findings.

Table 7.5: Comparison of Parkland Standards in Other Municipalities

Community	Population (2004 or 2005)	Provision Standard (OP)	Actual Provision Level
Township of Uxbridge	19,000	2.5 ha. / 1,000 pop.	3.89 ha. / 1,000 pop.
Township of Scugog	21,750	Under review	4.0 ha. / 1,000 pop.
City of Quinte West	42,685	See Table 6.1 for various standards in use	3.07 ha. / 1,000 pop.*
City of Kawartha Lakes	73,800	Under review	2.60 ha. / 1,000 pop.

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Parkland target provision standards in the relevant former Official Plans range from 2.5 ha. to 5.0 ha per 1,000 population. However, as illustrated on **Table 7.4**, the existing (actual) provision level in Quinte West is approximately **3.10 ha./1,000 population**. New parkland will likely be added as a result of new residential development at a maximum rate of 1.0 ha./1,000 population (i.e. approx. yield under the *Planning Act* of a 5% dedication in a single family neighbourhood), on a local area basis, unless additional parkland is acquired through outright purchase. The allowable dedications under the *Planning Act* represent less than 1/3 of the provision target (if the actual provision level of 3.10 ha. were to be adopted). If parkland is only added at this rate, it is projected that there would be a slight overall decline in the parkland supply to 2.81 ha./1,000 population by the year 2024 (using current growth projections to this timeframe).

The current rate of parkland supply in Quinte West is 3.10 ha./1,000 pop., and the minimum forecasted standard based on yields under the *Planning Act* will result in a reduction to 2.81 ha./1,000 pop., therefore suggest that **a standard of approximately 3.0 ha./1,000 population is a reasonable, and achievable provision target for the future.**

This standard of supply should be allocated across the categories of City Park, Community Park, and Neighbourhood Park, with a recommended breakdown of 2.4 ha./1,000 population for City and Community Parks, and a standard of 0.60 ha./1,000 population for Neighbourhood Parks. The Neighbourhood Park standard generally reflects the existing supply of Neighbourhood Parkland, when averaged across the City (0.63 ha./1,000 population).

Since active City and Community Parks will support most of the City's recreation facilities, it is also important to examine future facilities needs in order to determine the adequacy of the current landbase, and to forecast parkland needs. The facilities assessment explored during the first phase of this study notes a need for 2 new full-size soccer pitches (to serve population growth to 2014). There are limited opportunities for the addition of new fields in existing parks, and some consideration may need to be given to acquiring / developing an additional site for a Community Park over the long term (beyond 2014) to support anticipated future demand for sports fields. Following dedication of land for neighbourhood parkland needs (approximately 0.60 ha./1,000 population), the balance of the allowable yield under the *Planning Act* (up to 0.40 ha./1,000 population if the maximum is achieved) could be transferred to the City / Community Park category, and would contribute to the acquisition of land to support future active recreation needs (either as land or through cash-in-lieu). The amount may vary somewhat based housing type, density, and dedications provided.

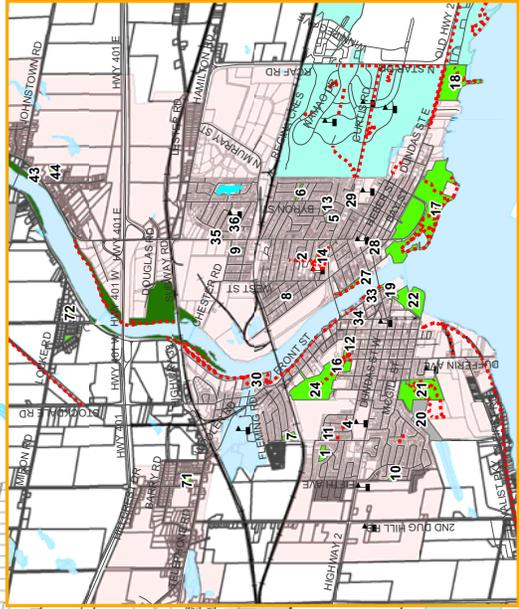
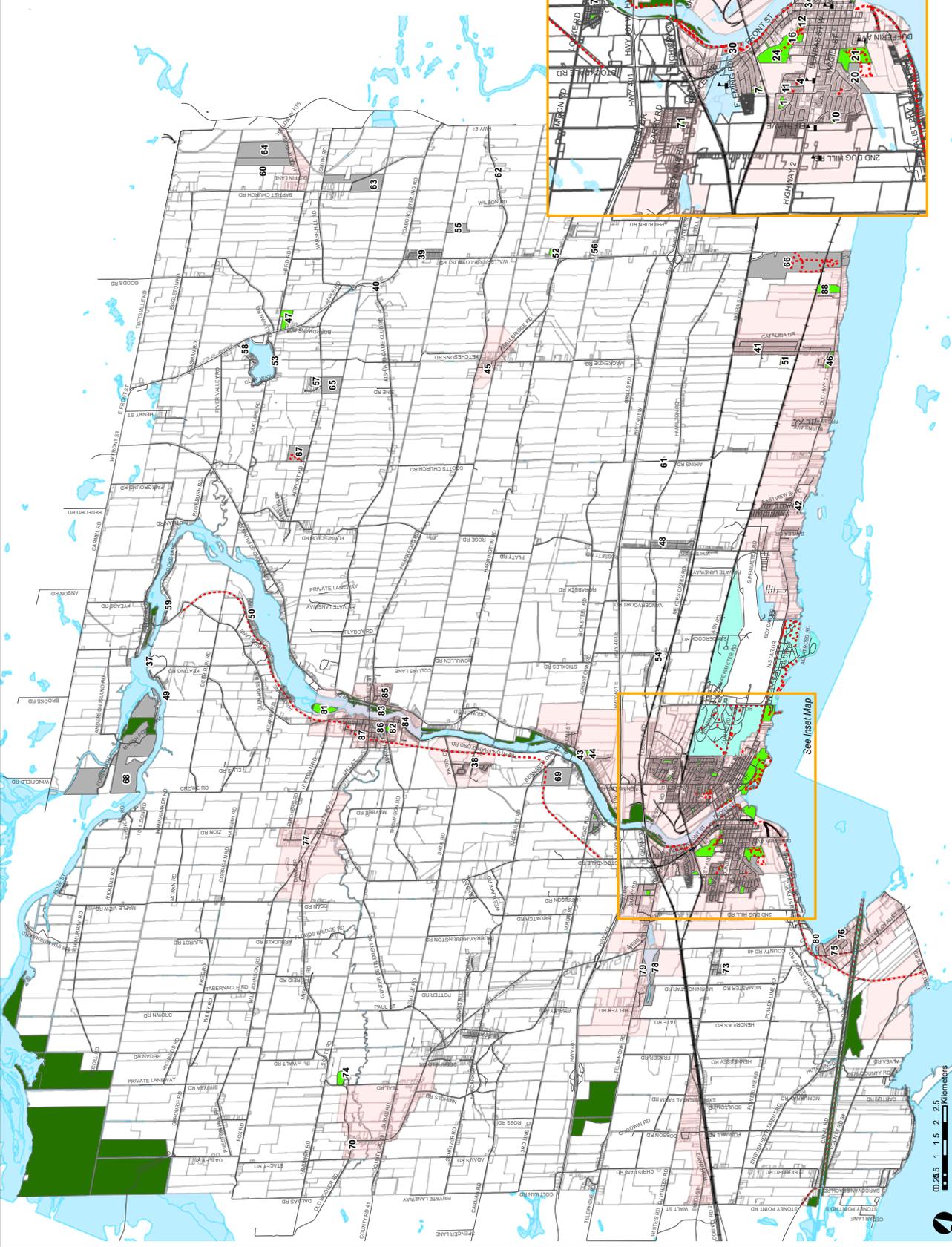
Recommendation 7.4: *It is recommended that the City adopt a comprehensive, City-wide parkland provision standard of 3.0 ha./1000 population, which is consistent with the current total supply. This includes a breakdown of 2.4 ha./1000 population for combined City and Community Parks, and 0.6 ha./1,000 population for Neighbourhood Parks.*

Figure 1

Parks & Open Space System

Parks Master Plan City of Quinte West

- Legend**
- Quinte West Parks & Open Space
 - Federal Parks
 - CFB Trenton Public Access
 - City-owned CNR Lands
 - Quinte West Land Parcels
 - Settlement Areas
 - Rivers and Lakes
 - Schools
 - Roads
 - Active Railways
 - 27 Parkland Inventory Reference (See Appendix D)



7.3 Future Parkland Requirements

Overall Parkland Supply

Over the next twenty years, population growth is anticipated to be moderate in Quinte West with an expected increase from the 2004 population of 42,685 to approximately 49,300 in 2024, or an increase of approximately 6,615 persons³⁶. As identified in Table 2 above, Quinte West currently has a total of 132.34 ha. of parkland (City, Community and Neighbourhood Parks). This translates to a forecasted need of approximately **15.5 ha. of additional parkland by 2024.**, across all categories, when the recommended overall parkland supply standard of 3.0 ha./1,000 population is applied to the forecasted city-wide population. When the planned and future growth potential of areas within the current urban boundaries are considered, the estimated future potential population of the City to build-out is estimated at 56,000 persons³⁷. This further population **growth beyond 2024 will require an additional 20 ha. of parkland.**

It is anticipated that distribution of this new parkland will generally be focused on new residential growth areas. Refer to **Figure 2**

The Trenton Urban Service Area is expected to receive over half of the City's growth, with an additional estimated population of approximately 10,435³⁸ persons to build out. The primary areas of residential growth within the Trenton Urban Service Area are: the Telephone Road Development Area (TRDA) and the West End Urban Area. TRDA is located at the northwestern sector of the Trenton Urban Service Area, with planned development centred around Telephone Road and Tremur Lake. The West End Urban Area is located directly west of the former Trenton Ward.

Although modest, the Frankford Service Area, located north of Trenton, is considered the secondary growth of the City. The anticipated additional population increase of this area is just over 1,000 persons³⁹.

Studies are also on-going to determine the potential for growth in the South Sidney Planning Area and in Batawa. Currently, servicing and land use planning issues restrict potential growth. If these issues can be resolved, both these areas have the potential to be significant settlement areas.

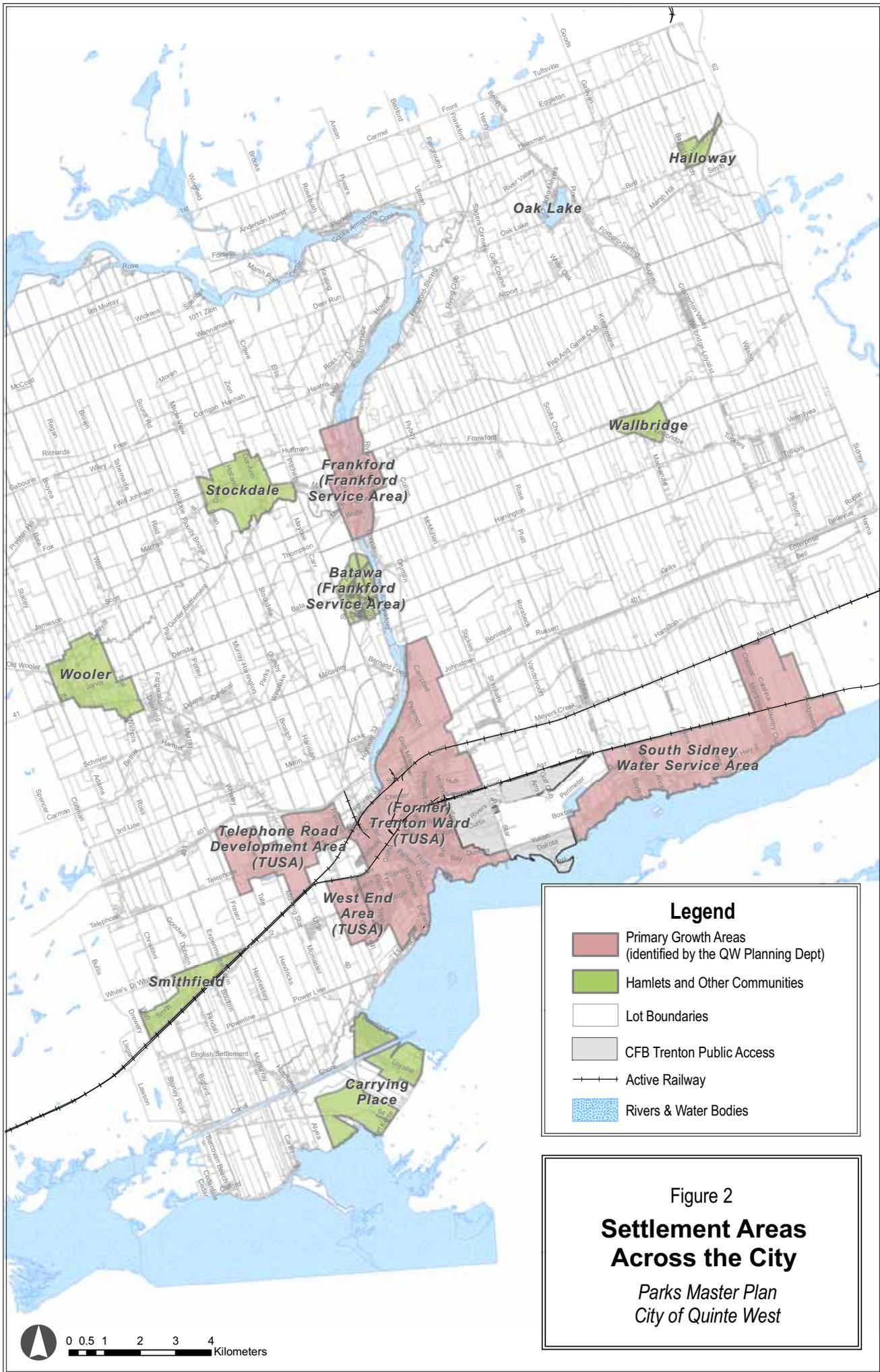
The following sections discuss parkland requirements within each of the proposed new parkland classifications (City/Community Park and Neighbourhood Park), considering the geographic distribution of existing parkland and areas where residential growth is anticipated. Population forecasts have been drawn from projected residential unit counts for each of the new development areas (source: City of Quinte West Development Services Planning Department), using general persons per unit statistics used in the Development Charges Study, 2004 population projections. These forecasts have been used in conjunction with an evaluation of the local parkland supply, and the application of the proposed provision standards to each area to suggest a **population threshold or service level for the existing parks**. To attain the proposed provision levels within urban growth areas, new parks will need to be planned for as and when this threshold is approached, and populations and demographics are established.

³⁶ 2005, City of Quinte West Development Charge Background Study, Appendix A, C.N. Watson and Associates

³⁷ 2007, City of Quinte West Planning Department

³⁸ 2007, City of Quinte West Planning Department

³⁹



City / Community Parkland

Existing Supply

Using the recommended Parks Master Plan provision, the City will apply a standard of **2.4 ha/1,000** population for combined City and Community parkland.

