



Township of Rideau Lakes | September 2024
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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Cover photo: Newboro Memorial Park

Acknowledgements

The Project Team extends its sincere gratitude to all those who played a vital role in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Our appreciation goes to the dedicated team at the Township of Rideau Lakes, whose insights and commitment throughout the planning process were instrumental.

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We also acknowledge and thank the community members who actively participated by providing feedback through the planning process. Your voices played a critical role in informing this plan.

We are truly grateful for the collaborative spirit that spread through this entire process. With the foundation laid by these contributions, we look forward to a new vision and framework for the Township of Rideau Lakes' parks and recreation landscape.

Sincerely,

Kim Goodman & Kevin Lee

Executive Summary

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Township of Rideau Lakes kicked off in September 2023 outlining a strategic approach to enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The process involved detailed facility assessments and extensive public consultations that engaged residents, key stakeholders and small focus groups through surveys and one-on-one meetings to gather input and ensure community needs are addressed. The Background Report was then created and presented to Council in February 2024. The plan aims to improve quality of life, promote health and wellness, and foster community engagement through well-planned, sustainable recreation facilities and programs.

Please see the summary of key findings, strategic directions and recommendations below.

Strategic Directions

Three strategic directions are included within the plan. All recommendations and actions support achieving these goals for the Township of Rideau Lakes:

Create a Recreation Destination



- Mixed-use hubs
- Quality indoor facilities
- Support for tourism and economic development

Deliver Strong Programs, Services, and Asset Management



- Diverse, inclusive, and accessible program options
- Effective communications and engagement
- Strategic investment in municipal assets

Invest in Trails to Connect People and the Outdoors



- Safe and accessible trails
- All season active transportation
- Connecting communities and the natural environment

Recommendations and Actions

There are a total of 36 recommendations in this plan. Some may be accomplished within months; however, it is worth noting that there are recommendations and actions that will only be achieved over a much longer period.

Facility Development and Upgrades

- **Upgrade Existing Parks:** Improve amenities such as playgrounds, walking trails, and sports fields to meet current standards and community needs.

Program Expansion

- **Youth and Senior Programs:** Develop targeted programs for youth engagement and senior wellness, including after-school activities, and senior fitness classes.
- **Pickleball Strategy:** commit to a pickleball/indoor/outdoor court strategy, which will ensure that communities across the township have access to multi-purpose use of sports courts. The strategy will also serve as a reference guide for future management, oversight, and development of all pickleball and sports courts.

Outdoor Recreation Initiatives

- **Promote outdoor activities** like hiking, cycling, fishing, and camping through community-led programs and events.

- **Partnerships with Local Organizations:** Collaborate with schools, health agencies, and local businesses to co-sponsor events and programs.

- **Natural Environment Stewardship & Conservation:** Preserve natural areas and integrate eco-friendly practices in facility development and maintenance.
- **Sustainable Design Practices:** Use environmentally sustainable materials and energy-efficient technologies in new constructions and renovations

Funding Strategies

Some strategies to support plan implementation are identified below. More information can be found in section 6.

Government Grants and Subsidies

- Apply for provincial and federal grants aimed at rural development, health promotion, and environmental conservation.

Private Sector Partnerships

- Seek sponsorship and donations from local businesses and industries.

Community Fundraising

- Organize fundraising events and campaigns to engage the community and raise additional funds.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This plan covers the timeframe of 2024 to 2030. To ensure successful implementation and that the plan remains relevant over this timeframe the following actions are recommended:

Performance Metrics

- Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor facility usage, program participation, and community satisfaction.

Annual Reviews

- Conduct annual reviews of the master plan to assess progress, address challenges, and update goals and actions as necessary.

Community Feedback

- Continuously gather and analyze feedback from residents to ensure the plan remains responsive to their needs and expectations.

Reporting

- Provide regular reports to the community and stakeholders on the progress and outcomes of the master plan implementation.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets forth a comprehensive vision to enhance the recreational landscape of the community of the Township of Rideau Lakes. By prioritizing accessibility, health, economic development, and environmental sustainability, this plan aims to create vibrant, engaging, and inclusive recreational opportunities that enrich the lives of all residents. Through strategic planning, community collaboration, and effective resource management, we are committed to fostering a healthy, active, and connected community.

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1.0 Introduction

The Township of Rideau Lakes is a vibrant collection of rural communities with unique programs, activities, and events to offer. With beautiful outdoor amenities to support hiking, boating, and fishing, visitors and residents can explore a rich local heritage that is rooted in recreation and wellness.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan positions the Township of Rideau Lakes to take a proactive approach in enhancing recreational opportunities throughout its communities. The Plan reflects data and information gathered through public consultations including community surveys, one-on-one interviews with residents and stakeholders, and an extensive facility assessment brought forward through the Background Report (February 2024).

The Plan is structured to respond to thematic areas that were identified in the Background Report including service delivery, health and wellbeing, natural environment, and asset management. Recommendations and corresponding actions within each theme leverage the Township's existing strengths, like outdoor recreation and the natural environment, while addressing opportunities and challenges, such as gaps in communication and climate change



Newboro Memorial Park

considerations. They also aim to unify the Township in its developmental approach to recreation while preserving the charm of each village and hamlet. By focusing on these established themes, the Plan paves a clear pathway for recreational growth and development.

Community feedback provided a strong guiding voice for the structure of this Plan; residents emphasized the value of green space and parks as well as the positive reputation of recreation staff, while highlighting areas for improvement like developing a communication strategy to share engagement opportunities across the municipality. Additionally, there is a growing demographic of adults and older adults seeking recreational experiences tailored to their interests. Future planning will thus prioritize areas like court sports, fitness, outdoor and wellness, and social activities. Water-based programs will also join the list of priorities to capitalize on the Township's natural assets.

Economic development is also interwoven throughout the Plan – community-oriented events, fostering social connections, and attracting tourism will be the keys to success. Events that align with community capacity and celebrate the unique offerings of Rideau Lakes will be prioritized in the years to come.

Lastly, the Plan includes recommendations for monitoring and evaluating performance metrics. This includes regular reviews of strategic goals to ensure alignment with community needs throughout the implementation process.

A framework for implementation has been included in the Appendices. The framework includes a full listing of recommendations and actions organized by short, medium, and long-term goals for the community.

2.0 Project Description

2.1 About the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

The Township of Rideau Lakes Parks and Recreation Master Plan was due for renewal. The last plan served for the term of 2014-2019 and an update is required to reflect current community needs. This update establishes a strategic policy document to guide parks and recreation services through to 2030 and is inclusive of recreational programs, parks, and facilities.

2.2 Project Goals

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will:

1. Help solidify a vision for the future of parks and recreation services for the Township of Rideau Lakes; synthesize information from all sources including existing guiding documents, local priorities, and the regional context to anticipate and prepare for emerging issues and trends.
2. Provide strategic direction and actions through to 2030 in the form of short, medium, and long-term goals and priorities.
3. Identify potential partners, sponsors, and external funding opportunities to support strategic financial goals.
4. Establish a wholistic approach to parks and recreation services including programs, parks, and facilities.
5. Create an implementation strategy to support delivery of recommendations.
6. Offer tools for continuous monitoring and evaluation.

2.3 Project Approach

The Parks and Recreation Plan Update was a three-phase project to assess current services, identify opportunities, and create a prioritized action plan:

- Phase 1 (Sept 2023-Jan 2024): Gathers information through surveys, studies, and community engagement.
- Phase 2 (Feb 2024): Analyzes information and prioritizes actions based on opportunities and community needs.
- Phase 3 (March 2024): Creates a final plan with prioritized actions, recommendations, and evaluation tools.



1: Information Gathering

- Project initiation
- Information gathering
- Background Report



2: Analysis

- Identify opportunities and actions
- Create implementation framework



3: Parks and Recreation Plan Update

- Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Council presentation

3.0 Mission, Vision, Values Statement

Guiding statements were developed through learning conversations with staff, key stakeholders, and members of the public, and reflect the goals and priorities of the Township of Rideau Lakes. The recommendation is that these statements be adopted to inform parks and recreation services for the term of this plan.

3.1 Mission

The Township of Rideau Lakes envisions a vibrant community where everyone has the opportunity to play. Our parks and natural recreational areas foster mental well-being, while our quality leisure programs support physical health for all residents.

3.2 Vision

To provide quality programs, amenities, and services that are accessible, diversified, financially viable, and meet the evolving recreational and leisure needs of the community.

3.3 Values

These values guide Parks and Recreation service delivery:

Accessibility

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate

Nature Connection

- Parks and recreation should foster appreciation for the natural environment

Community

- Parks and recreation are central to building a strong and connected community

Inclusivity

- All residents, regardless of age, ability, race, culture, gender, or background are welcome

Options and Opportunity

- A variety of activities and experiences are available in the built and natural environment

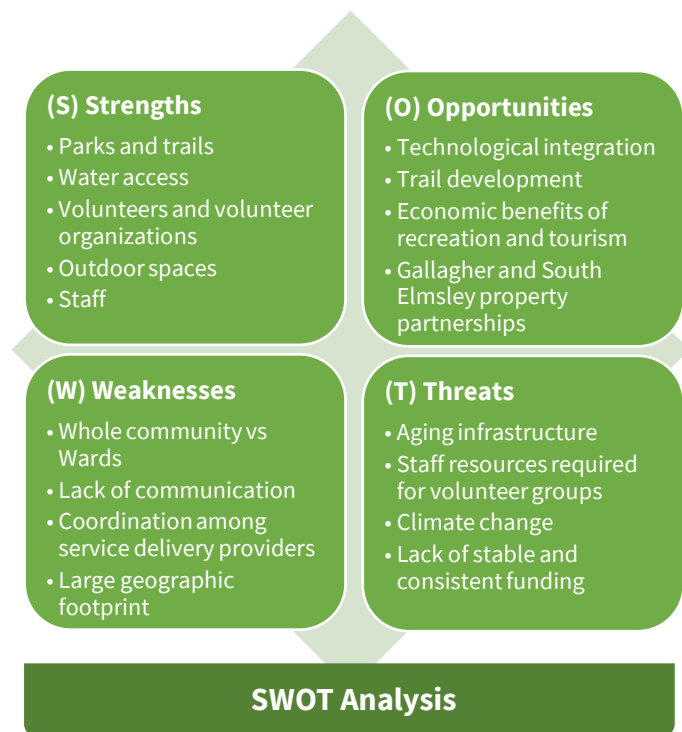
Strong Communication

- Open communication is key to success

4.0 Strategic Directions

A new plan marks an opportunity to shift the direction for parks and recreation services in a municipality. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes three strategic directions that will propel the Township of Rideau Lakes towards its vision of providing quality programs, amenities and services that meet the needs of the community.

These directions were developed in response to feedback and data gathered through consultations and research. They leverage existing municipal strengths, build on opportunities, address identified weaknesses, and include additional measures to mitigate threats and risks.



1: Create a recreation destination

- Create vibrant, mixed-use hubs where the community can gather and play, small-scale businesses can be established, and visitors can enjoy trail systems, water access, and quality indoor facilities.
- Enhance the indoor recreational facilities and services by supporting accessible and inclusive experiences while progressively increasing the Township's leadership role.

2: Deliver strong programs, services, and asset management

- Expand recreational programs to meet the diverse needs of the community and explore improvements to service delivery such as marketing and promotional strategies to engage residents.
- Monitor the Township's assets through a strategic lens to determine the best course of action for future investments.

3: Invest in trails to connect people to the beauty of the great outdoors

- In order to connect residents and visitors of all ages with outdoor recreation, the Township should create an integrated system of safe, all-season active transportation routes and a network of quality recreational trails with amenities.



Deliver Strong Programs, Services, and Asset Management

- Diverse, inclusive, and accessible program options
- Effective communications and engagement
- Strategic investment in municipal assets



Invest in Trails to Connect People and the Outdoors

- Safe and accessible trails
- All season active transportation
- Connecting communities and the natural environment



Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex

5.0 Recommendations

Data gathered through the Background Report revealed four thematic areas of focus: asset management, service delivery, health and wellbeing, and natural environment.

Recommendations have been designed to support the advancement of strategic direction in each of these areas.

Each recommendation includes:

- Thematic overview
- From the Background Report
- Goals and opportunities
- Recommendations

A comprehensive list of actions to support the recommendations are included in the Implementation Framework found in Appendix A.

5.1 Asset Management

5.1.1 Overview

Municipalities are experiencing financial pressures on many sides; new regulations and legislation, changing demographics, and ever-increasing demand for services are creating an economic pinch. In a climate of austerity – and political pressure to limit tax increases – rural Council and senior staff are challenged with the maintenance and renewal of existing recreation facilities. This is compounded by the lack of consistent and sustainable funding from other levels of government, such as transfer payments, grants, and other external resources.

In the Township of Rideau Lakes, small halls dominate the supply of indoor spaces. Parks and trails are also well represented in the outdoor inventory. Additionally, there are many facilities and features dedicated to showcasing the rich history and cultural heritage of the area.

Working with community-based organizations to expand and develop new activities within the available spaces will be critical to optimizing use of existing resources.



5.1.2 From the Background Report

Parks and Recreation Inventory

The Township of Rideau Lakes provides parks and recreation opportunities for all residents to enjoy at a local level. The Township recognizes the importance of recreation areas to be inclusive and multi-purpose to meet the needs of the residents today and in the future.

The Parks and Recreation inventory describes the current state of department assets. This assessment will help identify existing recreation assets and potential gaps within the parks and recreation service and will play a key role in the success of the Master Plan.

The following table provides the distribution of parks and recreation facilities in the Township of Rideau Lakes:

Parks and Recreation Assets	Distribution	
Municipal Boat Launch	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UB5 Launch• Battams Road Boat Launch• Delta Boat Launch• Glovers Road Boat Launch• Otter Lake Boat Launch• Portland Public Boat Ramp #1• Portland Public Boat Ramp #2• Portland Harbour• 9th Concession• Foresters Landing Drive Boat Launch• Newboro Boat Launch• Westport Road• Iron Bridge Lake Boat Launch• Big Rideau Lake Road• Wolfe Lake Boat Launch• Chaffeys Lock Boat Launch
Docks	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Big Rideau Lake Road• 1 Otter Lake• 1 Glover Road• 1 Hahha Park (Canoe/kayak)• 1 Portland Harbour• 1 Newboro Harbour• 1 Lower Beverley• 1 Millstream Park
Pump Track	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Ronald E. Holman
Bike Rack	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Russell Park• 1 Newboro Park• 1 Hannah Park
Skateboard Parks	0	

Dog Parks	0	
Beaches	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Lower Beverley • 1 Sand Lake Park • 1 Hanna Park
Horseshoe Pits	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DARS
Tennis Courts	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 North Crosby
Pickleball Courts	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Newboro Park
Fieldhouse/Canteen/Storage	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Gallagher Property • 1 Kin Park • 1 Lower Beverley • 1 DARS with bleachers • 1 Heritage Park Elgin • 3 Sand Lake Park • 1 Newboro Park • 1 North Crosby
Gazebo/Pavilion	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Russell Park • 1 Sand Lake Park • 1 Newboro Park • 1 Effie Taft Place • 1 Hannah Park • 1 Stone Mill Park • 1 North Crosby
Outdoor Seasonal Rinks	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 DARS • 1 Heritage Park Elgin
Splash Pads	0	
Soccer Fields	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Half field Kin Park • 1 Full Pitch with lights/bleachers Kin Park • 1 Newboro Park with 4 bleachers
Baseball Diamonds	0	
Softball Diamonds	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Kin Park (lit) • 1 Lower Beverley Park (lit/bleachers) • 1 Newboro Park • 1 North Crosby
Basketball courts	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Kin Park full court • 1 ½ court Newboro Park • 1 ½ court Van Clief Park • 1 ½ court North Crosby
Swing sets	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Portland Community Park • 2 Sand Lake • 1 Newboro Park • 1 Van Clief Park • 1 North Crosby

Accessible swing	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Portland Community Park • 1 North Crosby
Play Structures	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Portland Community Park • 1 Kin Park • 1 Lower Beverley • 2 Sand Lake Park • 1 Newboro Park • 1 Van Clief Park • 1 North Crosby
Picnic Tables	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Portland Community Park, • 9 Kin Park • 1 Delta Stevens Park • 1 Russell Park • 1 DARS • 14 Sand Lake Park • 11 Newboro Park • 2 benches and 2 planters Effie Taft • 6 Hannah Park • 3 benches Hannah Park • 1 table Van Clief • 4 North Crosby
Public Washrooms/Portable Toilet	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Portland Community Park • 1 Lower Beverley • 1 Sand Lake Park • 1 Newboro Park
Fitness station	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 North Crosby
AED	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Kin Park
Banquet/Community Halls	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex • Newboro Hall • Morton Hall • Elgin Municipal Complex
Trails	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shillington Park • Lower Beverly Lake Park (with Storywalk) • Newboro Memorial Park (with Storywalk)

Boat Ramps/ Dock (2)	Pump Tracks (1)	Bike Racks (3)	Skateboard Parks (0)
Dog Parks (0)	Beaches (3)	Horseshow Pits (2)	Tennis Courts (2)
Pickleball Courts (2)	Fieldhouse/ Canteen/Storage (10)	Gazebo/Pavilion (6)	Outdoor Rinks (3)
Splashpad (0)	Soccer Fields (3)	Softball Diamonds (4)	Basketball Courts (4)
Swing Sets (6)	Accessible Swings (2)	Play Structures (8)	Picnic Tables (52)
Public Washrooms/ Portable Toilet (4)	Fitness Stations (1)	AED (1)	Community Halls (3)

Rideau Lakes Township has a significant number of aging standalone facilities scattered throughout its many unique communities – this has created a maintenance challenge for the municipality. This challenge requires strategic investments in key areas over the term of the Plan to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Purpose-built recreation facilities, such as arenas and pools, are currently unavailable in the Township. These gaps are driving residents to seek recreational services in neighboring communities, which highlights an opportunity to address a local need.

An additional key observation is the industry shift to multi-purpose, multi-generational spaces, as opposed to stand-alone facilities. There is an opportunity to maximize existing

spaces and think creatively about how to develop the inventory of indoor recreation spaces to suit a wide variety of needs.

All data collected over the duration of the information gathering phase suggests that parks and trails are well-used in the area and generally well maintained. The range of park amenities in the Township is diverse, but there is an opportunity to build a service commitment and consider areas for growth that respond to environmental sustainability and accessibility concerns.

One on One Interviews

- Investment priorities include: a central community space, South Elmsley property, Gallagher property, turf field, trails, and splashpad
- Youth seeking (dedicated) indoor space

Community Survey

- Usage levels of indoor facilities is a concern (only 50% use indoor facilities; 61% only once per year)
- Residents are accessing facilities in other communities
- Clean washrooms and trash collection in parks are important
- Priorities include Portland Hall, indoor gym space and tech integration

Site Visits

- 20 parks located across the Township in villages and hamlets
- Parks are generally in good condition
- A range of amenities exists in local parks

Trends

- Sector trend toward multi-purpose, multi-generations spaces

5.1.3 Goals, Opportunities and Recommendations

Within the asset management theme there are many key issues to explore and opportunities for development such as:

A. Develop a long-term plan to address recreational asset management through a formalized internal process that considers financial impacts.	AM1	Continue to follow the approved Asset Management Plan (2022) in terms of identified service levels, maintenance and renewal, and investments in municipal infrastructure.
	AM2	Update the Trails Strategy (2019) with a renewed goal of connecting trails, facilities and communities through consistent trailhead development to enhance tourism, support local economic development, and positively influence physical activity levels across the lifespan.
	AM3	Make modest investments in indoor facilities to improve accessibility and create consistency in facility amenities.
	AM4	Continue to monitor usage rates and stats for indoor facilities.
	AM5	Standardize parks and parkland maintenance.
B. Foster existing partnerships and agreements that provide value and enhance opportunities to meet community needs.	AM6	Regularly review existing Cost Sharing Agreements and enter into new agreements to facilitate resident access to recreation facilities in the region .
C. Target and maximize recreation opportunities that best support long-term sustainability and the strategic vision for the future of this community.	AM7	Implement improvements at existing waterfront access points and future developments to provide amenities for non-motorized, small craft water sports and self-directed recreational activities.
	AM8	Conduct a review of all parks and fields and review usage data to build a consistent standard of service
	AM 9	Address park-specific improvements based on findings from the background report and tend to the minor maintenance issues that were flagged during site visits.

5.2 Service Delivery

5.2.1 Thematic Overview

Service delivery describes how parks and recreational services are coordinated, packaged, and provided to communities. This includes a multitude of factors such as programming, administration, marketing, communications, as well as financial management.

Recreational service providers need to consider the rapid pace at which technology is advancing and how to leverage modern tools to facilitate access to recreation. By investigating purpose-built solutions, the Township stands to increase efficiencies, improve the customer experience, and optimize parks and facilities management.

Strong partnerships are also necessary to support program delivery and ensure access to a range of recreation facilities and services. Fostering positive relationships and cost-sharing agreements are required to nurture these partnerships.

Lastly, preparation is required to support older adults in the community. Improvements that benefit seniors often result in enhancements that the entire community can benefit from – prioritizing barrier-free design and inclusive, accessible spaces will be critical in future planning. There is also a need to develop mitigation strategies that alleviate barriers such as location and cost.



5.2.2 From the Background Report

There are growing concerns related to diminished staff and volunteer levels. A new approach to volunteerism may be required to address how this sector has changed, particularly in the post-COVID era where many volunteers have “aged-out” without proper succession planning. Staff shortages are being realized across the sector, underscoring the value of staff attraction and retention. There is a strong volunteer spirit across the community of Rideau Lakes that can be leveraged toward success.

There are seven (7) Community Enhancement Committees (CECs) within the Township. This can be seen as a great strength to the community and the Wards, but also as an opportunity worth discussing. This model puts pressure on the roles and responsibilities of staff who must navigate through multiple CECs, meetings, events, programs, promotions, etc.

There is a significant opportunity to map out the next 10 years in a way that supports each Ward and its uniqueness, but that also frames the new Rideau Lakes narrative with shared resources, shared ideas, and a shared vision for the future.

