

# **Part 2: Parks & Recreation**

**Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update  
and Lake Enjoyment Strategy**

**Town of Innisfil  
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# PART 2: PARKS & RECREATION

Figure 2-1: Centennial Park

## 2.1 Introduction

Part 2 is organized into four assessments:

- Programs and Events
- Outdoor Scheduled Facilities
- Parks
- Trails

Existing facilities and recommended new and updated facilities are covered in the outdoor facilities assessment. The parks assessment covers existing parks, future parks, park distribution, and parkland needs, while the trails assessment addresses existing trails and recommended new trails.

Within each section, the discussion first establishes what currently exists, who provides it, and any other relevant considerations. This is followed by summaries of what we heard from the community regarding the current state, and opinions on needs and interests. The assessments then address what is needed and why, and what is required as a result (recommendations).

The assessments update the programming and outdoor recreation components of the 2016 Active Innisfil Plan. Included is an assessment of program and event needs, and directions on key resources and procedures to ensure recommended services can be delivered.

# 2.2 Programs and Events

The Programs and Events assessment is organized into the following focus areas:

- Program Assessment
- Arts, Culture, and Heritage
- Outdoor Programming and Activities
- Sport Development
- Age Specific Program Needs

## Programs Assessment

The 2016 Active Innisfil Parks and Recreation Master Plan outlined a vision and guiding principles for recreation that have directed the Town over the past six years:

### Vision Statement:

“All Innisfil residents are highly active in safe and welcoming parks and recreation activities as a result of the broad range of choice and engaged partners.”(page 28)

### Guiding Principles

1. The Town and related partners share the leadership in providing a broad range of programs and services that address community priorities.
2. Programs and services are barrier free and accessible to all residents.
3. Communication plays a central role in promoting the benefits of parks and recreation participation and promoting local opportunities and events.
4. Innisfil is fiscally responsible and will seek out efficiencies and alternate revenues to enhance recreation experiences.

5. The Town will continuously improve on its ability to increase participation and provide a high level of service. (page 28)

The Town has made advancements in each of these five areas, and this program delivery assessment provides an update on progress made and recommendations for continued progress and advancement of these goals. The assessment is organized by the following five sections, each of which relates to the guiding principles identified:

- Supporting the expanded role of Sport and Recreation (principle 1)
- Joint services planning (principle 1)
- Marketing, communications, and funding (principles 3, 4, and 5)
- Accessibility and inclusion (principle 2)
- Measuring success (principle 5)

## Supporting the Expanded Role of Sport & Recreation

Municipalities have latitude to shape their mandates in providing recreation services. In Ontario, the scope of municipal involvement in recreation ranges widely, and depends largely on the size of the community being served and its financial resources to provide desired services. At the same time, the essential mandate of all municipal systems is to provide ‘community recreation’ services that are locally based, designed for/open to all regardless of skill level/ability, comprise introductory experiences/basic instruction in a wide variety of areas, promote fun and social interaction and are affordable. The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association’s Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Well-being (2015) (“the Framework”) is the guiding document for public recreation providers

in Canada. The Framework provides a renewed definition of recreation:

*“Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.” (p.8)<sup>1</sup>*

This definition emphasizes the broad scope of recreation (not just physical activity and sports), as well as the importance of recreation to wellbeing and community building. Innisfil’s approach to recreation embodies this definition, as the Town and other community providers work together to deliver recreation services that advance this concept of recreation.

The Framework also outlines five goals and priorities, all of which are of interest to municipal parks and recreation providers and are touched on in various parts of this Master Plan (programs and events, parks, and outdoor scheduled facilities assessments) Table 2-1.

As described in the Framework, the role of community recreation has expanded in recent years beyond the traditional sports-centred focus to “address socio-demographic challenges and troubling issues such as increases in sedentary behaviour and obesity, decreased contact with nature, threats to the environment, and inequities that limit participation” (p.8). This has been mirrored in the expansion of services provided by Innisfil’s Sport and Recreation Department, with a broad program portfolio (e.g., soccer, volleyball, dance, visual arts, yoga, mental health, general learning classes etc.), assisting local sport groups with their program expansion, outreach (e.g., school visits, neighbourhood nights), HIGH FIVE<sup>2</sup> training, events (e.g., Speak Your Mind, Music in the Park), and partnering with other community

providers. The Sport and Recreation Department is responsive to the community – and as the demographics and population of Innisfil rapidly changes, staff must actively work to remain in touch with community needs and interests.

With an expanded program portfolio and the additional recommendations provided in this Master Plan update, the Department will require additional staff to pursue service objectives. The current staff complement consists of one full time Recreation Coordinator one full time Recreation and Booking Administrator, a Facility Coordinator and a Sports & Recreation Manager. These staff cover all aspects of recreation (planning, implementing, partnerships, outreach, hiring, contracting, training, delivering, evaluating, creating the Recreation Guide, etc.). Existing staff are at capacity with their current workload and cannot take on the additional work required to build recreation in the Town to the level described in this Plan. This Plan recommends nine new positions to meet the objectives over the term of the Plan, as described in Table 2-2.

The new Recreation Coordinator (PE.1) would assist the existing Coordinator in implementing the recommendations of this Plan, specifically related to program development (e.g., partnerships, new program development, community outreach, etc.) along with helping to coordinate the other staff listed in Table 2-1. Other staff positions are each discussed within the assessment related to their respective service/ focus areas.

PE.1 Hire an additional full-time Recreation Coordinator

1 [https://cpa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FrameworkForRecreationInCanada\\_2016wcitation.pdf](https://cpa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FrameworkForRecreationInCanada_2016wcitation.pdf)

2 HIGH FIVE was founded by Parks and Recreation Ontario as the national standard for children’s recreation programs (<https://www.highfive.org/what-high-five>)

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Table 2-1: Five Goals and Priorities Identified in the CPRA’s Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing Report, 2015

Goals	Examples of Priorities/Practices
Foster active living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing sedentary behaviour</li> <li>• Participation at all ages</li> <li>• Play and physical literacy</li> </ul>
Increase inclusion and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable participation</li> <li>• Ensuring people are comfortable and supported</li> <li>• Making recreation accessible in every sense of the word (socially, physically, financially, etc.)</li> </ul>
Connect people and nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing natural spaces</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Comprehensive park and trail system</li> <li>• Protection and stewardship</li> </ul>
Provide supportive physical and social environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate spaces</li> <li>• Increase use, aim for multi-purpose</li> <li>• Support active transportation</li> <li>• Align community initiatives</li> </ul>
Sustain capacity in the recreation sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting recreation education and employment opportunities for youth</li> <li>• Volunteer support and training</li> <li>• Collaborative system</li> <li>• Capacity development</li> </ul>

## Joint Services Planning

The 2016 Active Innisfil Plan provided a service delivery assessment that recognized that “Continued emphasis should be placed on delivering services in an integrated manner by providing programs directly and enabling community organizations and partners to deliver quality programs and services. This harmonized approach takes great effort, serves to avoid

duplication of resources and capitalizes on limited funding” (p. 111). Figure 2-2 summarizes the various actors in recreation in the Town, their mandates/focus areas, types of programs offered, target population, and locations of operation. Together, the providers offer options for a wide variety of activities for all ages and abilities.

The Sport and Recreation Department communicates regularly with the Library and

YMCA (acknowledged as key municipal and external partners in Figure 2-22) with regards to program planning, and this practice should continue in order to maximize and share resources, support each other in providing programs within their areas of expertise, and avoid duplication of programs and competition between providers.

Taking it one step further, the Town, through the Recreation Coordinator, should engage in similar joint program planning with local community organizations, non-profits, agencies, and businesses that provide or are interested in providing activities, programs, and/or events in Innisfil. This can occur, for example, through annual or biannual planning sessions, which would provide an opportunity for all types of providers to share their plans for the upcoming year or season (if biannual), discuss challenges, opportunities, potential partnerships or areas for efficiencies, etc. This includes several general tasks to align with annual budgeting:

- Verifying community service needs/demands
- Determining which of these can be addressed
- Detailing the program/service response by area (parks, trails, facilities, programs and/or delivery)
- Determining the delivery method and, if appropriate, the organizations to share in provision
- Developing budgets to support the action(s)

Partnerships among participating organizations should emerge in response to specific required actions, which may be continuous or self-limiting, depending on the initiative. Planning sessions can function as a starting point for increased communication and collaboration between the Town and community organizations. From there the Town can determine how to best provide the support that groups require, such as assistance in marketing and communication, volunteer recruitment, and funding applications

Table 2-2: Summary of Staffing Recommendations in this Plan

Rec. #	Description
PE.1	Recreation Coordinator
PE.3	Recreation Marketing & Communications Associate (part-time)
PE.5	Partnership and Sales Associate
PE.13	Inclusion Coordinator
PE.17	Arts, Culture, & Events Coordinator
PE.19	Event Support Staff (as needed)
PE.30	Preschool & Children’s Program Coordinator
PE.34	Preschool & Children’s Program Coordinator
PE.37	Continue ongoing efforts to achieve Youth Friendly Community accreditation
PE.44	Move contract instructors to part time positions (as needed)

(all requested in the user group survey conducted as part of consultation for this Plan). Groups will need a designated contact person at the Town, and this role can be fulfilled by the Arts, Culture, & Events Coordinator, the Sport Development Coordinator, or the Preschool, Children & Youth Program Coordinators (all discussed in the upcoming section), who can act as the liaison for community groups that offer programs within their respective service areas.

The number of planning sessions per year in which all participants should engage can be determined collectively. At least one full-group session per year, however, would be required and likely supplemented by smaller group meetings throughout the year to address specific topics emerging from the collective session or

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Figure 2-2: Summary of Key Recreation Providers in Innisfil and their Focus Areas



Key Providers	Mandate/Focus Area	Type of Programs/ Events	Target Populations	Locations
<b>Sports and Recreation Department</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing recreation participation</li> <li>2. Building Community</li> <li>3. Encouraging interconnectedness of creation and broader community well-being</li> <li>4. Where appropriate operating on cost-recovery model; a combination of free and fee-based</li> </ol>	<p>Physical activity &amp; non-physical activities</p> <p>Registered &amp; drop-in</p> <p>Paid &amp; free programs and events</p>	Entire Town; all communities, ages, social demographics, etc.	<p>Municipal facilities</p> <p>Parks</p> <p>Schools</p>
<b>Key Municipal Partners Library</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating a community hub, and provide safe, welcoming space</li> <li>2. Engaging as many people as possible in learning, promoting traditional and digital literacies</li> <li>3. Supporting community needs through partnerships, collaboration and connection with other services.</li> <li>4. Removing any barrier of cost/maintain as a free service for community benefit</li> </ol>	Non-physical activity (literacy, arts and crafts, learning, events etc.)	Entire Town; all communities, ages, socio-demographics, etc.	<p>Library branches</p> <p>Various outreach locations</p>
<b>Key External Partners YMCA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engaging as many people as possible in recreation activities</li> <li>2. Reducing the barrier of cost</li> <li>3. Operates as non-profit membership-based</li> </ol>	<p>Social</p> <p>Childcare</p> <p>Fitness/health and wellbeing</p>	Entire Town; all communities, ages, socio-demographics, etc.	YMCA at IRC
<b>Organizations/ Non-Profits/ Agencies</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bringing people together with shared interests</li> <li>2. Building Community</li> <li>3. Providing programs/activities/events for all ages</li> <li>4. Operating on a volunteer cost-recovery, or non-profit model</li> </ol>	<p>Physical activity &amp; non-physical activity</p> <p>Social</p> <p>Learning/general Interests</p>	<p>Generally entire Town (occasionally neighbouring communities)</p> <p>Sometimes focus on local neighbourhoods or specific interests, ages, etc.</p>	<p>Municipal facilities</p> <p>Non-Municipal Facilities</p> <p>Town Parks</p>
<b>Businesses</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing quality service in exchange for payment</li> <li>2. Maintaining profit model</li> </ol>	<p>Physical fitness</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>Music &amp; art lessons</p> <p>Water sports, etc.</p>	Typically target special interests, ages and income levels	<p>Private facilities</p> <p>Town parks</p>

Figure 2-2: Summary of Key Recreation Providers in Innisfil and their Focus Areas, continued

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unforeseen issues. Special events, for example, may require separate groups/sessions and include the business community in planning activities.

PE.2 Continue joint community program planning with community organizations, non-profits, agencies, and businesses that provide or are interested in providing activities, programs, and/or events in Innisfil

### Marketing, Communications and Funding

This section focuses on generating revenue through increased participation (via increased marketing and communications), increasing advertising sales, and building funding partnerships. There are currently no dedicated staff for these functions.

#### Marketing and Communications

The Town and its partners offer a range of program types for all ages, at various locations and times, and there is capacity for additional participants. In consultations, however, residents requested programs that are already being offered. There could be other obstacles to their participation (e.g., timing), but it could also be due to a lack of awareness of what is available. There is a need to increase promotion of existing and new programs/services to optimize participation/use, but there are no staff currently dedicated to this function. As the Town grows and more coverage is required, an integrated comprehensive approach to this work should be developed, which would be most successfully implemented by dedicated Sport and Recreation staff.

Innisfil's print guide was very valuable to the community for communication of events and services. There were previously discussions about developing the print guide into a magazine that includes information beyond recreation, however recent budgetary changes have moved this in the other direction, reducing the guide to a pamphlet with a QR code directing people to the ActiveNet site to review and register for programs. While a worthwhile approach to try, there is evidence that people prefer print (see side bar). Email contact lists are also integral to communications in today's market, and a project was recently launched to create a portal for residents to subscribe to and receive information regarding community events, activities, and programs.

#### Brochure Trends for 2020:

*"Put it in print...Set aside your notions that millennials want everything online and that baby boomers want everything in print. You have it backwards! Boomers in the U.S. lead all other nations in computer literacy of older adults. And millennials prefer print catalogs. Yes.*

*The popularity of print continues to rise as more younger people begin to participate in lifelong learning. Increasingly, lifelong learning members are noting that when they improve their print catalog, their online and digital presence is more effective. The catalog drives traffic to your website. Tips:*

*Integrate your print materials with digital communication*

*Focus on creating well-designed, easily navigable web pages and good social media*

*And memorize this: "Print drives decisions. Decisions are implemented online."<sup>3</sup>*

3 <https://lern.org/>

Other marketing and communications for recreation occurs through outreach activities (e.g., at schools and community events), and through corporate communications channels (e.g., Town website, social media pages, etc.). Social media is an important tool for reaching the community, especially youth and adults, which are key groups that the Sport and Recreation Department is trying to engage in participation. People interested in parks and recreation may be more willing/likely to follow a Town account dedicated to the topic than a general municipal account.

By operating their own Sport and Recreation social media account, staff can respond quickly to upcoming programs/events/news from the Department as well as from other providers and share the information broadly to the benefit of both the community and the providers.

It is recommended the Town add a Recreation Marketing & Communications Associate (part-time) to focus on expanding the activities discussed here, including the print guide, online portal, e-mail lists, outreach activities, and Sport and Recreation specific social media accounts. Ideally, this staff person should work closely with corporate communications to ensure a consistent voice across Town accounts and platforms. Table 2-3 summarizes the recommendations from this section that apply to marketing and communications. Hiring a part-time Associate is a prerequisite to implementing the task-related recommendations.

Table 2-3: Summary of Recommendations from this Plan Pertaining to the Recreation Marketing and Communications Associate

Rec. #	Recommendation
PE.3	Hire a Recreation Marketing and Communications Associate (part-time)
PE.4	Increase marketing and advertising regarding opportunities for local businesses to advertise in the Recreation Guide and in Town parks and facilities
PE.12	Actively foster a safe culture for 2SLGBTQ+ <sup>1</sup> community members in all recreation spaces and programs through communications messaging, posters, staff training, providing gender neutral change/washroom facilities etc.
PE.12	Actively foster a safe culture for participants of all ages, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds by, for example, trying to ensure advertising and communications reaches these groups, advertising features a diversity of people, Town recreation staff reflect the diversity of the community, staff training, providing women’s only class options, providing program/activity options of interest to various communities, etc.
PE.24	Market outdoor recreation: Develop marketing and communications that help foster a positive view of outdoor recreation in all weather
PE.25	Market parks and rentals: Increase awareness of available park amenities and ability to rent spaces for private parties and functions through for example, advertising, outreach activities, etc.

<sup>1</sup> 2SLGBTQ+ is an acronym that stands for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning and additional sexual orientations and gender identities.

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## Funding and Revenue Generation

The Town should expand marketing its advertising opportunities to increase related revenue. Expanding advertising opportunities in locations such as at ball diamonds, playing fields, and regional and community district parks should also be considered. Funding generated from advertisements at parks and facilities should be reinvested in community programming for the Sport and Recreation Department.

It is recommended the Department add a Partnership and Sales Associate to assist in pursuing external funding opportunities including sponsorship, revenue-generating advertising, and grants. This position will also be responsible for soliciting funding for supporting/growing the FAIR program (Fee Assistance In Recreation program - discussed further under the Accessibility and Inclusion section). Sponsorships are key to offsetting costs of service delivery and must be proactively sought/developed. This role will provide support in achieving the Sport and Recreation Department annual objectives and revenue targets.

## Service Pricing

Although the Town publishes a Fees and Charges schedule that is updated annually, it is not clear if service prices reflect the community's position on the function that user fees should play in financing parks and recreation services. Pricing for parks and recreation services is often part of a corporate-wide policy. The following discussion is limited to parks and recreation services.

When asked about their level of agreement with several statements relating to financing recreation services, the dominant response to "In general, fees to use recreation facilities and programs should be increased" was negative - 60% of random telephone and 43% of online survey respondents "disagreed" to the statement Table 2-4.

Table 2-4: Indicating General Sentiment Toward Increasing Program and Facility User Fees

	No Opinion	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Random Telephone	5%	15%	20%	60%
Online	6%	16%	35%	43%

This resident opinion is important to future service development. Municipal recreation is a service to the community, and does and will continue to require subsidy in order to make it accessible to all. However, adding to the supply of municipal parks and recreation services will cost more and financing this through means other than additional subsidies is preferable in view of the need to control the burden on municipal property taxes over the long term. This discussion comprises a general description on the purpose and approach to developing a pricing policy and is provided as reference for future consideration as the Town grows its service supply.

The primary goal of pricing policy is to set the framework for the relative proportions of service costs to be financed through the tax base or through user fees, depending on the nature of the service. Fees for use can be consistently set within the principles, goals and objectives of the policy, all of which are community specific. Although municipalities use variations of the "pyramid method" for determining this relationship, GreenPlay (now part of BerryDunn, an American parks, recreation and libraries consulting firm) provides a useful description of this approach.

## GreenPlay © Methodology for User Fees Determination

GreenPlay uses a “pyramid methodology for resource allocation/cost recovery.” This approach is illustrated in Figure 2-3 and depicts a direct relationship between the extent of community

benefit derived from recreation services and the level of subsidization. This approach allows the municipality the flexibility to provide a wide range of services, while ensuring limited involvement in those that primarily benefit individuals. Figure 2-4 relates the GreenPlay model to the mandate of the Town in recreation service delivery. As

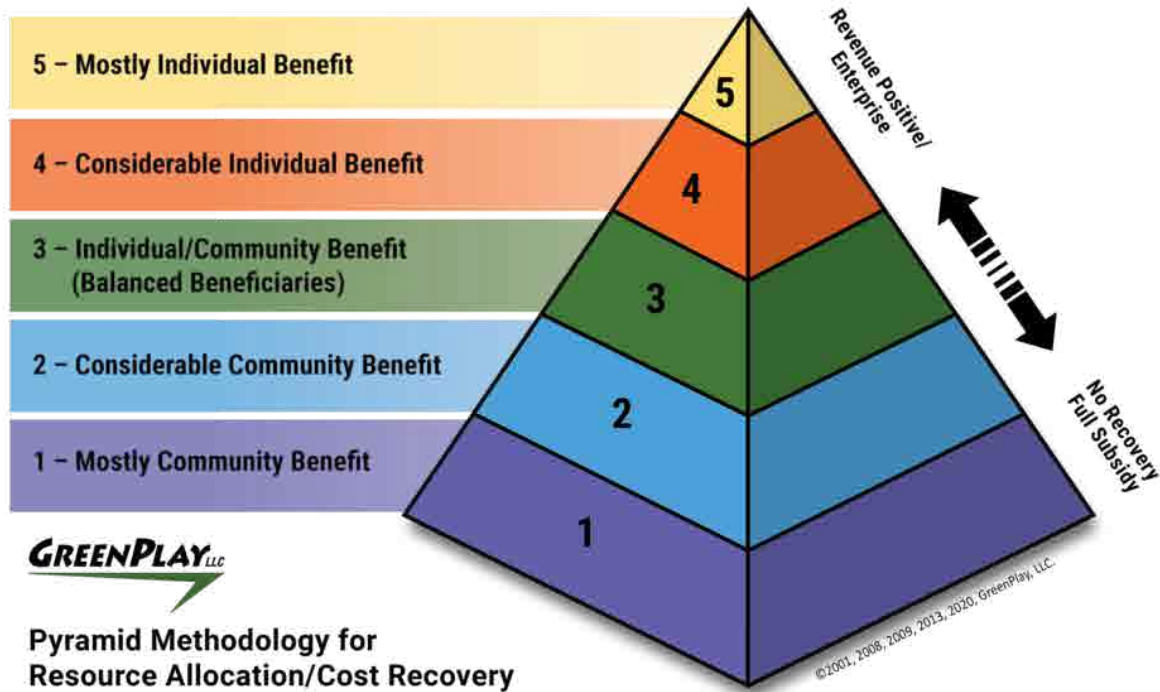


Figure 2-3: Pyramid Methodology for Resource Allocation Cost Recovery



Figure 2-4: GreenPlay Model Related to Municipal Mandate

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noted, those at the base of the pyramid are most strongly aligned with the municipal mandate to provide general, introductory recreation programs/activities that can benefit many residents, and this alignment grows progressively weaker with each successive tier.

The GreenPlay pyramid identifies services in Tier 5 as “profit centres.” From the Town’s perspective, Tier 5 services could be viewed as those best provided by the private sector, against which the municipality does not want to compete. Municipal provision of these types of services, therefore, would likely only occur in the presence of verified demand and the absence of a commercial/business provider. At the same time, all services in the upper tiers are priced at progressively higher levels beyond cost recovery, in recognition of their limited community benefit and the need to subsidize those in the lower tiers.

Comparative analysis of the pricing structures of nearby and/or comparable municipalities will help inform the study of Innisfil’s pricing structure. Municipalities in Ontario have adopted this methodology or some variation of it, in developing pricing policy. The Town of Halton Hills used the GreenPlay model in developing its Parks Rates and Fees Strategy. The Town of Newmarket uses five service categories along a continuum ranging from Public Good at 0% cost recovery to Private Good at 100% cost recovery. The City of Windsor’s policy identifies three vs. five levels of services based on a continuum of full/high to low/no subsidization.

The general philosophy is that service pricing is directly related to the link between the service being provided and the municipality’s mandate/role in recreation. Moreover, it provides a rational way to set cost recovery objectives and distribute fees equitably in relation to the relative benefits accruing to the community or the individual user. Examples of 0% cost recovery services are “no-cost” access to/use of parks, and free public skate programs. Examples of services that would warrant 100%+ cost recovery are commercial/business rental of municipal halls/meeting rooms and fees for municipal parking lots. In view of anticipated growth in service provision in Innisfil,

and the costs associated with expansion, a pricing policy may be useful to offset some of these costs and limit increased subsidies.

A municipal pricing policy should be developed in consultation with the community to collectively determine its goals, underlying principles, objectives, local considerations and their application to the operating components of the policy (e.g., types of costs to be recovered, proportions of costs to be recovered, types of services to be assigned to selected categories/tiers, and associated shares of recovery, etc.). By rationalizing fees in relation to community vs. individual benefits, a pricing policy can also help ensure that affordability is ensured through appropriate levels of subsidization. At the same time, it does not take the place of a fees assistance program (such as FAIR) that ensures access to services regardless of ability to pay.

This user fee/pricing policy should be developed by contracting professional services, given the amount of effort involved, and the availability of staff to do the work.

- PE.3 Hire a Recreation Marketing & Communications Associate (part-time)
- PE.4 Increase marketing and advertising regarding opportunities for local businesses to advertise on Town website and in Town parks and facilities
- PE.5 Hire a Partnership and Sales Associate
- PE.6 Pursue grants and sponsorship opportunities
- PE.7 Develop additional advertising opportunities at outdoor facilities and parks
- PE.8 Conduct a service pricing study to develop an optimal fee structure that includes analysis of pricing structures in comparable municipalities

## Accessibility and Inclusion

### Safe Spaces

The Inspiring Innisfil Strategic Plan 2020-2030 names three objectives: Grow, Connect and Sustain. Connect objective 2.5 speaks to inclusivity: “We will actively develop a variety of inclusive programs and events that provide cultural, educational, recreational and entertainment opportunities for all our residents, while also supporting those same opportunities led by community members and partners” (p.6). This also reflects the guiding principle of “Inclusivity and Accessibility” in the Culture Master Plan 2020-2025: “We recognize our roles as members of a global community, welcoming all and recognizing we are stronger together. We strive to be inclusive, enabling all residents to engage in cultural pursuits. The interaction between people of diverse cultures, traditions, and backgrounds creates synergies that produce new ideas, an authentic identity, talents, and perspectives that fuel innovation and have positive economic and social impacts” (p.5).

Innisfil is growing and experiencing a change in demographics, and community members of all racial and ethnic backgrounds and faiths should be acknowledged and made to feel welcome in/at programs and events and when using Town facilities and parks. The Town can do this by, for example, trying to ensure advertising and communications reaches these groups, advertising features a diversity of people, Town recreation staff reflects the diversity of the community, and through staff training.

Training is a critical part of building and maintaining accessible and inclusive programs. The Town already keeps up to date with HIGH FIVE courses (e.g., Sport: Engaging Girls Aged 9 to 15, Sport: Intersecting Identities), and should continue to require regular training for all operations staff (including those within parks & facilities), as courses are updated and new courses are developed. It is worth noting that

one of the recommendations from the Youth Engagement Strategy was to provide anti-racism/anti-oppression training to Town staff who will engage with youth, to foster a sense of belonging for everyone. Additional resources/courses that Sport and Recreation staff can integrate in training requirements can be found from the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (e.g., Leading the Way: Working with 2SLGBTQ+ Athletes and Coaches, Gender Equity LENS), Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, and through providers like Sensitivity Training Canada.

The Town should also consider offering new programs such as private women’s only classes, and program/activity options of interest to various communities. Identifying specific community needs and interests will involve further research and outreach, a task that can be applied to the Recreation Coordinator and an Inclusion Coordinator position.

Given the breadth of actions described here to further accessibility and inclusion (i.e., growth of the FAIR program, a pilot of MagnusCards, additional training, and research and outreach dedicated to developing inclusive programming), it is recommended that an Inclusion Coordinator position be added. This position can be part time to start, and will work closely with other staff (e.g., the Recreation Coordinator, Marketing and Communications and Sales and Partnerships Associates) to achieve objectives. By extension, Inclusion Facilitators will need to be hired on an as-needed basis all year round to support this work as it grows beyond camp inclusion.

The upcoming Facilities Master Plan could address increasing the accessibility of Town spaces, for example, through universal design, gender neutral washrooms and change rooms, etc. In taking concrete action on accessibility and inclusivity objectives the Town will help make all community members feel safe and welcome in/at its programs and events.

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### FAIR

The Town offers a subsidy program called Fee Assistance in Recreation (FAIR) for participants in recreation programs. Other subsidies are also available from the County of Simcoe, Jump Start, and the Health STAR program through the YMCA (for YMCA programs).

The recommended Partnership and Sales Associate position would be responsible for researching and outreach to potential donors/sponsors to this program. The Town can offer incentives to sponsors, such as advertising or developing a sponsor/donor recognition wall/installation at a facility of choice. The Recreation Marketing and Communications Associate position would help raise awareness of the program to both attract donors, and reach potential program applicants.

Currently, support for participants living with additional abilities is offered by the YMCA and County, though it is limited, and through the FAIR program but for camp only. This particular stream may attract additional donors/sponsors with a special interest in inclusion for all abilities.

### MagnusCards

MagnusCards comprise a library of digital guides (Card Decks) to destinations and activities, that allow people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder and cognitive abilities to live with independence and inclusion. Each digital guide combines a proven method of instruction (applied behaviour analysis), visual cues and step-by-step instructions to map experiences, and prompts and positive reinforcement to support experiential learning. In collaboration with the YMCA, Sport and Recreation can initially develop MagnusCards for programs and the facilities at the IRC, and further develop it, as appropriate.

Recreation decks can include for example:

- How to purchase a recreation pass
- How to register for programs online
- How to create an online recreation account
- How to prepare to go swimming at a pool
- How to prepare to go skating at an arena

PE.9 Increase funding for the Fee Assistance in Recreation (FAIR) program by reaching out to potential sponsors (perhaps offering some kind of incentivization), and increasing awareness of the program

PE.10 Expand the Fee Assistance in Recreation (FAIR) program by developing an inclusion stream focused on providing subsidized or fully funded support staff for participants

PE.11 Pilot MagnusCards for use at the IRC in collaboration with YMCA. Monitor usefulness and community response to the cards, and if successful expand locations from there

PE.12 Actively foster a safe culture for participants of all ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds

PE.13 Add an Inclusion Coordinator (part time) to assist in the implementation of accessibility and inclusion recommendations

PE.14 Address accessibility and inclusion considerations in the upcoming Facilities Master Plan



## Measuring Success

The ability to evaluate progress will require annual targets that can be measured, as is the approach used now by the Town as part of the annual budget process. The results of each year's programming provide the basis for reporting on outcomes and planning for the upcoming year.

The suggested performance measures from the 2016 Active Innisfil Plan are still relevant, and should be applied in implementing this Plan in relation to annual service targets. Table 2-5 outlines performance measures from the 2016 Plan that are relevant to annual program/service evaluation. In addition to these performance measures already in place, the Town should continue to work on HIGH FIVE registered organization requirements and work towards becoming accredited through HIGH FIVE. This would include implementing HIGH FIVE Quest 1 policies & procedures into programming, as well as using HIGH FIVE Quest 2 evaluations on programming to ensure that quality services and programming are being presented to the community.

Additional resources are available to further develop evaluation tools. Parks and Recreation Ontario's manual entitled Measuring Customer Value and Satisfaction for Parks and Recreation is a practical guide to supporting service evaluation work. As noted in the manual, it is "intended to enable providers of parks and recreation to easily and consistently assess customer value and related issues. [It] includes a common set of core questions and an enhanced set of questions that can be used by providers to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and services, as well as advice on approaches to administering surveys" (p. 1).

