



Master Plan Update

Municipality of Central Elgin 2014 Recreation Master Plan Update



Prepared for Municipality of Central Elgin
IBI Group & F. J. Galloway Associates Inc.

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Executive Summary

IBI Group and FJ Galloway Associates Inc. are pleased to provide The Municipality of Central Elgin with a Recreation Master Plan Update. This update has a lifespan of six years, and will provide direction to staff and Council to the year 2020. In support of developing the Recreation Master Plan Update, a comprehensive Situational Analysis Report was prepared and provided to staff and Council. This report provided a broad series of analyses relative to finance, staffing, inventories of resources, sector and societal trends and related inputs, along with a community consultation program, involving public workshops, focus groups, interviews, a community online survey and other inputs. It is available under a separate cover.

The Situational Analysis Report provides the framework for the Master Plan Update, it is an analysis of background materials and information. In short it identified:

- That the Municipality is expected to have a population of approximately 14,500 by 2020, a small increase from its current population of 12,750 residents.
- That by 2031 approximately 60% of population is expected to be 35+ years in age.
- That the municipality exceeds the average for similar size communities where approximately 34 hectares are available per 1,000 persons.
- That through multiple community engagement sessions and community survey, the most significant trend within this summary was the theme of increasing the availability of trails and pathways within the Municipality.
- That through the review of documents relevant to parks and recreation, the primary themes throughout was for the promotion of parkland usage, increasing the availability of trails, creating linkages and making steps towards the promotion of urban design in the Port Stanley Area.
- That the Municipality of Central Elgin has an operating model that works well with per capital expenditures in the \$81 to \$84 range for the last two years which is fairly typical for a smaller Municipality.
- That in terms of facility utilization there is capacity for baseball at the two major diamonds, and hall usage at both Community Centres. There is limited availability for soccer throughout the Municipality in the summer months, while the arenas are well utilized and have no pressure for additional capacity, with some daytime usage available.

Upon the completion of the Situational Analysis Report, the Recreation Master Plan Update formulated a Vision, Mission Statement and Guiding Principles were created. These themes and statements, in association with the Situational Analysis provided a framework for the recommendations and project initiatives found in the Update.

The Update comprised of four (4) main sections, Master Plan Update Foundation, Parks and Recreation Services Policies and Strategies, Specific Recreation Master Plan Update Initiatives, and Implementation Framework. The Master Plan Foundation provides the Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles and Goals in support of the recommendations and their ongoing implementation. The Parks and Recreation Services Policies and Strategies provide a

framework to support investment and decision making and identifies standards, design perspectives and further reporting. The Specific Recreation Master Plan Initiatives identifies the various facility and venue initiatives within the Municipality, including a need for a Trails Master Plan, and needs within the communities of Port Stanley, Union, Sparta, Belmont, Lynhurst and Eastwood. Lastly, the Implementation Framework provides the Municipality with a timetable and costing for the projects identified in the specific initiatives. Demonstrated below are the recommendations which are contained within the sections of the Report and are the foundation to the Master Plan Update.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Section 4 - Parks and Recreation Services Policies and Strategies
Recommendation 1: Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy
Recommendation 2: Core Parks and Recreation Services
Recommendation 3: Partnership and Joint Ventures
Recommendation 4: Volunteers
Recommendation 5: Business Plan
Recommendation 6: Marketing and Community Development
Recommendation 7: Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning
Recommendation 8: Major Parks and Recreation Facilities Development
Recommendation 9: Fees and Charges
Recommendation 10: Developer Responsibilities
Recommendation 11: Parkland Dedication
Recommendation 12: Natural Areas
Recommendation 13: Parks and Open Space Hierarchy
Recommendation 14: Parkland Classifications and Criteria
Recommendation 15: Parkland Classification of Parks
Recommendation 16: Park Provision Standards
Recommendation 17: Trails
Section 5 - Specific Recreation Master Plan Initiatives
Recommendation 18: Community Trail Master Plan
Recommendation 19: Port Stanley Area Initiatives
Recommendation 20: Belmont Area
Recommendation 21: Lynhurst Area
Recommendation 22: Eastwood Area
Section 6 - Implementation Framework
Recommendation 23 – Plan Review

The following table is the implementation framework which provides the specific project initiatives and the details of the implantation the recommendations.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT	ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COSTS	PARTNERSHIPS
Central Elgin	Development of ten year Master Plan for trail segments, trail heads, amenities, design detail, etc.	2015	\$50,000 \$30,000 TO \$50,000 in capital investment per year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Development Charges Municipality 	Possibility of Adopt a Trail Program
Port Stanley				
East Berm Development	Splash pad, pavilion and landscaping	As per site Master Plan and Environmental Assessment Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined Harbour development funding as may be available 	To be determined
Harbour West Side	Boat Ramp	2015 – 2020	As per partnership strategy	Partners
	Urban design enhancements	Ongoing	As land and funds available	Business and Community Groups
Belmont Area				
Finalize opening of park pavilion	Washrooms, storage, etc.	2014	Completed	
Crosswalk and Union Street Park Redevelopment	Safety considerations for crossing County Road	2015	With County	
	Community access to park enhancements	2015-2017	To be determine based on site plan consultation and discussions	
Lynhurst Area				
Turvey Park Expansion	Two acres via Parkland Dedication Site development consultation planning and implementation	2015-2020 To follow	\$100,000 to \$150,000 for development Development Charges Parkland Dedication Funds Municipality	
Community Trail Connections	To Central Elgin and Cowan Park	As per Community Trails Master Plan	As per Community Trails Master Plan	
Eastwood Area				
Enhancement of Eastwood Park	Shade shelter / pavilion/hard surface Playground structure Open Play Areas Trail Connections	2015 to 2017	\$50,000 Development Charges Parkland Dedication Funds Municipality Ontario Trillium	

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT	ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COSTS	PARTNERSHIPS
				Foundation
Marketing and Communication				
Community Information Portal	Use Municipal website for comprehensive information source	2015	\$10,000 to \$20,000 initially \$5,000 per year to support	Municipality Possible Ontario Trillium Foundation if undertaken via a community group

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Overview	1-1
1.2	Recreation Master Plan Update Structure	1-2
1.3	Recreation Master Plan Document.....	1-2
2	Situational Analysis Report Highlights	2-1
2.1	Observations and Conclusions	2-1
	Demographics	2-1
	Documents Review	2-1
	Community Consultation.....	2-2
	Parks and Recreation Facilities	2-2
	Service Delivery Model	2-3
	Facility Utilization	2-3
	Trends 2-3	
2.2	Strategic Findings and Potential Project Initiatives.....	2-4
	2.2.1 Strategic Findings	2-4
	2.2.2 Potential Project Initiatives.....	2-4
3	Master Plan Update Foundation.....	3-1
3.1	Vision	3-1
3.2	Mission Statement	3-1
3.3	Principles	3-2
4	Parks and Recreation Services Policies and Strategies	4-1
4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy.....	4-1
	Recommendation 1: Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy	4-1
4.3	Parks and Recreation Services Strategies	4-4
	4.3.1 Municipal Core Parks and Recreation Services	4-4
	Recommendation 2: Core Parks and Recreation Services	4-4
	4.3.2 Partnerships and Joint Ventures.....	4-5

Table of Contents (continued)

	Recommendation 3: Partnership and Joint Ventures	4-5
	4.3.3 Volunteers	4-5
	Recommendation 4: Volunteers	4-6
	4.3.4 Business Planning.....	4-6
	Recommendation 5: Business Plan.....	4-7
	4.3.5 Marketing and Community Development.....	4-8
	Recommendation 6: Marketing and Community Development	4-8
	4.3.6 Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning and Development.....	4-9
	Recommendation 7: Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning.....	4-10
	Recommendation 8: Major Parks and Recreation Facilities Development	4-11
	4.3.7 Fees and Charges and Community Group Financial Support.....	4-11
	Recommendation 9: Fees and Charges	4-12
4.4	Park and Open Space Delivery Strategies	4-13
	4.4.1 Developer Responsibilities.....	4-13
	Recommendation 10: Developer Responsibilities	4-13
	4.4.2 Parkland Dedication	4-14
	Recommendation 11: Parkland Dedication	4-14
	4.4.3 Natural Areas	4-16
	Recommendation 12: Natural Areas.....	4-16
	4.4.4 Parks and Open Space Hierarchy	4-16
	Recommendation 13: Parks and Open Space Hierarchy.....	4-17
	4.4.5 Parkland Classifications and Criteria	4-17
	Recommendation 14: Parkland Classifications and Criteria.....	4-21
	4.4.6 Parkland Classification of Parks	4-22
	Recommendation 15: Parkland Classification of Parks.....	4-23
	4.4.7 Parkland Provision Standards.....	4-23
	Recommendation 16: Park Provision Standards.....	4-23
	4.4.8 Community Trails	4-24
	Recommendation 17: Trails.....	4-24

Table of Contents (continued)

5	Specific Recreation Master Plan Update Initiatives	5-1
5.1	Introduction	5-1
5.2	Community Trails	5-1
	Recommendations 18: Community Trail Master Plan	5-1
5.3	Port Stanley Area	5-2
	Recommendation 19: Port Stanley Area Initiatives	5-2
5.4	Belmont Area	5-3
	Recommendation 20: Belmont Area	5-3
5.5	Lynhurst Area	5-4
	Recommendation 21: Lynhurst Area	5-4
5.6	Eastwood Area	5-5
	Recommendation 22: Eastwood Area	5-5
6	Implementation Framework	6-1
6.1	Implementation Charts	6-1
6.2	Capital and Operating Financial Considerations	6-1
	6.2.1 Capital Costs and Funding Sources	6-1
6.3	Plan Review	6-2
	Recommendation 23 – Plan Review	6-2
	APPENDIX I	6-5

APPENDIX I – Summary of Recommendations

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Municipality of Central Elgin has a current population of approximately 12,750 residents. It is a Municipality created via the amalgamation of three communities in 1998, being the Township of Yarmouth, and the Villages of Belmont and Port Stanley. Each community brought different traditions and perspectives to the new municipal community.

The Town of Port Stanley and the Village of Belmont are the two urban hubs for parks and recreation services in the Municipality. Between them, both communities are able to provide arenas, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, meeting and recreation rooms for public use, along with beaches in Port Stanley. This array of parks and recreation facilities provide accessible recreation opportunities in both the east and south areas of the community.

In addition to the communities of Port Stanley and Belmont, the Municipality of Central Elgin is home to smaller residential areas, being New Sarum, Orwell, Sparta and Union, along with the emerging residential areas of Lynhurst and Eastwood. The City of St. Thomas partially encapsulates the Municipality along the central western municipal boundary.

With continuing population growth; important trends occurring in parks and recreation services, such as with soccer; the potential to develop tourism oriented recreation opportunities in the Port Stanley area; new and emerging residential areas; and other perspectives, it was deemed timely by the Municipality to undertake an Update to its 2002 Recreation Master Plan. The Master Plan Update has a seven year timeframe from 2014 to 2020. Its recommendations, once approved, will be utilized to support municipal investments in park and recreation services over the planning period, will integrate with Development Charges By-law reviews, and will assist in identify priorities, partnerships and other arrangements that will continue to enhance park and recreation opportunities for the residents of Central Elgin.

In support of developing the Recreation Master Plan Update, a comprehensive Situational Analysis Report was prepared based on a broad series of analyses relative to finance, staffing, inventories of resources, sector and societal trends and related inputs, along with a community consultation program, involving public workshops, focus groups, interviews, a community online survey and other inputs. The results of the Situational Analysis Report were used to support the development of the recommendations within the Master Plan Update. This report is available under separate cover.

1.2 Recreation Master Plan Update Structure

The format of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update has five components as follows:

COMPONENTS	
Master Plan Foundation	Provides the Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles and Goals in support of the recommendations and their ongoing implementation.
Policies and Strategies	Provides a range of policy and strategy perspectives to support the Municipality's investments and decisions in parks and recreation services, including a primary policy focusing on the role and engagement of the Municipality in the development and delivery of these services
Parks, Open Space and Community Trails	Identifies policy frameworks, provisioning standards, design perspectives and other considerations associated with the development of parks, open spaces and community trails within Central Elgin.
Facility and Venue Initiatives	Outlines specific recommendations with respect to the future development of parks and recreation facilities and venues as to site, scale and related considerations.
Implementation	Provides an implementation framework for the key recommendations within the Master Plan Update.

1.3 Recreation Master Plan Document

This document represents a draft of the Recreation Master Plan Update. It will be reviewed by the Project Steering Committee and will subsequently be the focus of two public meetings to be held in June of 2014 in the community. Once feedback has been received and reviewed, a further draft will be prepared and a final presentation made to Council for approval. Appendix A provides a consolidated list of the recommendations made within this plan and their reference pages.



2 Situational Analysis Report Highlights

2.1 Observations and Conclusions

Demographics

The Municipality of Central Elgin has a population of 12,745. By 2020, the population is estimated to be 14,500. Based on trends and projections the Municipality has a significant aging demographic, where by 2031 approximately 60% of population is expected to be 35+ years in age. Given the increasing proportion of older adults and young seniors, future investments and service delivery approaches should be directed towards these age groups.

Documents Review

A review of documents relevant to park and recreation included the County of Elgin Official Plan, Central Elgin Official Plan, the 2002 Central Elgin Recreation Master Plan, the Port Stanley Harbour Development Plan, and the Active Elgin Master Plan. The county Official Plan provided the following themes throughout the policies:

- Promotion of parks
- Provision for trail development
- Park and recreation development to be geared towards areas of tourism and settlement areas
- The protection of natural areas and agricultural areas from recreational uses.

In addition, the municipal Official Plan provided the following themes:

- Improving existing parks/acquisition of new parkland where needed
- Aim for 5 hectares/ 1,000 persons (Currently 3.5/ 1,000 on a municipally owned level)
- Supporting the recommendations of the Recreation Plan
- Promoting the development of trails/pathways/connectivity/accessibility
- Protecting open spaces
- Promoting community gardens as tools towards healthy communities

In addition to the two Official Plans, the existing Recreation Master Plan was evaluated based on the timed recommendations. As a result of the analysis the majority of the recommendations were either completed, have been explored and is not feasible, are not possible due to private ownership, or have been planned to be completed. However, there are a number of recommendations which require review for relevancy, or are being considered under future plans. Those which were uncompleted will form future recommendations in the update to the Master Plan.