One on One Interviews

- High priority placed on accessibility and inclusivity
- 15-20% staff time allocated to working with CECs
- There are a lot of strong programs, parks and services
- Desire to invest in what the Township already offers

Community Survey

- 43% participate in municipal programs
- 54% seeking more variety in programs options
- 51% feel improved marketing and communications would increase uptake

Trend

- Sector trend toward technology integration
- There are challenges across the sector in terms of staff recruitment and retention
- Volunteerism is changing (declining)

5.2.3 Goals, Opportunities and Recommendations

A. Review committees and boards as related to the Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator position and streamline across the recreation service to enhance efficiencies.	SD1	Identify opportunities for finding collaboration and efficiencies with the structure of CECs under the Terms of Reference.
	SD2	Revise job description of the Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator as efficiencies are found, allowing for more direct community programming and communications.
B. Encourage community engagement and partnerships with local and regional organizations.	SD3	Build and foster strong partnerships for the community to access the best recreation programs and services.

C. Expand digital adoption and technology integration and promote recreation programs, services and events in a collaborative way.	SD4	Adopt technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support service delivery.
D. Support the principles of Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility.	SD5	Ensure that inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility become integral components of the parks and recreation services, creating welcoming and equitable spaces for all community members.
	SD6	Events have a community benefit and should be supported in the community.
E. Enhance communications and branding to improve awareness and increase participation rates.	SD7	Improve communications and promotion of parks and recreation related services.
	SD8	Create a marketing plan for the recreation services that engages community partners in the conversation, and continue to use various tools such as digital story telling, print and social media. Review this strategy annually to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in marketing efforts.
	SD9	Continue to implement policy to ensure consistent branding across entire Township; consider way-finding signage and opportunity to reduce or mitigate risk by employing sector specific best practices.
	SD10	Showcase the Township success and communicate upcoming projects and initiatives that benefit the community (e.g., install a sign of the concept drawings at the site of the new Portland Community Hall). This is also a great opportunity to recognize project sponsors.

F. Continue to support a positive culture for recreation staff and volunteers.

SD11 Staff and volunteer efforts are supported and recognized.

SD12 Support staff in creating a positive culture and work environment through regular communications, flex time and training and development opportunities.



Newboro Memorial Park

5.3 Health and Wellbeing

5.3.1 Overview

The benefits of recreation are well documented. Despite the growing awareness of these benefits, overall participation rates remain low in the Township. Recreation program offerings need to consider how to support new trends, such as unstructured and passive opportunities that allow flexible access to recreational activities.

5.3.2 From the Background Report

There is a heightened awareness of the impact of social isolation and mental health on overall well-being. The Community Safety and Well-being Plan recognizes that access to recreation and leisure programs contribute to building protective factors that mitigate potential health risks. However, the 2022 *ParticipAction Report Card* highlights failing grades for physical activity levels for young people across Canada, which should be concerning to all communities.



We are observing a shift in recreational values where personal fulfillment and experiences provide more motivation than traditional performance-based culture, as observed in *Sport Information Resource Centre's* (SIRC) work in preparing for an updated Canada Sport Policy.

The Recreation Master Plan must acknowledge and address these areas of concern as part of the path forward.

Youth Engagement

- Youth are seeking more physical activity options and spaces that align with their interests.

One on One Interviews

- The link between parks and recreation and overall health and wellbeing is recognized.
- Not enough programs are offered in the Township.

Community Survey

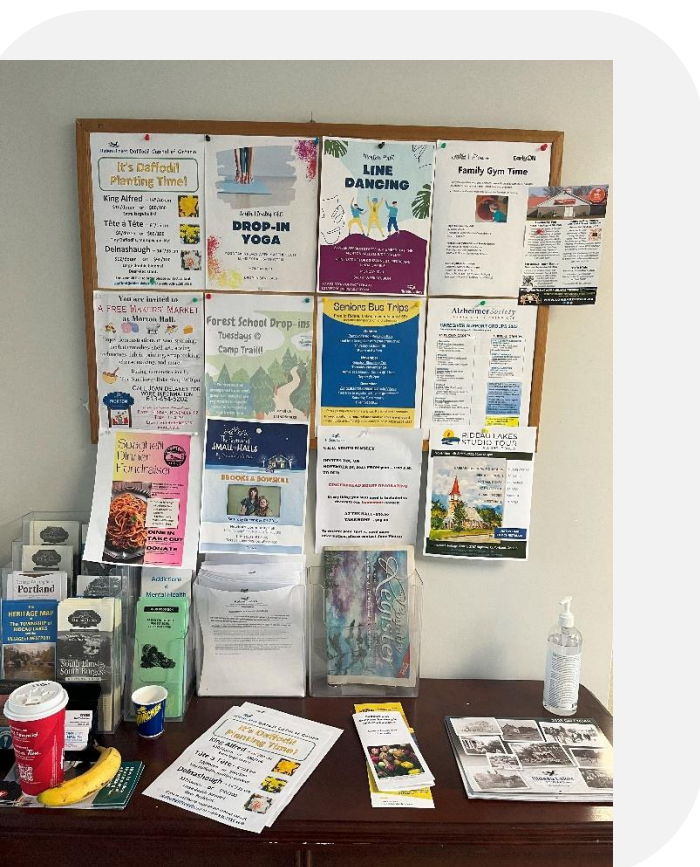
- 58% of residents not participating in local programming.
- 54% seeking additional programming options.

Trend

- Increasing awareness of the impacts of social isolation and mental wellbeing on health.
- ParticipACTION Report Card highlights low levels of activity among children and youth.
- Sector trend toward personal fulfillment and experiences as motivating factors.

5.3.3 Goals, Opportunities and Recommendations

A. Expand recreation options to improve/ support physical and mental health	HBW1	Develop targeted programs for youth engagement and senior wellness including afterschool activities, summer camps, and older adult classes
	HBW2	Create an indoor/outdoor sport court strategy which will ensure communities across the Township have access to multi-purpose courts for Pickleball, Badminton, etc.
	HBW3	Develop strategies to address emerging trends in sport and leisure to facilitate and clarify the level of municipal support, access to space, cost recovery, etc.
	HWB4	Provide opportunities for social engagement through recreation and leisure.
	HWB5	Work with partners (e.g., Frontenac Arch Biosphere, North Leeds Soccer Association, Delta Athletic and Recreational Society) to ensure diversity of unstructured recreation opportunities while meeting need for direct programs.



Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex

	<hr/> <p>HWB6 Continue to expand the ‘lending hub’ (available through Public Library) to allow residents to access equipment at no cost to support their recreation pursuits (e.g. snowshoes, trekking poles, racquet sports, water sports, gardening tools/equipment, knitting/crochet hooks)</p> <hr/>
	<p>HWB7 Work with community partners to facilitate the development of visual arts, environmental, low intensity, 'gentle' wellness, and mental health-mindfulness programming in response to community requests as gathered through surveys.</p> <hr/>
	<p>HBW8 Beginning this calendar year, use evaluations to measure and track participation and quality of programming; use data to establish goals and objectives for program development, to increase participation, and to identify opportunities for program and service delivery improvements.</p> <hr/>
<p>B. Recognize and promote the connection between Parks and Recreation Services and overall health and wellbeing.</p> <hr/>	<p>HWB9 Continue to promote the benefits of recreation, such as mitigating health risks.</p> <hr/>

5.4 Natural Environment

5.4.1 Overview

There are several items relating to the natural environment that are becoming critically important. For a municipality like Rideau Lakes – where the outdoors contributes significantly to the community through tourist attraction, trail systems, parks and open spaces, and an abundance of recreation opportunities – this is especially true.

5.4.2 From the Background Report

Adaptations must be considered to mitigate the impact of climate change. Straightforward examples include planting trees in parks and sustainable facility design. An increase in extreme weather events are predicted with each passing year, which will impact community health and access to outdoor programs.



Locally, the kick-off to the North Leeds Soccer program was postponed for almost three weeks due to ongoing smoke coverage from wildfires in what was already a short season. Consider also when schools are closed for ‘snow days’ and access to indoor space is limited.

There is a strong desire to protect and preserve natural spaces, and the Township would be well positioned to be a leader in this area in terms of stewardship and sustainability.

Youth Engagement

- Love the natural environment
- High level of interested in nature based programming
- Concerned about climate change and its impact

Community Survey

- 93% state they visit parks and outdoor spaces
- 20% visit trail systems at least once per week
- 20% do not use parks because there are no services or ammenities for them

Trend

- North Leeds Soccer Association has had to cancel practices and games owing to poor air quality and extreme weather
- Challenges accessing indoor space

5.4.3 Goals, Opportunities and Recommendations

A. Continue to develop and expand/enhance parks and trail systems through learning conversations with community partners to meet community needs.	NE1	Responding to the value residents place on their natural environment (as noted in the Background Report) and trends on the broader horizon, use the CECs and work with working groups to advance environmental stewardship initiatives.
	NE2	Develop required accessibility upgrades to parks and trails (including playground safety, routes and wayfinding, seating, shade structures and trees, and bicycle parking) as part of ongoing maintenance and upgrades to trails / trailheads to support access to the natural environment.
	NE3	Investigate a concept plan, or a series of concept plans based on community consultation on the potential development of the Chaffey site in Chaffey's Lock.
B. Investigate and monitor environmental, climate change, and extreme weather events which impact services and plan accordingly.	NE4	Lead by example in terms of Climate Adaptation and Stewardship in municipal recreation facilities.
	NE5	Support community driven climate mitigation efforts such as tree planting, water conservation initiatives, and use of green infrastructure.
C. Encourage connection to nature and outdoor recreation for all ages and abilities.	NE6	Enhance active transportation options that consider loops and accessible pathways to connect facilities and amenities throughout the community (ex. paved sidewalks or shoulders, gravel or aggregate paths in natural areas). Type, design and specs to be determined based on site.
	NE7	Host and support programs – ideally in green spaces – that include an environmental education component such as learning about local wildlife or sustainable practices.

6.0 Implementation

This plan is intended to provide direction to staff and Council through to 2030. This section discusses prioritization of actions, funding strategies to support implementation, and recommendations for monitoring and evaluating the Plan as it is executed.

6.1 Timing and Prioritization

The timing and priorities have been identified at the end of each subsection. By approving this Plan, the Township is providing guidance on community priorities and sets a general course for meeting the needs as they are presently defined.



The timing of the actions proposed in this Master Plan recognizes the need for phased implementation and/or outside funding sources as some recommendations are based upon what is needed and not necessarily what may be financially achievable by the Township. This Plan will be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of implementation. Analysis of implementation options and budget implications should be undertaken prior to approving major projects.

The Township should make every reasonable effort to implement these strategies through appropriate and acceptable means. The full implementation of this Plan will require the use of grants, fundraising and/or collaborations with community partners.

Determining priorities is an exercise that should be revisited each year prior to the Township's capital and operating budget development exercise. It is expected that the Township will make decisions on individual projects and funding sources annually through the budget process. It should be noted that while some recommendations result in a 'spend', there are many others that should result in new efficiencies and more effective use of resources that may be reallocated to offset these new expenses.

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



Capital lifecycle and considerations for safety



Legislation and mandated requirements



Changes to service standards



Public input and community interests



Emerging trends and changes in participation rates



Availability of alternate providers

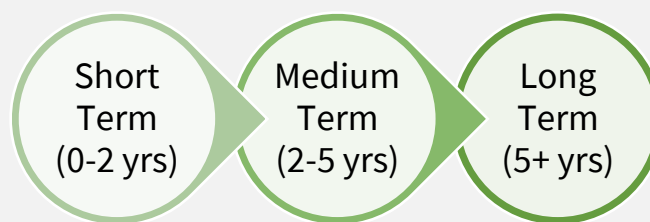


Socio-demographic changes and growth forecasts

Priority has been determined based on an assessment of need, as identified throughout the planning process (including public engagement, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of amenities and services, etc.). Generally, municipalities seek to address the widest range of needs and achieve maximum community benefit through the efficient use of resources.

Actions in the Implementation Table (appendix A); will be prioritized as follows:

- *Short-term Goals (0-2 years)*: Focus on quick-win projects and initiatives that can be implemented within the first two years, such as trail maintenance, minor park improvements, and community events.
- *Medium-term Goals (2-5 years)*: Implement larger-scale projects and infrastructure developments/improvements.
- *Long-term Goals (5+ years)*: Continue to monitor and adapt the plan as needed while pursuing long-term initiatives, such as land acquisition for conservation and recreation purposes or the establishment of regional partnerships.



6.2 Funding Strategies

There are many potential funding sources and several funding opportunities for capital investment (in addition to direct taxation) which are identified below. The Township's long-term financial plan is an important part of the budgeting framework as it is designed to encourage financial sustainability and should be referred to when making capital decisions.

Municipal Reserves

Municipal reserves are funds set aside from tax dollars or other revenue sources for specific projects. Industry standards suggest allocating 2% of the capital value of assets annually to a reserve.

Fundraising, Donations, Sponsorships, and Naming Rights

The ongoing costs of maintaining and constructing parks and facilities are substantial which places pressure on future municipal budgets. To be creative and engage the community, the township should seek assistance and support from external sources to contribute towards the construction and/or operation of facilities and park amenities. Past practice demonstrates that many local user groups and service clubs have collected donations and/or participated in fundraising for new facilities. Creating a policy around naming rights and seeking key locations/supporters for implementation is another mechanism to create another revenue stream.

User Fees and Surcharges

User fees for parks and recreation services fluctuate. In some case, there are no fees charged at all (e.g., hall and field rentals for non-profit/community benefits like parks and playgrounds), and highest for those that allow dedicated access and provide benefits to distinct individual (e.g., for-profit rentals).

Debenture Financing

Debentures offer a funding option but can be expensive and impact future borrowing rates. This financing should only be pursued if other alternatives are unavailable.

Ongoing Government Programs

An ongoing government initiative, the Federal Gas Tax Fund, furnishes municipalities with a sustained financial resource earmarked for the development and restoration of essential public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water systems, and recreational amenities like trails and bike lanes. This fund could potentially enable the Township to channel resources towards various enhancements in parks and recreational facilities down the line.



One-Time Grants

Municipalities often seek financial support from upper levels of government for major municipal capital projects. In April 2024, the Ontario government is investing up to \$200 million over three years to support Ontario's growing communities with new and revitalized local sport and recreation facilities across the province. The new Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund was [announced as part of the 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#).

Funding will be delivered through two streams:

- Stream 1: repairing and upgrading existing sport and recreation facilities into more accessible, state-of-the-art facilities that better suit the community's needs.
- Stream 2: building new and transformative sport and recreation facilities, including replacing existing facilities that have reached the end of their lifespan and are beyond repair.

The presence of an approved Master Plan is often a requirement to securing grant funding which positions the Township of Rideau Lakes very well for this one-time grant opportunity. Additional staff resources may be required to assist with monitoring and applying for grants.

Partnerships

The Township may consider engaging in collaborations or partnerships with the private sector, non-profit sector, or other levels of government to develop and/or operate various

facilities and services to maximize benefits to the community. The Township has had great success working in partnership with others in the past and could explore additional partners in this regard.

Cooperation between Municipal Neighbours

Cooperation between municipalities is important to the effective delivery of recreation and parks services especially for smaller, rural communities throughout Ontario. Each municipality can benefit from various types of cooperation, including joint services agreements that allow cost-efficient access to services by residents in another municipality. An estimate of the current cost-sharing agreements with Westport, Athens and Smiths Falls is just more than \$150,000.00 annually. The Township may benefit from continued discussions with its municipal neighbours regarding the gathering of data including annual numbers/users/residents who use municipal neighbour facilities and programs. This would assist greatly in future service planning for the Township.

6.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Township must consistently review and evaluate the proposed actions outlined in the Recreation Master Plan to ensure alignment with community needs. This necessitates the ongoing monitoring of various data sets, including annual usage statistics, resident engagement with municipal facilities and programs, activity trends, user satisfaction levels, and regular dialogue with community organizations. Additionally, annual reporting on the Plan's implementation is imperative. These measures facilitate adjustments to resource allocation and priority setting as outlined in the Plan.

Conducting a thorough review of the Plan demands a dedicated commitment from all staff involved in the planning, financing, and delivery of parks and recreation services, as well as from the Council. The following procedural steps can guide the annual review process:

- Evaluation of the past year's activities, including progress on recommendations, capital projects, new and ongoing initiatives, changes in participation, and feedback from the public and community groups.
- Identification of challenges and opportunities for the upcoming year, focusing on financial and operational considerations.
- Preparation of a staff report prioritizing short-term projects for the next year, based on financial limits, community input, and partnership opportunities.
- Transparent communication with staff and Council on project status, prioritization, and planned projects.
- Submission of budget requests or revisions to support proposed initiatives.

By adhering to this structured review process, the Township can ensure that its parks and recreation services remain responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of the community.

7.0 Summary

The update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is important in ensuring that these services are delivered effectively and efficiently while considering local needs, priorities, applicable legislation, and best practices. Through extensive research, collaboration, and strategic planning, key areas of focus and proposed actionable initiatives will create an environment that supports an active, healthy community.



7.1 Key Achievements

Key accomplishments through the planning process include:

- Comprehensive assessment of the needs, preferences, and challenges faced by the community
- Development of a multi-dimensional action plan addressing key strategic areas as identified in the assessment phase
- Engagement of stakeholders from various sectors, including local agencies, community organizations, and others, to foster collaboration and collective action.
- Incorporation of evidence-based practices and best-in-class strategies from other rural communities to inform the Township's approach.
- Emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility, and equity to ensure that everyone can benefit from the initiatives proposed.

7.2 Next Steps

- Implementation of the action plan in collaboration with key stakeholders, leveraging their expertise, resources, and networks.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the initiatives to track progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments.
- Continued engagement with community members to solicit feedback, prioritize needs, and ensure that the action plan remains responsive to evolving circumstances.

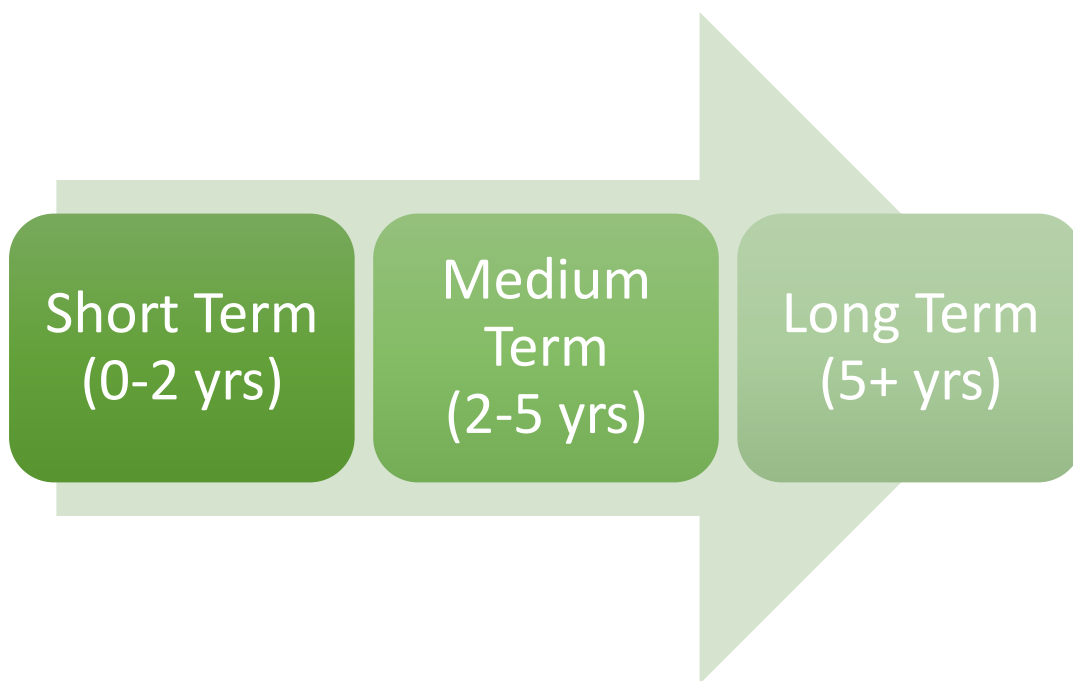
7.3 Conclusion

The successful implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan requires addressing challenges, leveraging opportunities, and implementing recommendations outlined in this document. By prioritizing community engagement, sustainable development, and strategic partnerships, the Township of Rideau Lakes can create vibrant recreational spaces that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Appendix 1: Implementation Framework

Actions in the Implementation Table are prioritized as follows:

- *Short-term Goals (0-2 years)*: Focus on quick-win projects and initiatives that can be implemented within the first two years, such as trail maintenance, minor park improvements, and community events.
- *Medium-term Goals (2-5 years)*: Implement larger-scale projects and infrastructure developments, such as the construction of new recreational facilities or the expansion of existing ones.
- *Long-term Goals (5+ years)*: Continue to monitor and adapt the plan as needed while pursuing long-term initiatives, such as land acquisition for conservation and recreation purposes or the establishment of regional partnerships.



Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
AM1	Continue to follow the approved Asset Management Plan (2022) in terms of identified service levels; maintenance and renewal; and investment of municipal infrastructure					
AM2	Update the Trails Strategy (2019) with the lens of creating an environment that connects trails, facilities, and communities with consistent trailhead development to enhance tourism and economic development while impacting physical activity levels across the lifespan	The current plan is five years old and was drafted pre-Covid; review and update the plan (recognize that the value of outdoor spaces was heightened through COVID, and is reported to be a real strength through the information gathering phase)				
		Seek to increase access and accessibility				
AM3	Make modest investments in indoor facilities to improve accessibility and create consistency in facility amenities	Where possible, continue to work toward meeting AODA requirements with lighting, barrier free and gender-neutral washroom, door width, parking and walkways				
		Ensure that all municipal facilities offer consistent features for renters (e.g., seating, AV equipment)				
AM4	Continue to monitor usage rates and stats for indoor facilities	Consider over the long term, strategic investment in larger multi-purpose spaces	Full cost benefit analysis or business plan should be completed			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		rather than a series of smaller facilities				
AM5	Standardize parks and parkland maintenance	Address the general maintenance items as noted through the facility inspections				
		Ensure standardized training for staff related to park inspections (following the Canadian Playground Safety Institute)				
		Follow CSA standards for ongoing maintenance and safety				
AM6	Regularly review existing Cost Sharing Agreements; and enter into new agreements where none exist to facilitate resident access to recreation facilities in the region	See Recommendation SD3				
AM7	Implement improvements at existing waterfront access points, and future development to provide amenities for non-motorized, small craft water sports as self-directed activities	Inventory existing infrastructure and assess condition (recognizing that major infrastructure such as docks will be included in the Asset Management Plan (AMP))				
		Establish a plan for maintenance and renewal where not included in the AMP				
AM8	Conduct a review of all parks and fields. / Review usage patterns and statistics with the	Promote accessibility and barrier free options	Sprinkle accessible features across all parks in a manner that best suits the specific park			

Asset Management

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
	lens of creating / building consistency or standard that includes the following for each village or hamlet		(e.g., a swing might work in one location; where an accessible picnic table or climber might be a better fit in another location); and consider designating one park to be fully accessible over the longer term as more significant investment may be required			
			In at least one park, include options for neurodivergent children with a fenced in area, communications boards, and a quiet area			
		Conduct regular accessibility audits of parks and recreation services	Develop checklist & process (consider including public polls or other feedback mechanism to address any public concerns related to accessibility)			
		Provide a mix of junior and senior play opportunities with playgrounds	Use wood fibre to an appropriate depth for the fall-height of equipment			
			Ensure appropriate site lines to play areas			
		Consider activities such as pickleball for the growing older adult population that increase day-time use of parks				
		Provide unstructured or open spaces in parks that allow for a range of				

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		passive recreation opportunities				
		Include shade shelters or trees in central areas within parks to protect users from the elements and sun				
		Provide seating	Include in shaded areas; along walkways, and within site lines of park amenities			
		Maintained pathways	Smooth surfaces; at least 3m wide to accommodate both mobility devices but also maintenance vehicles			
			Connect waste receptacles, seating, bike racks, etc			
		Waste and recycle containers (close to park entrances)				
		Invest in equipment (play structures and furniture) that is not easily vandalized				
		Be consistent with signage	Should include: Twp logo, civic address, rules, hours of operation, emergency contact information, etc			
		Further consider in some areas	Public art installations			
			Using natural species for planting			
			Follow Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			Include buffer space between parkland and residential / commercial areas			
AM9	Address park specific improvements based on findings from the Background Report, and attend to the minor maintenance issues that were noted during site visits	South Elmsley / Lombardy	<p>Complete the approved Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex Exterior Recreation Area Plan (2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek options for multi-purpose programming or space such as combining basketball with pickleball or hosting remote control car rally events on the pump track ○ Ensure connectivity with trail systems; and that appropriate way-finding signage is installed <p>A park sign is required at this site</p>			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<p>Van Clief Park could flourish with direct programming option in summer months to bolster use of the park as current use is reported low; other physical improvements include the addition of signage, seating options, updates to the basketball court and net</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To better define the park boundaries and mitigate risk, fencing or natural barriers should be improved or installed (specifically, to denote the private property adjacent to the park, and to prevent access to the creek behind the park) <p>Follow the Asset Management Plan in term of play structure renewal/ replacement</p>			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		Portland	<p>Continue to develop the Gallagher Property in Portland (create a design concept for the property and engage in further learning conversations). In the short-term address hazards/risk management issues including exposed cables, holes near parking area, portable basketball net, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Park features should include: updated (accessible) play structure and pathways, seating options with some shade (whether natural or built), bike rack, waste receptacle, signage and lighting, and a water bottle filling station ○ Leave some green space for unstructured activity and community events 			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repurpose the Carriage House to serve the community and boating community (e.g., public washrooms, laundry, canteen) 			
			Improve sightlines to the water by pruning or limbing trees			
			Install seating (a picnic table or bench) at the Portland Beach ; update the sign so that it meets the criteria of the new sign policy; and consider a storage solution for some of the beach toys (e.g., a deck bin)			
			The sign at Hanna Memorial Park is in need of replacement; a second interpretive sign could be installed to share the story of the park and how it got its name			
			Kin Park has potential (as referenced) to grow into a recreation hub or destination over the longer term; in the short term, some improvements to the park include:			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New way finding signage to improve access to and awareness of parks amenities and support connectivity to the village and Cataraqui Trail system ○ The basketball court could be resized as it is long (or pivot court direction and have two mini-courts); the Township might also consider over a longer period, installing accessible basketball nets at this location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the basketball court in improved at the Gallagher property, the Township might also consider re purposing the court at Kin Park for alternative uses such as shuffleboard 			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements are required on the large soccer field that include drainage, efficient lighting, and remediate uneven surfaces to prevent sport injury <p>The netting on the smaller soccer field should be replaced to remove any choking hazards</p>			
		Elgin	<p>Home to the popular FAB Summer Nature Camp, Sand Lake Park is a gem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage should be updated to adhere to the sign policy and to supporting branding; way-finding signs and rules for the park should also be posted 			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessible feature can be added to this site, including creating one barrier free gazebo (smooth pathways, ramp to enter the pavilion, and accessible picnic table); this might also include a pathway to the water <p>Follow the asset management plan for renewal or replacement of the storage building(s)</p>			
			<p>Heritage Park and the Elgin Outdoor Rink are located in close proximity to the elementary school and the rink appears to be well used year-round</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiate conversation with UCDSB regarding improved community access to the play structure located on school property (as it is the only 			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<p>one available in the community). If broader access is not negotiated; the Township should install a small play structure on other municipal property (at the municipal complex)</p> <p>New park signage is required at this site</p>			
		Delta	<p>Low levels of use were reported (via the community survey) at the Stevens Park; pending further study, this property may be identified for disposition</p>			
			<p>Lower Beverley Lake Park is a currently managed by a volunteer Board of Directors who receives an annual funding allocation through the budget process; this bylaw was created in 2010 and should be reviewed (and updated if/as required to reflect current service levels, funding allocation, etc). Furthermore, Council may opt to create a business plan for this</p>			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			property to support its ability to generate revenue for the municipality			
			It was noted in the Information Gathering phase that there is still some perception that the park is private and not open to the public; strong signage and messaging can change this observation			
			Signage improvements are required at the Russel Park to adhere to the sign policy and to mitigate risk (owing to moving water). The gazebo on the property requires some minor maintenance and may need to be scheduled for replacement within the 10-year horizon.			
			Accessibility enhancements such as smoothing out the ground surface and facilitating access into the gazebo should also be considered as work is completed on this property			
			Millstream Park on the main street has recently been enhanced; a sign			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			should installed in the short term; and, a marked pedestrian crossing would improve connectivity with the coffee shop and other businesses and amenities in the village			
			<p>The Outdoor Rink at DARS Park is well used; the addition (or reinstallation) of basketball nets, or portable pickleball nets could grow use of the space to offer year-round activity and would complement the horseshow pits that exist on the property.</p> <p>Signage at this site should also be updated to meet the criteria of the sign policy</p>			
			Located in King Street, Stone Mill Park is a great space for picnicking with seating, a small gazebo, walkway, and waste receptacle. Both Township and interpretive sigs are in place. Assets at this site should be maintained per the AMP, and when replacing the bench, the Township could			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			consider a maintenance free model and accessible options			
		Newboro	While interpretive signage is installed at Effie Tett Park , Township specific signs should be added			
			<p>The courts are Newboro Memorial Park are very well used (especially by the Pickleball Club), and the Storywalk appears to be popular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As the soccer fields and other park amenities are no longer being used / experience reduced use; the Township should consider creating a Disc Golf course at this location <p>Seating by the play structures to be installed; and at the same time old, worn bleachers by the field(s) should be removed</p>			
		North Crosby	Shillington Park , located in the western portion of the municipality has some excellent features and services including the			

Asset Management						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<p>recently installed fitness equipment; smoothing the surface to the play structure will improve accessibility</p> <p>As the popularity of different sports change over time, look for options to repurpose or to create multi-use space(s) (e.g., ball diamond and tennis court)</p>			

Service Delivery

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
SD1	Identify opportunities for finding collaboration and efficiencies with the structure of the CECs under the Terms of Reference.	Review the current Terms of Reference for the Community Enhancement Committees.	Review and update bylaw to reflect structure and include committee composition, roles and responsibilities, scope, financial support (budget allocation), etc Scope may include: parks and recreation, community events, beautification, and environmental stewardship			
SD2	Revise job description of the Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator as efficiencies are found allowing for more direct community programming and communications	As efficiencies are found through technology integration, committee restructuring, etc the job description should be reviewed to align with service delivery priorities (e.g. direct programming and communications)				
SD3	Build and foster strong partnerships for the community to access the best recreation programs and services	Review and update cost sharing agreements with Smiths Falls, Westport and Athens to ensure consistency, accountability, and transparency.	Agreements should clearly address / include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scope (clear definition of facilities or programs included in the agreement) ○ Include a clear cost breakdown (personnel, operations, 			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<p>maintenance, and capital)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a fair and transparent formula for cost allocation based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Population served ○ Usage rates ○ Proximity ○ Identify the planning and decision-making process ○ Establish a regular reporting schedule ○ Outline a clear process for dispute resolution ○ Include provisions for periodic review and adjustment (annual review recommended) ○ Define performance measures to evaluate effectiveness (again consider usage statistics) ○ Include an exit strategy for 			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			anyone wishing to withdraw			
			Be aware of the consequences (e.g. implementation of non-resident fees)			
		Work with CEC's and other organizations such as local sport associations and recreation providers to better coordinate efforts (such as timing and location of events and activities, and improve communications) and to foster strong partnerships	Establish semi-annual meeting among all recreation service providers			
			Coordinate and streamline communications efforts, identify gaps and corresponding actions, respond to emerging trends and issues			
		In response to community demand for increased indoor recreation space / programming	Initiate conversations with UCDSB regarding access to (indoor) facilities to better understand the Community Use of Schools Agreement and lobby for significant changes to the agreement that support the taxpayer and recreational opportunities. For example, accessing indoor facilities when there is a weather related closure			
			Expand recreation programming opportunities in local			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			schools and other community facilities such as Legions, Lions, or local churches			
			Support community partners and non-profits in accessing indoor recreation space to complement programming options for residents			
			Look to expand programming in Rideau Lakes owned spaces (e.g., new Portland Community Hall)			
		Recognize Rideau Lakes Public Library as key program provider and continue to support their efforts	Apply a modest increase of financial support through the budget process			
			Coordinate promotion and communication efforts where possible			
			Continue to offer programs in partnership			
SD4	Adopt technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support service delivery	Implement program registration and facility booking software				
		Use AI to support marketing (e.g. create marketing strategy, create social media posts and other promotional materials)				
		Implement tools such as chatbots to assist with customer service				

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		Monitor environmental conditions for outdoor activities such as hiking or boating; it can provide real-time updates on weather conditions, trail accessibility, and safety alerts				
SD5	Ensure that inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility become integral components of the parks and recreation services, creating welcoming and equitable spaces for all community members	Support improvements that benefit older adults such as enhanced programs and facilities, barrier-free and accessible services including locations and costs/fees	Create an Age-Friendly Action Plan that addresses each of the eight community dimensions as identified by the World Health Organization			
			Continue to apply for grants to secure transportation for art, culture, and heritage-based excursions inside and outside the community			
			Continue to offer seniors programs such as fitness, yoga, etc			
			Support opportunities for social engagement among seniors through program offerings			
			Improve walkability for seniors to access recreation programs and facilities			
			Include popular seniors activity in parks such as horseshoes, cornhole or pickleball			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		Staff development	Create an internal policy that outlines the IDEA process; and how it will be incorporated into Rideau Lakes parks and recreation services			
			Staff take “Safe Spaces” training / education awareness			
		Support Girls in Sport	Pilot programs that are designed for women and girls as participation tends to be more limited by this audience			
		Champion inclusivity	Install LGBTQ+ crosswalks			
			Establish gender-neutral washrooms in public facilities where they do not currently exist			
			Take action toward Truth and Reconciliation such as installing heritage signs along trail systems recognizing historic pathways, hosting cultural events, etc (refer to the 99 Calls to Action, Section			
		Continue to work toward meeting Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) legislative requirements				
		Recognize the socio-economic diversity in the community and update the Affordable	Define intent and scope			
			Establish funding levels and mechanisms (such as offering reduced			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		Recreation Policy (2012) to provide a mechanism to reduce costs for economically disadvantaged youth, and seniors on a fixed income	program registration fees, facility rental fees, or through small contributions to offset external registration fees (e.g., paid to a minor hockey association)) Budget should be established as part of annual budget exercises			
			Define applicant criteria and funding levels			
			Create application and approval processes			
		Promote external funding programs (such as Champions for Kids and JumpStart) as a means to offset financial barriers for children and youth in the community				
SD6	Events have a community benefit and should be supported in the community.	Create an Events Policy that outlines the role of the municipality in community events levels of financial and in-kind support; and where a fee may be imposed to recover costs (e.g. if staff are scheduled on the weekend to collect waste, or to set up picnic table or seating)				

Service Delivery

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
SD7	Improve communications and promotion of parks and recreation related services	Create or enhance communications strategy related to parks and recreation and incorporate performance measures to determine the best methods/techniques	Official and consistency in messaging that contribute to 'brand' recognition			
			Metrics that allow the Township to measure effectiveness of communications and pivot as necessary to ensure broad distribution of information			
		Collaborate with community organizations for online/print news, local stories, and promotion of recreation related programs and services				
		Utilize technology to improve communication and service delivery of municipal parks and recreation opportunities. The Township should consider publishing a monthly e-newsletter (or similar) recreation and parks programming/events information on a monthly basis and continue to use (and promote) the online calendar available on				

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		the Townships website and social platforms				
		It was noted that some residents are missing the print recreation guide that was distributed semi-annually showing some demand for print materials; consider tax inserts and flyers to fill this need				
SD8	Create a marketing plan for the recreation services that engages community partners in the conversation, and continue to use various tools such as digital story telling, print and social media. Review this strategy annually to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in marketing efforts	Review current communication practices, create a plan that lends to consistency and increases effectiveness. Align with other corporate communication practices and policies.				
SD9	Continue to implement policy to ensure consistent branding across entire Township; consider way-finding signage an opportunity to reduce or mitigate risk by employing sector specific best practices	Signage supports economic development (tourism), a strong sign program implemented consistency over the next years will lend to branding and consistency				

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid	Long Term
SD10	Showcase the Township success and communicate upcoming projects and initiatives that benefit the community	The Township could, for example, install a sign of the concept drawings at the site of the new Portland Community Hall).	This is also a great opportunity to recognize project sponsors			
SD11	Staff and volunteer efforts are supported and recognized	Build capacity within the voluntary sector	Create a Volunteer Policy that clearly outlines roles, responsibilities, expectations, etc as a tool to support volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition practices			
			Join the Volunteer Centre of St Lawrence-Rideau to allow access to their resources and training opportunities (adequate training on items such as grant writing and fundraising may reduce draw on staff time)			
			Support volunteer recruitment efforts by hosting or co-hosting an annual volunteer fair to connect interested individuals with volunteer opportunities in the community			
			Recognize volunteers in the community with through awards, recognition events, or similar			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			Use of website to support volunteerism (info, opportunities, FAQs)			
		Consider increasing staff levels to support quality program delivery	To offer more direct programming options (see section on Health and Wellbeing) such as mobile parks programming through the summer or camps on PA days			
			Recognizing that some programs are led by volunteers that may not be sustainable over the long term (e.g., declining volunteers) and that staff may be required to step in to fill gaps			
		Providing adequate staffing levels to manage recreation assets and mitigate risk	To complete regular facility and playground inspections; and, address corresponding maintenance related items			
			Align staffing levels with asset management plan and approved service levels contained therein			

Service Delivery						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			To address staff/volunteer shortages (e.g., if a volunteer fitness instructor gets sick, or shortage of volunteers for an event, challenges in finding trained and qualified program leaders)			
SD12	Support staff in creating a positive culture and work environment through regular communications, flex time and training and development opportunities	Integrate these practices into annual performance reviews, and other HR related conversations				

Health and Wellbeing

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
HWB1	Develop targeted programs for youth engagement and senior wellness including afterschool activities, and senior's classes	Create relevant programs that achieve positive results and have direct impact on physical activity levels, social inclusion, etc. of youth and seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local schools and seniors groups to integrate physical activity and social recreation activities into programs delivery. Offer free beginner clinics for students/seniors. Provide equipment grants or donations to schools/senior groups. 			
HWB2	Create an indoor/outdoor sport court strategy which will ensure communities across the Township have access to multi-purpose courts for Pickleball, Badminton, etc	<p>Create a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable multi-purpose courts/pickleball community that enhances the quality of life for residents, fosters social connections, and promotes physical activity.</p> <p>Major Themes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructure Development 2. Community Engagement 3. Youth and School Programs 	<p>Infrastructure Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify suitable locations for courts/pickleball courts, considering accessibility and existing recreational areas. Build or repurpose multi-purpose/pickleball courts. Install basic amenities such as benches, shade structures, 			

Health and Wellbeing						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		4. Events and Tournaments 5. Partnerships and Funding	and water fountains. Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize introductory clinics and open days. Create a social media presence and a community newsletter to share information about events, benefits, and updates. Host community meetings to gather feedback and suggestions. Events and Tournaments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch an annual community pickleball festival with clinics, exhibitions, and competitions. Organize regional tournaments to attract players from neighboring areas. Partner with local businesses 			

Health and Wellbeing

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
			<p>to sponsor events and offer prizes.</p> <p>Partnerships and Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for grants from sports and community foundations. • Develop corporate sponsorship packages for facilities and events. • Organize fundraising events, such as charity tournaments and auctions. 			
HWB3	Develop strategies to address emerging trends in sport and leisure to facilitate / clarify the level of municipal support, access to space, cost recovery, etc	Explore membership opportunities with local recreation associations such as Rural Recreation Association and Parks and Recreation Ontario	Become active member with Rural Recreation Association and Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) by registering for a PRO membership to gain access to their expertise, support, and resources.			
HWB4	Provide opportunities for social engagement through recreation and leisure	Seek opportunity for intergenerational programs and connections such as pairing youth with seniors for activities such as gardening,				

Health and Wellbeing

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
		crafting, or technology workshops				
		Invite seniors to share local history and other stories with children through storytelling sessions				
		Foster partnerships (e.g., Rideau Valley Conservation Authority or Country Roads Community Health Clinic) and enhance communications to ensure both supply and awareness of programs and events that include a social component				
HWB5	Work with partners (e.g., Frontenac Arch Biosphere, North Leeds Soccer Association, or the Delta Athletic and Recreational Society) to ensure diverse programming options to address growing need for unstructured, passive recreation opportunities; while meeting needs for direct program options	Offer more direct programming to fill gaps (e.g. drop-in program in parks through summer, fitness programs)				
		Ensure equal opportunity for active and passive recreation in each village (these options should be complementary, not competitive)				
		Support opportunities for unstructured youth programming to help mitigate or reduce at-risk behaviours stemming from leisure boredom				
HWB6	Continue to expand the 'lending hub' (available	Obtain a grant or sponsorship to enhance				

Health and Wellbeing

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
	through the Public Library) to allow residents to access equipment at no fee to support their recreation pursuits (e.g. snowshoes, trekking poles, racquet sports, water sports, gardening tools/equipment, knitting/crochet hooks)	inventory (maintain, replenish, renew, respond to new recreation trends)				
		Maintain partnership with the library to support distribution and management of recreation lending materials and resources				
HWB7	Work with community partners to facilitate the development of visual arts, environmental, low intensity, 'gentle' wellness programming, and mental health-mindfulness specific programming in response to community requests as part of survey process	Create and offer programs as a 'pilot' measuring participation rates and revising line-up to reflect emerging trends and interests, sustainability and include metrics to determine if pilot programs are worthy of being continued (e.g., through the provision of financial support)				
		Consider including programs that offer drop-in rates to allow for flexibility				
HWB8	Use evaluations beginning in this calendar year to measure and track participate rates and quality of programming; use this data to establish future goals and objectives for recreation program development,	Integrate program and event evaluation (paper and digital) into all services				

Health and Wellbeing						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
	to increase participation levels, and look identify opportunities for program and service delivery improvements					
HWB9	Continue to promote the benefits of recreation (to mitigate health risks)	Include Framework for Recreation in Canada as part of Council orientation				
		Communicate benefits of recreation as part of regular and ongoing recreation based communications				

Natural Environment						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
NE1	Responding to the value residents place on their natural environment (as noted in the Background Report) and trends on the broader horizon, use the CECs and working groups to advance environmental stewardship initiatives	Tree planting should consider species that will flourish as temperature changes				
		Use of local native species in ornamental gardens (e.g., outside municipal facilities or in beds that are located by village entrance signs)				
		Preserve waterfront habitats				
		Employ natural processes where possible to address items such as shoreline erosion, stormwater run-off, etc.				
NE2	Develop required accessibility upgrades to parks and trails (including playground safety, routes and wayfinding, seating, shade structures and trees, and bicycle parking) as part of ongoing maintenance and upgrades to trails / trailheads to support access to the natural environment	Purchase annual membership to Ontario Trails Council (OTC) as a valuable resource to support trail development, promotion, and risk management				
		Consistent trail signage (in partnership with trail owners/operators)				
		Create trailheads that include, at a minimum, township-branded directional signs, parking, accessible seating, signage for risk mitigation, waste receptacles, active transportation infrastructure, etc.				

Natural Environment						
Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
NE3	Investigate a concept plan, or a series of concept plans based on community consultation on the potential development of the Chaffey site in Chaffey's Lock	Focus on trailhead development and other infrastructure that supports tourism (e.g., wayfinding signage, parking)				
NE4	Lead by example in terms of Climate Adaptation and Stewardship in municipal recreation facilities	Install LED lighting at parks and in public buildings where not already in place				
		Use low-flow faucets and dual-flush toilets in public buildings				
		Minimize impervious surfaces such as pavement in parking lots (while maintaining accessible parking stalls and paths of travel)				
		Ensure at least one waste and recycle receptacles in public spaces	Monitor outdoor locations as 'animal resistant' options be required to minimize nuisance behaviour			
NE5	Support community driven climate mitigation efforts such as tree planting, water conservation initiatives, and use of green infrastructure					

Natural Environment

Item	Recommendation	Actions	Details	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
NE6	Enhance active transportation options that consider loops and accessible pathways that connect facilities and amenities throughout the community (this might include paved sidewalks or shoulders, gravel or aggregate paths in natural areas) (type, design and specs to be determined based on site)	Continue to advance the recommendations in the Township's Official Plan and Trails Strategy as it relates to active transportation and active transportation corridors				
		Install cycle infrastructure at key locations on main trails, paths, and roads that could include amenities such as bicycle racks, seating, water bottle refilling stations, cycle repair station, signage, access to Wi-Fi	The community is geographically spread out; but does welcome cyclists			
NE7	Host and support programs – ideally located in green spaces - that include an environmental education component such as learning about local wildlife or sustainable practices	Possible partnership with local conservation authority, land trusts, Frontenac Arch Biosphere and others				

Appendix 2: Background Report



Rideau Lakes

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Background Report

Prepared for: Leila Stafford, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator
Prepared by: K.A. Community Consulting
February 2024



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Introduction

This document, the Township of Rideau Lakes' Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Background Report, is the culmination of work completed between September 2023 and January 2024. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of all information and data gathered through the first phase of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update process.