Many commentators are predicting permanent shifts in the demand for recreation services post-COVID, and the need for municipalities to respond accordingly. The actual implications of the pandemic, however, will only become apparent

over time. For example, the expectation that more people will continue to work from home on flexible schedules can be anticipated to translate into greater levels of demand for recreation programs/ access to facilities in traditionally non-peak times. Monitoring these factors will contribute to verifying anticipated changes in recreation service needs and the need to adjust municipal delivery responses to this demand.

In addition to annual updates based on evaluations of service targets, the Master Plan should undergo a comprehensive update in five years to ensure its continued relevance to evolving internal and external factors. This will be particularly important to integrating post-COVID changes into the Plan's ongoing implementation.

PE.15 Continue to implement the performance measures outlined in the 2016 Active Innisfil Plan as part of annual planning and budgeting activities

PE.16 Achieve HIGH FIVE accreditation, implement HIGH FIVE Quest 1 policies & procedures into programming, and use HIGH FIVE Quest 2 evaluations on programming

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-5: Suggested Performance Measures

Key Result Area	Performance Measures
Program and Service Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of children engaged in recreational and sports pursuits</li> <li>• # of youth engaged in recreational and sports pursuits</li> <li>• # of older adults engaged in recreation and sport pursuits</li> <li>• Satisfaction levels of participants</li> <li>• # of residents accommodated from low income backgrounds</li> </ul>
Working Stronger Together with Community Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of partnerships and sponsorships</li> <li>• # of joint projects and results with community partners</li> <li>• Costs avoided and revenues generated by working with community partners</li> <li>• Satisfaction levels of groups partnering with the Town</li> </ul>
Building Internal Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % complaint with legislative requirements</li> <li>• Annual training hours per staff person</li> <li>• Engagement satisfaction levels of staff</li> <li>• How technology has improved service provision</li> </ul>

## Supply Of Programs, Activities & Events

### Programs and Activities

The Town of Innisfil, the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (at Innisfil Recreational Complex, or 'IRC'), and the Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library are the main providers of programs in the Town. All of the YMCA's programs are held inside, and sometimes outside, the IRC. The Town offers programs at many facilities and parks throughout Innisfil, including Stroud Community Centre, Cookstown Community Centre, Churchill Community Centre,

Knock Community Centre, Innisfil Beach Park (outdoor programs), and others. The Town also developed over 80 virtual programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library hosts programs at its three branches (Stroud, Cookstown, and Lakeshore), and at a variety of outreach locations across the Town. Many library programs transitioned to virtual during the pandemic. Table 2-6 gives an overview of programs offered by these providers. The Town releases a seasonal

Table 2-6: Summary of Programs Offered by the Town of Innisfil, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, and Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library

Provider	Location(s)	Sample Programs
Town of Innisfil	Stroud Innisfil Community Centre Innisfil Recreational Complex Cookstown Community Centre & Library Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre Knock Community Centre Innisfil Beach Park Centennial Park Churchill Community Centre Rizzardo Health & Wellness Centre Alcona Glen Elementary School Nanty Shores Secondary School Goodfellow Public School Holy Cross Catholic School Lake Simcoe Public School Cookstown Public School Yujo Martial Arts Studio Miss Jennies Performing Arts Studio Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductory sport and physical activity programs for preschoolers, children, and youth (e.g., soccer, monkeynastix, volleyball)</li> <li>• Camps for children</li> <li>• Fitness and wellness programs for youth, adults and seniors (e.g., POUND, outdoor HIIT)</li> <li>• Yoga for children, youth, and adults</li> <li>• Dance for children and adults (e.g., ballet, ballroom)</li> <li>• Outreach programs for children and youth</li> <li>• Sport for adults (e.g., tennis, badminton)</li> <li>• Virtual classes (e.g., fitness, yoga, cooking and baking, drawing and animation, 3D modelling and printing, video game and app development, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-6: Summary of Programs Offered by the Town of Innisfil, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, and Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library, continued

Provider	Location(s)	Sample Programs
YMCA of Simcoe/ Muskoka	Innisfil Recreational Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming instruction for all ages</li> <li>• Introductory sport and physical activity programs for preschoolers, children, and youth (e.g., soccer, basketball, volleyball)</li> <li>• Summer camp</li> <li>• Fitness and wellness programs for youth, adults and seniors (e.g., yoga, bootcamp, Zumba, HIIT - high intensity interval training)</li> <li>• Sport for adults (e.g., pickleball, volleyball)</li> <li>• Virtual classes</li> </ul>
Innisfil IdeaLAB & Library	Cookstown Community Centre & Library Lakeshore Branch (main) Stroud Innisfil Community Centre Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading clubs/programs for children and adults</li> <li>• STEM Makerspace programs for children, youth and adults</li> <li>• Crafting for children, youth, and adults</li> <li>• Adult socials</li> <li>• Author talks</li> <li>• Trivia nights for children, youth, and adults</li> <li>• Preschool and early literacy programming</li> <li>• Seniors programming</li> <li>• Employment support programming</li> </ul>

Program Guide that lists all programs available, registration information, locations, events, etc.

Other program providers in the Town include volunteer-based clubs, non-profits, and private businesses. Activities include baseball, softball, ball hockey, hockey, figure skating, soccer, dance, Girl Guides and others. These programs are provided at community centres and parks around Innisfil. Table 2-7 provides a summary of providers and programs based in Innisfil. There are also a number of organizations based in Barrie that provide programs to Innisfil residents, such as

Residents also participate in self-directed activities at Town parks, trails and facilities. Some examples from resident consultations include swimming, boating/paddling, cycling, fishing and ice fishing, walking, skateboarding, and playing at playgrounds.

Many residents who responded to surveys also indicated that they partake in recreation on their own properties and private waterfronts.

Table 2-7: Sample of Recreation Programs Offered by Innisfil-Based Volunteer Clubs, Non-Profits, and Businesses

Program Types	Sample of Providers
Field Sports	Innisfil Minor Baseball Association Innisfil Soccer Club Stroud Mixed Slo-Pitch League Innisfil Softball Association Alcona Sunday Night Ball League Gildford Mixed 3 Pitch League Innisfil Minor Lacrosse Association Little Kickers Simcoe County Innisfil Greyhounds Soccer Club Barrie Senior Soccer Club Innisfil Women’s 3 Pitch Ball League
Arena (ice-in and ice-out) Sports	South Simcoe Ball Hockey League Innisfil Minor Hockey Lefroy Minor Hockey Association Innisfil Gentlemen’s Hockey South Simcoe Ball Hockey League Innisfil Figure Skating Club Lefroy Skating Club Innisfil Junior Broomball League Innisfil Broomball League Stroud Curling Club

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-7: Sample of Recreation Programs Offered by Innisfil-Based Volunteer Clubs, Non-Profits, and Businesses, continued

Program Types	Sample of Providers
Court Sports	South Simcoe Basketball Club
Park and Trail Based	Innisfil Garden Club Painswick Garden Club Bonsecour Track & Trail Snowmobile Club Cycle Simcoe
Adult Fitness and Wellness	Private gyms (e.g., Grit Fitness, 9Round Fitness, etc.)
Pre-school Programs	Empower Simcoe/EarlyON Catulpa/CAPC
Martial Arts	Private gyms (e.g., Innisfil Brazilian JiuJitsu, Yujo Martial Arts, etc.)
Art and Culture	South Simcoe Theatre Innisfil Arts, Culture & Heritage Council Innisfil Historical Society Innisfil Farmers' Market Dance studios (e.g., Miss Jennie Performing Arts Studio, L.A. Dance Design, Chelsea's Dance Pac, Lakeside Dance, etc.) Music lessons (e.g., TJs School For Music, McClellands Music, Alcona Music School, Rockstar Music, etc.) Art classes and activities (e.g., Crock-a-Doodle, Art Atelier, etc.)

## Events

The major providers of special events in Innisfil are the Town of Innisfil, Innisfil Rotary Club, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, and the Innisfil Community Events Corporation (ICE Corp). A sample of events provided by these organizers is presented in Table 2-8. Other groups providing events in the Town include Innisfil Lions Club, Innisfil Pride Team, Simcoe County, 4-H and Cookstown Agricultural Society, and others.

Table 2-8: Summary of Events Offered by the Town of Innisfil, Innisfil Rotary Club, ICE Corp, and Others

Provider	Sample of Events	Sample of Location(s)
Town of Innisfil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas and New Year's Skates</li> <li>• Pickleball Funanza Day</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Nights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innisfil Recreational Complex</li> <li>• Various parks</li> </ul>
Innisfil Rotary Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innisfil Rotary Family Fun Day</li> <li>• Lights &amp; Wishes</li> <li>• Celebration by the Lake Gala</li> <li>• Rotary Fun Run and Walkathon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IRC</li> <li>• Innisfil ideaLAB &amp; Library</li> </ul>
Innisfil Community Events Corporation (ICE Corp)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polar Bear Dip</li> <li>• Santa Claus Parade</li> <li>• Innisfil Onionfest</li> <li>• Innisfil's Got Talent</li> <li>• New Year's Eve Fireworks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IRC</li> <li>• Previously at Innisfil Beach Park</li> </ul>
Innisfil ideaLAB and Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh Air Flicks</li> <li>• Makerfest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innisfil Beach Park</li> <li>• Cookstown</li> <li>• Innisfil ideaLAB &amp; Library</li> </ul>
Innisfil Arts, Culture and Heritage Council (IACHC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinner in White</li> <li>• Innisfil Studio Tour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various locations</li> </ul>

### What We Heard

#### Resident Consultation

##### Requests Received Through [getinvolvedinnisfil.ca](http://getinvolvedinnisfil.ca)

Residents were invited to submit questions and comments via e-mail through the [getinvolvedinnisfil.ca](http://getinvolvedinnisfil.ca) page. Program-specific emails requested the following activities:

- Disc golf
- Lawn bowling
- Bocce
- Shuffleboard
- Indoor pickleball courts
- Rugby
- Football

##### Random Telephone Survey

Fifty-nine percent of respondents to the telephone survey said that additional programs and activities are needed. These respondents were then asked what age groups would be interested, and for what type of programs (active, non-sport, or both). The most named by total usage (active, non-sport & both) in the telephone survey were for preschoolers (22%), elementary school age children 5 – 12 (30%) and high school age children 13 – 19 (28%).

Respondents were read the following preamble and question:

*“As part of the Master Plan, the Town is investigating ways to improve its parks and recreation system, while looking to achieve an appropriate balance in service provision across the Town at reasonable cost. Achieving these objectives will likely require some trade-offs in terms of where and how money is invested in*

*capital improvements and operations. Please indicate the degree to which you agree with each of the following statements” (Q18)*

The surveyor then provided eight statements representing different trade-offs and respondents were asked to indicate no opinion/unsure, agree, neutral, or disagree. The highest level of agreement was for having more major events (82%), pop-up shops at waterfront locations (82%), more major commercial events to attract visitors/tourists (78%), and more volunteer involvement (68%).

Respondents were asked if they thought new/expanded indoor facilities were needed in the Town to provide the programs and activities that they would use. Responses were almost evenly split yes (41%) and no (46%). Those that said yes were asked what types of facilities were needed, and the choices with the most responses were ice pads (63%), gymnasium (55%), indoor playing fields (46%) and multi-purpose program space (42%). This suggests that respondents are most interested in ice activities (e.g., hockey, figure skating), gymnasium sports (e.g., basketball, badminton, etc.), field sports (e.g., soccer, lacrosse etc.), and programs using multi-purpose spaces (e.g., fitness, arts, etc.).

##### Online Resident Survey

Forty-five percent of respondents to the online survey indicated that additional programs are needed. The age groups most in need of programming (in total, including active/sport/fitness, non-sport, and both) were adults aged 35 – 54 (51%), children aged 5 – 12 (31%), and adults aged 20 – 34 (31%). Table 2-10 compares the top three age groups most in need of programming, as identified by telephone survey and online survey respondents.

The online survey also asked for further information on the types of new/expanded



Table 2-9: Comparison of Top Three Age Groups Noted as Most in Need of Additional Programs in the Telephone and Online Resident Surveys

Telephone survey		Online survey	
Children 5 – 12	30%	Adults 35 – 54	51%
High school 13 – 19	28%	Children 5 – 12	31%
Preschoolers	22%	Adults 20 – 34	31%

Table 2-10: Top Selected Activities of Interest From the Online Resident Survey

Active sport/fitness		Non-sport	
Outdoor snow activities (e.g., cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.)	61%	Wellness programs (e.g., tai chi, yoga, mental health, etc.)	60%
Water-based activities (e.g., canoe, kayak, swim lessons)	60%	One-day or weekend special events	50%
Outdoor ice activities (e.g., learn to skate, shinny, etc.)	53%	Social/club activities (e.g., youth drop-in, seniors, new moms, etc.)	48%
Gymnasium sports (e.g., badminton, volleyball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	49%	Visual arts (e.g., painting, photography, sculpting, etc.)	43%
Group fitness classes (e.g., aerobics, Zumba, etc.)	45%	Environmental (e.g., gardening, etc.)	39%

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

programs in which respondents were most interested. Table 2-11 summarizes the top responses for both active sport/fitness and non-sport programs and activities.

### Town of Innisfil Program Survey

The Town posted a program evaluation survey on its website in summer 2021 to solicit feedback from program participants. Feedback was received from 35 respondents and was very positive overall:

- Over 90% attended a virtual program. Most responses from those who participated in free virtual programs offered during COVID facility closures
- When asked about their satisfaction with the program on a scale of 1 to 10, with “10” being “exceeded expectations,” 11.4 % selected “8”; 17.1% selected “9,” and 62.9% selected “10”
- 97% would recommend the program to others
- 97% felt it contributed to their health and well-being

Although the sample number is small, it suggests that the online programs offered were very well received.

### Key Findings from Resident Surveys

In summary, the key collective findings from the various resident consultations are:

- Age groups with highest demand for programs are preschool, children and adult, with lesser demand for youth and seniors
- High interest in more events
- High interest in more ice, field and gym sports
- High interest in more outdoor, water and wellness programs/activities
- Online programs introduced during COVID were successful

### User Group Survey

A survey was sent to 44 groups that provide programming and activities in Innisfil, and 17 groups submitted responses. Over half of the groups (56% or 9) provide arena ice programs, 31% (5 groups) provide outdoor field sports, 25% (4 groups) provide fitness/wellness programs, and 25% (4 groups) provide club/social activities. Other responding groups offer arena floor programming, gym sports, children’s play, drop-in, learning, and social support programs. Groups involved in heritage, arts/artisanal, and nature-based programming were not represented in the survey respondents.

The survey results indicate that, collectively, all families and all individual age cohorts are served. The largest proportion (47% or 8 groups) provides programs to those aged 35 to 44 years or 45 to 54 years. Children ages 5 to 12 and youth ages 13 to 19 are served by 35% or 6 groups each. The age groups with the least representation were children 0 to 4 years (24% or 4 groups), and adults 75 years and over (12% or 2 groups).

Program participation was reported to range between 30 and 1000 participants for the 16 groups that responded to that question. Eleven of the 16 groups had over 100 participants in their programming. Many of the groups are based in Barrie and, therefore, draw considerable proportions of their participants from the City (through the programs/events take place in Innisfil). With the exception of four groups, all draw less than 50% of their membership/participants from within the Town of Innisfil. Many groups draw less than 20% of their participants from Innisfil.

The largest proportion of groups (44% or 7 groups) anticipate growth in the range of 5 to 10% over the next 10 years. Thirty-one percent (5 groups) anticipate 0 to 5 % growth, and 19% (3 groups) anticipate over 25% growth. When

asked to what factors they attribute this stability/growth in participation, the three most frequently reported factors were: cost to participate (75% or 12 groups); availability of facility time (63% or 10 groups); and interest in our program/event focus (56% or 9 groups). Other reasons mentioned included socially engaging/fun, population growth, and increasing focus on healthy active living.

When asked if the Town could better support the groups in developing their programs, 40% (6 groups) said yes (and 20% said no, and 40% were uncertain). Of the six groups that said yes, the three most frequently reported areas of support needed were: marketing and promotion (83% or 5 groups); volunteer recruitment (68% or 4 groups); and assistance with funding applications (68% or 4 groups).

## Key Findings from User Group Survey

In summary, the key collective findings from the user group survey are:

- Most responding groups serve adults, least served groups are preschoolers and seniors
- Participants are mostly from Barrie
- Growth in their programs is expected to be mostly moderate/stable
- Most responding groups offer arena and field sports, wellness/fitness, and social/club activities

## Interviews

Interviews with Council, staff and stakeholders indicated there is interest in more special events in Innisfil throughout the year, but more resources (i.e., staffing to support events and partner support) will be required to make it happen.

Additional comments received included:

- There may be a need for policy to clarify the roles of Town departments/divisions in hosting them. To put on more events, internal

collaboration will be needed as well as a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities

- Due to the geographic distribution of the population, there is a concentration of events being held primarily in densely populated areas, and there is a need to ensure smaller events are spread around the different communities
- The hard costs associated with creating more events should be measured as a community benefit that supports mental health. The Town should focus on creating a strong sense of belonging in the community, bringing people together, and creating a community that people want to live in

Regarding programming, interviewees mentioned the importance of passive and/or free activities for residents, as well as revenue-generating activities to help support the provision of these. It was noted that as a multicultural municipality, new/emerging sports, culture and arts, and activities/programs that might be of interest to the demographic of Innisfil need to be explored now and in the future.

### Assessment and Recommendations

#### Arts, Culture, and Heritage

The following provides an assessment and recommendations for programming in regard to Arts, Culture and Heritage, Outdoor Programming and Activities, Sports Development, and Age Specific Program Needs. Innisfil is taking strides in developing arts, culture and heritage in the community. As part of the Town Campus Master Plan, a major arts and cultural hub is envisioned that will “be a place where the Town can celebrate its natural heritage assets, grow new community connections through enjoyment of placemaking and public art, and where we can view and enjoy performances and events in a dedicated, purpose-built performance and fine-art facility. Provision of flexible, multi-use spaces will support an active cluster of educational programs, group meetings, and the work of creative production” (p. 20). It will include a large indoor/outdoor facility adjacent or connected to the future campus library, designed to address the cultural facility needs identified in the Town’s Culture Master Plan:

- A large indoor space suitable for trade shows, festivals, craft shows, art fairs, community celebrations
- A large outdoor space suitable for concerts, outdoor festivals and events
- A large indoor performance space for music, theatre, other performances (not connected to ice pad facilities as conflicting winter programming is a problem)
- Gallery, public art, or exhibition space
- No cost/very low-cost studio, rehearsal, and office space. (p. 3)

The Culture Master Plan describes a gradual, citizen-driven cultural transformation through community development to provide cultural assets that are not available locally, which aligns

with the placemaking strategy contained in the Town’s Official Plan, Our Place.

#### Arts, Culture, and Heritage Programs

Currently, arts, culture, and heritage programs and activities are provided by the Town, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, and a number of community organizations and businesses (listed previously in Table 2-7 and Table 2-8) including the South Simcoe Theatre which provides annual theatre productions and programs. The Town offers a few visual art programs for children and adults, and a wide variety of dance classes for all ages. In the Town overall, there are more options for sport and active programs than for non-sport (including visual arts, social drop-ins, general interest, etc.). There was strong interest reported for arts, culture and heritage programs in the online survey, particularly for visual arts (43%). In addition to the strong resident interest expressed, supporting arts, culture, and heritage is a priority for the Town, and providing these types of programs and events advances the actions recommended in the Innisfil Culture Master Plan and Town Campus Plan.

#### Arts, Culture, and Heritage Events

Resident consultations indicated a strong interest in more events: in the telephone survey, the majority of residents were in support of having more major events (82%) and more major commercial events to attract visitors/tourists (78%) as a way to offset recreation costs. In the online survey, one-day/weekend special events was the second most selected non-sport activity of interest (50%). The major providers of special events in Innisfil are the Town of Innisfil, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Innisfil Rotary Club, Innisfil Arts Culture and Heritage Council and the Innisfil Community Events Corporation (ICE Corp). The Town organizes events that are geared to local communities such as Neighbourhood Nights

and Christmas and New Year Skates, and other providers like Innisfil ICE Corp provide events for the community that also draw visitors. There are a variety of major annual festivals/events held in the area (e.g., Innisfil's Got Talent, Boots and Hearts, Mariposa Folk Festival), most of which focus on music, so potential new visitor-attractive events in Innisfil should be focused on themes and seasons not currently addressed. Some examples include food truck festivals, winter activity festivals (e.g., ice fishing, snow sculpture contests, marshmallow roasts), local history, etc.

It is noted that the Town does not have dedicated outdoor event space, and events currently take place at IBP, IRC, and for smaller events, at local parks. Consultations with community organizers revealed the need for a dedicated outdoor event space in order to accommodate large, visitor attractive events (such as Summerfest and Innisfil's Got Talent). This need will be addressed through the Town Campus Master Plan, as described previously, and through this Plan, which provides discussion on activating park spaces (see the Parks section).

## Arts, Culture, and Heritage Staff

Additional staff is required to support the expansion of arts, culture, and heritage programs and events. A new role would focus on expanding arts, culture, heritage programming, activities, and events in the Town and act as the point of contact for community-led events to improve the Town's capacity and support for event organization. This staff person could also focus on implementing the actions of Pillar 1: Better at the Basics from the Culture Master Plan 2020-2025, as much of it crosses over with recommendations of this Plan.

Currently, event support is provided by the Town's Operations staff. Given the large number of community events in Innisfil, event support takes considerable time, which takes operations staff away from their primary responsibilities and other important duties. Having dedicated part-time staff

on call to assist with events will support the event development discussed in this Plan.

## Arts Studio

A specialized/dedicated spaces for arts programming (e.g., visual arts studio, music production space, etc.) would enable expanded arts and culture programming and support the recommendations from this Plan as well as the Culture Master Plan. The Campus Master Plan includes studio space that will address some of the need; however, the upcoming Facilities Master Plan should consider options for other spaces within larger recreation facilities in the Town, ideally well distributed from each other and the Town Campus.

PE.17 Hire an Arts, Culture, & Events Coordinator to implement the arts, culture, and heritage recommendations in this Plan, and those that cross over with the Culture Master Plan, 2020-2025

PE.18 Organize more special events: Develop more Town-led events (both community and tourism focused), and support community organizers to offer more/improved large-scale/visitor-attractive events

PE.19 Event Support Staff: Add 5 part time/on-call Event Support positions to help with event set up and clean up

PE.20 Assess options for arts studio space in Town facilities in the upcoming Facilities Master Plan

# OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING IDEAS

- X-Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Winter Survival Class
- Local Nature Lessons
- Skating
- Shinny/Hockey
- Swimming
- Canoe/Kayaking
- Stand-Up Paddle Boarding
- Reading Circles/Talks
- and more....



Figure 2-5: Outdoor Programming Graphic

## Outdoor Programming And Activities

Outdoor programming provides a critical benefit to the health and well-being of people, particularly children and teens. Time spent outdoors has been shown to improve physical and mental health, boost confidence, reduce stress and build understanding of, and respect for, the natural environment. Outdoor learning and activities are common aspects of life for children in many other countries (e.g., tropical and Nordic countries), and as awareness of the benefits have become more mainstream in Canada, there have been increased efforts by municipalities and schools to offer more outdoor programs for children and teens.

The ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth (2020) recommends promoting and supporting “outdoor – and, when possible, nature-based – play opportunities given their association with both increased physical activity levels and improved mental health outcomes” (p. 48). Among others, the report’s recommendations for governments include promoting healthy movement by increasing access to recreation centres and public spaces outside of school hours, supporting families’ participation in sport and recreation activities and investing in no-charge active play spaces (especially outdoors) for families with children of all ages.

In practical terms, parks are significant assets that are often not optimized from a usage perspective and so they offer the potential to increase recreation activity relatively inexpensively. While not supported by a review of available research, it is also reasonable to suggest that an active park is more likely to motivate onlookers to “join in” than one that sits empty and idle.

For some time, municipalities in North America have been trying to encourage outdoor recreation in the winter, emulating approaches taken in many Nordic countries. Examples of initiatives include 8-80 Cities<sup>4</sup> Wintermission project and Winter Cities Toolkit, and activities and events organized through Edmonton’s Winter City Strategy, which have been successful with winter recreation. “Winterizing” cities in North America is not a new topic, but the uptake has been slow, for a number of reasons that mostly fall outside of the mandate of parks and recreation departments (e.g., perceived or real conflicts between designing for pedestrians versus snow clearing and emergency vehicles, liability concerns, insufficient staff or resources, etc.).

One way municipalities can contribute to encouraging people to recreate outside in the winter is to help change the prevailing negative view of winter’s cold and snow. The Marketing & Communications Associate can work with corporate communications to set the tone by framing winter as a season to look forward to, with many positive and fun opportunities for recreation.

On the other hand, with average summer temperatures increasing due to climate change, considerations must also be made for making outdoor activity in extreme heat safer and more comfortable.

## Organized and Self-directed Outdoor Activities

The Town and its partners have recognized the importance of outdoor recreation, and that spending time outdoors has numerous health benefits for people. The Town offers a number of outdoor activities (e.g., soccer), moved many (previously indoor) programs outdoors during

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4 8 80 Cities is a non-profit dedicated to building sustainable, equitable, age-friendly cities guided by the simple but powerful idea that if everything we do in our cities is great for an 8 year old and an 80 year old, then it will be better for all people (<https://www.880cities.org/about-8-80-cities/>)

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

COVID, and began permitting open spaces for fitness/wellness classes. The Library provided the following summary of its outdoor activities during consultations for this plan:

*In 2021, Library began a partnership with Sport & Recreation and Operations staff that allowed the Library to offer programming in local parks. Prior to 2021, the Library had often programmed in the outdoor spaces at the Lakeshore and Cookstown Branches, but this allowed Library programming to reach other parts of the community in their own 'backyards'. From August to end of November 2021, Library staff offered 27 Outdoor Family Storytimes to 491 children & caregivers from Dempster Park in Stroud, Belle Ewart Park in Belle Ewart, Innisfil Beach Park and on the patio or green space outside the Cookstown Branch of the Library. This partnership will continue throughout 2022, with Outdoor storytimes set to rotate weekly through Dempster Park, Belle Ewart Park and Innisfil Beach Park, starting in May.*

Other organized outdoor activities are provided by community clubs and organizations (e.g., sports clubs/associations/leagues, garden clubs, snowmobile clubs, cycle clubs, etc.).

Resident interest (from surveys) was very high for outdoor activities, and recent studies have shown that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an even greater appreciation for time spent outdoors in the natural environment: A cross-country survey by Park People showed that 70% of people said their appreciation for parks and green spaces increased over the pandemic<sup>5</sup>. It is not yet possible to say if the increase in park and trail interest/use seen during the pandemic will be permanent, but it is reasonable to expect that many people have developed new interests in being outdoors, and these interests will remain high.

Aside from organized activities, residents also partake in self-directed outdoor recreation opportunities at municipal parks, trails, waterfronts, facilities and on private land. While nothing prevents people from being active outside on their own, there may be opportunities for the Town to increase participation in both structured and unstructured outdoor activities. For example, taking indoor programming outdoors during the late spring, summer and early fall (as the Town has already begun doing) can both activate park spaces and benefit participants, particularly in areas not close to indoor program options. In addition, the Town Campus Master Plan has recommendations for cleared/maintained walking paths, cross-country skiing/snowshoeing routes, tobogganing, ice skating, and outdoor based education areas, all of which will provide more opportunities for self-directed and organized outdoor activities. With the appropriate facilities and amenities, many programs can be conducted outdoors, if participants are willing. In order to encourage increased use of parks (including for programming), and create animated and exciting spaces, they must be comfortable and provide appropriate amenities for use. As discussed further in the Parks section, the Town can support these types of outdoor activities by:

- Providing shelter from heat and cold
- Providing outdoor venues for small or large groups
- Improving accessibility, seating, water, washrooms

Resident interest in activities using natural assets such as the lake, trails, and forests (e.g., outdoor skating, sledding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, etc.) can be supported in several ways - alone or in combination - depending on the program/activity and available resources:

<sup>5</sup> <https://resources.parkpeople.ca/en/resource/19297/covid-19-and-parks-highlights-from-our-national-surveys>



- Encouraging community volunteer groups to take responsibility for a program/activity (e.g., Innisfil Kayak Club)
- Establishing agreements with existing providers (e.g., Northern Stand Up Paddle) to offer introductory programs on behalf of the Town (this has also been done in the past)
- Directly contracting instructors to teach needed skills/lead activities (e.g., kayaking, winter survival skills, roller skating etc.)

In addition, the Town could develop a municipal equipment-borrowing library or rental service offering, for example, life jackets, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, sleds, bikes (tandem, trikes, carriages, fat bikes), skis, snowshoes, roller/ice skates, etc. An example of such a program is the Municipality of South Dundas Lending Library.<sup>6</sup>

After signing up for a membership, residents of South Dundas can access a wide array of sporting equipment for free, including paddleboards, kayaks, cross country skis, skates, snowshoes, badminton and tennis racquets and nets, soccer balls, bocce sets, golf clubs and more. In order to borrow equipment, individuals must be a resident of South Dundas, and if under 18, a parent or guardian must be present. Equipment can be reserved in advance, and once signed out can be kept for three days. The Lending Library was established with funding from a Trillium Grant.

The Innisfil ideaLAB & Library offers The Library of Things, which includes board games, tech equipment, gardening equipment and many more items. The Town and Library should discuss opportunities to expand the Library of Things to include outdoor recreation equipment. Ideas for small paddle craft lockers/rentals are also discussed in the Lake Plan.

## Outdoor Events

The Sport & Recreation Department, along with Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, InnPower, InnServices, Innisfil Fire & Rescue, and South Simcoe Police Service, organize regular neighbourhood events (“Neighbourhood Nights”) at parks for the local community. The events are free, feature a variety of games and activities for all ages (including the Mobile Youth Centre), and rotate to different locations from week to week. The Town conducted a COVID-19 Community Needs Assessment that identified the need for addressing mental and physical health, social isolation, community building, and support for local businesses to support pandemic recovery. The Neighbourhood Nights (and events like it) bring the community together so that neighbours can meet each other, offer free activities that are beneficial for physical and mental health, build a sense of place (particularly important in new subdivisions), and re-establish a sense of community after over two years of pandemic lock downs. These events are an excellent opportunity to perform outreach with new (and existing) residents to educate on Innisfil’s parks and recreation offerings.

Further, the events provide an example and inspiration to the community for how they can use parks for their own activities and events and allow staff to raise awareness and interest in renting outdoor spaces for private events. The addition of the Arts, Culture, & Events Coordinator will allow these events to continue and expand; for example, extending these events throughout the year (rather than just summer) will encourage people to recreate outdoors in other seasons and hosting similar events will celebrate and raise awareness of new parks or major facilities/amenities.

