

DRAFT



Township of Puslinch

Recreation & Parks Master Plan

April 2, 2015



Monteith ♦ Brown
planning consultants



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Master Plan is a product of the vision and dedication of Township Council and Staff. We also extend our thanks to the many residents and community groups throughout the Township of Puslinch who provided valuable insights and opinions and whose feedback has made the Plan a document that is reflective of the needs of the community.

Township Council

Mayor Lever
Councillor Matthew Bulmer
Councillor Susan Fielding
Councillor Ken Roth
Councillor Wayne Stokley

Recreation Committee

Councillor Wayne Stokley
Nichole Caswell
Tom Jefferson
Daina Makinson
June Williams
Councillor Jerry Schmidt (previous term)

Township Staff

Karen Landry, CAO/Clerk
Don Creed, Director Public Works/Parks
Donna Tremblay, Deputy Clerk (Project Manager)
Marissa Herner, Communications Associate/Customer Service Representative
Richard Hoover, Facility Operator

Project Consultant

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the Master Plan

Ontarians are spoiled for choice when it comes to indulging in their favourite leisure activities. Yet, in today's digital age, sedentary activities dominate, resulting in higher levels of physical inactivity. As a result, access to high quality and responsive recreation opportunities has never been more paramount. The Township of Puslinch has recognized this trend and has commissioned this Recreation & Parks Master Plan, which will serve as a guide for municipal decision-making over a ten year period. The scope of this Master Plan includes strategic direction for the following:

- Recreation services and facilities
- Provision of parks, open space, and trails,
- Opportunities for children, youth, adults, older adults, families, and persons with disabilities.

1.2 Master Plan Framework

The primary goal of this project is to research, develop, design, and produce a fiscally responsible Master Plan document for recreation, parks, open space, and trails, including their respective services and facilities. This has been accomplished through three project phases.

Figure 1: Master Plan Framework



The first phase involved analyzing existing background documents and studies, including the 1988 Study of The Leisure System in Puslinch Township, as well as understanding the Township's demographic profile and its impact on relevant leisure

trends. A public engagement strategy was then undertaken to solicit input from the public, Township officials, Council, and community stakeholders.

These tasks formed the foundation for the second phase, which included an assessment of facility and park needs. A service and program delivery audit was also undertaken to identify solutions to optimize management and operational roles for recreation and parks in the Township. Key recommendations were drawn and are supported by an implementation strategy.

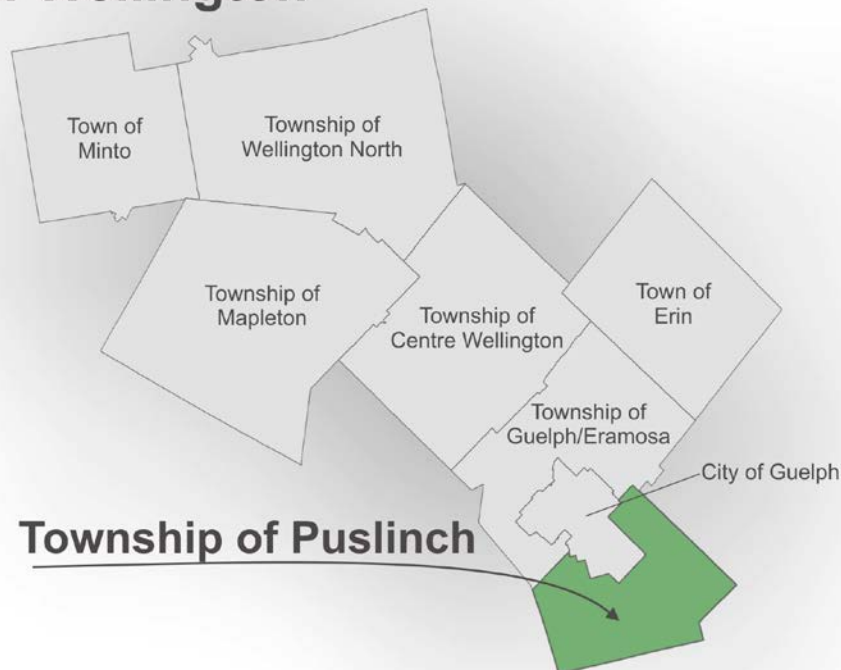
These two phases culminated in a third and final phase, which consisted of the draft and final Master Plan development, confirmed through public consultation and direction from Council.

1.3 Study Context

The Township of Puslinch is the smallest municipality in Wellington County in terms of both land mass and population. Largely rural with a strong agricultural heritage, the Township's partial location in Ontario's Greenbelt and lack of municipally serviced land will continue to limit its residential growth potential into the foreseeable future.

Figure 2: Regional Location Map

County of Wellington



Nevertheless, the Township's industrial and commercial sectors are robust, with Nestle Waters, Laidlaw Carriers, Royal Canin, and a host of other major employers that contribute to the local and regional economies. There remains considerable opportunity to expand the amount of unserved industrial uses – such as warehousing, logistics, aggregate extraction, dry manufacturing, and small businesses – within the Township.

Puslinch also benefits from its proximity to the City of Guelph, which offers a much wider range of recreation opportunities, many of which are available to Township residents. At the same time, growth pressures within the City of Guelph create challenges for the Township and other surrounding municipalities through the increased use of roads and community infrastructure.

Due to its location, the Township is an attractive place to locate for many working in the Greater Toronto Area. New residents are attracted not only to the nearby employment opportunities, but also the rural lifestyle. New residents also tend to bring higher expectations for urban quality services, creating a variety of challenges and opportunities for the Township.

1.4 Report Organization

The Recreation & Parks Master Plan is organized into nine sections described below.

Section 1: Introduction

This Section describes the purpose, methodology, and organization of the Master Plan.

Section 2: Community Profile

This Section examines the socio-demographic characteristics of the Township of Puslinch, including a look at population and age cohort figures, population projections, and other key demographic factors that may impact the provision of recreation and parks in Puslinch.

Section 3: Key Trends & Best Practices

This Section contains a review of emerging trends and best practices observed across Ontario, as well as potential impacts on recreation and parks facilities, programs, and services in the Township.

Section 4: Community Input

This Section provides a summary of the consultation strategy undertaken for the Master Plan, which includes the opinions, preferences, and priorities of the general public, stakeholders, Township staff, and Council.

Section 5: Existing Assets & Providers

This Section identifies existing parks and recreation facilities available within the Township. Details regarding facility condition, amenities, opportunities, and constraints are also discussed.

Section 6: Service Delivery Assessment

This Section assesses the effectiveness of the Township's existing service and program delivery model to identify opportunities to improve Township processes and explore areas of improvement.

Section 7: Facility Needs Assessment

This Section evaluates the current supply of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities utilizing a combination of market driven targets and other Master Plan inputs to inform future facility needs.

Section 8: Parks, Open Space & Trails Assessment

This Section analyzes parks, open spaces, trail needs, and policy considerations.

Section 9: Implementation Strategy

This Section prioritizes the timing of all recommendations contained in this Master Plan with implications on Township resources, and processes for monitoring and updating the Master Plan.