It includes:

- A Project Description
- Information Gathering
 - o Literature Review
 - o One on One Interviews
 - o Youth Engagement
 - o Community Survey
 - o Park and Facility Assessments
- Key Findings
 - o SWOT Analysis
 - o Trends and Issues
 - o Parks and Facilities
 - o Programs
 - o Other Observations
- Next Steps

This represents the end of Phase 1: Background Report as further detailed in this report.

Project Overview

About the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

In 2023, the Township of Rideau Lakes recognized the need to update its Parks and Recreation Master Plan (as the previous plan has a set term of 2014 – 2019) and was due for renewal. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update will provide a strategic policy document that is intended to guide parks and recreation services through to 2030 and include programs, parks and recreation facilities.

Project Goals

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will:

1. Help solidify a vision for the future of park and recreation services for the Township that reflects existing guiding documents, local priorities and regional context; considers information gathered from all sources; and prepares for emerging issues and trends
2. Provide strategic direction and action for 10-year horizon; further segmented into short, mid and long terms goals and priorities
3. Identify potential partners and grant/sponsorship opportunities; and cost recovery strategies
4. Address parks and recreation services as a whole (programs, parks, indoor recreation facilities)
5. Include an implementation strategy to support the successful delivery of recommendations based on needs and priorities
6. Offer tools for monitoring and evaluation

Project Approach

The project is scheduled to take place over three phases:

Phase 1 Fall/Winter 2023	Phase 2 February	Phase 3 March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Initiation• Information Gathering• Background Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify Opportunities and Actions• Create Framework for Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Parks and Recreation Master Plan• Council Presentation

Phase 1: Information Gathering (September 2023 – January 2024)

The purpose of this phase is to understand the current state of parks and recreation services and to identify trends and issues that will influence the future horizon of the Parks and Recreation Plan Update. This is accomplished through reviewing of key documents (internal and external), researching trends in the recreational sector, an assessment of parks and recreation facilities, program review, and engaging the community through one-on-one interviews and a community survey. This will help inform needs, interests, priorities, and opportunities. This phase will wrap with a Background report that will be presented to Council in late 2023.

Phase 2: Analysis of Opportunities (February 2024)

Using information and insights gathered during the information gathering phase, with a specific emphasis on identified opportunities, a set of strategic actions will be created and categorized. These actions will then be aligned with prevailing trends, address pertinent issues, and align with corporate and community priorities. This evaluation will enable the prioritization of actions.

Phase 3: Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Update) (March 2024)

The project will wrap up with the drafting of a full Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. The final plan will include a series of actions that are prioritized, accompanying recommendations to support implementation; and, tools for monitoring and evaluation. The final plan will be presented to Council in summer 2024 for adoption.

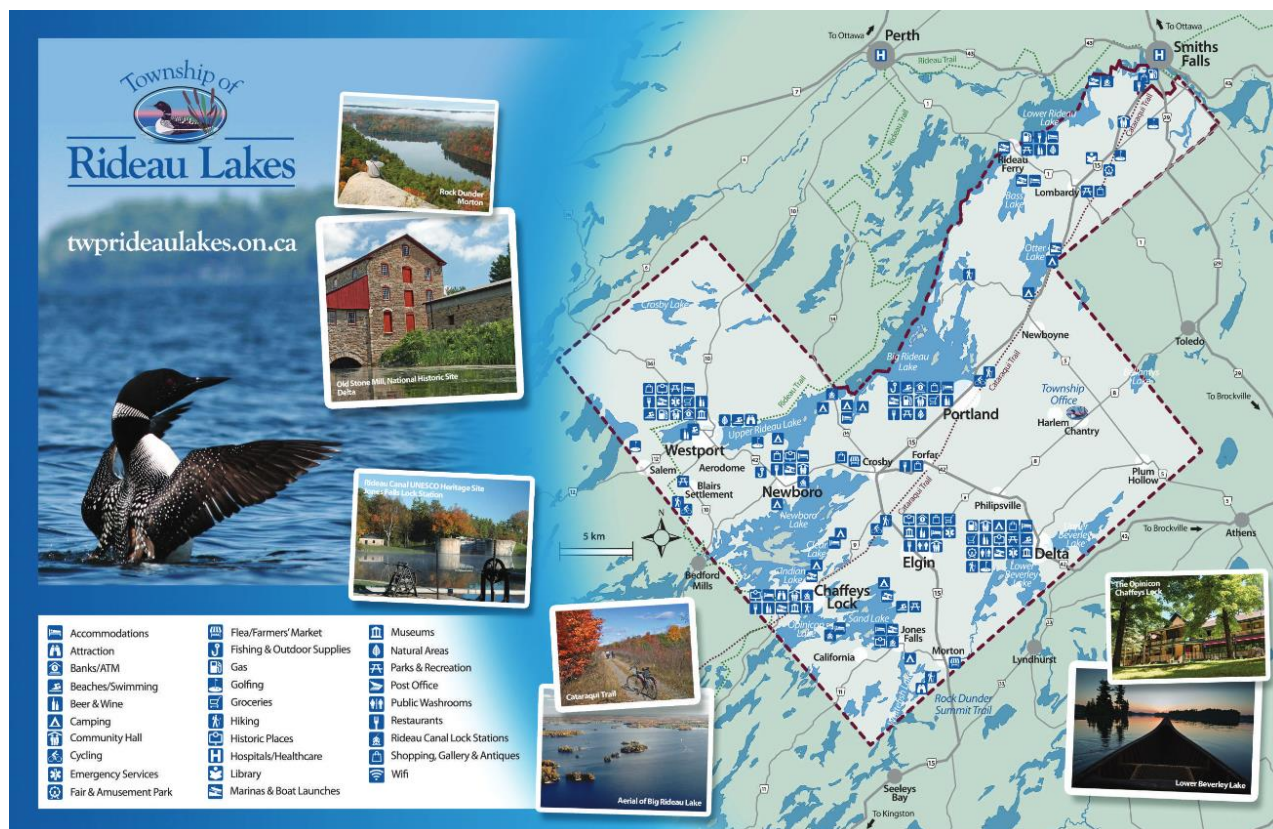
Information Gathering

Community Profile

The Township of Rideau Lakes is a lower-tier municipality within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, in eastern Ontario. The Township is comprised of several villages and hamlets; with these villages playing a vital role as commercial and social hubs. The nearest larger centres include Smiths Falls, Kingston, and Brockville. The main transportation artery is provincial Highway 15 running on a north-south access; and County Road 42 is the main east-west route through the township.

Rideau Lakes is situated along the UNESCO designated Rideau Canal corridor, and within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere. It is a vibrant community that boasts an abundance of natural beauty with parks, trails, and with access to over 30 lakes and waterways. Beyond its natural allure, Rideau Lakes is steeped with natural culture and heritage; with villages showcasing historical architecture and heritage sites.

The Township of Rideau Lakes has a land area of 711.8km², and the population density is 15.3 people per square kilometre.

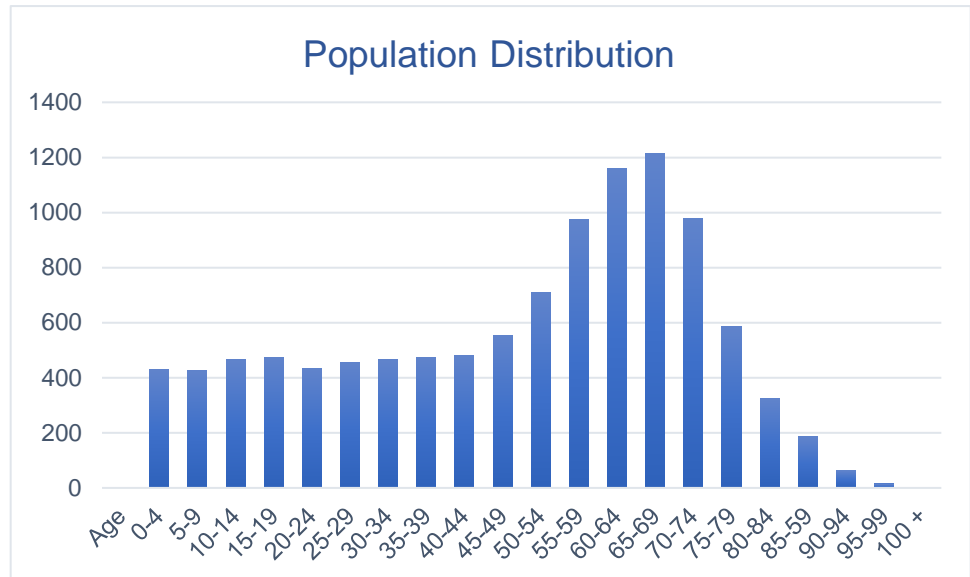


Demographics

According to the 2021 Census of Population, Rideau Lakes population is 10,883: a 5.4% increase from 2016. According to the Township's Official Plan, the population is expected to grow to 11,220 permanent residents by 2031.

Of note is the high percent of older adults that reside in

the Township; those age 65+ make up 31% of the total population. This is higher than both the provincial average (18.5%) and the national average (19%). It is also worth commenting on the growing number of younger people in the community; the number of children has grown from 2016 (1250) to 2021 (1320), anecdotally more children have been observed in the villages, and there are more students registering in the Upper Canada District School Board (RDHS, Intermediate levels).



Literature Review / Environmental Scan

It is clear that the Township of Rideau Lakes recognizes the value of its parks, trails, and open spaces; and its abundant access to local lakes and waterways. These places support passive and active recreation opportunities contributing to the physical and social well-being of residents and visitors; and are a tourism (economic) driver.

Priorities are clear and include:

- Consideration for universal design (accessibility and inclusivity)
- The ability of residents and visitors to access a range of high-quality recreation facilities and programs
- Strong financial stewardship relating to infrastructure maintenance and renewal
- Recognizing villages as recreation and social hubs
- Contribution and support for the volunteer base

Document reviewed are listed below with a more comprehensive review included in Appendix 1.

Township of Rideau Lakes Official Plan (Updated 2022)	
Strategic Plan (2015)	
Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2021)	
Recreation Master Plan (2014)	
Township of Rideau Lakes Trails Strategy (2019)	
Community Profile (2018)	

When looking more broadly at what is happening at the regional, provincial, and national levels, there are common themes that have emerged.

There is a pressing need for consistent and sustainable funding for the maintenance and renewal of recreation facilities. Key organizations are lobbying for investment in this area.

Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility are becoming increasingly important. The need to remove barriers – whatever they may be – is essential to ensure that everyone has access to quality programs, services, and facilities. This is also informed by the growing number of new Canadians.

Attitudes toward recreation are changing. On one hand, the COVID-19 increased the overall appreciation for parks and recreation services; these were integral to supporting physical, mental and social well-being both in the midst of the pandemic, but also as part of the recovery process. And at the same time, despite the clear benefit of physical activity, participation rates in programs are low. This can be attributed to individuals seeking more flexible recreational outlets that accommodate their lifestyle and schedule.

The role that parks, trails, and recreation services have in travel and tourism, and in community economic development is being acknowledged. The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Inaugural Regional Tourism Destination Strategy (2022) identifies this as a regional strength.

Finally, in reviewing the 94 Calls to Action included in the Truth and Reconciliation Report, there are nine actions that related directly to sport and recreation; by acting on these items, Rideau Lakes has an opportunity to demonstrate true reconciliation through its action. According to Census data (2016), and based on a 25% sample size, there are 115 individuals that identify as having Indigenous ancestry in the Township of Rideau Lakes (on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe, Wendake-Nionwentsio, Mississauga and Haudenosaunee peoples).

Information Sources include, but are not limited to:

ParticipACTION	
Parks and Recreation Ontario	
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association	
Rural Recreation Association	
Canada Sport Policy Background Report (SIRC)	
Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action	

Community Engagement

One on One Interviews

One on One stakeholder interviews were conducted through the months October through December 2023. During this time, a total of 16 interviews were completed by phone, in person, or virtually.

- Accessibility and inclusivity was highlighted by many
- Community volunteers and organizations are appreciated; but there is awareness of some challenges with capacity, communications, and coordination
- High level of interest in seeing the work at South Elmsley and in Portland continued (while ensuring that the level of investment makes sense)
- A lot of opportunity exists with existing assets, particularly related to parks and trails; and, that these are strong economic drivers in the community
- When asked about a vision for parks and recreation services the following keyword were identified: accessibility, community spaces, volunteerism, lots of opportunities for all ages, people focus, Country Roads Community Health Centre, local service clubs and sport organizations, neighbouring municipalities

- Partnership opportunities listed take into account: Cataraqui Conservation, Upper Canada District School Board, Frontenac Arch Biosphere, Land Trust, CECs, Library
- Major investments and projects include: a large (central) community hall, indoor turf, trail development, splashpad installation (Portland or Elgin)

Youth Outreach

To capture the youth voice, youth at Rideau District High School were visited in December. They were asked to identify: strengths and needs, what they think will impact the future and what they'd like to see in the future; and what actions they would take to improve parks and recreation if they were mayor for a day.

- Youth value their outdoor spaces
- Recognize impact of climate change (want to see places left natural, plant trees)
- They are seeking active recreation opportunities (some of which exist, also presenting ideas for new programs (esp. football, volleyball)
- Also seeking more IT programs and integration into parks (e.g. Wi-Fi hotspots)
- Interest in arts and culture (programs, mural installations)
- Want a space to hang out (reference Tim Hortons, Starbucks, McDonalds) where youth are welcome and food/drink available
- Want access to (clean and maintained) public washrooms
- Soccer and skating are popular (some asking for indoor turf)

Community Survey

A Community Survey was conducted between November 13 and December 8, 2023. The survey was available in print through local library branches and online. A total of 352 responses were received with 80% residing in the Township year-round, 12% identify as seasonal resident with the balance living in another community, but access programs and services within Rideau Lakes (Elizabethtown, Leeds 1000 Islands, Ottawa, Westport).

Survey results show high levels of use for parks and open spaces, with trails identified as the most popular amenity. Survey participants show high levels of satisfaction with parks and continued trail development is a priority. Indoor facilities are not visited as often, owing in part to proximity or programming options within the space. Accessibility was a key item identified for future investment. Township and community programs are diverse, and where program options are not available locally, residents are traveling to access amenities such as indoor rinks and pools. A copy of survey results is included in Appendix 4.

Facility Assessments

Site visits of parks were conducted in fall 2023. Observations were recorded related to: existing infrastructure and amenities, signage, location, and general condition. These will be used to inform recommendations as part of Phase 2 work. Generally, facilities were found to be in good condition and offer a range of amenities.

A copy of individual assessments are found in Appendix XX.

Delta Mill Park

Delta Recreation Centre

Delta Russell Park

Delta Stevens Park

Elgin Municipal Complex and Grounds

Elgin Outdoor Rink

Gallagher Property

Hannah Memorial Park

Kin Park

Lower Beverly Lake Park

Morton Community Hall

Newboro Memorial Park

Newboro Hall

North Crosby Community Centre

Portland Beach

Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex and Grounds

Sand Lake Park

Shillington Park

Tett Park

Van Clief Park

Summary of Key Findings

Data and information gathered from all sources, as previously referenced, have been used to inform the SWOT analysis, identify trends and issues, and understand existing conditions of parks, facilities, and programs.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Parks and Trails- Water Access- Volunteers & Volunteer Organizations- Outdoor Recreation Options- Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Whole Community vs Wards- Lack of Communications- Coordination Among Service Delivery Providers- Large Geographic Footprint
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technology Integration- Trail Development- Economic Benefits of Recreation and Tourism- Gallagher and South Elmsley Properties- Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Staff Resources Required for Volunteer Groups- Aging Infrastructure- Climate Change- Lack of Stable and Consistent Funding

Trends and Issues

Four significant trends and issues were identified.



Service Delivery



Health and Wellbeing



Natural Environment



Asset Management

Service Delivery

Service delivery considers how parks and recreation services are delivered. Strong partnerships are necessary to support program delivery and to ensure access to a range of recreation facilities and services. Fostering positive relationships and cost-sharing agreements are required to support these partnerships.

Service providers must adapt to the rapid pace at which technology advances. It is prudent to stay on top of emerging technologies and how they can be employed to increase efficiencies, to improve the customer experience, and how it can be implemented into park / facility design.

Preparation is required to support older adults in the community, recognizing that improvements that benefit seniors often result in enhancements that are realized by the entire community. This aligns with barrier free design and creating inclusive spaces that are accessible; and that there is a need to mitigate other barriers such as location or cost/fees.

Finally, there are growing concerns related to staff and volunteer levels. A new approach to volunteerism may be required to address how this sector has changed (especially post-COVID and related to volunteers 'ageing-out'). And, staff shortages are being realized across the sector, underscoring the value of staff attraction and retention.

Health and Well-Being

The benefits of recreation are well documented, yet despite this growing awareness, overall participation rates are low. Recreation and leisure program offerings need to consider that people are often seeking more unstructured, passive opportunities that allow for flexibility. A shift in terms of the value of personal fulfillment and experience as motivational factors, rather than the more traditional performance base culture is being observed.

There is a heightened awareness of the impact of social isolation and mental health on overall well-being. It is further recognized that access to recreation and leisure programs is needed to mitigate potential health risks in the community.

Natural Environment

There are several items relating to the natural environment that are rising in importance; this would be especially true in a place like Rideau Lakes, where the outdoors contributes significantly to the community (tourism attraction, trail systems, parks and open spaces allowing for an abundance of recreation opportunities).

Adaptations must be considered to mitigate the impact of climate change, whether in terms of trees being planted in parks or regarding building design. More extreme weather events are predicted, impacting community health and access to outdoor programs; locally this was realized when the kick-off to the North Leeds Soccer program was postponed for almost three weeks, in what is already a short season.

There is a strong desire to protect and preserve natural spaces, and the Township would be well positioned to be a leader in this area in terms of stewardship and sustainability.

Asset Management

Municipalities are experiencing financial pressures on many sides; new regulations and legislation, demographics are changing, and there is an ever-increasing demand for services. In a climate of austerity, coupled with political pressure to limit tax increases; rural council and senior staff are challenged with the maintenance and renewal of recreation facilities. This is compounded by the lack of consistent and sustainable

funding (particularly from other levels of government – whether in terms of transfer payments or grant / funding opportunities).

Another key observation is the shift to multi-purpose, multi-generational spaces rather than stand-alone facilities.

Parks and Facilities

Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces

- 90% of survey participants (N=293) visit parks, trails and open spaces
 - o Cataraqui Trail (61%) and Lower Beverly Park (33%) among the most popular
 - o Russel Park (3%) and Van Clief Park (3.5%) least frequented
- 20% of survey respondents visit parks, trails, or open spaces at least once per week; however, many are only accessing these spaces on special occasions (less than once per year)
- Trails, washrooms, benches or other seating, and water access points (beaches and boat ramps) are the most popular amenities; basketball courts and tennis facilities were found to be the least popular among survey respondents
- Local priorities include trail development and accessibility
- When asked why they don't use or access parks, trails, and open spaces answers included:
 - o People access trails / outdoor spaces on their own property
 - o Lack of awareness of all parks and their amenities
 - o Trouble with parking
 - o Travel times / distances (looking for options closest to home that serves the whole family – even if that means going into other communities such as Smiths Falls or Perth)
- More than half of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied, with less than 10% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with parks, trails, and open spaces
- Maintenance of parks is important with the highest value placed on restrooms and trash collection, playground safety, and grass/turf maintenance; a lesser priority item is the maintenance of flowers and shrubs
- Priorities for investment
 - o Trail development (signage, linkages, trailhead, seating, connect to toilets)
 - o Accessible options in parks (for all ages)
 - o Seniors' amenities in parks
 - o General park maintenance (e.g., mowing, cleaning beaches)
 - o Dog park
 - o Washrooms
 - o Pickleball (indoor / outdoor)
 - o Finish work at Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex
 - o Playground for young kids (Portland and Elgin)
 - o Informational signage / wayfinding signs
 - o Affordability
 - o Parking

Indoor Recreation Facilities

- Almost 50/50 split among those who do and do not access indoor facilities when considering survey responses
 - o Elgin Municipal Complex (38%) and the Newboro Community Hall (24%) were the most visited among survey respondents
 - o Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex was found to be the least visited (but anticipate this will change with planned development)
- Those who do visit these spaces report visiting a few times per month or less
- Overall satisfaction is ranked as 'neutral'
- Survey participants who indicated that they do not use indoor spaces is owing to:
 - o Lack of programs that are of interest
 - o Challenges with the booking system
 - o Poor proximity
 - o They don't feel welcome (groups are 'clique-y')
 - o Don't see these spaces as true 'recreation' facilities
- Priorities for investment include:
 - o Accessibility
 - o Program development that is appropriate for the space
 - o The Portland Hall rebuild
 - o Indoor gym space
 - o Better promotion of facilities
 - o Outdoor amenities at these spaces (e.g., drinking water stations)
 - o Maintain what we have
 - o A centralized hub that serves whole family, a space that can hold large scale events
 - o Technology integration for both efficiencies, and to enhance the end-user experience (e.g., online registrations, access to wi-fi in parks and public spaces)

Programs

- Only 42% of survey participants indicate that they participate in programs
 - Seniors' fitness, pickleball / tennis and Coffee Chats are most popular
- Non-structured outdoor recreation activities are popular and include hiking, boating, fishing
- To increase participation better promotion is required
- Program interests include fitness, live music, bushcraft, seniors' options, football, and beach volleyball
- While Rideau Lakes has a lot of opportunities, these need to be constantly revisited to ensure they are:
 - Well communicated
 - In the right location, at the right time for the intended audience
 - Updated to reflect changing needs and interests
- Residents do access programs and facilities in other communities (especially in reference to pools and rinks); they are doing so because the program or service isn't offered locally, or because external offering are closer to home

Administrative / Other

- Most obtain their information from Facebook and the website, but there is also a large portion (30%) looking for print material
- Generally survey participants can find the information they need
- Staff is seen as responsive, knowledgeable, and provide excellent customer service
- Funding for Parks and Recreation, according to survey participants, should be:
 - Balanced users and taxes (36%)
 - Mostly tax funded, with some user fees (26%)
 - Mostly user fees, some taxes (21%)
- To contribute to development, survey participants indicate they would
 - Volunteer (50%)
 - Pay more user fees (37%)
 - Accept a small tax increase (26%)

Other observations of note through the information gathering phase include:

- Lack of coordination among CEC's is creating competition; this can be easily remedied with improved communication
- There is a lot of good here – could be better coordinated and select a few key things – don't dilute too much
- As much as there is support around the Portland Hall and South Elmsley development, there are some that question whether the level of investment is warranted
- Love our water access – how to protect this

Conclusion and Next Steps

The first phase of work is now complete. It is apparent that the Township of Rideau Lakes, its residents and visitors' value and appreciate the natural landscape and the range of recreational opportunities that exist.