Lastly, the Port Stanley Harbour Development Plan has identified a four phased approach with 16 recommendations in pursuit of the redevelopment of the harbour lands. Going forward the development of these lands will require cooperation as a number of the tasks within each phase

are related to parkland and recreational activity, including a possible marina, parklands and linkages.

Community Consultation

As part of the community consultation program many of the summary points, which were captured through focus group meetings, community meetings and a community survey, identified common themes which may benefit the aging population, as well as other user types and areas within the Municipality. These themes were as follows:

- Implementing a trails and routes plan which include off road, on road and side-walks (i.e. Sidewalk access to Port Stanley parklands), through the use of corridor improvements and pathways;
- Exploring amenities such as a splash pad, boat launch, and repurposing of the East Berm in Port Stanley;
- Providing an avenue for better dialogue between user groups and the Municipality to discuss matters such as rates, maintenance, municipal policy, scheduling and on-going works and proposed improvements/changes;
- Determining the future of the Infrastructure Ontario soccer fields and how that may impact user groups should the Municipality lose control of these lands;
- Beautifying/Maintaining Parks and Facilities and supporting the horticultural groups and activities;
- Adding features which would benefit the new splash-pad and user groups in Belmont, including a washroom, pavilion, and storage area;
- Exploring the addition of parklands in new residential areas, based on existing on future growth; and
- Centralized and comprehensive list and promotional plan for all activities, amenities, user groups and organizations to reduce overlap and improve visibility for those which are underutilized.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

With regard to parkland and facilities the Municipality owns a total of 47.2 hectares of lands related to parks, beaches, recreation facilities, community centre, and conservation area related uses. Of the parklands, there 22 parks with an area of 26.5 hectares and a range of 8.7 hectares to 0.1 hectares and average 1.2 hectares per park. The combined total of municipal parkland, beaches, and conservation areas is a rate of 3.5 hectares per 1000 population in Central Elgin on municipally owned land. Comparatively, both private and public lands in the Municipality have a total area of 427 hectares, with a ratio of 33.5 hectares per 1,000 persons. This includes conservation authority lands, private community parks (i.e. Cowan Park, Infrastructure Ontario lands), and service facility clubs.

The Municipality has an abundance of baseball fields, soccer pitches, and arena space for current and future populations. Trails and Pathways are limited in the Municipality and are an area which has been expressed as an area for growth. In terms of parkland deficiencies, there may be some merit in exploring an enlargement or creation of a new neighbourhood park in the

southern portion of Lynhurst. While future expansion of Turvey Park, through parkland dedication, may be required as future development occurs in the area.

Service Delivery Model

The Municipality of Central Elgin has an operating model that works well. The per capital expenditures are in the \$81 to \$84 range for the last two years which is fairly typical for a smaller Municipality when considering parks and recreation services. In addition, the Municipality's role is to provide facilities and venues, while volunteer groups and NPO's primarily provide recreational programs and services.

Facility Utilization

The Don Yeck and Selbourne Baseball diamonds have considerable unused capacity other than two to three days a week over a limited time frame. In terms of soccer usage, through the summer period at Don Yeck Park, the field is fully booked, while the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital has full utilization of these fields at all times through the late spring, summer and early fall periods.

Arena's in both Port Stanley and Belmont are generally well utilized but that there is no significant pressure for additional ice capacity as there is some time slots still available and some of the trends in ice utilization would indicate that the demand profiles could be changing. Their respective upper halls also host activities and events, where Belmont sees the lesser of the activity. Fees for these all facilities appear to be relatively comparable to other rural communities.

Trends

Emerging trends in parks and recreation have identified that soccer, across all genders and ages will grow both based on population and participation rate growth. Minor hockey will likely stabilize / decline in many rural locations, with the caveat that girls hockey will continue to grow. While adult hockey will likely diminish as "boomers" get older, though there could be increased growth amongst female adults for at least ten more years or longer. Figure skating and related activities will likely grow based on population growth at potentially 1% or 2% per year.

Baseball will likely grow more related to population growth in the youth categories. Some recovery has been achieved since the low ebb in the middle 2000s and the offset that soccer and other sports are causing. While adult baseball will likely continue its decline.

Minor football, lacrosse and similar sports will likely be relatively stable with some impacts from population growth; with rugby potentially achieving some growth beyond population growth.

Walking will continue to be a growth activity, especially as the "boomers" age out and utilize this activity in retirement. While, fitness in terms of both fitness centres and fitness programs (fitness classes, yoga, Pilates, etc.) will continue to show growth, especially as new fitness program elements come into the environment

Track and field will experience growth primarily due to population growth and some increased growth due to health and fitness and related perspective growth. It is not anticipated to be substantial; while Gymnastics will grow primarily based on population growth. Lastly, Gym sports will have varied experiences driven partly by population growth but also by the declining number of young people for volleyball and basketball.

2.2 Strategic Findings and Potential Project Initiatives

2.2.1 Strategic Findings

In terms of parks and recreation services, the Municipality of Central Elgin is generally well served based on the analysis and consultation results. Through the completion of the Strategic Analysis, it is evident that there are no large scale demands with regard to facility and service needs. Going forward, four strategic findings shape the future recommendations in the update to the Master Plan.

1. Taking Leadership in forming partnerships and collaboration with community based service providers, in order to enhance service development and coordination;
2. Potentially using parks and recreation resources to support tourism and related initiatives;
3. Notwithstanding the East Berm development, focus on primarily completing and renewing existing infrastructure venues as a continuing priority; and
4. Develop the frameworks to provide services for an evidently aging population, with notable decreases in the under 21 year old demographic, particularly in the southern areas of the Municipality.

2.2.2 Potential Project Initiatives

In addition to the strategic findings, the outcomes of the Situational Analysis have yielded the following points with regard to potential service needs, going forward in the Municipality of Central Elgin.

Port Stanley

- Development of the East Berm
 - Boat launch
 - Splash pad
 - Pavilion/Picnic area
- Possible summer and winter tourism/partnerships in Port Stanley
 - Examples: trail maintenance, special events, outdoor ice surface, cross country skiing

Belmont

- Don Yeck Park Completion (i.e. washrooms, storage areas to supplement splash pad and service providers)

Lynhurst

- Possible expansion and future development of Turvey Park as part of future subdivision plans
- Possible expansion or enlargement of a neighbourhood park in the southwest portion of Lynhurst
- Assuming sustainability regarding ownership and access to Cowan Park

Eastwood

- Improvements to the park including trails, and linkages to the surrounding community

Marketing and Community Development

- Communication/information with user groups through facilitation and leadership
- Centralization of information regarding parks and recreation, services, user groups and activities on municipal website

Trails/Routes Development

- Streets/sidewalks to trails and parks
- Trail heads, signage, mapping, promotion
- Safe on-road bicycle corridor



3 Master Plan Update Foundation

3.1 Vision

A Vision establishes a horizon towards which all stakeholders can move towards together. It is a statement which is both inspirational and which creates a common bond and sense of direction for the entire community for parks and recreation services. The Vision establishes a direction for the 2014 Recreation Master Plan Update and is a basis upon which the Master Plan Update evolves both in terms of its development and its ongoing implementation.

Central Elgin is an active and vibrant community where unique parks and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors contribute to an outstanding quality of life.

3.2 Mission Statement

A Mission Statement outlines the fundamentals and focuses of what will be achieved via the 2014 Recreation Master Plan Update. It articulates the intent and broad strategic approaches that will be utilized in the years ahead in Central Elgin.

The Municipality of Central Elgin's Recreation Master Plan Update guides the Municipality's vision of a balanced array of accessible and community delivered parks and recreation services that actively support resident and visitor participation and engagement. The Master Plan Update builds on all of the community's park and recreation capabilities and resources, using partnerships with community groups, public agencies and direct service delivery strategies that:

- **Support improved resident health, well-being and personal development;**
- **Contribute to a unique and valued community lifestyle that enriches residents' sense of engagement, volunteerism, leadership, and pride in their community;**
- **Enhance the stewardship of the area's significant natural resources and environment.**

This Mission Statement is targeted at guiding and directing the Municipality's ongoing efforts in the development and delivery of parks and recreation services. This is a community-based plan that works with the whole community on the achievement of the identified outcomes. The Plan is designed to bring together significant community capacities and resources and not depend exclusively on municipal investment and operations. The implementation of the Master Plan Update involves both direct Municipality action, as well as the Municipality working through partnerships, joint ventures and other initiatives in order to achieve the Plan's goals.

The key direction of this Master Plan Update involves enriching the quality of life of Central Elgin residents, whereby residents will have the opportunity to enhance the quality of their day to day life by having access to parks and recreation facilities and services across a broad spectrum of activities that touch their diverse and evolving interests.

The Master Plan Update's Mission is designed to ensure that it is broad-based in servicing the interests of community members, supports building a unique community lifestyle and creates real value amongst the residents relative to parks and recreation services being an important contributor to a healthy, active, prosperous, valued and sustainable Central Elgin community.

3.3 Principles

The following Principles have been developed to support the decision-making for the directions, strategies and recommendations contained within the Recreation Master Plan Update for Central Elgin.

THE CENTRAL ELGIN RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE WILL FOCUS ON....	
Balanced and Holistic Services	The provision of a balanced mix of services, including parks, community trails, recreation and arts and culture, with linkages to social, educational, health, economic development and related services and outcomes.
Fair and Equitable	The provision of fair and equitable parks and recreation service opportunities that encourage participation by all residents in all areas of the community in terms of ability, economic, geographic, cultural and related interests and backgrounds.
Use of Existing Facilities	Maximizing the use of existing resources and facilities through their regular maintenance, rehabilitation and renewal where feasible
Services to Identified Populations	The continuation of services tailored for seniors, youth, the disabled, early years children and other populations, to enhance their citizenship and quality of life through improved access to and participation in parks and recreation services.
Parks and Open Spaces Stewardship	Ensuring the continued protection and community value of the Municipality's parks, open space, beaches and natural areas through effective conservation strategies and sustainable public access.
Supporting Municipal Strategic Directions	Developing parks and recreation service facilities that contribute to wider community strategies and initiatives involving health, economic development, education, active transportation and community growth management.

Continued...

Sustainable and Inclusive Services	Offering parks and recreation services that are sustainable over the longer term through creative designs and effective operations which offer adaptable and flexible spaces, environmentally sound features, are affordable to build and operate, provide ease of maintenance and actively support the inclusion of all citizens.
Evaluation and Outcomes	The development and implementation of parks and recreation services operations, programs and resources that are evaluated relative to the outcomes achieved and how they respond on an ongoing basis to evolving resident needs.



4 Parks and Recreation Services Policies and Strategies

4.1 Introduction

A Parks and Recreation Services Policy for Central Elgin and associated strategy recommendations represent the next tier of the Master Plan Update. These recommendations provide the framework and policy basis upon which decisions for new and current parks and recreation facilities can be developed, operated and assessed.

4.2 Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy

There is an increasing demand on and expectation of municipalities to deliver an ever widening range of parks and recreation services. These expectations often involve more sophisticated facilities that result in potentially larger capital investments and sometimes concerns involving operational and financial sustainability.

The trends in parks and recreation activities and participation are generating a more complex services delivery environment. As a result, plans to develop additional services or proposed facilities need to be based on enhanced feasibility assessments, evaluation of outcomes / benefits and the ability of a group or community to sustain the resources. Central Elgin cannot be seen as the only responsible group for parks and recreation services delivery and that all decisions and initiatives cannot lead back solely to the Municipality. At the same time, the Parks and Recreation Services Policies needs to recognize that Central Elgin has a unique position within the delivery model with respect to skills, capacities, assets, leadership and financial resources. An appropriate balance of roles and responsibilities is required as a vital part of the long-term planning and delivery process for park and recreation services and facilities in the community. The following Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy is recommended.

Recommendation 1: Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy

That the Municipality of Central Elgin be a leading partner in the planning, development, delivery and evaluation of the parks and recreation services in the community based on the following municipal policy directions. The Municipality will:

- **Recognize and support the value of and need for multiple service providers and be a catalyst to expand the accessibility, availability, affordability and mix of parks and recreation services available in the community;**
- **Support development of parks, community trails, recreation programs, services and facilities which focus on providing**

services to Central Elgin residents as the primary users within the following participation framework:

- **Services that provide for and encourage broad-based participation by residents at a recreation level of activity.**
- **Services and accessibility programming that link to the unique needs of specific populations, including those with disabilities, seniors, early years children, youth, teens and others.**
- **Undertake the Municipality's planning, development and delivery roles for parks and recreation services using the following hierarchy to determine municipal involvement and priorities for any specific parks and recreation request, initiative or proposal:**
 - **First, actively work to facilitate and support community groups in the development and delivery of services through technical supports, information, volunteer training and recognition, access to existing facilities and related support strategies.**
 - **Second, enter into partnerships, joint ventures and other collaborative initiatives, resulting in shared responsibilities for a parks and recreation or services based on the following three criteria:**
 - **The interest of Central Elgin residents are fully realized;**
 - **There is a clear demand for the type and level of programming or facility proposed; and**
 - **There are reasonable sustainability prospects for the program or facility within acceptable accessibility and risk parameters.**
 - **Third, undertake the direct delivery of a park or recreation service and facility utilizing direct capital investment and other capital funding vehicles and annual budget support where other delivery approaches are not available or feasible, and community demand and benefit warrant Municipality investment.**

- **New parks and recreation service and facility decisions by the Municipality should be based on the following criteria:**
 - **Identification of need based on demonstrated participation levels;**
 - **Preparation of a long-term sustainability strategy for a park or recreation facility;**
 - **Assurances of public access, inclusive participation and affordability;**
 - **Participation by the Municipality at a level which aligns with the benefits to be achieved by both the participants and the community-at-large;**
 - **Use of business case analysis as a foundation to support municipal decisions on investments in parks and recreation services and facilities.**

The first part of this policy focuses on the principle that the overall community is best served if community organizations and individuals with an interest in a park and recreation program or facility take responsibility for its development and delivery operations and are integrated into the overall delivery of these services in Central Elgin. The Municipality cannot provide all the desired services to all people, and therefore, groups with a specific interest need to be involved in a park or recreation programs and facilities planning and delivery.