2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

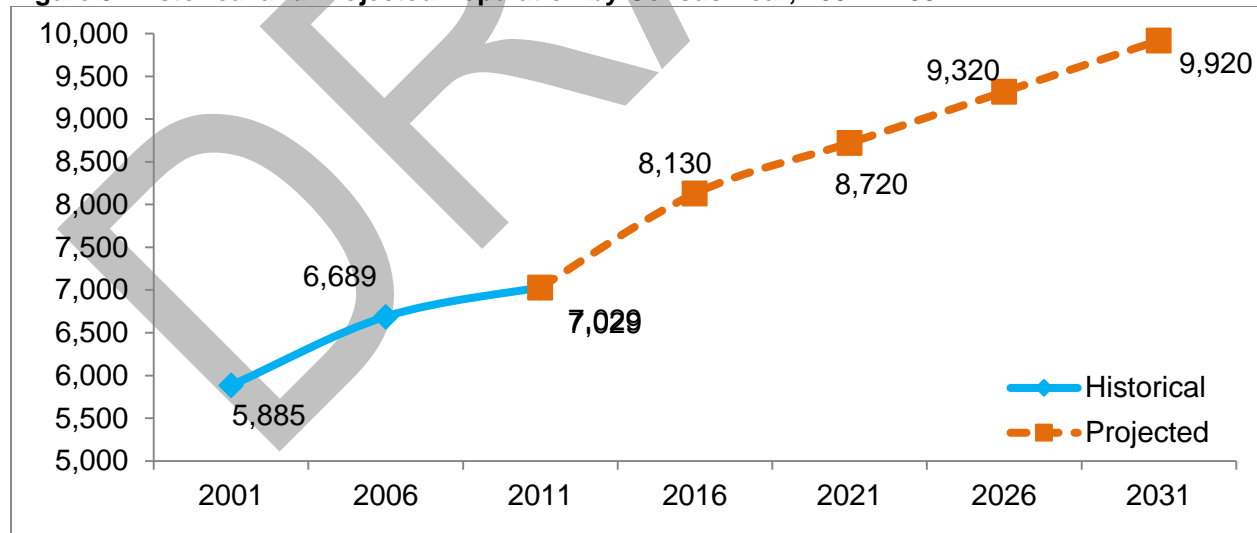
This section provides an overview of the Township's socio-demographic profile, including details regarding population growth trends that may have implications on the provision of recreation and parks facilities, programs, and services.

2.1 Population Growth

For 2011, Statistics Canada recorded a population of 7,029 for the Township of Puslinch, representing a modest growth of 5.1% from the 2006 Census. Since 2001, the Township has grown nearly 20%. As illustrated in Figure 3, population projections contained in the Wellington County Official Plan (2010) suggest that the Township will experience consistent growth over the foreseeable future. By 2031, it is expected that the Township of Puslinch will reach a population of 9,920 (nearly 2,900 new residents), representing a growth of 41% from 2011.

Population projections by community are currently unavailable. It is difficult to predict exactly where population growth will occur given that the Township is generally unserved and portions of the Township (south of Highway 401) are located within the Greenbelt, which restricts significant development. In accordance with forecasted demand and available land supply, the Development Charges Background Study allocated housing growth over a 20-year period and forecast Aberfoyle and Morriston to accommodate 6% and 4% of future housing growth, respectively, with the balance (90%) expected to occur throughout the Township's smaller villages and rural areas.

Figure 3: Historical and Projected Population by Census Year, 2001 – 2031



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 – 2011; Wellington County Official Plan

The 2014 Development Charges Background Study identified a current population estimate of **7,240** persons, which will be used as the baseline for the Master Plan.

2.2 Age Structure

Understanding the age structure of a community assists in determining what types of recreation facilities and activities are in demand. For example, a strong market of children and youth bolsters participation in organized minor sports such as soccer and hockey, whereas greater proportions of older adults and seniors may lead to increased participation in less physically active activities such as pickleball or walking.

Between the 2006 and 2011 Census, the Township's older adult and senior population (age 55+) experienced the most growth. This finding suggests that the Township's population is aging overall. Evidence of Township-wide aging trends is further supported by the fact that during this period, the median age increased from 44.2 to 47.6 years, which is the highest median age in Wellington County. The Township's median age is also substantially higher compared to the Provincial median (40.4 years) and the County median (39.5 years). Marginal growth was also observed among young adults (age 20 – 34), while all other age cohorts in the Township declined by 4% to 9%.

Table 1: Population Growth by Age Group, 2006 – 2011

Age Group	2006	2011	Change (%)	Proportion of Population	
				2006	2011
0-9	650	590	-9%	10%	8%
10-19	930	895	-4%	14%	13%
20-34	845	875	4%	13%	12%
35-54	2,195	2,160	-2%	33%	31%
55-69	1,430	1,680	17%	21%	24%
70+	635	825	30%	9%	12%
Total	6,685	7,025	5%	100%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 – 2011

As national aging trends suggest, it is anticipated that the Township's demographic profile will continue to age, particularly as the baby boomer generation moves through the age cohorts. Although age cohort forecasts exist for Wellington County, there are currently no age cohort forecasts specific to the Township. However, some broad comparisons can be made from the existing forecasts as the Township is likely to be impacted by similar population trends. The following table illustrates age-specific population forecasts by percentage for the County between 2014 and 2031. Most notable is the dramatic increase projected in the 70+ age group – an increase of 105% by 2031, despite only a 14% increase across all ages. Greater than average growth is also forecasted for the 55 to 69 age group. With a growing proportion of older adults, the Township can expect a greater demand for recreation and park opportunities oriented towards this age group, although recreation activities should continue to be advanced for all age groups to enhance available opportunities.

Projections for the County suggest that the youth and adult age groups are expected to grow at a slower pace than the rest of the population. This is notable as many

recreation and park services are traditionally oriented toward younger age groups; however, it is likely that the total number of youth will remain relatively stable in several communities throughout Wellington County.

Table 2: Population by Age (2011 & 2036), Wellington County

Age Group	Percent of Total Population – 2014 (estimate)	Percent of Total Population – 2031 (forecasted)	Forecasted Change in Total Population – 2014 to 2031
0 to 4 years	6%	5%	15%
5 to 19 years	18%	17%	8%
20 to 34 years	21%	17%	1%
35 to 54 years	28%	25%	7%
55 to 69 years	18%	18%	21%
70+ years	10%	18%	105%
Total	100%	100%	14%

Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance. Population Projections. Fall 2014.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

2.3 Income & Occupation

Research has shown income can be an indicator of participation levels in recreational pursuits. Generally speaking, higher levels of participation are typically correlated with greater income levels. This correlation suggests that those with higher incomes participate to a greater degree than those with lower incomes, presumably due to greater disposable income. Research also suggests that persons with office-related occupations commonly seek recreational pursuits outside the workplace to remain physically-active.

According to the National Household Survey (NHS)¹, about 76% of the Township's workforce is employed in an office setting where physical activity may be low, suggesting that residents may be more physically active during their leisure time outside of the workplace. This percentage is generally on par with the Province, but higher compared to Wellington County.

The NHS also recorded income for individuals and households. For 2010, the NHS revealed that the median income of individuals in the Township was \$38,013, which is considerably higher than the Provincial (\$30,526) and County (\$30,423) median. The median income for households in the Township (\$89,261) was also significantly higher compared to the Provincial (\$66,358) and County (\$79,070) median. Based on income and occupation alone, these findings may suggest that Township residents are more

¹ The National Household Survey was a voluntary, self-administered survey conducted for the first time in 2011 as a replacement for the long census questionnaire. Due to the survey methodology, the Township of Puslinch data has a non-response rate of 32.9%, which may affect data quality.

likely to participate in recreational pursuits compared to other communities in Wellington County and the Province as a whole. The provision of physical activity spaces accessible to all residents will ensure that these opportunities are inclusive to all groups.

2.4 Immigration & Ethnicity

Similar to income and occupation, immigrant and ethnicity levels may also impact participation in recreational pursuits. The NHS found that about 15% of the Township's residents are immigrants, representing 1,065 persons. Half of the Township's immigrants arrived prior to 1971 and less than 3% of immigrants (30 residents) arrived within the past 10 years, indicating that Township residents are generally well established in traditional Canadian sports and recreational pursuits.

National trends suggest that communities are becoming more ethnically diverse due to increasing levels of immigration from non-European countries. This trend is yet to be felt in the Township as the NHS reported that approximately 22% of the Township's residents are visible minorities from origins including Asia, South America, Africa, and Caribbean. As Canada continues to become more diverse, this trend may evolve at a local level over time and result in requests for non-traditional recreational activities.

2.5 Mobility

The NHS reported that 93% of the employed workforce commutes to work as a driver or passenger in a private vehicle, which is a higher rate than the Province (79%) and County (88%). The balance of the employed workforce walk, use public transit, or have other means to commute. This is expected given that the Township is generally a rural community and is adjacent to larger communities such as Guelph, resulting in a higher commuter base that is employed outside of the Township. Given the spatial distribution of the Township, that the local workforce is generally a car-oriented community, it is likely that a majority of residents drive and will continue to drive to access the recreational pursuits they do the most.