Using the data and information gathered; a series of actions will be identified. Actions will be aligned with local priorities, and a framework for implementation will be created. A financial strategy and evaluation tools will be imbedded as the final Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is completed. A final presentation to Council will be made in late March or early April to wrap the planning process.

Appendix 1: Literature Review / Environmental Scan

Official Plan

In February 2023, the Township of Rideau Lakes updated its Official Plan. This document provides a framework for managing growth, development, and land use within the Township addresses items such as land use designations, density, environmental protection, and public participation.

Relevant to PRMP:

- Development and maintenance of sufficient parkland, open space, and community facilities to meet the needs of various age groups and socio-economics
- Recognition of the value of tourism enhancing projects, particularly by non-profits; and, that these projects can be supported through various mechanisms
- That the Township may request parkland (or cash-in-lieu) as a condition of the approval of a planning application
 - o Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster (2022) caps the total amount that is required
- Acknowledgement that access to public open space and outdoor recreation contributes to the overall well-being of residents and visitors; and, that action should be taken to support active and passive uses of parks, trails, water access points, etc.
- Support for active transportation will include provision of street furniture, bicycle racks, landscape elements that provide shade, appropriate lighting, paddle launch areas, trailhead development, etc., especially when partnership and external funding opportunities exist

Strategic Plan

The Township of Rideau Lakes adopted the current strategic plan in 2015 covering a ten-year span. The Plan lays out several priority areas that include infrastructure planning, financial planning and sustainability, economic development, and the vitality of hamlets and villages.

Relevant to PRMP:

- Supporting high quality facilities across the wide geography; relying on shared services, public / private partnerships, and co-location of services where it makes sense.
- Employing universal design to support ageing in place for older adults
- Recognizing the strengths and differences between the Township's villages and hamlets; and that these places are recreation and leisure hubs within the Township
- Fostering the engaged volunteer base

Asset Management Plan

Municipalities are required to manage and maintain a broad portfolio of infrastructure assets such as roads, buildings, bridges, vehicles, equipment and more. The Ontario

government implemented Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure regulation O.Reg 588/17 to support life cycle planning for municipal infrastructure. Rideau Lakes adopted its Asset Management Plan in 2022.

Relevant to PRMP

- Annual capital requirement for parks was set at just more than \$30,000 annually
- Parks were noted to be in good condition with an average life span of 35yrs

Safety and Well-Being Plan

Adopted in 2021, the Community and Safety Well-being Plan was created in partnership with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and the Town of Prescott. The completion of this plan was a legislative requirement under the Police Services Act, and addresses social development, prevention, risk intervention, and incident response.

Relevant to PRMP:

- That access to affordable recreation opportunities is essential for single parent families
- That recreation opportunities are key to youth development, and to senior's well-being
- Access to recreation reduces at risk behaviour

Recreation Master Plan

A Recreation Master Plan was created in 2013 as a planning tool to guide recreation services for 2014 – 2019. It included an assessment of the current state of recreation in the Township, identified needs and concerns, and included a series of recommendations for a five-year span

Relevant to PRMP:

- Progress has been made in addressing several of the recommendations included in the plan
- A number of items remain current and valid given current priorities and trends; these will be brought forward and reframed to align with current context

Township of Rideau Lakes Trails Strategy

The Township of Rideau Lakes Trail Strategy (2019) includes a list of benefits related to trails (including accessing nature), and identifies a series of challenges that include mobility and access, and coordination of trail groups. The document includes an inventory of existing trail systems and offers a series of strategic opportunities.

Relevant to PRMP:

- The Trails Strategy further lends to the recognition of the value of trail systems (e.g., social, environment, or economic)
- Several recommendations are included that may be reference in the final PRMP update

Community Profile, Township of Rideau Lakes Economic Development Committee

In 2018, the Township created a Community Profile as an economic development tool. It provides an overview of demographics, climate, infrastructure, communications, and quality of life.

Relevant to PRMP

- Recognition of the value of recreation and trails to quality of life, which may attract business and residential development

Appendix 2: One-on-One Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholders were asked the following:

1. Please tell us about yourself:
 - Your connect to recreation and the township
 - Your general perspective of current parks and recreation services
2. We are going to walk through a SWOT analysis.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
THREATS	OPPORTUNITIES

3. What do YOU think are the most significant recreational needs in the community (this can include programs, events, parks and facilities)?
4. What is your vision for the long-term future of recreation in this region? What legacy would you like to see left behind?
5. What collaboration opportunities do you see between local organizations, schools, and government agencies to support recreational development?
6. Is there anything else you'd like to share or discuss regarding recreation planning and its significance for this area?

Appendix 3: Youth Engagement

The consulting team visited Rideau District High School, Elgin Ontario on December 11, 2023. A total of five hours were spent in the school. Youth were asked a series of questions and to note their thoughts and opinions.

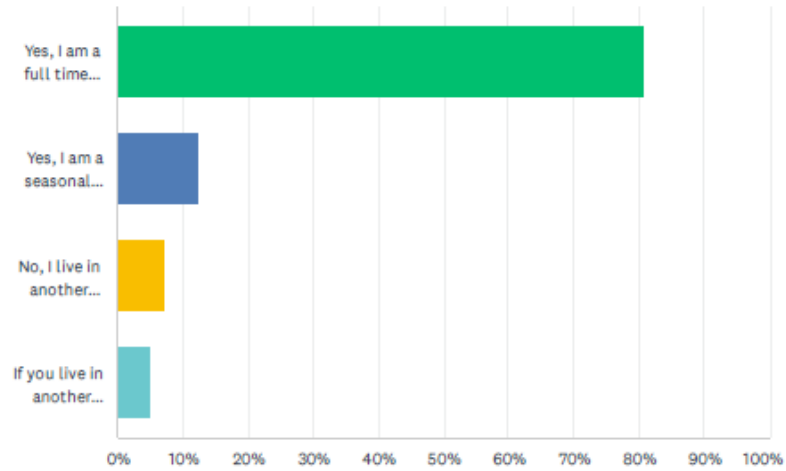
Questions that the students were asked include:

- What strengths can you identify related to parks and recreation?
- What do you think might impact the future of parks and recreation (in a positive or negative way)?
- If you were mayor for a day, what would you do to improve parks and recreation services in the township?
- What is the biggest need for parks and recreation?
- How do you envision the future of parks and recreation in the township?

Appendix 4: Community Survey

Q1 Do you live in the Township of Rideau Lakes?

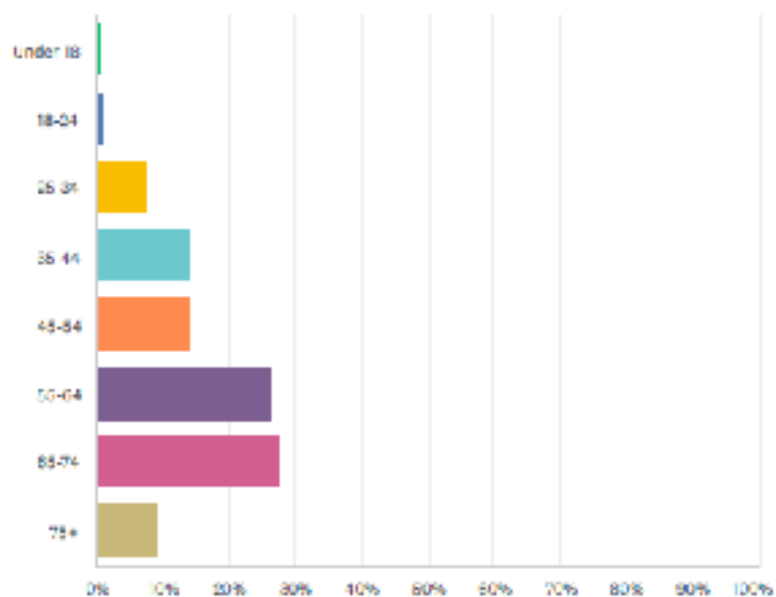
Answered: 349 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I am a full time resident	80.52%	281
Yes, I am a seasonal resident	12.32%	43
No, I live in another municipality but use the Township of Rideau Lakes' recreation services	7.16%	25
If you live in another municipality, please identify the location in the field below	4.87%	17
Total Respondents: 349		

Q2 Which age group do you fit into?

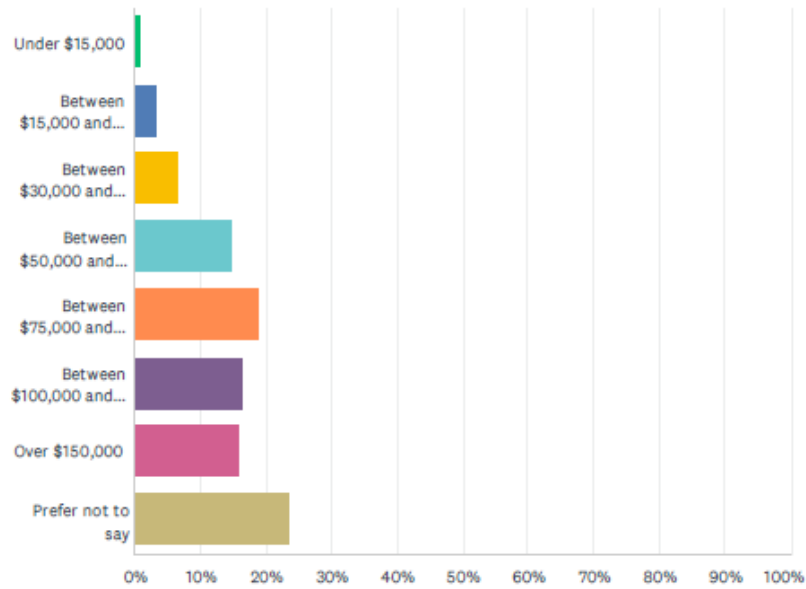
Answered: 319 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	PERCENTAGES	COUNT
Under 18	0.57%	2
18-24	1.15%	4
25-34	7.45%	26
35-44	13.75%	48
45-54	14.04%	49
55-64	26.87%	91
65-74	27.53%	96
75+	11.03%	37
TOTAL		349

Q3 What is your household income?

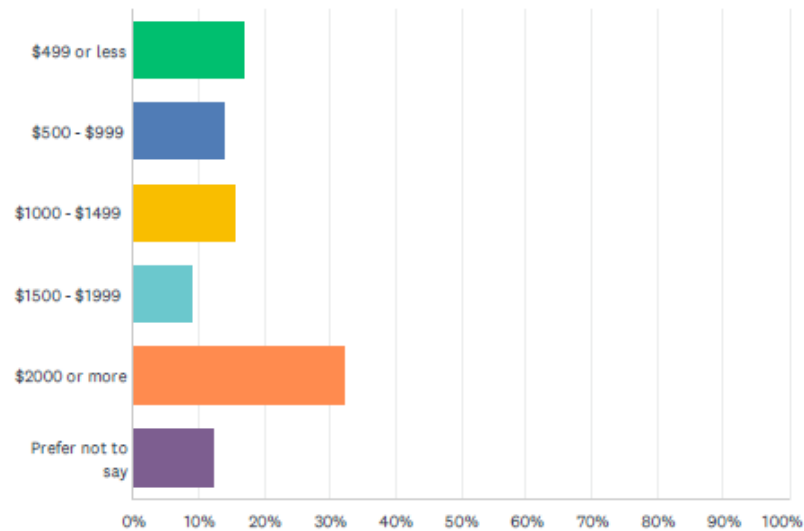
Answered: 348 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under \$15,000	0.86%	3
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	3.45%	12
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	6.61%	23
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	14.66%	51
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	18.68%	65
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	16.38%	57
Over \$150,000	15.80%	55
Prefer not to say	23.56%	82
TOTAL		348

Q4 How much do you / your household spend on recreation annually?

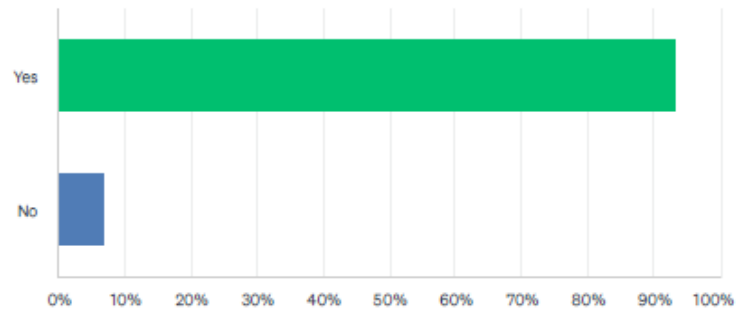
Answered: 349 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
\$499 or less	16.91% 59
\$500 - \$999	14.04% 49
\$1000 - \$1499	15.47% 54
\$1500 - \$1999	9.17% 32
\$2000 or more	32.09% 112
Prefer not to say	12.32% 43
TOTAL	349

Q5 Do you or members of your household visit parks, trails, and open spaces in the Township of Rideau Lakes?

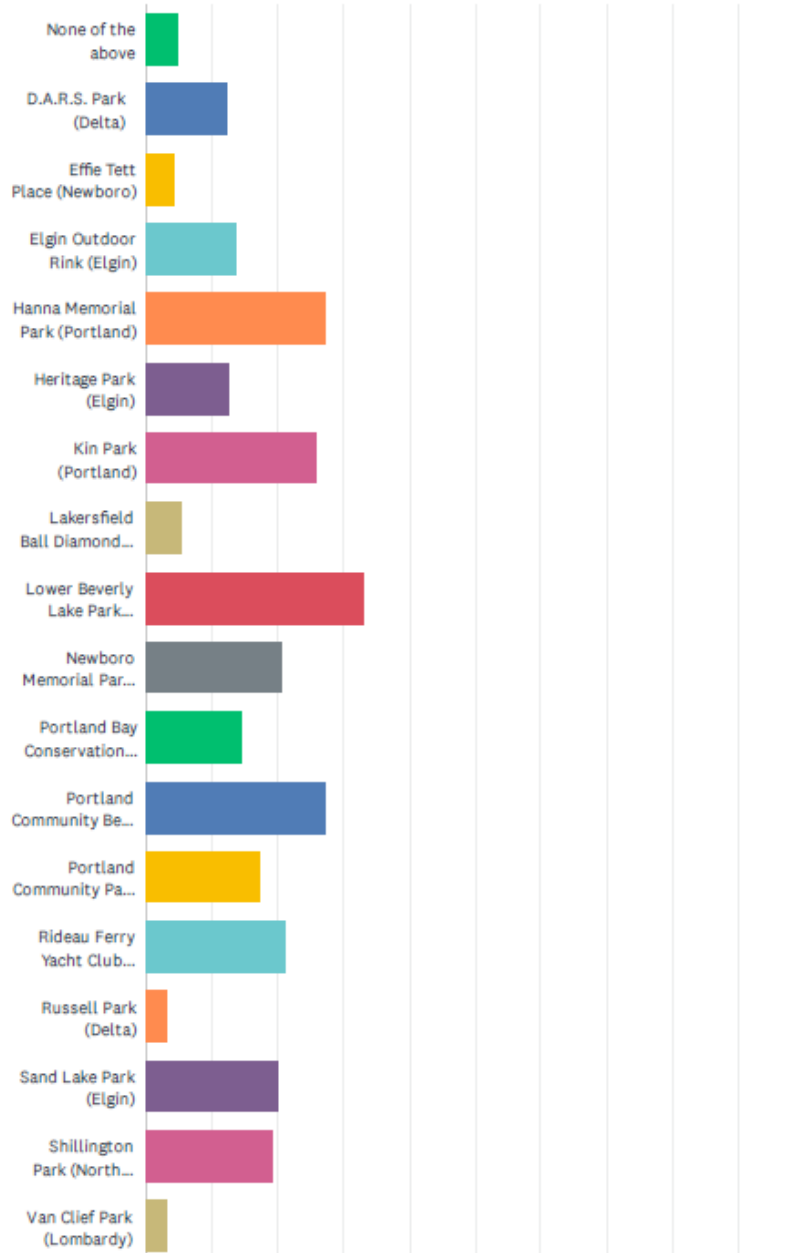
Answered: 293 Skipped: 59

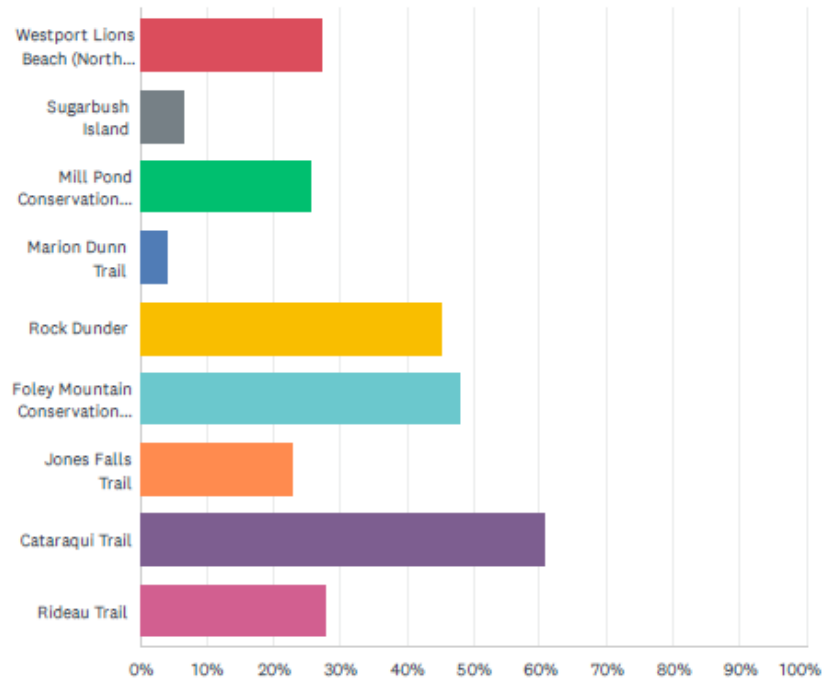


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.17%	273
No	6.83%	20
TOTAL		293

Q6 Which parks, trails, or open spaces do you visit? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 290 Skipped: 62

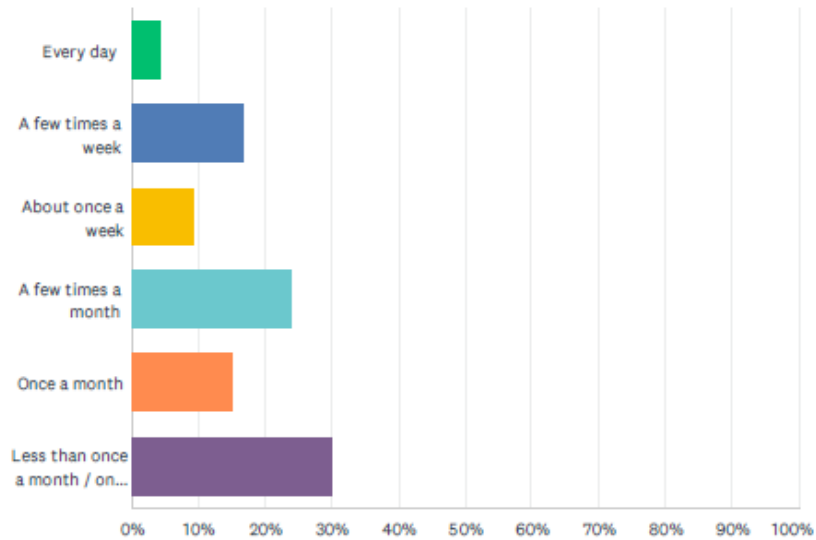




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	4.83%	14
D.A.R.S. Park (Delta)	12.41%	36
Effie Tett Place (Newboro)	4.48%	13
Elgin Outdoor Rink (Elgin)	13.79%	40
Hanna Memorial Park (Portland)	27.24%	79
Heritage Park (Elgin)	12.76%	37
Kin Park (Portland)	25.86%	75
Lakersfield Ball Diamond (Delta)	5.52%	16
Lower Beverly Lake Park (Delta)	33.10%	96
Newboro Memorial Park (Newboro)	20.69%	60
Portland Bay Conservation Area (Portland)	14.48%	42
Portland Community Beach (Portland)	27.24%	79
Portland Community Park (Portland)	17.59%	51
Rideau Ferry Yacht Club Conservation Area (Rideau Ferry)	21.38%	62
Russell Park (Delta)	3.10%	9
Sand Lake Park (Elgin)	20.34%	59
Shillington Park (North Crosby)	19.31%	56
Van Clief Park (Lombardy)	3.45%	10
Westport Lions Beach (North Crosby)	27.24%	79
Sugarbush Island	6.55%	19
Mill Pond Conservation Area	25.52%	74
Marion Dunn Trail	4.14%	12
Rock Dunder	45.17%	131
Foley Mountain Conservation Area	47.93%	139
Jones Falls Trail	22.76%	66
Cataraqui Trail	60.69%	176
Rideau Trail	27.93%	81
Total Respondents: 290		

Q7 How often do you visit these outdoor facilities?