<sup>6</sup> <https://southdundas.com/recreation/lending-library/>

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

- PE.21 Continue offering existing programs outdoors, and develop new outdoor programs year-round
- PE.22 Develop an outdoor equipment lending library
- PE.23 Continue offering neighbourhood events at local parks, and expand these to include fall/winter events, and events to introduce new parks and/or new park amenities and facilities
- PE.24 Develop marketing and communications that help foster a positive view of outdoor recreation in all weather

### Sport Development

#### Field Sports

Historically fields have been limited to soccer only, which limits their potential uses and restricts opportunities for offering new activities. The Town should provide introductory programming for a variety of field sports such as football, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee, cricket, track and field, etc., for all ages. The Facilities section provides further discussion on trends in each of these sports, and considerations for Town fields to accommodate these sports in addition to soccer.

#### Ice Sports

Ice programs are offered by the Town (skating, pre-figure skating, open skates, etc.), and various sport organizations (e.g., Cookstown Curling Club, Innisfil Minor Hockey Association, Lefroy Minor Hockey Association, Lefroy Skating Club, etc.). Nine groups that provide ice activities responded to the user group survey, and all are expecting growth in their programs in the coming years. This was reflected in the resident survey responses, which showed a very high interest in ice programs – both indoor and outdoor.

When asked in the user group survey which factors will affect growth in their programs, availability of facility time was the second highest factor mentioned (62.5% or 10 groups). As this Plan does not assess indoor facilities, we suggest that the upcoming Facilities Master Plan assess ice usage and recommend improvements to ice allocation, and/or identify if additional ice is needed.

When groups were asked about assistance from the Town in providing programs, volunteer recruitment was the second highest option chosen (66.7% or 4 groups). This is something that can be addressed by a new Sport Development Coordinator position (described further below), in addition to developing Town-run ice programs that make use of indoor and outdoor rinks.

Outdoor ice activities were mentioned as one of the top activities of interest in the resident surveys (53%). It can be difficult to plan registered programs on natural outdoor ice rinks because they are so dependent on the weather. An outdoor rink with a cooling mechanism and roof over top is ideal to support programs such as shinny, learn to skate, hockey skills, etc. Taken further, the rink can be designed for other uses with ice-out, a seating area, electricity hook ups for lights and music, and washrooms and changerooms. This would allow daytime and night-time events in the winter and summer. The facility could also be permitted and rented out for private parties. A facility such as this would support many directives in this Plan including expanding outdoor events in all seasons, expanding ice activities, activating park spaces and encouraging residents to rent parks/amenities for private parties. Possible locations and design considerations for this rink are discussed in the Parks section.

#### Sports Events

The Town should develop more physical activity and sport-based community events to encourage

physical activity and entice use of parks and facilities. Some examples include races, field games, and family fun tournaments (e.g., t-ball, kickball, soccer, hockey, etc.). The Sport Development Coordinator (described below) can work with the new Arts, Culture, & Events Coordinator as well as other partners and sport organizations to develop these events.

The user group survey indicated a need for specific indoor ice times to accommodate hockey tournaments. This should be addressed in the upcoming Facilities Master Plan. Tournaments bridge municipal recreation provision with economic development, as they are somewhat outside the focus of providing recreation for the local community and involve tourism and accommodations considerations. Tournaments for outdoor sports are discussed further in the Outdoor Facilities section.

## Sport Development Coordinator

The Town should hire a Sport Development Coordinator to assist in implementing sport-related recommendations. This position could be part-time to start and re-assessed periodically. Sport development priorities can include developing Town-led sport programs/events and supporting local organizations that provide sport programming, as well as supporting the growth of sport tourism in Innisfil (in partnership with Economic Development).

PE.25 Encourage broader use of Town sport fields: Provide and encourage other providers to offer new sports and activities on Town fields, and do not restrict use to soccer only

PE.26 Develop new community sporting and physical activity events

PE.27 Hire a Sport Development Coordinator

## Age-Specific Program Needs

As discussed earlier in this section, resident demand for programs by age categories was highest for preschoolers, children aged 5 – 12, youth aged 13 – 19, and adults aged 20 – 54. Looking to the socio-demographic profile provided in Part 1, the Innisfil population is expected to grow to 84,570 in 2051. In the same time period in Simcoe County as a whole, the proportion of population under 14 years old is estimated to stay relatively stable, while the proportion between age 15 and 74 will decrease slightly, and the proportion of those aged 75+ will increase the most. It is expected that Innisfil's age distribution will mirror the larger trend in the County. This suggests that while demand for seniors' programs did not feature strongly in the resident surveys, given that the population over 75 will more than double over the term of this Plan, programs and services for seniors should also be considered a priority. This section discusses specific program considerations and recommendations for each age group.

## Infant and Preschool

Providers of preschool and parent and tot programs include the Town, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Catulpa Community Support Services (CAPC), EarlyON (Empower Simcoe), as well as some businesses and sport leagues. Despite the programs already provided, preschoolers were in the top three age groups most in need of programs in the random telephone survey (22%), and interest was particularly high for non-sport programs.

Increased marketing of these existing programs may address some perceived need. In addition, the Town can develop (on its own and in partnership with other providers) additional non-sport programs including, for example, parent and child social activities, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programs. Another consideration for preschool programs is location – it is often difficult for

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

parents to pack up small children, travel to a program location, and participate within nap time windows and other constraints. The Town should seek to offer more preschool programs at both indoor and outdoor locations dispersed around the Town.

The lack of indoor programming space in the Town was identified as a barrier to expanding daytime programs (ideal for the preschool age group). While outdoor locations can fulfil some programming needs, indoor space is still needed. The Town does not currently have any space dedicated to preschool programming. Space designed for use for infant and preschool programs and drop-ins will support expansion of preschool programs and activities. The space can include, for example, preschool-sized tables and chairs, carpeted areas, craft area, kitchenette (or at minimum a sink for clean-up and hand washing), book and toy storage, etc. Any space developed should be a collaborative effort between preschool program providers in order to maximize efficiency and use of the space. The upcoming Facilities Master Plan should assess options for this space.

This Plan recommends considerable program development for preschoolers, children, and youth (both discussed below), and implementation of these programs will require additional staff.

PE.28 Provide/rotate indoor and outdoor preschool programs and activities at neighbourhoods around Town, to bring the programs as close as possible to participants

PE.29 Assess options for dedicated preschool programming space in the upcoming Facilities Master Plan

PE.30 Hire a Preschool & Children's Program Coordinator

### Children's Programs

In addition to supporting healthy lifestyles and promoting fitness, recreation activities can support the development of core character competencies in children and youth, such as self-esteem and emotional awareness, problem-solving, and communication skills<sup>7</sup>. However, despite the overwhelming data and research that continues to highlight the positive link between physical activity and overall health, over the last 35 years, fitness trends and statistics for children and youth aged 5-12 years old have steadily declined in Canada<sup>8</sup>.

According to the ParticipACTION 2020 Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth, less than 1 in 5 meet the recommended national guidelines for overall movement behaviours, including sleep, physical and sedentary activities. UNICEF Canada also reports that "only 21% of children engage in at least 1.5 hours per day of active play and unstructured physical activities". These rates drop to less than 1% when evaluating the movement behaviours of children with disabilities.

Compared to sedentary behaviours, which describe activities requiring minimal physical movement and energy expenditure such as screen-based activities, children and youth often exceed the recommended two hours or less of screen time. Previous research and new evidence continue to reaffirm the negative impact excessive screen-based sedentary activities have on the cognitive, physical and emotional development of children and youth.

7 HIGH FIVE (November 2014). Resiliency & Recreation Summary Report. Calgary: Parks and Recreation Ontario.

8 ParticipACTION. 2020 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth

In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged child and youth recreation opportunities and trends. As public health measures across major cities in Canada closed key recreation hubs such as public parks, facilities, and schools early in the pandemic, young people's physical activity declined considerably. Recent research and data collected by ParticipACTION investigating this 'COVID effect' demonstrated that only 4.8% of children were now meeting the recommended national guidelines for overall movement behaviours.

Children were identified in the top three age groups most in need of programs in the telephone (30%) and online surveys (31%). Currently children's programs are provided by The Town, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, YMCA, and many sport and volunteer organizations in the area. There is a wide variety of programs available, and overall, there are more options for sport and active programs than for non-sport (e.g., social drop-ins, STEAM, etc.). Some of the program types that were most requested in the online and telephone surveys are not well represented in current offerings, for example, snow activities, water-based activities (aside from swimming), and social/club activities for children. Arts programming and outdoor activities (such as water-based and snow activities) were previously discussed in this section, and development of both these types of programs should include options tailored for children 5-12. Other children's programs options should include expanded field sports (discussed previously under sport development, including rugby basics, ultimate frisbee, field lacrosse, cricket basics, etc.), social clubs and STEAM. With the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library's HackLAB, the Library is the main provider of STEAM programs for children as well as preschool and youth age groups. Social clubs can include casual drop-ins, or learning new skills and games (e.g., chess, Dungeons and Dragons, food preparation, knitting and crocheting, plant identification, etc.).

The Town has expanded programming/events/activities/outreach directed at youth (detailed in the following section) that address mental health, wellbeing, life skills, and more, and with the additional staffing recommended, these beneficial programs could be adapted for younger ages. For elementary school children, the Town has created some mental health programs, and they visit schools for year-end elementary school events to promote Summer Day Camp and Mobile Youth Centre.

The youth programs involve partnering with local high schools to increase Town presence; likewise, expanding the same programs to younger children would require strengthening relationships with elementary school staff to build the Town's presence at elementary schools, too. This would amount to increased outreach at elementary schools (in addition to the current), with the added benefit of raising awareness of other Town programs and activities available for children.

The Town and Library already offer an interesting array of children's programs, and as discussed previously, the perceived need for more children's programs in the surveys may be an indication that residents are not aware of the options available. In addition to the increased outreach, the Town should also provide increased/continued digital and print marketing and communications through the schools if possible.

PE.31 Develop new programs for children including a mix of sport and non-sport options (such as, culture, outdoor activities, sports, STEAM, social drop-ins, games, skills, mental health and wellness, etc.)

PE.32 Increase outreach and programming/activities at elementary schools in Town

PE.33 Hire a Youth Program Coordinator

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### Youth Programs

The Town launched the Youth Engagement Strategy in 2020, which is an initiative and living document that involves ongoing engagement and service development with and for youth. The process involved extensive consultations, and through that work, five areas of concern for youth were identified:

- Places to go and belong: Youth want places to hang out with friends and be welcomed
- Getting around Town easily and safely: Youth want to be involved in sidewalk and trails development and be able to travel independently around Town
- The environment: Youth value protecting and using greenspaces, and opportunities for free outdoor recreation
- Health and wellness: Youth are concerned about mental health, suicide, and addiction
- The future: Youth care about achieving their independence, goals, and plans

Of these five areas of concern, “Places to go and belong,” “Health and wellness” and “The future” contained specific suggestions and actions that can be directly addressed through recreation programming, as summarized in Table 2-11.

The Sport & Recreation Department, working with the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, has made progress in some of these actions, notably through the formation of the Youth Connex committee and the Mobile Youth Centre. Youth Connex is a committee for youth grades 8 to 12, that “provides a link between youth in the community, Council and local community partners to promote youth initiatives, programs and insight that enhance the quality of life, health and well-being of Innisfil youth.” A primary focus of the Youth Engagement Strategy is having youth involved in the development of programs and events that interest them. In the previous consultations, youth noted being interested in programs related to mental health, wellness, and learning programs

such as personal finance, taxes, real estate, adult responsibilities, etc.

In addition to Youth Connex, the Town’s current Recreation Coordinator partners with local high schools to provide the Speak Your Mind Youth Mental Health Summit (see Figure 2-10), HIGH FIVE training to students, workshops on youth mental health and wellness during school hours and facilitates special projects such as the Youth Urban Art Project and the Design of the Mobile Youth Centre Trailer Wrap.

Youth Connex is an excellent volunteer opportunity for youth, and the Town also provides other volunteer opportunities including a volunteer camp counsellor program (youth are offered training, then applied experience as a summer camp counsellor), Crafting for Humanity, bilingual storytime, book review program, and intergenerational programming. Offering additional volunteer opportunities with the Sport and Recreation Division would provide an opportunity for youth to learn about careers in recreation and activities available in the Town.

In return, youth can fulfill volunteer requirements for their secondary school diploma and obtain valuable experience for their resume.

The Mobile Youth Centre features various equipment (e.g., skate parks, skate equipment, spike ball, basketball, life-sized board games, etc.) that are free to use for all ages. For the 2022 season, the Centre rotated between three parks around the Town, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. The Mobile Youth Centre addresses multiple needs identified in the Youth Engagement Strategy and during consultations for this Plan, including providing additional outdoor/park activities, free activities, and improved accessibility of activities via affordability and proximity to different neighbourhoods. For the 2022 season, the Mobile Youth Centre operated only during the week at mid-day. This precludes children and youth who may be at camp or working during the day, and as noted in Table 2-11 youth prefer activities on

Table 2-11: Links Between the Youth Engagement Strategy and Recommendations in this Plan

	<b>Youth Engagement Strategy - area of Concern</b>	<b>Link to the Parks &amp; Recreation Master Plan Update</b>
<b>Places to Go and Belong (p. 8):</b>	Provide anti-racism/anti-oppression training to Town staff that will engage with youth, to foster a sense of belonging for everyone.	Addressed in program delivery discussion on accessibility and inclusion.
	Make a dedicated teen space at the Library's Lakeshore Branch as it is in close proximity to Innisfil's high school.	It is recommended here that the upcoming Innisfil Facilities Master Plan and Library Facilities Master Plan should assess options for indoor youth space
<b>Health and Wellness Actions (p. 11):</b>	Work with the Innisfil ideaLAB & Library, Sport & Recreation, and Health and Wellness teams, as well as local teen advisory groups and community organizations, to increase access to health and wellness programming for youth	It is recommended that the Town continue the outreach work at high schools, and with the Youth Connex Committee to develop youth programs and events that appeal to their needs and interests.
	Utilize spaces such as the Rizzardo Health & Wellness Centre and Innisfil ideaLAB & Library branches to facilitate teen-focused health and wellness programs and services.	
	Continue to host the Speak Your Mind mental health summit for youth in Simcoe/Muskoka.	
<b>The Future Actions (p. 12):</b>	Create courses both in and outside of school that prepare young people for the future (e.g., teach basic life skills including taxes, finances, how to buy a house, etc.).	It is recommended that the Town, in consultation with Youth Connex, develop learning programs for teens such as personal finance, taxes, real estate, adult responsibilities, etc.
	Create and deliver "Adult 101" programming to teach youth basic life skills.	
<b>Other Key Findings from the Youth Engagement Strategy:</b>	Events: Youth need to be involved in the planning and execution of programs and events will likely not appeal to them (p. 20).	This is being addressed through the work of the Youth Connex Committee.
	Engagement: While youth use social media, they prefer to be engaged face-to-face (p. 20).	This is being addressed through Youth Connex, and other outreach at high schools by Town staff. Given the importance of building relationships with youth to keep them engaged and involved, school outreach should expand and continue.
	Timing: Youth are busy with school, work, co-curricular activities, planning for their future, and hanging out with their friends - especially during the week. On the weekends, many enjoy sleeping in and having the freedom to escape weekly stress. It is difficult to manage their time after school and in the mornings on the weekends. Unfortunately, that is when most programs and events outside of their regular schedule are planned (p. 22).	Programs and events for youth should include a mix of scheduled and drop-in, on weekday evenings and weekend afternoons/evenings, to accommodate a variety of schedules.

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weekend afternoons. With the additional staff recommended in this Plan, the Town should seek to offer the Mobile Youth Centre one some afternoons/evenings and on the weekend as well.

The Town does not currently have any indoor space for drop-in or program use for youth, and this was something strongly requested during consultations both for this Plan and through Youth Connex consultations. A new dedicated room could include games (board games and computer games/consoles), comfortable seating, tables, vending machines, art wall, etc. It could primarily be open for drop-in use but made available for youth-directed programming as well. The Youth Engagement Strategy identified the Lakeshore Library Branch as a preferred location by youth due to the proximity to the high school. The upcoming Facilities Master plan should assess options for an indoor youth space.

The 2016 Active Innisfil Plan recommended the Town pursue Youth Friendly Community Accreditation (see sidebar). The Town has made progress in this goal, including the Youth Engagement Strategy and Youth Connex Committee, and providing youth-directed, free programming and events (e.g., the Youth Mental Health Summit, Mobile Youth Centre), and should continue this work.

The 2016 Active Innisfil Parks & Recreation Master Plan recommended a focus on youth that included obtaining “Youth Friendly Community” status through an application process. Work is ongoing in this regard and should continue. The text in the sidebar from the 2016 Plan highlights the criteria.

As evidenced in this discussion, youth programming and outreach, in its many forms, is a deservedly key component of the services offered by the Sport and Recreation Department. However, there is still much work to be done in expanding youth programming, and the Town does not currently have the resources to do so. As mentioned in the Program Delivery section, a number of new staff are required to support the

activities of the Sport and Recreation Department, with the Youth Program Coordinator being a high priority addition. With all the work that has been done in recent years with youth, this staff person is required immediately to maintain the momentum, as well as steer the new initiatives recommended here.

PE.34 Develop new programs for youth including a mix of free/paid, drop-in/registered, weekday/weekend programs

PE.35 Provide volunteer opportunities for youth with the Sport & Recreation Department

PE.36 Consider options for a youth-oriented indoor space through the upcoming Facilities Master Plan

PE.37 Continue ongoing efforts to achieve Youth Friendly Community accreditation

### Adult Programming

Adults were in the top three age groups most in need of programs in the online survey (adults 35 - 54 (51%), and adults 20 – 34 (31%)), however, relative to other age groups, adults have many opportunities for organized and self-directed recreation. Existing programs for adults in the Town include a range of fitness, wellness, dance, sport, learning, and training options, provided by the Town, Library, and other providers. Most program offerings begin after 5:00pm, with a few exceptions (e.g., at Stroud Community Centre and Knock Community Hall). Of the few existing daytime adult programs, some are seniors-only, reducing the daytime options for adults under 55.

The perceived need could be due to lack of awareness of what is available, desire for additional locations, and/or different class times. The resident responses for this project did not make clear the reasons that people



may not attend programs. At the second public open house, attendees were asked if they attend programs and any reasons they are not participating. Of the 18 respondents they indicated: yes, I attend 33%; yes, me and my family attend 28%; no, not aware 0%; no, not interested 6%; no, due to timing 28%; and, no, due to location 6%. While the sample size was small, this suggests that the main barrier to attending classes for adults is the timing.

With the increase in adults working from home since the pandemic (and it appears a hybrid work model is here to stay for many), the Town should pilot more adult fitness class options during the day. For parents especially, a daytime class on their lunch hour may be preferable to an evening class where they may be busy with family duties and children's extra-curriculars. Consultation with Town staff revealed two key obstacles to daytime programming: difficulty finding contract instructors available during the day, and limited options for suitable indoor space, particularly for fitness programming.

Most contract instructors act as daytime fitness instructors at a studio or fitness facility and are only available for Town classes when not teaching elsewhere. Moving some existing contract staff to part-time positions will allow the Town to provide more programs at varied times of day, and would contribute assisting with drop-in programming (particularly for children and youth).

With regard to space, the Town does not have access to any gymnasium during the day, which limits the types of programs that can be provided. The need for daytime programs can be partially met by existing indoor spaces (e.g., Stroud Community Centre, Knock Community Hall, various banquet halls), as well as outdoors at parks; however, there is an apparent need for indoor space that can accommodate sports and fitness such as a studio or gymnasium. The upcoming Facilities Master Plan should consider options for developing such a space.

“Playworks represents a cooperative of organizations focused on healthy youth development and the support that a community and partners can bring to provide a nurturing environment. Playworks has developed the “Youth Friendly Communities” initiative that describe 16 elements of a youth friendly community. Communities can work to implement these criteria over time and apply for Youth Friendly Community status through an application process. The criteria include:

- Youth have options for play
- Youth are formalized contributors to the community
- Facilities are dedicated to youth play
- It is easy to find information about youth play opportunities
- The community supports youth specific events
- The community celebrates and recognizes youth
- The community is committed to funding opportunities for youth play
- The community supports positive youth development
- The community supports youth volunteerism and leadership development
- The community has effective youth partnerships that support youth play
- Youth activism and advocacy for play is nurtured
- Youth feel valued in their community
- Youth can get to play programs that are offered
- Schools support the youth friendly application
- Adults champion the cause for youth play
- Play is inclusive” (p. 121)

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Figure 2-6: Speak Your Mind - Youth Mental Health Summit

PE.38 Pilot new fitness and wellness class times (i.e., daytime session) and locations (e.g., outdoors)

PE.39 Assess options for daytime space for fitness and wellness programming through the upcoming Facilities Master Plan

PE.40 Move some contract instructors to part time positions

### Seniors Programs

Seniors can attend the many adult programs discussed previously, as well as those geared specifically to seniors aged 55 and up (e.g., chair yoga, 55+ Fit for Life). Seniors receive a

discounted rate on programming, which helps to keep programs financially accessible.

Reported interest in additional programs for seniors was low in both online and telephone surveys. However, of all population age groups, the 75+ age group will see the most growth over the term of this Plan, more than doubling in population. Given the growth expected in this cohort, programming should be expanded. The Town has also implemented a Senior Programming Committee and should continue that work to keep up to date on evolving seniors' needs and interests when developing new programs.

Consultations with seniors in 2016 for the Active Innisfil Plan indicated interest in dancing, yoga, lawn bowling and chair exercises. Since then, all but lawn bowling is being offered (although

there is a Barrie Lawn Bowling Club). In many communities there are seniors' clubs that operate out of municipally owned buildings and provide seniors social programming such as lunches, dinners, cards, games, dances, etc. The YMCA has developed the Silver Club at the IRC, a monthly social lunch club for seniors to gather, eat, and socialize. However, aside from the Silver Club, Stroud Seniors (which offers once a week socials and cards), and activities in dedicated retirement communities or care homes, there are no other social clubs for seniors in Innisfil. To combat the risk of loneliness and isolation for seniors, it is crucial for there to be opportunities to gather, meet new friends, and socialize. The Silver Club has had a very positive response from the community, and a similar program would benefit others who do not attend YMCA programs. Although there is no dedicated seniors' space in the Town, there are community halls and banquet halls that are suitable. The upcoming Facilities Master Plan should assess options for such a space.

PE.41 Develop new programs for seniors aged 55+

PE.42 Continue to work with the Senior Programming Committee to keep up to date on evolving seniors needs and interests

PE.43 Assess options for dedicated social and programming space for seniors through the upcoming Facilities Master Plan

### 2.3 Outdoor Scheduled Facilities

The Outdoor Facilities Assessment is organized under the following main headings:

- Facilities Assessment
- Scope of the Assessment
- Assessment Baseline
- Net Sport Courts: Tennis, Pickleball and Sand Volleyball
- Baseball Diamonds
- Sport Fields
- Ensuring Equitable Access and Confirming Demand for Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Facilities not Currently Available in Innisfil

#### Facilities Assessment

The Town of Innisfil is on the verge of significant population growth, combined with a strategic goal to ensure “opportunities exist for residents, businesses and organizations to connect in all ways that are meaningful – physically, socially, culturally and digitally.”<sup>9</sup> One of the objectives of the Master Plan, therefore, is to contribute to this goal through the development of outdoor recreation facilities.

The Town’s existing outdoor recreation facility supply and use focuses on ‘traditional’ sports such as baseball and soccer.

Overall, facility supply/use appears to be lacking when compared to other Ontario communities, especially in terms of variety. It may be that, to date, Innisfil has largely functioned as part of a regional market that is dominated by the City of Barrie and that use of Town facilities has been influenced by resident participation in Barrie-

9 Towns of Innisfil Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

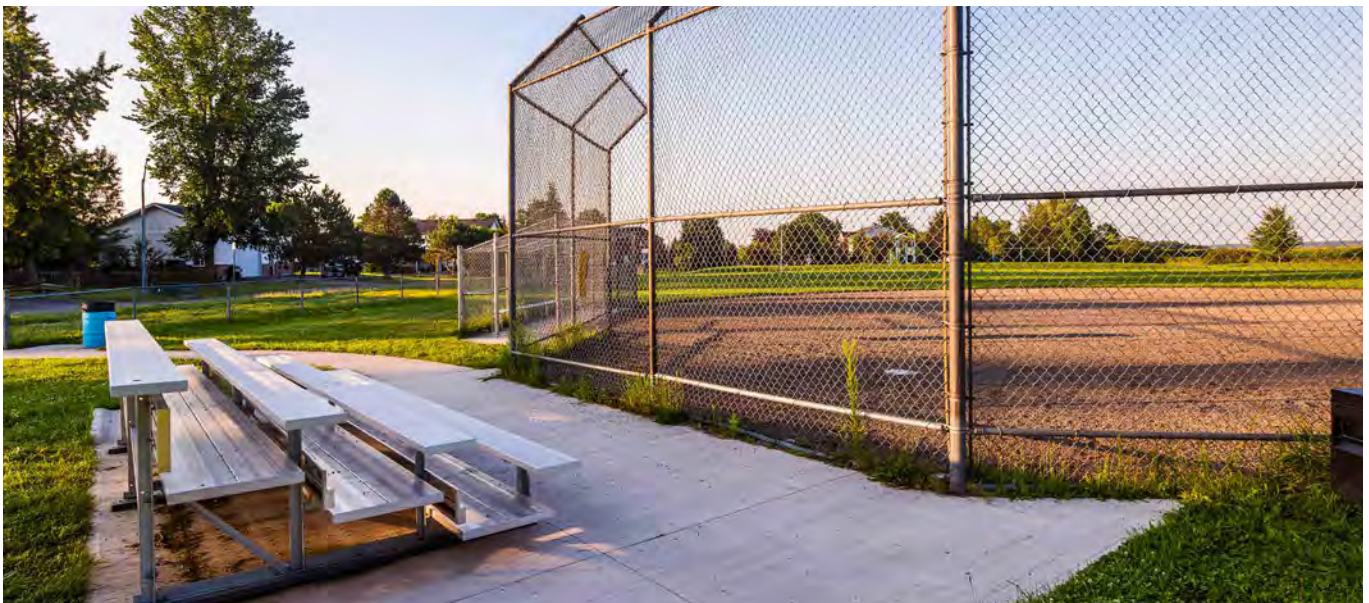


Figure 2-7: Dempster Park

based leagues and groups. This is an important consideration in shaping Innisfil's future as a connected community, especially in relation to anticipated population growth influenced by resident participation in Barrie-based leagues and groups. This is an important consideration in shaping Innisfil's future as a connected community, especially in relation to anticipated population growth.

## Scope of the Assessment

The assessment covers a thirty-year period and is based on a 2021 population of 44,360 and a projected population of 84,570 by 2051. It does not include need for indoor recreation facilities. These will be addressed in a separate Facilities Master Plan. At the same time, it is difficult to entirely separate indoor from outdoor recreation facilities, as they work interdependently in service provision. For this reason, consultation for this Plan included questions and discussion on community interest in new/improved indoor recreation facilities, the findings about which will be assessed in the upcoming master plan. In terms of the scope of the current Plan, community input on indoor spaces that are tied to outdoor facilities is reported as part of consultation findings only (e.g., interest in indoor net sport courts as well as outdoor courts).

Discussion is limited to facilities for community use and does not consider the potential for the Town to attract major sport tourism events. 'Tournaments', therefore, refers to those that are community or area-based events. This discussion addresses the need for courts, baseball diamonds and fields for organized, scheduled community use: tennis courts, pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts, baseball diamonds and sport fields. Facilities and amenities for self-directed or casual use (e.g., splash pads, play structures, outdoor fitness equipment) are discussed in the Parks section of the Plan.



Figure 2-8: Existing Innisfil Soccer Field

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

### Assessment Baseline

Currently, organized sports in Innisfil largely comprises baseball and soccer. There are no tennis, pickleball or beach volleyball clubs based in the community. Implementing the Town's above-noted strategic direction means providing more opportunities for residents to participate in recreation in their home community. Given anticipated growth in Barrie, and particularly in the area immediately to the north of Innisfil - along with the variety of recommended facilities for the City - it is important that the Town of Innisfil diversifies local opportunities to participate in field sports other than baseball and soccer, while continuing to support these activities.

For all outdoor recreation facilities, current supply is low in terms of numbers/1,000 population compared to many other communities. Supply based on use indicates existing facilities are not used to capacity, which makes relatively lower supply appropriate for Innisfil. Moreover, based on the results of consultation for the Plan and requests received by the Town, there is limited unmet demand for access to outdoor recreation facilities for organized activity at this time.



Figure 2-9: Meadows of Stroud Basketball Court

# Net Sport Courts: Tennis, Pickleball and Sand Volleyball

## Background to the Assessment

### General Trends

Trends indicate that tennis is experiencing a resurgence in participation. Data from a 2018 study on frequent players<sup>10</sup> show the appeal of tennis to youth and young adults, as well as its potential to engage newcomers to Canada in community sport (Table 2-12).

Tennis Canada’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022<sup>11</sup> includes a focus on ‘community facility development - capacity building.’ Although it is directed to providing affordable public covered courts, municipal partnerships are noted as the framework for generating growth in interest and participation in the sport. Tennis Canada or Tennis Ontario may be able to provide advice on promising practices for initiating programming.

Data from the Aspen Institute (Table 2-13) show trends in tennis participation among children and youth from 2008 to 2020, with 2020 figures reflecting the first year of Pandemic effects.

It is interesting to note the increase in proportionate participation among youth aged 13 to 17 years compared to children between the ages of 6 and 12 years. The information in Appendix 2 shows that field sports such as baseball, softball and soccer trend in the opposite direction - losing participants as they age. This suggests there may be opportunity to increase the focus on tennis to grow youth engagement in active recreation.

These findings indicate potential to build local participation in tennis, and to take a more formal approach to its development.