3. KEY TRENDS & BEST PRACTICES

Regional, provincial, and national trends are commonly used to supplement local data and input to establish an understanding of what may occur in the Township over the planning period and beyond. This Section explores a broad range of trends that have been observed across the Province and its implications on the provision of recreation and parks opportunities in the Township of Puslinch.

3.1 Participation in Recreational Activities

Increasing Rates of Physical Activity

Research shows increasing rates of physical inactivity in Canada. A lack of free time, largely due to busier lifestyles and a number of socio-economic circumstances (such as low income or lone-parent households) have traditionally been the primary barriers to participation for youth and adults. Heavier workloads together with competing interests and access to an array of sedentary activities have resulted in less time for physical activity. In a survey undertaken by ParticipACTION, teens identified that socializing (97%), entertainment (96%), and the internet (93%) were the most important aspects of their daily lives compared to physical activity.² The online survey conducted for this Study found that at a local level, 57% of respondents who were not able to participate in recreation and parks activities as often as they would like expressed that lack of time or being too busy was the most common barrier.

While the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommends that teens achieve a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity each day, a report by Active Healthy Kids Canada on physical activity among the Country's younger population reports that only 7% of children (between the ages of 5 and 11) and 4% of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) are meeting this target, resulting in a physical activity grade of "D-" for 2014. This grade is consistent with the previous year, which suggests that there has been little or no improvement in increasing physical activity.³

Broadly speaking, a lack of free time has contributed to other notable trends such as increases in rates of obesity and chronic disease (resulting from less physical activity), decreasing levels of volunteerism, and a greater desire for more flexible and convenient program options.

² ParticipACTION. (2010). Coca-Cola and ParticipACTION survey results fact sheet. Retrieved from <http://www.participaction.com/wpcontent/uploads/2013/04/sogoactivefactsheet-final.pdf>

³ Active Healthy Kids Canada. (2014). Is Canada in the running? Report card on physical activity for children and youth. Retrieved from: http://dvqdas9jty7g6.cloudfront.net/reportcard2014/AHKC_2014_ReportCard_ENG.pdf

Aging Population

Across Canada, the population of older adults age 55 and over is growing at a much faster rate than the rest of the population; in 1991, the 55+ age cohort represented only 9% of the country's population, but this figure had grown to 28% by 2011 and is poised for further growth. As previously identified, evidence of an increasingly aging population is observed in the Township of Puslinch, which has some of the oldest residents in Wellington County. In 2011, Statistics Canada reported a median age of 47.6 years, considerably higher compared to the County and Province (39.5 and 40.4 years, respectively). The local older adult and senior population also experienced a combined 21% increase in population between the 2006 and 2011 Census. National aging trends suggest that the Township's population will continue to age, driving the expectation for targeted and high quality older adult programs and services.

Responding to Emerging Activities

With the growing emphasis on non-programmed, unstructured activities, many new forms of recreational activities are emerging beyond the traditional spectrum of programs and facilities. Some of these emerging activities includes pickleball, off-leash dog parks, ultimate Frisbee, and countless other leisure pursuits. The popularity of these and other activities are driven by a number of factors including the shift in demographics and leisure preferences. One of the most notable activities requested in other communities is pickleball. While the sport originated in 1965, the activity has surged in popularity over the past few years due to the growing older adult community who desire to remain moderately active. Other communities have also experienced a renewed interest in tennis, which is driven in part by the baby boomer demographic.

The Township has yet to experience strong demands for non-traditional activities. Nevertheless, the Township can proactively plan for future requests through repurposing underutilized facilities and providing flexible facility spaces that appeal to a broad range of uses as the preferences and profile of residents continue to evolve.

3.2 Trends in the Provision of Recreation and Parks Facilities

Aging Infrastructure

In 2006, Parks and Recreation Ontario estimated that 30-50% of recreation facilities were nearing the end of their useful lifecycle.⁴ Many recreation facilities were built between 1956 and 1980, with a number of them constructed to celebrate Canada's Centennial year in 1967. Since this period, infrastructure province-wide has been underfunded, though these pressures have been somewhat alleviated through recent provincial and federal economic stimulus programs. Locally, the Township of Puslinch benefited from the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program that secured nearly \$21,000 in financial support towards the rehabilitation of the tennis courts located

⁴ Parks and Recreation Ontario. (2006). Ontario sport and recreation infrastructure study. Retrieved from: <http://216.13.76.142/PROntario/index.htm>

at the Puslinch Community Centre. The Building Canada Fund also contributed \$1.4 million towards the construction of the Optimist Recreation Centre in 2010.

These infrastructure projects illustrate that the Township has recognized the need to continue to conduct regular maintenance and upgrades to its facilities in order to provide high quality venues to meet the expectations of its users. Most recently, the Township replaced the floors and renovated the washrooms at the Puslinch Community Centre. Looking towards 2018, the Township has identified several capital improvement projects through the Asset Management Plan and Capital Budget, totalling nearly \$1 million. A number of projects are related to improving the Puslinch Community Centre, including parking lot repaving, window replacement, kitchen upgrades, and HVAC. A new ice re-surfacer and floor scrubber are identified for the Optimist Recreation Centre.

Barrier Free Facilities

Municipalities are striving to remove physical barriers through the design of new facilities and adaption of existing facilities in order to promote inclusivity and to position themselves in advance of the requirements associated with the 2005 *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA), which strives to remove all barriers by 2025.

It is estimated that nearly one-quarter of Ontarians are living with a disability.⁵ Applying this rate to the Township's population could suggest that over 1,700 residents have some form of disability. The Township has demonstrated its commitment to removing barriers by adopting the County of Wellington Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM). The Manual addresses accessibility requirements for the design and construction of new facilities, as well as the retrofit, alteration, and addition to existing facilities. It incorporates the belief in universal design, which recognizes the broad diversity of people who use Township facilities. The Township will continue to ensure that all future construction and major renovation projects comply with the FADM and/or the AODA Accessible Built Environment Standard, whichever is more stringent.

The Township has recently completed (or plans to complete) the following accessibility improvements to recreation buildings and open spaces:

- Optimist Recreation Centre (2010) – Accessible features within new construction
- Puslinch Community Centre building (2012/2013) – Accessible washrooms
- Puslinch Community Centre grounds (2016) – Fully accessible play area
- Puslinch Community Centre building (2018) – Kitchen and bar area renovation to include lowering of countertops for wheelchair access
- Badenoch Community Centre (3-year phased project beginning in 2019) – Accessible washrooms and doorways, lowering of kitchen countertop for wheelchair access, ramp installed at front of building, front door widened and automatic door opener installed

⁵ Statistics Canada. (2006). Canadians in context – People with disabilities. Retrieved from <http://www4.hrsdc.gc.ca/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=40>

Multi-Use and Multi-Generational Facilities

There is a growing expectation that facilities contain something for everybody, rather than being designed solely for singular uses. Co-location of complementary facility components often creates convenient, centralized activity centres and generates operating efficiencies. The provision of high quality, multi-use facilities encourages physical and social activity among all age groups, while also supporting opportunities for sport tourism at a municipal or regional scale.

Building on the aspect of convenience and consumer demand for high quality facilities, the traditional single sports field park is losing favour among sport groups who instead prefer multi-field parks that provide amenities such as parking, concession stands, and washrooms. Multi-field complexes are also gaining favour because they cater to the lucrative tournament market and provide opportunities for households to have participants at the same location at the same time.

The Puslinch Community Centre is one of the many examples of a multi-use recreation facility in the Township. This facility is co-located with the Optimist Recreation Centre, Wellington County Library Branch, and associated parkland, providing a broad range of leisure opportunities at a single destination. One of the impetuses for this Study is also driven by the need to consider new recreation facility types for the newly acquired lands at the rear of the park.

Community Use of Schools

Through the Community Use of Schools Program, several partnerships exist throughout Ontario between municipalities and surrounding school boards to facilitate the sharing of community facilities. The success of this program varies across municipalities and school boards. For example, some municipalities have solidified long term reciprocal agreements to share or share or access facilities. As a result, some municipalities may not be required to provide certain recreation spaces, such as gymnasiums, if they have access to school counterparts through partnerships or joint-use agreements.