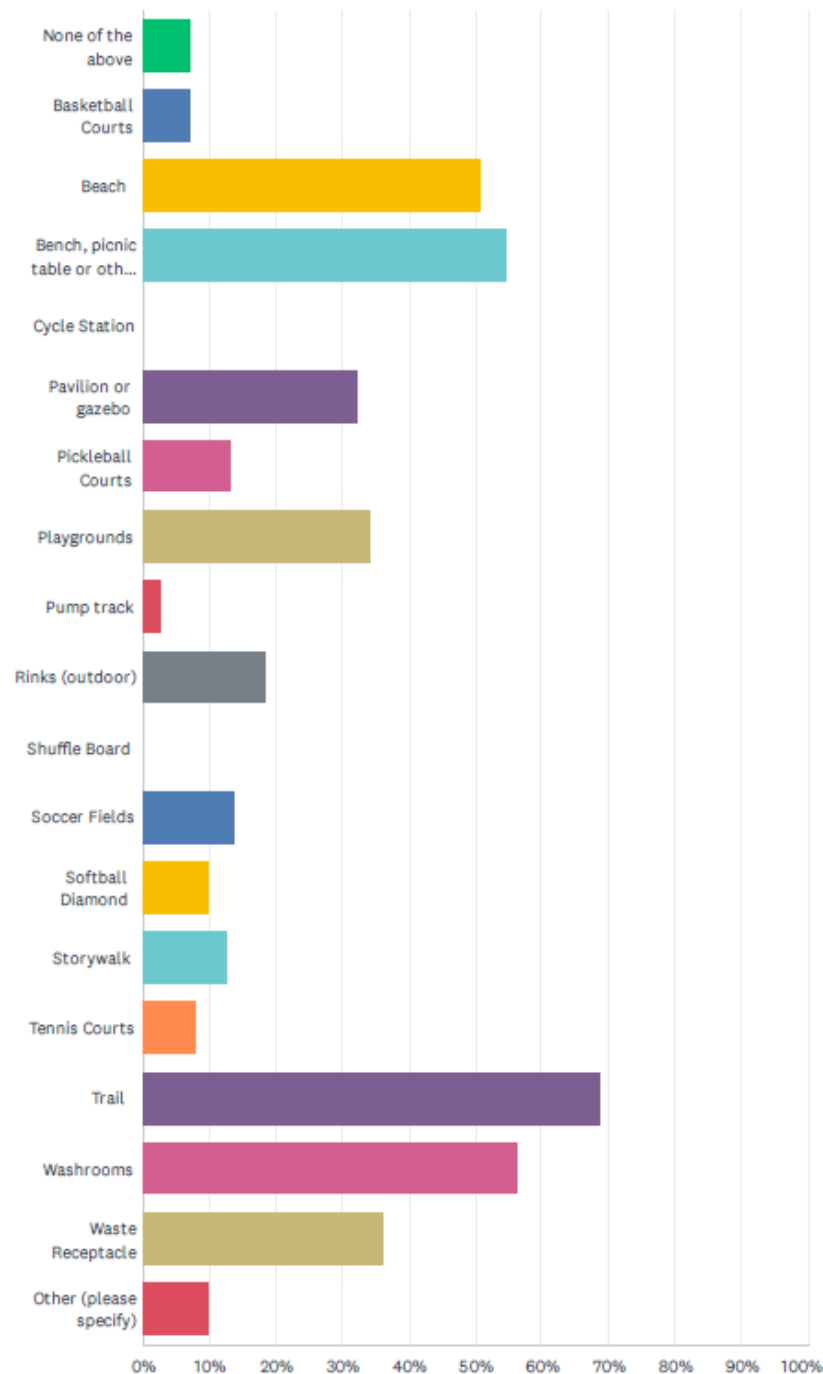
Answered: 286 Skipped: 66



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	4.55%	13
A few times a week	16.78%	48
About once a week	9.44%	27
A few times a month	24.13%	69
Once a month	15.03%	43
Less than once a month / only on special occasions	30.07%	86
TOTAL		286

Q8 Which facilities or amenities do you use in these outdoor spaces?
Please check all that apply.

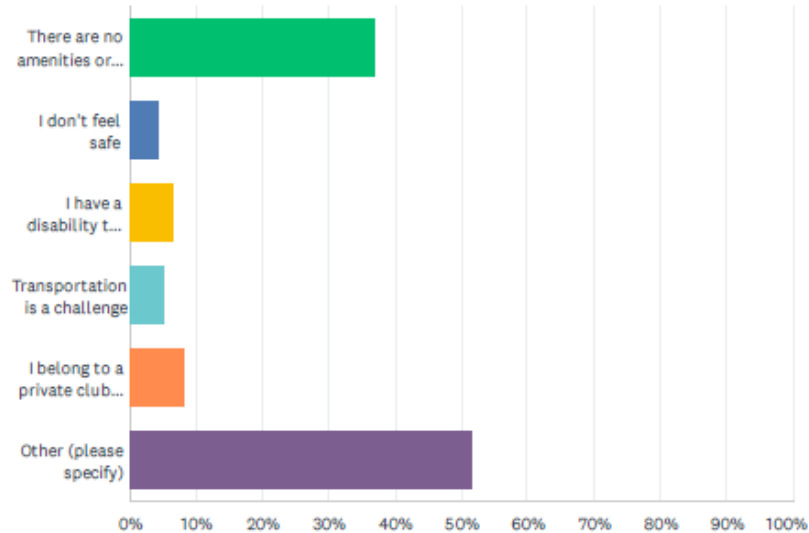
Answered: 288 Skipped: 64



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	6.94%	20
Basketball Courts	7.29%	21
Beach	50.69%	146
Bench, picnic table or other seating	54.51%	157
Cycle Station	0.00%	0
Pavilion or gazebo	32.29%	93
Pickleball Courts	13.19%	38
Playgrounds	34.38%	99
Pump track	2.78%	8
Rinks (outdoor)	18.40%	53
Shuffle Board	0.00%	0
Soccer Fields	13.54%	39
Softball Diamond	10.07%	29
Storywalk	12.50%	36
Tennis Courts	7.99%	23
Trail	68.75%	198
Washrooms	56.25%	162
Waste Receptacle	36.11%	104
Other (please specify)	10.07%	29
Total Respondents: 288		

Q9 Please indicate why you might not use Township parks, trails, or open spaces. Please select all that apply.

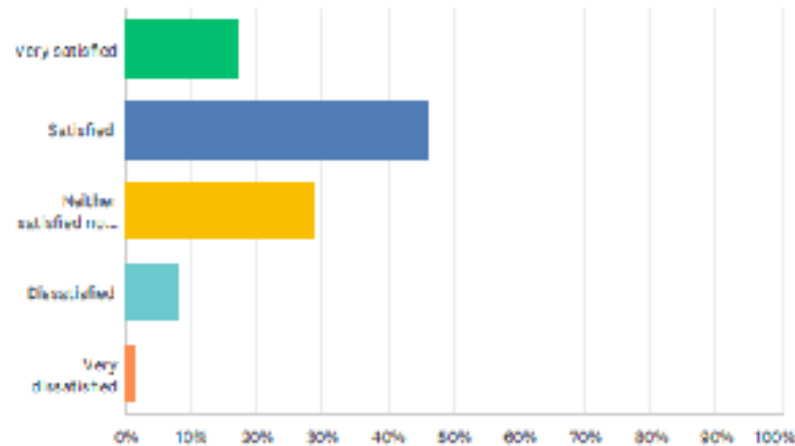
Answered: 167 Skipped: 185



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
There are no amenities or services that I am interested in	37.13%	62
I don't feel safe	4.19%	7
I have a disability that is not accommodated	6.59%	11
Transportation is a challenge	5.39%	9
I belong to a private club or other facility that provides the services that I need	8.38%	14
Other (please specify)	51.50%	86
Total Respondents: 167		

Q10 What is your overall satisfaction rate with the Township parks, trails, and open spaces?

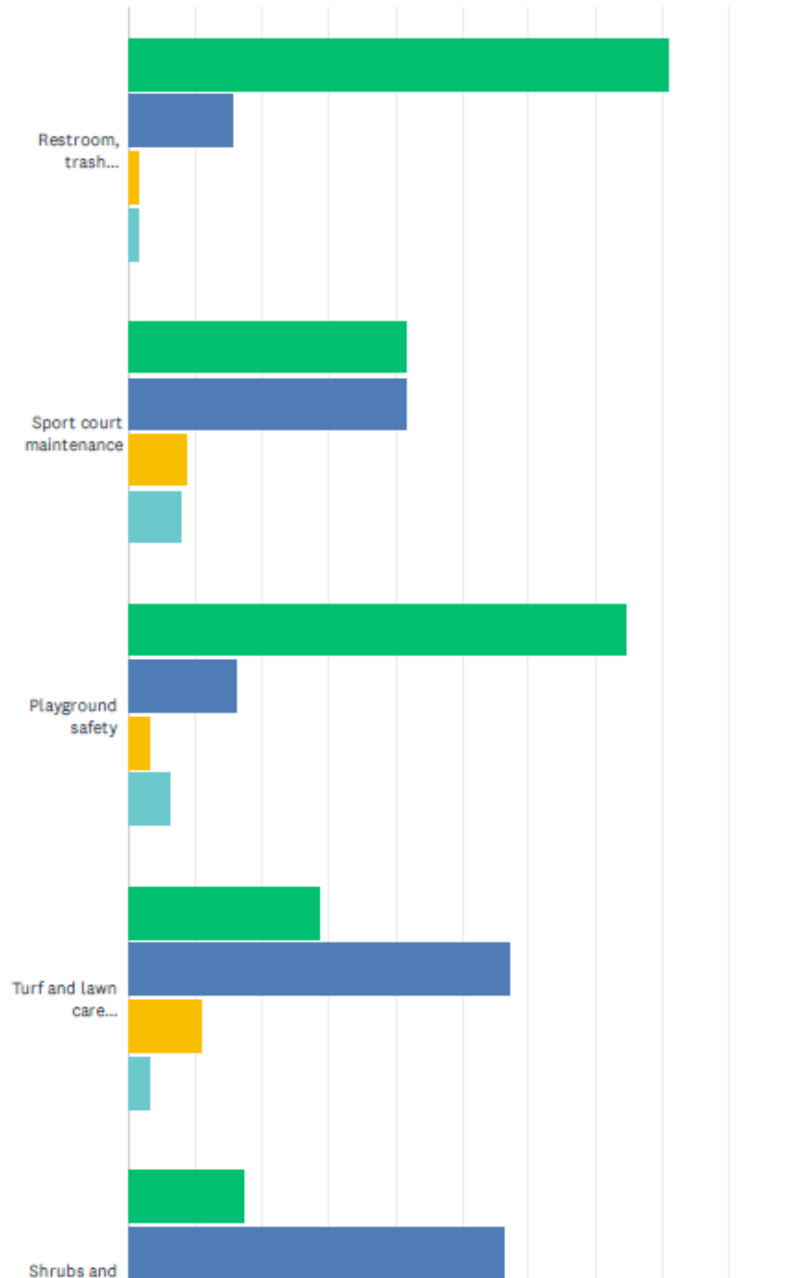
Answered: 287 Skipped: 65

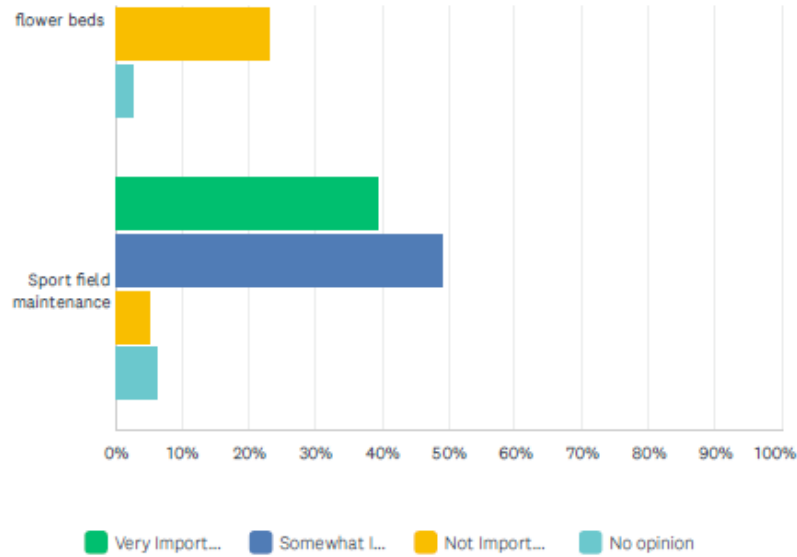


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	17.42%	50
Satisfied	45.99%	132
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	28.57%	82
Dissatisfied	8.01%	23
Very dissatisfied	1.04%	3
Total Respondents: 287		

Q12 How important are the following maintenance activities in parks, trails, and open spaces?

Answered: 288 Skipped: 64

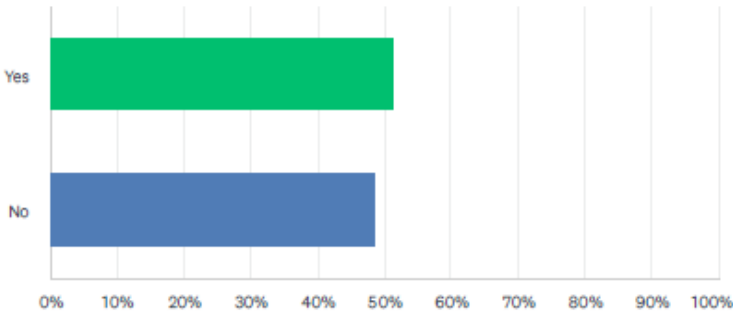




	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Restroom, trash collection, picnic area cleaning	80.84% 232	15.68% 45	1.74% 5	1.74% 5	287	1.24
Sport court maintenance	41.61% 114	41.61% 114	8.76% 24	8.03% 22	274	1.83
Playground safety	74.36% 203	16.12% 44	3.30% 9	6.23% 17	273	1.41
Turf and lawn care maintenance	28.73% 79	57.09% 157	10.91% 30	3.27% 9	275	1.89
Shrubs and flower beds	17.56% 49	56.27% 157	23.30% 65	2.87% 8	279	2.11
Sport field maintenance	39.48% 107	49.08% 133	5.17% 14	6.27% 17	271	1.78

Q13 Do you or members of your household visit indoor recreational facilities in the Township of Rideau Lakes?

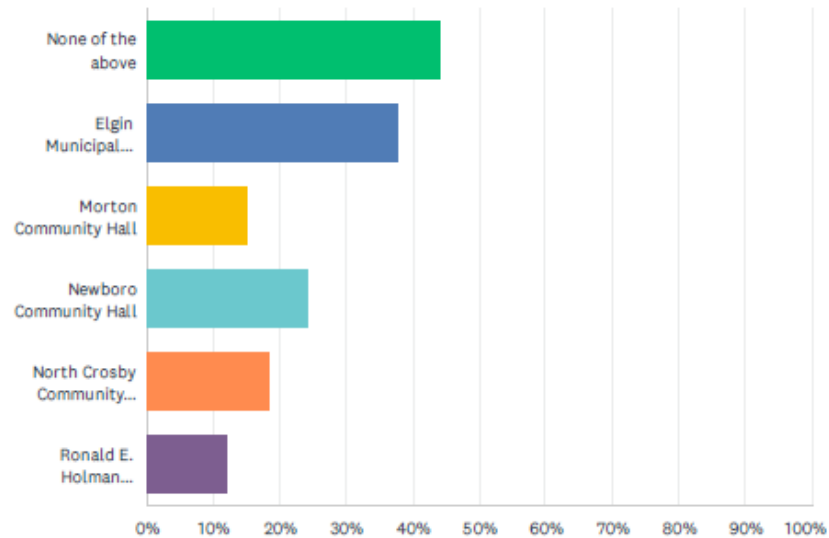
Answered: 271 Skipped: 81



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.29%	139
No	48.71%	132
TOTAL		271

Q14 Which indoor recreational facilities do you visit? Please select all that apply.

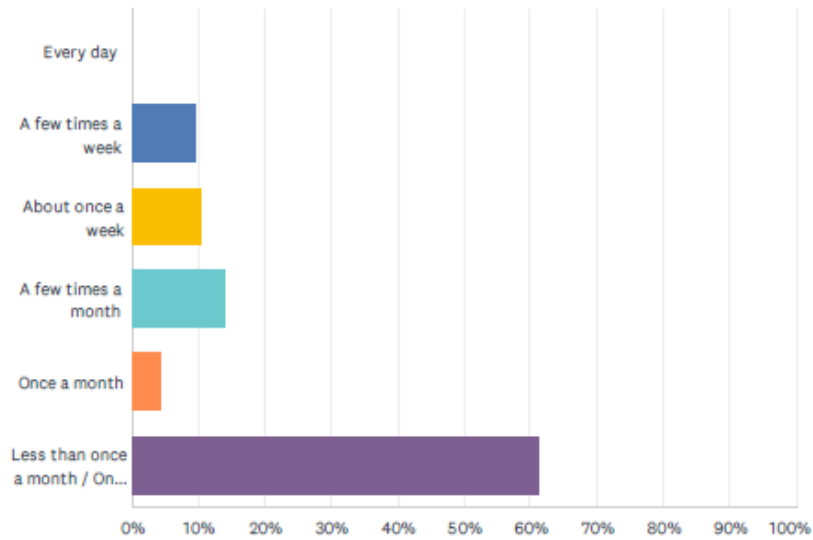
Answered: 238 Skipped: 114



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	44.12%	105
Elgin Municipal Complex	37.82%	90
Morton Community Hall	15.13%	36
Newboro Community Hall	24.37%	58
North Crosby Community Centre	18.49%	44
Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex	12.18%	29
Total Respondents: 238		

Q15 How often do you visit these indoor recreational facilities?

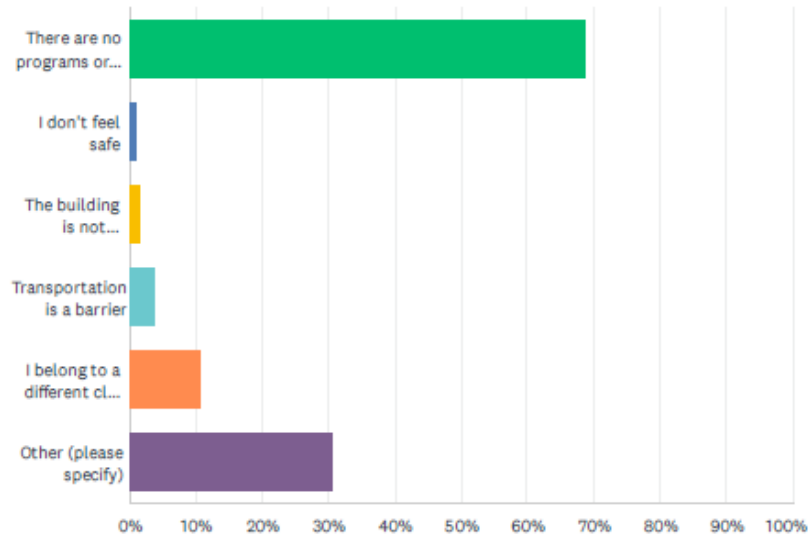
Answered: 220 Skipped: 132



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	0.00%	0
A few times a week	9.55%	21
About once a week	10.45%	23
A few times a month	14.09%	31
Once a month	4.55%	10
Less than once a month / Only on special occasions	61.36%	135
TOTAL		220

Q16 Please indicate what might prevent you from visiting indoor recreational facilities? Please select all that apply.

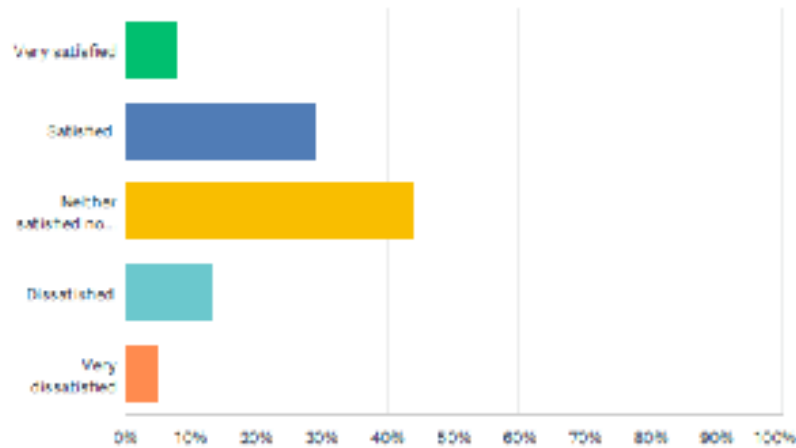
Answered: 205 Skipped: 147



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
There are no programs or events there that I am interested in	68.78%	141
I don't feel safe	0.98%	2
The building is not accessible	1.46%	3
Transportation is a barrier	3.90%	8
I belong to a different club or facility that offers the services I need	10.73%	22
Other (please specify)	30.73%	63
Total Respondents: 205		

Q17 Overall, how satisfied are you with the Township's indoor recreational facilities?

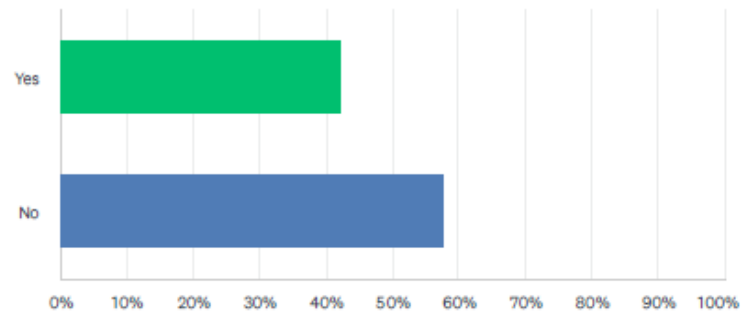
Answered: 247 Skipped: 0%



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	10 10%	25
Satisfied	30 15%	72
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	43 10%	108
Dissatisfied	13 06%	31
Very dissatisfied	5 2%	11
TOTAL		247

Q19 Do you participate in recreation and leisure programming in the Township of Rideau Lakes?