The Municipality can have a role in providing technical supports and knowledge to overcome challenges that community groups may have. Assistance may include marketing, registration, volunteer training and development, access to grants, assessments of new opportunities and other inputs.

The second dimension of the policy indicates the Municipality will consider alternative approaches to parks and recreation services delivery. Partnerships, joint ventures or collaborative initiatives are alternative approaches to be considered. These opportunities may not always be apparent to groups initiating new ventures but such a strategy, lead by the Municipality, can provide a catalyst for and enhance the feasibility of a new or the renewal of existing service or facility without the Municipality being solely responsible.

The third priority level of the policy is that the Municipality, based on a defined need and absence of any supporting community organization capacity, decides to make a direct investment in a parks and recreation facility or service. This approach is needed when no other alternatives are reasonably available and need is apparent and will be beneficial to the community or it is with the core services provided by Central Elgin, which are primarily facility based.

The policy also identifies key criteria and related considerations prior to municipal involvement in new or renewed services or facilities. These criteria include affordability, accessibility and sustainability as primary criteria to support the Municipality's participation. The Municipality must balance the benefits to be realized with the level of

investment needed, These investment assessments are to be developed within a business case analysis process.

4.3 Parks and Recreation Services Strategies

There are multiple strategic approaches with respect to parks and recreation services delivery in Central Elgin. The following sections provide the basis for such strategies.

4.3.1 Municipal Core Parks and Recreation Services

The Municipality will pursue the leadership, and capital and operating funding for municipally provided core park and recreation services in Central Elgin.

Recommendation 2: Core Parks and Recreation Services

- **To utilize the following principles to define and determine the Municipality's involvement in core parks and recreation services:**
 - **Potentially benefit all residents of the Municipality as a common resource and opportunity;**
 - **Are of a physical and financial scale beyond the realistic and sustainable capacity of a community organization;**
 - **Cannot be achieved via other means and approaches;**
 - **Can be undertaken by the Municipality via partnerships or joint ventures where feasible, beneficial and sustainable.**
- **To pursue continued development and operations of the following core parks and recreation services:**
 - **Publically accessible parks at all classification levels;**
 - **Community trails developed at the municipal level;**
 - **Major recreation facilities owned and operated by the Municipality, such as arenas, community halls and library buildings;**
 - **Public park-based facilities, such as sports fields available to community groups, playground and pavilion structures, splash pads, skateboard parks, benches and tables and related elements.**
 - **Public beaches and aligned amenities;**

- **To not engage in the direct delivery of organized recreation and leisure programs but to support community groups and organizations via the use of municipal facilities based on appropriate user fees and charges.**
- **At the discretion of council, council can consider the provision of limited operating grants to Non-Profit Organizations only if funding is available in the Community Grants program and the use of the venue is consistent with criteria identified in Recommendation 3.**

4.3.2 Partnerships and Joint Ventures

Central Elgin has a strong history of partnerships, joint ventures and collaborative initiatives, such as the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital land soccer fields and Cowan Park. Partnerships and joint ventures have the ability to expand the array of opportunities, reduce financial pressures and provide significant benefits to the community. Based on the past success of partnership approaches, there is a significant base of skills in terms of contract management, partnership review and evaluation and changing perspectives on the value of this form of service delivery in Central Elgin.

Recommendation 3: Partnership and Joint Ventures

To continue to engage in existing and to pursue new and more innovative partnerships, joint ventures and related initiatives where:

- **Need is identified;**
- **Public access, affordability and inclusion are assured;**
- **Financial sustainability is reasonably achievable; and**
- **The scope of the Municipality's investment is reflective of the benefits to be attained by the residents of Central Elgin.**

4.3.3 Volunteers

Through the community consultation process, many groups emphasized the importance and strength of volunteerism in Central Elgin. It was noted that hundreds of volunteers provide significant community services support in terms of promotion, administration, fundraising, registration, coaching, maintenance and other roles. The range and extent of parks and recreation services and programming available in the Municipality is made primarily possible through the time and talents given by parks and recreation volunteers. The current service delivery model has evolved from the evident strength of volunteerism historically and currently developed in all parts of Central Elgin and is the primary human resources strategy for services delivery.

The Master Plan Update recognizes this valuable resource in the community and the vital importance to the residents of sustaining and growing volunteerism which was clearly identified through the consultation program as the preferred delivery approach. The Municipality has an opportunity and interest to continue to support the volunteer sector. These supports may involve training on governance; supports related to registration, budgeting, volunteer training and recognition; marketing; trends assessment; and other inputs. The costs to the Municipality in supporting the success and sustainability of volunteering organization is relatively low compared to the risks should these organized groups falter or disappear and services to residents are diminished.

On this basis, it is important for the Municipality to invest in the sustainability of organized volunteer-based service delivery groups. This role directly supports community development, capacity building and reduces pressure on the Municipality's finances.

Recommendation 4: Volunteers

That Central Elgin develop a comprehensive volunteer development strategy, in partnership with community organizations, to enhance the recruitment, training, recognition and positive experiences for existing and new volunteers and the governance and viability of voluntary organizations as the primary resource in sustaining the availability, quality and affordability of the parks and recreation services for Central Elgin residents.

That community development activities be undertaken for community voluntary organizations focused on three primary elements where benefit for community groups and the Municipality is identifiable:

- **Information and data on environmental influences, such as service delivery and demographic trends; Municipality practices, policies and directions; and more strategic information.**
- **Networking opportunities that allow for information and experience sharing, integrated services planning and delivery, and related topics.**
- **Technical training, that if delivered collectively, will create opportunities that individual groups may not be aware of or be able to undertake alone.**

4.3.4 Business Planning

Business Plans are an evaluation tool to assess the feasibility and specifics for parks and recreation venues or facilities proposed. The Master Plan Update is the overarching, long-term Plan covering the direction and development of the Municipality's parks and recreation services role and offerings. Business Plans move the individual venue / facility recommendations of the Master Plan towards implementation. Over the life of any Master

Plan, community growth patterns may change, services trends will evolve and the Municipality's financial resources can be impacted. The Master Plan Update, therefore sets a venues / facilities development framework upon which individual Business Plans are undertaken based on the timelines established in the Master Plan Update. Business Plans should focus on the following parameters and content for both indoor and outdoor developments:

- Relationship to the Municipality Vision and Mission Statement, policies, etc.;
- Need and demand profiles, marketing requirements and feasibility assessments;
- Locational characteristics and requirements unique to the facility;
- Governance and management plan for the facility;
- Identification of the space and size needs for the facility or venue in terms of building and site area, along with conceptual floor plans or site layouts;
- Confirmation of the total floor area and / or hectares to support the preparation of detailed capital cost estimates;
- Anticipated capital cost sourcing;
- A three-year operating pro forma in order to identify anticipated revenues and expenses related to the facility, sources of income, etc.;
- Review of alternative development approaches, including use of existing facilities, undertaking current facility / venue additions and other approaches in comparison to building new facilities.

The Business Plan strategy helps to ensure major capital investments are targeted with clear outcomes, defined capital cost projections, identified revenue sources and have a strong identified relationship between the costs to and benefits to the community, as well as an effective governance and management framework.

Recommendation 5: Business Plan

That Central require a Business Plan / Feasibility Assessment for all significant park and recreation services project proposals as follows:

- **Business Plans be prepared in support of any investment in a new facility or major additions to / renewal of an existing facility or park with a potential capital cost of more than \$250,000 or lower based on Council's directions;**
- **The undertaking of a Business Plan be directed by the Municipality, and involve broad-based public consultation, working in partnership with community proponents as required;**
- **Business Plans, when finalized and accepted, form the basis for incorporating the new or expanded facility or park capital costs into the capital budget forecast for the Municipality related to timing, cost projections, financing, alternative revenue sources, etc.;**

- **Capital cost projections should be updated annually to reflect cost adjustments based on the potential impact of inflation and other factors;**
- **Any alteration in project design clearly articulate the rationale and need for the changes between the time of the Business Plan's development and the time of final project approval.**

4.3.5 Marketing and Community Development

One of the important roles in a volunteer-driven parks and recreation services delivery model is the benefit of having a central body, like the Municipality, provide supports and services that enhance community awareness and engagement in these services. Central Elgin, through the use of its website, can play such a role focusing on information for / on:

- Accessing community trails via trail mapping and promotion
- Arena use schedules, as well as opportunities to purchase available ice time
- Special events
- Recreation programs and services, particularly for seniors, families and others
- Increasing requirements for training, child and youth protection and related areas and volunteer development supports that assists community service organizations.

A centralized information source, that is promoted via the Municipality's website, the websites of community service organizations, the Health Unit, the County and other organizations would enhance overall awareness of what is available, increase participation levels and the benefits from more active lifestyles by residents.

Recommendation 6: Marketing and Community Development

- **That Central Elgin undertake a leadership role in creating a multi-point access to an online centralized information source / portal that would provide information on special events, recreation programs, facilities use and availability and related activities in the community detailing registration times, hours of operation, etc.**
- **That the communication portal also have the opportunity to identify ice, field and hall availability hours that become open in terms of non-contracted hours or hours that are turned back, so as to enhance the sale of such hours to interested parties which could improve utilization levels and revenue generation.**
- **That Central Elgin undertake leadership in hosting an annual community organizations development forum, where community service providing organization could send**

representatives to receive training on a wide range of topics, including volunteer recruitment and development, municipal policy development around fees and charges, and new senior government provincial funding initiatives, as well as opportunities for networking, engagement and related training.

- **That municipal staff continue to work with community organizations who provide recreation programs and services in Central Elgin to facilitate services coordination involving the Municipality, as well as to provide technical information and supports and other inputs that focus on sustaining and enhancing the capacities of these organizations and the work they undertake.**
- **That the Municipality work with community groups to enhance the delivery of mature adult services through access to facilities and technical supports in response to the demographic changes that the Central Elgin's population will experience towards an older age perspective. Such initiatives should be aligned with the evolving expectations of mature adults to be more active, health-oriented and related interests that are differentiated from the more traditional service approaches for this population.**

The demographic projections for Central Elgin are for an aging population. Services for mature adults will become increasingly important and are already delivered in the community, particularly Belmont and Port Stanley. It is anticipated, that there will be an increasing demand for these services and the demand will be more focused on health, fitness and active participation compared to what has been traditionally experienced. The Municipality has a potential role to provide facility, logistical and technical supports to community groups in the provisioning of services for mature adults as a way to ensure there is a broad base of activities available for interested community members.

4.3.6 Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning and Development

Central Elgin operates significant parks and recreation facilities infrastructure, including arenas, community centres, sports fields, park pavilions and related elements. Significant efforts have been made over the years to continue to renew these major community assets, keeping them functional, clean and aligned with the needs of the users.

Also, based on field and facility utilization levels, venue tours and related inputs, these facilities are well utilized but there are also, particularly related the arenas, becoming older. This will ultimately lead to decisions in the future with respect to replacing or renewing a facility.

The following recommendations are provided:

Recommendation 7: Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning

- **That Central Elgin continue to operate the current mix of major facilities and sports fields that it provides and to maintain them to their current quality standards.**
- **In the longer term, the Municipality initiate discussions and planning that could affect its community centres and arenas related to their replacement versus renewal due to aging and new facility requirements, such as the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, enhanced energy efficiency technology, competitive ability in the larger regional market and other sustainability factors.**
- **That if utilization levels were to decline, particularly for the arenas, on a regular annual basis below 80% of prime time hours, consideration may need to be given to either the long term development of a twin pad arena that replaces the two existing arenas, due to the capital and operating efficiencies.**
- **That the Municipality consider efforts to enhance the use of non-prime time hours in the arenas through the introduction of activities such as shinny hockey during Monday to Friday day time hours, and working with possible community groups for mom, pop and tot, seniors and other skating sessions that align with day time hours availability.**

Aging recreation facilities are a phenomena being experienced across Ontario by municipalities. Many of these facilities were built forty to sixty years ago with Wintario lottery funding and are now at a point where significant replacement and renewal decisions will need to be made over the next ten plus years. One of the trends that has been identified in the southwestern Ontario has been the development of twin pad arenas. The primary reasons for this are:

- Approximately 25% less costly to construct and 25% less costly to operate than two standalone facilities due to economies of scale.
- The enhanced ability to support tournaments, special events and related sport tourism and special event activities.
- A strengthened destination node and opportunity for multi-use venues.
- Increased technology applications that also can reduce operating costs and improve user and spectator experiences.

On a longer term basis, if the arena facilities reach a point where renewal versus replacement needs to be considered, the Municipality should examine utilization levels to determine what level of service is appropriate for the population in Central Elgin and

whether a different delivery model should be considered rather than two stand alone facilities from both utilization and operational efficiency perspectives.

The Municipality is going to experience an aging population with fewer children. It is possible with the growth of twin pad arenas in St. Thomas, Aylmer and other surrounding areas, the demand for ice time may not be sustainable in Central Elgin. Therefore, on a longer term basis, some decisions will need to be considered on what the appropriate investments in arena and related community centre facilities are.

From a soccer and baseball perspective, the analysis indicates that the community is well served at the current levels with the soccer fields developed at the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital site as well as in Lawton and other parks. It is not anticipated, that there will be substantive increasing demand for baseball fields as there is considerable capacity available in the community. For soccer, there could be some growth in demand but the current field availability is significant. The possibility to provide a soccer field in Turvey Park could be considered if demand increases and significantly beyond current capacity.

Recommendation 8: Major Parks and Recreation Facilities Development

- **That no new soccer or baseball fields be considered in the life of this Master Plan Update due to the adequacy of the current field capacity and the demographic profiles that are projected for the community.**
- **That Central Elgin continues to monitor major facility utilization as a basis to support future, longer term facility renewal or replacement decisions.**
- **That Central Elgin continues to monitor ongoing ownership of Cowan Park and the Infrastructure Ontario soccer field lands to ensure long term sustainability, and to be engaged with any future initiatives and developments on these venues or replacement venues.**

4.3.7 Fees and Charges and Community Group Financial Support

Central Elgin has developed a comprehensive array of fees and charges for the use of its facilities and services. The fee schedule utilized is based on cost and competitive frameworks, along with other inputs. Limited identification of fee and charges challenges were cited within the community consultation process. As well, the comparator assessment suggested the current fees and charges were within a reasonable framework for a rural community within the regional setting around Central Elgin.