Table 2-12: Canadian participation in Tennis

Canadians that Played Tennis at Least Once per Week (Frequent Players)					
2,936,000 Canadians, 8% of Canadians					
<b>Breakdown by Gender:</b>					
Male: 58%		Female: 42%			
<b>Breakdown by Age Group:</b>					
6 to 8	9 to 11	12 to 17	18 to 34	35 to 49	50+
2%	5%	25%	38%	22%	7%
<b>Additional Facts:</b>					
67% of participants over 18, have children under 18 at home					
18% of participants were born outside of Canada					

10 <https://www.tenniscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/04.-Tennis-Participation-Data-and-Statistics-to-Assist-in-Facility-Planning.pdf>

11 <http://www.tenniscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-2022-TC-Strategic-Plan-REV-April-2018-ENG-FINAL-4-page.pdf>

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-13: Tennis Participation Among Youth and Children from 2008 - 2020

Sport/Activity by Age Group	% 2008	% 2018	% 2019	% 2020
Tennis				
6-12 years	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.9
13-17 years	6.0	7.1	6.8	7.9

Table 2-14: Volleyball Participation Among Youth and Children from 2008 - 2020

Sport/Activity by Age Group	% 2008	% 2018	% 2019	% 2020
Volleyball				
6-12 years	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.5
13-17 years	7.3	5.2	5.6	5.0

Pickleball participation has been growing exponentially across North America in recent years and appears not to have yet peaked. Pickleball Canada notes, “the number of players across Canada has grown from 6,000 to 60,000 in the past 6 years and the number of courts increased approximately 10 times...Every U.S. state and all Canadian provinces now have pickleball venues. The known places to play total of 6,885 at the end of 2018 represents (sic) an increase of 1,016 or approximately 85 locations per month.”<sup>12</sup>

There are a number of factors that will likely support continued growth in pickleball participation<sup>13</sup>, including:

- Its recognition as a legitimate sport, with both recreational and competitive categories
- Play, in terms of rules and physical intensity, is relatively easy
- An all-ages appeal

- National organizational commitment to growing participation
- It can be played year-round indoors and outdoors, with appropriate facilities
- Participants report that it is fun as well as physically beneficial

The experience of other municipalities indicates that pickleball courts are currently among the most requested new facilities in Ontario communities.

While not directly comparable to beach (sand) volleyball, data from the Aspen Institute show trends (TableFigure 2-19) in court volleyball participation among children and youth from 2008 to 2020, with 2020 figures reflecting the first year of Pandemic effects.

It is interesting to note the larger proportionate participation among youth aged 13 to 17 years compared to children between the ages of 6 and 12 years for each year. This difference is likely

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.usapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Pickleball-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.selkirk.com/pickleballs-growth>



due to several factors, including general appeal, players' physical development, and a traditional focus on other types of team sports for young children. At the same time, the information in Appendix 5 (A.5-1) shows that field sports such as baseball, softball and soccer trend in the opposite direction - losing participants as they age from the younger to older cohort. This suggests there may be opportunity to leverage the appeal of volleyball to increase youth engagement in active recreation.

## Innisfil-specific Factors

### Supply

- Innisfil has a total of seven (7) tennis and/or pickleball courts. Six (6) in Alcona are dual purpose tennis/basketball with four (4) lit courts at Innisfil Beach Park and two (2) unlit courts at Crossroads Park. Stroud Meadows has one (1) unlit pickleball/basketball court
- Innisfil has a total of six (6) sand volleyball courts, two (2) in Innisfil Beach Park and four (4) on the Innisfil Recreational Complex property. The courts at the IRC must be booked for use, and those at the IBP are available for casual activity

### Resident Household Survey Findings

- Of 272 respondents to the online survey indicating household interest in using new/expanded active sport/fitness programming or opportunities if provided in Innisfil, 36% (98) noted net sports (e.g., tennis, pickleball)
- Over half (55% or 133) of 244 online survey respondents who were interested in new/expanded facilities reported indoor courts for net sports
- There were 19 specific mentions in the online survey for tennis courts, and 9 for pickleball courts

## User Groups

- There are no community-based tennis, pickleball or beach volleyball groups in Innisfil
- The courts at the IRC have been rented by local businesses that organize team activity (e.g., Invado, Sandzone)

## Assessment

### Tennis Courts

The Town indicated discussions are in progress with residents and tennis clubs from within Simcoe County about instituting a community-based tennis club in Innisfil, as recommended in the 2016 Master Plan. If a formal community club is the result of this work, there is merit in providing dedicated tennis courts for organized activity. While tennis/pickleball combination courts may be appropriate for casual, self-directed play, single purpose facilities for organized use are typically needed to develop/maintain a strong club and program. This is particularly relevant to Innisfil since Innisfil Beach Park is the only existing location in the Town with several lit courts to function as a home base for a club. Moreover, the level of supply of dedicated courts in Barrie and the existence of a community club there suggests the need to make an Innisfil option attractive enough to encourage residents to play locally rather than travel outside the Town. Innisfil's population is also anticipated to grow considerably, which suggests there will be a 'core' tennis market of sufficient size to support a dedicated facility.

At the same time, municipal provision of the facilities needed for a community-based club should be subject to several requirements. Typically, community tennis clubs operate their programs under a lease agreement for municipally owned facilities. In this arrangement, the club is acting as a service provider on behalf of the municipality, which means the community at large should also have access to facilities that are publicly owned. The agreement, therefore, should

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-15: Status of Recommendations from Other Relevant Plans

Recommendation	Current Status
<b>2016 Master Plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct six new tennis courts by the year 2031 focusing on Lefroy, Cookstown and/or Stroud. Developed in pods of two courts each, they should integrate multi-use line markings for tennis and pickleball consistent with the Town's new template applied at Crossroads Park, provided successful use occurs there (medium priority, ongoing, \$300,000)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One (1) planned for LSAMI P3 (Lefroy)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate a discussion between tennis clubs from within Simcoe County and residents interested in forming a sanctioned community tennis and/or pickleball club. Discussions should also determine possible lease arrangements and program delivery options to accommodate such needs at the Innisfil Beach Park tennis courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing discussion</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not provide additional sand volleyball courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020 the contract with a private provider expired and the courts reverted to the Town, which is planning to redevelop the courts to improve supply and use</li> </ul>
<b>Other Plans</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Park: Innisfil Beach Park Master Plan (2020) noted the popularity of the tennis courts with residents who participated in the consultation process, and recommends: ongoing maintenance, net replacement, and line painting to keep the facilities in working order; create a dual-court facility for tennis and pickleball; consider an inflatable enclosure as part of the Parks Master Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High-priority recommendation in the Plan</li> </ul>

include regular dedicated times for community residents who are not members of the club to access the courts for casual use during both prime and non-prime times.

As a life-long sport, the longevity of tennis clubs is influenced by the strength of its youth programs, which should also be an important factor in determining municipal support for a club using Town facilities. Junior members will form the base of future facility use, and their participation in the sport will help justify municipal investment in infrastructure for introductory level programs. An agreement with a club, therefore, should ensure the provision of child and youth development programs.

Whether or not the Town continues to offer its own instruction program should be determined based on the ability of the club to provide a comparable level of service at the introductory/recreational level. This arrangement could also be incorporated in an agreement.

## Future Facility Requirements and Provision

In view of the potential to build local tennis participation, the Town should:

- Confirm the commitment of volunteers to form a tennis club based at Innisfil Beach Park along with a short-term agreement (e.g., five years) for club use of the courts at this location
- Determine and implement required improvements to the courts (e.g., surface repairs, relining, net replacement, etc. as per the Innisfil Beach Park Master Plan)
- Assist the club in initiating operations and programs
- Consider options to provide a temporary 'club house' at the site, such as a trailer

Once the club is underway, the need to monitor membership, program participation, etc. will be critical to determining the benefits of renewing the

agreement at the end of the initial term. To this end, the club should submit annual reports to the Town on its operations.

If, at the end of the initial operating term, the club is solidly established and will continue, the Town should consider building a permanent club house on the site if sufficient space is available. On the other hand, if it is determined that a local club is not viable the courts can be reopened for full-time casual use. At this point, if demand is such that additional pickleball courts are needed, some courts could be relined and made dual purpose. It is worth noting, however, that other communities have experienced conflicts between users of dual court facilities. This possibility might be best addressed, therefore, by separating uses if it does not result in an oversupply of either type of facility. Projected facility needs for both tennis and pickleball courts are provided after the following discussion on pickleball.

Covering the courts with an inflatable dome is a potential longer-term option that should be confirmed based on criteria such as:

- The compatibility of an enclosed structure with the aesthetic and experiential vision for a beach park, especially during the summer months (which could mean a seasonal dome option for the winter only)
- The need for extended hours to accommodate instruction programs, in addition to dedicated hours for play
- Levels of use that remain consistently high and stable enough to warrant investing in a cover and the cost of operations/maintenance

## Pickleball Courts

Community interest in the provision of courts for net sports reflects pickleball's popularity. The Town also reports receiving requests from the community to develop pickleball courts specifically. Providing these will increase the range

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

of facilities and programming available within the Town for outdoor sport and recreation.

Organization around the sport will likely emerge if dedicated facilities are provided. At the same time, the Town can facilitate organization by reaching out to interested groups/individuals and working with them to develop a club and program and to plan facilities. As with tennis, a four-court facility will help optimize club activity and could accommodate local tournaments (an eight-team event could be hosted in one day). Any lease agreement for club operation with ongoing Town support should also require youth programming and reasonable non-member access to courts for casual play. Presumably, instruction would be provided through the club.

### Future Facility Requirements and Provision

Since all existing courts are casual use dual-purpose facilities, there is no information on actual use levels on which to base a use-related provision level - either overall or by type of activity. The 2016 Master Plan suggested a provision ratio of 1 court for every 5,000 people for planning purposes. Subject to monitoring actual court use for both tennis and pickleball and development of provision levels by type, it is a reasonable figure to use for the timeframe to 2051.

At 1:5,000, projected need to 2051 for courts totals 17 (84,570/5,000), which is ten (10) more than existing supply. As noted above, it is recommended that the four courts at Innisfil Beach Park be dedicated to tennis only for the development of a local club. Of the ten (10) additional courts to be provided, it is recommended that four (4) be similarly developed in a single location to support a local pickleball club. Lighting the courts should also be considered when it is determined if actual use levels support night play.

The remaining six (6) future courts should be developed as dual-purpose tennis/pickleball

facilities for casual use, bringing total casual-use court to nine (9).

The ten (10) future courts identified here is based strictly on assuming the 2016 Master Plan provision ratio is adequate since there is no use data on existing facilities. Considering both existing and future parks, there will be many such spaces throughout Innisfil. It is possible the Town will need to increase the provision level of courts to improve coverage for casual use dual tennis/pickleball facilities. With this in mind, the recommended additional courts should be distributed to allow future 'in-fill' in the areas between locations, as well as the possibility of adding a second court in new parks, pending need based on actual use of facilities.

- F.1 Develop a community-based tennis club at Innisfil Beach Park using existing courts
- F.2 Subject to monitoring actual court use for both tennis and pickleball and establishing associated provision levels, it is reasonable to continue to use the 2016 Plan for planning purposes
- F.3 Add 10 more courts to existing supply by 2051
- F.4 Develop a dedicated four-court pickleball facility to help promote community-based club development and accommodate local tournaments
- F.5 Lease agreements for club operation with ongoing Town support should require youth programming and reasonable non-member access to tennis/pickleball courts for casual play
- F.6 Develop six (6) future courts in parks across town as dual tennis/pickleball facilities for casual use

## Sand Volleyball Courts

Innisfil Beach Park has two sand surface (beach) volleyball courts for casual play by park users. There are currently four sand courts on the grounds of the IRC, which require booking for use. Upon the Town's assumption of facility responsibility from a third party operator in 2020, it was determined that major improvements to the IRC courts are needed to accommodate strong demand from Provincial competitive leagues for access to the facility. Expansion is required to host these uses, as well as charity tournaments and community play. Redeveloping, enlarging and lighting the courts will create a suitable facility for hosting events, community-based programs and casual use at other times. In terms of community recreation, the courts will provide Innisfil residents with opportunities to participate in a wider range of activities, and to develop increased participation in active recreation among youth and young adults.

The proposed redevelopment comprises:

- Constructing four additional competitive size volleyball courts on Campus (IRC), south of existing courts and restructuring existing courts to competitive size courts
- Installing lighting, with power source/outlets to courts for support amenities (e.g., sound system, vendors, etc.)
- Expanding existing decking
- Supplying competitive nets, lines, permanent signage, etc.

The redevelopment will provide eight competitive level courts at the IRC. The Town's budget allocates \$235,750 in 2024 for this work.

F.7 Redevelop the Innisfil Recreational Complex (IRC) sand volleyball courts to eight competitive level, lit courts to accommodate competitive uses, as well as community programming at other times.

## Baseball Diamonds

### Background to Assessment

#### General Trends

Data from the Aspen Institute (see Appendix 2, A.2-1) show the following trends in baseball and softball participation among children and youth from 2008 to 2020, with 2020 figures reflecting the first year of Pandemic effects<sup>14</sup>. These data show consistently lower participation among youth than children in baseball, and the reverse in softball.

#### Innisfil-specific Factors

##### Supply

- Innisfil has a total of ten (10) baseball diamonds, of which nine (9) are scheduled for organized activity
- Four of the nine (9) scheduled fields are lit, two at the Innisfil Recreational Complex, one at Innisfil Beach Park and one at Fennell's Corner; of the total, two (2) are hardball diamonds and seven (7) are softball fields

- Several softball diamonds have been, or are scheduled to be, upgraded including those at Stroud Community Centre, Dempster Park, and Knock Community Centre; Fennell's Corner and Nantyr Park also have softball diamonds.
- Pitt Park diamond is not scheduled and is available for casual, pick-up play

#### Household Survey Findings

- Of 108 respondents to the random telephone survey who indicated the types of spaces that should be included in a redeveloped Stroud Community Centre, 19% (21) suggested improved fields/diamonds, which was the second most requested space following a fitness centre (23%)
- Seven people responding to the online survey indicated ball diamonds are needed at a redeveloped Stroud Community Centre
- Of 272 respondents to the online survey indicating household interest in using new/expanded active sport/fitness programming or opportunities if provided in Innisfil, 27% (74) noted ball (e.g., baseball, softball, t-ball)

14 Contact with Ontario baseball and softball organizations for data on provincial trends did not receive a response.

Table 2-16: Baseball & Softball Participation Among Children and Youth from 2008 to 2020

Sport/Activity by Age Group	% 2008	% 2018	% 2019	% 2020
<b>Baseball</b>				
6-12 years	16.5	13.6	14.4	12.2
13-17 years	8.2	10.4	10.4	8.7
<b>Softball (fast-pitch)</b>				
6-12 years	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.2
13-17 years	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.7

Table 2-17: Status of Recommendations from Other Relevant Plans

Recommendation	Current Status
<b>2016 Master Plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocate the Innisfil Beach Park diamonds to the Innisfil Recreational Complex subject to confirmation through a facility fit exercise, with a design specification oriented to play by adult and/or hardball users (high priority, short-term, \$1,000,000)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Innisfil Beach Park and Town Campus Master Plans below</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct one new baseball diamond towards the end of the master planning period, potentially in Cookstown, subject to confirmation through five-year updates to the Master Plan (low priority, long-term, \$500,000)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope change to the Cookstown Library and Community Park Phase 2 Project from constructing a baseball diamond to an ice rink with possible outdoor theatre and/or outdoor exercise equipment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage the Innisfil Minor Baseball Association and other baseball diamond users to discuss ways in which to enhance existing diamonds in a manner that encourages greater use by organized users. At a minimum, diamonds at Dempster Park, Knock Community Hall and Nantyr Park should be evaluated for surface improvements (e.g., irrigation, drainage, fencing) while the Innisfil Recreational Complex and relocated Innisfil Beach Park diamonds should consider amenity-related improvements (e.g., batting cages, concessions, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements have been made to diamonds in Stroud at Dempster Park and Stroud Community Centre</li> <li>Ongoing discussions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the above-noted Sport field Allocation Policy recommendation to ensure efficient and equitable utilization of all diamonds, regardless of quality and size, and ensure operational sustainability within the sport field supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport field Allocation Policy (June 5th, 2019) was approved by Council in consultation with organizations</li> </ul>
<b>Other Plans</b>	
<p>Our Park: Innisfil Beach Park Master Plan (2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation will require relocation of the two diamonds at the Park to a new site</li> </ul>
<p>Town Campus Master Plan (2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation will require relocation of the two diamonds from the IRC property to a new site</li> </ul>

# Part 2: Parks & Recreation

## User Group Survey Findings

- Three organizations that use ball diamonds responded to the user group survey: Stroud Mixed Slo-pitch, Innisfil Women’s 3 Pitch League, and Innisfil Minor Baseball Association. Innisfil Minor Baseball’s survey was incomplete beyond the first few questions. Three ball diamond user groups did not submit a survey
- Mixed slo-pitch and Women’s 3 Pitch reported 180 and 135 participants, respectively. Both draw participation from outside Innisfil; Mixed Pitch reported 25% and Women’s 3 Pitch noted 2%
- Both leagues operate from May to October, and use diamonds in Stroud, Fennell’s Corner, Alcona and at the IRC. Both groups anticipate between 5 and 10% growth in upcoming years and are uncertain regarding the need for additional diamonds to accommodate increasing participation

## Assessment

### Diamond Requirements to 2051

Table 2-18 shows total hours of use on all diamonds for the three years before COVID-19 closed facilities. The table showed an increase in hours of diamond use each year.

Calculated estimates of prime time are contained in Appendix 3. Using total hours of use from Table 2-18 in relation to total estimated prime time hours (4,354) indicates baseball diamonds were used at 56.8%, 60.6% and 62.1% capacity in 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. Figure 2-10 illustrates the hours of use by diamond for each of the three years considered.

The figure shows that the lit, hardball diamonds at the Innisfil Recreational Complex were consistently the most heavily used facilities, followed by those at Stroud and Fennell’s Corner

Table 2-18: Total Hours of Baseball Diamond Use 2017, 2018, 2019

Year	Total Hours of Use	Percent (%) Increase Over Previous Year
2017	2,473.5	
2018	2,639.5	6.7%
2019	2,704.5	2.5%

Table 2-19: Hours and Proportions of Prime Time Use on Hardball and Softball Diamonds 2017, 2018, 2019

Type	Total Prime time hours per season	2017 % (number)	2018 % (number)	2019 % (number)
Hardball (2)	1,344	80.4% (1,080.5)	86.9% (1,167.5)	93.5% (1,256.5)
Softball (7)	3,010	46.3% (1,393)	48.9% (1,472)	48.1 % (1,448)



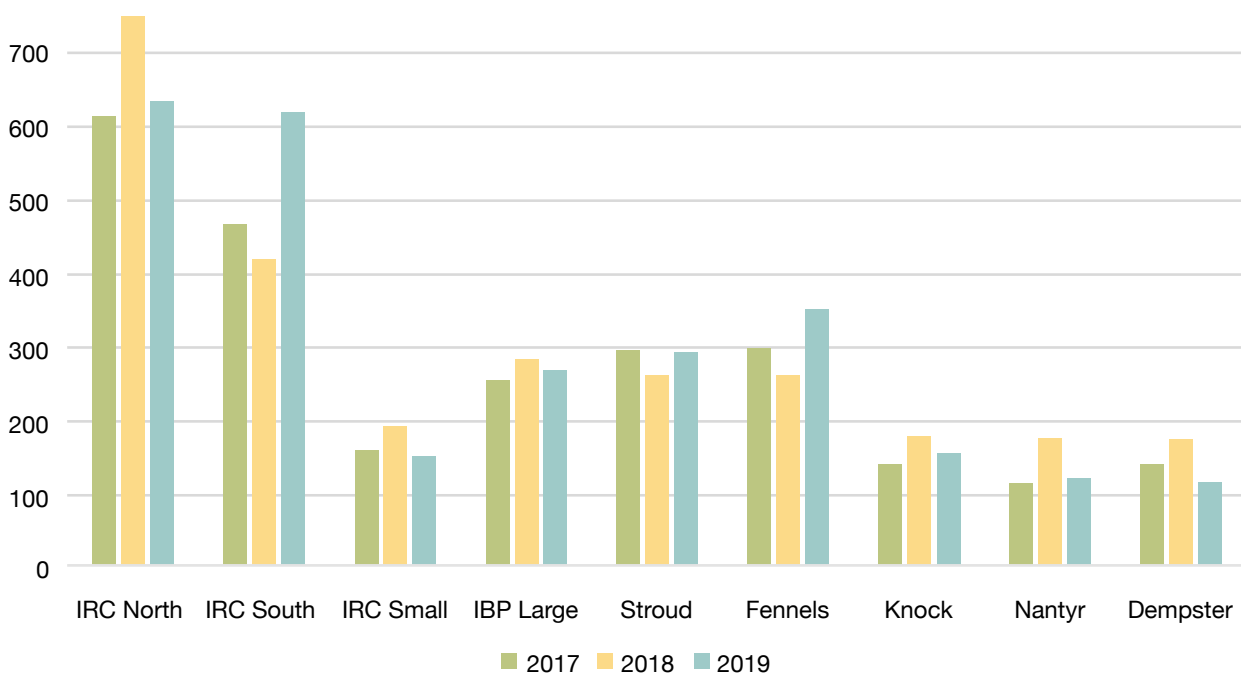


Figure 2-10: Hours of Scheduled Baseball Diamond Use 2017, 2018, 2019

and the large diamond at Innisfil Beach Park. When considered in relation to available prime time hours by hardball and softball diamonds, the difference in proportionate use levels is considerable, as shown in Table 2-19.

These figures show relatively consistently low use of softball diamonds. Hardball diamond use is both considerably higher in terms of proportion and increased by more than 10% over the three years. Future need for additional diamonds is outlined below.

### Hardball Diamonds

Appendix 2 (A.2-3) contains the calculations for projected hardball diamond needs to 2051. Information on use levels in relation to available prime time indicates that - assuming diamonds continue to be used at 93.5% capacity - a population-based provision level for planning purposes is one lit diamond for every 23,734 population.

The total number of facilities required to serve a population of 84,570 will be 3.7 (4) lit diamonds, or 1.7 (2) more than existing supply, and the population point at which a third diamond should be operational will be approximately 47,500.

### Softball Diamonds

Appendix 2 (A.2-4) contains the calculations for projected softball diamond needs to 2051. Information on use levels in relation to available prime time indicates an additional 46,000 population can be accommodated with existing supply, assuming diamonds continue to be used at 48.9% capacity. At less than 50% capacity use of prime time, the Town population can more than double before new softball diamonds are required. Moreover, relocating the two IBP diamonds such that hours that are currently not scheduled can be used will add 504 hours per season to prime time supply.

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

### Future Facility Requirements and Provision

In addition to providing two (2) new hardball diamonds during the terms of the Plan, both diamonds in Innisfil Beach Park (IBP) need to be relocated to implement the directions contained in the IBP Master Plan. The 2016 Master Plan recommended that both IBP diamonds be relocated to the Innisfil Recreational Complex (IRC) site to provide four (4) lit fields on this site.

Since the 2016 Master Plan's preparation, new needs and opportunities have arisen that will affect future development of the IRC and grounds. A Town Campus Master Plan is being prepared for this site that comprises a long-term vision to transform it into a hub for employment to support a new hospital. The site will also become a centre for arts and culture through the provision of a new library and a major indoor/outdoor cultural programming venue. New facilities will be developed on grounds that integrate self-directed outdoor recreation opportunities through the provision of connected trails, pathways, and amenities for winter use within a conservation-stewardship framework.

Implementing the Campus Master Plan will require the relocation of the two baseball diamonds on site, which means both the IBP and IRC diamonds will need to be reconstructed elsewhere. Collectively, therefore, a total of six (6) new diamonds are needed, including four (4) relocations (comprising 2 IRC and 2 from IBP), and two (2) new hardball diamonds to meet demand for 2051. This would allow co-locating facilities in a four-diamond, lit configuration, which is the preferred configuration to support both regular season and community tournament activity.

### Town of Innisfil Outdoor Sports Complex

In late 2018 the Town acquired a 39.74 ha parcel at the southwest corner of the intersection at 7th Line and 10 Sideroad (municipal address 7140 10 Sideroad). The intention is to develop an outdoor sports complex to consolidate relocated and new outdoor facilities in a single location, accommodate anticipated growth and allow more programming for organized activity and tournaments.

However the site topography and naturalized areas such as forests and streams have proven that the site won't fit both sports fields and baseball diamonds. As a solution, a new property can be purchased and 7140 10 Sideroad can be either re-purposed or sold. A new property would need to be purchased by December 2024 so that new diamonds could be constructed in advance of Phase 2 of "The Innisfil Beach Park (IBP) Implementation Plan" which requires the baseball diamonds at IBP be relocated by 2029. If ideal property cannot be retained by December 2024, the Outdoor field complex will remain at 7160 10 Sideroad and soccer fields will remain at IRC until an appropriate parcel of land can be retained.

It is recommended that a four-field baseball diamond complex be located on this site to accommodate hardball and softball, with provision for also developing the two (2) additional hardball diamonds later. New facilities should be operational before the diamonds they are replacing are removed from supply.

The placement of the four-field diamond facility and anticipated future hardball diamonds at the outdoor sports complex site needs further refinement to detail all space and orientation requirements for the fields themselves, ancillary facilities, and amenities. The Town's outdoor field complex proposal included a concession stand, maintenance space, and washrooms.

Studies/reports needed to clarify and detail the site's development potential include:

- Functional servicing
- Geotechnical
- Hydrogeological assessment
- Stormwater management
- Traffic impact assessment
- Environmental impact study (EIS)
- Tree inventory and preservation
- Topographic survey

These studies are in the process of being tendered or conducted. A finding from the environmental work that will affect available space is the need for a 30m buffer on either side of the creek that runs through the property, to meet Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requirements. A proposed facility fit concept is provided as Figure 2-22 in section 2.4 Parks.

## Other Considerations

It is essential for the Town to continue to monitor actual use of diamonds, and track unmet demand for access to baseball diamonds, to verify future facility requirements and revise provision levels as required at regular Master Plan updates. Although not indicated in the surveys or trends research, if participation should increase beyond that attributable to population growth it will result in the need for additional time on diamonds. Other factors that may influence long term need include recent and ongoing upgrades to existing diamonds, as well as potential shifts in activity patterns that may persist post-COVID if people continue to work from home and non-prime time use of facilities increases and offsets demand for prime time.

The scrub (pick-up play) diamond at Pitt Park is a single, unlit diamond. If not needed to be upgraded for scheduled use, it can be retained

for casual use or re-purposed, as appropriate to meet local needs. (See Section 2.4 on Parks).

- F.8 Develop a four-diamond complex to accommodate hardball and softball at the new outdoor recreation complex site
- F.9 Anticipate future demand for two new hardball diamonds at the new outdoor recreation complex
- F.10 Use existing, upgraded softball diamonds elsewhere in Town to better accommodate organized activity
- F.11 Continue to monitor actual use of diamonds, and track unmet demand for access to baseball diamonds, to verify future facility requirements and revise provision

## Sport Fields

### Background to the Assessment

#### Participation and Development Trends

While soccer remains dominant in community level field sports, it appears participation has peaked and is trending to decline. Table 2-20 shows participation in soccer in Ontario between the years 2012 and 2019, as published in Canada Soccer’s Annual Reports.

The table shows that, except for a spike in total participation in 2013, numbers declined over this period by 23%. Within total participation, youth male and female (ages 18 and under) declined by 20% and 30%, respectively or 24% total. These data suggest that the rapid growth in soccer in earlier decades will not be a factor in facility demand for the foreseeable future and reversing trends may result in an oversupply of sport fields in some communities that have built their supplies as single purpose fields in response to surging demand.

Ontario Soccer’s Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2026 (released March 2022) includes a number of key aspirations, one of which is to have 300,000 registered players in outdoor soccer by 2026. As

a goal, this represents an increase of 10% over actual 2019 registration of 271,889 as shown in Table 2-20. While a target of 300,000 represents growth from current levels of participation, it falls below actual registration for the years 2012 through 2017. It also depends on other linked initiatives, such as increased funding for sport development. In terms of facility supply, growth that falls short of previous peaks in participation does not translate directly into the need to provide more facilities. Past field provision to meet peaks may now represent an oversupply for which use needs to be ‘recouped’ before considering new facilities.

At the same time, facilities that have been designated and/or used almost exclusively for soccer are increasingly being developed as multi-purpose sport fields to accommodate several compatible sports. This approach recognizes several factors: the relative decline in soccer, the need to facilitate participation in other community sports, and the requirement for municipalities to limit expenditures in single-purpose recreation infrastructure.

As in many communities, the Town’s sport fields have been/are used almost exclusively for soccer. There are other sports, however, for which fields

Table 2-20: Soccer Participation in Ontario 2012 to 2019

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Youth Male	164,215	164,693	157,837	171,023	160,738	147,971	138,262	131,316
Youth Female	124,341	121,556	113,904	115,427	106,586	98,457	90,299	86,627
Senior Male	40,329	42,978	41,191	27,797	38,449	36,696	38,954	37,745
Senior Female	24,351	26,044	24,402	14,233	21,186	19,540	20,726	18,201
<b>Total</b>	<b>353,236</b>	<b>355,271</b>	<b>337,334</b>	<b>328,480</b>	<b>326,959</b>	<b>302,664</b>	<b>288,241</b>	<b>271,889</b>

could potentially be used/provided in Innisfil. Canada's Sport for Life (CS4L) framework for Long Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity has generated a more formal approach in the sport community to strengthening and building introductory programming at the local level, which suggests future growth in these activities.

Each of the following activities is discussed below in terms of growth/development trends:

- Football
- Rugby
- Field lacrosse
- Ultimate frisbee
- Field hockey

Each provincial sport association was contacted for information on participation trends, if not already published.<sup>15</sup> None of the associations responded. Available online information was also used to identify trends provincially and/or nationally and to identify locally-based organizations involved in each sport. Those for which information was found are discussed below.

## Football

One of the three main pillars of Football Ontario's Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025<sup>16</sup> is to focus on "grassroots football within local communities" and increase "both the number of new participants and amount of programming available to all." A second pillar focuses on innovation within Ontario, which includes building strategic partnerships with high schools to grow the sport in both schools and the community.

## Rugby<sup>17</sup>

In 2015 Rugby Ontario, in collaboration with Rugby Canada, launched its Rookie Rugby program to support the provincial organization's first priority - to grow the game at the grassroots level. The Ontario organization had piloted its own successful introductory program in 2014, which led to joining the national effort to grow the game. At the introductory level, the game is non-contact. The Ontario Rookie program had 15,000 registrants in 2015, 41,000 in 2016 and 70,000 in 2017.

In 2019, the AGM report noted, "Rugby Ontario has changed considerably over the past five years. We have had a vision to transform RO into a more professionally oriented organization and to focus our efforts, very specifically, into growing the game. Rookie Rugby has been the cornerstone of our growth strategy. Getting more balls into young kid's hands in order to establish a culture of rugby, long before they get to high school. Making sure that high school will just be another phase of their rugby life, not the only one" (p. 8).