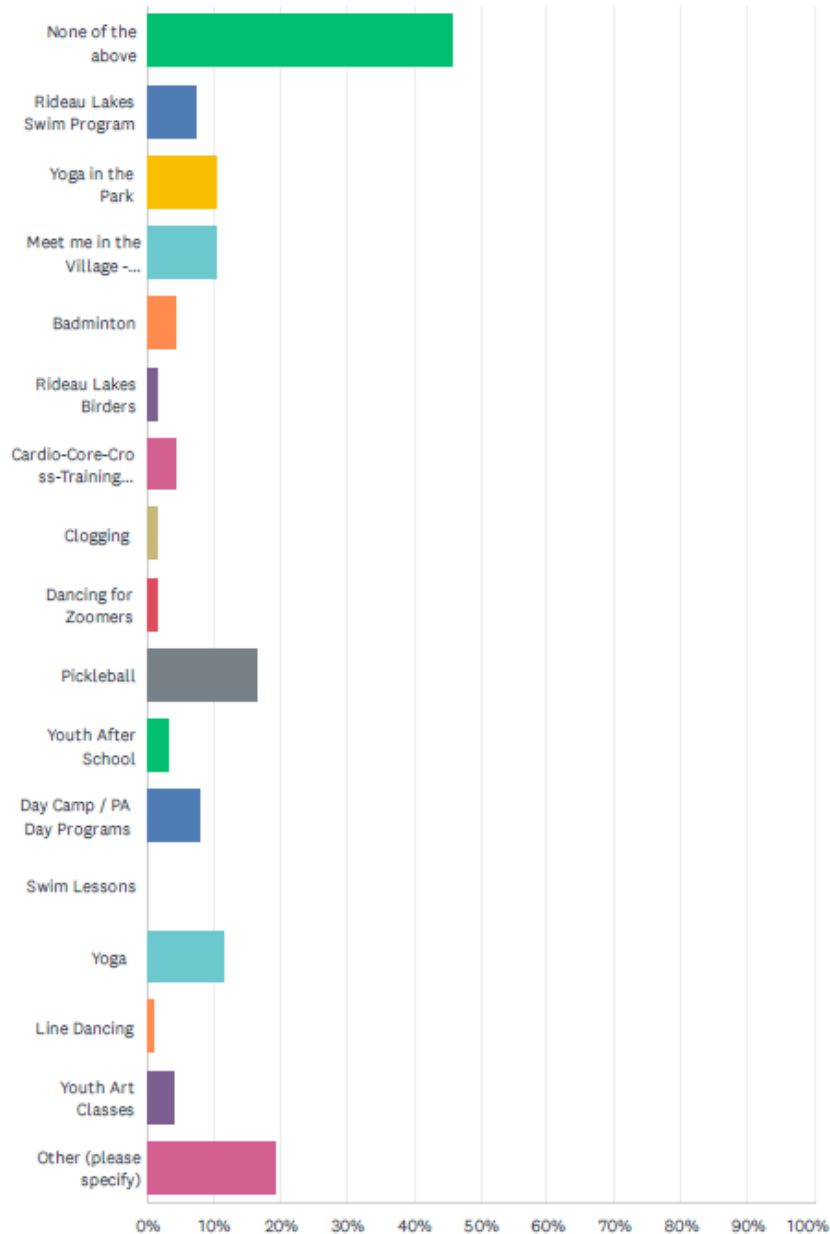
Answered: 241 Skipped: 111



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		42.32%	102
No		57.68%	139
TOTAL			241

Q20 Please select Township programs and activities that you have participated in within the last 24 months. Select all that apply.

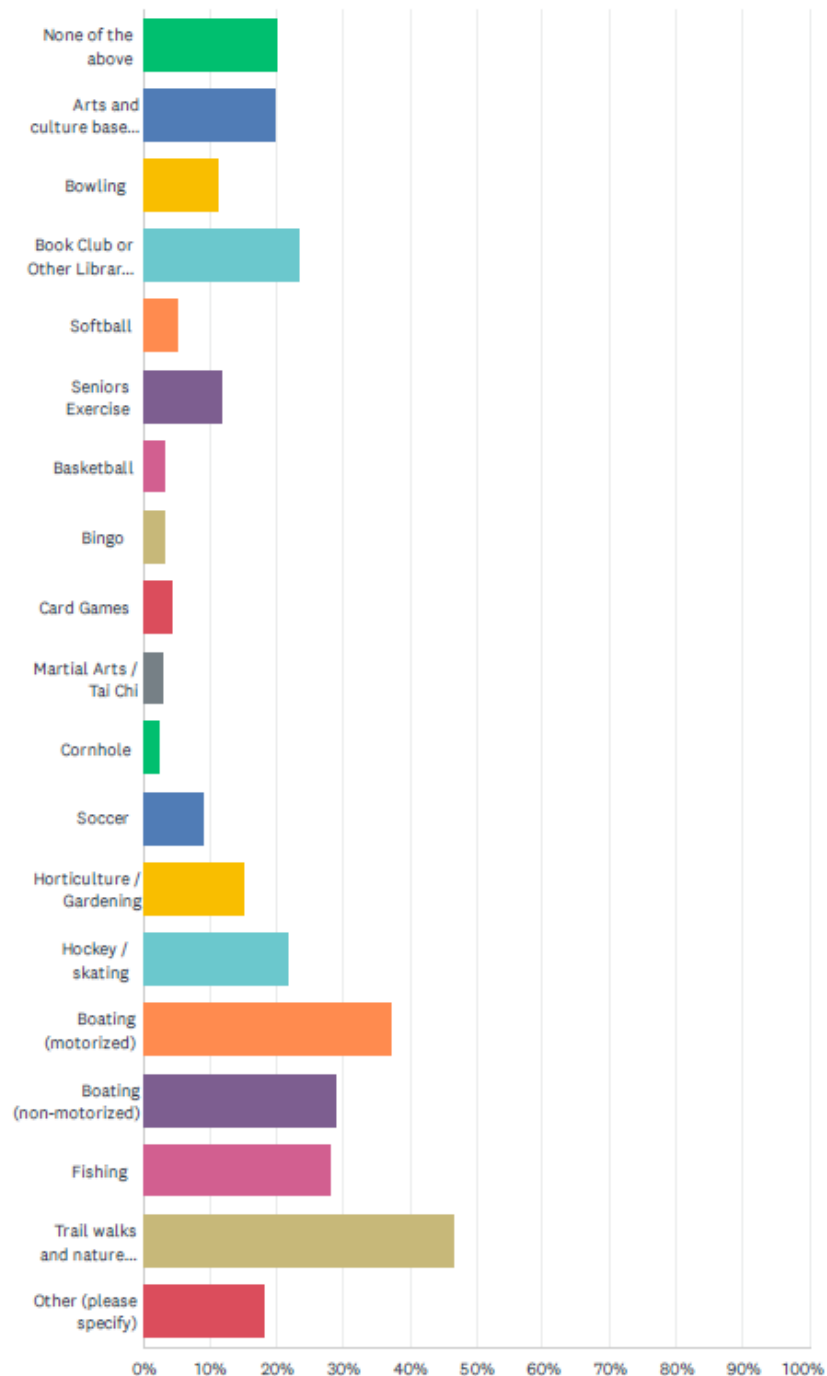
Answered: 201 Skipped: 151



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	45.77%	92
Rideau Lakes Swim Program	7.46%	15
Yoga in the Park	10.45%	21
Meet me in the Village - Outdoor Movies	10.45%	21
Badminton	4.48%	9
Rideau Lakes Birders	1.49%	3
Cardio-Core-Cross-Training with Rasa	4.48%	9
Clogging	1.49%	3
Dancing for Zoomers	1.49%	3
Pickleball	16.42%	33
Youth After School	3.48%	7
Day Camp / PA Day Programs	7.96%	16
Swim Lessons	0.00%	0
Yoga	11.44%	23
Line Dancing	1.00%	2
Youth Art Classes	3.98%	8
Other (please specify)	19.40%	39
Total Respondents: 201		

Q21 Please select community programs and activities that you have participated in within the last 24 months. Select all that apply.

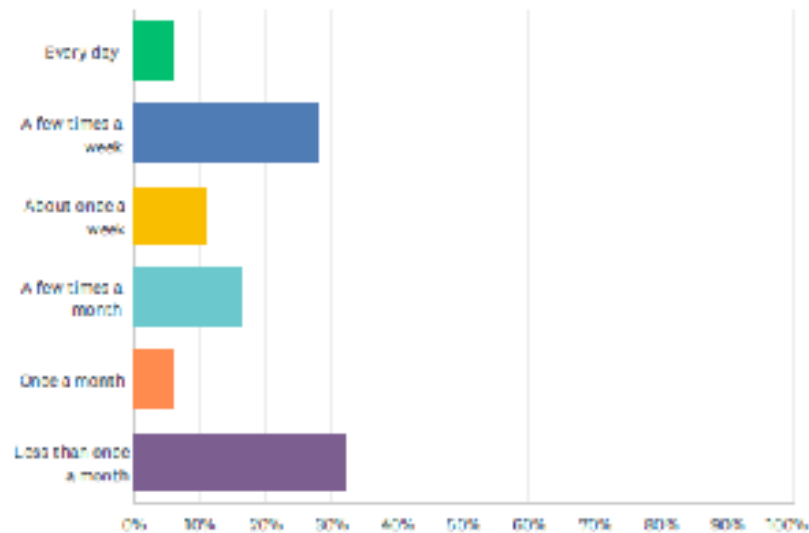
Answered: 231 Skipped: 121



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	20.35%	47
Arts and culture based programs (painting, theatre)	19.91%	46
Bowling	11.26%	26
Book Club or Other Library Programs	23.38%	54
Softball	5.19%	12
Seniors Exercise	11.69%	27
Basketball	3.46%	8
Bingo	3.46%	8
Card Games	4.33%	10
Martial Arts / Tai Chi	3.03%	7
Comhole	2.60%	6
Soccer	9.09%	21
Horticulture / Gardening	15.15%	35
Hockey / skating	21.65%	50
Boating (motorized)	37.23%	86
Boating (non-motorized)	29.00%	67
Fishing	28.14%	65
Trail walks and nature based programming	46.75%	108
Other (please specify)	18.18%	42
Total Respondents: 231		

Q22 How often do you participate in recreation and leisure programs?

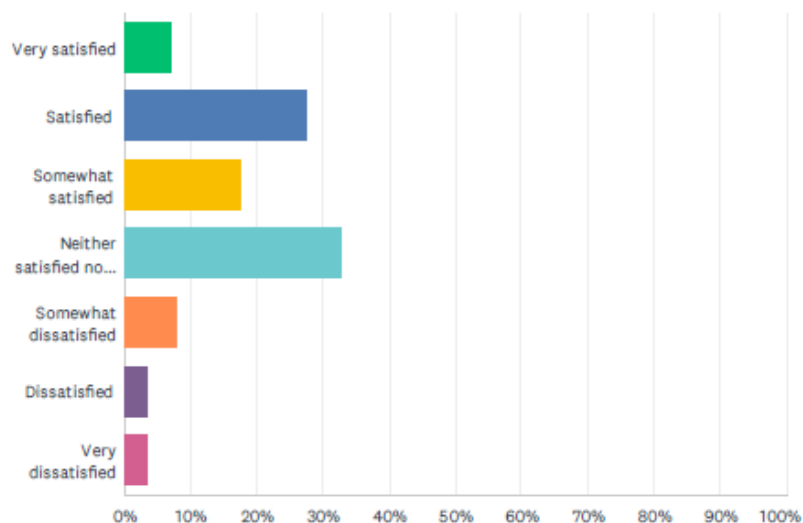
Answered: 220 Skipped: 152



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	5.91%	11
A few times a week	28.18%	62
About once a week	11.36%	25
A few times a month	16.36%	36
Once a month	5.91%	13
Less than once a month	32.27%	71
Total Respondents: 220		

Q23 What is your overall satisfaction with recreation and leisure programming?

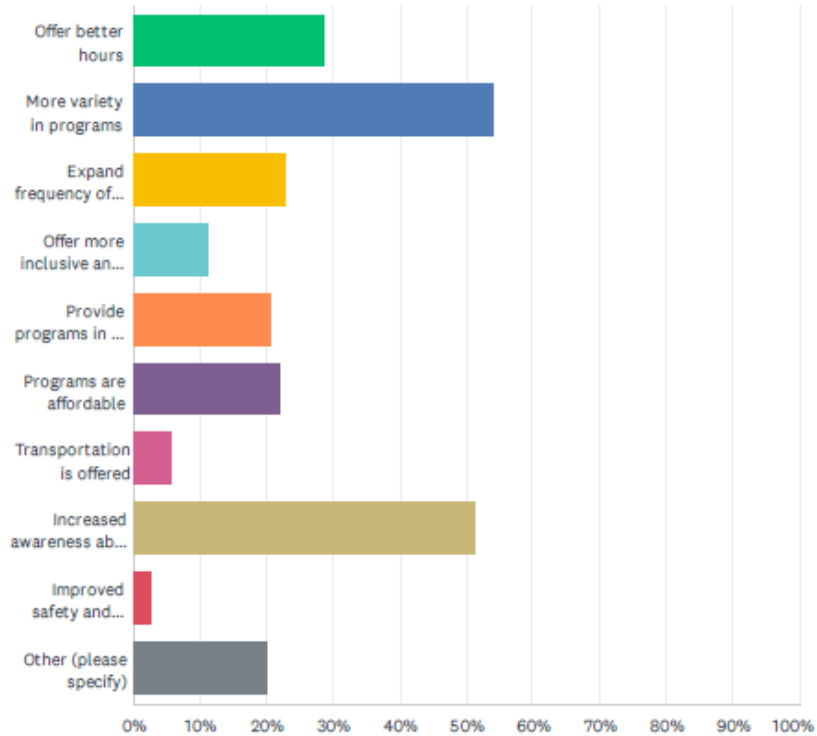
Answered: 226 Skipped: 126



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	7.08%	16
Satisfied	27.43%	62
Somewhat satisfied	17.70%	40
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	32.74%	74
Somewhat dissatisfied	7.96%	18
Dissatisfied	3.54%	8
Very dissatisfied	3.54%	8
TOTAL		226

Q24 What might encourage you to participate in (more) recreation and leisure programs? Please select all that apply.

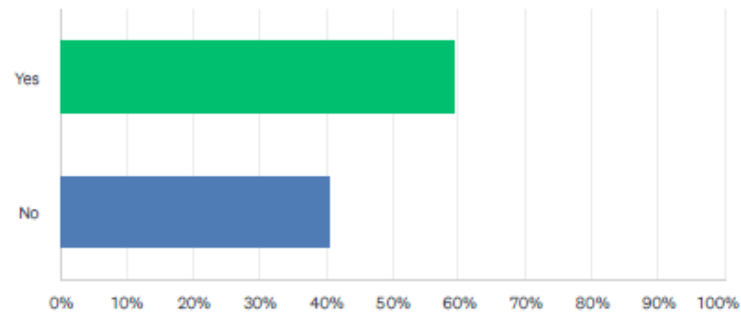
Answered: 212 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Offer better hours	28.77%	61
More variety in programs	54.25%	115
Expand frequency of programs	23.11%	49
Offer more inclusive and accessible programs	11.32%	24
Provide programs in a better space / facility upgrades	20.75%	44
Programs are affordable	22.17%	47
Transportation is offered	5.66%	12
Increased awareness about programs that are offered	51.42%	109
Improved safety and security	2.83%	6
Other (please specify)	20.28%	43
Total Respondents: 212		

Q25 Do you participate in programs outside of Rideau Lakes?

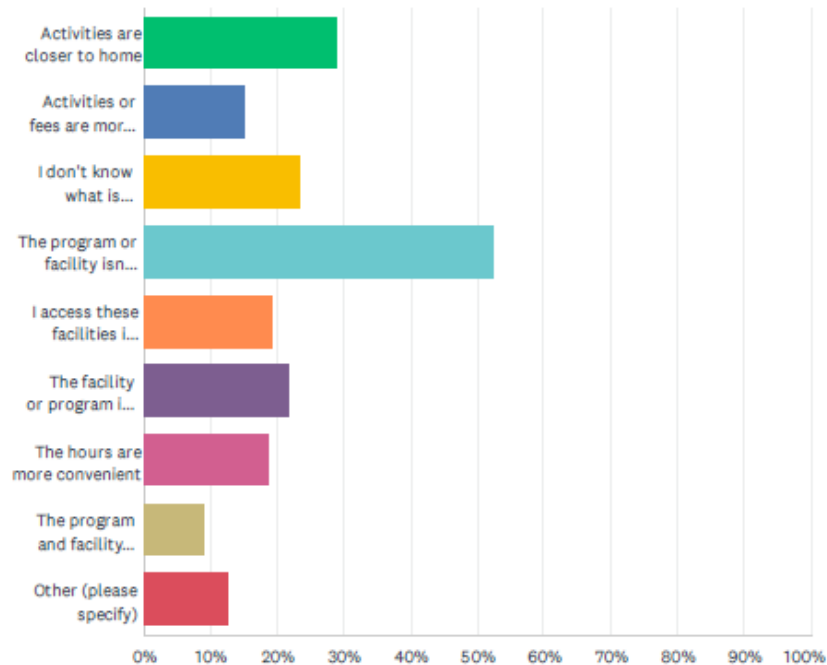
Answered: 237 Skipped: 115



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.49%	141
No	40.51%	96
TOTAL		237

Q27 Why do you use recreation services in these communities? Select all that apply.

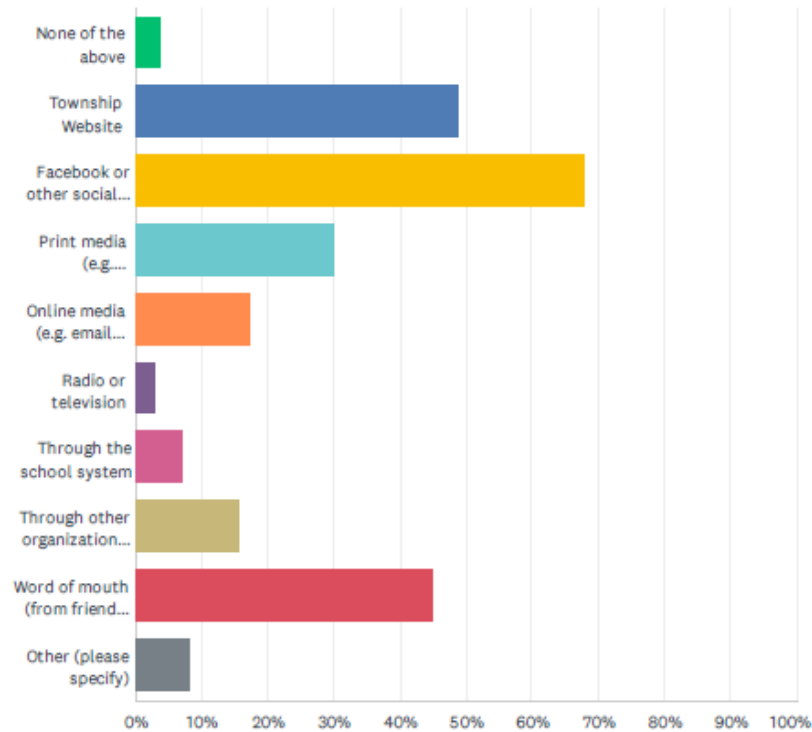
Answered: 166 Skipped: 186



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Activities are closer to home	28.92%	48
Activities or fees are more affordable	15.06%	25
I don't know what is available in the Township	23.49%	39
The program or facility isn't available in the Township	52.41%	87
I access these facilities in conjunction with other trips (e.g. shopping)	19.28%	32
The facility or program is better	21.69%	36
The hours are more convenient	18.67%	31
The program and facility is accessible	9.04%	15
Other (please specify)	12.65%	21
Total Respondents: 166		

Q29 Where do you currently get information about the Township's parks and recreation services? Please select all that apply.

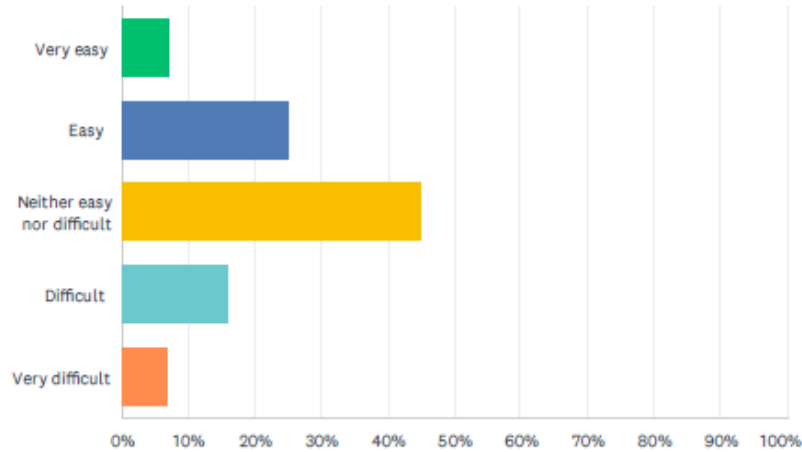
Answered: 240 Skipped: 112



ANSWER CHOICES	PERCENTAGE	COUNT
None of the above	3.75%	9
Township Website	48.75%	117
Facebook or other social media platforms	67.92%	169
Print media (e.g., newspapers, flyers or posters)	30.00%	72
Online media (e.g., email newsletters, online news)	17.50%	42
Radio or television	2.92%	7
Through the school system	7.08%	17
Through other organizations or clubs that I've involved with	15.83%	38
Word of mouth (from friends or family)	45.00%	108
Other (please specify)	8.33%	20
Total Respondents: 240		

Q30 Is it easy to find the parks and recreation related information that you are looking for?