What will be important for Central Elgin with respect to use fees and charges, is to assure that they are competitive, but also do not constrain resident participation due to affordability.

Also, Central Elgin does not provide capital grants to community organizations, but can facilitate applications to senior governments and other bodies. Based on the visioning

session, consultation inputs, the current policies are sustainable and do not require amendment. The Municipality should continue to focus on investing capital funds into municipally-owned facilities which are significant in scale and capital costs and benefit all residents.

The following recommendations are identified.

Recommendation 9: Fees and Charges

- **That the Municipality continue its comprehensive approach to fees and charges for the use of its facilities, ensuring that every two years a comprehensive review of their competitive positioning and their alignment with direct operating costs is completed to support the fees and charges levels.**
- **That the fees and charges ensure a minimum 25% reduction in facility fees for youth programs under 18 years of age and for people with physical and developmental disabilities.**
- **That council consider significant reduction in fees for daytime, Monday – Friday use, when facilities are less than 50% utilized but are staffed during these hours as a way to encourage greater use and potential venue program consolidation on a case by case basis.**
- **That from a direct cost perspective, three elements be incorporated into defining these costs:**
 - **The actual direct cost to operate the facility or service,**
 - **A 10% charge of direct costs for administrative supports**
 - **A 5% charge of direct costs to support ongoing capital maintenance**
- **That the Municipality work with community program deliverers, service clubs, the County through Ontario Works, and via accessing specialized programs, such as KidSports Canada, and other current and emerging programs to assist people who have affordability challenges in order for them to participate.**

4.4 Park and Open Space Delivery Strategies

The following is a basis upon which to develop an overall parks and recreation delivery strategy.

4.4.1 Developer Responsibilities

Typically, municipalities do not advance the development of parks until certain population thresholds are identified and developed. However, the development of parkland and trails during initial phases of subdivision development provides immediate opportunities for passive and active recreational activities. This encourages active living and participation in various active and passive recreational activities.

Municipalities use a mix of parkland dedication, other land conveyances, and development charges in new residential developments in order to secure land and develop resources. There has been a movement towards developers preparing parkland, in addition to rough grading and also undertaking completion of park development. Some developers believe that their residential developments will have a significant advantage if parks and trails are developed earlier within the overall development process.

The early development of parks in new subdivisions needs to be established in policy. Such a strategy would be an incentive for developers to take on the early preparation of parks and facility sites to municipal standards through Development Charge credits.

- Such a strategy could result in several benefits:
- Promotion of active living for residents in early stages of development;
- Reduced municipal tendering requirements and potentially some cost savings;
- Protection of municipal standards;
- Reduced pressure from residents for earlier development of facilities in evolving areas;
- A more integrated approach to the development of new communities / neighbourhoods in terms of roads, services, utilities and parks;
- A more linked scheduling of park and open space resources in new areas to the rate of growth in these areas, and potentially reduced pressure on leisure resources in other neighbourhoods that need to support both their local area, as well as emerging neighbourhoods on a transitional basis.

This approach will require further investigation and discussion with the development community. However, that represents an opportunity to address some anticipated challenges for the provision of parks, trails and open space and is increasingly reflective of the expectations of residents in newly developing areas.

Recommendation 10: Developer Responsibilities

That Central Elgin continues assessing how developers could take on a larger role in the preparation of parks, open spaces, and community trails.

4.4.2 Parkland Dedication

Parkland dedication is a mechanism by which municipalities are able to acquire lands to support its parks, open spaces, trails and related developments. A function of the Ontario Planning Act, parkland dedication permits the Municipality to receive up to five percent (5%) of a development's lands for public park purposes or an equivalent value in funds.

Through the years, municipalities and developers have had negotiations as to the type of lands a developer would dedicate including suggestions involving ravine lands, slopes and other non-developable lands as parkland dedications. As it relates to parks and recreation, many of these non-developable lands are not suitable for the desired park functions, such as sports fields, playgrounds, ancillary buildings and trails, or have safety and hazard conditions associated with them. In order to successfully implement the parks classification and parks provision standards, parkland dedication requirements need to secure appropriate lands to support these policies and to ensure the Municipality's park venues meet the needs and aspirations of the residents.

A Parkland Dedication strategy is required to give direction to the negotiations for dedicated parklands. This is also important in light of the fact that Provincial environmental, planning and other initiatives are resulting in increased amounts of lands being deemed non-developable for various reasons, and that municipalities are under pressure to absorb more of these lands as part of the parkland dedication requirements. Such pressure could jeopardize the ability to secure table lands for park-based activities, could result in some parks that are not in the preferred locations and could create a host of potential other challenges.

Recommendation 11: Parkland Dedication

That Central Elgin only accepts parkland dedications that:

- **Meet the park and open space hierarchy and provisioning standards of the Official Plan and the Recreation Master Plan Update.**
- **Effectively support the development of park-based facilities and amenities as per the parks hierarchy development guidelines.**
- **Do not include designated environmentally sensitive areas, significant woodlots, ravine lands, stormwater management ponds and related lands.**
- **That parkland dedication funds would only be taken by the Municipality if the size of dedicated land(s) is too small to support the park and open space provisioning requirements and / or the geographical area is well serviced with parks and open space lands and no additional land requirements are needed.**

- **Ensure that park sizes meet the park development requirements and are efficient to maintain, are accessible to the public, and support active use**

That Central Elgin ensures the following recommended standards are incorporated/remain in its Official Plan:

- **The Municipality shall require the conveyance of land suitable for park and other public recreational purposes as a condition of the subdivision of land or development pursuant to the Planning Act. All conveyances shall be made in accordance with the criteria and standards set out in the Recreation Master Plan Update at the following rates:**
 - **The conveyance for residential and other purposes shall be 5 percent of the land, or one hectare of land for each 300 dwelling units proposed, whichever is greater.**
- **The Municipality may, in lieu of land dedication, require the payment of money by the owner of the land equal to the value of the land conveyance otherwise required under the following circumstances:**
 - **Where the required land dedication fails to provide an area of suitable shape, size or location for development of public parkland. Generally a parcel of land may be considered to be of suitable size if the area is not less than 0.5 hectare;**
 - **Where using the guidelines established in the Recreation Master Plan Update, it is determined that existing park and recreational facilities in the planning area are adequate to serve the projected increase in population.**

4.4.3 Natural Areas

Natural areas within Central Elgin are vital resources. They are extensively used by both residents and visitors for a wide array of recreational activities, primarily on a self-directed basis. Many of these lands are under ownership of local Conservation Authorities and a need exists to ensure that there is a policy framework for the ongoing collaboration in order to ensure that their long-term ecological and environmental viability and their availability as part of the urban form and recreational resources base of the Municipality.

Recommendation 12: Natural Areas

That Central Elgin considers policies and strategies for their natural areas that:

- **Undertake annual discussions with local Conservation Authorities with regard to their ongoing management plans for each site to ensure that lands under their jurisdiction are not negatively impacted and are in harmony with the recreational pursuits of the public.**
- **Encourage and foster existing and additional stewardship partnerships between interested residents, local Conservation Authorities and the Municipality.**

4.4.4 Parks and Open Space Hierarchy

A Parks and Open Space Hierarchy is an effective guide for planning the distribution and servicing of the Municipality's existing and future parks. It is based on commonly accepted criteria that provide the Municipality with classifications suited to its unique situation.

The hierarchy consists of three classifications:

1. Neighbourhood Parks
2. Community Parks
3. Regional Parks

The hierarchy provides a clear separation of traditional park and recreation facilities (sports fields, playgrounds, parking, building, amenities) that have desirable provision standards, and "specialized" facilities that rely on unique natural or recreation resources and / or have vague service standards. This is necessary in order to avoid bias in the provision standard analysis that will serve as a guideline for the distribution of new parks. Though the service level of Regional Parks may be less standardized, it does not mean that these resources are any less important given their ability to draw from outside the Municipality. There is a significant trend in the increasing value of natural heritage and environmental protection. Placing these parks into a single specialized category allows the Municipality the flexibility to develop these resources without being tied to a more limited facility standard.

Provision of traditional park and recreation facilities in the Hierarchy is provided by a straightforward, two-level classification. The categories of Neighbourhood and

Community Parks are clearly differentiated on the basis of size, facilities, provision standards and services areas. As recreational facilities are expensive to develop, the Hierarchy is optimized to meet the essential level of service in each park category, both in park size and facility quantity and quality. The Neighbourhood Parks will provide the basic level of passive and informal activities, which the Community Parks will be the primary source of active recreational facilities.

Recommendation 13: Parks and Open Space Hierarchy

That Central Elgin utilizes the following parks and open space hierarchy:

- 1. Neighbourhood Parks**
- 2. Community Parks**
- 3. Regional Parks**

4.4.5 Parkland Classifications and Criteria

The proposed classifications and recommended criteria are discussed in detail below and summarized in Tables 4-1 to 4-3. The Municipality's parks according to the proposed Classification are shown in Table 4-4.

**Table 4-1
Recommended Criteria – Neighbourhood Parks**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS							
Basic Facility Requirements	Optional Facilities	Access	Service Area	Preferred Size	Service Standards	Identify and Location	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playground ▪ Informal seating area ▪ Open turf area for play ▪ Provide shaded areas (with planting or shade structure) for passive recreation ▪ Park name and signage ▪ Waste receptacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play courts ▪ Play fields ▪ Toboggan hills ▪ Horseshoe pits, etc. ▪ 3-5 feature skate park ▪ Trail linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walking ▪ Cycling 	<p>600 – 1000 m radius or 10-15 minutes of walking, uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers.</p> <p>1000 m radius for urban fringe areas</p> <p>Can be variable depending on specific area development patterns and available parkland, school sites, and other publicly accessible lands</p>	<p>0.5 to 2.5 hectares</p>	<p>0.5ha/1,000 population</p> <p>A balance of active and passive park spaces</p>	<p>Define edges to distinguish from adjacent land use and provide extensive street frontage for safety and visibility.</p> <p>Location to be central to the neighbourhood area it serves, in a way that the service area is not interrupted by major roads and other physical barriers.</p> <p>Screen park from negative adjacent impacts.</p>	<p>Serves one or two neighbourhoods areas</p> <p>Location and facilities should be coordinated with elementary schools where the possibility exists</p>



**Table 4-2
Recommended Criteria – Community Parks**

COMMUNITY PARKS							
Basic Facility Requirements	Optional Facilities	Access	Service Area	Preferred Size	Service Standards	Identity and Location	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To fulfill all requirements as Neighbourhood Parks, ▪ Major playground ▪ At least two competitive level play fields and one play court (basketball, ball hockey, tennis or multi-purpose) ▪ Seating area for viewing ▪ Provision of shade with plating or shade structure ▪ Parking and parking lot lighting ▪ Provision of bike racks ▪ Park name signage ▪ Waste receptacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional play fields or play courts ▪ Splash pads ▪ 5 to 10 feature skate park ▪ Toboggan hills ▪ Natural areas, horticultural displays ▪ Informal activity areas, eg: horseshoe pits, etc. ▪ Informal seating areas ▪ Open turf areas for play ▪ Concession facilities ▪ Washrooms ▪ Play area, play court and play field lighting ▪ Walkway lighting ▪ Informational signage ▪ Trail linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walking ▪ Cycling ▪ Driving 	1.6 km radius in built-up areas; 2.0 km in urban fringe areas	Minimum 4 hectares	2ha/1,000 population Primarily active park spaces with the provision of passive spaces to fulfill the requirements of a neighbourhood / local park where applicable.	<p>Define edges to distinguish from adjacent land use and provide extensive street frontage for safety and visibility.</p> <p>Location to be central to the community it serves and be accessible from a major local road</p> <p>Screen park from negative adjacent impacts.</p> <p>Screen neighbouring residences from negative park impacts (play court lighting etc.) where applicable</p>	<p>Serves identified communities of Belmont and Port Stanley</p> <p>Can serve as a neighbourhood park for hamlet areas</p> <p>Location and facilities should be coordinated with elementary or secondary schools where the possibility exists.</p> <p>Potentially also attracts visitors from other areas of the Municipality or from outside the Municipality</p>

**Table 4-3
Recommended Criteria – Regional Parks**

REGIONAL PARKS							
Basic Facility Requirements	Optional Facilities	Access	Service Area	Preferred Size	Service Standards	Identify and Location	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beaches / Shoreline ▪ Pathways / Trails ▪ Related recreational amenities (i.e. volleyball / basketball courts) ▪ Park signage ▪ Waste receptacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parking as required ▪ Parking lot lighting as required ▪ Washrooms as required ▪ Display info or guide to park facilities where applicable ▪ Trail linkages ▪ Historical Amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walking ▪ Cycling ▪ Driving 	Serves the entire Municipality and County	Size varies depending on land base and purpose	2.5ha/1,000 population	Define edges to distinguish from adjacent land use Location dependent on availability of areas with features these parks can rely on	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreational buildings ▪ Trails ▪ Cultural, Civic and Historic Parks, Memorials, Monuments ▪ Public Gardens, Arboreta ▪ Cemeteries ▪ Conservation Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Natural Areas ▪ River corridor ▪ Shorelines Potentially attracts visitors from outside the Municipality

Neighbourhood Parks are the foundation of the open space system and satisfy the basic open space and recreational needs of the Municipality's residents. They usually service one urban neighbourhood with a recommended service radius of between 600 metres and 1000 metres for built-up areas. They accommodate both passive activities and informal active recreation and serve all age groups of the population. The recommended size range of Neighbourhood Parks is between 0.5 – 2.0 hectares. Their programming should be based on neighbourhood interest preferences and at the minimum, provide areas for passive activities such as sitting, viewing, conversing and contemplating, as well as play areas for children and open turf areas for unstructured active play. Informal active recreational areas in the form of play fields or play courts are optional, and these optional facilities should reflect the needs and preference of the local population. Neighbourhood Parks provide visual relief and add aesthetic quality especially to higher density areas as well as serving as meeting areas for small informal groups. Their location should be central to the neighbourhood they serve, within safe and convenient walking distance for most of the neighbourhood residents and uninterrupted by major thoroughfares or other physical barriers. Neighbourhood Parks are primarily accessible by walking and cycling, thus provision of good local linkages in form of walkways and cycling routes is a key to the success of the park. Their location and facilities could be coordinated with elementary schools where this possibility exists.