## Field Lacrosse

Lacrosse Canada is the governing body responsible for all aspects of lacrosse in Canada, which includes field and box lacrosse. The organization has 11 Member Associations representing nearly 80,000 individual participants, including coaches, officials, and athletes of all ages and abilities.<sup>18</sup>

Lacrosse appears to be well established in the Innisfil area. Both Barrie and Innisfil have minor lacrosse leagues. Barrie has Jr. A and Jr. C lacrosse divisions (Bombers). Jr. C supports the Barrie and Innisfil Minor Lacrosse Associations.

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15 National sport association websites were also reviewed for relevant figures.

16 Source: [https://site2075.goalline.ca/files/ofa-stratpla\\_pptx.pdf](https://site2075.goalline.ca/files/ofa-stratpla_pptx.pdf)

17 Source: <https://www.rugbyontario.com>

18 Source: <https://lacrosse.ca/content/membership---lacrosse-canada>

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-21: Status of Recommendations from Other Relevant Plans

Recommendations	Current Status
<b>2016 Master Plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage the Innisfil Soccer Club and other sport field users to discuss ways in which to enhance existing rectangular fields in a manner that encourages greater use by organized users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a business plan and site selection study to determine the need, feasibility and cost implications of constructing an outdoor artificial turf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Innisfil Beach Park and Town Campus Master Plans below</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a Sport field Allocation Policy in consultation with all sport field and baseball diamond users, to guide the effective management and maintenance of the local sport field system, and to annually track player registrations among organized users as part of the Town's performance management analyses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport field Allocation Policy (June 5th, 2019) was approved by Council in consultation with organizations. Future facility request forms will include a section on previous year's registration numbers to build an annual record</li> </ul>
<b>Other Plans</b>	
Our Park: Innisfil Beach Park Master Plan (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation will require relocation of the two fields at the Park to a new site</li> </ul>
Town Campus Master Plan (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation will require relocation of the four fields from the IRC property to a new site</li> </ul>

In 2019 Barrie Minor Lacrosse introduced a 3-on-3 non-contact house league for introductory learning for children aged 4 to 8 years. The program ran from April to June. This was part of the Canadian Lacrosse Association athlete development program successfully piloted across the province.

### Ultimate Frisbee

Data on Canadian trends in ultimate frisbee participation are not posted through the relevant sport organizations. It is interesting to note, however, that data published by the Aspen Institute on the COVID-19 effect on playing sports among those ages 6 years and older

shows that ultimate frisbee was the only activity that increased in participation occasions among all those considered (see Appendix 2, A.2-5). Ultimate frisbee play occasions increased by 26% between 2019 and 2020, while all other sports decreased in participation, from a minimum of 2.5% (track and field) to 41.6% (ice hockey). This singular trend was at least partially attributed to the fact that no referees are required for this game, as players make the calls, and so are not affected by shortages of referees at any time.

## Innisfil-specific Factors

### Supply

- Innisfil has a total of 11 sport fields that are scheduled for organized soccer
- The four fields at Innisfil Recreational Complex are lit, and the remaining seven (7) are unlit

### Household Survey Findings

- Of 272 respondents to the online survey indicating household interest in using new/expanded active sport/fitness programming or opportunities if provided in Innisfil, 29% (78) noted field sports (e.g., soccer, lacrosse, football, cricket, field hockey)
- Forty-six (46% or 75) of 163 telephone survey respondents who were interested in new/expanded facilities reported indoor playing fields as the third most requested
- Twenty-six (26) people responding to the online survey indicated sport courts and fields (multi-use, basketball, tennis, soccer) are needed at a redeveloped Stroud Community Centre
- Forty-six (46% or 112) of 244 online survey respondents who were interested in new/expanded facilities reported indoor playing fields

### User Group Survey Findings

- Three organizations that use fields responded to the user group survey: Greyhound Soccer Club, Barrie Senior Soccer Club, and Innisfil Minor Lacrosse. Six field user groups (three soccer, two football and one rugby) did not submit a survey
- Innisfil Minor Lacrosse reported 1,000 participants in its last full year of operation, and all members are from the Town. Both Barrie-based leagues totalled 70 participants and draw most of their participants from outside Innisfil

- Innisfil Minor Lacrosse reported using fields for special events in July
- Soccer leagues operate from May to October, and the three groups use fields at the IRC and in Alcona. Greyhound Soccer anticipates over 25% growth in upcoming years while the other groups reported a likely 0 to 5% increase in participation. Two groups indicated the need for rectangular playing fields to accommodate future participation. Innisfil Minor Soccer is interested in both an outdoor field and a Town-based indoor sport facility for winter use

### Other

- The Town of Innisfil has received requests for fields for football and for rugby

## Assessment

### Field Requirements to 2051

In terms of existing supply, the assessment refers to 'soccer' fields, in recognition of the fact that they were provided largely to accommodate soccer, which has also been the dominant use of these facilities to date. In terms of need for additional fields over the next 20 years, however, the objective is to ensure fields are also made available to other sport organizations - regardless of size - that need facilities to operate their existing programs and to support development efforts. To this end, future needs are discussed in terms of 'sport fields' to anticipate multiple uses and to move away from the notion that these fields are exclusively for soccer.

Table 2-22 shows total hours of use on all fields for the 2016, 2018 and 2019 years, and the number and proportion of total hours and revenues accounted for by the Innisfil Soccer Club.

Total hours of use fluctuated over the three years, and that of Innisfil Soccer Club noticeably declined. It was indicated that this reduction is due to more efficient booking and use of fields by

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-22: Innisfil Soccer Club Field Use & Revenues Relative to Totals 2016, 2018, 2019

Year	Total Hours of Use	Innisfil Soccer Club Use	
		# (%) total hours	% total revenues
2016	1,651.30	1,239 (75%)	88%
2018	1,130.00	774 (69%)	39%
2019	1,687.75	880.5 (44%)	69%

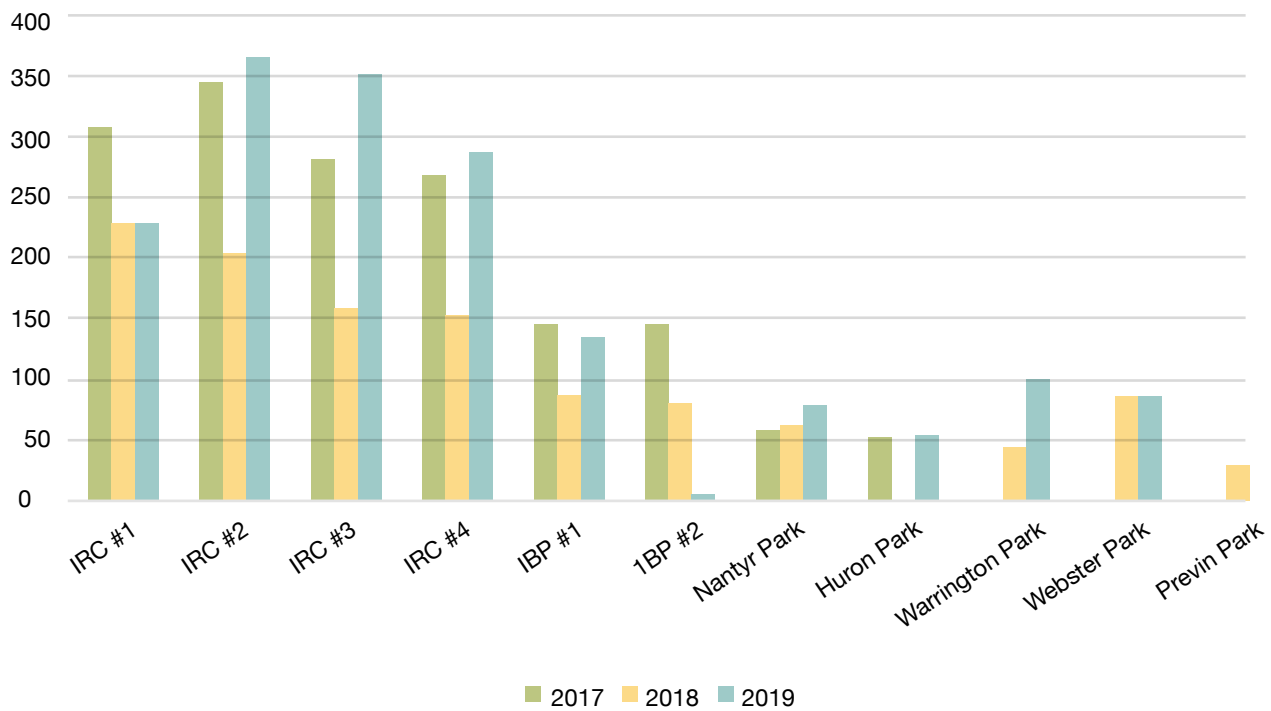


Figure 2-12: Hours of Scheduled Soccer Field Use 2016, 2018, 2019



the Club (e.g., younger teams concurrently using a single field).

Calculated estimates of prime time are contained in Appendix 2. Using total hours of use from Table 2-22 in relation to total estimated prime time hours (5,194) indicates fields were used at 32%, 22% and 32% capacity in 2016, 2018 and 2019, respectively. For two of these years (2016 and 2019) the Innisfil Soccer Club was the major source of revenue from field use. Figure 2-12 illustrates the hours of use by field for each of the three years considered. The figure shows that, despite fluctuations in use by year, fields at the Innisfil Recreational Complex were consistently the most heavily used facilities, followed by those at Innisfil Beach Park. When considered in relation to available prime time hours by lit and unlit fields, the difference in proportionate use levels is considerable, as shown in Table 2-23. These figures show relatively low use of all fields, and especially unlit facilities. Both lit and unlit fields were used to less than 50% of their prime time capacity, with unlit fields consistently falling below 20%. At the same time, rectangular playing fields are more versatile than baseball diamonds and can be used for a wider range of sports, if they are appropriately designed to do so. As noted above, future needs are discussed in terms of multi-purpose sport fields to anticipate growth in other field sports. Local soccer groups also reported anticipated growth in the next 5 to 10 years, which would result in the need for more sport fields. Actual use of prime time suggests, however, that considerably more use can be accommodated on existing fields and so will be

able to meet demand to a point, without adding more fields.

For planning purposes, existing levels of prime time use are increased by 20% to anticipate additional activity related to new uses and expected local growth in soccer (over 2019 figures in Table 2-23 on both existing lit and unlit fields). Using this figure, lit field use increases to 55% of prime time capacity and unlit field use becomes 22% of prime time capacity.

### Unlit Fields

Appendix 2 (A.2-8) contains the calculations for projected unlit sport field needs to 2051. Information on use levels in relation to available prime time indicates that - with an anticipated 20% increase in use - there remains a considerable amount of available prime time. No new unlit fields will be required during the term of the Plan and for some time beyond.

### Lit Fields

Appendix 2 (A.2-7) contains the calculations for projected lit sport field needs to 2051. Information on use levels in relation to available prime time indicates that - with an anticipated 20% increase in use - a population-based provision level for planning purposes is one lit field for every 21,249 population. Applying this figure to a 2051 population of 84,570, the point at which a new lit field will be required occurs just beyond the Plan's timeframe at approximately a population of 86,000.

Table 2-23: Proportionate Prime Time Use on Lit and Unlit Soccer Fields 2016, 2018 & 2019

Total Prime Time Hours/Season		2016 % (number)	2018 % (number)	2019 % (number)
Lit fields (4)	2,688	45.0% (1,199.3)	27.6% (742)	45.8% (1,230.75)
Unlit fields (7)	2,506	18.0% (452)	15.5% (388)	18.2% (457.0)

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- F.12 No additions to the supply of unlit sport fields will be required during the term of the Plan and for some time beyond
- F.13 The point at which a new lit sport field will be required to expand existing supply will occur just beyond the Plan's timeframe at approximately a population of 86,000

### Future Field Relocations

As noted above, no new sport fields will be required within the term of the Plan. At the same time, both fields in Innisfil Beach Park need to be relocated to implement the directions contained in the IBP Master Plan. Similarly, implementing the Town Campus Master Plan will require the four (4) lit fields on the IRC to be relocated. Neither of these plans, however, are at the point where fields will be moved in the near future. As such, the need to relocate up to six (6) multi-purpose sport fields (4 of which will be lit) is recommended for the period beyond 2031. The actual timing of relocation, however, will be tied to the implementation schedules of the IBP Master Plan and the Town Campus Master Plan.

The number of fields to be provided in a new location is contingent upon incorporating actual use and unmet demand for fields over time to determine how many displaced fields need to be redeveloped. This is particularly important given current low levels of use and the addition of 532 more annual prime time hours by relocating the two IBP fields so that hours that are currently not scheduled can be used (and more hours if both are lit). As noted above regarding upgrades to existing baseball diamonds, potential shifts in activity patterns that may persist post-COVID may also influence facility needs for fields. Opportunities to book fields more efficiently, as indicated above with respect to Innisfil Soccer, may also emerge and so influence supply requirements. In any case, new facilities should

be operational before the fields are removed from supply.

In anticipation of the need to relocate fields from IBP and the IRC property, the Town should begin a search for an appropriate parcel of land to accommodate these facilities, using criteria such as: minimum acreage, tableland, proximity to users, direct/deeded municipal road access, compatibility with surrounding land uses, minimal environmental sensitivities, serviceable lot, etc. Barrie's 2019 Outdoor Recreation Facility Study recommended securing land in excess of 21 ha to meet future outdoor sport facility needs that will not be accommodated in parkland dedications, and that possible locations include an adjacent municipality (see A.2.9 City of Barrie Sport field Complex on page 108, A.2-9). The Town of Innisfil should consider the potential to develop a joint outdoor recreation complex with the City of Barrie if the options related to acquisition, development, and operations are mutually beneficial to both municipalities.

- F.14 Begin a search for an appropriate parcel of land to accommodate future need to relocate up to 6 (4 lit) sport fields from IBP and the IRC property
- F.15 New facilities should be operational before existing fields are removed from supply

### Generating Multi-purpose Use of Sport Fields

As discussed above, trends at both the national/provincial levels in introductory sport development and Innisfil-area activity in other field sports suggest the Town can take a proactive approach to generating new uses of sport fields. This will encourage locally-based league development, which will provide minor sport opportunities close to home and so give residents an alternative to leaving Town to participate in leagues in other

communities. It will also offset the Town's reliance on a single sport to generate revenues from field rentals.

A case in point is Innisfil's Minor Lacrosse.<sup>19</sup> The league responded to the user group survey and indicated indoor facilities in Alliston are used for box lacrosse, and 1,000 participants participated in a tournament. Town-based membership totals about 80 participants between the ages of 5 and 18 years, and the league is interested in more access to Innisfil fields in the spring and fall - specifically 5 weeks in April and May, and five weeks in September and October, ending on Thanksgiving weekend. Fields are required for practices only since games are played in Brampton and Peterborough. It was noted that, until recently, access to local fields has been difficult due to complaints that damage to the sport from lacrosse negatively impacts soccer use. More recently, lacrosse has been scheduled on Town fields other than those at the IRC. This has allowed more Innisfil-based activity, which the league thinks may encourage more residents to enrol their children since travel to facilities outside the community will be reduced. At the same time, there is interest in using the fields at the IRC, given their better quality than other locations and the higher visibility - and so potential draw - their use could contribute to the sport.

Organized activity and facility supply in the region suggest potential growth in field sports that are more typically found in larger urban areas. In addition to Innisfil Minor Lacrosse, Barrie-based football, rugby and lacrosse clubs demonstrate the existence of field sports other than soccer in the area. The City of Barrie's Outdoor Recreation Facility Study recommends multi-purpose fields to accommodate growth in a range of field sports. The Town of Innisfil should anticipate facility provision for program development for its own population to:

- Accommodate demand for different field sports that will very likely be generated by people who move to the Town as it grows.
- Implement the 'place' vs. 'space' vision for the Town, by providing residents with home-based opportunities for a variety of sports pursuits.
- Take a proactive approach to supporting Canada's Sport for Life (CS4L) framework for Long Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity.

Being proactive in sport development aligns with the framework for Physical Literacy for Communities (PL4C), which is the foundation for lifelong participation in physical activity. As shown in Figure 2-16, recreation is positioned as a key component to building an 'active for life' foundation.

At the community level, municipalities are the leaders in recreation service provision. The municipal mandate for recreation typically emphasizes introductory level programming in a variety of areas including field sports. The Town, therefore, is in a position to actively facilitate the development of community-based field sports in addition to soccer and ensure access to multi-purpose sport fields for organized use. To this end, it is appropriate to refer to these facilities as 'multi-purpose sport fields' in the future.

- F.16 Work to proactively accommodate various sports on multi-purpose sport fields, such as football, rugby, field lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, field hockey in allocations and design
- F.17 Refer to 'soccer' fields as 'multi-purpose sport fields' in the future

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<sup>19</sup> Football and Rugby leagues did not complete a user group survey.

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

The following is an example of an initiative that the Town could implement, if staffing increases, to generate increased use of sport fields and participation in casual, pick-up play:

*In August 2017, the City of Waterloo won a Peter J. Marshall Innovation Award for its use of a web application to support physical fitness and team sports in the community. The City worked with a local soccer player and web designer to develop PickUp Hub, a web application that would make it easier for adults to take part in team sports on a game-by-game basis. The app essentially helps them find a “pick up” game, and takes care of everything from payment and waivers, to team organization. PickUp Hub was a success, with a nine-fold increase in soccer participants compared to the drop-in program. It has also generated some additional revenue for the municipality.<sup>20</sup>*

### Artificial Turf

The foregoing trends indicate that Canadians' range of interest in different types of field sports is increasing and those that have not been the 'traditional' favourites are gaining higher profiles and are steadily, if not necessarily quickly, attracting more participants. A much greater focus on introductory and junior development programs appears to be contributing to the base of participation needed to ensure growth and longevity. This aspect of sport in general has been facilitated and supported by the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) policy and its Long-term Athlete Development (LTAD) framework.

Proactively facilitating multi-purpose sport field development will require investigating the facility needs of the various sports to be accommodated, and facility design options. These fields can accommodate a variety of activities if designed appropriately and scheduled/maintained to ensure facility integrity. Given the

historic popularity of soccer relative to other field sports such as lacrosse, football and rugby, the bulk of municipal supplies of these facilities have been provided, and used, for soccer. However, a continuing focus on multi-purpose facilities and interests in other types of field sports requires considering ways to accommodate several sports on more 'universal' fields.

Innisfil is part of the current and/or potential regional market for these sports, as evidenced by locally based organizations for lacrosse, rugby, and football. Within the Town itself, there is interest in using the playing fields for sports other than soccer.

At the same time, there is a finite market of potential participants from which all activities draw and at some point, participation levels peak and can be expected to either stabilize, fluctuate or decline - as evidenced by baseball and soccer. Providing facilities to accommodate different sports with varying degrees of popularity over time, and some of which cannot support single-purpose dedicated fields, makes multi-purpose sport fields a reasonable response. This is particularly relevant to municipal service provision, where the focus is to provide a wide range of opportunities for the community to engage in introductory levels of sport for recreation.

The sports discussed above, and others such as field hockey and ultimate frisbee, can be accommodated on multi-purpose turf fields. The extent of multiple uses, however, needs to be considered in terms of:

- The compatibility of several sports - including different age groups - in field design, layout and construction
- The impact of different wear patterns on field integrity and quality, and related maintenance costs

<sup>20</sup> <https://pickuphub.net/city-waterloo>

- The tendency for the same ‘prime times’ to be in greatest demand for all uses, which can cause difficulties in field allocations and conflicts among users

Providing artificial instead of natural turf fields can help reduce challenges related to wear and can extend the playing season in spring and fall to increase available ‘prime time.’ Multi-purpose, artificial turf fields can provide different field sports with access to high quality facilities and extended use, while limiting consumption of available parkland.

An artificial turf may be key to accommodating other sports in Innisfil. Outdoor lacrosse season, for example, comprises two parts - spring to mid-summer and late-summer to fall. An important consideration regarding the use of Town fields for lacrosse, therefore, is that this use falls outside the designated ‘summer season’ as noted in the 2019 Allocation Policy: “Summer Sport field Season shall be defined as May 15 through to September 30 weather permitting” (p.2). Mid-May is generally the point at which fields have dried out enough for maintenance to have been completed for the upcoming season. Use before maintenance is conducted poses greater potential for injury and runs the risk of significant damage to the fields. The Allocation Policy considers individual applications for field use for pre-season practices at certain locations, which currently accommodate minor lacrosse. At the same time, access to the Town’s higher quality fields is limited due to the need to protect natural turf from use prior to the summer season. An artificial turf field could provide access to high quality facilities during the pre-and post-summer season.

The 2016 Master Plan raised the possibility of an artificial turf field pending a cost-benefit study, and there was later Town interest in possibly redeveloping a field at the IRC grounds as an artificial sport field and doming it for year-round

use. In view of the Town Campus Master Plan’s eventual requirement to relocate these fields, any investment in these fields beyond that necessary to maintain quality for use and safety should be limited to lifecycles that align with anticipated relocation dates. At the same time, the IRC fields are the Town’s prime, lit sport fields and, therefore, the preferred location for major improvements.

A cursory review of on-line information suggests a 10-to-20-year life span for an artificial turf field, depending on several factors including turf quality, levels of use, and maintenance standards. Depending on the anticipated timeline for relocating the IRC fields, a replacement of one of these fields in the short-term with a domed artificial turf designed for multiple uses would provide an opportunity to pilot this approach to future development in terms of accommodating more users/uses, intensifying use in terms of hours, providing year-round play, and monitoring/evaluating player experience. This last item relates to emerging evidence that artificial turf poses an increased risk of player injury.

Negative environmental impacts associated with artificial turf fields are also being documented in research.<sup>21</sup> While it is difficult to arrive at a definitive net difference in the environmental impacts of natural vs. artificial turf fields, the Town Campus Master Plan’s proposed Goal 6 related to sustainability practices suggests the need to consider aligning development plans for outdoor recreation facilities with this overarching principle.

Artificial turf fields require higher user fees to offset provision costs. Lighting can leverage interest in adult markets for field sports and make artificial turf fields more feasible in terms of cost recovery through extended hours of use.

In view of the need to proactively accommodate a wider range of field sports at prime facilities,

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21 An example of a recent European study is available at: [https://digitalcollection.zhaw.ch/bitstream/11475/21510/3/2021\\_litten-et-al\\_LCA-turf-sports-fields\\_Executive-Summary.pdf](https://digitalcollection.zhaw.ch/bitstream/11475/21510/3/2021_litten-et-al_LCA-turf-sports-fields_Executive-Summary.pdf)

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

and the anticipated retention of the IRC fields for a number of years, it is recommended that the Town prepare a business case to assess replacing one of the existing IRC fields with a multi-purpose artificial turf sport field. This facility would address program development needs with improved facilities in the years before fields are relocated, with use, sustainability, and player experience to be monitored for future decisions on replacing existing fields.

- F.18 Prepare a business case for replacing one of the existing IRC natural fields with a domed, multi-purpose artificial turf sport field if its anticipated life cycle aligns with the timing for relocating the IRC fields
- F.19 Monitor player experience on artificial turf to inform future decisions on field replacement upon relocation

## Ensuring Equitable Access and Confirming Demand for Outdoor Sports Facilities

The existing Field Allocation Policy covers both baseball diamonds and soccer fields. In the following discussion, verbatim references to the existing Field Allocation Policy use current wording. It is assumed that the relevant words/terms will be revised to specify both 'baseball diamonds' and 'multi-purpose sport fields', as appropriate, in keeping with efforts to expand use of the fields for different sports and to avoid confusion.

In the short-term, it can be expected that soccer will continue to be the dominant use on sport fields. Over the term of the Plan, however, it is very likely that participation in other field sports will increase. Whether or not other activities grow to replace soccer as the dominant use, it will be important to provide and schedule municipal sport fields in a manner that ensures all community sports in Innisfil are accommodated, and each is allocated time on the best fields.

The 2019 Field Allocation Policy accommodates annual requests for the upcoming season's bookings on baseball diamonds and sport fields by January 31, by both existing users and new groups seeking time on facilities. This approach considers all potential users, and precludes scheduling based on past allocations alone. The clause on new groups interested in accessing fields time reads:

"New User: Written requests must be received by January 31st by new group/program (currently not established in a facility) seeking sport field time. Applications received after January 31st will be considered pending the availability of sport field time" (p.3).

This is an important consideration to ensuring new sports/activities are given an opportunity to establish themselves, and potentially grow, in Innisfil. This support could be supplemented with

a specification that allocates a certain number or proportion of prime time weekly hours on the best fields to new users as a priority. If not scheduled by a certain date, these 'reserved' hours would go back into the pool of hours available to all users.

The Policy also works to: ensure field use occurs within permitted times only; maintain Town control over field allocation and to limit over booking by restrictions on reselling unused time and transferring, trading or sub leasing sport fields among permit holders.

Determining future need for various types of facilities requires a formal method for confirming demand in relation to facility capacity by type. Verifying facility needs combines several information components:

- Monitoring and documenting the extent of actual vs. scheduled field use through random rotating field checks
- Documenting use of facilities for various types of uses (e.g., baseball diamond use for hardball, softball, minor, adult, etc.)
- Periodic consultation with user groups to update/clarify facility needs (e.g., surveys, in-person sessions with user groups, etc.), if not already addressed in the Annual Town & Sport field User Group Meeting
- Tracking unmet demand for access to facilities by documenting details of requests that cannot be accommodated
- Tracking participation trends and baseball diamond and sport field provision in other area municipalities that are within the same market

The Field Allocation Policy requests information from users on their previous year's registration numbers to track annual trends in participation,

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which is a component of the information to be collected for planning purposes.

Although there is no differentiation between fees for prime and non-prime time field rental, tracking use and unmet demand for access by these categories can help clarify use patterns as well as the potential to reallocate use as the first step to accommodating all users before considering building new fields. The Allocation Policy notes:

“Sport field allocation hours shall be categorized as prime-time and non-prime time by the Leisure Services Department:

Summer Hours with Lighting shall be defined as:  
a) 8:30pm to 11:30pm (Monday through Sunday – excl. Statutory Holidays)

Summer Hours without Lighting shall be defined as:  
a) 8:00am to 8:30pm (Monday through Sunday – excl. Statutory Holidays) (p.3).”

These definitions appear to relate to total operating hours, from which prime time can be identified for the purposes of tracking periods of greater and lesser demand, respectively. Prime time on unlit fields, for example, could be defined as 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am to 8:30 pm Saturdays and Sundays (excluding Statutory Holidays). Using the same parameters, prime time on lit fields would be 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am to 11:30 pm Saturdays and Sundays (excluding Statutory Holidays). This practice may point to the eventual need to institute differential fees for prime/non-prime time use.

Using an identified ‘window’ for prime time and tracking use within it, in relation to field capacity, will provide indicators of the point at which the need to either incentivize the use of non-prime time or build new fields is required to meet demand. As noted above, tracking use of non-prime time will contribute to determining if COVID-19 lifestyle changes result in more demand for non-peak facility use over the long-term.

Tracking unmet demand can identify opportunities to accommodate uses that cannot be allocated time now for a variety of reasons such as preferred time is not available, number of facilities is insufficient, field type/size/design does not align with the sport’s requirement, etc. This information, in addition to that related to number of participants, ages, operating season, etc. by type of sport, should be documented for all requests that cannot be met. This will build an information base on trends in activity interests, and indicators of the types of facilities needed to inform upgrades to existing baseball diamonds/sport fields, new facility development, etc.

Collectively, this work will contribute to a clear picture of what types of single or multi-purpose facilities warrant municipal investment to meet current and anticipate future community recreation needs.

As noted in the 2016 Master Plan, existing and potential user groups should be consulted regarding the design of new facilities or upgrades to existing baseball diamonds and/or sport fields to ensure they are appropriate to requirements for the activities to be accommodated. This could be part of the annual meeting, if it is not already an addressed.

Prior to developing needed municipal facilities, opportunities to meet needs through access to those of non-municipal providers to satisfy or reduce unmet demand should be considered. The 2016 Master Plan assigned a high priority to developing reciprocal/joint use agreements with the District School Boards. At the same time, high quality school fields that would simultaneously provide access for community use are typically limited to secondary schools, which may restrict these opportunities.



- F.20 Further develop Field Allocation Policy to clarify prime and non-prime time by lit and baseball diamonds/sport fields, and allocate time for new users
- F.21 Track and confirm demand in relation to facility capacity by type, based on actual use and unmet demand for access to all scheduled facilities during prime and non-prime time

### Facilities Not Currently Available in Innisfil

During the Plan's 30-year timeframe, demand for facilities that are not currently part of municipal supply will very likely emerge. Tracking unmet demand will provide indicators of need for these and other facilities, verification of which can be addressed in periodic updates to the Plan. Two examples of potential new facility needs are cricket and lawn bowling, as discussed below.

#### Cricket

Cricket Canada notes there are 820 clubs in the country, and the largest concentrations are in southern Ontario and greater Vancouver. Growth in participation is being driven by an increasingly multi-cultural national population and shortened versions of the game. The Twenty20 (T20) format, for example, has shortened the time to complete a match from the traditional six to eight hours to three. Table 2-24 shows total and introductory level growth in participation from 2012 to 2016.

During this period, the introductory program (Junior Kids) comprised a consistently large majority of participants. Figures for 2014 show the introduction of Modified Cricket as the next level up from introductory involvement. 2016 is the first year that a figure for Junior Players appears between Modified and Senior Players, which may reflect the progressive development of the younger levels over the five-year period. The figures also show very low participation at the senior women's level in all five years, which held steady at 60 players. Should cricket follow the route of other traditionally male-dominated sports, there appears to be considerable potential for growth in female participation.

The Cricket Canada Strategic Plan 2018-2020 Summary and Highlights<sup>22</sup> suggests a continuing focus on developmental programming through the following initiatives:

- Developing a city-based youth program
- Strengthening/expanding the school program
- Community/recreational coach recruitment and development

Cricket Canada notes that the game "is mostly played on artificial pitches, although the organization is supporting the development of turf pitches across the country."<sup>23</sup>

The City of Toronto notes cricket is one of three sports for which there is unmet demand for facilities. Demand is both strong and growing for both children and adult involvement, and its extent has been unexpected.<sup>24</sup>

The City of Barrie's 2019 ORFS recommended the potential for a full-size outdoor cricket pitch (dedicated or multi-use) potentially at the recommended outdoor sport field complex, to supplement or replace an existing undersized pitch, pending confirmation of demand.

Innisfil is located within the high growth southern Ontario market for cricket and should anticipate the need to provide a cricket pitch as its population grows and demand becomes apparent, including the possibility of developing a combination sport field/cricket pitch as part of long-term facility provision.