Currently, with 105.49 ha. of combined City and Community parks, the existing rate of supply in Quinte West is approximately 2.47 ha/1,000 population, which slightly exceeds the recommended target on a city-wide basis. However, given the widespread nature of the City, and the unique function of certain City parks, it is important to examine their geographic distribution on an area-specific basis.

General Geographic Distribution

City Parks

- There are no defined service radii for City parks, and they are intended to be accessible by the entire City. Overall, citywide access to large active recreation spaces is successfully achieved through the combination of access to both active City Parks as well as the larger Community parks located throughout the City.
- Generally, existing City parks are concentrated in the urban communities of Trenton and Frankford. Outside of these, there is one located in proximity to Oak Lake (Hollinger Park), located in the north-eastern area of the City. Given that a high proportion of the municipality's population lives in the communities of Trenton and Frankford, and that they are also the focus of future growth, Quinte West's City parks are well distributed to provide access to all sectors of existing and future populations. A number of these City parks are located along major roadways, are located along the waterfront or in close proximity to the Bay of Quinte or Trent-Severn waterway.
- In the Trenton area there are several major City parks including Centennial, Hanna, Bain, Buster Alyea, and Mount Pelion. Centennial Park is located along the waterfront and is connected by the Waterfront Trail to Bain Park. Centennial Park serves as a centre for active recreation offering residents access to special facilities such as a skate park, marina, amphitheatre, and soon, a splash pad. Centennial Park is also host for special events such as Ride for Sight and festivals. Bain also provides opportunities for sport recreation. Centennial Park and Hanna Park are also unique in that they perform the functions of a Community or Neighbourhood Park.
- Mount Pelion and Hanna Park are located within the downtown area, accessible by local streets. Mount Pelion offers passive recreational experiences such as trail and informal open space uses. Hanna Park offers a dog's-off leash area, with access to trails and the nearby Trenton Escarpment Conservation Area.
- Frankford Service Area is served by the Frankford Tourist Park, a major park located in a central location in the community. Currently, these lands are leased (long-term) from Parks Canada. The park offers camping, and hosts a number of festivals throughout the year. Frankford is also served by Bata Island, which provides passive recreation in the form of hiking trails.

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- There is an absence of existing City parkland in the outlying areas of the City, reflective of the rural character of these areas. Residents of Wooler, Smithfield, Carrying Place, Stockdale, South Sidney/Bayside, Wallbridge, and Halloway travel to neighbouring Frankford and Trenton (or nearby Belleville) to access the larger parks.

Community Parks

- The proposed service radii for Community parkland is 3 km. Note that City parks may also serve at the community park scale should they be able to support the defined functions of a Community park (i.e. Centennial Park, Bain Park). Refer to **Figure 3: City/Community Park Spatial Analysis** for a graphic illustration of the community parkland coverage. In terms of access to community parks throughout the municipality, residents of the larger communities are generally served. With the exception of community parkland in, or in close proximity to, Wooler, Bayside & South Sidney, and Wallbridge, there is an absence of community parkland in the much of the outlying areas of this city where agricultural uses predominate.
- Existing community parks can be found in higher numbers concentrated in Trenton and Frankford urban areas, where populations, and the extent of recent development is greater.
- Areas of Stockdale, Halloway, and Smithfield are not served by Community parkland. This may be reflective of their rural nature, and proximity to community parks in other hamlets. Carrying Place does not contain any community parkland, but is served by the nearby Westfall Park, located in the County of Prince Edward. The boundaries of the historic community straddle both the City of Quinte West and this nearby County. A historic agreement exists between the communities, providing permission for Quinte West's Carrying Place residents to use Westfall Park's amenities which include a variety of community facilities.

City / Community Parkland Needs Analysis

When the inventory of existing City / Community parkland is considered and the recommended standard of 2.4 ha./1,000 population for combined City/Community Parks is applied, an **additional approximate 12.83 ha. of City/Community Park**, will be required to meet the projected city-wide population of 49,300 persons by 2024, with an additional approximate 16 ha. to meet a future projected build-out population of approximately 56,000 persons .

The facilities assessment explored during the first phase of this study notes a need for 1 full size soccer pitch immediately, with 2 new full-size soccer pitches to serve population growth to 2014. A review and evaluation of existing ball diamonds is also recommended, with re-assessment of sports group needs by the mid-term of this Plan. If current trends continue, additional fields will also be required to 2024 and beyond. Although the City is well-supplied with City/Community parkland, at present, many of these lands serve passive / nature-based functions, and are predominantly wooded (i.e. Bata Island, Hollinger Park, Mount Pelion, and parts of the future Tremur Lake area). Much of the current landbase is, therefore, not suitable for the development of new active recreation fields that will be needed to support population growth.

It is planned that Centennial Park will have 1 new soccer pitch on the former snow storage area. Some of the existing mini-pitches may be redeveloped as full-size fields that support a range of ages (e.g. full fields

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can be played across as minis), however, the site park also serves a variety of other recreation needs which will likely limit the further addition of new full size fields. As well the existing soccer fields were not formally constructed, and should be reviewed for redevelopment potential to better support current usage and future demand. This and the opportunities of the site to support additional future recreation facilities development and events activities should be explored through the undertaking of a full Master Plan for Centennial Park.

This suggests that new City/Community parkland will be needed by 2014 to support needed soccer field development, and potentially ball diamonds, and to provide a further landbase for additional future sports field development beyond this timeframe. The parkland should be located in proximity to the concentration of population, likely near the Trenton or Frankford urban areas.

Areas of opportunity include City-owned lands south of Tremur Lake which is in the Telephone Road Development Area (refer to **Figure 2**). For environmental reasons, lands immediately surrounding the lake are best suited for nature-based recreation, however the City land-holdings south of the lake are extensive and more active uses could be considered for the area beyond the immediate lake environs, if the site is appropriately designed and managed.

Recommendation 7.5: Undertake a full Master Plan for Centennial Park, in consultation with the community to review existing site and facilities conditions, and site capabilities and potentials, and to develop a conceptual plan for the park that considers current and future needs for active and passive recreation uses, waterfront and marina uses, and events planning.

Recommendation 7.6: Identify/acquire a new site for a City/Community Park to support active recreation needs to 2024. The site should be located close to the concentration of population, likely the Trenton or Frankford urban service areas. To keep pace with projected sports field needs, the threshold for the development of this park is 2014.

Trenton Urban Service Area (refer to **Figure 2**)

The application of a 3km service radii in the Trenton Urban Service Area, which includes the former Trenton Ward, West End, and Telephone Road Development Area, reveals that community parkland coverage is generally achieved for Trenton Ward, where the existing residential areas are primarily located. Residents of the Trenton Ward area are also fortunate in that the expansive parks within the community serve a diverse range of recreational uses, both passive and active. As an established area, Trenton Ward is primarily developed, with a modest projected population increase of 1,049 for a total estimated population of 17,819. Based on the current supply of 69.94 ha. of City/Community Park, this would represent a provision level of approximately 4.0 ha. / 1,000 population at build-out, in Trenton Ward area suggesting that this area will continue to be well-supplied into the future.

Within Trenton Urban Service Area, new development is anticipated in the Telephone Road Development Area ('TRDA') and the West End Urban Area. Future uses for the growing Telephone Road Service Area have been set out in Official Plan Amendment No. 12 to the Quinte West Official Plan and the West End Urban Area as set out in Official Plan Amendment No. 77 to the former City of Trenton Official Plan). They include uses ranging from industrial (primary and secondary); commercial; low, medium and high density residential; and public open space and recreational uses.

Legend

- Community Park Servicing Radii (3km)
- Urban Settlement (Service) Areas
- Community Park
- City Park*
- Open Space
- Lot Boundaries
- Ward Boundaries
- Active Railway
- Environmental Protection (Official Plan)
- Parks Canada (Federal) Lands
- Rivers & Water Bodies

*Note that City Parks of Centennial and Bain have been included in this analysis as they also serve community function

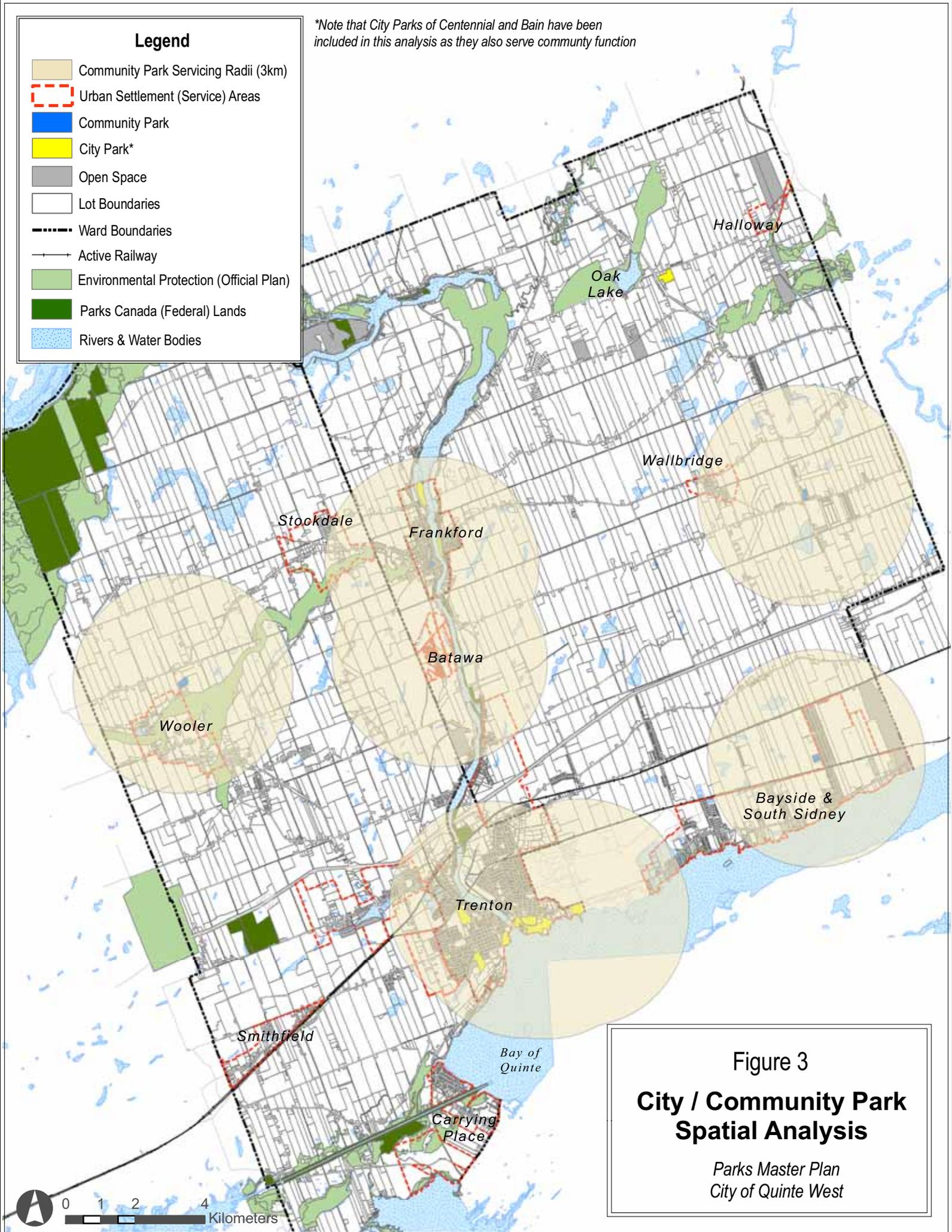


Figure 3
**City / Community Park
Spatial Analysis**

*Parks Master Plan
City of Quinte West*

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No current population figures are available for the Telephone Road Development Area and the West End Area, as they straddle the former ward boundaries on which previous census data was collected. However these areas are expected to receive the majority of the City's projected growth, with an anticipated population increase of 6,654 persons to build out in the TRDA, and 2,732 persons in the West End Urban Area, and new parks will need to be established to accommodate both existing and future populations, particularly at the neighbourhood level (refer to Section 3.3).

Although overall the Trenton Urban Service Area has a good supply of City/Community parkland that support both active and passive uses, the parkland planned for the Tremur Lake area represents a further opportunity for the City to build on this diversity, and provide additional community and specialized park uses (i.e. public access / enjoyment of lakefront) to Quinte West residents and those that live in the west end of the Trenton Urban Service Area. This parkland will serve as an important component of the parks system within the community and larger municipality. For City-owned land on the south shore of Tremur Lake (approx. 14.9 ha. or 37 ac.), there is an opportunity to establish City/Community Parkland to serve as a focal point for the surrounding community. Amenities could include access to the waterfront, picnic pavilion, and other community facilities that would support year round usage, including passive / nature-based recreation such as hiking trails, and potentially a hand launch area for canoes and kayaks. For the parcel of land on the north side of the lake west of Country Road No. 40, as part of subdivision, severance or redevelopment, plans require a 15m dedication of land adjacent to Tremur Lake to support continuous public access along the shoreline. For the remainder of the areas with low-density residential (south-eastern and north-western portions), the City requires a 30m dedication.

Recommendation 7.7: *Parkland opportunities in the Telephone Road Development Area, including opportunities for the location of a new City / Community Park on City-owned lands south of Tremur Lake, should be examined through a Master Plan.*

Frankford Service Area (refer to **Figure 2**)

The Quinte West Official Plan identifies that the community of Frankford and surrounding area will serve as a secondary urban centre within the City. With the ability to provide full urban services, the City will be enabled to establish an alternative growth area.

Currently, there is 10.84 ha of City/Community parkland within the Frankford Service Area which includes the community of Frankford. Similar to the Trenton Urban Service Area, applying the 3km servicing radii for City and Community parkland general coverage of the community is achieved. However, the Frankford Tourist Park and Bata Island represent specialized parks that offer unique visitor experiences such as camping, swimming, nature-based recreation, etc., on a city-wide basis. The James Street Ballfield and Play Area, while more oriented to local community use, is a small site that is primarily occupied by the ball diamond, with few additional amenities. As the only recreation park on the west side of the river, this park provides both community and neighbourhood functions. Although the size of this park limits the addition of new sports fields, there is a need for enhancement of this park to address such issues as improved safety of spectators at the ball diamond, and provision of activities to better serve local uses, e.g. shaded seating areas, landscaping, youth activities. Evaluation of the potential enhancement of this park should be undertaken in conjunction with the audit of ball diamonds which is recommended by this study to determine

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any needed changes/improvements to sports facilities in Quinte West, in co-operation with local sports organizations.

Recommendation 7.8: *To support a range of recreational opportunities in the west Frankford Service Area, investigate enhancement opportunities for the James Street Ballfield & Play area to better accommodate local community/neighbourhood uses. This evaluation should be undertaken in conjunction with the ball diamond audit which is recommended in this study, to be undertaken in co-operation with local sports organizations.*

Neighbourhood Parkland

Existing Supply

Across the communities that make up the City of Quinte West there is a range of access to neighbourhood parkland. The following table illustrates existing neighbourhood park totals for the various settlements across the City.