Community Parks serve two or more adjacent, urban neighbourhoods or a designated hamlet community and provide for active and passive recreational activities. They have a recommended service area of 1.6 km in built-up areas. They are multipurpose and can offer both passive and active recreational areas for both programmed and non-programmed use. They should offer year round recreational opportunities, where possible. They can accommodate major sports, community and specialized facilities, such as multiple play fields, splash pads, skate parks and play courts. The size of Community Parks will vary according to the nature of proposed facilities, but should be a minimum of 4.0 hectares. Community Parks may also serve as Neighbourhood Parks for their immediate neighbourhood, and should fulfill all the requirements set for Neighbourhood Parks where this opportunity exists. They are accessible by walking, cycling, driving and other means. Good local linkages in the form of walkways and cycling routes are very important. Their location and facilities could be coordinated with a secondary school where this possibility exists and is feasible.

Regional Parks are those that do not fit within the standard, outdoor recreation facilities model, but offer unique, special purposes such as tourist attraction, and large conservation lands. They take advantage of a variety of important resources, such as natural features, shorelines, and areas of unique character. Most notably in Central Elgin, Regional Parks are characterized as lands associated with Lake Erie Shoreline at the Port Stanley beachfront.

The size of these parks will vary depending on the land resource and their facility requirements, and should be decided on an individual basis. It is not expected that new regional areas be added to the assets of the Municipality.

The Parks Hierarchy includes generic facilities provision standards for each relevant class of park along with a minimum recommended park size, to ensure that the required space is available to accommodate current and future facility needs. This will ensure the basic infrastructure of parkland and the essential level of associated facilities that will serve the Municipality for the long term.

Recommendation 14: Parkland Classifications and Criteria

- **That Central Elgin continues to utilize the Parkland Classifications for Neighbourhood Parks, Community Parks and Regional Parks and the associated criteria as outlined in Table 4-1 to 4-3.**

4.4.6 Parkland Classification of Parks

Central Elgin's existing parks and open spaces are assigned to their park categories based on substantial conformance to the size, resource and facility criteria. Table 4-4 profiles the parks and open spaces and their proposed classification, while Schedules A – G provide a visual summary of the parks and recreational resources in Central Elgin.

Table 4-4 – Parks Classification System

Name	Location	Area(Ha)	Ownership	Classification
Archie Coulter Conservation Area	Rural Area	50.69	CCCA Lands	Regional
Dalewood Reservoir Area	Rural Area	188.19	KCCA Lands	Regional
East Harbour	Port Stanley	9.83	Central Elgin	Regional
Little Beach	Port Stanley	0.63	Central Elgin	Regional
Main Beach	Port Stanley	4.45	Central Elgin	Regional
Patterson Bucke Conservation Area	Rural Area	74.77	KCCA Lands	Regional
Springwater Campground	Rural Area	11.81	CCCA Lands	Regional
Union Pond Conservation Area	Union	11.07	KCCA Lands	Regional
West Edith Cavell Beach	Port Stanley	1.01	Central Elgin	Regional
West Harbour	Port Stanley	4.33	Central Elgin	Regional
Belmont Conservation Area	Belmont	7.21	KCCA Lands	Regional
Infrastructure Ontario Soccer Fields	Rural Area	5.57	Infrastructure Ontario	Regional
Yarmouth Natural Heritage	Rural	86.59	CCCA Lands	Regional
Pumphouse Beach	Port Stanley	0.27	Central Elgin	Regional
Barons Court Park	Belmont	0.18	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Beamish Park	Port Stanley	0.11	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Belmont Conservation Area	Belmont	0.96	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Belmont Meadows Park	Belmont	2.30	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Eastwood Park	Eastwood	1.03	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Glover Park	Port Stanley	0.11	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Lawton Park	Union	0.92	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Little Creek Park	Port Stanley	0.87	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Optimist Park	Port Stanley	0.54	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Sparta Ball Diamond Park	Sparta	1.17	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Stanley Park	Port Stanley	0.12	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Stone Church Park	Union	0.10	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Symphony Court Park	Lynhurst	0.30	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Turvey Park	Lynhurst	2.43	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Union Ball Diamond Park	Union	1.98	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Union St Park	Belmont	0.66	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Union St Park	Belmont	0.30	KCCA Lands	Neighbourhood
Water Pumphouse Park	Belmont	0.92	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Why Not Park	Port Stanley	0.06	Central Elgin	Neighbourhood
Lion's Landing	Port Stanley	0.95	Service Club Facility	Neighbourhood
Belmont Community Centre	Belmont	1.18	Central Elgin	Community
Cowan Park	Lynhurst	28.83	City Of St Thomas Lands	Community
Don Yeck Park	Belmont	8.68	Central Elgin	Community
Lions Park	Belmont	0.95	Service Clubs Lands	Community
Port Stanley Community Centre	Port Stanley	1.06	Central Elgin	Community
Selbourne Park	Port Stanley	0.96	Central Elgin	Community
Sparta Community Hall	Sparta	0.50	Service Club Facility	Community
Union Sports Club	Union	0.39	Service Club Facility	Community

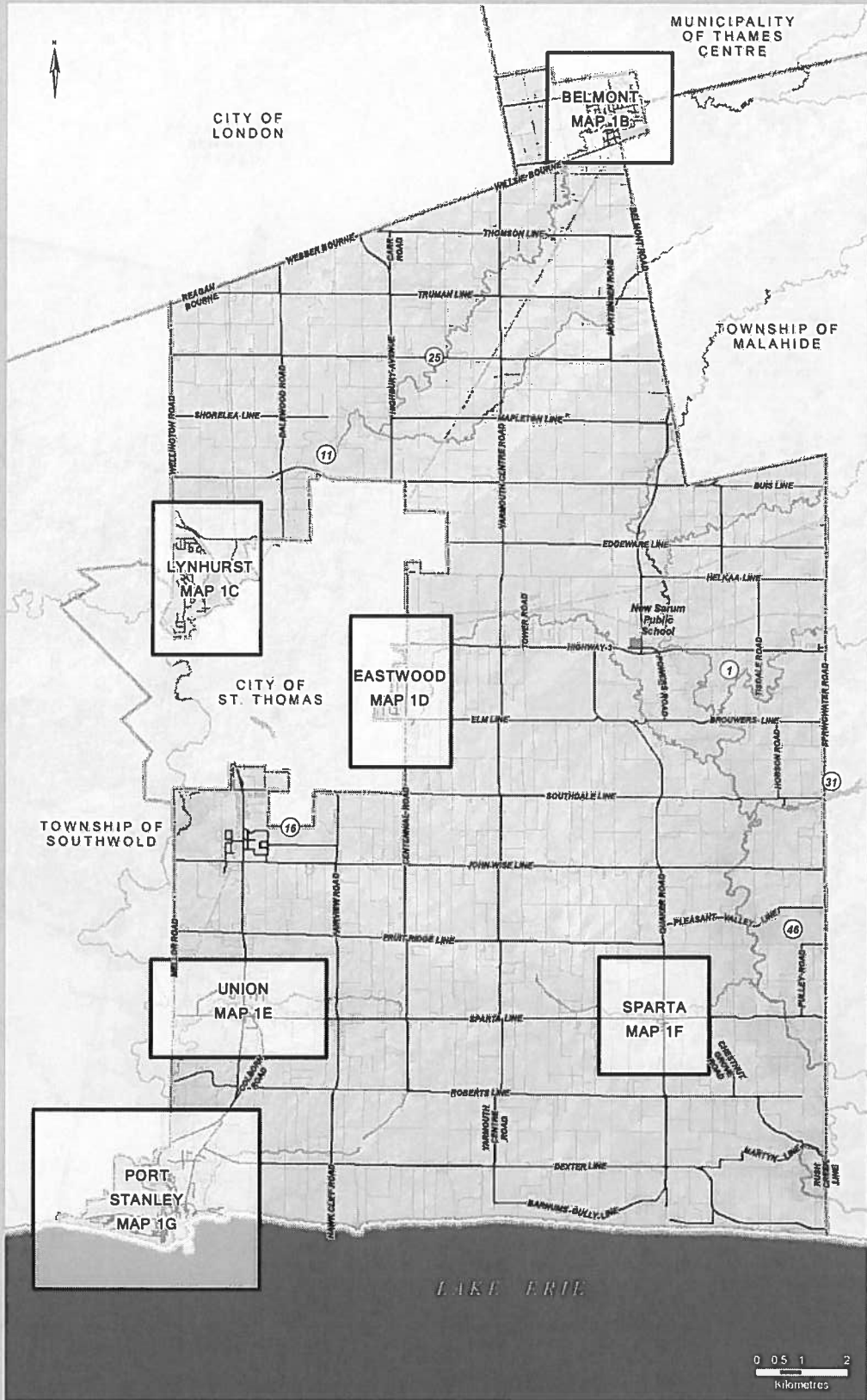


Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

No.	NAME	LOCATION
1	ARCHIE COLTLER CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
2	BARKNS COURT PARK	BELMONT
3	BEAMISH PARK	PORT STANLEY
4	BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE	BELMONT
5	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
6	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
7	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
8	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
9	BELMONT MEADOWS PARK	BELMONT
10	COWAN PARK	LYNHURST
11	DALEWOOD RESERVOIR AREA	RURAL AREA
12	DON YECK PARK	BELMONT
13	EAST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
14	EASTWOOD PARK	EASTWOOD
15	GLOVER PARK	PORT STANLEY
16	INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO SOCCER FIELDS	RURAL AREA
17	LAWTON PARK	UNION
18	LIONS PARK	BELMONT
19	LITTLE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
20	LITTLE CREEK PARK	PORT STANLEY
21	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
22	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
26	PORT STANLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	PORT STANLEY
27	PUMPHOUSE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
28	SELBOURNE PARK	PORT STANLEY
29	SPARTA BALL DIAMOND PARK	SPARTA
30	SPARTA COMMUNITY HALL	SPARTA
31	SPRINGWATER CAMPGROUND	RURAL AREA
32	STANLEY PARK	PORT STANLEY
33	STONE CHURCH PARK	UNION
34	SYMPHONY COURT PARK	LYNHURST
35	TURVEY PARK	LYNHURST
36	UNION BALL DIAMOND PARK	UNION
37	UNION POND CONSERVATION AREA	UNION
38	UNION SPORTS CLUB	UNION
39	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
40	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
41	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
42	WATER PUMPHOUSE PARK	BELMONT
43	WEST EDITH CAVELL BEACH	PORT STANLEY
44	WEST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LION'S LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

 REGIONAL	 NEIGHBOURHOOD	 PUBLIC SCHOOL
 COMMUNITY	 OTHER	

MAP 1A



Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

No.	NAME	LOCATION
1	ARCHE COULTER CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
2	BARONS COURT PARK	BELMONT
3	BEAMISH PARK	PORT STANLEY
4	BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE	BELMONT
5	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
6	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
7	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
8	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
9	BELMONT MEADOWS PARK	BELMONT
10	COWAN PARK	LYNHURST
11	DALEWOOD RESERVOIR AREA	RURAL AREA
12	DON YECK PARK	BELMONT
13	EAST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
14	EASTWOOD PARK	EASTWOOD
15	GLOVER PARK	PORT STANLEY
16	INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO SOCCER FIELDS	RURAL AREA
17	LAWTON PARK	UNION
18	LIONS PARK	BELMONT
19	LITTLE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
20	LITTLE CREEK PARK	PORT STANLEY
21	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
22	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
26	PORT STANLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	PORT STANLEY
27	PUMPHOUSE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
28	SELBOURNE PARK	PORT STANLEY
29	SPARTA BALL DIAMOND PARK	SPARTA
30	SPARTA COMMUNITY HALL	SPARTA
31	SPRINGWATER CAMPGROUND	RURAL AREA
32	STANLEY PARK	PORT STANLEY
33	STONE CHURCH PARK	UNION
34	SYMPHONY COURT PARK	LYNHURST
35	TURVEY PARK	LYNHURST
36	UNION BALL DIAMOND PARK	UNION
37	UNION POND CONSERVATION AREA	UNION
38	UNION SPORTS CLUB	UNION
39	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
40	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
41	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
42	WATER PUMPHOUSE PARK	BELMONT
43	WEST EDITH CAVELL BEACH	PORT STANLEY
44	WEST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LION'S LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