At present, the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board provide opportunities for municipalities and non-profit groups to access school facilities for use of gymnasiums. A verbal agreement is currently in place that allows the Aberfoyle Public School to utilize the Puslinch Community Centre and Optimist Recreation Centre for various track and field events, chess tournaments, graduation, and winter skating.

3.3 Enhancing Service Delivery in Recreation and Parks

Partnerships

Forming partnerships with school boards, community partners, and private entities can leverage resources of each party and can be a beneficial way to increase the amount of publicly accessible facilities. A successful outcome is realized when the public interest is maximized and that partnerships fulfill the desired objectives of each party. For example, many municipalities provide facility space while service responsibilities (operating and maintenance) are provided by a partnering community organization. Some of the partnership examples in the Township include the following:

- The Optimist Club of Puslinch provides volunteers to assist with the maintenance of ice and supervision of skating, and uses the facilities for meetings and events
- The Township maintains the soccer fields at the Calvary Baptist Church, which are used by the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club
- YMCA/YWCA Guelph utilizes the Optimist Recreation Centre as the location for Puslinch Power Camp, a sports-based summer program.

Volunteerism

Volunteers are essential to the operation and delivery of recreation and park opportunities and many communities rely heavily on their assistance, particularly in smaller communities (such as the Township of Puslinch) where resources are limited. The National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (2010) indicated that volunteerism is rising slightly, but experiences in several other communities suggest that many groups still struggle in finding volunteers, particularly younger volunteers.

Older adults currently represent the most active volunteer group; however, it is anticipated that this group will soon move on from the volunteer workforce, resulting in greater pressures on the delivery of services and impact programming capacity. This gap in the volunteer base opens opportunities to attract new volunteers, particularly among youth. Although volunteer hours for high school students are mandatory, youth ages 15 and under represent the smallest proportion of volunteers, representing a need to engage this age group early to improve the likelihood of retaining volunteers in the future.

As previously mentioned, the Township relies heavily on local service clubs and community partners (such as the Optimist Club of Puslinch) whose memberships consists of dedicated volunteers to assist with delivering key recreation and parks services. Some of these groups have formed successful partnerships in operating and maintaining recreation and parks facilities while other groups are responsible for the success of local events such as the Aberfoyle Fall Fair and other community-run programs and services.

4. COMMUNITY INPUT

The Master Plan engaged the community, municipal representatives, and other stakeholders throughout the process to gain an understanding of a broad range of leisure interests and to raise awareness for the Master Plan and the recreation and park opportunities that are available within the Township. This section summarizes the key findings that emerged from each consultation tool.

4.1 Community Launch Event

A Community Launch Event was held at the Optimist Recreation Centre, concurrently with the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market, on October 4, 2014 to introduce the Recreation & Parks Master Plan and to solicit input from the public. Over 20 participants attended the informal gathering, which had displays that included background information about the Township and the master planning process. Attendees were asked to respond to a series of questions, which are summarized below. A transcription of responses from the event can be found in Appendix B.

Community Values and Future Vision

Participants indicated that they value the Township's sense of community and rural feeling, which is punctuated by a variety of open spaces. When participants were asked what they would like to see in 20 years, it was articulated that the Township should retain its independence from adjacent communities.

Improving Local Recreation Facilities

Participants provided a mix of ideas to improve local recreation facilities, which included providing new facilities or improving existing ones. Some attendees felt that there is a need for a splash pad, as well as an older adult centre and a greater variety of recreation activities at the Badenoch Community Centre. A suggestion was made to construct sidewalks to recreation facilities to ensure that they are easy to get to and are accessible. Other participants suggested that improvements could be made in promoting existing recreation facilities as some may not know what opportunities are available. It was also suggested that access to the Optimist Recreation Centre for local residents should be improved and given priority over non-resident users and organization.

Improving Programs and Activities

Several suggestions were received for improving recreation programs and activities in the Township that focused on opportunities for youth and older adults. Participants felt that more youth programs could be provided at the Optimist Recreation Centre such as drop-in hockey, power skating, basketball, and volleyball. Outdoor fitness programs were also suggested. Older adult program opportunities included board games, cards, movie nights, music, and discussion groups.

Improving Parks and Trails

When participants were asked how the Township can improve parks and trails, attendees expressed that more promotion of parks and trails is needed to raise awareness of where they are located. Others felt that the Township should limit pit quarry growth to preserve existing open space lands and convert old quarries to parks and/or campgrounds. It was also suggested that hunting should be prohibited in conservation areas.

Puslinch Community Centre Lands Expansion

Participants were asked what outdoor amenities should be considered as a part of the Puslinch Community Centre Park expansion. Several amenities were advanced, with the most popular feature being trails for walking or cycling. Other potential amenities identified were splash pads, a running track, a community garden, naturalized open space, a leash free dog park, and soccer fields.

4.2 Online Community Survey

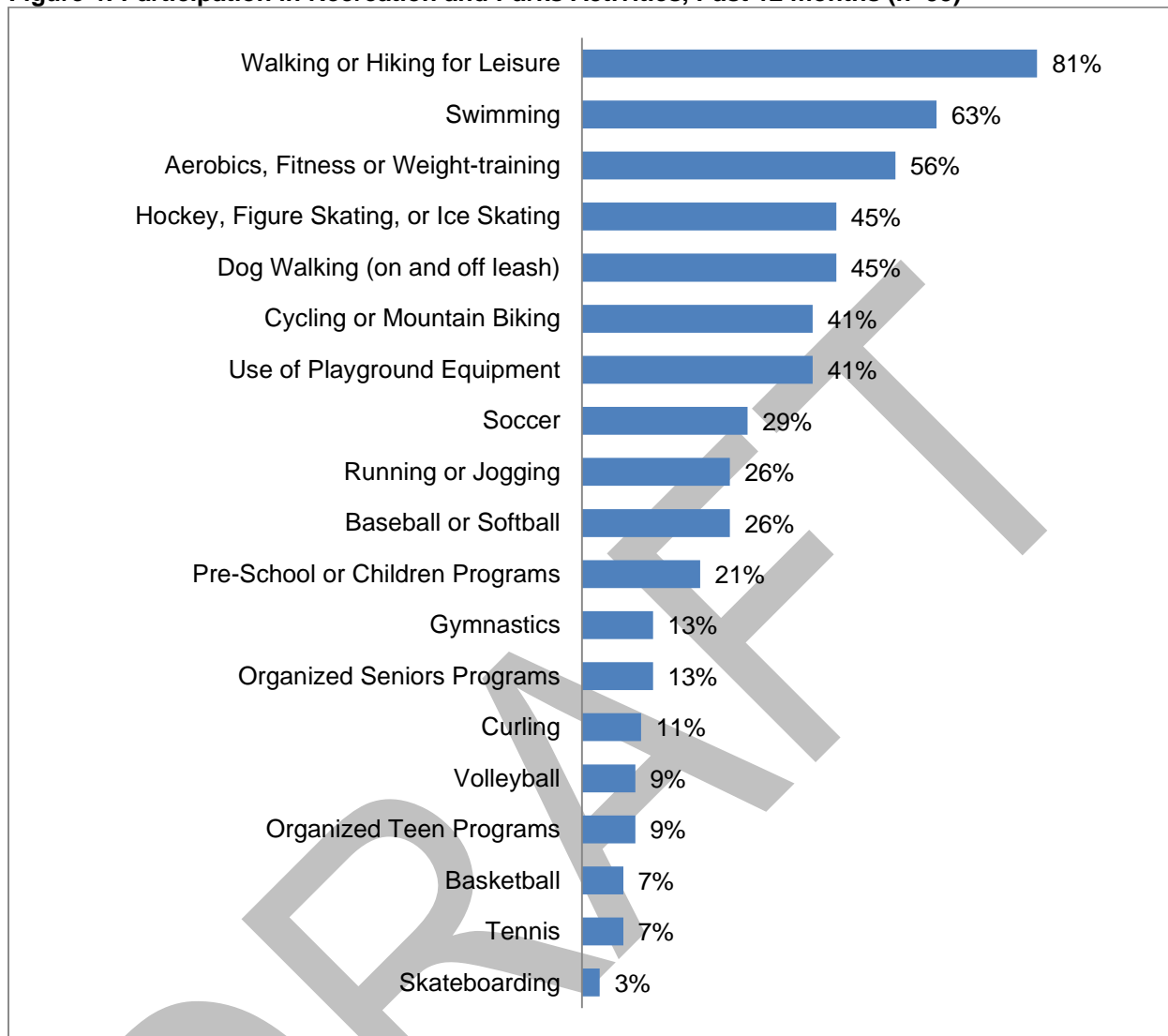
To assist with the preparation of the Master Plan, an online survey was available between the months of August and October 2014. The survey collected information regarding the attitudes, opinions, usage, and priorities related to various recreation and parks opportunities. A total of 98 surveys were completed and analyzed. This section provides a summary of the main findings of the survey. A complete listing of survey responses is contained in Appendix C.