Table 7.6: Existing Parkland Supply on a Planning Area / Hamlet Basis (ha)

Settlement / Planning Area*		Figure Reference	City Park**	Community Park	Neighbourhood Park	TOTAL
TUSA	Trenton Ward	4a	68.40	1.54	15.38	85.32
	TRDA	4a	0	0	1.21	1.21
	West End	4a	0	0	0	0
Frankford Service Area		4b	4.85	1.93	0.65	7.43
Batawa		4b	0	1.82	0	1.82
Smithfield		4b	0	0	0	0
South Sidney Water Service Area		4c	0	3.86	3.05	6.91
Wallbridge		4c	0	0	0.6	0.60
Oak Lake		4c	0	0	0	0
Stockdale		4d	0	0	0	0
Wooler		4d	0	5.98	0.24	6.22
Halloway		4d	0	0	0	0
Carrying Place		4d	0	0	0.73	0.73

*Calculation of parkland supply includes only those parks located within the settlement or planning area boundary.

**Only those parks that have been identified as containing neighbourhood park amenities (across all classifications) have been included in this calculation of neighbourhood parkland supply. ‘Active’ City parks are included, while ‘Passive’ City parks that offer no neighbourhood park amenities (as identified in Table 1) have not been included.

TUSA – Trenton Urban Service Area*; TRDA – Telephone Road Development Area; FSA – Frankford Service Area

Distribution & Needs Analysis

Trenton Urban Service Area

As noted previously, the Quinte West Planning Department subdivision records and forecasts identify developing areas within the Trenton Urban Service Area, particularly the West End Area and the Telephone Road Development Area. These areas will accommodate more than 13,000 new residents before City build out. The Quinte West Official Plan determines that the Trenton Urban Service Area, is to be the primary focus of new residential, commercial and industrial development for the City. It will be important to focus new parks planning efforts in these areas on the development of quality parkland that serves both the local neighbourhood and the community. From a planning perspective, the Trenton Urban Service Area is made up of three planning areas, including the former Trenton Ward, the West End Area and the Telephone Road Development Area. Existing and future neighbourhood parkland supply for each will be explored individually here.

For the purposes of this exercise, a 600m radius for each park serving neighbourhood function was applied. **Figure 4a** provides a graphic illustration of neighbourhood parkland distribution in the entire Trenton Urban Service Area.

Trenton Ward

Trenton Ward currently has **15.38 ha** of parkland at the neighbourhood level. Given that each classification of park may serve local neighbourhood needs, this includes all Neighbourhood Parks, as well as selected areas of City Parks that offer local-serving amenities, such as playgrounds and other seating, shade structure. When the last known Trenton Ward population (2001) of 16,770 persons is evaluated, this amount of parkland translates to an approximate standard of 0.91 ha. / 1000 population, which suggests that from a quantitative perspective, the community is well positioned in offering neighbourhood parkland to its residents well into the future. However, neighbourhood parks are intended to provide amenities within a local serving area and it is important to examine the distribution and location of parks in Trenton to understand whether current areas are well serviced, and how best to support areas of planned growth.

The physical distribution of the majority of parkland across the community of Trenton Ward is concentrated in the waterfront areas, and on the west side of the river in the downtown area. Smaller neighbourhood parks exist in the outlying subdivisions, and generally, the existing population is served. There is, however, a gap in parkland supply in the more northern vicinities of the Trenton Ward, north of the railway. Where Hwy 33 meets the Trent River, there is a gap in parkland one both the west side of the river. On the east, areas designated as urban settlement areas are not currently serviced by parkland. Although growth projections for Trenton Ward are modest with an expected growth of approximately 1,000 people to build out, the distribution or new developments in this area will need to be considered, and parkland provided where necessary.

Recommendation 7.9: *Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the north area of Trenton Ward.*

Telephone Road Development Area

Currently, the existing community located along Telephone Road Development Area is served by Hart's Corners, a neighbourhood park located in the eastern end of the Service Area. This park is approx. **1.2 ha** (3 ac) in size, and offers a play structure, seating, half court, soccer pitch, and a large amount of passive open space. This park adequately provides the existing population neighbourhood park services. However, given the projected population growth for this planning area is over 6,600 people, it will also be important to ensure the western portions of the Telephone Road Development Area are also provided with neighbourhood parkland.

City-owned lands at Tremur Lake also provide potential parkland for this growing community. Notwithstanding these lands may serve both community and neighbourhood functions, the provision of additional neighbourhood parkland will be necessary to maintain a 600m radius standard.

Recommendation 7.10: Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the Telephone Road Development Area.

West End Area

Currently, the West End Area has a relatively small existing population associated with some new developments linked to Trenton Ward. When the 600m radius is applied, these existing populations are served by neighbouring parks in the east. However, the planning area of West End itself currently has **no parkland**. With an expected population growth of over 2,700 people, this area will require new neighbourhood parkland, to be planned in conjunction with new development areas.

Recommendation 7.11: Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the West End Area.

Frankford Service Area

Frankford Service Area covers both the communities of Frankford and committed development in Batawa. Frankford is the City of Quinte West's second largest urban community. Currently, the James Street Ballfield and Forest Ridge Park, which total **2.58 ha.**, offer neighbourhood park amenities. Applying the 0.60 ha./1,000 pop. provision standard for local parkland, this quantity provides service to a population of approximately **4,300**, indicating that from a quantitative perspective, the existing community is well served. The area also includes the Frankford Tourist Park, and Bata Island which offer other types of recreation activities. However, applying the 600m geographic standard reveals a number of gaps in parkland supply in the community of Frankford. Refer to **Figure 4b** for graphic illustration of neighbourhood parkland distribution in the Frankford Service Area.

Through the James Street Ball Field and Forest Ridge Park, neighbourhood parkland coverage is generally achieved in the central area of the community. There is, however, a gap in parkland supply in the northern vicinity of the community (i.e. on the west side of the river, north of Mill Street, and on the east side, from Concession Road to the northern boundaries of the settlement.). There is also a smaller gap in parkland in the southern area of the community, north of Hanna Road.

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According to the Quinte West Planning Department, planned and potential growth of residential populations in the Frankford Service Area is estimated to add over 1,400 more persons, with most of this growth directed at the north end of Frankford. Notwithstanding the passive recreation opportunities offered by Bata Island, new neighbourhood parkland on both the east and western sides of the River will be needed to provide new residential areas with access to local amenities.

Recommendation 7.12: *Plan for the development of additional neighbourhood parks, to meet recommended standards, in conjunction with new development in the north-east and north-west areas of the Frankford Service Area.*

Hamlets and Other Communities

The following section explores individual communities and hamlets located within the City. These sections identify existing parkland quantity and geographic distribution, and growth potential as identified by the City. It will be important for each of these areas to be further examined as development opportunities are considered, to ensure that the provision of parkland meets the recommended standards.

Batawa

Currently, the community of Batawa, is served by **1.82 ha** of public parkland. From a parkland quantity perspective, this supply may provide service to over **3,000 persons**, which more than exceeds the existing population. From a geographic distribution perspective, applying the 600m service radii for neighbourhood parkland results in full coverage for the existing population. Refer to **Figure 4b** for graphic illustration of neighbourhood parkland distribution.

Currently, studies are on-going to determine the potential for growth in Batawa. Land use planning issues, particularly the Provincial Policy Statement 2005 and servicing issues, restrict potential growth at present. If these issues are resolved, Batawa may have the potential to be significant settlement area, in which case additional neighbourhood parkland will be required to serve new developments on the northern end of the settlement area.

Batawa is home to the Batawa Development Corporation, which owns and maintains approximately 1,500 acres of land, including a ski hill and a number of other active and passive amenities such as bike and hiking trails. The property is currently being redeveloped for increased year round uses, which will undoubtedly serve as bonus amenities for the local community in years to come. The Batawa Development Corporation has expressed interest in partnering with the City in providing parkland for community uses. This provides the City with an opportunity to consider park development in the area of Batawa that may also serve the areas of Frankford, Stockdale and other smaller communities in the northern areas of the City.

Recommendation 7.13: *In the case where Batawa is deemed to be an appropriate growth area based on ongoing studies, the City should plan for and develop new neighbourhood parks to meet population forecasts in accordance with the proposed provision standards.*

Recommendation 7.14: *Continue discussions with the Batawa Development Corporation related to potential partnerships with the City in providing parkland for community uses.*

Smithfield

Smithfield is located along old Hwy 2 in the western vicinity of the City, close to the boundary of the municipality. The community contains **no neighbourhood parkland**, leaving a gap in supply across the settlement boundary. Refer to **Figure 4b**. It has been suggested that residents of the area travel to Trenton or the nearby community of Brighton (outside Quinte West) for park use. Population projections to build out have been estimated at approximately 60 people, which indicate a very modest amount of growth expected. It is recommended that no new neighbourhood parks be planned at this time to meet population growth.

South Sidney Water Service Area

Located along the northern shores of the Bay of Quinte, within the South Sidney Water Service Area, the communities of Bayside and South Sidney offer a neighbourhood parkland supply totalling **6.91 ha**. Applying the proposed neighbourhood provision standards of 0.60 ha./1000 pop, this provides service to a population of over **11,516 persons**. Given that most of the area is rural in nature, with a number of isolated subdivisions made up of single detached homes or recreational residential areas, the population is well served in terms of overall parkland quantity.

Applying the geographic service radii for neighbourhood parkland, distribution of parkland across the communities of Bayside and South Sidney does not meet the provision standard of 600m linear distance between parks. Refer to **Figure 4c**. This can be explained in part by the historic residential development patterns in the area, where isolated subdivisions have been created in the area. Existing parkland is located within most of the larger subdivisions, serving the local residents of the individually developed areas. The largest subdivision, along Montrose and Colonial Road, is very well serviced by neighbourhood parkland, with no identifiable gaps. However, the Burns Avenue subdivision and surrounding area is under-serviced. There are also a number of estate lot subdivision developments south of Hwy 2. Although it is not recommended that neighbourhood parkland be created to serve these small pockets of residential developments, it is recognized they will also benefit from the nearby parkland in Trenton and perhaps in Montrose Park. Although Ghent Park provides some neighbourhood uses to the west end, this is also true for the mobile home park developments in the western end of this area, and the numerous waterfront properties along the Bay. Although not calculated in neighbourhood parkland analysis, there is also a substantial amount of conservation / open space lands owned by the Quinte Conservation Authority to the east of the Bayside / South Sidney planning area which provide passive nature-based recreation opportunities for nearby residents.

Growth in this area is expected to be minimal with its servicing limitations, with planned and potential residential developments totalling population increased of less than 500 people over the term of this plan. However, studies are on-going to determine the potential for growth in Bayside and South Sidney. Currently, land use planning issues, particularly the Provincial Policy Statement 2005, and servicing issues restrict potential growth. If these issues can be resolved, Bayside and South Sidney may have the potential to be significant settlement areas. If Bayside and South Sidney becomes a growth area, it will be important for the City to ensure this new community continues to be well served with public neighbourhood parkland.

Recommendation 7.15: *In the case where Bayside and South Sidney are deemed to be an appropriate growth area based on ongoing studies, the City should plan for and develop new neighbourhood parks to meet the needs of the Burns Avenue subdivision and surrounding area and population forecasts in accordance with the proposed provision standards.*

Wallbridge

Located in the mid-eastern area of the City, Wallbridge is a small historic community that contains **0.6 ha** of neighbourhood parkland. Applying provision standards, this translates to service for a population of **1000 persons**, which is a more than adequate quantity for a community of this size. Refer to **Figure 4c** for graphic illustration of neighbourhood parkland distribution. However, when the 600m service radius is applied, there is a gap in coverage on the western side of the settlement area. Quinte West Planning Department estimates for potential future development to build out include an increase of approximately 45 people. Given this modest growth over time, the community is well serviced in neighbourhood parkland. Additionally, the nearby Centennial Park (Tucker's Corners) also provides neighbourhood amenities such as play structures and some active and passive open spaces.

Oak Lake

Located in the north-east area of the City, Oak Lake is a small lake-based community with **no formal neighbourhood parkland**. Refer to **Figure 4c**. This may be attributed, in part, to the recreational residential / seasonal populations that occupy the area, residing in developments adjacent to the lake itself. There is however, a small permanent residential population in this area, which warrants examination of the parkland supply in this area. There are a number of City-owned parcels of land directly adjacent to the Lake, such as the Oak Lake Road Allowance which have not been formally developed, and is not well known beyond those in the adjacent residences. Undeveloped parcels such as these could provide an opportunity for the City to manage shoreline access, and to ensure the provision of appropriate amenities such as waste receptacles, and safety measures (e.g. life-ring, signage). These sites could potentially be the focus of community planning efforts to enhance local parkland in this small, but significant community. As with other outlying communities, residents of Oak Lake have access to a number of conservation areas and passive City parks including Hollinger Park, Oakwood Heights and Sager Conservation area which provide passive nature-based recreation opportunities for nearby residents.

Recommendation 7.16: *Consider the role of undeveloped open space in Oak Lake, potentially engaging the local community in determining possibilities for the lands in providing areas of access for recreation and enjoyment of the lake.*

Wooler

Located in the mid-western area of Quinte West, the historic hamlet of Wooler contains approximately **6.22 ha** of parkland. Refer to **Figure 4d**. Although technically outside of the urban settlement area, Wooler Athletic Field has been included in this calculation given its close proximity to the community. Applying the provision standard for neighbourhood parkland, this serves a population of approximately **10,000 persons**. Given the community's assumed small population, the available parkland therefore exceeds the recommended provision standard. Geographically, parkland at the Wooler Community Centre and the larger Wooler Athletic field provide coverage to most of the northern vicinity of the community when the

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600m service radius is applied. Quinte West Planning Department has estimated total potential development translates to future population increases of over 125 people. Even considering this growth, the quantity of parkland will serve the community to populations at build out. However, depending on where the growth is focused (i.e. if it occurs in the southern portion of the community away from the Hwy 5 and Hwy 40 intersection), neighbourhood parkland may need to be developed. Also, the quality of parkland will need to be revisited, given that access within the core of the historic village is limited to area associated with the community centre, and amenities at the Athletic Field are in need of enhancement / renewal (i.e. picnic pavilion, signage). Enhancement of the baseball field will require consideration within the context of the parks master plan's recommendations for outdoor facilities.

Recommendation 7.17: *Based on the location of future development, consider the need for the development of an additional neighbourhood park in the southern vicinity of Wooler.*

Stockdale

Located just west of the community of Frankford, Stockdale contains **no neighbourhood parkland**. There is a city-owned and managed pathway located in proximity to the Stockdale School, however it does not contain amenities associated with neighbourhood parkland. Refer to **Figure 4d**.

There is a school located in the centre of the community that may serve some neighbourhood park uses, however in moving toward long-term/strategic provision of parkland throughout the municipality, and the uncertainty of school futures, the long term use of schoolyard facilities is not generally recommended. Stockdale's existing settlement pattern can be compared to that of neighbouring Wooler, which contains over 6 ha of local parkland. With potential development expected to increase the population by over 400 people when build out is reached, Stockdale is in need of neighbourhood parkland designed to serve the local community. Given its proximity to Frankford where there are a number of community and specialty parks, it is recommended that a neighbourhood park be planned for to meet population growth using the recommended park provision standards.

Recommendation 7.18: *Plan for the development of a neighbourhood park in Stockdale in conjunction with new development.*

Carrying Place

Refer to **Figure 4d** for graphic illustration of neighbourhood parkland distribution.