RECREATION ASSETS		SCHOOLS	
	REGIONAL		PUBLIC SCHOOL
	COMMUNITY		
	NEIGHBOURHOOD		
	OTHER		

BELMONT MAP 1B

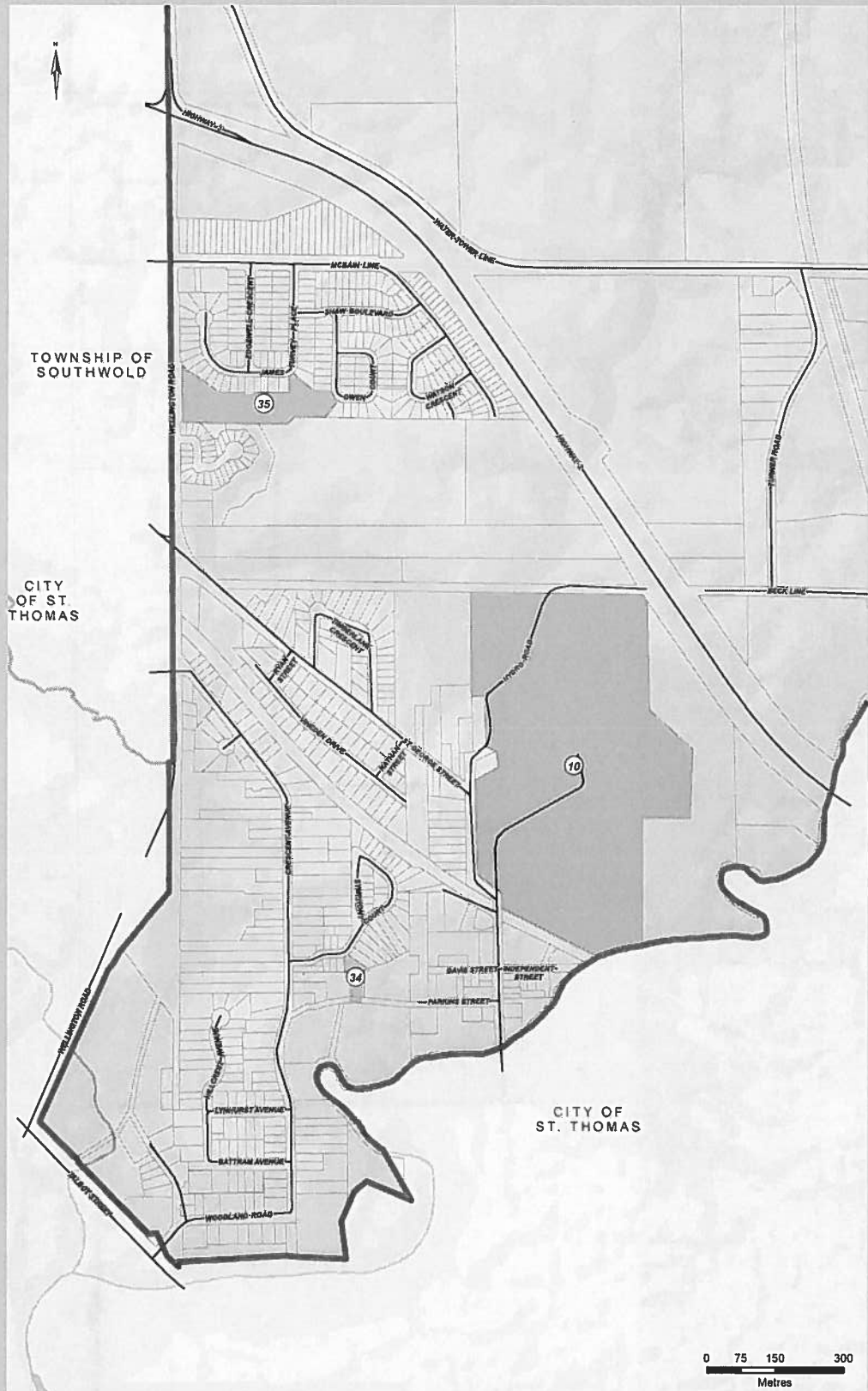


Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

No.	NAME	LOCATION
1	ARCHIE COLLIER CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
2	BARONS COURT PARK	BELMONT
3	BEAMISH PARK	PORT STANLEY
4	BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE	BELMONT
5	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
6	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
7	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
8	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
9	BELMONT MEADOWS PARK	BELMONT
10	COWAN PARK	LYNHURST
11	DALEWOOD RESERVOIR AREA	RURAL AREA
12	DON YECK PARK	BELMONT
13	EAST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
14	EASTWOOD PARK	EASTWOOD
15	GLOVER PARK	PORT STANLEY
16	INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO SOCCER FIELDS	RURAL AREA
17	LAWTON PARK	LYNHURST
18	LIONS PARK	BELMONT
19	LITTLE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
20	LITTLE CREEK PARK	PORT STANLEY
21	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
22	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
26	PORT STANLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	PORT STANLEY
27	PUMPHOUSE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
28	SELBOURNE PARK	PORT STANLEY
29	SPARTA BALL DIAMOND PARK	SPARTA
30	SPARTA COMMUNITY HALL	SPARTA
31	SPRINGWATER CAMPGROUND	RURAL AREA
32	STANLEY PARK	PORT STANLEY
33	STONE CHURCH PARK	LYNHURST
34	SYMPHONY COURT PARK	LYNHURST
35	TURVEY PARK	LYNHURST
36	LYNHURST BALL DIAMOND PARK	LYNHURST
37	LYNHURST POND CONSERVATION AREA	LYNHURST
38	LYNHURST SPORTS CLUB	LYNHURST
39	LYNHURST ST PARK	BELMONT
40	LYNHURST ST PARK	BELMONT
41	LYNHURST ST PARK	BELMONT
42	WATER PUMPHOUSE PARK	BELMONT
43	WEST EDITH CAVELL BEACH	PORT STANLEY
44	WEST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LION'S LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

RECREATION ASSETS

- REGIONAL
- COMMUNITY

- NEIGHBOURHOOD OTHER

SCHOOLS

- PUBLIC SCHOOL

**LYNHURST
MAP 1C**

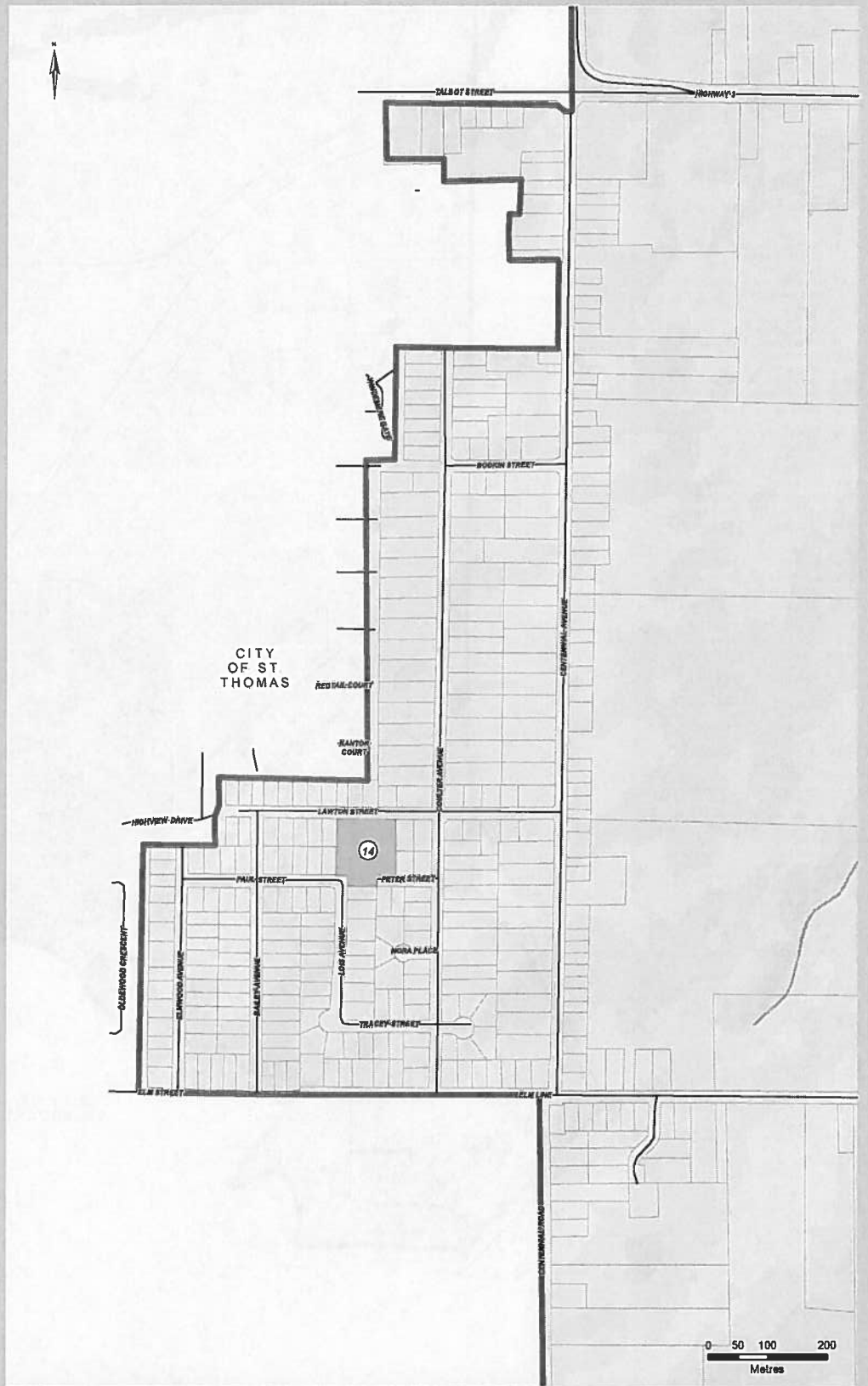


Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

No.	NAME	LOCATION
1	ARCHE COULTER CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
2	BARONS COURT PARK	BELMONT
3	BEAMISH PARK	PORT STANLEY
4	BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE	BELMONT
5	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
6	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
7	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
8	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
9	BELMONT MEADOWS PARK	BELMONT
10	COWAN PARK	LYNHURST
11	DALEWOOD RESERVOIR AREA	RURAL AREA
12	DON YECK PARK	BELMONT
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14	EASTWOOD PARK	EASTWOOD
15	GLOVER PARK	PORT STANLEY
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17	LAWTON PARK	UNION
18	LIONS PARK	BELMONT
19	LITTLE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
20	LITTLE CREEK PARK	PORT STANLEY
21	MAN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
22	MAN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
26	PORT STANLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	PORT STANLEY
27	PUMPHOUSE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
28	SELBOURNE PARK	PORT STANLEY
29	SPARTA BALL DIAMOND PARK	SPARTA
30	SPARTA COMMUNITY HALL	SPARTA
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33	STONE CHURCH PARK	UNION
34	SYMPHONY COURT PARK	LYNHURST
35	TURVEY PARK	LYNHURST
36	UNION BALL DIAMOND PARK	UNION
37	UNION POND CONSERVATION AREA	UNION
38	UNION SPORTS CLUB	UNION
39	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
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41	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
42	WATER PUMPHOUSE PARK	BELMONT
43	WEST EDITH CAVELL BEACH	PORT STANLEY
44	WEST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LIONS LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

RECREATION ASSETS	SCHOOLS
REGIONAL	PUBLIC SCHOOL
COMMUNITY	OTHER
NEIGHBOURHOOD	

EASTWOOD MAP 1D

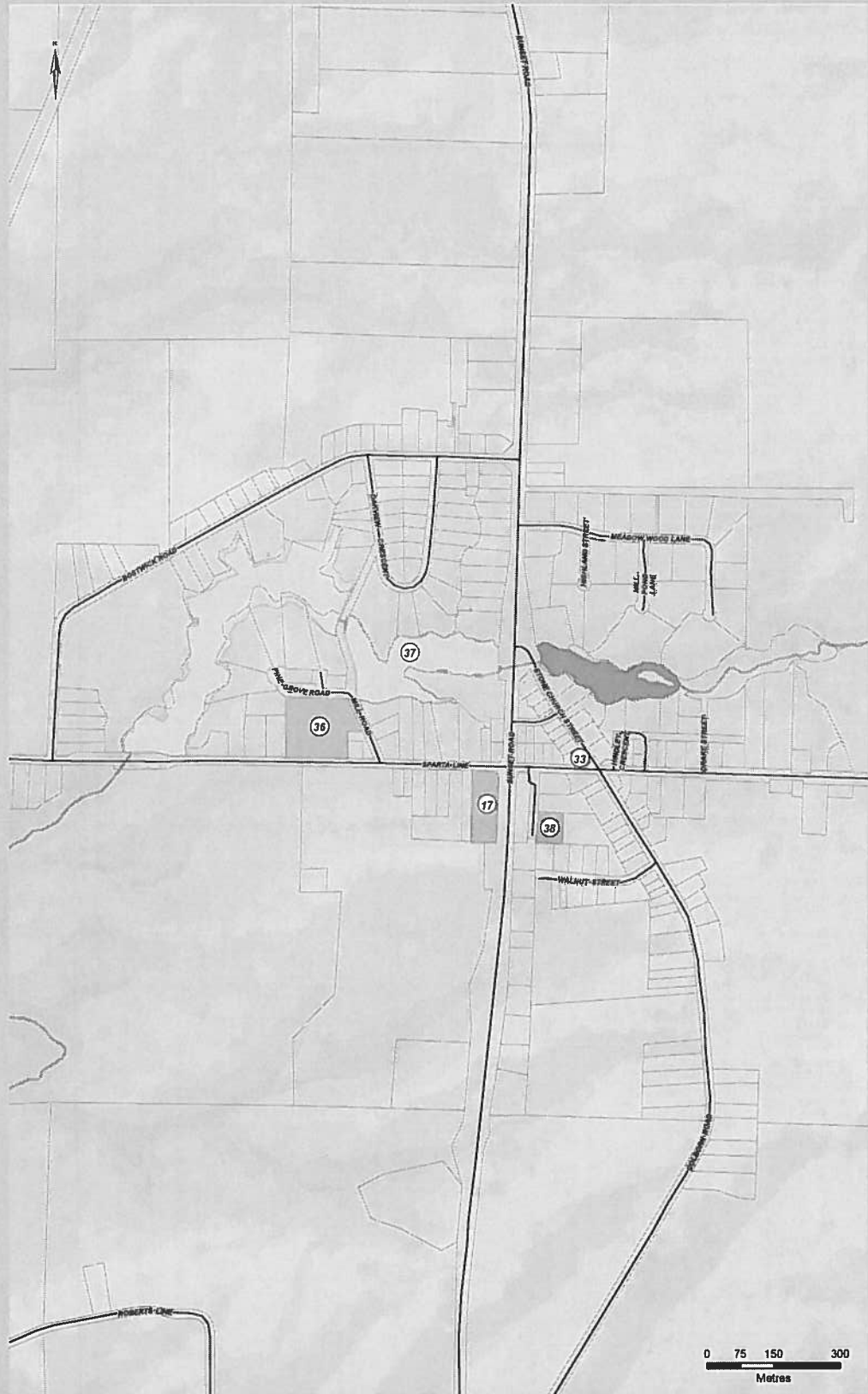


Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

No.	NAME	LOCATION
1	ARCHIE COLLIER CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
2	BARONS COURT PARK	BELMONT
3	BEAMISH PARK	PORT STANLEY
4	BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE	BELMONT
5	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
6	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
7	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
8	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
9	BELMONT MEADOWS PARK	BELMONT
10	COWAN PARK	LYNHURST
11	DALEWOOD RESERVOIR AREA	RURAL AREA
12	DON YECK PARK	BELMONT
13	EAST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
14	EASTWOOD PARK	EASTWOOD
15	GLOVER PARK	PORT STANLEY
16	INFRASTRUCTURE ONTARIO SOCCER FIELDS	RURAL AREA
17	LAWTON PARK	UNION
18	LION'S PARK	BELMONT
19	LITTLE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
20	LITTLE CREEK PARK	PORT STANLEY
21	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
22	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
26	PORT STANLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	PORT STANLEY
27	PUMPHOUSE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
28	SELBOURNE PARK	PORT STANLEY
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34	SYMPHONY COURT PARK	LYNHURST
35	TURVEY PARK	LYNHURST
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37	UNION POND CONSERVATION AREA	UNION
38	UNION SPORTS CLUB	UNION
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40	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
41	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
42	WATER PUMPHOUSE PARK	BELMONT
43	WEST EDITH CAVELL BEACH	PORT STANLEY
44	WEST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LION'S LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