Of note, this was a self-administered survey and the results cannot be considered to be statistically significant or representative of the opinions of all residents in the absence of random sampling. As with other consultation tools, the survey findings should not be considered in isolation, but instead factored in the context of other community input and assessment methodologies.

Household Participation in Recreation and Parks Activities

Over the past 12 months, 81% of respondents reported participation in walking or hiking for leisure, making it the most popular activity of those listed. Rounding out the most popular activities were swimming (63%), aerobics/fitness/weight-training (56%), hockey/figure skating/ice skating (45%), dog walking (45%), cycling/mountain biking (41%), and use of playground equipment (41%). These top activities are indicative of current recreation trends where most are unstructured pursuits that can be flexibly scheduled or done at one's own pace. A summary of results is illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 4: Participation in Recreation and Parks Activities, Past 12 months (n=95)



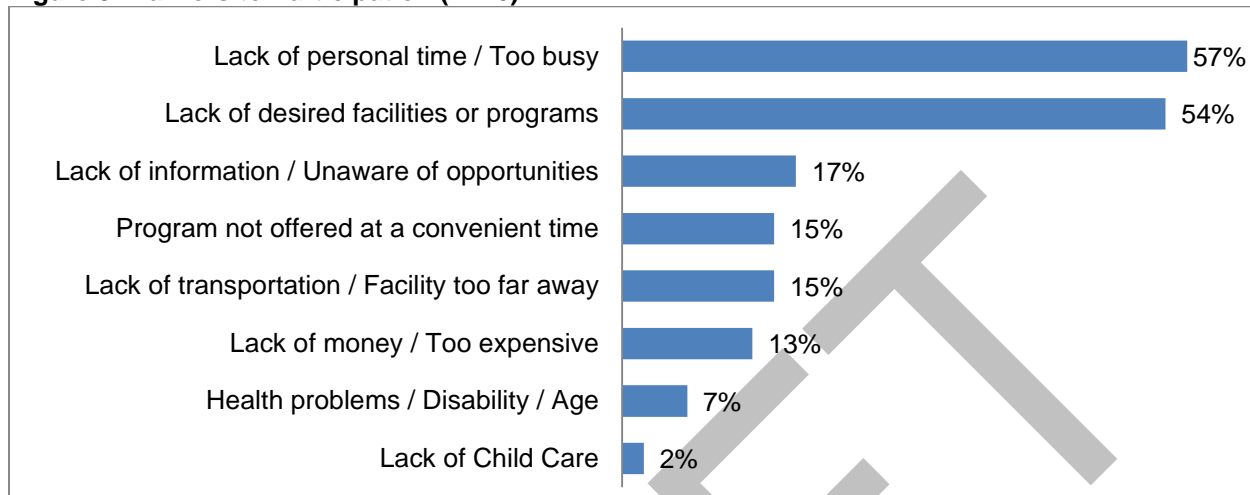
When survey respondents were asked where they primarily participate in these recreation and park activities, the most common response was at home (46%), followed by at a municipal park or facility within the Township of Puslinch (40%), and outside of the Township (39%).

Barriers to Participation in Recreation and Parks Activities

Respondents were generally divided when asked if they or members of their household are able to participate in recreation and parks activities as often as they would like. 47% of survey respondents identified that they were able to participate in recreation and parks activities as often as they would like, while 48% of respondents indicated that they were not (5% were unsure). Over half of survey respondents who were unable to participate in recreation and parks activities as often as they would like indicated that this was due to a lack of personal time/too busy (57% of those unable to participate),

followed closely by the lack of desired facilities or programs (54%). A summary of responses are contained in the following figure.

Figure 5: Barriers to Participation (n=46)



Our experience in other communities suggests that lack of time is often the primary barrier to participation. Although there is little that the Township (and its community partners) can do to alleviate the time constraints of local residents, ensuring that recreation and parks facilities, services, and programs are accessible (via appropriate operating hours, flexible times, etc.) could assist with facilitating a greater level of participation in local leisure opportunities.

The fact that a lack of desired facilities or programs was also reported as a significant barrier to participation suggests that current recreation and parks opportunities are not meeting expectations. Specific gaps are explored in a subsequent section.

Participation in Recreation and Parks Activities within Puslinch

The survey asked where households typically participate in parks and recreation activities. Only 5% of survey respondents reported that 'All' of their recreation and parks needs are met within the Township of Puslinch. A majority of respondents indicated that 'Some' (45%) or 'About Half' (32%) of their recreation needs are met within the Township. As a follow-up question, respondents were asked what recreation and parks activities they participate in outside of the Township.

A broad range of leisure pursuits were articulated including swimming (38% of those who participate outside of the Township), fitness/aerobics/weight-training (25%), walking/running/hiking (23%), hockey/ringette (16%), and baseball/softball (11%).

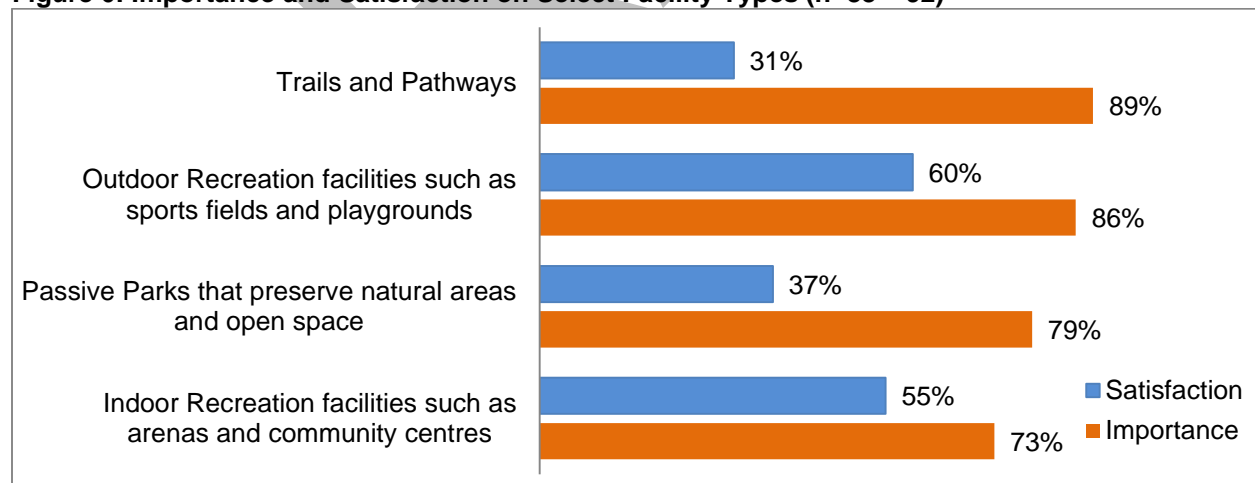
Survey respondents were then asked why they choose to travel outside of the Township to participate in these activities. An overwhelming majority of respondents identified that it was because the facility or program is not available in the Township (84%). The second most common response was that the quality of the facility or program in the other community is superior (17%).