Located in the southwest area of the City along the boundary of the Municipality of Prince Edward County, Carrying Place contains **0.73 ha** of neighbourhood parkland. Applying the provisional standard for neighbourhood parkland (0.6 ha/1,000 people), this provides service to over **1,200 people**. When the 600m radii is applied to this area, there are significant gaps in parkland distribution. However, it is important to note that although Carrying Place does not contain any community parkland, it is served by the nearby Westfall Park, located in the County of Prince Edward. A historic agreement exists between the communities, providing permission for Quinte West's Carrying Place residents to use Westfall Park's amenities which include a variety of community facilities. Along the shores of the bay, there is also a small parcel of city-owned land that has been left undeveloped. Similar to recommendations for Oak Lake, the City might wish to consider the role of the parcel in providing access to the Bay for local residents, and examine its potential for enhancement and usage. Given growth projections are estimated at less than 50

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people to build out, and the community's proximity to Trenton where there are a number of community and specialty parks, it is recommended that no new neighbourhood parks be planned to meet population growth using the provisions included in **Table 1**.

Recommendation 7.19: *Consider the role of undeveloped open space along the Bay of Quinte shoreline, potentially engaging the local community in determining possibilities for the lands in providing areas of access for recreation and enjoyment of the Bay.*

Halloway

Located in the most north-eastern vicinity of the City, the community of Halloway is a small and relatively isolated settlement area centred in the area of Baptist Church Road and Bird Road. It contains **no neighbourhood parkland**, although there is a significant amount of open space associated with nearby conservation areas. Refer to **Figure 4d**.

Population growth is expected to be minimal. Similar to Smithfield, residents may currently be travelling to the larger communities in Quinte West such as Frankford, or making use of parkland in neighbouring municipality of Bellville. Given the community's access to nearby passive nature-based recreation, it will be necessary for the City to consider the existing population's need for parkland based on local demographics and preferences in judging whether or not parkland is required within this community.

Recommendation 7.20: *Document existing population, demographics and community preferences for Halloway, to determine if the development of a new neighbourhood park is required to meet existing population levels.*

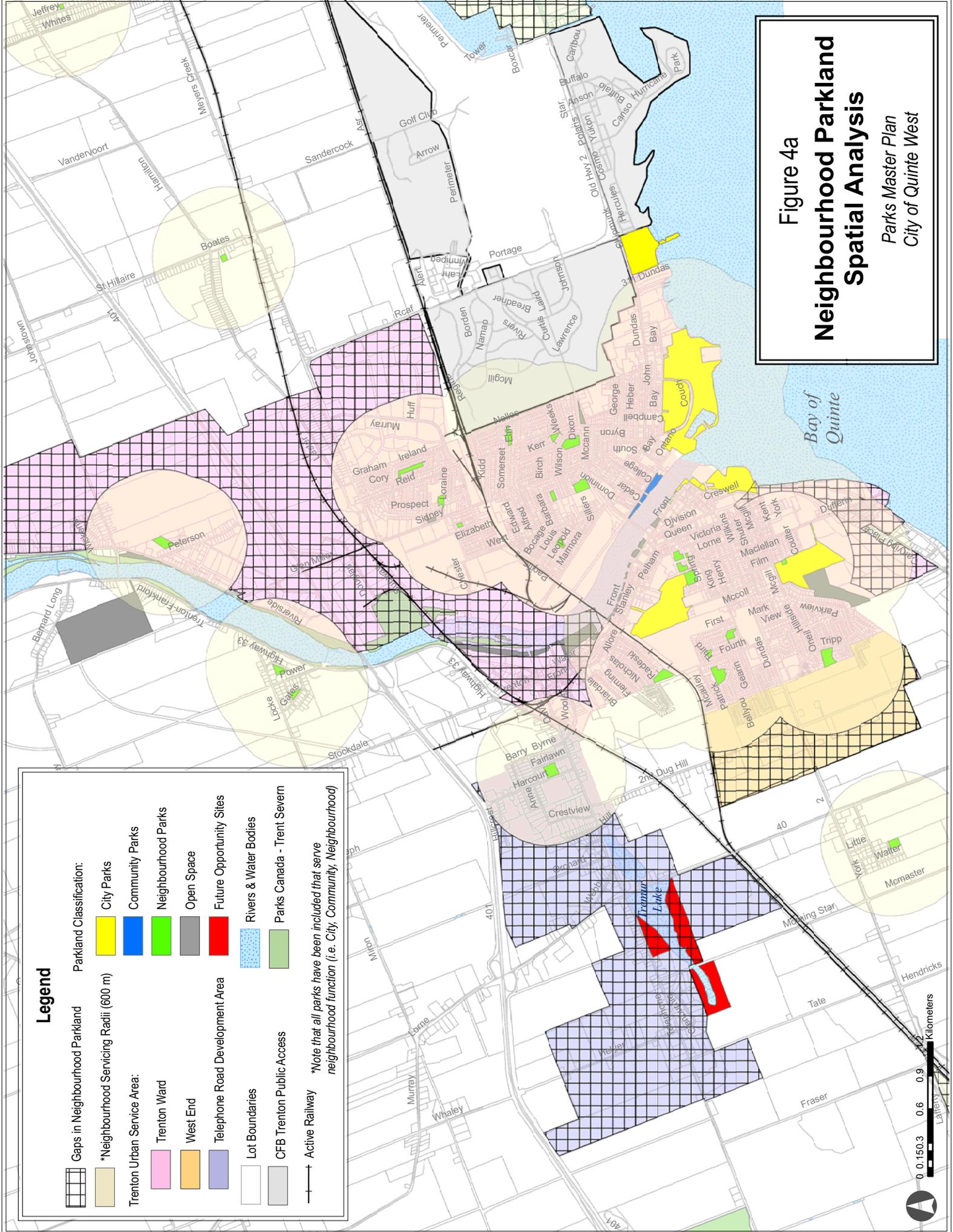


Figure 4a
Neighbourhood Parkland
Spatial Analysis
 Parks Master Plan
 City of Quinte West

Legend

Gaps in Neighbourhood Parkland	City Parks
*Neighbourhood Servicing Radii (600 m)	Community Parks
Trenton Urban Service Area:	Neighbourhood Parks
Trenton Ward	Open Space
West End	Future Opportunity Sites
Telephone Road Development Area	Rivers & Water Bodies
Lot Boundaries	Parks Canada - Trent Severn
CFB Trenton Public Access	
Active Railway	

**Note that all parks have been included that serve neighbourhood function (i.e. City, Community, Neighbourhood)*

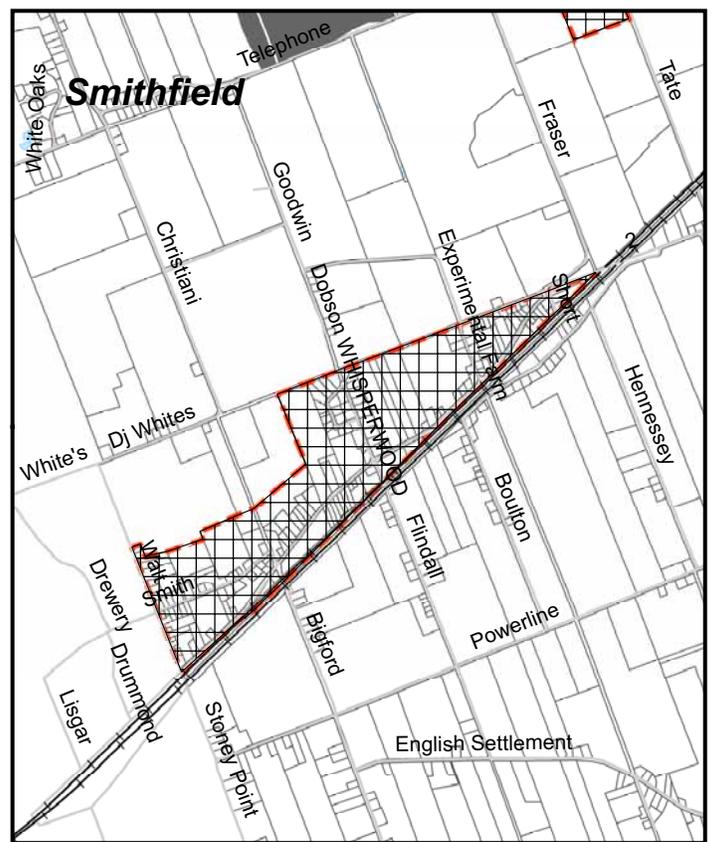
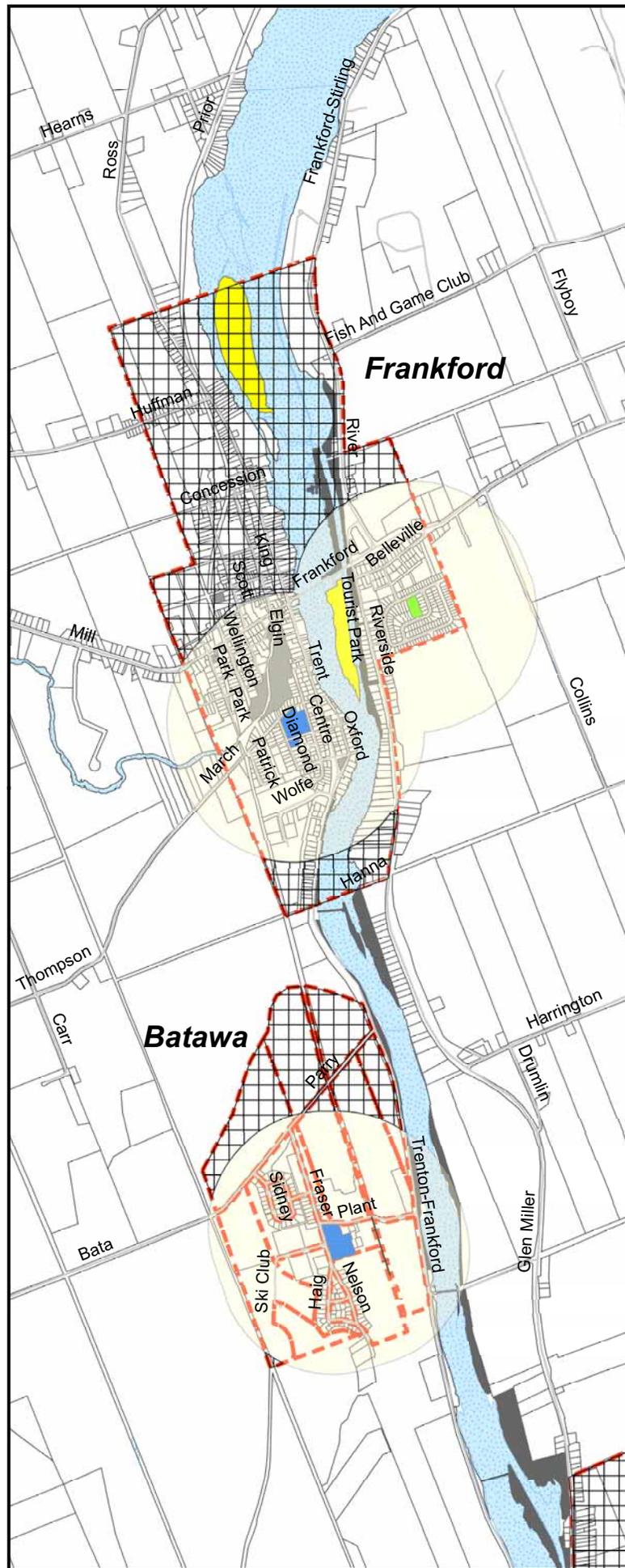
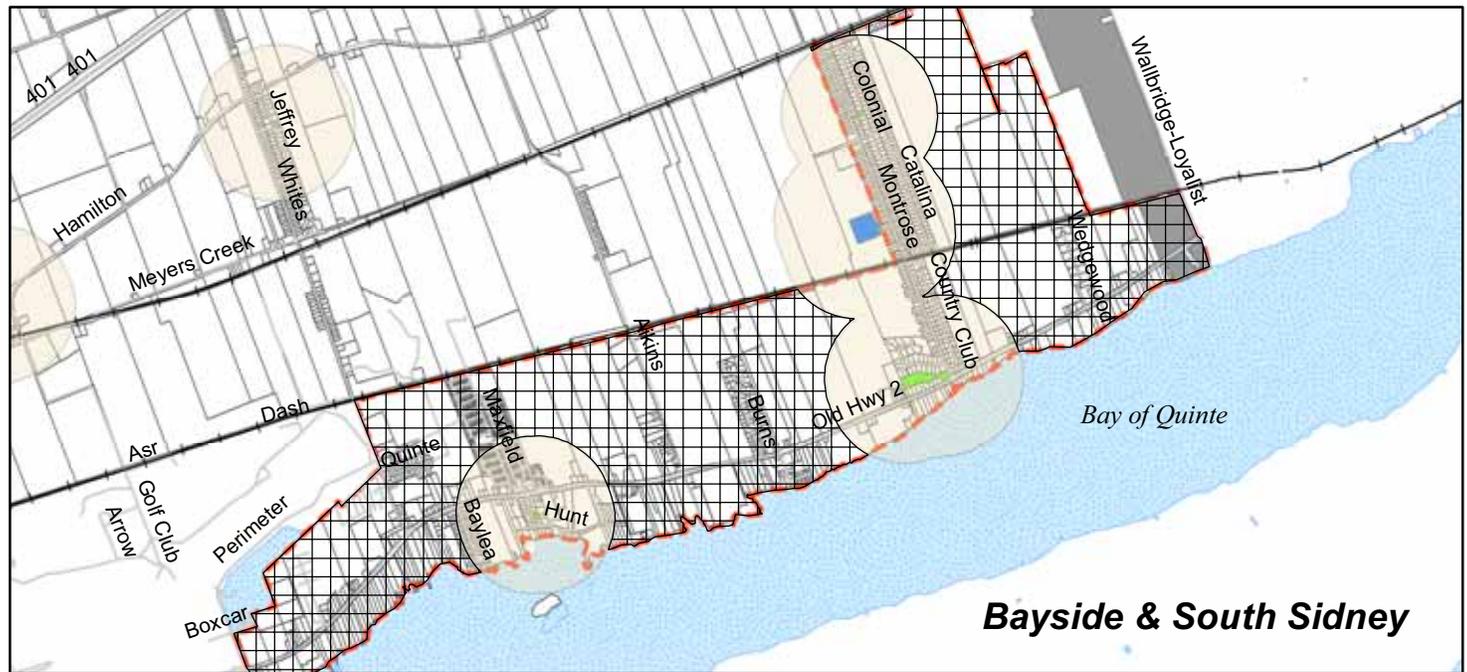
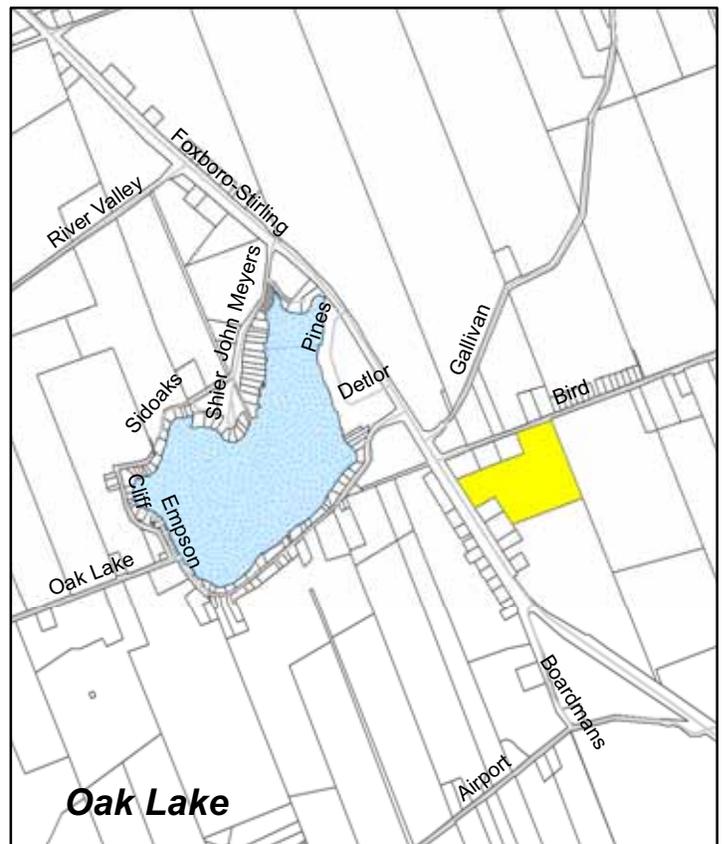
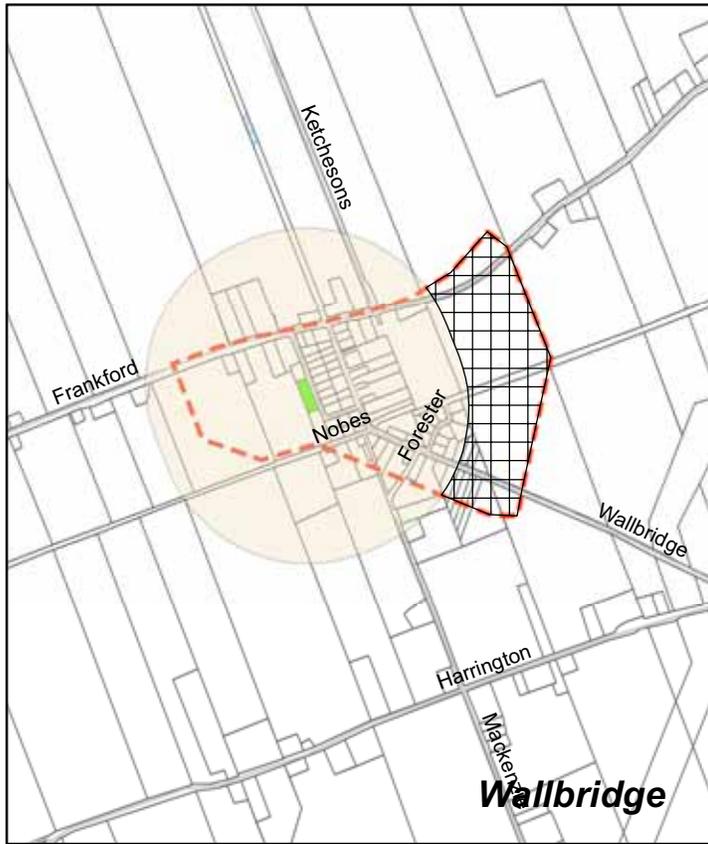