RECREATION ASSETS

- REGIONAL
- COMMUNITY

- NEIGHBOURHOOD OTHER

SCHOOLS

- PUBLIC SCHOOL

**UNION
MAP 1E**

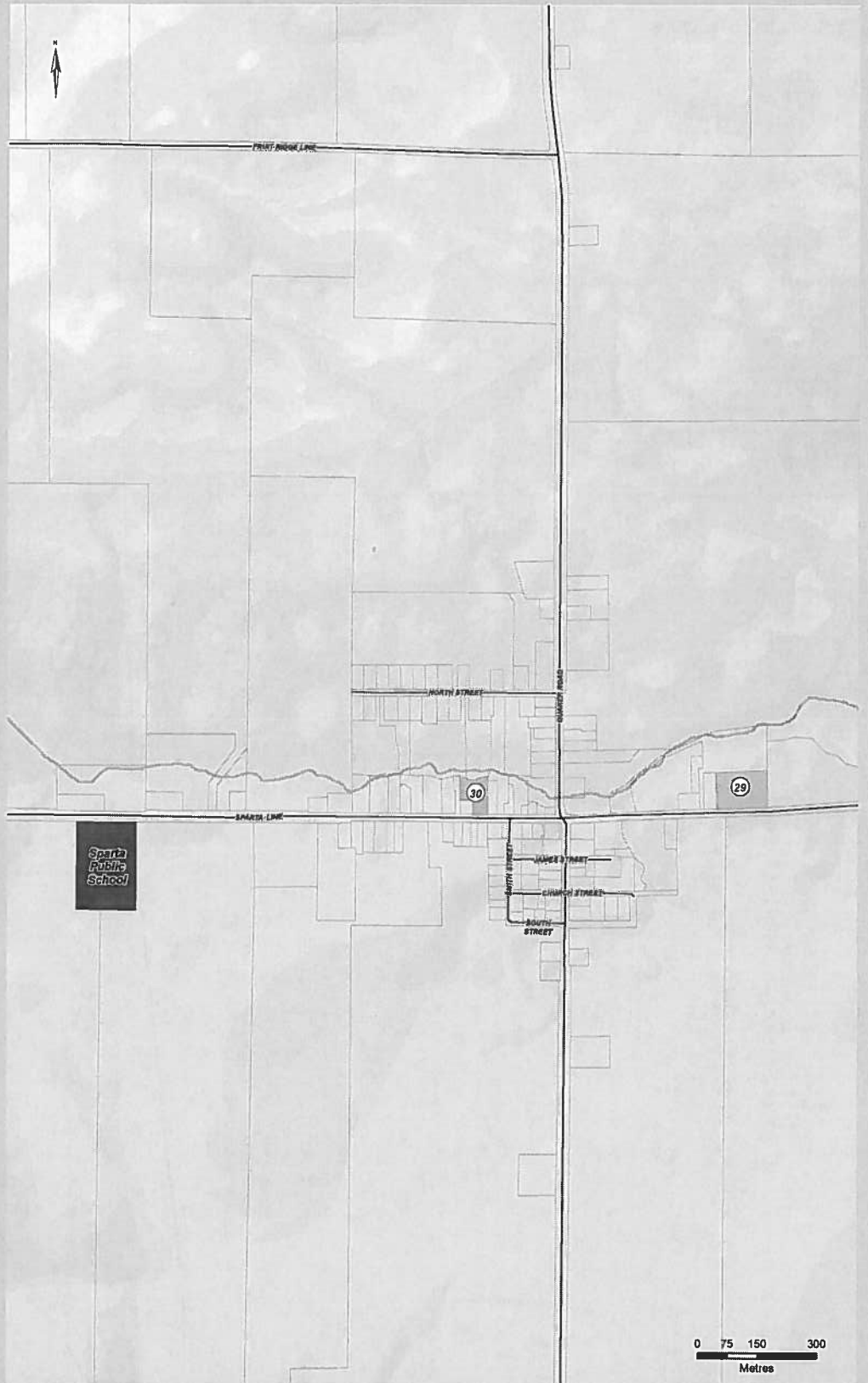


Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

No.	NAME	LOCATION
1	ARCHIE COULTER CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
2	BARONS COURT PARK	BELMONT
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22	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
26	PORT STANLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	PORT STANLEY
27	PUMPHOUSE BEACH	PORT STANLEY
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41	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
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45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LION'S LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

RECREATION ASSETS

- REGIONAL
- COMMUNITY

- NEIGHBOURHOOD
- OTHER

SCHOOLS

- PUBLIC SCHOOL

SPARTA
MAP 1F

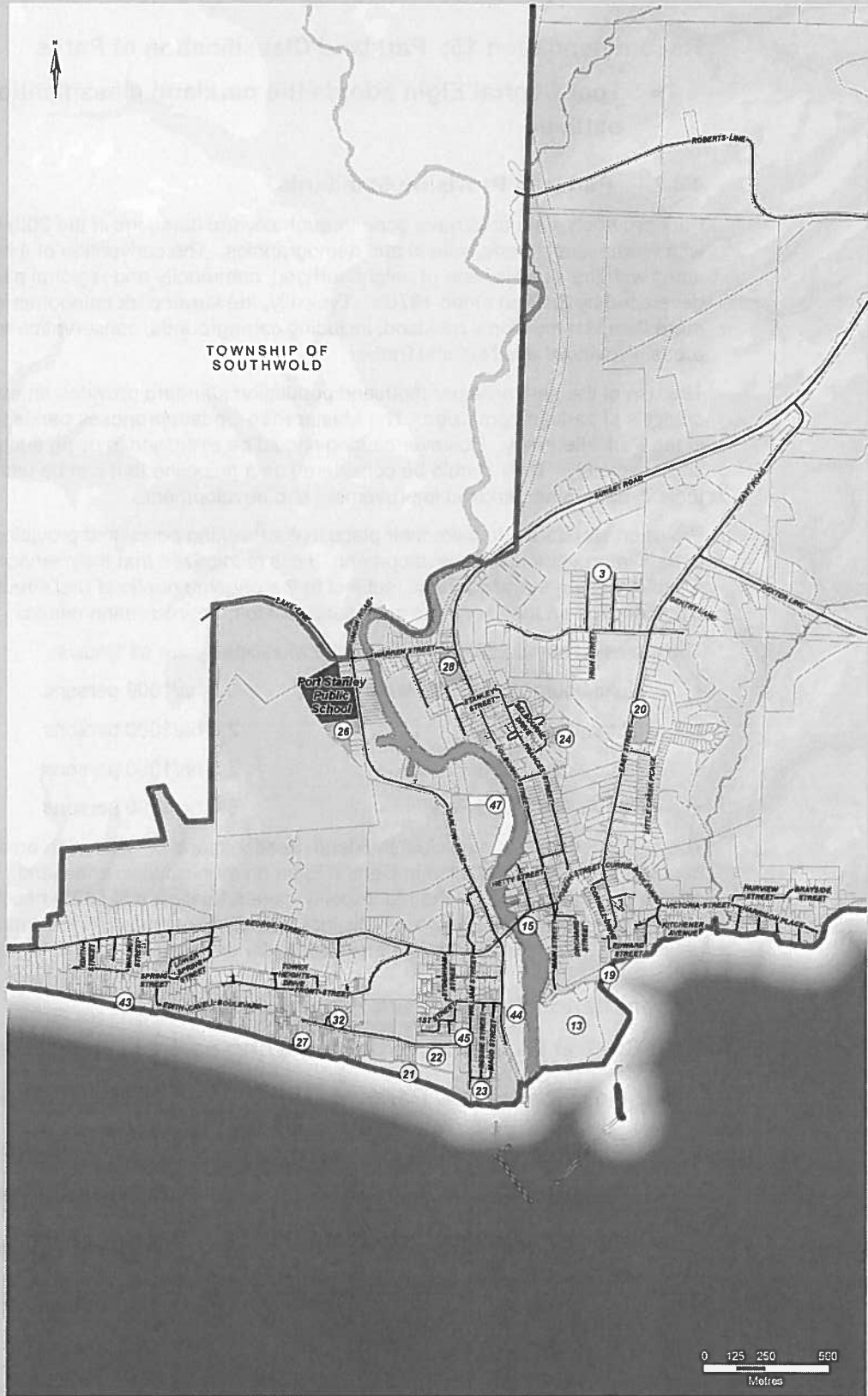


Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

RECREATION INVENTORY

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7	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
8	BELMONT CONSERVATION AREA	BELMONT
9	BELMONT MEADOWS PARK	BELMONT
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20	LITTLE CREEK PARK	PORT STANLEY
21	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
22	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
23	MAIN BEACH	PORT STANLEY
24	OPTIMIST PARK	PORT STANLEY
25	PATTERSON BUCKE CONSERV AREA	RURAL AREA
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33	STONE CHURCH PARK	UNION
34	SYMPHONY COURT PARK	LYNHURST
35	TURVEY PARK	LYNHURST
36	UNION BALL DIAMOND PARK	UNION
37	UNION POND CONSERVATION AREA	UNION
38	UNION SPORTS CLUB	UNION
39	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
40	UNION ST PARK	BELMONT
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42	WATER PUMPHOUSE PARK	BELMONT
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44	WEST HARBOUR	PORT STANLEY
45	WHY NOT PARK	PORT STANLEY
46	YARMOUTH NATURAL HERITAGE AREA	RURAL AREA
47	LION'S LANDING	PORT STANLEY



LEGEND

RECREATION ASSETS

- REGIONAL
- NEIGHBOURHOOD
- COMMUNITY
- OTHER

SCHOOLS

- PUBLIC SCHOOL

PORT STANLEY MAP 1G

Recommendation 15: Parkland Classification of Parks

- **That Central Elgin adopts the parkland classification of parks as outlined.**

4.4.7 Parkland Provision Standards

Park provision standards have gone through several iterations in the 20th century to keep pace with recreational trends, values and demographics. The convention of 4 ha/1000 population along with the classification of neighbourhood, community and regional parks was well developed by the end of the 1970's. Typically, the larger park categories would encompass more than just municipal parkland, including campgrounds, conservation areas, large natural areas, Provincial and National Parks.

The use of the park area per thousand population standard provides an easy and simple analysis of parkland provision. The Master Plan Update proposes parkland provision standards in the Park Hierarchy. However caution should be exercised in using such standards exclusively and absolutely. They should be considered as a guideline that can be used as one of several tools to determine parkland improvement and development.

Provision standards do have their place in establishing policy and providing direction and priority to park improvement and development. If it is recognized that they service as the foundation for establishing a general parkland, subject to the ongoing needs of and direction from the community, then they serve as a valuable tool to meet recreation needs.

The provision standards proposed for the Municipality are as follows:

- Neighbourhood / Local Parks 0.5 ha/1000 persons
- Community Parks 2.0 ha/1000 persons
- Specialized Parks 2.5 ha/1000 persons
- TOTAL Municipal Parkland 5.0 ha/1000 persons

The combined total of municipal parkland, beaches, and conservation areas is a rate of 3.5 hectares per 1000 population in Central Elgin on municipally owned land. Comparatively, both private and public lands in the Municipality have a total area of 513.5 hectares, with a ratio of 40.4 hectares per 1,000 persons. This includes conservation authority lands, private community parks (i.e. Cowan Park, Infrastructure Ontario lands), and service facility clubs.

Recommendation 16: Park Provision Standards

That Central Elgin adopts the following park provision standards:

- **Neighbourhood Parks 0.5 ha/1000 persons**
- **Community Parks 2.0 ha/1000 persons**
- **Regional Parks 2.5 ha/1000 persons**
- **TOTAL Municipal Parkland 5.0 ha/1000 persons**

4.4.8 Community Trails

Recreation trails are a valued part of the parks and open space resources. They provide opportunities for passive non-structured outdoor experiences. The trail systems development aligns with the changing demographics of older outdoor participants and increasing awareness of outdoor environmental activities. Presently trails are limited in Central Elgin to local ad-hoc trails, and to areas within conservation authority ownership. The County of Elgin is preparing an Active Transportation Master Plan, with routes proposed on and off roads within Central Elgin and County-wide.

The development and use of municipal trails is important in providing community access and the ability to link various parks within the community. The relationship between the trails and the parks is twofold. Firstly the park system creates a destination for the start or end of a trail system and secondly, they provide support locations for vehicles, trail signage, rest stops, washrooms and related support facilities. The future development of the trail network will focus on providing trail connections to park locations, schools, community centres and other major sport fields' locations.

Lastly, future development of municipal trails should provide linkages to the routes proposed within the County of Elgin Active Transportation Master Plan. While community trails provide linkages between parks, community centres, and other major facilities, ensuring linkages to regional routes ensures that communities are connected by way of active transportation.