Through an open-ended question, survey respondents were asked if there were any recreation and parks activities they would like to see offered that are not currently available. 63% of respondents identified that there were activities they would like to see offered. The most common activities respondents would like to see offered within the Township were swimming (38%), hockey and recreational skating programs (23%), hiking trails (18%), aerobics/fitness/weight-training (13%), and a splash pad (11%). When asked which organization should be providing these new opportunities, 67% of respondents felt that these activities should be provided as a partnership between the Township of Puslinch, community/volunteer organizations, and the private sector, while 43% indicated that they should be provided solely by the Township and 17% supported sole provision through community/volunteer organizations.

Importance and Satisfaction of Recreation and Parks Facilities

To gauge the level of importance of and satisfaction with various recreation and parks facilities in the Township, respondents were asked to rate select facility types. Overall, respondents generally reported higher levels of importance for each facility type compared to their level of satisfaction. Lower levels of satisfaction typically indicates that the Township's facilities are not meeting respondents' expectations and that there may be opportunities for improvement. The greatest gap in importance and satisfaction levels exists among trails and pathways in the Township; respondents indicated that this facility type was most important to their household (89%); however, only 31% of households were satisfied with them. A notable gap in importance and satisfaction is also observed in passive parks such as natural areas and open space; 79% of households expressed that this facility type is important to their household, although 37% of households were satisfied with them. A summary of results is illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 6: Importance and Satisfaction on Select Facility Types (n=88 – 92)



When respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the recreation and parks opportunities in the Township available to specific age groups, respondents were most satisfied with opportunities for children (34%), followed by teens (29%), older adults and seniors (16%), and adults (14%). Most respondents were neither satisfied

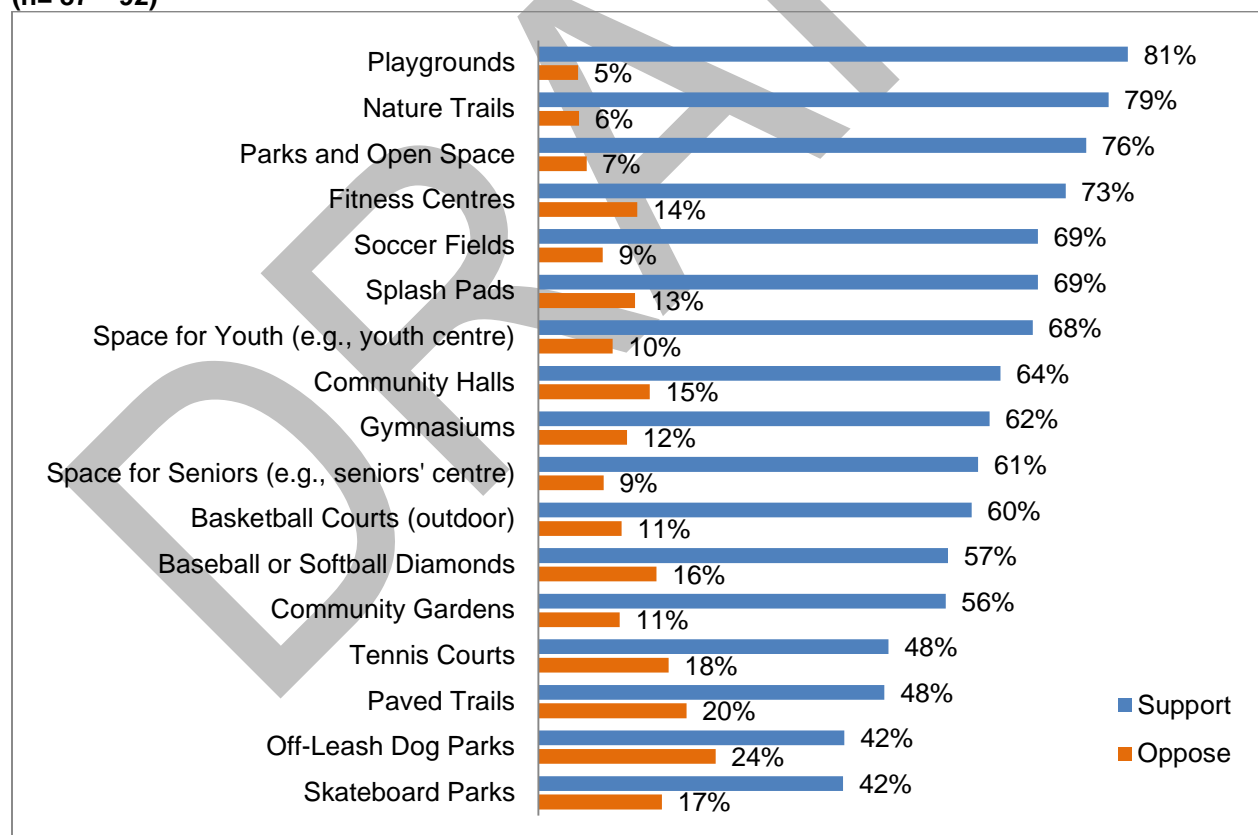
nor dissatisfied. These results are generally consistent with other communities we have surveyed as there are gaps in recreation and parks opportunities across each age group, particularly among adults, older adults, and seniors.

Recreation and Parks Facility Priorities

To understand the priorities for the provision of recreation and park facilities, respondents were asked to identify their support for spending additional public funds on various facility types. The top facility types were playgrounds (81%), nature trails (79%), parks and open space (76%), fitness centres (73%), soccer fields (69%), splash pads (69%), and spaces for youth (68%). With the exception of soccer fields, these top facility types reinforce respondents' preference for unstructured and self-scheduled recreation activities.

By contrast, survey respondents were most opposed to spending additional public funds on off-leash dog parks (24%), paved trails (20%), tennis courts (18%), skateboard parks (17%), and ball diamonds (16%), although there was more support than opposition for each of these items. A summary of results is illustrated in the following figure.

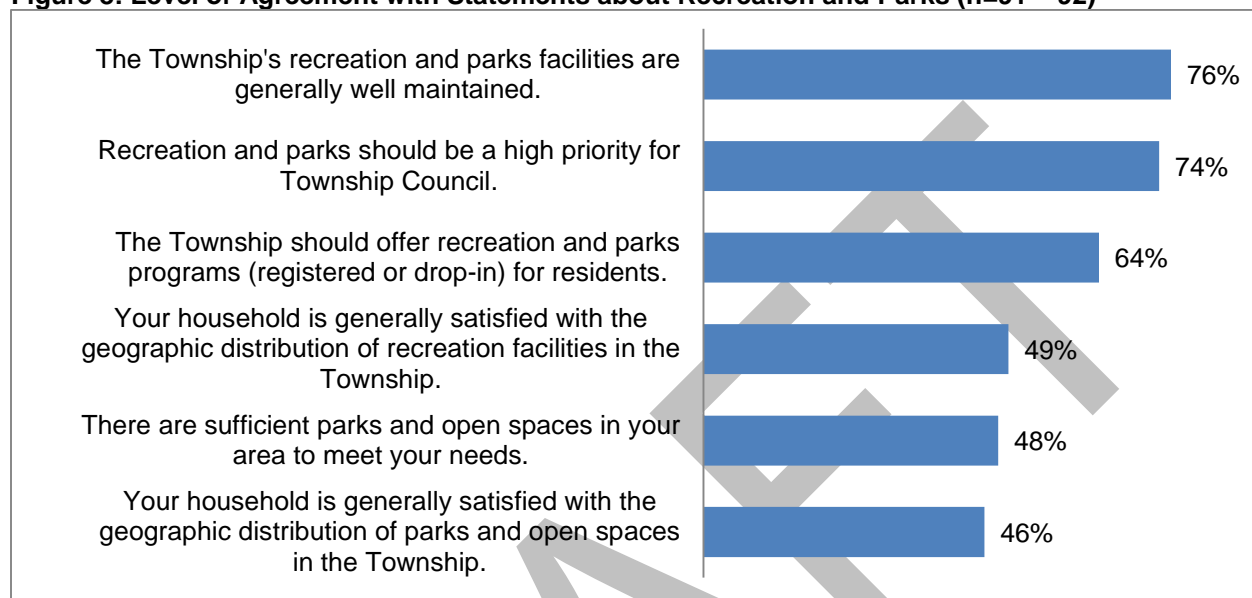
Figure 7: Support for Spending Additional Public Funds on Improving and/or Developing Facilities (n= 87 – 92)



Respondents were asked to rate their level of support with a number of statements related to the provision of recreation and park opportunities in the Township of Puslinch, the results of which are illustrated in the following figure. It is clear that recreation and

parks facilities are very important to survey respondents. While respondents generally feel that the parks and facilities are well maintained, there may be opportunities to improve the number and distribution of parks in the Township. There was also some support for the provision of registered or drop-in programs offered by the Township.