Figure 4b
Neighbourhood Parkland
Spatial Analysis

Parks Master Plan
City of Quinte West



Legend

	Gaps in Neighbourhood Parkland		City Parks
	*Neighbourhood Servicing Radii (600 m)		Community Parks
	Settlement Area Boundaries		Neighbourhood Parks
	Lot Boundaries		Open Space
	Rivers & Water Bodies		

*Note that all parks have been included that serve neighbourhood function (i.e. City, Community, Neighbourhood)

Figure 4c
Neighbourhood Parkland Spatial Analysis
Parks Master Plan
City of Quinte West

Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | Gaps in Neighbourhood Parkland | Parkland Classification: |
|  | *Neighbourhood Servicing Radii (600 m) |  City Parks |
|  | Settlement Area Boundaries |  Community Parks |
|  | Lot Boundaries |  Neighbourhood Parks |
|  | Rivers & Water Bodies |  Open Space |
| *Note that all parks have been included that serve neighbourhood function (i.e. City, Community, Neighbourhood) | |  Future Opportunity Sites |

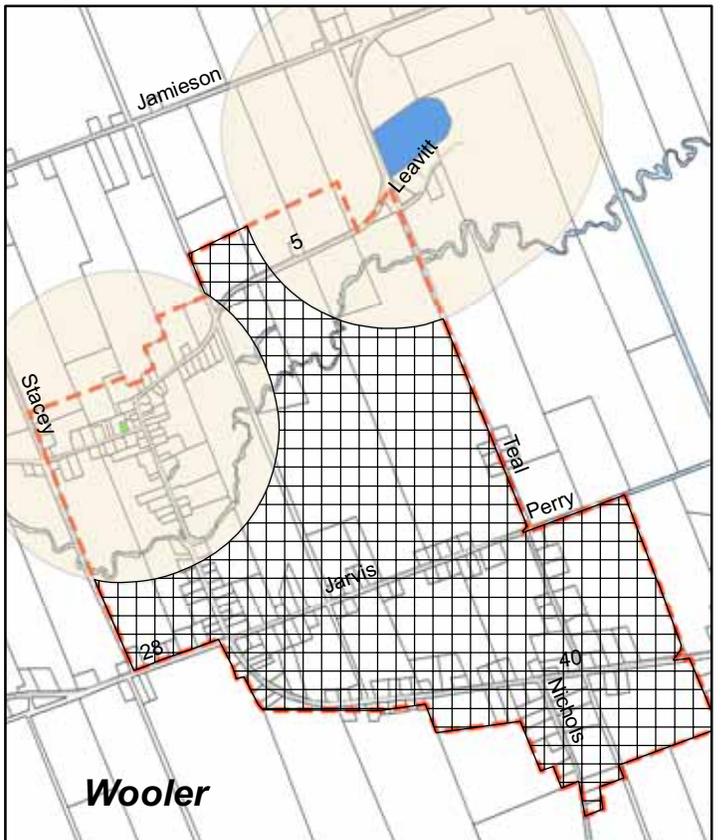
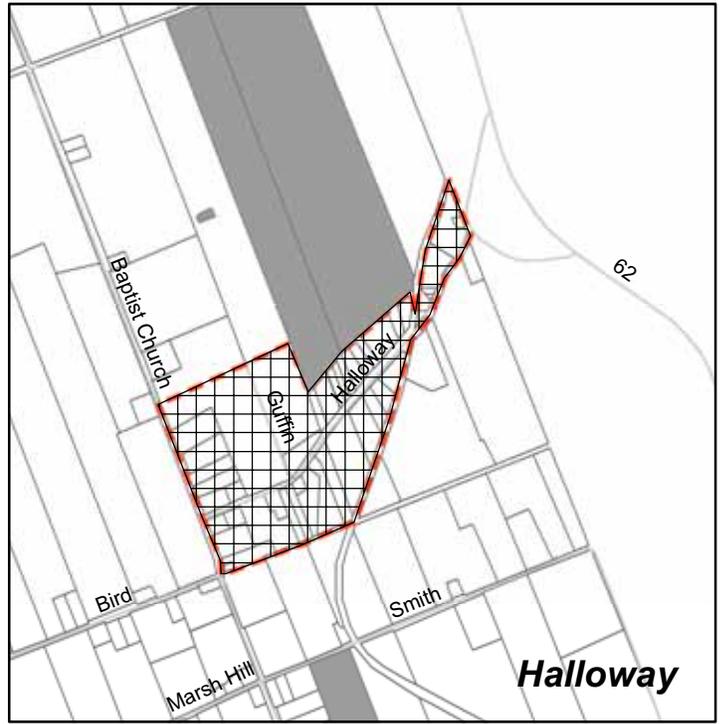
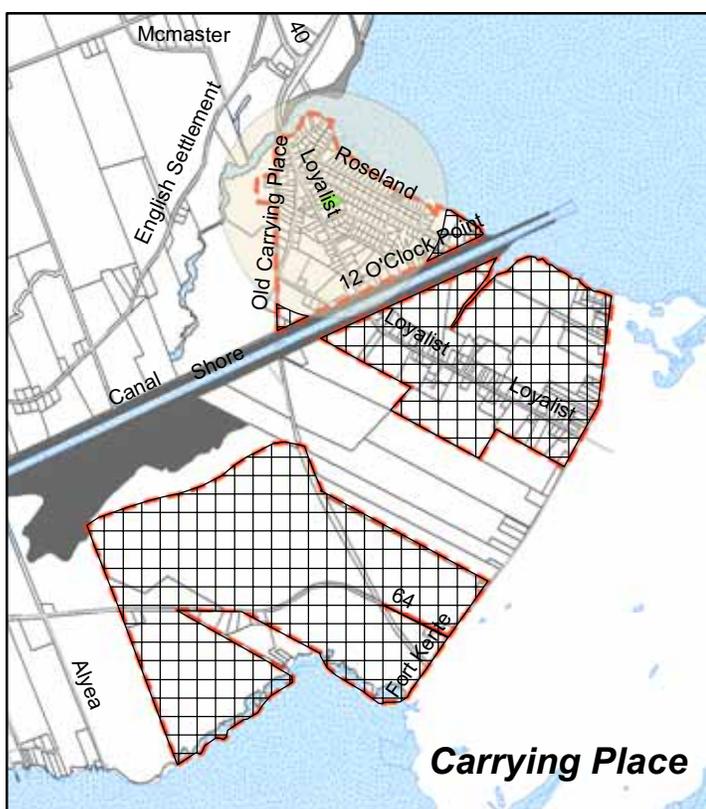
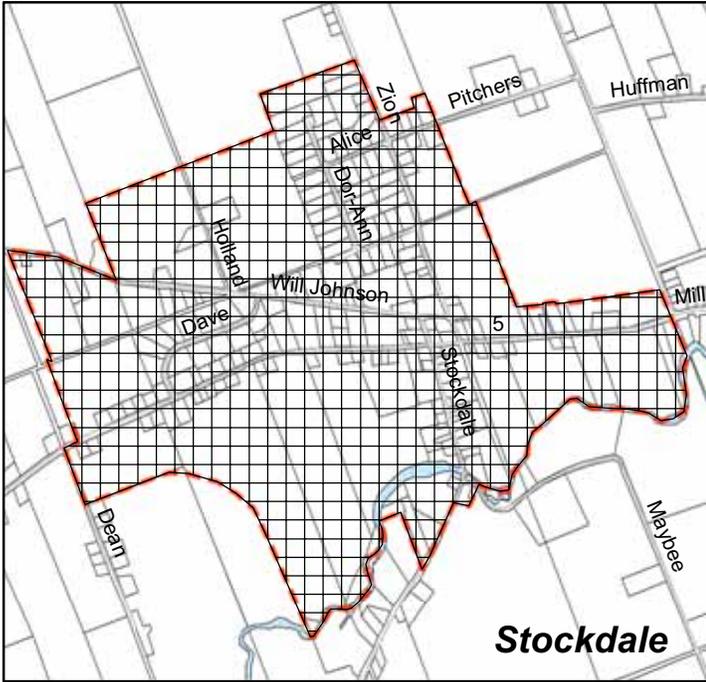


Figure 4d
Neighbourhood Parkland Spatial Analysis
 Parks Master Plan
 City of Quinte West

7.4 Parkland and Open Space Policies

Existing Policies

As noted previously, the various Official Plans in use contain policies that identify parkland classifications, provision levels and general criteria to direct the size and location of parks, the quality of land dedications received, and allowable uses within open space designations. The Official Plans provide a range of park standards, that do not necessarily reflect current parkland levels, or an accurate forecast of recreation or parkland needs and acquisition potential.

As well there are some variations within the policies of the Official Plans that provide for land dedications and/or cash-in-lieu of parkland for all new residential plans of subdivision and consents, in keeping with the provisions of the Planning Act.

Quinte West Official Plan

The Quinte West Official Plan provides a general policy that allows the City flexibility in the acceptance of land or cash, and in applying the provisions of the Planning Act, i.e. a 5% dedication of land area for residential growth vs. 1 ha. per 300 units (typically applied in higher density areas). Guidelines to direct use of the dedications in different areas are provided, with dedications within the urban areas and hamlets directed toward neighbourhood or community parks (including community centres), and land in waterfront areas directed toward waterfront access and/or improvements of parks and trails. Cash-in-lieu is generally directed to the areas on which the development funds were generated.

The Quinte West Official Plan does not address conveyance of either land or cash in the case of commercial/industrial lands specifically, but notes discretionary use of the provisions of the Planning Act with respect to land dedications or cash-in-lieu. The Quinte West Official Plan also provides for public rights of way, or easements to be required through the development process to facilitate trails development, in addition to objectives for the securement of former railway corridors.

Trenton Official Plan

The Trenton Official Plan provides for conveyance of parkland in residential subdivisions at a rate of 5%, or cash payment in lieu, with provision for the alternate method of calculation of 1 ha./300 dwelling units in areas of higher density. Policies of the Plan also provide for a 2% parkland dedication, or cash payment in lieu, for lands subdivided for commercial purposes. The Plan notes that cash-in-lieu will be held in a special parkland account, to be used for parkland acquisition, and improvement of public recreational facilities. The policies of the Plan also provide for a parkland dedication, or cash-in-lieu payment to be considered in commercial and industrial land subdivisions.

Frankford Official Plan

Policies within the Frankford Official Plan provide for conveyance of up to a 5% parkland dedication, or cash payment in lieu, in residential subdivisions, with provision for the alternate method of calculation of 1

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ha./300 dwelling units. Policies of the Plan also provide for a 2% parkland dedication, or cash payment in lieu, for lands subdivided for commercial purposes.

South Sidney Secondary Plan

The above policies pertaining to the conveyance of land or cash payment in-lieu for parks purposes are consolidated within By-law 99-174 which applies to the whole of the City of Quinte West. By-law 99-174 requires that land in an amount not exceeding two percent (2%), in the case of land proposed for development or redevelopment for commercial or industrial purposes, and in all other cases five percent (5%) of the land area, be conveyed to the City for park or other public recreational purposes. Alternately a cash-in-lieu payment may be required on the basis of a fixed sum per unit, or per acre basis as set out in the By-law.