22 Source: <https://cricketcanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/STRATEGIC-PLAN-1.pdf>

23 Source: <https://cricketcanada.org/cricket-in-canada>

24 Matt Gurney, Jan 9, 2020. (<https://www.tvu.org/article/end-of-an-ice-age-part-3-why-youth-hockey-can-still-be-saved>)

Table 2-24: Participation in Cricket in Canada from 2012 to 2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Introductory (% total)	49,649 (85.2%)	60,084 (87.0%)	82,816 (85.5%)	95,640 (87.1%)	111,366 (87.6%)
Other levels	8,610	8,940	11,039	14,292	15,705
Totals	58,259	69,024	93,855	109,832	127,071

## Lawn Bowling

Bowls Canada’s 2019 to 2022 Strategic Plan<sup>25</sup> notes lack of significant growth in the sport as,

*New activities continue to evolve and grow in popularity. The types of sports that “post baby boomer” Canadians want to engage in are different from what bowls is used to being. Canadians are seeking activities with lower organization, more informal structure, higher energy and higher physical components, easier/quicker methods to determine an outcome. Examples in include speed climbing, skateboarding and pickleball. Additionally, Canadians these days are less interested in the “work” that comes with organized and structured sport that is found in a typical bowls club. They are more willing to pay higher fees for a time-limited program than buy a less expensive “membership” that comes with obligations (p. 10).*

The Strategic Plan is directed at increasing promotion and growth, with a 2025 target of 10% more registrants in programs and clubs over 2015 figures. Similarly, the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association’s current Strategic Plan (2019 - 2022) includes directives to attract and retain new members through approaches to further develop youth programs, implementing LTAD, and investigating other potential formats (e.g., short

mat, indoor) to expand the sport’s appeal and lengthen its season.<sup>26</sup>

The Town has had requests for a lawn bowling green, for which future interest can be monitored and supported by facility provision if warranted.

- F.22 Address needs that are not apparent now that emerge during the timeframe of the Master Plan (e.g., cricket, lawn bowling)
- F.23 Verify demand for specific types of new fields/field uses as part of periodic updates to the Plan

25 Source: [https://www.bowlsCanada.com/downloads/Strategic%20Plan/2019/2019\\_strategicPlan\\_en-2.pdf](https://www.bowlsCanada.com/downloads/Strategic%20Plan/2019/2019_strategicPlan_en-2.pdf)

26 Source: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JT0sTslAH5Aa4yEIV\\_fYet6uZHTxTk\\_I/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JT0sTslAH5Aa4yEIV_fYet6uZHTxTk_I/view)

- Community
- Inland Park
- Lakeside Park
- School
- Conservation Areas
- Private Recreational Lands

**Inland Parks**

- p1 Pitt Street Park
- p2 Linda Street Park
- p3 Aspen Street Park
- p4 Ireton Street Park
- p5 Meadows of Stroud Park (Sunset Park)
- p6 Trinity Park
- p7 Dempster Park
- p8 Warrington Park
- p9 Stroud Community Park
- p10 Lawrence Park
- p11 Innisfil Beach Park
- p12 Crossroads Park
- p13 Noel Andrade Memorial Park
- p14 Town Square
- p15 Hastings Park
- p16 Huron Court Park
- p17 Ashwood Park
- p18 Knock Community Hall and Park
- p19 Webster Park
- p20 Anna Maria Park
- p21 Innisfil Recreational Complex (Civic Campus)
- p22 Nantyr Park
- p23 Previn Court Park
- p24 Centennial Park
- p25 Lormel Gate Park (LSAMI P1)
- p26 Church Street Park
- p27 Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena)
- p28 Coral Woods Park
- p29 Circle Park
- p30 Orm Membery Park
- p31 Fennel's Corners Park
- p32 Cookstown Community Park
- p33 Veteran's Memorial Park
- p34 Kidd's Lane Park
- p35 Cookhill South Park

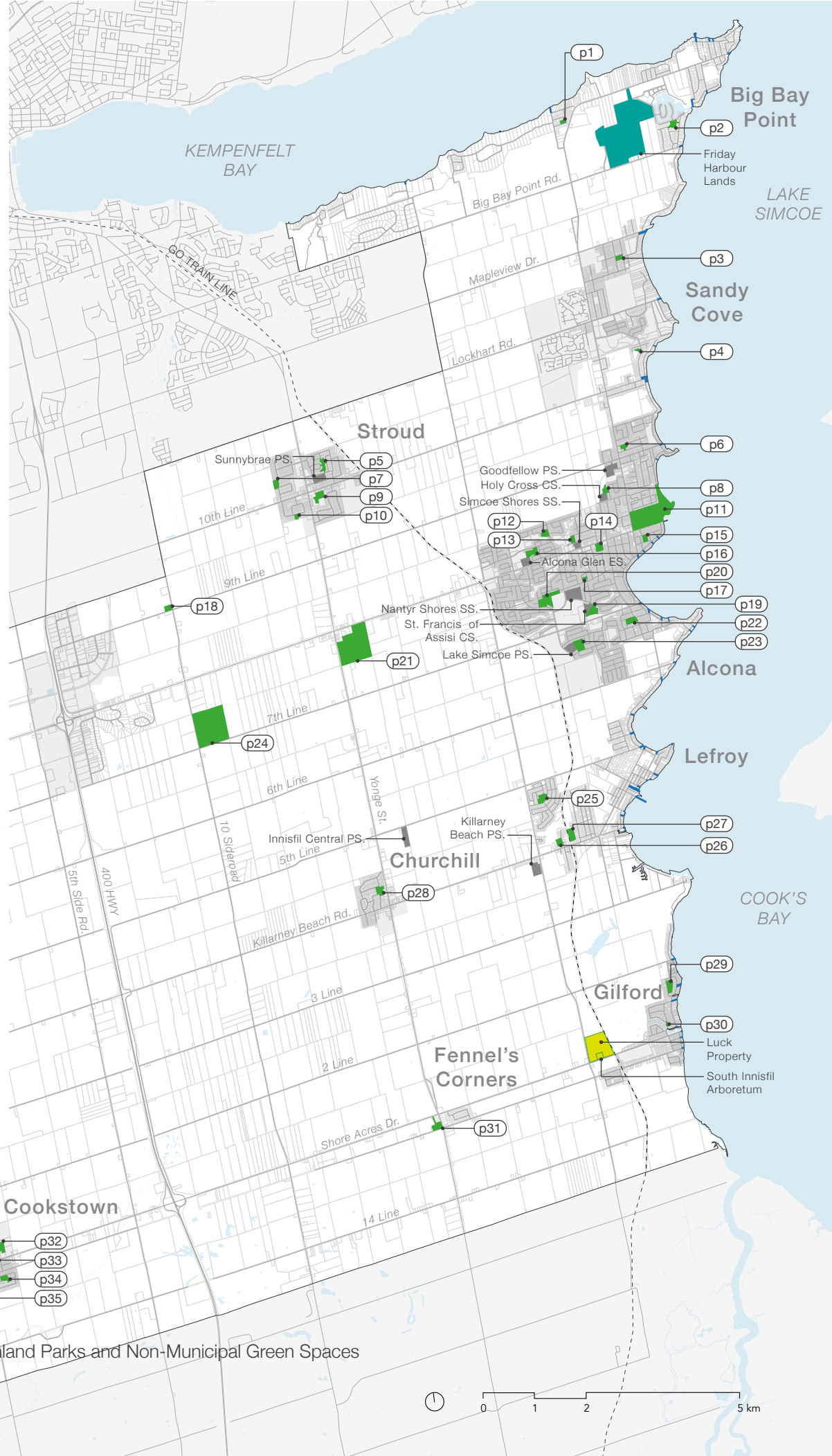
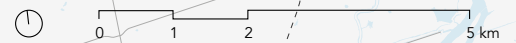


Figure 2-14: Existing Inland Parks and Non-Municipal Green Spaces



## 2.4 Parks

The Parks assessment is organized into the following focus areas:

- Context for the Parks Assessment
- Scope of the Parks Assessment
- Existing Conditions
- What We Heard
- Parks Assessment and Recommendations

### Context for the Parks Assessment

With significant population growth forecasted, one of the goals of this Plan is to develop a thirty-year framework for parks provision with the following objectives:

- Upgrade parks to current standards and maintain
- Address accessibility, health and safety, and environmental requirements
- Review and provide recommendations for planned future parks
- Explore opportunities to provide new types of parks and amenities
- Provide residents access to parks within a reasonable distance

The discussion in this section is limited to existing and future municipal parks. Other types of outdoor green spaces, such as conservation areas, private recreational lands, and public schools properties are also reviewed. A map of existing municipal parks can be found in Figure 2-14.



Figure 2-15: Dempster Park

### Scope of the Parks Assessment

This assessment is based on a 2021 population of 44,360 and a projected population of 84,570 by 2051. It does not consider indoor recreation facilities that may be located in parks. Indoor recreation will be addressed in a separate Facilities Master Plan. Outdoor facilities are discussed in the previous section, which covers need for sport fields, ball diamonds, tennis and pickleball courts, and other facilities. This parks assessment builds on the outdoor facilities assessment by recommending locations for some of the recommended facilities.

- Community
- Inland Park
- Lakeside Park

Existing Lakeside Parks (22)

- (I2) 30th Sideroad North
- (I3) Alcina Avenue
- (I4) Algonquin Avenue
- (I6) Big Bay Point Road
- (I8) West Street
- (I10) 12th Line/Mapleview Park
- (I12) Purvis Street
- (I13) 10th Line/Leonard's Beach
- (I14) Bon Secours Beach
- (I16) Eastern Avenue
- (I17) Centre Avenue
- (I20) 7th Line
- (I25) Chandos Ave.
- (I28) Maple/Dudley Road
- (I29) Belle Aire Community Beach
- (I38) Belle Ewart Park
- (I39) Isabella Street
- (I45) Bayshore Park
- (I48) Shore Acres Drive
- (I49) Lindy Lane
- (I50) Poplar Drive
- (I51) Gilford Road

Future Lakeside Parks (28)

- (I1) Guest Road
- (I5) Gooch Park Drive
- (I7) Side Road 30 S.
- (I9) 13th Line
- (I11) Lockhart Road
- (I15) Tall Tree Lane
- (I18) Northern Avenue
- (I19) 25th Side Road
- (I21) Cross Street
- (I22) Edgewood Avenue
- (I23) Woodgreen Avenue
- (I24) Roslyn Ave.
- (I26) 6th Line
- (I27) St. Johns Road
- (I30) Belle Aire Beach Road
- (I31) Ewart Street
- (I32) Frederick Street
- (I33) Little Cedar Avenue
- (I34) Chapman Street
- (I35) Alfred Street
- (I36) Robinson Street
- (I37) Arnold Street
- (I40) Cumberland Street
- (I41) Barry Avenue
- (I42) Kilarney Beach Road
- (I43) 2nd Line
- (I44) Wood Street
- (I46) North Shore Drive
- (I47) Lakeshore Boulevard

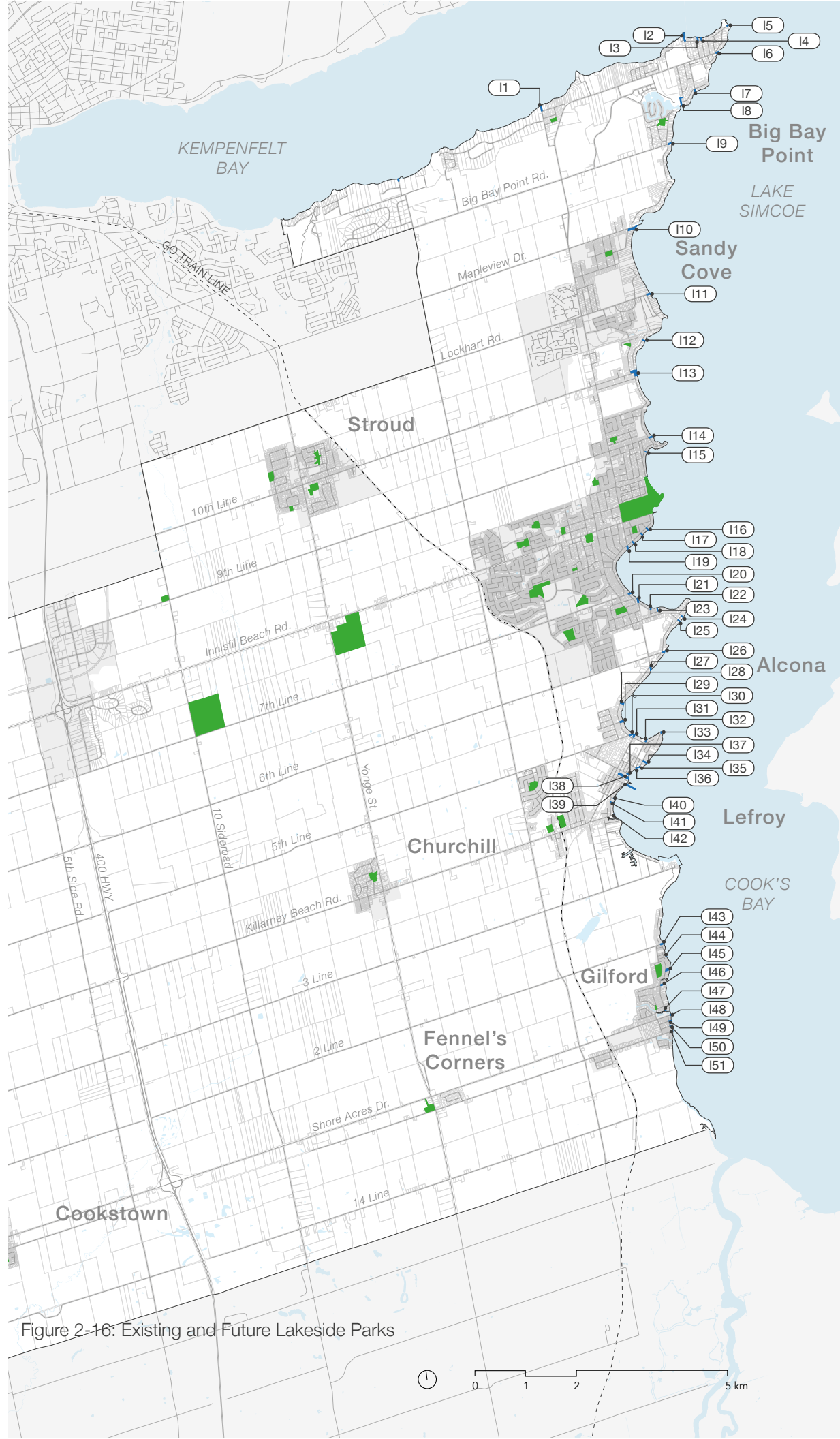


Figure 2-16: Existing and Future Lakeside Parks

## Existing Conditions

This section provides an overview of the existing parks and green spaces in Innisfil. There are many types of parks and green spaces.

Municipal parks and green spaces include existing inland parks and Lakeside Parks (see text below discussing Lakeside Parks). Non-municipal green spaces include school properties, conservation areas, and private recreational lands. Each of these are discussed further below.

### Municipal Parks

For the purposes of this Plan, parks located on Lake Simcoe are referred to as lakeside parks, while parks located inland from the lake are referred to as inland parks. The existing supply of municipal parks includes both inland and lakeside parks (Table 2-25). This parks assessment will address all 35 existing inland parks and four lakeside parks located on Lake Simcoe. Future inland parks and Lakeside Parks will be discussed later in this assessment.

### Inland Parks

There are currently 35 existing inland parks in the Town of Innisfil, making up 146.1 ha of parkland. The parks are distributed throughout the Municipality and offer a wide range of outdoor recreation amenities and facilities to enable a range of activities. This includes, but is not limited to, playgrounds, sport fields, multi-sport courts, skateparks, as well as washrooms and shelters (Table 2-26).

### Lakeside Parks

This Plan also includes 22 Lakeside Parks as part of the existing municipal park supply with a net total area of 3.7 ha. Lakeside Parks include both existing municipal parks located on Lake Simcoe and municipal rights-of-way located on Lake Simcoe. Municipally-owned rights-of-way are

Table 2-25: Existing Parks by Community

Community	# of Inland Parks	# of Lakeside Parks	Total Area (ha)
Big Bay Point	2	6	2.7
Sandy Cove	2	3	2.55
Stroud	4	n/a	4.70
Alcona	13	5	49.10
Churchill	1	n/a	1.80
Lefroy	3	4	6.42
Fennell's Corners	1	n/a	2.10
Gilford	2	4	2.82
Cookstown	4	n/a	7.20
Rural Areas	3	n/a	70.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>149.79</b>

road allowances that terminate at Lake Simcoe and provide public access to the water. These properties were formerly referred to as road ends in the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Included in the 22 existing Lakeside Parks are four municipal parks located on Lake Simcoe. They are a part of this in Parks assessment and include:

- 12th Line/Mapleview Park (I10)
- 10th Line/Leonard's Beach (I13)
- Belle Ewart Park (I38)
- Bayshore Park (I45)

The other 18 existing Lakeside Parks are municipal rights-of-way located on Lake Simcoe, and are discussed in the Lake Plan.

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

### Non-Municipal Green Space

In addition to the municipal supply of parkland, residents benefit from a number of open green spaces at schools, conservation areas and private recreational lands. These spaces provide varying degrees of access to Innisfil residents and visitors, but are not included in this parks assessment. For example, some non-municipal spaces have restricted hours in which they operate. However, these outdoor green spaces still provide an important role as they contribute almost three-hundred ha of green space to the community.

### School Properties

There are nine public schools and two Catholic schools in Innisfil, with a net total area of 36.4 ha (averaging 3.3 ha each). The school properties provide a variety of amenities such as parking (evenings and weekends), playgrounds, sport fields, basketball nets, trails, baseball diamonds, and open green space.

### Conservation Areas

The Luck Property is a 20-ha conservation area home to the South Innisfil Arboretum. The property contains a forest, streams, and ponds with a network of walking trails. Adjacent to the Luck Property is the South Innisfil Arboretum, which opened in 1994 with the help of the Gilford & District Horticultural Society (Innisfil Garden Club) in collaboration with the Conservation Authority. The site contains a large perennial garden and a variety of tree species, commemorative benches, a gazebo, and passive green spaces. The property is open daily from dawn to dusk.

### Private Recreational Lands

Friday Harbour is an all-season resort and residence with a golf course, marina, nature reserve, and beach club. Over 240 ha of the resort are dedicated as a nature reserve containing forest and wetland communities. The area hosts a variety of bird, plant, and animal species, some of which are endangered or rare. Trails throughout the site are open for walking and biking.



## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-26: Existing Parks Inventory

#	Name of Park	Community	Area (ha)	Playground	Benches, picnic areas/tables	Passive Green Space	Pavilion/Gazebo	Washrooms	Parking	Splash Pad	Beach / Water Access	Off-leash Dog Park	Outdoor Rink	Multi Court	Tennis	Skatepark	Pump Track	Basketball Courts	Half Basketball Courts	Beach/Volleyball Courts	Sport field Lit	Sport field Unlit	Passive Sport field	Baseball Lit	Baseball Unlit	Passive Baseball	Exercise Equipment
p1	Pitt Street Park	Big Bay Point	0.5	x	x	x																				x	
p2	Linda Street Park	Big Bay Point	1.4	x	x	x																					
p3	Aspen Street Park	Alcona	0.9	x	x	x																					
p4	Ireton Street Park	Sandy Cove	0.4	x	x	x																					
p5	Meadows of Stroud Park (Sunset Park)	Stroud	1.2	x	x	x									x								x				
p6	Trinity Park	Alcona	0.8	x		x																	x				
p7	Dempster Park	Stroud	1.4	x	x				x															x			
p8	Warrington Park	Alcona	1.0	x	x	x																x					
p9	Stroud Community Park	Stroud	1.6			x			x							x									x		
p10	Lawrence Park	Stroud	0.5	x	x	x																					
p11	Innisfil Beach Park	Alcona	27.6	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x		x		x	x		x
p12	Crossroads Park	Alcona	1.6	x	x	x									x				x								
p13	Noel Andrade Memorial Park	Alcona	0.9	x	x	x																	x				
p14	Town Square	Alcona	1.9	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x												
p15	Hastings Park	Gilford	1.0		x	x											x										
p16	Huron Court Park	Alcona	2.3	x	x	x		x	x								x						x				
p17	Ashwood Park	Alcona	0.3	x	x	x																					
p18	Knock Community Hall and Park	Rural	1.2			x			x															x			
p19	Webster Park	Alcona	3.7	x	x	x																	x				
p20	Anna Maria Park	Alcona	2.5	x	x	x			x																		
p21	Innisfil Recreational Complex (Civic Campus)	Barclay	29.8					x	x											x	x			x			
p22	Nantyr Park	Alcona	1.9	x	x	x			x													x					

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-27: Existing Parks Inventory, continued

#	Name of Park	Community	Area (ha)	Playground	Benches, picnic areas/tables	Passive Green Space	Pavilion/Gazebo	Washrooms	Parking	Splash Pad	Beach / Water Access	Off-leash Dog Park	Outdoor Rink	Multi Court	Tennis	Skatepark	Pump Track	Basketball Courts	Half Basketball Courts	Beach/Volleyball Courts	Sport field Lit	Sport field Unlit	Passive Sport field	Baseball Lit	Baseball Unlit	Passive Baseball	Exercise Equipment
p23	Previn Court Park	Alcona	3.2	x	x	x	x		x													x					
p24	Centennial Park	Rural	39.4	x	x	x	x	x	x			x						x								x	
p25	Lormel Gate Park (LSAMI P1)	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	2.0	x	x	x			x									x									
p26	Church Street Park	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	1.2	x	x	x			x																	x	
p27	Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena)	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	2.4					x	x							x											
p28	Coral Woods Park	Churchill	1.8	x	x	x			x																	x	
p29	Circle Park	Gilford	2.2			x																					
p30	Orm Membro Park	Gilford	0.2	x	x	x																					
p31	Fennell's Corners Park	Fennell's Corners	2.1	x	x	x			x															x			
p32	Cookstown Community Park	Cookstown	4.6	x		x		x	x	x			x					x									x
p33	Veteran's Memorial Park	Cookstown	0.8		x	x																					
p34	Kidd's Lane Park	Cookstown	1.2	x	x	x																					
p35	Cookshill South Park	Cookstown	0.6	x	x																						
I11	Lockhart Road	Sandy Cove	0.5	x	x				x		x									x							
I14	Bon Secours Beach	Alcona	0.7	x	x	x			x		x																
I39	Belle Ewart Park	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	0.9	x	x	x	x		x		x							x									
I46	Bayshore Park	Gilford	0.4			x	x	x			x																

## What We Heard

The consulting team visited the Town of Innisfil on numerous occasions including a tour of Town parks, open spaces and facilities with municipal staff in August 2021. As observed, many of the parks have passive green spaces, playgrounds, seating and picnic areas, parking, lighting, sport courts, and other recreation amenities.

Surveys, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews took place as part of the engagement process. The following is an overview of the engagement feedback received as it relates to parks.

### Online Resident Survey

#### Road Ends

Over 80% of respondents use Innisfil Beach Park or road ends in the Town for waterfront access. Three of the four most popular waterfront spaces were parks (Innisfil Beach Park, 10th Line/Leonard's Beach, and 12th Line/Mapleview Park).

#### Outdoor Facilities

The most commonly used outdoor spaces at community-serving parks and recreation centres are the Innisfil Recreational Complex, Centennial Park, and Stroud Community Centre.

#### Stroud Community Centre

When respondents were asked what additional facilities and amenities they would like to see if Stroud Community Centre were to be redeveloped, the majority indicated an outdoor rink. Biking/skate park, sport courts and fields, and a splash pad/pool also ranked high.

#### Neighbourhood Parks

Respondents want to see more trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables and seating, trees, active play features for children/youth, and shade

structures in their local parks. Some respondents indicated they do not use parks because there are no parks close to their home or there is a lack of amenities.

### Programs

When asked what programs they most want to see added to their local park, respondents chose net sports (pickleball, tennis) and outdoor ice activities.

### Service Clubs & Small Organization Survey

The most common service clubs and small organizations provide social, community service, senior, and youth programs/services. Some of these groups indicate they use Innisfil parks in general. Others noted they specifically use Centennial Park, Knock Community Hall and Park, and the Innisfil Recreational Complex. The majority of respondents are happy with the Town facilities they use. One comment addressed parks and the idea of "placemaking" through unique amenities, features, and ideas.

### Program/Event User Group Survey

The most common programs/activities provided in Innisfil are arena ice sports and outdoor field sports. The majority of groups do not use outdoor facilities in Innisfil. Of those that do, the most commonly used facilities are soccer fields, ball diamonds, and outdoor rinks - all of which are located in Alcona. The majority of groups do not use park space, trails, or the waterfront for their programs/activities.

The survey indicates 31% of groups may require a new facility in the future, while 18% were uncertain if they will require a new facility. Groups indicated new facilities related to parks such as sport fields, outdoor courts, outdoor event space, and sport fields.

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

### Stakeholder Interviews

Feedback pertaining to parks was provided during stakeholder interviews. Key points of this engagement include:

- Clarify the grey areas surrounding public use of parks and amenities, especially around road ends
- Improve parks to meet the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- Add additional outdoor facilities/amenities such as outdoor rinks, dog parks, and public art
- Incorporate live streaming technology at sporting events so they can be viewed remotely
- Improve park signage and messaging
- Add new/creative amenities (rugby, cricket, lawn bowling)

### Resident Emails

Residents were invited to submit questions and comments via e-mail through the [getinvolvedinnisfil.ca](http://getinvolvedinnisfil.ca) website. Program-specific emails requested the following activities related to parks:

- Disc golf
- Lawn bowling
- Bocce
- Shuffleboard
- Rugby
- Football



Figure 2-17: Centennial Park

# Parks Assessment & Recommendations

The following text provides the assessment and recommendations for municipal parks owned and operated by the Town of Innisfil. This includes the following existing parks:

- 35 inland parks
- 4 Lakeside Parks (municipal parks located on Lake Simcoe)

The other 19 existing Lakeside Parks are municipal rights-of-way located on Lake Simcoe, and are discussed in the Lake Plan.

The Parks assessment is organized into eight topics:

1. Park Classification
2. Parkland Distribution
3. Parkland Needs
4. Park Facilities
5. Park Activation and Place-making
6. Recommendations for Existing Parks
7. Recommendations for Future Parks
8. Recommendations for Open Spaces

## 1. Park Classification

Park classification systems are used to define elements of a park, such as program, service area, size, and provision target. This information helps to understand and plan the spatial distribution of parks and future parkland requirements, as well as guide future park acquisitions and development of the overall parks system.

Innisfil's 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies a park hierarchy of five typologies: parkette, neighbourhood park, community/district park, regional and special use park, and linear park. It defined each typology's program, size, and provision target.

This Plan identifies four opportunities to improve the 2016 parks classification system. They include:

- Remove parkette as a typology
- Separate regional park and special use park
- Replace linear park with conservation park
- Adding the Lakeside Park typology

First, it is recommended the parkette typology be removed. The typology is not often being used by the Town, and the word parkette implies a leftover urban space rather than an orchestrated, equipped park. Parks should serve their communities and provide amenities, and not be an after thought. A minimum park size is recommended later in this section (page 138).

Second, it is recommended to separate regional parks from special use parks to create two distinct typologies. Regional parks are typically large, nature-focused, and able to accommodate a large number of people. While special use parks, such as Veterans Memorial Park, serve the entire Town, they cannot accommodate many people at once. For example, it would be uncommon for parks like Veterans Memorial Park to be as large as Centennial Park.

Third, it is recommended the linear park typology be replaced with the conservation park typology. Contrary to a linear park, a conservation park has no spatial restrictions. This creates a more encompassing typology for any parcel that should be protected for potential future recreational uses by the Town. The parcels defined as conservation parks can be any shape, including long and narrow.

Fourth a new lakeside park typology is recommended. The six updated park typologies recommended in this Plan are discussed in the following text, and summarized in Table 2-27. They include:

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-27: Recommended Park Typologies

Park Type	Description	Service Area (radius in m)	Parkland Provision Target
Neighbourhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Serves as a recreational and social focus for neighbourhoods</li> <li>· Active and passive opportunities possible</li> <li>· Should include a minimum of one sport field/court and/or playground</li> <li>· Washroom facilities may be provided</li> </ul>	400	1.0 ha per 1,000 population
Community / District Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Serves broader community recreational needs</li> <li>· May serve several neighbourhoods or settlement areas</li> <li>· Should include at least one sport field/court and playground</li> <li>· Washroom/facilities should be provided</li> </ul>	1000	1.0 ha per 1,000 population
Regional Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Serves all residents and others outside of the Municipality</li> <li>· Focuses on preserving natural landscapes, open spaces</li> <li>· Provides passive recreational opportunities but may also include some active recreational opportunities</li> <li>· Washroom facilities should be provided</li> </ul>	Town-wide	1.5 ha per 1,000 population
Special Use Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Serves all residents and others outside of the Municipality</li> <li>· Focuses on preserving unique cultural heritage spaces, memorials</li> <li>· Provides passive recreational opportunities</li> </ul>	Town-wide	Combined with regional park target
Conservation Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Areas of protected land for wildlife habitat, flood management, etc.</li> <li>· Any program/amenities should not interfere with the protection of the lands</li> <li>· Passive opportunities, nature enjoyment</li> <li>· Includes natural areas, greenways (for trails)</li> </ul>	Varies	Not applicable
Lakeside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· May serve several neighbourhoods and/or the broader community</li> <li>· Active and passive opportunities possible</li> <li>· Washroom &amp; changeroom facilities may be provided</li> <li>· Three subtypes: neighbourhood, community, regional</li> </ul>	Varies: Neighbourhood = 800 Community = 1200 Regional = Town-wide	Combined with community/district park target

- Neighbourhood Park
- Community/District Park
- Regional Park
- Special Use Park
- Conservation Park
- Lakeside Park

A map of the new recommended park classification system can be found in Figure 2-18. This Plan also recommends reassigning some existing parks to a different typology. Table 2-28 compares the park classification from the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the adjustments from this Plan.

## Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood parks serve as a recreational and social focus for neighbourhoods, where active and passive opportunities are possible. Each neighbourhood park should include a minimum of one sport field/court and/or playground. The existing seven parkettes in Innisfil should become neighbourhood parks. It is recommended neighbourhood parks have a service radius of 400 m and a provision target of 1.0 ha per 1,000 people. The following 23 parks are categorized as neighbourhood parks:

- Pitt Street Park (p1)
- Linda Street Park (p2)
- Aspen Street Park (p3)
- Ireton Street Park (p4)
- Meadows of Stroud Park (Sunset Park) (p5)
- Trinity Park (p6)
- Dempster Park (p7)
- Warrington Park (p8)
- Lawrence Park (p10)
- Crossroads Park (p12)
- Noel Andrade Memorial Park (p13)

- Hastings Park (p15)
- Huron Court Park (p16)
- Ashwood Park (p17)
- Webster Park (p19)
- Anna Maria Park (p20)
- Nantyr Park (p22)
- Previn Court Park (p23)
- Lormel Gate Park (LSAMI P1) (p25)
- Church Street Park (p26)
- Orm Membery Park (p30)
- Kidd's Lane Park (p34)
- Cookshill South Park (p35)

## Community/District Parks

Community/district parks serve the broader community's recreational needs, and may serve several neighbourhoods or communities. Parks of this type should have at least one sport field/court and a playground. Washroom facilities may also be provided. It is recommended community/district parks have a service radius of 1000 m and a provision target of 1.0 ha per 1,000 people. The following eight parks are categorized as community/district parks:

- Stroud Community Park (p9)
- Town Square (p14)
- Knock Community Hall and Park (p18)
- Innisfil Recreational Complex (Civic Campus) (p21)
- Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena) (p27)
- Coral Woods Park (p28)
- Fennell's Corners Park (p31)
- Cookstown Community Park (p32)

**Neighbourhood Parks**

- (p1) Pitt Street Park
- (p2) Linda Street Park
- (p3) Aspen Street Park
- (p4) Ireton Street Park
- (p5) Meadows of Stroud Park (Sunset Park)
- (p6) Trinity Park
- (p7) Dempster Park
- (p8) Warrington Park
- (p10) Lawrence Park
- (p12) Crossroads Park
- (p13) Noel Andrade Memorial Park
- (p15) Hastings Park
- (p16) Huron Court Park
- (p17) Ashwood Park
- (p19) Webster Park
- (p20) Anna Maria Park
- (p22) Nantyr Park
- (p23) Previn Court Park
- (p25) Lormel Gate Park (LSAMI P1)
- (p26) Church Street Park
- (p30) Orm Membery Park
- (p34) Kidd's Lane Park
- (p35) Cookshill South Park

**Community/District Parks**

- (p9) Stroud Community Park
- (p14) Town Square
- (p18) Knock Community Hall and Park
- (p21) Innisfil Recreational Complex (Civic Campus)
- (p27) Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena)
- (p28) Coral Woods Park
- (p31) Fennel's Corners Park
- (p32) Cookstown Community Park

**Regional Parks**

- (p11) Innisfil Beach Park (p13)
- (p24) Centennial Park (p26)

**Special Use Park**

- (p33) Veteran's Memorial Park (p37)

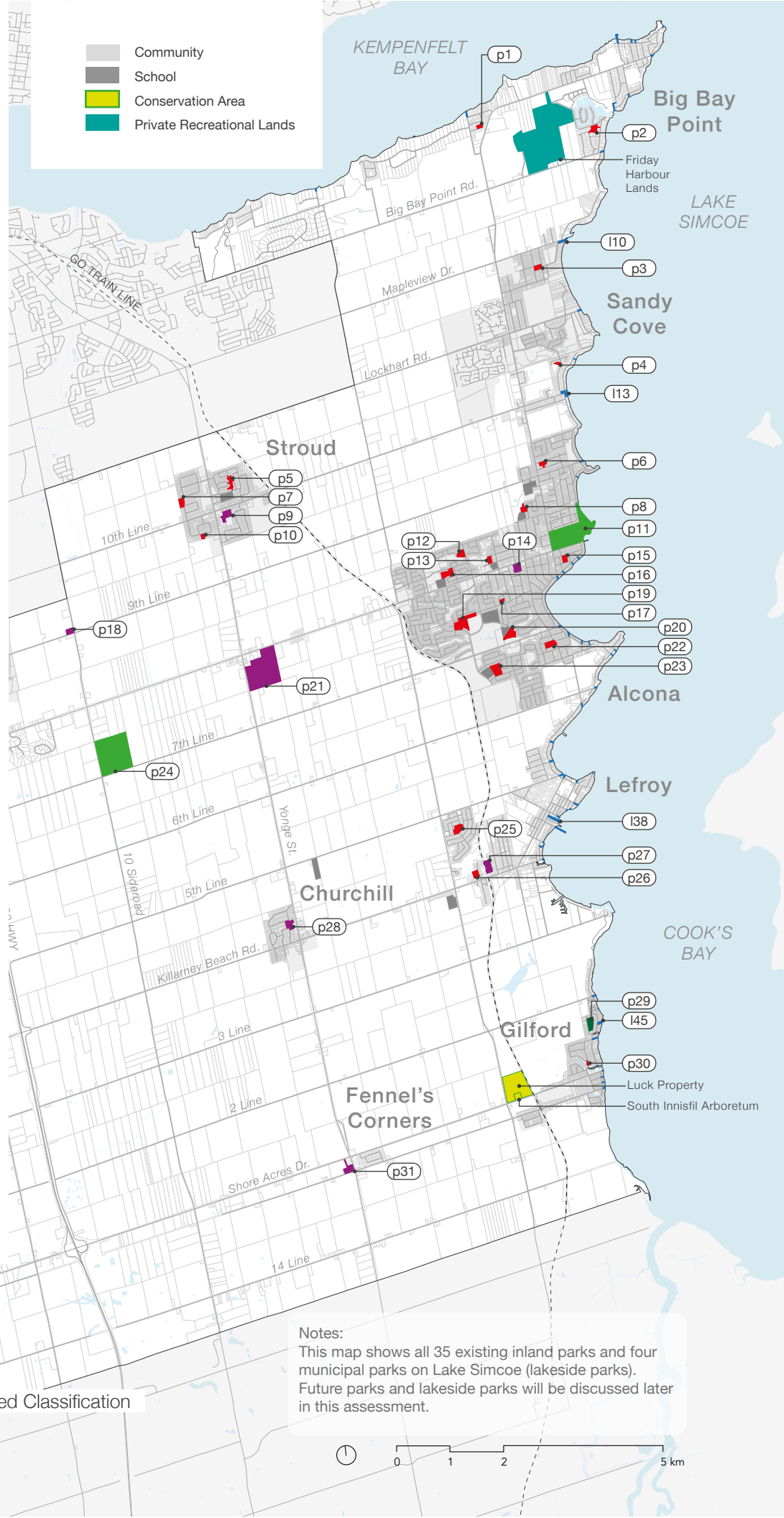
**Conservation Park**

- (p29) Circle Park

**Lakeside Parks**

- (l10) 12th Line/Mapleview Park
- (l13) 10th Line/Leonard's Beach
- (l38) Belle Ewart Park
- (l45) Bayshore Park

- Community
- School
- Conservation Area
- Private Recreational Lands



**Notes:**  
 This map shows all 35 existing inland parks and four municipal parks on Lake Simcoe (lakeside parks). Future parks and lakeside parks will be discussed later in this assessment.

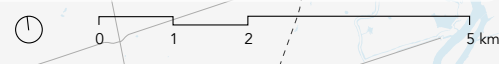


Figure 2-18: Parks by Recommended Classification



## Regional Parks

Regional parks serve the entire municipality as well as visitors from outside of Innisfil. They focus on preserving natural landscapes and open spaces while providing passive recreational opportunities. Some active recreational opportunities may also be possible and washroom facilities should be provided. This typology has the capacity to accommodate large groups from across Innisfil and beyond and should include adequate parking. It is recommended regional parks service the entire town and have a provision target of 1.5 ha per 1,000 people. The following two parks are categorized as regional parks:

- Innisfil Beach Park (p11)
- Centennial Park (p24)

## Special Use Parks

Special use parks serve all Innisfil residents and visitors from outside of the Municipality. They focus on preserving unique cultural heritage spaces, such as memorials, and are not restricted to any particular size or capacity. They also provide passive recreational opportunities (trails, seating, shade). This typology services the entire town and has a provision target combined with regional parks. Veterans Memorial Park (p33) is the only park categorized as a special use park.

## Conservation Parks

A conservation park typology has been added to align with the Civic (Town) Campus Master Plan, which “proposes a new ‘conservation parkland’ designation for the Town’s classification system, with the Campus as a starting point for municipally owned conservation parks.” The conservation park typology is a non-spatially defined typology for natural and/or protected areas. It is appropriate for designating lands to accommodate spaces for off-road multi-use trails, linear parks, drainage and stormwater

management, etc. Currently, there is one park in Innisfil classified as a conservation park, Circle Park (p29).

## Lakeside Parks

As discussed in the existing conditions section above, Lakeside Parks encompass both municipally-owned rights-of-way that were formerly referred to as road ends, as well as parks located on Lake Simcoe. Lakeside Parks may serve several neighbourhoods and/or the broader community. Active and passive opportunities are possible and washroom/changeroom facilities may be provided.

According to the Lake Enjoyment Strategy (Part 4), Lakeside Parks are organized into three subcategories: neighbourhood, community, and regional. It is recommended that neighbourhood Lakeside Parks have a service radius of 800 m, community Lakeside Parks have a service radius of 1000 m, and regional Lakeside Parks have a service radius that is Town-wide. All Lakeside Parks should have a provision target of 1.0 ha per 1,000 people, which is combined with community/district parks. The 22 parks listed below are categorized as Lakeside Parks. Those marked with an asterisk are included in this Parks assessment:

- 30th Sideroad North (I2)
- Alcina Avenue (I3)
- Algonquin Avenue (I4)
- Big Bay Point Road (I6)
- West Street (I8)
- 12th Line/Mapleview Park (I10)\*
- Purvis Street (I12)
- 10th Line/Leonard’s Beach (I13)\*
- Bon Secours Beach (I14)
- Eastern Avenue (I16)
- Centre Avenue (I17)

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

Table 2-28: New Park Classification for Existing Parks

#	Name of Park	Community	Area (ha)	2016 Park Category	New Park Classification
p1	Pitt Street Park	Big Bay Point	0.5	Parkette	Neighbourhood Park
p2	Linda Street Park	Big Bay Point	1.4	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p3	Aspen Street Park	Alcona	0.9	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p4	Ireton Street Park	Sandy Cove	0.4	Parkette	Neighbourhood Park
p5	Meadows of Stroud Park (Sunset Park)	Stroud	1.2	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p6	Trinity Park	Alcona	0.8	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p7	Dempster Park	Stroud	1.4	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p8	Warrington Park	Alcona	1.0	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p9	Stroud Community Park	Stroud	1.6	Community/District Park	Community/District Park
p10	Lawrence Park	Stroud	0.5	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p11	Innisfil Beach Park	Alcona	27.6	Regional/Special Use Park	Regional Park
p12	Crossroads Park	Alcona	1.6	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p13	Noel Andrade Memorial Park	Alcona	0.9	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p14	Town Square	Alcona	1.9	Community/District Park	Community/District Park
p15	Hastings Park	Gilford	1.0	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p16	Huron Court Park	Alcona	2.3	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p17	Ashwood Park	Alcona	0.3	Parkette	Neighbourhood Park
p18	Knock Community Hall and Park	Rural	1.2	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p19	Webster Park	Alcona	3.7	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p20	Anna Maria Park	Alcona	2.5	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p21	Innisfil Recreational Complex (Civic Campus)	Barclay	29.8	Community/District Park	Community/District Park
p22	Nantyr Park	Alcona	1.9	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p23	Previn Court Park	Alcona	3.2	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park

Table 2-28: New Park Classification for Existing Parks, continued

#	Name of Park	Community	Area (ha)	2016 Park Category	New Park Classification
p24	Centennial Park	Rural	39.4	Regional/Special Use Park	Regional Park
p25	Lormel Gate Park (LSAMI P1)	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	2.0	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p26	Church Street Park	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	1.2	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p27	Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena)	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	2.4	Community/District Park	Community/District Park
p28	Coral Woods Park	Churchill	1.8	Neighbourhood Park	Community/District Park
p29	Circle Park	Gilford	2.2	Neighbourhood Park	Conservation Park
p30	Orm Membery Park	Gilford	0.2	Parkette	Neighbourhood Park
p31	Fennell's Corners Park	Fennell's Corners	2.1	Neighbourhood Park	Community/District Park
p32	Cookstown Community Park	Cookstown	4.6	Community/District Park	Community/District Park
p33	Veteran's Memorial Park	Cookstown	0.8	Regional/Special Use Park	Special Use Park
p34	Kidd's Lane Park	Cookstown	1.2	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
p35	Cookshill South Park	Cookstown	0.6	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
l10	12th Line/Mapleview Park	Sandy Cove	0.5	Parkette	Lakeside Park - Community
l13	10th Line/Leonard's Beach	Alcona	0.7	Parkette	Lakeside Park - Community
l38	Belle Ewart Park	Lefroy - Belle Ewart	0.9	Neighbourhood Park	Lakeside Park - Community
l45	Bayshore Park	Gilford	0.4	Parkette	Lakeside Park - Neighbourhood

# Part 2: Parks & Recreation

- 7th Line (I20)
- Chandos Ave. (I25)
- Maple/Dudley Road (I28)
- Ewart Street (I31)
- Belle Ewart Park (I38)\*
- Isabella Street (I39)
- Bayshore Park (I45)\*
- Shore Acres Drive (I48)
- Lindy Lane (I49)
- Poplar Drive (I50)
- Gilford Road (I51)

- PA.1 Eliminate parkette as a typology (amalgamate with neighbourhood park)
- PA.2 Separate regional park and special use park
- PA.3 Replace linear park with conservation park
- PA.4 Add the lakeside park typology

## 2. Park Distribution

### Existing Park Distribution

With updated service targets, park distribution and their associated service areas can be mapped, as seen in Figure 2-19. Based on an analysis of existing park distribution and service targets, it is possible to identify which areas of the Town are being underserved by the existing parkland.

Park service areas for neighbourhood and community/district parks are mapped in a light green colour. Since regional parks service the entire Town there is no need to show their service area. In areas that have overlapping service targets, the green colour gets darker, meaning

these areas have more access to parkland. Neighbourhoods that are currently missing any type of park are highlighted in pink, and include:

- Sandy Cove (central, west, south)
- Alcona (west)
- Gilford (southwest)
- Cookstown (southwest)

Neighbourhoods that are currently missing a neighbourhood park (but have access to other park types) are highlighted in blue, and include:

- Sandy Cove (northeast, southeast)
- Stroud (central north, southwest)
- Alcona (central, northeast, south)
- Lefroy (central, east)
- Churchill
- Fennell's Corners
- Cookstown (north)

It should be noted that many of the town's school properties already fall within a park service area. This means the school serves an area that is already well served and therefore is not able to fill the gap of missing parks. The lands of Friday Harbour, the South Innisfil Arboretum, and the Luck Property fall outside existing service target areas for existing parks and therefore do help expand access to park space in these locations.

### Future Park Distribution

Looking towards the future, Innisfil has 43 future inland parks and 29 future Lakeside Parks, which will help alleviate some of the gaps in accessing existing parkland supply. A map of Innisfil's future parkland distribution, which includes future inland and Lakeside Parks, can be found in Figure 2-20. However, even with all future parks being developed, the following areas are still deficient in parks and/or are missing neighbourhood parkland:

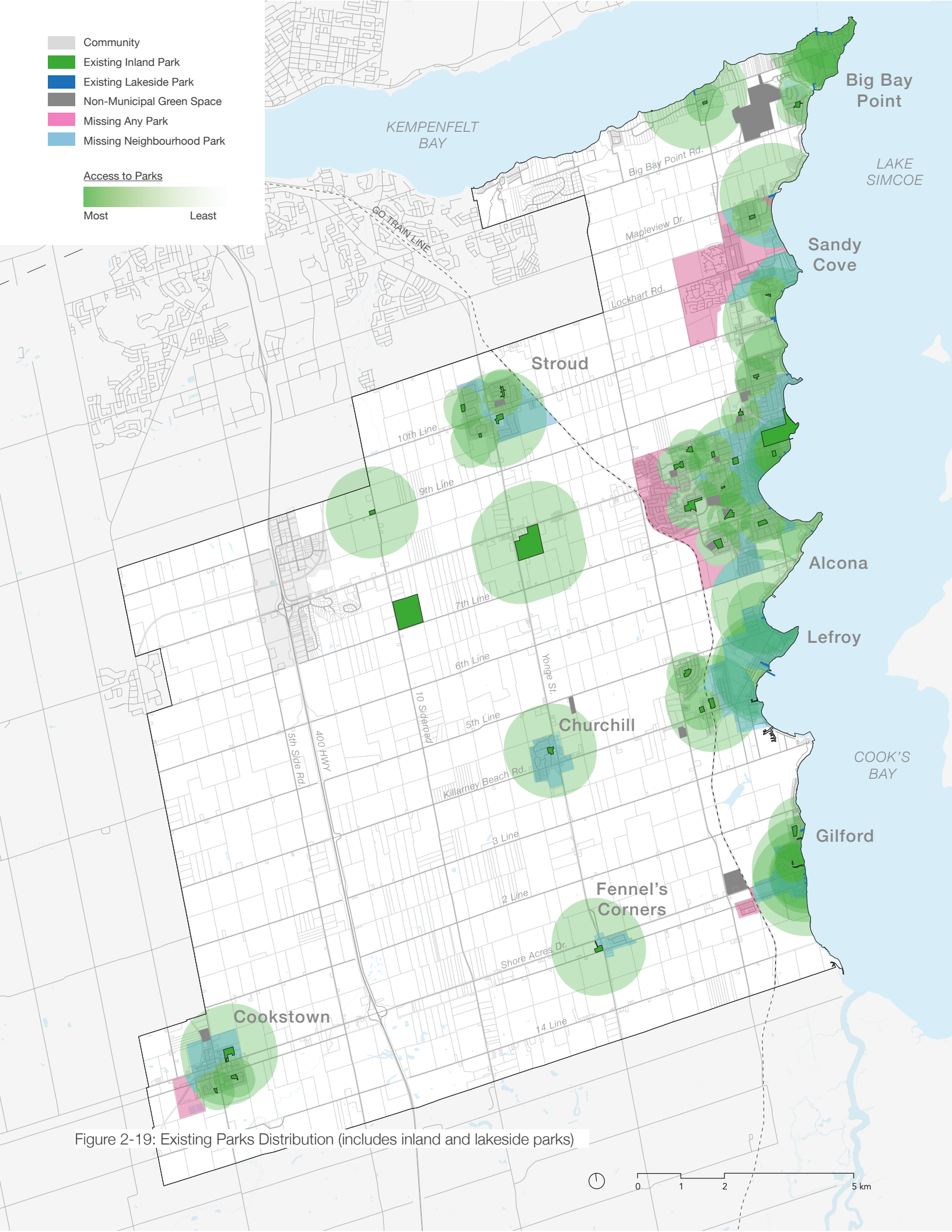
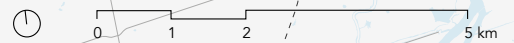


Figure 2-19: Existing Parks Distribution (includes inland and lakeside parks)



- Community
- Existing Inland Park
- Existing Lakeside Park
- Undeveloped/Future Inland Park
- Undeveloped/Future Lakeside Park
- Non-Municipal Green Space

Access to Parks

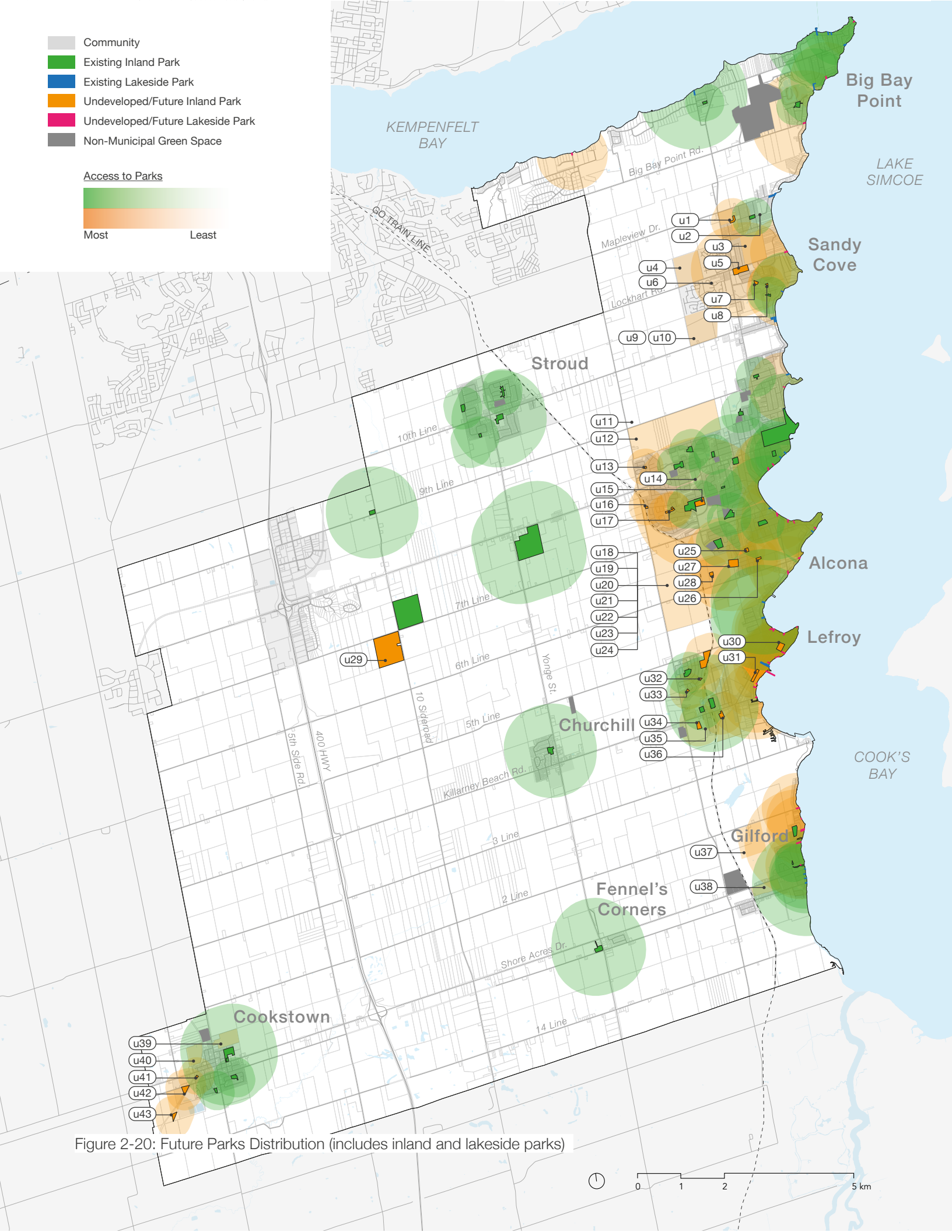
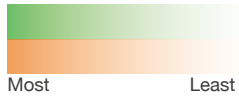
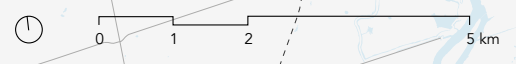


Figure 2-20: Future Parks Distribution (includes inland and lakeside parks)



- (u1) Sandy Cove Park 4 (Teromi Lands)
- (u2) Fleming Boulevard
- (u3) Sandy Cove Park 1 (Parkbridge Golf Course Lands)
- (u4) Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands)
- (u5) Innisvillage West - New Park
- (u6) Lockhart Road
- (u7) Innisvillage 3
- (u8) Innisvillage Parkette
- (u9) Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)
- (u10) Sandy Cove Parkette (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)
- (u11) Alcona North Parkette
- (u12) Leonard's Beach Secondary Plan Alcona North
- (u13) Alcona Capital Parkette
- (u14) Corm Park
- (u15) Alcona Community Park (ORSI Subdivision)
- (u16) Alcona Downs 3 Phase 3 Parkette
- (u17) Alcona Downs 4 Parkette 4
- (u18) Alcona South Expansion NP 1
- (u19) Alcona South Expansion NP 2
- (u20) Alcona South Expansion Parkette 1
- (u21) Alcona South Expansion Parkette 2
- (u22) Alcona South Expansion Parkette 3
- (u23) Alcona South Expansion Parkette 4
- (u24) Alcona South Expansion Parkette 5
- (u25) Sleeping Lion Parkette 2
- (u26) Sleeping Lion Parkette 1
- (u27) Sleeping Lion New Park
- (u28) Sleeping Lion Parkette - New Park (no. 3)
- (u29) Outdoor Field Complex
- (u30) Alfred Street Parkette (Kirsh Lands)
- (u31) Belle Ewart Lakeview Estates Parkette (Ballymore)
- (u32) LSAMI Parkette 1
- (u33) LSAMI Parkette 2
- (u34) LSAMI P4 - New Park
- (u35) Hofland Street
- (u36) LSAMI P3 - New Park
- (u37) Gilford Parkette (Innis Green)
- (u38) Gilford Parkette (Shore Acres)
- (u39) Cookstown - Northeast Park (Belpark North)
- (u40) Cookstown - Northwest Park (Broos)
- (u41) Cookshill Parkette
- (u42) Victoria Street Cookstown Southwest Parkette 1
- (u43) Victoria Street Cookstown Southwest Parkette 2

- Sandy Cove (west)
- Stroud (southeast)
- Churchill
- Fennell's Corners
- Gilford (southwest)

PA.5 Develop parks in the following areas first: Sandy Cove (west), Stroud (southeast), Churchill, Fennell's Corners, and Gilford (southwest)

### 3. Parkland Needs

#### Current Parkland Supply

Based on the updated park categories in this Plan, Innisfil maintains 149.79 hectares of active and passive parkland distributed across 35 inland parks and 22 Lakeside Parks (57 parks).

Table 2-29 compares parkland service targets with the current service level to understand which types of parks are missing in Innisfil. For service level calculations, regional parks (67.0 ha) and special use parks (0.8 ha) targets will be combined for a total of 67.8 ha. Conservation parks and Lakeside Parks do not have service targets since conservation parks are parcels set aside by the Town for future recreational purposes and therefore do not need service level targets. Additionally, since there is limited public ownership along Lake Simcoe, it will be difficult to expand this parkland typology in the same way as other typologies, therefore lakeside parks do not have a service level target.

The current parkland service level for the entire Town of Innisfil is 4.0 ha per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the targeted ratio of 3.5 ha per 1,000 residents (Table 2-29). Based on this data, it appears Innisfil's parkland provision levels are strong, however further analysis reveals

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

some deficiencies. While there is a large surplus of regional park space, the majority of which is Centennial Park, a 39.4 ha park and the largest park in Innisfil. It should be noted that much of this park has not yet been developed for public use, skewing the parkland service numbers to show more park space than what is actually accessible to the public. This plan recommends developing Centennial Park further to expand the accessible area of the park (see Recommendations for Existing Parks on page 495).

The fact that regional parks have such a high surplus of parkland hides Innisfil's deficiency in neighbourhood parks. Service levels for neighbourhood parks are 0.69 ha per 1,000 residents, below the target level of 1.0 ha per 1,000. This means Innisfil is deficient on its 2021 neighbourhood parkland target.

### Future Parkland Needs

There are 43 planned but yet to be developed inland parks in Innisfil. These future inland parks will help bridge the service gap, and many are part of future residential communities planned for Innisfil. There are also 29 future Lakeside Parks that are yet to be developed. In total, the 72 future inland and lakeside parks will add 60.0 hectares of parkland to Innisfil by 2051.

Looking toward the future, as Innisfil's population grows, additional parkland will be required to meet and maintain service level targets. Table 2-30 shows Innisfil's existing parkland and future parkland to be added by 2051. With future parkland taken into account, Innisfil will need to add an additional 97.19 hectares of neighbourhood, community/district, and regional parkland to meet 2051 service targets.

The Town of Innisfil owns dozens of properties throughout their jurisdiction that could contribute to additional parkland supply if developed. These properties will be referred to here as open space parcels.



Figure 2-21: Circle Park

### Minimum Park Size

Approximately 60% of existing municipal inland and Lakeside Parks are under 1.2 hectares in size. However, for all future parks, 83% are under 1.2 ha. Many future parks are part of large developments where space is limited. The Town is therefore lacking in larger-sized future parks, which limits the type and amount of facilities each park can provide, leaving potential for service gaps in larger facilities. Larger parks generally allow for greater opportunity for the co-location of park amenities, as well as the provision of multi-sport complexes, large sport fields (cricket), community gathering spaces, and nature enjoyment. Moving forward, this plan recommends a minimum park size of 1.2 ha for all future parks.

While the Town is meeting or close to meeting most outdoor facility targets now (except for tennis and pickleball), beyond 2051, larger parcels of land will need to be acquired by the Town and set aside for large facilities (sport fields, ball diamonds, cricket, etc.) as demand and population continue to increase.

The Town currently owns a parcel of land in Big Bay Point over seven hectares in size. While it is unclear how much of this parcel will actually be



Table 2-29: Existing Park Service Level

Park Type	Number of Parks	Total Area of Existing Parks (ha)	Parkland Service Target (ha per 1000 people)	Current Service Level (44,360 people)
Neighbourhood Park	23	30.70	1.0	0.69
Community/District Park	8	45.40	1.0	1.02
Regional Parks and Special Use Parks	3	67.80	1.5	2.29
Conservation Park	1	2.20	n/a	n/a
Lakeside Parks	22	3.69	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>149.79</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Table 2-30: Additional Park Area Required to Meet Service Targets by 2051

Park Type	Existing Parkland* (ha)	Future Parkland to be Added** (ha)	2051 Target (ha)	Parkland Target Amount by 2051 (ha)	Additional Area Required*** (ha)
Neighbourhood Park	30.70	28.77	84.57	53.87	25.10
Community/District Park	45.40	11.82	84.57	39.17	27.35
Regional Parks and Special Use Parks	67.80	20.60	126.86	59.06	38.46
Conservation Park	2.20	0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lakeside Parks	3.69	5.12	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149.79</b>	<b>66.31</b>	<b>296.00</b>	<b>152.10</b>	<b>90.91</b>

\*57 parks

\*\*72 parks

\*\*\*After Future Parkland is added

## Part 2: Parks & Recreation

devoted to public park space, it is clear Innisfil will need large parcels like this in the future.

PA.6 Develop all future parks as scheduled (refer to Table A3-1)

PA.7 Increase parkland supply overtime based on future parkland service targets

PA.8 Institute a minimum park size of 1.2 ha whenever possible

### 4. Park Facilities

Innisfil's parks hold a variety of facilities for self-directed and casual use, as well as scheduled community use. This section discusses park facilities for all 35 inland parks and the following four lakeside municipal parks:

- 12th Line/Mapleview Park
- 10th Line/Leonard's Beach
- Belle Ewart Park
- Bayshore Park

Facilities at other lakeside parks (municipal rights-of-way) are discussed in the Lake Plan. In this section, park facilities are discussed under three headings:

- Scheduled Park Facilities
- Self-Directed and Casual-Use Park Facilities
- New Facility Opportunities

#### Scheduled Park Facilities

Section 2.3 Outdoor Scheduled Facilities on page 86 discusses scheduled facilities for sport fields, tennis and pickleball courts, and ball diamonds, and recommends additional facilities based on the Town's growing population. Building on the outdoor facilities assessment, this parks

assessment will discuss potential locations for the additional scheduled facilities that are recommended.