Recommendation 17: Trails

That Central Elgin support and invest in the following trails action plan

- **Where residential, commercial or industrial areas are being proposed or redeveloped consideration be given to opportunities for trail system through these areas towards adjacent amenities, residential areas, and routes identified in the County of Elgin Active Transportation Master Plan.**
- **Initiate the preparation of a Trails Master Plan.**

5 Specific Recreation Master Plan Update Initiatives

5.1 Introduction

Based on the research, consultation, the visioning session with Council and other inputs, the following specific project initiatives are identified for consideration by Central Elgin between 2014 and 2020 within the Recreation Master Plan Update. The timing, scale and related perspectives will be subject to capital financing availability, possible need for business plans as per policy, the completion of environmental assessments where needed, potential partner engagements and related considerations on a project by project basis.

5.2 Community Trails

Community trails were identified by the consultation participants as one of the most significant, popular and valued resources in Central Elgin. With walking being far and away the number one recreation and leisure activity, and with the significant health benefits that can be derived from walking, hiking, cycling and related trail uses, trails have become a popular and fundamental part of the parks and recreation system within any community. The development of trails has evolved with increasing importance on loops of various lengths to support the differentiated needs of seniors, younger people, families, etc.; the need for signage and trail markers, such as distance markers; the use of interpretative boards to bring additional benefit and value to the trail experience; the development of trail heads with mapping, parking, garbage receptacles and other supports; and the development of trails with hard surfaces to support accessibility for wheelchairs, walkers, motorized scooters and related perspectives.

Increasingly trails are also seen as a year around activity and as supporting Active Transportation Strategies, which results in the potential need for winter maintenance at least on selected trail sections, and the need for a range of other maintenance supports from the collection of garbage, the cutting of grass along select spots on a limited basis, the remaining of deadfall and repair washouts and related use considerations.

To support the growth in trail use, an expansion of the trail system and the enhancement of the amenities and capacities of the community trails available in Central Elgin, is recommended via the development of a Community Trail Master Plan be developed.

Lastly, the development of community trails in Central Elgin should be cognizant of established or planned routes as a result of the County of Elgin Active Transpiration Mater Plan. Linkages should be established to and from any such routes as a result of the County Plan.

Recommendations 18: Community Trail Master Plan

- **That Central Elgin develops of a Ten Year Community Trail Master Plan which will provide recommendations on the following considerations:**

- **Future trail development initiatives (new and extensions of existing) by year of implementation, including linkages to the trails and routes identified in the County of Elgin Active Transportation Master Plan.**
- **Trail standards in terms of surfaces, widths and related design details.**
- **A Trail's amenities program involving distance markers, trailhead development and locations with a minimum of one trail head in each of Port Stanley, Belmont, Lynhurst and Eastwood;**
- **Potential interpretive sites and related educational and stewardship elements.**
- **A proposed maintenance program in terms of grass, garbage collection, surveillance to determine problems and issues, winter access, surface and perimeter maintenance and related considerations.**

5.3 Port Stanley Area

The Port Stanley area of Central Elgin is unique, has a larger population and well developed infrastructure of parks and recreation services. There are also some unique opportunities emerging relative to the development of the East Berm area. What is also vitally important in the consideration of future parks and recreation development initiatives in Port Stanley is how these initiatives can support both resident parks and recreation participation opportunities and the area's tourism economic development.

Based on the visioning session, community input and review of the current facilities, along with the harbour development opportunities, the following recommendations are provided.

Recommendation 19: Port Stanley Area Initiatives

That following the completion of an Environmental Assessment, actively pursue the development of the East Berm area, including the following as a partial list of features:

- **Picnic pavilion**
- **Splash pad**
- **Related amenities and urban design enhancements**

That additional initiatives in the Port Stanley area include:

- **Continuing harbour urban design and open space development initiatives as property and resources are available**

- **A dog park area**
- **Creation of local trails and walkways for year round access and enjoyment, connected to the broader community trail network**
- **Potential support for, but within a non-operational role for the Municipality, of an outdoor skating rink, cross country ski trails and related enhancements that would support both residential and tourism activities.**
- **Considerations to be given to not maintaining the Emery Street Park which is owned by Infrastructure Ontario.**

That the Municipality assess opportunities over time to enhance user experience in consultation with the community members with regard to the Sparta Ball Diamond Park and the Union Ball Diamond Park.

The harbour development opportunity is unique and significant. It has the opportunity through the course of a long term development timeframe to add significant park and recreation infrastructure to the area that would support both resident interests and tourism development. The harbour development strategy should be developed in concert with tourism, harbour, local resident and environmental perspectives interests.

The Beamish Street site, south of Beamish Park, is not owned by but has been maintained by the Municipality. It is not a park that has particularly good access or broad community use. The Municipality should reconsider its role with respect to the maintenance of this site, and whether other options for maintenance or alternate uses should be considered with the owner, Infrastructure Ontario.

Also in the community consultation, the business community and tourism operators identified interest in winter type activities that may attract tourism through the winter season and broaden the overall tourism window in Port Stanley which is currently summer based. The Municipality could play a facilitation role relative to an outdoor skating, cross country skiing and related activities. However, the Municipality should not move past a facilitation role in terms of providing some logistical supports and where possible land. The full development and operation of such facilities and their associated activities should reside with the business aligned organizations who have a direct interest in these types of activities and services.

5.4 Belmont Area

The Belmont area continues to grow, has a uniquely different age profile focused more on younger families and has had some important parks and recreation investments made in recent years, such as the splash pad, soccer fields and related activities.

Based on the community consultation and visioning perspectives, the following recommendations are identified:

Recommendation 20: Belmont Area

- **Complete the opening of the Don Yeck Park pavilion with its washrooms, storage and related areas.**

- **Consider the possibility of a crosswalk across Belmont Road connecting to the HUB.**
- **Work with the HUB and the Belmont community to examine the possible upgrading of Union Street Park via the adding of washrooms, lights and related elements that would support both HUB activities and ensure community access.**

One of the considerations relative to the Belmont area, is the Union Street Park. There is an emerging entity the HUB, that use a community building to provide programs in the Belmont area. A request has been made that the adjoining Union Street Park be upgraded to support the HUB's programming. A key question that will need to be considered by the Municipality is whether the upgrade is for the HUB only, or is it a community resource? Municipal representatives need to work with the HUB's Board of Directors to ascertain what the actual needs are and what the community accessibility would be to these facilities before a longer term strategy is implemented.

5.5 Lynhurst Area

Lynhurst is a growing residential area abutting the southern boundary of the City of St. Thomas. It has Turvey Park, a neighbourhood park and Cowan Park, a larger community resource, within its boundaries. Cowan Park is a significantly larger park, owned by the City of St. Thomas and has trails, sports fields and related activities. The Lynhurst area is also relatively close to the Infrastructure Ontario Lands, i.e.: former St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, which has a significant array of soccer fields.

New subdivision development is forecasted for the area that could add over 150 homes on a longer term basis. Additional park development will be required to support both existing and future residents. The following recommendations are provided with respect to park and trail development in Lynhurst.

Recommendation 21: Lynhurst Area

- **That two acres of land be secured through Parkland Dedication requirements from developers to expand Turvey Park in the Jacklin Subdivision development. The park development should consider the following activity elements based on further community consultation:**
 - **Enhanced playground structure and area;**
 - **Recreation level sports field;**
 - **Open areas for free play;**
 - **Neighbourhood level skate park;**
 - **Other elements that may emerge from detail community consultation.**

- **That the Trail Master Plan ensures that there are linkages to the Lynhurst area for both the spinal network as well as a looping trail that connects with area sports fields and with the trails in Cowan Park.**

5.6 Eastwood Area

Eastwood is a residential area in proximity to the City of St. Thomas that has and will experience some growth over the next number of years. It is anticipated it will have more of a young family, demographic profile. The further development of Eastwood Park will be important in meeting the needs of both current and future residents with development proposed similar to Lawton Park.

Recommendation 22: Eastwood Area

- **That the Municipality provide picnic tables, develop a shade pavilion and add shade trees and other vegetation to enhance the overall park use opportunities as well as provide more positive user experiences, including the provision for a multi-use hard surface feature (i.e. basketball, ball hockey)**
- **That linkages and trails are established from Eastwood Park to the surrounding residential community.**

6 Implementation Framework

6.1 Implementation Charts

Table 6-1, Implementation Framework, profiles the parks and recreation specific recommendations from Section 5.0 of the Master Plan Update related to their implementation. This table provides specific facility identifications, the year or range of years for their development, rationales, strategy alternatives and preliminary capital cost estimates.

6.2 Capital and Operating Financial Considerations

6.2.1 Capital Costs and Funding Sources

The implementation charts for the specific resource-based recommendations of the Master Plan Update identify preliminary estimated costs. These are 2014 cost projections developed at a master planning level. The final capital costs will be contingent on a series of further considerations:

- Actual locations that are selected and the cost of the land that will exist at the time if acquisition is required.
- The inflated value of the capital costs based on the timing of the development in future years.
- The final design and scope of the projects based on business plans and consultation with users and the community.
- Opportunities and decisions associated with any partnership-related development strategies that could increase and / or decrease unit costs to develop these facilities.

In terms of capital sources, the following sources need to be considered based on the Master Plan Update's support:

- The next generation of the Municipality's Development Charges By-law should recognize large parks and recreation facilities relative to the proportion of these facilities that are growth-related.
- Capital grants should be sourced from senior levels of government related to infrastructure and other programs that may have eligibility related to these facilities.
- Community organization and community fundraising initiatives, particularly for facilities that have targeted audiences, such as soccer, etc. who receive an enhanced benefit from the availability of such a facility. The actual level of community fundraising and user support will need to be negotiated through the business planning process.
- Partnerships with service clubs, community groups, service providers and others who may be able to contribute capital funds and / or source grants for specialized populations such as seniors, those with physical and intellectual disabilities, new Canadians, early years and related potential user audiences. Also, consideration could be given to working with groups, such as the YMCA and other groups that have a history of moving services out into local communities within partnership frameworks.

- Corporate naming and related sponsorship strategies and the use of capital surcharges should be considered and utilized as appropriate.
- Direct municipal support through capital grant, debentures or other strategies.

6.3 Plan Review

It is important to periodically review the Recreation Master Plan Update in relation to the continually evolving parks and recreation services operating in Central Elgin. It is important to consider short, medium and long range reviews, each addressing the relevant priorities within that time horizon.

Recommendation 23 – Plan Review

That the Recreation Master Plan Update be reviewed in terms of Table 6-1 every year in order to maintain an active list of recommendations before Council, the community and staff on an ongoing basis, and as related to the Municipality’s multi-year capital forecasting program.

That the Recreation Master Plan Update be part of a planning session / workshop involving Council and staff every three to four years, to undertake a review of the recommendations in relation to the changes occurring in the service delivery environment, emerging services trends, municipal financing opportunities / constraints, priorities and other parameters.

That the Recreation Master Plan Update in 2020 be subject to a major review to evaluate whether the long-term perspectives remain focused on the key trends and rationale, or whether new considerations have emerged resulting in a need to redevelop the Plan in whole or in part.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT	ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COSTS	PARTNERSHIPS
Central Elgin	Development of ten year Master Plan for trail segments, trail heads, amenities, design detail, etc.	2015	\$50,000 \$30,000 TO \$50,000 in capital investment per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Development Charges Municipality 	Possibility of Adopt a Trail Program
Port Stanley				
East Berm Development	Splash pad, pavilion and landscaping	As per site Master Plan and Environmental Assessment Report 2015 – 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined Harbour development funding as may be available 	To be determined
Harbour West Side	Boat Ramp Urban design enhancements	Ongoing	As per partnership strategy As land and funds available	Partners Business and Community Groups
Belmont Area				
Finalize opening of park pavilion Crosswalk and Union Street Park Redevelopment	Washrooms, storage, etc. Safety considerations for crossing County Road Community access to park enhancements	2014 2015 2015-2017	Completed With County To be determine based on site plan consultation and discussions	
Lynhurst Area				
Turvey Park Expansion	Two acres via Parkland Dedication Site development consultation planning and implementation	2015-2020 To follow	\$100,000 to \$150,000 for development Development Charges Parkland Dedication Funds Municipality	
Community Trail Connections	To Central Elgin and Cowan Park	As per Community Trails Master Plan	As per Community Trails Master Plan	
Eastwood Area				
Enhancement of Eastwood Park	Shade shelter / pavilion/hard surface	2015 to 2017	\$50,000	

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT	ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COSTS	PARTNERSHIPS
	Playground structure			
	Open Play Areas		Development Charges	
	Trail Connections		Parkland Dedication Funds	
			Municipality	
			Ontario Trillium Foundation	
Marketing and Communication			\$10,000 to \$20,000 initially	
Community Information Portal	Use Municipal website for comprehensive information source	2015	\$5,000 per year to support	
			Municipality	
			Possible Ontario Trillium Foundation if undertaken via a community group	

APPENDIX I

Summary of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE NUMBER
Section 4 - Parks and Recreation Services Policies and Strategies	
Recommendation 1: Parks and Recreation Services Delivery Policy	4-1
Recommendation 2: Core Parks and Recreation Services	4-4
Recommendation 3: Partnership and Joint Ventures	4-5
Recommendation 4: Volunteers	4-6
Recommendation 5: Business Plan	4-7
Recommendation 6: Marketing and Community Development	4-8
Recommendation 7: Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning	4-9
Recommendation 8: Major Parks and Recreation Facilities Development	4-11
Recommendation 9: Fees and Charges	4-12
Recommendation 10: Developer Responsibilities	4-13
Recommendation 11: Parkland Dedication	4-13
Recommendation 12: Natural Areas	4-14
Recommendation 13: Parks and Open Space Hierarchy	4-15
Recommendation 14: Parkland Classifications and Criteria	4-19
Recommendation 15: Parkland Classification of Parks	4-21
Recommendation 16: Park Provision Standards	4-21
Recommendation 17: Trails	4-22
Section 5 - Specific Recreation Master Plan Initiatives	
Recommendation 18: Community Trail Master Plan	5-23
Recommendation 19: Port Stanley Area Initiatives	5-24
Recommendation 20: Belmont Area	5-25
Recommendation 21: Lynhurst Area	5-26
Recommendation 22: Eastwood Area	5-27
Section 6 - Implementation Framework	
Recommendation 23 – Plan Review	6-2