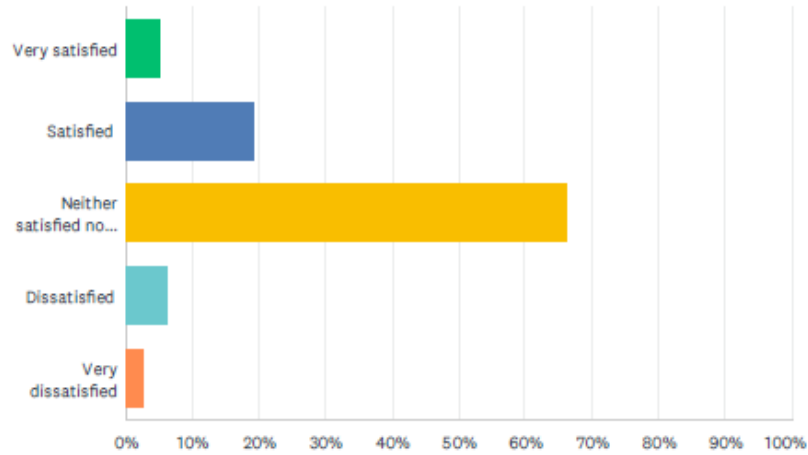
Answered: 238 Skipped: 114



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very easy	7.14%	17
Easy	25.21%	60
Neither easy nor difficult	44.96%	107
Difficult	15.97%	38
Very difficult	6.72%	16
TOTAL		238

Q31 How satisfied are you with the program registration or facility booking process?

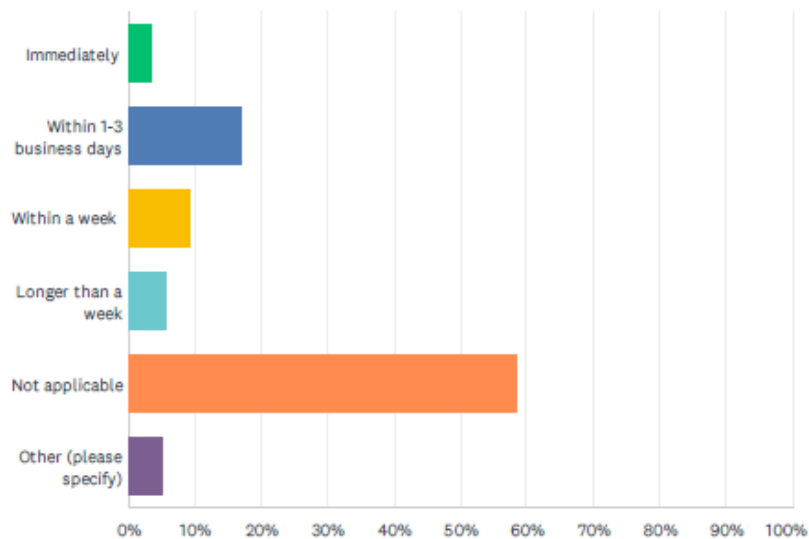
Answered: 217 Skipped: 135



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	5.07%	11
Satisfied	19.35%	42
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	66.36%	144
Dissatisfied	6.45%	14
Very dissatisfied	2.76%	6
Total Respondents: 217		

Q32 How promptly are your questions or concerns addressed by staff as it relates to parks and recreation services?

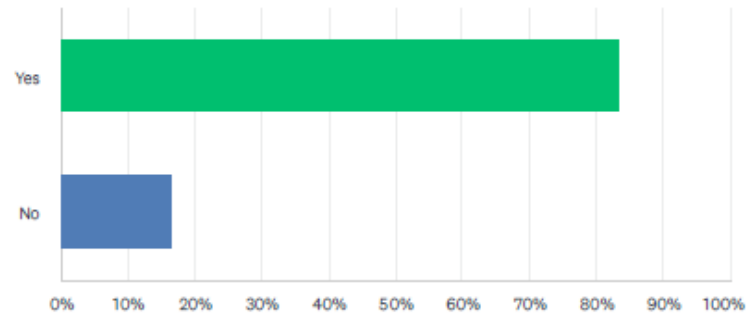
Answered: 222 Skipped: 130



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Immediately		3.60%	8
Within 1-3 business days		17.12%	38
Within a week		9.46%	21
Longer than a week		5.86%	13
Not applicable		58.56%	130
Other (please specify)		5.41%	12
TOTAL			222

Q33 Do you feel that staff are knowledgeable about the Township's parks and recreation services?

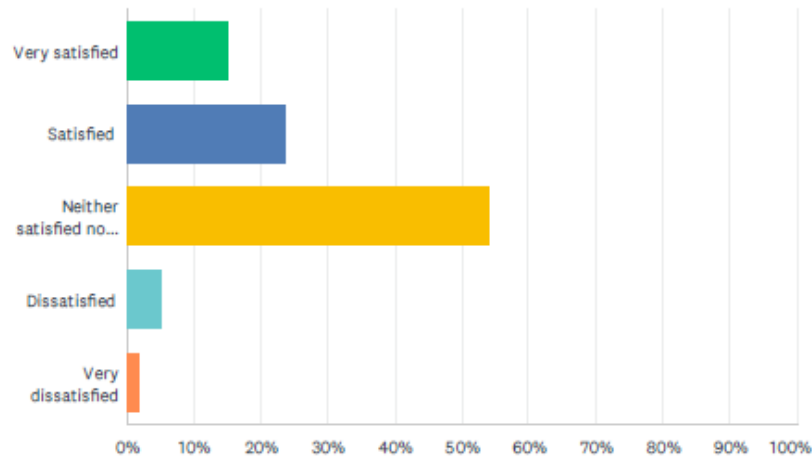
Answered: 175 Skipped: 177



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.43%	146
No	16.57%	29
TOTAL		175

Q34 How satisfied are you with customer service levels related to parks and recreation?

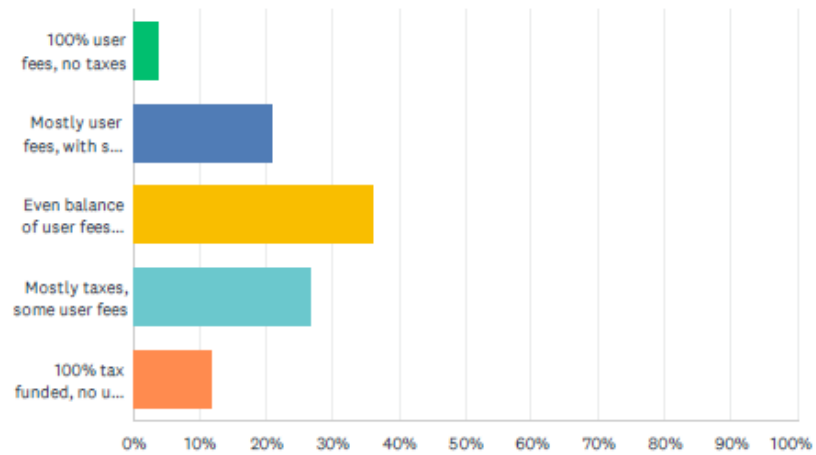
Answered: 212 Skipped: 140



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	15.09%	32
Satisfied	23.58%	50
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	54.25%	115
Dissatisfied	5.19%	11
Very dissatisfied	1.89%	4
TOTAL		212

Q36 Which statement best describes how you think parks and recreation services should be funded in the Township of Rideau Lakes?

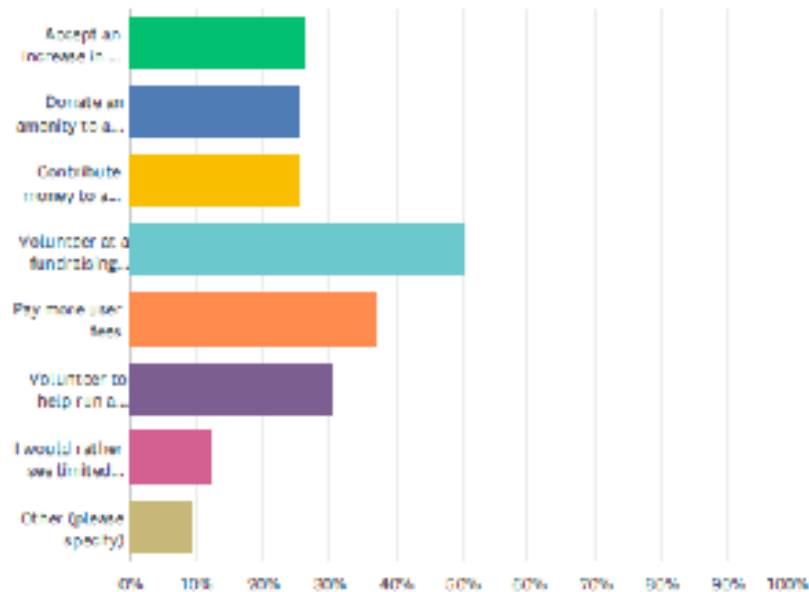
Answered: 234 Skipped: 118



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
100% user fees, no taxes	3.85%	9
Mostly user fees, with some tax support	20.94%	49
Even balance of user fees and taxes	36.32%	85
Mostly taxes, some user fees	26.92%	63
100% tax funded, no user fees	11.97%	28
TOTAL		234

Q31/ Please indicate how you and your household would contribute to the development of parks and recreation services. Select all that apply.

Answered: 212 Skipped: 188



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accept an increase in my property tax	26.42%	56
Donate an amenity to a park or facility (e.g., a bench, a tree)	25.47%	54
Contribute money to a capital campaign	25.47%	54
Volunteer at a fundraising event	50.00%	106
Pay more user fees	37.26%	79
Volunteer to help run a program	30.66%	65
I would rather see limited development than to have to contribute more	12.26%	26
Other (please specify)	0.43%	20
Total Respondents: 212		

Appendix 5: Park and Facility Assessments

Portland Beach

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Beach
Facility Address	Campbell and Water St
Facility Size	45' x 100'
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Garbage can, lifesaving ring, gate, parking across street, portable toilet
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	7
Park Signage	Yes
Comments on Location	Walkable, easy access
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	Families
Comments	Seating, signage could be added



Portland Community Park

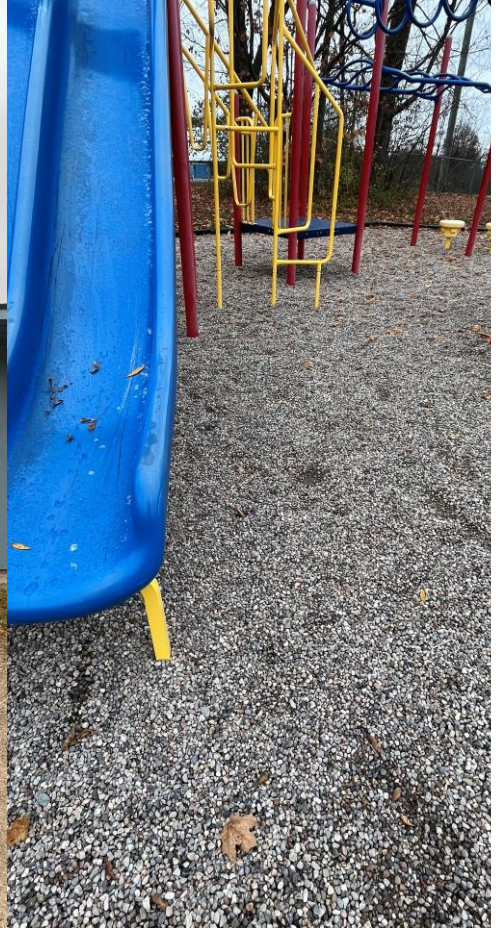
Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park
Facility Address	The Gallagher property, corner of Water and Main
Facility Size	120' x 375'
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Play structure, accessible swing, 4 picnic tables, mulch base, toy/personal basketball net on parking surface, portable toilet, lighting, well
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	7
Park Signage	No
Comments on Location	Walkable and accessible
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	Children and families
Comments	Basketball nets, water filling station, need to address hazards on this property (holes, cables on ground)



Kin Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park
Facility Address	2315 Harlem Road, Portland
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Gravel parking lot, 9 picnic tables, 1 half pitch soccer field with benches, 1 full pitch lit soccer field with picnic tables, 1 fieldhouse, 1 lit softball diamond with bleachers, 1 full court basketball court, 1 play structure with gravel/pea stone base AED inside fieldhouse
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	1 sign identifies park as you enter No signage off of highway Playground signage has deteriorated
Comments on Location	Remote, nothing else around it Easy access and walkable
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	Sports, kids, families
Comments	Framing/retaining wall around playground needs repair, basketball court needs resizing, repaint lines on court, accessible basketball nets





Delta Stevens Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Parkette
Facility Address	Corner of Daytown Rd and Cty Rd 42
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Open parkette, with open field behind it? Slight landscaping 1 picnic table
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Welcome sign Interpretive sign/stand of Stevens
Comments on Location	Along main roadway and sidewalk
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	
Comments	Fencing Explore options for non-owned field space (housing, sport fields) to align with twp priorities



Lower Beverley Lake Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Destination Park
Facility Address	Beverley Lake Park Road, Delta
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Lit Softball field with dugouts and complex with bleachers, public washrooms, canteen, garbage cans Campground (power, non-power, cabins, etc) Beach and play structure Seating, washrooms Storage area for trailer park includes wood, wagons, etc. Boat ramp and dock and interpretive signs
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Adequate
Comments on Location	Walkable within town, good internal corridors
Usage Levels	High
Programs/Activities/Events	Various programs offer to entire community such as Karaoke nights, bingo, crafts, horseshoes, space for ball tournaments, swim lessons, hiking
User Groups	Families (local, tourism)
Comments	Seems 'private', better communications to show its open to residents





Russell Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Parkette
Facility Address	County Rd 42, Delta
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	1 picnic table, bike rack, 1 garbage can, 2 chairs, gazebo with seating twinkle lights, flagpole
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	7
Park Signage	
Comments on Location	Sidewalk in disrepair, gazebo not accessible
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	None (good for sitting, resting, senior friendly)
User Groups	Visitors, residents
Comments	



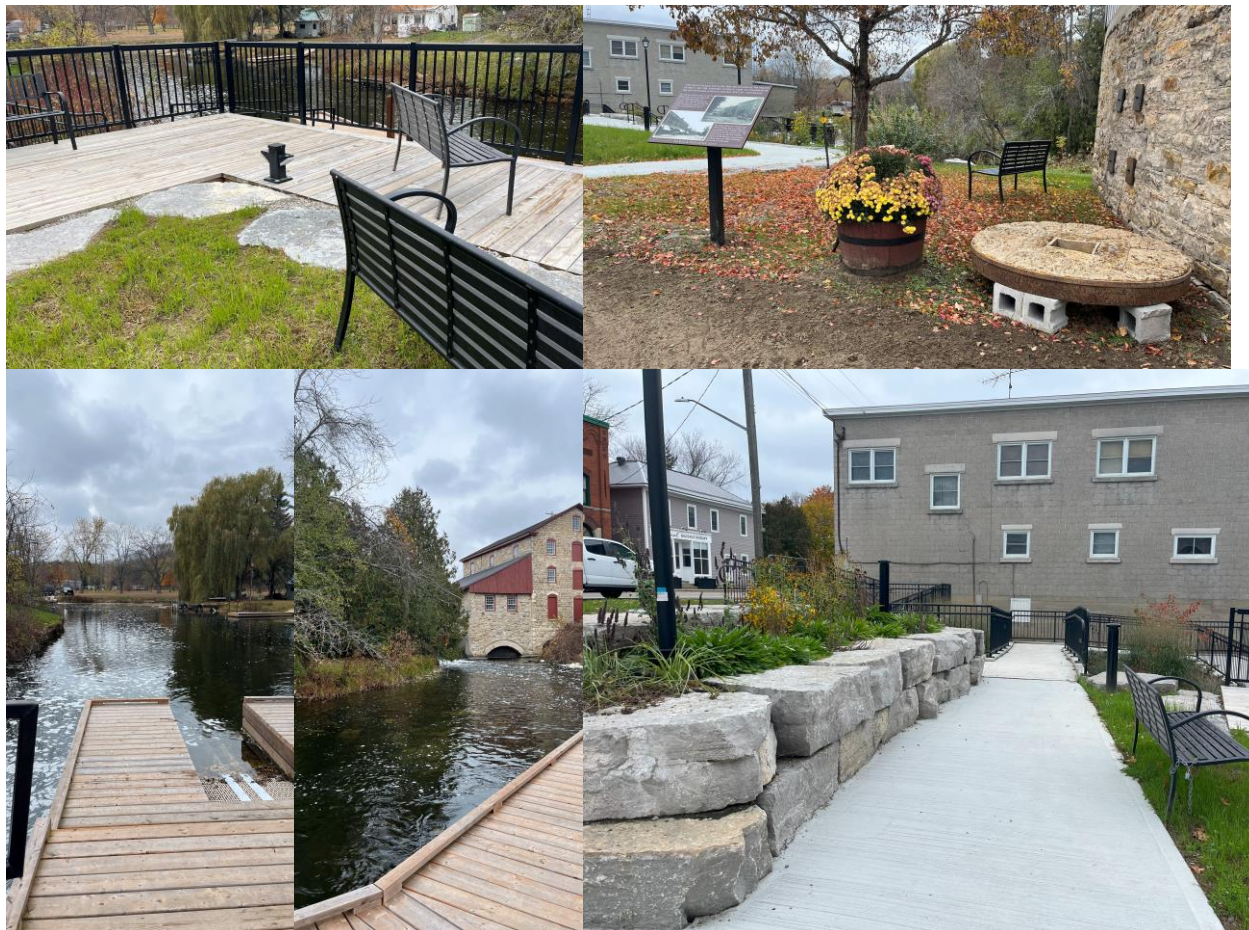
Delta Athletic Recreation Society Park (DARS)

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park
Facility Address	47 Recreation Drive, Delta
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	7 horseshoe pits, outdoor rink/court with 2 hockey nets and 2 basketball nets with lights, 1 field house/recreation centre, bleachers, kitchen/canteen in field house, parking area, 1 picnic table, 1 storage/equipment building
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Limited and damaged
Comments on Location	Walkable within community
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	Hockey, ball hockey, basketball, horseshoes
User Groups	General public
Comments	



Stone Mill Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Parkette
Facility Address	County Rd 42, Delta
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Landscape architecture with park benches, garbage can, accessible to waterfront
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Interpretive sign No sign from Rideau Lakes
Comments on Location	Accessible and walkable
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	Canoe / kayak launch, picnic
User Groups	Residents, visitors
Comments	New



Heritage Park & Outdoor Rink

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park
Facility Address	Church St, Elgin
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Outdoor rink with board system, lights, netting, 2 picnic tables, 1 bench Fieldhouse with access to rink, flagpole
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Little to no signage
Comments on Location	Close, accessible to South Crosby Elementary School
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	
Comments	



Sand Lake Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park, Destination Park
Facility Address	345 DeLong Rd, Elgin
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Gravel parking lot, sign and gate entrance Covered Gazebo, 14 picnic tables, 4 benches and 2 small tables, 3 storage shelters 1 heritage building 1 clubhouse/office 1 large washroom facility 1 building at water Beach with lifeguard stand Tree covered, fenced in 1 climber and 2 swing sets 1 play structure with pea stone/sand
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Some in place, but need more, and to clear line of site to signs (hidden)
Comments on Location	Not walkable, ample parking, nice rural experience
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	Day camp, swim lessons, picnics
User Groups	Families, day camp
Comments	



Newboro Memorial Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park
Facility Address	28 John St, Newboro
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	1 ball field, gravel parking area, 10 picnic tables, multi-purpose court for tennis, pickleball and basketball (fenced in), gazebo with accessible bath/changerooms, 1 soccer pitch, 4 sets of bleachers, garbage cans and bike rack, 1 storage unit/building, mature tree line, swing set (4 swings) with mulch surfacing, 1 play ground structure with pea stone surfacing, 1 picnic table and bench with garbage can, entrance to trail system and story walks
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Yes, could set the example for all RL parks
Comments on Location	Walkable and accessible
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	Ball, story walk
User Groups	
Comments	Repair retaining wall Remove old bleachers, check on status of soccer field (not currently used by NLSA)



Effie Tett Place

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Parkette
Facility Address	County Rd 42, Newboro
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	2 benches, 2 planters, 1 garbage can, 1 small gazebo, 1 flagpole, 2 monuments, 2 interpretive signs, 1 memorial plaque
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Heritage / interpretive signage in place, no RL identifiable signage
Comments on Location	Main street, walkable for community
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	Host Remembrance services
User Groups	General
Comments	



Hannah Memorial Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Parkette
Facility Address	Water St, Portland
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Bike rack, signage with garden, 6 picnic tables, 3 benches, 1 pavilion, 1 flagpole, 1 interpretive sign, 1 garbage can, interlock walkway, dedication plaque, electrical
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Yes, missing the address, posts need to be painted
Comments on Location	Walkable, accessible
Usage Levels	Expect high levels of use in summer
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	
Comments	



Van Clief Park

Date of Assessment	Nov 1
Assessed By	KACC / LI
Facility Type	Park
Facility Address	Lombardy
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	1 basketball court on small slab, 1 play structure on sand surface, 1 swing set older on , landscaping, signage on large rock, Fenced in along creek
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	Street address on sign Playground signage needs to be reviewed
Comments on Location	Walkable within Lombardy area
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	
Comments	Fencing could be improved to delineate property better



North Crosby Community Hall and Shillington Park

Date of Assessment	November 2023
Assessed By	KACC
Facility Type	Destination Park
Facility Address	Concession 8, Westport
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Tennis, ODR, open fields, play structure, several picnic tables, seniors fitness stations (new), trails, basketball, softball field
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	7/8
Park Signage	Good
Comments on Location	Not walkable, good parking, serving western portion of twp
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	Families, sport clubs
Comments	





Ronald E. Holman Municipal Complex and Grounds

Date of Assessment	Nov 1, Jan 3
Assessed By	Kim and Kevin
Facility Type	Park, Indoor Facility
Facility Address	Highway 15
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	Library, multi-purpose room, pump track, pickleball courts, pavilion currently being developed October 2023
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	8
Park Signage	Building is signed, park signs to come?
Comments on Location	Addresses growing population in the SE area; not walkable but looking at trail connections to improve accessibility; ample parking
Usage Levels	Low at point in time, but expected to increase as development is completed
Programs/Activities/Events	Library, arts, pump track, (pending) pickleball
User Groups	
Comments	Option to use pump track for small RC car race event?



Newboro Community Hall

Date of Assessment	
Assessed By	
Facility Type	
Facility Address	
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	
Comments on Location	
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	
Comments	

Morton Hall

Date of Assessment	
Assessed By	
Facility Type	
Facility Address	
Facility Size	
Facility Amenities & Other Observations	
General Condition (0 = poor 10 = excellent)	
Park Signage	
Comments on Location	
Usage Levels	
Programs/Activities/Events	
User Groups	
Comments	