Figure 8: Level of Agreement with Statements about Recreation and Parks (n=91 – 92)



Respondents also had an opportunity to submit any final comments regarding the provision of recreation and parks in the Township of Puslinch. A broad range of comments were received, primarily regarding the provision of recreation and park facilities. A number of respondents reported that there should be more trails and cycling lanes in the Township, as well as improving existing trails by maintaining trails and marking pathways. Many suggested that there is need for a splash pad and dog park. The need to maintain the Township's ball diamonds and provide additional soccer fields (including lit fields) was also articulated. By contrast, other respondents indicated that there should be limited spending for new recreation and park facilities. Instead, respondents felt that Township residents should be utilizing recreation facilities provided by the City of Guelph.

Respondents also provided comments related to improving local programming, such as the need to bring back hockey at the Optimist Recreation Centre (ORC). Some respondents also felt that local residents should have a greater priority in utilizing the gymnasium at the ORC.

Profile of Survey Respondents

The median age of survey respondents was 49 years, which is slightly higher compared to the median age reported in the 2011 Census (47.6 years), which is not unexpected as surveys are not typically completed by children. The average size of responding households was 3.4 persons, higher than the average household size identified by the 2011 Census (2.9). An over-representation of families with children is often expected in

these types of voluntary surveys, particularly as they may have a higher interest in recreation and parks activities and are more likely to respond to this survey. This assumption is supported by the following data.

Table 3: Household Age Structure of Survey Respondents (n=90)

Age Group	Online Survey	2011 Census
Children (0 – 9)	20%	8%
Youth (10 – 19)	9%	13%
Younger Adults (20 – 34)	14%	12%
Mature Adults (35 – 54)	30%	31%
Older Adults (55 – 69)	21%	24%
Seniors (70+)	6%	12%
Total	100%	100%

With respect to distribution, 45% of the respondents live north of Highway 401, east of Hanlon Parkway / Highway 6 North, in communities such as Aberfoyle and Arkell. 40% of respondents live south of Highway 401 in communities including Morriston and Puslinch Lake. 14% of respondents live in rural areas north of Highway 401, west of Hanlon Parkway / Highway 6 North.

4.3 Stakeholder Survey

A self-administered online survey oriented towards stakeholder groups (e.g., community associations, volunteer organizations, local agencies, partners, facility/park renters, etc.) was initiated in October 2014 to collect information regarding group participation, facility utilization, and future group needs, and more. A total of 10 surveys were completed and received from the groups listed below, followed by a summary of key findings. Additional information about each stakeholder group can be found in Appendix D. Interviews were also conducted with a number of these groups (see section 4.4).

- Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association
- Aberfoyle Parent-Child Place
- Badenoch Community Centre Board
- Cross Roads Memorial Church
- Fergie Jenkins Baseball
- Puslinch Minor Ball
- Puslinch Minor Soccer Club
- The Clarks of Tomfad
- The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Puslinch
- Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool

Expanding Programs and Services

Two-fifths (40%) of survey respondents expressed plans to expand the scope of their programs or services within the next three years, while the remaining three-fifths (60%) reported that there would be no change. Groups that identified plans for expansion

included the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association, Cross Roads Memorial Church, Puslinch Minor Soccer, and the Clarks of Tomfad.

With the exception of the Clarks of Tomfad, a common constraint that was identified was the need for appropriate facility space. The Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association noted that while there is sufficient physical space at the Optimist Recreation Centre to increase the number of vendors, the arena floor pad is slippery and temporary walls are required to minimize cross winds and the weather elements. The Cross Roads Memorial Church noted that the basement of their facility is not accessible and volunteers are needed to assist with services and programs. The Puslinch Minor Soccer Club also identified that they are nearly at maximum capacity and require additional field space, preferably one that is lit.

Improving Municipal Recreation Facilities

Survey respondents identified a number of opportunities to improve municipal recreation facilities, several of which were mentioned above. A comment was also received to replace some of the cupboards in the Alf Hales room at the Puslinch Community Centre, although it is recognized that this issue has been acknowledged and a replacement program is already underway. Additional storage for large items in the Alf Hales room was also expressed.

Locations of Play

Eighty percent (80%) of respondents utilize municipal facilities in the Township. The Puslinch Community Centre was the most common facility used by responding organizations, followed by the Optimist Recreation Centre, ball diamonds, and soccer fields.

Half of the responding stakeholders (50%) also utilize facilities in other communities; primarily in Guelph. The use of facilities in Guelph/Eramosa was also reported. The use of facilities in other communities is largely due to the fact that these organizations generally cater to participants across multiple municipalities. Sports groups including Puslinch Minor Ball and Puslinch Minor Soccer also reported participation in away games in adjacent communities.

Providing New Recreation Facilities

Only 20% of survey respondents identified the need for new municipal recreation facilities in the next five to ten years, while half of the groups (50%) reported that they did not and 30% were unsure. The desire for a baseball complex and field house as well as additional (and lit) soccer fields was expressed.

Willingness to Contribute

About one-third (30%) of responding groups reported that their organization would be willing to contribute to improving or developing new recreation facilities, while one-third identified that they were not and 40% were unsure. Options for participating in municipal

projects included through partnerships (60%), fundraising (20%) and another form of contribution (20%) such as a personal donation.

Inclusivity

It was clear that responding stakeholders recognized the importance of providing inclusive programs and services by implementing mechanisms to remove participation barriers. Some groups reported that they provide free to low-cost programs, such as the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club, which has partnered with the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington to provide financial assistance to those in need. Other groups suggested that public transit from Guelph should be made available at the Puslinch Community Centre to allow those without access to a vehicle to travel between the Township and Guelph.

Providing Additional Supports

One-third (30%) of responding groups reported the need for additional supports from the Township. Requests included an annual grant, volunteers, and facility space for an office, mailbox, and storage. Two-fifths (40%) of responding groups indicated that they do not require additional supports and 30% were unsure.

4.4 Focus Groups and Key Informant Interviews

Several key informant interviews were undertaken with various community partners and stakeholders during November 2014 to provide an opportunity for organizations to speak candidly about a range of recreation and park topics. Subjects included facility utilization, areas for improvement, programming and service needs, opportunities for partnerships and funding, and more. Input received from these consultation sessions are confidential, although key directions have been integrated into subsequent sections of the Master Plan, as appropriate. Groups that participated in the focus groups and interviews included:

- Aberfoyle Agricultural Society/Fall Fair
- Aberfoyle Parent-Child Place Playgroup
- Badenoch Community Centre Board
- Duff's Presbyterian Church
- Fergie Jenkins Baseball
- Optimist Club of Puslinch
- Puslinch Lake Conservation Association
- Puslinch Minor Soccer Club
- Puslinch Minor Ball
- Puslinch Men's Senior Fastball
- Puslinch Oldtimers Baseball
- Puslinch Senior Ladies Baseball
- Puslinch Tennis Club
- Mini Lakes
- Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool

4.5 Public Open House

A Public Open House is planned to be held in early 2015 to present the draft Recreation & Parks Master Plan to solicit initial feedback from the public. This section will be completed following the open house to summarize the input received.

5. EXISTING ASSETS & PROVIDERS

This section provides an inventory of existing recreation and park assets and programs found within the Township of Puslinch and surrounding area. The amenities and services described in this section includes those owned and operated by the Township of Puslinch and other community partners including the County, Conservation Authority, school board, and other providers.