#### Tennis and Pickleball Courts

As described in the outdoor facilities assessment, a four-court pickleball facility is recommended for Innisfil to help promote community-based club development and accommodate local tournaments. The pickleball facility should have enough space to provide lighting, seating, washroom/changerooms, and parking. Since this is a large facility that would require extensive renovations to any existing park location, it is recommended this facility be developed in a future park. Recommended future parks that could accommodate a four-court pickleball facility include:

- Innisvillage West - New Park
- Sleeping Lion New Park
- Gilford Parkette (Innis Green)

Additionally, six dual-purpose courts (tennis and pickleball combined) are also recommended and should be deployed as three two-court facilities. It is recommended one of the three two-court dual-purpose facilities be developed at one of the two existing parks:

- Cookstown Community Park (preferred option)
- Webster Park

This two-court facility could potentially happen right away. A facility fit exercise will help to determine which location is the better fit, though Cookstown Community Park is the option preferred by this Plan because it is the only possible location in Cookstown.

Moreover, there are 11 future parks are able to accommodate the other two (2) two-court dual-purpose facilities. It is recommended one of these dual-purpose facilities be located in the Big Bay Point and Sandy Cove areas, and the other

in the Alcona and Lefroy areas. If the facility is developed at Webster Park (p19), another one should not be developed at Alcona Community Park (ORSI Subdivision).

Location options for the Big Bay Point and Sandy Cove areas include:

- Big Bay Point Quarry Property
- Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands)
- Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)

Location options for the Alcona and Lefroy areas include:

- 10th Line/Leonard's Beach Secondary Plan Alcona North
- Alcona Community Park (ORSI Subdivision)
- Alcona South Expansion NP 1
- Alcona South Expansion NP 2
- Alfred Street Parkette (Kirsh Lands)
- LSAMI P4 - New Park

A tennis court is already being proposed in one future park, LSAMI P3 - New Park, however this park is unable to accommodate a two-court dual-purpose facility due to size restrictions. The proposed tennis court should remain here as an extra.

## Sport Fields

As noted in the Outdoor Scheduled Facilities section, an additional lit sport field is required just beyond the year 2051. The following areas are missing a sport field:

- Big Bay Point and Sandy Cove
- Cookstown (south)
- Gilford

In Sandy Cove and Big Bay Point there are no existing parks large enough to accommodate to

accommodate a new sport field. Future parks that are large enough to accommodate a new sport field in this area include:

- Big Bay Point Quarry Property
- Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands)
- Innisvillage West - New Park
- Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)

Since the new sport field should be lit, the location should be large enough to accommodate additional amenities associated with a sports hub such as ample seating, a playground, and washroom/changeroom facilities. The best option for this is Innisvillage West - New Park because it is the largest of the four locations (3.31 ha). The size of Big Bay Point Quarry Property is still unknown and could be designed to accommodate a sport field. The other two options in Sandy Cove are smaller (2 ha) and could fit a sport field but opportunities additional amenities might be limited.

In Gilford, other than Circle Park (p29), no existing parks are large enough to accommodate a new lit sport field. While Circle Park is large enough, the existing conditions of the park are more naturalized with wetland areas and trails. Therefore Circle Park has been ruled out as an option for the new sport field. The two future parks in Gilford, Gilford Parkette (Innis Green) and Gilford Parkette (Shore Acres) are both too small to accommodate a new sport field.

In Cookstown, the only existing sport field is located at Cookstown Central Public School. There is space on the east side of Cookstown Community Park that might accommodate a sport field, though a facility fit exercise will need to be completed to confirm. This location is already being recommended for a two-court dual-purpose pickleball/tennis court facility. If this does not happen, a facility fit exercise should be undertaken to determine if this location is appropriate for a sport field. Furthermore, the

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future parks in Cookstown are too small to accommodate a new sport field.

In summary, there are three potential locations for a new sport field in Innisfil. While Innisvillage West - New Park in Big Bay Point and Sandy Cove is a future park that is large enough, it is still relatively close to existing sport fields in Stroud and Alcona. Cookstown Community Park is another option for a sport field providing the two-court dual-purpose pickleball/tennis court is not constructed here and the facility fit determines it is appropriate for a sport field. Otherwise, the Town should consider acquiring parkland (ideally 2.5 ha) in the Cookstown or Gilford areas that could accommodate a sport field by 2051. The costs associated with acquiring property are not included in the costs estimates in Part 5 or Appendix 6.

### Ball Diamonds

The Outdoor Scheduled Facilities section indicates the need for two additional ball diamonds in Innisfil by 2051. With the relocation of four baseball diamonds from other parks in Innisfil (two from IRC and two from IBP) as determined through previous planning initiatives, the Outdoor Sports Complex site will provide space for a four-diamond facility as well as a field house and washrooms and changerooms. There is space on the Outdoor Sports Complex site to add at least two more baseball diamonds to accommodate additional ball diamonds in Innisfil by 2051 (Figure 2-22). Other amenities that could be included on the site are a concession stand, facilities for food trucks, a playground, seating and picnic areas, and trails.

PA.9 Develop a four-court pickleball facility in one of the three recommended locations: Innisvillage West - New Park, Sleeping Lion New Park, Gilford Parkette (Innis Green)

PA.10 Conduct a facility fit exercise for Cookstown Community Park to determine

if a two-court dual-purpose pickleball/tennis facility is possible at this location. If facility fit says it is feasible, develop the courts

PA.11 Develop one two-court dual-purpose pickleball/tennis facility in the Big Bay Point/Sandy Cove area at one of the recommended three locations: Big Bay Point Quarry Property, Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands), or Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)

PA.12 Develop one two-court dual-purpose pickleball/tennis facility in the Alcona/Lefroy area at one of the recommended six locations: 10th Line/Leonard's Beach Secondary Plan Alcona North, Alcona Community Park (ORSI Subdivision), Alcona South Expansion NP 1, Alcona South Expansion NP 2, Alfred Street Parkette (Kirsh Lands), or LSAMI P4 - New Park

PA.13 Determine the most suitable location for a new sport field by 2051 from one of the recommended four locations or acquire new lands in the Cookstown or Gilford areas: Big Bay Point Quarry Property, Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands), Innisvillage West - New Park, Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)

PA.14 Add a four-diamond facility at the new Outdoor Recreation Complex site

PA.15 Develop two additional ball diamonds at the Outdoor Sports Complex site

## Self-Directed and Casual-Use Park Facilities

The consultation feedback for this Plan identified a need for spaces and facilities that optimize accommodating all age groups. Outdoor amenities that were mentioned include outdoor skating rinks, a dog park, and skateparks. The following text describes the existing inventory, future need, and potential future locations for each self-directed and casual-use park facility type including:

- Playgrounds
- Splash pads
- Skateparks and pump tracks
- Basketball courts
- Outdoor rinks
- Dog parks

### Playgrounds

There are currently 31 parks with playgrounds throughout Innisfil. The majority of these playgrounds are within the Alcona community, though Cookstown and Lefroy are also well served. There are also playgrounds at most schools, as well as the Rizzardo Health & Wellness Centre.

Some areas of Innisfil will experience new development within the timeline of the Plan. It is important to make sure playgrounds are provided in these areas as parks get developed. The following five future parks already have a playground confirmed at their locations, they include:

- Alcona Community Park (ORSI Subdivision)
- Sleeping Lion New Park
- LSAMI Park 2
- LSAMI P3 - New Park
- Cookshill Park

Additional playgrounds are recommended for the following nine future parks:

- Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands)
- Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands)
- Leonard's Beach Secondary Plan Alcona North
- Alcona South Expansion NP 1
- Alcona South Expansion NP 2
- LSAMI Park 1
- Gilford Parkette (Innis Green)
- Gilford Parkette (Shore Acres)
- Victoria Street Cookstown Southwest Parkette 1

All existing playground replacements and planned playgrounds should meet the following standards:

- Accessible play equipment and play surfacing as defined under CAN/CSA Z614:20 Annex H Children's playground equipment and surfacing
- Opportunities for a variety of age groups and abilities
- Nearby shade (trees or structure) and seating
- Accessible pathway access to the playground from the main park entrance

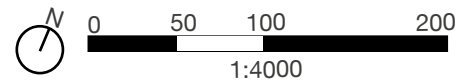
### Splash Pads

Currently, Innisfil has two splash pads located at Cookstown Community Park and Town Square. Additionally, there is a planned splash pad in one future park, Sleeping Lion New Park.

While much of Innisfil's population is located close to Lake Simcoe, public land along the waterfront is limited. Swimming in the lake does not provide the same level of safety and control that a splash pad does for parents and caregivers of children.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS - formerly the Ministry of Culture and Recreation) recommends park provision standards for several

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### Legend

- |                                |  |                                 |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| ① Baseball Diamonds (4)        | ⑤ Existing Pond  | ⑧ 30m. Setback from Watercourse |
| ② Future Baseball Diamonds (2) | ⑥ Overflow/Event Parking on grass (space for 500 cars) | ⑨ Creek                         |
| ③ Parking Lot (393 stalls)     | ⑦ Naturalized Trail Area                               | ⑩ Lawn Bowling                  |
| ④ Playground and Washroom      |  |                                 |

Figure 2-22: Facility Fit Proposed Concept for the Outdoor Sports Complex site

types of outdoor facilities, including splash pads, basketball courts, and ice rinks. Its provision recommendation for splash pads is 1 for every 5,000 population. Based on Innisfil's 2021 population of 44,360, the Town should already be providing nine (9) splash pads. By 2051, with the projected population of 84,570, 17 splash pads should be provided. This is a development rate of one splash pad every two years. With limited budgets and other higher priority recommendations proposed in this Plan, it is not recommended for Innisfil to follow the provision standard set forth by the MTCS. A more realistic timeline would be for the Town to develop one splash pad every four years. It is recommended at least one splash pad be added to each community that does not currently have one. This includes Sandy Cove, Stroud, Lefroy, and Gilford.

For new splash pads, there is an opportunity to allow for year-round activation. Splash pads and outdoor rinks are both seasonal facilities that require water and washrooms/changerooms. There is potential to develop these facilities in new developments to share utilities.

### **Skateparks and Pump Tracks**

There are currently two skateparks in Innisfil, one at the Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre, one at Stroud Community Park, and a new skatepark at Sleeping Lion New Park developed in 2022. Additionally, skateboarding features have been added to the new Town Square, and for the purposes of this Plan, it will count as a skatepark bringing the total up to four.

The skateparks at Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre and Stroud Community Park are in need of updates. The asphalt is cracking and the equipment is covered with graffiti. There is also space for additional jumps and equipment, as well as seating and shade.

The only pump track is located in Innisfil Beach Park, which is a temporary, modular track

approximately 50 m long. It is recommended a permanent pump track be constructed at this location, allowing the temporary modular track to become available to be relocated to different locations throughout the Town, as needed.

If additional skateparks are developed in Innisfil, with its growing population, it is recommended they be located in Sandy Cove, Gilford, and Cookstown.

### **Basketball Courts**

Innisfil has six parks with basketball courts, two parks with half-courts, and one park with a multi-sport court (Table 2-26: Existing Parks Inventory on page 123). The courts at Lormel Gate Park, Belle Ewart Park, and Meadows of Stroud have been recently constructed/updated. The courts at 12th Line Park, Huron Court Park, and Cookstown Community Park are in good condition and will not need updating for some time. The courts at Centennial Park and Innisfil Beach Park (IBP) are in need of updating. IBP's court could also be better integrated into the park. The half court at Crossroads Park could be updated into a full-sized court, while the half court at 12th Line/Mapleview Park can remain a half court as there is limited space.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) recommends one basketball court per 5,000 population. At this provision standard, based on Innisfil's 2021 population, the Town should be providing nine (9) full-sized basketball courts. Therefore, if the half-court at Crossroads Park is updated into a full-sized court, Innisfil requires two additional full-sized courts to serve its current population. By 2051, a total of 17 courts is recommended by the MTCS provision standard. Similar to the splash pad provision standard, the goal of 17 basketball courts by 2051 is not realistic due to limited budgets and other higher priority recommendations proposed in this Plan. Additionally, some school properties already have basketball courts and nets, which will help bridge the gap. Therefore, this Plan recommends four

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additional basketball courts over the next 16 years (1 every 4 years). The new courts should be developed in Sandy Cove, Alcona (south), Gilford, and Cookstown.

### Outdoor Skating

Currently in Innisfil there are two opportunities for outdoor skating. First, there is one outdoor ice rink located at Cookstown Community Park. The rink is refrigerated and chilled mechanically, is not full sized, and does not have boards. The second skating location is part of the Town's development of Town Square in Alcona, where an outdoor skating trail was recently constructed at this location.

Since the new skating loop at Town Square will not be able to satisfy athletic groups and sports events, it is recommended the Town add additional outdoor rinks over time for this purpose. The new outdoor rink facilities should be refrigerated and mechanically chilled, and include warming shelters and/or heated changerooms. The space should be activated with seating and lighting. The rinks should be able to support a wide range of ice programs (sports, classes, etc.) with boards, team benches, nets, etc.

As mentioned earlier in this section, outdoor rinks and splash pads share similar facility requirements, such as water, washrooms/ changerooms, seasonality, etc. It is recommended that when new splash pads are developed in Sandy Cove, Stroud, and Gilford, they also be constructed as a dual-purpose splash pad/ice rink facility. A new rink is also recommended as part of the redevelopment of Innisfil Beach Park and Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena).

### Dog Parks

There is one dog park in Innisfil located at Centennial Park. The facility is in good condition and does not require any immediate updates. Eventually the wire fence should be replaced,

and a shade structure or shade trees should be added. Additional dog parks should be added in Innisfil to accommodate the increasing population. The Town should consider adding a dog park to each community, which would include Stroud, Sandy Cove, Lefroy, Gilford, and Cookstown.

PA.16 Develop playgrounds at each of the recommended seven future parks: Sandy Cove Park 2 (Parkbridge Johnson Lands), Sandy Cove Park 3 (Parkbridge Valaitis Lands), Leonard's Beach Secondary Plan Alcona North, Alcona South Expansion NP 1, Alcona South Expansion NP 2, LSAMI Parkette 2, Gilford Parkette (Innis Green), Gilford Parkette (Shore Acres), or Victoria Street Cookstown Southwest Parkette 1

PA.17 Develop one splash pad in each of the following communities in the next 16 years: Sandy Cove, Stroud, and Gilford

PA.18 Update the skatepark at Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre

PA.19 Update the skatepark at Stroud Community Park



Figure 2-23: Meadows of Stroud Park



- PA.20 Develop a permanent pump track at Innisfil Beach Park
- PA.21 Take the temporary modular pump track (formerly at Innisfil Beach Park) to different locations around the Town (could be used by Mobile Youth Centre)
- PA.22 Develop skateparks in each of the following communities in the timeline of this Plan: Sandy Cove, Gilford, and Cookstown
- PA.23 Update the basketball court at Centennial Park
- PA.24 Update and integrate the basketball court at Innisfil Beach Park
- PA.25 Develop the half-court at Crossroads Park into a full-sized court
- PA.26 Develop four basketball courts over 16 years in Sandy Cove, Alcona (south), Gilford, and Cookstown
- PA.27 Develop new outdoor rinks at Innisfil Beach Park and Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena)
- PA.28 Develop dog parks in Stroud, Sandy Cove, Lefroy, Gilford, and Cookstown

## New Facility Opportunities

### Cricket

The Outdoor Scheduled Facilities section discusses facilities not currently available in Innisfil, such as cricket and lawn bowling. Demand for these new facility types is likely to increase over time and the Town should plan for this.

Cricket fields are large facilities that each require approximately 2.5 ha of land. There is currently only one existing park able to fit this type of facility, Previn Court Park, though it would be tight and require a facility fit.

Only three future parks are large enough to accommodate a cricket field, but they are unfortunately poor options. While Innisville West - New Park is over 3 ha in area, its long and narrow shape is not suitable for cricket and other amenities and facilities have already been recommended for this location. The Town owns a large parcel in Big Bay Point which is over 7.5 ha, although it is unlikely all of this space will be dedicated to a park or a cricket facility. The parcel has varying topography and is heavily wooded. Additionally the Outdoor Sports Complex is already being planned for ball diamonds. Therefore, additional lands large enough to accommodate a cricket field will need to be acquired by the Town.

### Lawn Bowling

A lawn bowling facility requires approximately 0.5 hectares of parkland, including a building facility. It is recommended a lawn bowling facility be developed at the Outdoor Sports Complex because the site will already be equipped with parking and other amenities for the ball diamonds.

### Disc Golf

Disc golf is another facility opportunity for Innisfil. It is a game that can be played all year round and coincides with a larger, more naturalized site. Centennial Park is recommended as a potential site for disc golf.

- PA.29 Acquire parkland of at least 2.5 ha to develop a cricket facility
- PA.30 Develop a lawn bowling facility at the Outdoor Sports Complex
- PA.31 Develop a disc golf facility in Centennial Park

### 5. Park Activation and Place-making

Place-making should be used when developing or redeveloping parks in Innisfil. Parks are community hubs that can be activated through community development, signage, public art, park furniture, etc. The vision of Innisfil's Civic Campus Master Plan, which should be applied more broadly to all parks, is "a place where the Town can celebrate its natural heritage assets, grow new community connections through enjoyment of place-making and public art."

#### Friends of Parks Groups

A Friends of Parks Group is a community-based volunteer organization that is formally affiliated with the municipality as a partner in a local park to:

- Holistically plan and recruit resources to support, maintain and program the park in its entirety
- Recruit and engage members from all communities surrounding the park
- Engage with community residents and external partners (businesses, schools, etc.) to achieve its goals and serve as the "community" voice for the park

Friends Groups invest time and resources to sustain healthy and welcoming park spaces that connect neighbours, build community identity, and activate outdoor spaces. Through service projects, fun events, and commitment, Friends Groups enhance their community's quality of life through their local parks. At the same time, each Group is different and contributes to park management and visitor experiences in different ways, reflecting the uniqueness of the community and its park. By working together and partnering with municipal staff and other local organizations and businesses, Park Friends can improve

their park and help create safe, attractive and enjoyable programs and park facilities.

The above text is largely reproduced from two guides/manuals - Park People's Park Friends Group Guidebook and Baltimore City Friends Group Manual. The Park People report is written from the perspective of community interest in instituting a Friends Group in the City of Toronto. The Baltimore City publication provides guidance from a municipality that actively encourages the formation of Friends Groups.

Although Friends of Parks groups are largely based in major urban areas, the essential approach they take to parks management and programming is applicable to all parks. In Innisfil, the combination of existing parks in urban and non-urban communities, as well as new parks that will be developed in response to significant growth will require considerable resources to ensure each location can optimize its contribution to the local community. Green spaces other than parks may also present opportunities for community-based stewardship. Plans to develop and connect trails and to integrate conservation parkland into the larger parks and recreation system point to range of mandates that Friends Groups could be involved in implementing - from active programming to environmental protection. Moreover, this work will need to be undertaken simultaneously in many locations as growth and change occur rapidly. Both the Town and its residents, therefore, could benefit from a municipally driven Friends of Parks program. To this end, the Town would need to create a formal process for volunteer resident groups to apply and affiliate with the municipality as a "Friends of..." Group and provide staff to facilitate this process and support the ongoing efforts of these organizations. This could be part of the portfolio of the recreation coordinator outlined in the programs section.

The goals and objectives contained in other municipal plans and future initiatives also

support a community-based approach to parks management and programming:

- Our Place, Official Plan contains a strategic goal to make Innisfil a 'place' vs. a 'space'
- Culture Master Plan describes a gradual, citizen driven cultural transformation through community development
- Civic Campus Plan promotes sustainability practices to...manage water, protect land adapt to the effects of climate change

Given the right combination of motivation and people, collaboration between Innisfil's various communities and the municipality - with the Town acting as a facilitator to individual Friends Groups - will help:

- Realize the potential for creating vibrant, active parks that function as 'outdoor' community centres
- Protect, preserve and enhance recreation areas/trails

## Public Art

Park activation can also happen through public art. Public art can animate parks and open spaces by creating points of interest, celebrating community, enhancing infrastructure, and encouraging tourism. A strategy should be prepared that outlines an approach to incorporating art throughout Innisfil's parks. Opportunities for standalone pieces and artistic elements integrated into infrastructure should be included in the strategy. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Sculptures
- Murals
- Temporary installations
- Community art projects
- Monuments

- Artistic features incorporated into engineering or architectural features (e.g., railings, lighting, paving patterns, shade structures and buildings)

The strategy should inform the process for procuring public art, placement, budget and implementation strategy. The execution of the art should be done in conjunction with the specific project. A predetermined percentage of the overall project budget could be established to help determine the amount of funding to allocate to public art.

While almost any project has the potential to incorporate art, other components of the Plan that offer opportunities to incorporate public art as stand alone pieces or as design motifs include but are not limited to:

- Signage, wayfinding and interpretation
- Park furnishings strategy
- Lighting

PA.32 Create a formal process for volunteer resident groups to apply and affiliate with the municipality as a "Friends of...(park or trail)" Group and assign staff to facilitate this process and support the ongoing efforts of these organizations

PA.33 Develop a public art strategy to plan, organize, and facilitate the implementation of public art throughout Innisfil's parks

## 6. Recommendations for Existing Parks

In addition to the park facilities discussed earlier in this section, specific park improvements are recommended to enhance existing parks. This section discusses park facilities for all 35 inland parks and the following four lakeside municipal parks:

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- 12th Line/Mapleview Park
- 10th Line/Leonard's Beach
- Belle Ewart Park
- Bayshore Park

Below, park recommendations have been grouped into three improvement categories to provide an indication of the extensiveness and cost of improvements recommended for each park. The three improvement categories are, Minor, Moderate, and Major.

Site-specific recommendations for each park can be found in Table A3-1 in Appendix 3: on page Recommendations for Existing Parks on page 495. It should be noted that the improvement categories do not indicate or have any influence on implementation or timing. Major improvements may be recommended to happen before minor improvements, and vice-versa. The improvement categories only show the potential of work that could happen at a particular park. Town Square and Cookshill South Park are not included in this section because they are new parks and do not require improvements at this time.

Additionally, concept plans can be found in Appendix 3 for the following seven parks:

- Stroud Community Park
- Knock Community Hall and Park
- Centennial Park
- Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre
- Coral Woods Park
- Fennell's Corners
- Cookstown Community Park

### Minor Park Improvements

A number of existing parks will require enhancements during the term of this Plan to address shade, seating, accessibility, cleanliness,

lighting, and safety. Minor improvements may include:

- Lighting updates (note: moderate improvements will include adding new lighting)
- New/upgraded paths
- Additional seating and picnic tables
- Tree planting and naturalized planting
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Trash, recycling and compost receptacles
- Connections to existing/future trail networks

Minor improvements are recommended for:

- Meadows of Stroud Park (Sunset Park)
- Dempster Park
- Warrington Park
- Ashwood Park
- Lormel Gate Park (LSAMI P1)
- Belle Ewart Park
- Circle Park
- Orm Membery Park
- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Kidd's Lane Park
- Cookshill South Park

PA.34 Develop minor improvements at Meadows of Stroud Park (p5) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks

PA.35 Develop minor improvements at Dempster Park (p7) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks

PA.36 Develop minor improvements at Warrington Park (p8) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks

- PA.37 Develop minor improvements at Ashwood Park (p17) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.38 Develop minor improvements at Lormel Gate Park (p25) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.39 Develop minor improvements at Bell Ewart Park (l38) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.40 Develop minor improvements at Circle Park (p29) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.41 Develop minor improvements at Orm Mernbery Park (p30) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.42 Develop minor improvements at Veteran's Memorial Park (p33) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.43 Develop minor improvements at Kidd's Lane Park (p34) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.44 Develop minor improvements at Cookshill South Park (p35) based on "Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks"

## Moderate Park Improvements

Many existing parks will require improvements to existing park infrastructure to address aging, service deficiencies, and community need. Moderate improvements may include:

- New lighting
- Upgrades to one (1) or two (2) existing infrastructure elements (such as playgrounds and surfacing, skate parks, parking lots, multi-use courts, etc.)
- Everything included in the minor park improvements category

Moderate improvements are recommended for:

- Pitt Street Park
- Linda Street Park
- Aspen Street Park
- Ireton Street Park
- Trinity Park
- Lawrence Ave Park
- Noel Andrade Memorial Park
- Webster Park
- Anna Maria Park
- Innisfil Recreational Complex (Civic Campus)
- Previn Court Park
- Church Street Park
- Cookstown Community Park
- Bayshore Park

- PA.45 Develop moderate improvements at Pitt Street Park (p1) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.46 Develop moderate improvements at Linda Street Park (p2) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.47 Develop moderate improvements at Aspen Street Park (p3) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.48 Develop moderate improvements at Ireton Street Park (p4) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.49 Develop moderate improvements at Trinity Park (p6) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.50 Develop moderate improvements at Lawrence Ave Park (p10) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks

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- PA.51 Develop moderate improvements at Noel Andrade Memorial Park (p13) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.52 Develop moderate improvements at Webster Park (p19) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.53 Develop moderate improvements at Anna Maria Park (p20) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.54 Develop moderate improvements at Innisfil Recreation Complex Park (p21) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.55 Develop moderate improvements at Previn Court Park (p23) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.56 Develop moderate improvements at Church Street Park (p26) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.57 Develop moderate improvements at Cookstown Community Park (p32) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.58 Develop moderate improvements at Bayshore Park (l45) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks

### Major Park Improvements

A number of existing parks will require new amenities and significant improvements to existing infrastructure during the term of this Plan. Major improvements may include:

- New washroom/change room facilities
- Upgrades to three (3) or more existing infrastructure elements (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks, parking lots, multi-use courts, etc.)

- A new infrastructure element
- Everything included in the minor and moderate park improvements categories

Major improvements are recommended for:

- Stroud Community Park
- Crossroads Park
- Hastings Park
- Huron Court Park
- Knock Community Hall and Park
- Nantyr Park
- Centennial Park
- Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (Lefroy Arena)
- Coral Woods Park (Churchill)
- Fennell's Corners Park
- 12th Line/Mapleview Park
- 10th Line/Leonard's Beach

- PA.59 Develop major improvements at Stroud Community Park (p9) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.60 Develop major improvements at Crossroads Park (p12) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.61 Develop major improvements at Hastings Park (p15) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.62 Develop major improvements at Huron Court Park (p16) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.63 Develop major improvements at Knock Community Hall and Park (p18) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks



Figure 2-24: Linda Park

- PA.64 Develop major improvements at Nantyr Park (p22) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.65 Develop major improvements at Centennial Park (p24) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.66 Develop major improvements at Morgan Russell Memorial Arena & Community Centre (p27) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.67 Develop major improvements at Coral Woods Park (p28) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.68 Develop major improvements at Fennell's Corners Park (p31) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.69 Develop major improvements at Lockhart Road (I11) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks
- PA.70 Develop major improvements at Bon Secours Beach (I14) based on Table A3-1: Recommendations for Existing Parks

## 7. Recommendations for Future Parks

There are 43 future parks planned for Innisfil. Specific recommendations for each future park can be found in Table A3-2 in Appendix 3. The table assigns a park category from the new park classification system to each future park. There are 38 future neighbourhood parks, four future community/district parks, and one regional park. The sizes of the parks were provided by the Town and may be subject to change during the development process.

Some of these future parks have already been designed and started the development process, which has been taken into account in this Plan. A concept plan can be found in Figure A3-8 in Appendix 3 for Alcona Community Park. Other future parks, however, are in the initial planning stages, with details such as specific location still to be confirmed. Additionally, many future inland parks (70%) are below the recommended minimum park size. Nevertheless all future parks to be developed should include seating and shade.

## 8. Recommendations for Open Spaces

As a component of this Plan, Innisfil's municipally-owned open spaces were assessed. For detailed mapping and inventory tables about these open space parcels, see Table A4-2: Recommendations for Open Spaces on page 531.

This Plan identifies nine open space parcels as suitable for future parkland (Table 2-32). Seven of the nine parcels meet the minimum park size recommendation discussed earlier in this section. Recommendations for each of these nine parcels can be found in Table 2-32 as well as in Table A4-2.

Two open space parcels are recommended for park development in the timeline of this Plan. The

## *Part 2: Parks & Recreation*

parcel at 3122 25 Sideroad (o10) is identified to become a neighbourhood park. Given the existing conditions and small size of the parcel, 0.39 ha, there is potential for a passive green area, planting, and small play structure.

The parcel at 2138 Gordon Street (o37) is an open area with scattered trees and informal trails. Since this parcel is adjacent to Stroud Community Park, there is an opportunity to expand the park and add a playground, dog park, splash pad and outdoor rink facility. There is also potential for a trail loop around property.

The other seven open space parcels are recommended for development beyond the timeline of this Plan. The Town should use its discretion to determine the right time to develop these locations into parkland, for example, if new development is expedited near the parcel. Refer to Table 2-32 for recommendations for when the parcels get developed.



Table 2-32: Open Spaces for Future Parkland

#	Address	Size (ha)	Future Park	Future Trail	Conservation	Stormwater	Recommendations	Timing
o5	675 Big Bay Point Rd	7.77	x	x			Hold for potential future park and trails	Beyond 2051
o6	740 Big Bay Point Rd	1.55	x				Hold for potential future park	Beyond 2051
o9	3242 Oak St	1.32	x	x			Hold for potential future park and trails (expand Sandy Cove Park 4)	Beyond 2051
o10	3122 25 Sideroad	0.39	x				Develop a neighbourhood park	By 2051
o13	975 10th Line	1.55	x	x	x		Hold for conservation purposes and future park and trails (in case of development in the area)	Beyond 2051
o14	721 Rose Ln	0.61	x		x		Hold for conservation purposes and future park	Beyond 2051
o34	1540 Saint Johns Rd	10.33	x	x	x	x	Hold for the conservation purposes and future park and trails (between Sleeping Lion Parkette 1, St. Johns Rd. and 6th Line)	Beyond 2051
o37	2138 Gordon St	2.23	x		x		Develop trail loop around property and connect to Stroud Community Park Expand Stroud Community Park with a playground, dog park, and splash pad and outdoor rink facility	By 2051
o41	1021 20 Sideroad 1309 Bardeau St 1311 Bardeau St 1035 20 Sideroad 1071 20 Sideroad 1069 20 Sideroad 1075 20 Sideroad 1073 20 Sideroad Simpkin Court ROW	22.21	x	x		x	Hold for stormwater purposes and future park and trails Hold for development of Rail Trail	Beyond 2051