Policy Recommendations

A consolidation of existing Official Plan policies is needed to direct new parks acquisitions and uses within open space designations, and to offer discretionary use of Planning Act provisions, however there are one or two areas where additional policies may be warranted, either within the Official Plan or as guidelines for staff use in developing and reviewing community plans. These are as follows:

Cash-in-lieu

The most likely source of funds for new parks is derived from cash-in-lieu of parkland, which is typically accrued toward the acquisition of City and Community Parks, and for general parks usage. Outside of tax dollars, cash-in-lieu remains the most substantial source of funding for both parkland acquisition and recreation facilities renewal. Without clear objectives for when to take cash-in-lieu vs. dedications of parkland, there is a risk that park dedications may be too small to support facilities, and/or located in areas that are centrally located to serve a growing residential community. Conversely, if cash-in-lieu is taken exclusively, there may be a lack of parkland in growth areas in the future. As noted above, here are a number of variations within the City's existing Official Plan policies that provide for land dedications and/or cash-in-lieu of parkland for all new residential plans of subdivision and consents, in keeping with the provisions of the *Planning Act*.

The **development of a strategy for use of cash-in-lieu** (park reserve fund) is recommended to consolidate policies, and to ensure that adequate funds are available to meet parkland acquisition needs such as: sports-focused community and city parks; acquisition of natural areas (not protected by Planning policy); or upgrading of parks (i.e. in the case of infill development where no new parks are needed). The strategy should consider: when to take cash-in-lieu vs. parkland dedications, how to prioritize the use of cash-in-lieu (i.e. a % to City / Community Parks, % to Neighbourhood Parks), and potentially consider area-specific allocation to ensure that dollars derived from infill development provide benefit to the area in which they are generated.

Without clear objectives for when to take cash-in-lieu vs. dedications of parkland, there is a risk that park dedications may be too small to support facilities, and/or located in areas that are centrally located to serve

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a growing residential community. Conversely, if cash-in-lieu is taken exclusively, there may be a lack of parkland in growth areas in the future.

The cash-in-lieu policy should consider the following:

- Is the development located in a community where there is a deficiency of parkland, or where the projected increase in population will create a deficiency?
- Is there existing parkland within a reasonable linear distance (i.e. 600 m linear distance established for the park classifications), that is, any of Neighbourhood or, Community or City Park, with a neighbourhood park function.
- Is the proposed dedication of a size and form to be functional, based on parkland development standards, and in anticipation of identified recreation needs?
- Is the park needed for aesthetic or urban design purposes? For new areas this should be based on an overall community plan which identifies general locations for parks and their role and function. In areas of infill development, there should be consideration of whether the area is targeted for beautification, or is in a business improvement area.
- Would the land dedication contribute to the creation of an open space linkage or access point, trail corridor, or protection/enhancement of an environmental feature?
- Does the dedication contribute to serving future areas of growth, i.e. can it be added to in order to create a larger parcel?

The strategy should consider: when to take cash-in-lieu vs. parkland dedications, how to prioritize the use of cash-in-lieu (i.e. a % to City / Community Parks, % to Neighbourhood Parks), and potentially consider area-specific allocation to ensure that dollars derived from infill development provide benefit to the area in which they are generated.

Recommendation 7.21: *The City should develop a strategy for use and prioritization of cash-in-lieu (park reserve fund) to ensure that adequate funds are available to meet parkland acquisition needs such as: sports-focused community and city parks; acquisition of natural areas (not protected by Planning policy); or upgrading of parks (i.e. in the case of infill development where no new parks are needed).*

The cash-in-lieu policy should also consider how to utilize allowable tools under the *Planning Act* for the maximum benefit of the City. The *Planning Act* provides for the 5% parkland dedication (or its cash value) to be determined at either of two stages in the development process: a) at the value of the land on the day prior to granting draft plan of subdivision approval (under Section 51.1), which appears to be the City's policy for subdivisions; and b) just prior to issuance of building permit (under Section 42). Given that some time often ensues between these two stages, the latter scenario may offer the most beneficial price to the City. It should be noted that if the City planned to purchase other land for parks (i.e. for a City or Community Park) in the same development area prior to building permit, the cost of purchase would also be based on the higher valuation, unless landbanking had taken place previously (i.e. purchasing land outside the urban area for future parks purposes). The City may wish to consider including a timing condition in the draft approval of subdivision. This will assist in the City in receiving a cash-in-lieu payment closer to market values.

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Currently, the City makes use of a section 42 by-law for some new developments, primarily lots of record, lots created by consent and multi-residential development, however, the parkland dedication by-law sets out a requirement for \$600 per lot rural areas, and \$800 per lot in urban areas. These values are considerably less than the potential 5% dedication granted under the Planning Act at the time of issuance of the building permit. **Appendix D** illustrates actual cash-in-lieu received from a number of recent subdivision developments within the City (collected at time of draft Plan approval), and compares these values with significantly higher potential collections using the alternative method provided for under the Planning Act (i.e. prior to building permit).

Recommendation 7.22: *The City should revisit its existing cash-in-lieu policies and consider how it might increase its collections on residential developments based on the collection methods available. The Official Plan policies should recognize these tools and provide for a more consistent approach throughout the City.*

The *Planning Act* also provides for a 2% parkland dedication (or cash-in-lieu) for commercial/industrial development. Currently, Official Plan policies for Quinte West, Trenton, Frankford and South Sidney contain variations in policy that deal with commercial and industrial developments. City staff have identified that the City practice is to not require land dedication for industrial, but will charge cash in lieu for commercial. Although this may be a strategic move to encourage economic growth, it may also be a missed opportunity in areas where a land dedication would be advantageous, i.e. the waterfront.

Recommendation 7.23: *The City should revisit its Commercial / Industrial parkland dedication (cash-in-lieu) policies and consider opportunities allowed under the Planning Act to ensure maximum City benefit.*

Development Charges

The application of Development Charges on a per unit basis is one of the few mechanisms, outside of the tax base, for the funding of parks and recreation facilities and other services attributable to new development. At present, the Quinte West Development Charge By-law does include a Community and Leisure Component which contributes to the provision of soccer fields, parks and trails development, and equipment. However, it is not in amounts that are significant. Due to input from the construction industry, Development Charges in the City have been held down to what is considered an acceptable amount, and the City is not presently collecting the maximum amount it is entitled to under the Development Charges Act, including those levies allocated to the Community and Leisure Services Department. By way of illustration, **Appendix E** following shows the total capital cost of eligible items, the total eligible recoverable, and the final amount included in the City's Development Charges Bylaw. In consideration of the recommendations of this Master Plan for new parks and facilities to meet growth forecasts, it is recommended that the City review its Development Charges Bylaw, with consideration of optimizing the eligible amount for parkland and facilities development, and operations.

Recommendation 7.24: *The City should review its Development Charges Bylaw with consideration of optimizing the eligible amounts for parkland and facilities development, and operations.*

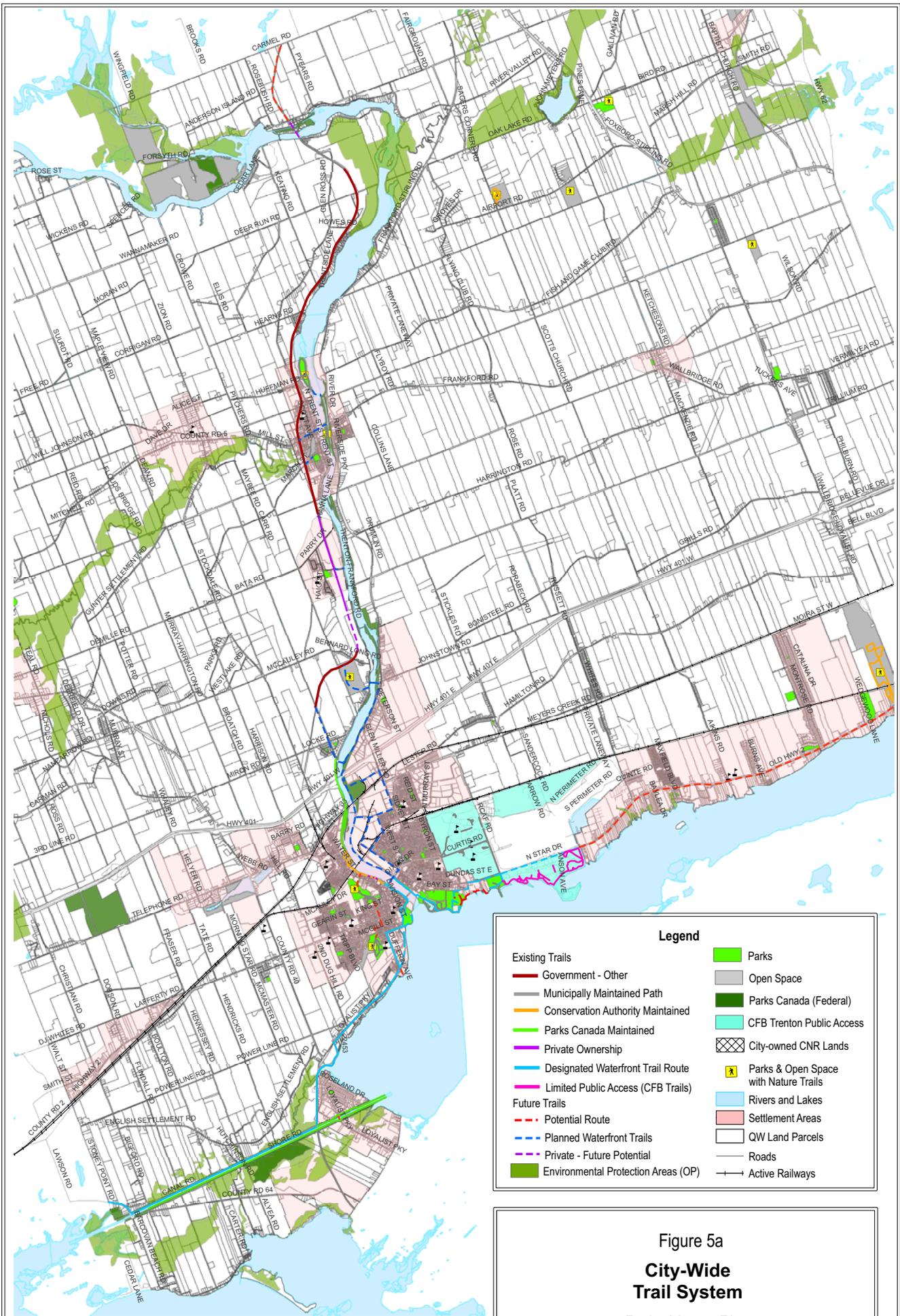
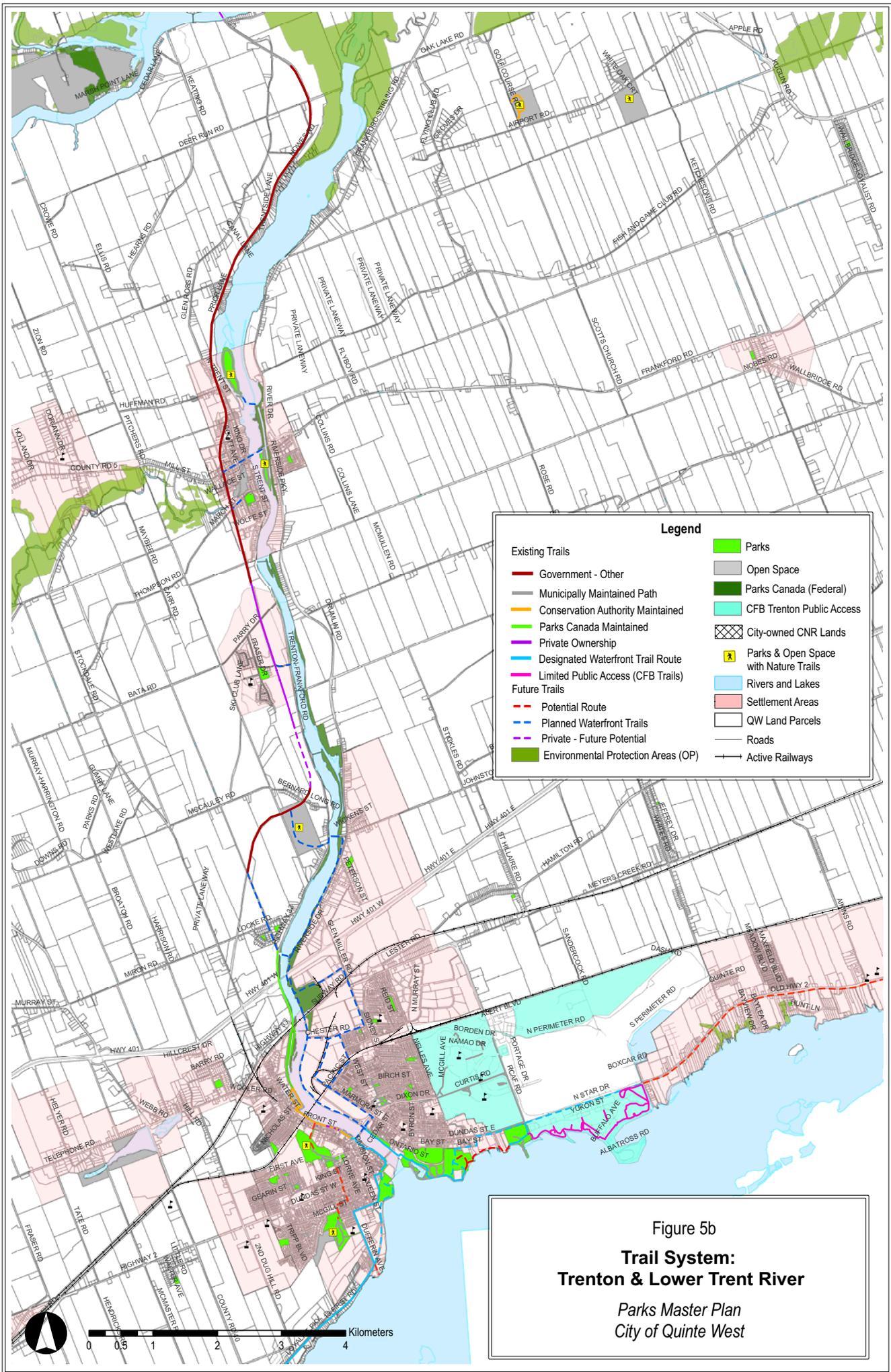


Figure 5a
**City-Wide
 Trail System**
*Parks Master Plan
 City of Quinte West*



0 0.45 0.9 1.8 2.7 3.6 Kilometers



8.0 TRAILS

8.1 Existing Trails and Linkages

The Quinte West trail system extends approximately 74 km throughout the City (refer to **Figure 5a: City-wide Trail System**). A number of the more formalized trails can be found within the community of Trenton, extending throughout parkland located within the community. Recent efforts toward bringing the Ontario waterfront trail through the City have resulted in a significant amount of trail built along the water's edge at the Bay of Quinte and along the Trent Severn waterway (including the Murray Channel and the Trent River and Canal). Support has grown for further trail connections from the community of Trenton to the community of Frankford. There has also been interest in linking the trail system to neighbouring City of Belleville in the east. The CFB Air base also provides opportunities for trail use. There are a number of trails that run through lands owned by both the Lower Trent and Quinte Conservation Authority. These trails typically run through natural wooded areas and serve the public with hiking and biking trails. Most of these are located throughout the rural areas in the City, with the exception of the Trenton Escarpment Area south of Hanna Park in Trenton. There is a 16km stretch of abandoned rail line has been converted to trail, extending north from Trenton Ward boundary through the communities of Batawa and Frankford to Glen Ross. Portions of this trail are owned by the City of Quinte West, Ontario Realty Corporation (longest section), and a number of private landowners. Friends of the Trail, a non-profit environmental organization based out of Frankford, are active in planning and ongoing management of this trail.

Based on 2004 populations, this translates to over 1.7 km of trail for every 1000 Quinte West residents. Generally, there have been a number of historical and ongoing efforts to establish both north-south and east-west connections throughout the City and its smaller communities. Given the rural nature of Quinte West and the physical separation between its composite communities ranging from growth centres to historic hamlets, the City has been successful in moving towards the establishment of an enviable system of diverse trails extending throughout the municipality.



A number of the more formalized trails can be found within the community of Trenton, extending throughout parkland and neighbourhoods located within the community (see **Figure 5b: Trail System – Trenton & Lower Trent River**).

These include, most notably, the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail which extends through Centennial Park and along Trent River and Canal through to the downtown area, and includes the Jack Lange Memorial Trail. Centennial Park itself has an extensive internal trail system throughout. There are also a number of trail connections through the publicly accessible portions of the CFB Trenton lands to the east of the community (i.e. along the waterfront, and through the air base grounds), as well as trails through Mount Pelion, Hanna Park and the Trenton Escarpment Conservation Area.

The City, in partnership with community organizations such as Friends of the Trail Inc, have also worked toward converting some of the former rail beds within the municipality to trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. Extensive effort has been put toward the Lower Trent Trail, a 16 km stretch of former rail bed extending north from Trenton Ward boundary through the communities of Batawa and Frankford to Glen Ross. Also, the former CN rail bed extending from the west end of Trenton eastward toward Prince Edward County has also been converted to trail. The City has recently purchased a portion of these lands in the waterfront area south of Trenton.

There are also a number of nature-based trails that run through conservation / open space lands owned by City, as well as both the Lower Trent and Quinte Conservation Authority. These trails typically run through natural wooded areas in more of the rural areas in the City and serve the public with hiking and biking trails. They also serve as interpretive trails to some of the interesting natural features the area has to offer (e.g. the Bleasdel Boulder).

8.2 Trails Planning

The former City of Trenton conducted a **Trails Master Plan** in 1994 to create a network of linked pedestrian and cycling trails throughout the community, connecting parks, marinas, cultural attractions, and other public open space areas. Generally, the Plan prioritized the development and enhancement of trails with high usage and noted long-term projects, and identified priorities for signage, and focal points / locations to be enhanced by Trails. Many of the trails identified in this plan have since been either built or more closely examined. These include the Jack Lange Memorial Walkway; Mount Pelion Trails; the Trenton Greenbelt Trail; Hanna Park Trails; a Trail along the Trent-Severn Waterway Property (the Murray Canal); Trails for Centennial and Bain Parks; as well as an optimal alignment for the Waterfront Trail. One trail that was envisioned as extending from Hanna Park through downtown Trenton to Mount Pelion, called the Film Street Trail has not been implemented as of yet but is also being considered in current trails planning exercises. The Plan also supported the establishment of rail trails making use of the extensive system of abandoned rail beds connecting the municipality.



Building on the Trails Master Plan and in efforts to foster a strategic approach to connecting the Waterfront Trail between Bellville and Trenton, Quinte Conservation conducted a detailed **Route Options Study** both along the waterfront and to the eastern end of the City. The studies include guidelines for Trail development including design, signage, and maintenance standards, all of which meet the standards set by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, the provincial organization established to coordinate regeneration efforts and trail development along the Ontario waterfront. In support of these waterfront trail initiatives, the City has also formed the Waterfront and Trail Development Committee, which reports to the Community and Leisure Services Advisory Committee with a mandate to assist with the planning, fundraising and partnerships for the development of the waterfront and trails throughout Quinte West.

In recent years, Friends of the Trail Inc. prepared a **Management Plan for the Lower Trent Trail** to direct all aspects of trail development and maintenance as a public, non-motorized recreational trail. The majority of the trail (approx. 12km) is owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), with several segments in private ownership by corporations, and approximately 1 km. owned by the City of Quinte West near the village of Glen Ross (see **Figure 5a and 5b**). The comprehensive plan addresses: health and economic benefits of recreational trails; long term objectives for access to privately held segments of the rail bed; public awareness of the trail and its features and attractions; and establishes standards and guidelines to direct trail development and maintenance.

Currently, Heartland Design Landscape Architects is conducting a route options study for the City, that will support the connection of the **Lower Trent Trail to the Waterfront Trail** through Trenton area. The study aims to build on the existing trails planning work done to date, address some of the trail implementation related issues (i.e. gaps in ownership along the Trent Sever Waterway), and recommend detailed routes, trail standards and costs for creating linkages among some of the larger north-south and east-west trail systems in the City.

8.3 Trail System Recommendations

City-wide Trail System

Given increasing usage and demand of trails across the province, it will be important for the City to continue to plan for and implement a City-wide primary trails system comprised of an interconnected system of multi-use trails, road-based cycling routes and neighbourhood walkways. Discussion and comments from both community partners and many members of the general public expressed interest in unified trail system building on the former municipalities, with better marketing and signage for a well defined trail system that could be enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Recommendation 8.1: Continue efforts to plan and implement a City-wide trails system which contributes to the establishment of overall linked network of parks and open space lands, both within and between communities.

Discussions with the Lower Trent Conservation Authority revealed a number of potential opportunities for partnership and support in trail development and enhancement. For example, the Trenton Greenbelt is currently an area of co-ownership between the CA & the City. The lands were assembled in the 1970s, although there are gaps in the north-south trail connections along the Trent River and Canal, where private properties still exist. In addition to providing recreational connectivity, the ecological goal in this area is to restore some of the globally significant Oak Savannah, and the Conservation Authority has received funding from Scouts Canada and the Metro Toronto Zoo. The Bleasdel Boulder was identified by CA staff as having great potential for a north-south connection from the Lower Trent Trail to the community of Glen Miller and Trenton. Also, conservation lands at Keating Hoards Natural Habitat Area and Sager provide opportunities for low-impact nature-based recreation. The Lower Trent CA is also looking to develop an acquisition strategy to help frame a long-term watershed protection plan.

Recommendation 8.2: Continue to work with the Lower Trent Conservation Authority toward route securement and trail development strategies.

Although growth is expected to be moderate, it will be important for the City to plan and integrate sound community planning principles including trails and pathways through new developments occurring within the City, both residential and commercial. There are a number of areas where trails planning has been integrated into development negotiations and agreements (i.e. recent townhouse developments along Hwy 33 / Carrying Place Road at the waterfront). The City can investigate and encourage legislative and non-legislative mechanisms in the strategic acquisition of land to support the open space system including dedication of parkland under the *Planning Act*, purchase, or easements over private property, where appropriate.

Recommendation 8.3: Continue to integrate trails planning into new developments and where possible support the securement of trail routes through legislative and non-legislative planning tools.

The Lower Trent Trail & North-South Connections

The City of Quinte West, Lower Trent Conservation, Friends of the Trail Inc. and numerous other partners have made significant progress in converting the former CN rail bed to a well-used a popular rail trail connecting the communities of Batawa, Frankford and Glen Ross in the north. However, there have been a

number of implementation challenges associated with recommendations set out in the Management Plan for the Lower Trent Trail. Given the trail is currently owned by a number of different organizations and there are sometimes limited options for getting from the rail trail to neighbouring communities, there are still a number of gaps in the connectivity and access. Specifically, the areas identified as ‘future potential’ on **Figure 5b** indicate illustrate areas where further dialogue, cooperation and partnership are required to achieve further continuity. These include the southern most portions where the trail meets Stockdale Road; north of Bleasdell Boulder where the trail crosses the Hydro Corridor; and at Glen Ross where the trail crosses the Trent River and Canal.

Recommendation 8.4: *Continue to support the implementation the Lower Trent Trail Management Plan, and support further trail connections from the community of Trenton to the community of Batawa and Frankford.*

The ongoing Route Options study being conducted by Heartland Design represents an opportunity to achieve a connection between the north-south Lower Trent Trail and the east-west Waterfront Trail. This study will provide further detail, insight and direction into the existing conditions and opportunities for trail connections within the community of Trenton, and recommend detailed routes that support a continuous connection. Currently, there a number of areas where trail connections are challenging and complicated (i.e. the connection from the rail trail south to Glen Miller area), and in some cases unattainable without land acquisition (i.e. west side of the River along Front Street). Potential routes being explored are highlighted on **Figure 5b**.

Recommendation 8.5: *Continue to support the connection of the Lower Trent Trail to the Waterfront Trail through Trenton, and consider recommendations coming out of the Detailed Route Options Study.*

Waterfront Trails & the East-West Connection

Trails planning efforts in Quinte West have resulted in a significant amount of waterfront trail built along the Bay of Quinte and along the Trent Severn Waterway (including the Murray Channel and the Trent River and Canal. Initiatives in recent years include the extension of trails through Centennial Park, and west of Trenton along the former rail alignment, as part of the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail route, with a section of lake edge trail underway as part of a new subdivision south of Hwy. 33. The eastward extension of the waterfront trail from Trenton to Belleville has not yet been realized, although a Route Options Study was undertaken several years ago. This trail section is currently low on the list of priorities for trails development, due both to physical route complications and land ownership issues, as well as the higher priority being on creating a trails network between destinations within the City, i.e. the north-south trail to Frankford along the Trent River.

Recommendation 8.6: *With the assistance of the Waterfront and Trail Development Committee and community partners, the City should continue efforts to plan and develop an east-west trail between Trenton and Belleville as part of the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail, as opportunities and funding permit.*

On-road Cycling

Discussions with the public indicate a substantial interest in cycling within the City. A number of individuals noted that the road network in Quinte West is ideal for tour cycling, as there is lots of varying terrain, scenic routes, hills, and a relatively low volume of traffic on the rural roads. Currently, there are no designated road-based cycling routes in the City. This is generally reflective of the rural nature of much of the municipality, and may also be due to issues of amalgamation and managing a larger planning area. Some cyclists noted that east-west connections for cycling can be made along Hwy 2 or other arterial roads, although traffic volumes are high between Trenton and Belleville. In terms of north-south connections, some cyclists find Hwy 33 quite busy and prefer to use calmer roads to the east, although not all are ideal for cycling (i.e. Stockdale Road). Potential routes for future consideration should focus on north-south and east-west cycling linkages connecting the communities of Quinte West as well as other surrounding communities such as Bellville, Stirling and Northumberland.

The identification and promotion of suitable tour cycling routes in rural areas, should be investigated with local cycling organizations and interested individuals. Such a system should support a system of loops of varying lengths, and skill levels, and could be promoted through signage and maps. As well, there should be continued efforts as part of trails planning to identify and sign local routes along quiet roads to connect the off-road trail systems. Opportunities for the construction of on-road cycling facilities, such as paved shoulders or curb lanes should be considered on major connecting routes such as Hwy 2 and Hwy 33, as part of road improvement programs.

Recommendation 8.7: *Collaborate with the Public Works Department, local cycling organizations, and adjacent municipalities to plan and implement, where feasible, a system of road-based cycling routes to promote connectivity in, and between, communities and the use of alternative modes of transportation.*

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

9.1 Partnership Opportunities

The Quinte West Park Plan included a review partnership opportunities relevant to the Parks Master Plan. In the sections which follow, existing formal agreements are reviewed, a process for evaluating partnership proposals from community groups and other proponents is identified, and the types of considerations which would govern participation in major joint ventures with other parties is discussed.

Review of Existing Agreements

As part of the study process, the consultants received and reviewed most recent agreement between the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and The Corporation of the City of Quinte West, signed May 2000.⁴⁰ This agreement has a stated 5-year term. We understand that other formal and informal agreements exist or have existed in the past concerning community access to non-municipal outdoor recreational resources. We have not reviewed all previous agreements; instead, we have used the current agreement with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board as the basis for any comments.

Staff note that they currently have an excellent relationship with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board regarding community use of school facilities and playing fields. Staff also work directly with two separate school principals regarding community use of Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board school facilities. Since staff prefer to deal informally with the parties involved at the present time, the only recommendation over the term of the Master Plan would be to **update the term of the agreement (2007 to 2012) with the public school board.**

Recognizing that staff and administration may change over time, and that the current relationship with the school boards may change at some point in the future, **there may be need in the future to renegotiate the current agreement. The following suggestions, clarifications or additions could be considered at the time of renegotiation.**

Create a Comprehensive Agreement that involves both the Separate and Public Boards:

We understand current and past agreements in the City of Quinte West have been negotiated on a case-by-case basis with various providers (e.g. different agreements for all school boards). Where issues of joint-use are similar, a comprehensive agreement involving the municipality all school boards and other potential partners would be preferable. Specifics related to each party, such as a list of parks or school sites, could be provided in separate addenda to the agreement, if required. There are municipalities in Ontario that have or are in the process of developing comprehensive agreements involving all local school boards. This would streamline the process of updating agreements and would guarantee that all parties collaborate on future initiatives, to the maximum benefit of the community. It also ensures a consistent approach and guarantees community wide needs and priorities are reflected in all facility allocation decisions.

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Discussion of Benefits/Desired Outcomes:

The current agreement alludes to the following benefits of joint-use: “to promote the full, efficient and cost effective use”. Recognition of a broader range of benefits afforded by the agreement could be considered and documented to more clearly indicate the anticipated outcomes of the agreement. The following types of statements could be considered:

- The agreement helps to ensure public space is affordable and accessible to the communities that the governing parties serve;
- The agreement supports healthy, active lifestyles, encouraging citizen engagement in community activities, and fostering safe and cohesive communities;
- The agreement ensures standards of development and maintenance and levels of use are consistent with the safety of users and the protection of essential open space resources.

Outdoor Facility Scheduling and Maintenance Considerations:

City staff are responsible for the scheduling and maintenance of school playing fields used by the community through the summer months and this is stipulated in the current agreement. According to staff, the current arrangement works well. In the future, if greater levels of community use of school fields are desired, the agreement could include more details regarding scheduling and maintenance responsibilities. The following statements would apply:

- Statements that define the times and circumstances where the facilities should not be in use, with consideration to maintenance, repair, reconstruction, emergency closures, and identify alternate facilities that may be considered for the contemplated uses.
- Requirement for annual meetings to agree on scheduling practices, maintenance and field resting requirements (see below).
- A statement noting a requirement for an annual meeting of all parties, (January), to agree on routine maintenance procedures, resting procedures, and general scheduling parameters for the facilities in question.
- A statement noting that all parties will agree on **standards for maintenance** and will draft general guidelines to be followed by both parties during their respective periods of use and responsibility;

Field Renovations and Improvements:

As noted, City staff are responsible for maintenance of school fields during the summer months when they are used by community groups. The current arrangement works well and staff feel that there are no issues that need to be addressed. If however, a greater level of community use is considered in the future, then the following statements could be considered as part of a re-negotiated agreement:

- A statement noting the parties agree to meet annually (likely October/November) to identify necessary field improvements and upgrades and to discuss potential cost-sharing arrangements for these upgrades, noting the mutual benefits to each party;

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- A statement noting that written approval will be necessary from all parties before renovations or improvements are made.
- A statement noting ownership and responsibility for maintenance of any new equipment or enhanced facilities, and requiring written approval to remove any new equipment or upgrades once they are in place.

New Facility Development:

There is nothing in the current agreement related to new facility development. While there will be limited growth in Quinte West and the local School Boards are not currently contemplating any new school development, this may change at some point in the future, and renegotiated agreements should be proactive in anticipating and responding to this change. In consideration of this, the agreement could include a statement that stipulates that at minimum, all parties will designate a relevant contact person who is responsible for the planning, design, development of new construction or significant redevelopment of existing facilities, and that the parties agree to contact each other and participate in mutual planning processes; to provide input, explore future opportunities for collaboration, and to avoid unnecessary duplication, etc.

Recommendation 9.1: Update the term of the agreement with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board to 2007 to 2012, and periodically review and update or formalize all agreements as needs arise and/or situations change.

A Formal Process for Evaluating Partnership Proposals

Quinte West has a long history of successful involvement of community groups in fundraising for capital projects for parkland and recreational amenities. Existing facilities and amenities such as a Skate Park, Leash-Free Dog Park in Hannah Park, are examples of successful partnership initiatives that have and will continue to provide benefits to community residents and visitors to Quinte West. The City recognizes the benefits of these partnerships and sees these initiatives as important to ongoing success of the parks and recreation system.

While for small projects such as a tree planting, a relatively informal approach is appropriate for evaluating and pursuing community-based partnerships, this is not the case for more significant projects (e.g. a major outdoor sports field complex). For these types of projects, a formal process should be adopted for the City to evaluate partnership proposals. The process will be used to determine level of priority relative to other possible projects, consistency with identified goals and objectives, and the nature of the City's contribution to, responsibility for, and ongoing involvement in these projects. The following steps outline a generic process that the City could adapt to assist with future decision-making, when faced with a proposal from an outside party. The level of detailed documentation would depend on the scale of the proposed project and the potential commitment (financial and resources) anticipated from the City. The following process would be well suited to a major project, but some elements may also be applicable to a small park improvement. The City should adapt the process and the degree of information required depending on the scale of the project.

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The first two steps, which are Stage One of the process, are a screening approach to ensure the proposed development is in line with Department priorities. For those projects that make it through these two steps, Stage Two involves defining the benefits to the community, and Stage Three outlines the requirements for a detailed business case.

Stage 1: Screening Process:

Step 1: Consistency with the City and Department's Mandate

- Does the initiative fit with the current mandate and goals of the Community Services Department?
- Has the initiative been identified as a priority in a Master Plan, a facility or parks plan, or any other plan that the City has undertaken?
- Does the initiative serve a priority group or market that has been identified as being under-served?

Step 2: Meets Demonstrated Needs and Market Demand

- Does the initiative meet demonstrated needs that have been identified through any of the Department's planning processes? Does it fill any identified gaps in service?
- Is there any documented evidence, including service trends, participation growth locally and regionally, that would help to justify demand for the proposed development, even if it has not been identified as a City priority?
- Does the facility respond to a demonstrated geographic service gap, an emerging market, or does it re-balance a current service supply that is considered to be less than equitable?
- Does the proponent bring resources to the partnership?
- Is the proponent a bona fide organization?

Assuming that the City's review of a project and its proponent adequately addresses each of these questions, the proposal would move to Stage Two of the process.

Stage 2: Defining the Goals/Outcomes

Stage Two involves defining the goals and anticipated outcomes that the proponents hope to achieve through partnership, including the benefits to the community. It is important to articulate these goals and outcomes because they will be basis for preparing and evaluating the Stage Three Business Plan. In addition, by clearly identifying goals and outcomes, any differences between the City's interest in the project and that of the proponents will be identified.

It is important to note at the present time, the City is operating in the absence of an approved overall Master Plan for Parks, Culture and Recreation. While the current planning process (a Parks Master Plan) includes the identification of park and outdoor facilities needs and priorities, it is not broad enough or comprehensive enough to include all of the possible recreation and leisure (indoor and outdoor, culture and recreation, etc.) needs in the City. A generic Master Plan would be beneficial in clarifying the City's goals, needs and priorities, and consequently their possible interest in future partnership initiatives to serve recreation needs.

Stage 3: Detailed Business Case

If the proposal meets with the criteria outlined in Stage One and the Goals/Outcomes have been clearly defined, then the City should work with the group to outline a detailed business case for the proposed development.

Stage 3 involves the preparation of the detailed business case. In stage 3, the following types of questions are addressed: Has the proponent identified the capital costs of the facility, based on an estimate provided by a professional? If cost sharing is proposed, what are the demands on the City? Would the partnership result in any capital cost savings for the City, assuming the City would be providing the facility at some point in the future, based on identified needs, etc.? If the expectation is for the City to manage and operate the facility when developed, then how will the proponent guarantee a high standard of construction and adherence to all appropriate legislation and guidelines in the facility's planning and development? What will be the City's level of involvement in supervising the construction process? If the expectation is for some type of co-management and operation, then a detailed agreement will need to be developed that outlines each party's responsibilities. The steps involved in this stage include the following:

- Detailed Operating Plan
- Detailed Management Plan
- Capital Cost Estimate
- Capital and Operating Financing Plan
- Preliminary Development Schedule
- Partner and Municipal Roles and Responsibilities

While the primarily responsibility for developing the detailed business plan should rest with the proponent, the City may provide staff resources to assist in the preparation of the documentation above. A project that is brought forward to this stage represents something the City is serious about pursuing in partnership with the proponent. The scale of the proposed development would dictate the level of City staff involvement. Some of the considerations for the City at this stage include:

- Financial due diligence of the proponent (minimize risk to the City);
- Legal due diligence (minimize risk to the City and the users);
- Organizational capacity of the proponent (minimize risk to the City to provide promised services);
- Resources (financial and land) required from the City;
- Implementation schedule and implications for City resources;
- Ongoing expectations/role of the City in management, operations, monitoring and evaluation.

Stage 4: Agreement Development and Implementation

Once the goals and benefits have been defined and the detailed business plan has been developed, a detailed agreement (or a number of separate agreements) must be developed and ratified by the parties involved. At minimum, the agreement should stipulate the capital cost sharing arrangements, the

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parameters of design and development, the responsibilities for management and overall operation, responsibility and cost sharing arrangements related to day-to-day maintenance of various components, responsibilities for scheduling and use, and applicable fees and charges for all anticipated uses. This stage often involves considerable negotiation between the partners involved.

If the negotiations are successful and the partners ratify the agreements, then the project proceeds to implementation, involving detailed design and costing, construction, an operating and management plan, a monitoring and evaluation plan, and a plan for the project's introduction to the public.

Recommendation 9.2: *For significant projects involving community partners, (e.g. a major outdoor sports field complex), the City should develop and adopt a formal process to evaluate partnership proposals, similar to the one outlined in this Master Plan, to be followed by the development and ratification of a cost-sharing agreement. The process should include mechanisms to determine the level of priority relative to other possible projects, and consistency with the City's identified goals and objectives, and clearly identify the nature of the City's and partners contribution to, responsibility for, and ongoing involvement in the project.*

9.2 Action Plan

Phasing and Costs

Table 9.1, following, outlines an action plan based on the recommendations of the Master Plan. The table proposes a timeframe, and provides an estimated capital or planning cost. The timing of each recommendation is provided as a guide, based on forecasted needs, and it is understood that implementation will be influenced by the availability of resources.

The proposed timing of items is as follows:

"Immediate"	= 2007 / 2008
"Short Term"	= 2009 to 2013
"Medium Term"	= 2014 – 2018
"Long Term"	= 2019 - 2024

Cost estimates are in 2007 dollars. These are preliminary estimates and must be confirmed through a periodic review of the Master Plan, and/or more detailed investigation at the time of implementation.

Recommendation 9.3: *In conjunction with annual capital forecasts, review the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan to allocate funds, confirm priorities, timing, and costs and adjust the schedule for implementation based on resource availability, and other influencing factors.*

Through the public survey it was evident that some measure of improvement to existing parks and facilities is needed. This was primarily attributed to the lack of amenities (washrooms, bleachers, picnic tables, parking, seating areas, shade trees, and landscaping), in larger parks, and a need for regulation playing fields. It was also suggested that in older neighbourhoods some outdoor facilities use is declining due to

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aging or constrained sites or in response to changing demographics and leisure trends. A greening and City beautification strategy was also called for.

The Department has developed a program of sponsorship to assist in the provision of new park furnishings, lighting, signage and trees. These efforts will contribute to the updating of parks and to City beautification, however, it is recommended that funds be set aside annually to establish a reserve fund for the improvement of existing parks and open space, and streetscapes, and to serve as partnership seed money for grant programs that may be available to community groups. Appropriate planning and design will need to precede all major capital projects and it will be important for sufficient funds to be allocated in the reserve fund toward this process. It is also recommended that a separate amount be identified for trails development to advance the implementation of a planned program of trails, as identified in such studies as the Lower Trent Route Options Study.

Recommendation 9.4: *Establish an annual budget to build a reserve fund for general parks planning and design, parks/facilities upgrading, and city greening and beautification. Establish priorities in conjunction with recommendations of the outdoor field assessment, recreation trends and community demographics, and identified community interests. Consult with local residents on major park redevelopment plans.*

Recommendation 9.5: *Establish an annual budget for trails toward achieving a planned program of trails development, with priorities and costs as identified through other investigations and detailed studies, i.e. Lower Trent Route Options Study.*

Operational Implications

In order to establish and maintain quality parks and recreation facilities in Quinte West, and to meet the expectations of the public, there is a need for the adequate allocation of staff and financial resources for maintenance and operations. As with capital development costs, the operational costs associated with new parks and facilities must be reviewed and confirmed during the planning stages for major capital projects, and on an annual basis as parks and facilities are added.

Recommendation 9.6: *On an annual basis, review the operational cost implications of implementing the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan and establish an annual budget to ensure that adequate staff and financial resources are provided.*

9.3 Monitoring of the Plan

Updating of Data Sources

The need for the development of new parks and facilities is tied largely to population growth, demographics and use trends. The City has an excellent planning and management tool through its GIS database. Information gathered over the course of the Parks Master Plan provides the City with current data on parks and recreation facilities, and to the extent known, the availability and use of outdoor fields. This was a time consuming task for staff, and, it will be important to maintain the data sources that are relevant to the Plan to facilitate monitoring and updating of forecasts and projections.

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The following are recommended ongoing key tasks related to data management.

- Monitor broader trends/best practices in the provision of parks and recreation;
- Track changes in the City's population, age and ethno-cultural profile to facilitate the forecasting of parkland supply needs;
- With the assistance of user organizations, monitor the capacity and use of outdoor recreation facilities to confirm/update the needs assessment;
- As new parks and facilities are added, update inventories and mapping, and document facilities and parkland supply, according to the recommended classifications.

Recommendation 9.7: *Continue to gather and update the City's socio-demographic data, and monitor capacity and use of outdoor recreation facilities, and periodically update parks and facilities inventory and mapping, and supply standards.*

Plan Review

To ensure that the Parks Master Plan remains relevant for the future, it will be important to undertake a periodic review and confirmation of the recommendations, and to evaluate them against current conditions. Annual monitoring by staff of completed tasks, and identification of those that have been delayed and/or new and items added will assist in reporting to Council, and maintaining the usefulness of the Plan.



Although recommendations of this Plan extend beyond a ten-year timeframe, a full update of the Master Plan is recommended to be undertaken in ten years.

To ensure a cohesive parks and leisure services delivery system, it is recommended that this be a consolidated Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan that looks at indoor/outdoor recreation facilities, parks and open space, and arts and culture facilities.

Recommendation 9.8: *Periodically, review the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan and update the parks and outdoor recreation facilities needs assessment, in response to resident demographics, program interests and emerging and developing leisure trends. Undertake a comprehensive Parks, Culture, and Recreation Master Plan in 10 years.*

Table 9.1 Implementation Phasing & Costs

Recommendation	Immediate 2007-2008	Short Term 2009-20013	Medium Term 2014-2018	Long Term 2019-2024
New Parks Acquisition				
7.4		\$120,000.00		
New 12 ha. City/Community Park by 2014 to support facilities development				
Parks Planning				
7.5	\$50,000 - \$60,000			
Prepare Master Plan for Centennial Park ²				
7.7	\$25,000 - \$30,000			
Prepare Master Plan for Tremur Lake area				
9.4	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Establish an annual budget for parks planning & design to build up a reserve fund				
New Parks Development				
7.6			\$1,528,800.00	
Develop new 12 ha. City/Community Park by 2014 to meet outdoor facilities needs to 2014 and beyond ³				
7.7			\$2,165,000.00	
Develop 17 ha. City Park south side of Tremur Lake ³				
7.9 thru 7.12		\$459,783.09	\$392,679.61	\$770,447.34
General Neighbourhood Parkland development costs, based on achieving 0.6 ha. (1.48 ac.)/1000 pop. ³				
New Outdoor Facilities				
6.4	\$350,000.00			
Develop 1 full size soccer field immediately (in 2007 budget)				
6.6			\$600,000	
Develop 2 full size soccer fields to 2014				
6.8				\$600,000
Develop 2 full size multi-purpose/soccer fields beyond 2014				
Parks / Facilities Upgrading				
9.4	\$300,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000	\$1,800,000
Establish an annual budget for general parks planning, design and facilities upgrading				
Trails				
9.5	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Establish an annual budget for trails development ⁴				
Parks Operations				
9.6	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00
Establish an annual operational budget for maintenance of existing/planned parkland ⁵				
Cost Summary By Phase				
	\$1,610,000.00	\$3,039,783.09	\$7,146,479.61	\$4,130,447.34

¹ Parkland acquisition costs based on \$10,000 /ha. for land outside the urban settlement area. Increases to \$50,000 to \$75,000 within. City-owned lands around Tremur Lake should be investigated first for a new City/Community Park.

² Master Plan costs may vary according to level of detail, i.e. may include a marketing study, geotechnical investigations, review of marine facilities

³ Parkland development costs include general site development, landscaping, playground, & shade structure, parking (City/Community Park). Outdoor fields costed separately.

Neighbourhood Park = \$414,219 ha. (\$170,000 ac.) City/Community Park = \$314,678 ha. (\$127,400 ac.) Natural Area/Open Space = \$50,000 ha. (\$20,000 ac.)

⁴ Based on current annual budget for trails (2007). There needs to be a corresponding annual increase annually as recommendations of the Master Plan are implemented, and more detailed costs are determined through other studies

⁵ Based on current annual operational costs (2007). There needs to be a corresponding annual increase annually as recommendations of the Master Plan are implemented, and new parks and trails are developed.

	2007/2008	2009	2014	2024
<i>Projected population growth</i>				
Hectares of new City/Community Park (2.4 ha./1000)	1,848	-	1,577	3,190
Hectares of new Neighbourhood Park (0.6 ha./1000)	-	1.11	12*	-
			0.95	1.86

* New site for City/Community Park development to meet facilities needs to 2014 and beyond

** All costs noted in 2007 dollars