5.1 Municipal Recreation Facilities

Puslinch Community Centre

The Puslinch Community Centre is owned by the Township and functions as a hub of leisure activity for local and regional residents. Flanked by residential and natural open space, the Community Centre is located on the same lands as the Wellington County Library (Puslinch Branch), Puslinch Community Centre Park and Optimist Recreation Centre. Constructed in 1981, the Community Centre boasts a range of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. It contains a community hall that is available for weddings, banquets, and other large events. The hall, known as the Archie MacRobbie Room, has a capacity between 247 and 362 guests and is supported by an associated commercial kitchen, bar, and patio. A smaller meeting room, known as the Alf Hales Room, is also located within the Community Centre, which has a capacity of 40 to 70 persons and is equipped with storage space.

The facility is generally in excellent condition, with recent upgrades including a new accessible washroom and new hardwood floor in the main hall. Roof repairs were also recently completed to address a water leak issue. A building condition assessment undertaken in early 2014 identified approximately \$354,750 in building upgrades and replacement of various building components including, but not limited to, electrical and mechanical equipment, roof panels, and windows and doors.

Optimist Recreation Centre

The Optimist Recreation Centre is located on the same lands as the Puslinch Community Centre and Wellington County Library (Puslinch Branch) and Puslinch Community Centre Park. Constructed in 2010, the Optimist Recreation Centre features a covered outdoor skating rink (20 metres by 43 metres) and a gymnasium (17 metres by 16 metres). The facility was constructed through funding provided by the Building Canada Fund and Optimist Club of Puslinch, totaling approximately \$1.75 Million. An additional \$350,000 was contributed from the Township. A small activity room complements the skating rink and gymnasium, in addition to four change rooms. These facilities can be used for a broad range of leisure activities including, but not limited to, recreational skating, weddings, banquets, fundraisers, roller skating, farmers' markets, the Aberfoyle Fall Fair, and more. This facility is staffed by the Facility Operator and part-time employees, along with seasonal use of volunteers by the Optimist Club of Puslinch.

Badenoch Community Centre

Located in Badenoch, the Badenoch Community Centre was a former school erected in 1889, although the building has no heritage designation. This facility is owned by the Township and operated by a group of volunteers (the Badenoch Community Centre Board, which is not a formal board of Council or board of management) as a community hall suitable for weddings, banquets, meetings, and other small events. The Board is generally responsible for minor changes and day-to-day operations, while the Township is responsible for other major works. A practice ball diamond and swing set is located outside, in addition to parking for approximately 20 cars.

The facility is generally in good condition and is equipped with a full kitchen and bathrooms, although the building is not accessible. The roof was also recently replaced in 2010. A wheelchair ramp flanks the east side of the building; however it is not built to code. The building also has a basement, although it is not currently utilized. A building condition assessment prepared in early 2014 identified several areas requiring attention including fire safety supplies, water infiltration repairs, water treatment equipment, light fixtures, and replacement of the furnace, heating oil tank, windows, doors, and hot water tank, as well as exterior wall rehabilitation. These projects are estimated to cost approximately \$135,850. In addition to the improvements identified in the building condition report, a number of enhancement opportunities may exist including upgrading the building to ensure that it is accessible, improving outdoor amenities, and developing a trail connection to the Badenoch Tract to the west.

5.2 Parks

The Township provides approximately 22.2 hectares (54.9 acres) of active and passive parkland at nine sites. With 7,240 residents, the Township is providing a parkland service level of about 3.1 hectares per 1,000 residents. Moreover, other non-municipal parks are found in the Township from providers including Conservation Authorities, Wellington County, Upper Grand District School Board and private recreation and parks providers. The following is a description of the existing conditions and potential opportunities of some of the notable municipal and non-municipal parks available to residents.

Aberfoyle Public School (School Board)

The Aberfoyle Public School is located in Aberfoyle, approximately 200 metres from the Puslinch Community Centre. Located adjacent to a number of residential dwellings, residents have access to a number of outdoor recreation facilities available at the Public School including an intermediate soccer field, three practice ball diamonds, two basketball courts, and a playground and swing set. The soccer and ball fields are in poor condition and are not generally used by the community. The school also offers a gymnasium, which provides opportunities for community rentals under the Community Access to Schools initiatives.

Boreham Park

Boreham Park is a small neighbourhood park located in Arkell. This park largely consists of open space, with the exception of a small slide and swing set with a sand base. A single bench, trash receptacle, and street light complement the playground. A drainage swale traverses through the park, which may pose an accessibility issue for some users. Future opportunities may exist to upgrade the playground with the addition of a border and new base fill material. Limited grass parking is available on site, although it is likely that this park is generally used by residents within walking distance.

Badenoch Field

Badenoch Field is located in Badenoch, approximately 350 metres west of the Badenoch Community Centre. Surrounded by mostly natural open space and agricultural lands, Badenoch Field offers one unlit full soccer field (formerly used as a ball diamond) and is supported by off-street parking, a permanent storage facility and portable washroom. Future opportunities may include the development of a trail connection to the Badenoch Trail, which is located east of Badenoch Field.

Calvary Baptist Church Soccer Fields (Private)

The Calvary Baptist Church Soccer Fields are located approximately 700 metres west of Arkell. The lands are owned by the Calvary Baptist Church and are maintained by the Township; however, a formal operating agreement does not currently exist. One full and two intermediate soccer fields exist at this location and are used by the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club and other groups, all of which are unlit. The fields are supported by ample parking with the associated Church, in addition to a portable washroom. No opportunities for improvement exist at this location given that the Township does not own the lands. Long-term availability of this site is unknown given that there is no formal agreement with the Church.

Fox Run Park

Fox Run Park is located north of Aberfoyle. This flag-shaped park is bordered by residential dwellings on all sides with extremely limited frontage along Fox Run Drive and Deer View Ridge. No amenities or facilities are available at this park and no signage exists identifying its location. As this park is land locked and largely serves as an extended backyard for neighbouring estate residential dwellings, this park may be suitable to naturalize or divest from the Township's responsibilities.

Morrison Historical Block Corner Park

Morrison Historical Block is located in the west corner of Queen Street and Church Street, where the Old Morrison Town Hall once stood. According to the Clarks of Tomfad, a committee was formed in 1978 consisting of representatives of the Women's Institute, community partners, and interested members of the public to create a park to remember the former Town Hall. The passive park is approximately 0.13 hectares (0.31 acres) in size with picturesque vegetation, pathway, and seating. Limited opportunities are available at this site due to the small size of the park.

Morrison Meadows

Morrison Meadows is located within the community of Morrison, surrounded by residential dwellings, open space, and commercial businesses. This active park offers an unlit adult softball diamond, a small practice diamond, basketball court, and a playground with a sand base, all of which are in generally good condition. Supporting amenities at this park include a permanent washroom, pavilion, and ample parking.

Old Morrison Ball Field

Old Morrison Ball Field is located in the community of Morrison, adjacent to residential dwellings and open space. Owned by the Township, this park has one lit softball diamond and batting cage with associated permanent washrooms, and limited grass parking and open space. The facilities are generally in good condition (with the exception of the washrooms), although potential opportunities for improvement include updating lighting and park signage. The Township's long-term capital budget has allocated \$50,000 to replace the light standards for 2016-17, which is subject to the outcome of this Master Plan.

Puslinch Community Centre Park

The Puslinch Community Centre Park is co-located with the community centre, Optimist Recreation Centre, and Puslinch Branch Library. As previously described, several passive and active outdoor recreation opportunities exist, including a tranquil ornamental garden provided in partnership by the Puslinch Horticultural Society. Active recreation facilities include one unlit intermediate soccer field, one lit softball diamond, horseshoe pits, playground, and three lit club tennis courts (public access restricted). A horse paddock and tractor pull area is also located at the rear of the Park, which is used during the Aberfoyle Fall Fair. The outdoor facilities are generally in good condition, although the Tennis Club has requested improvements.

In 2012, the Township purchased 4 hectares (10 acres) of land immediately adjacent to the rear of the Puslinch Community Centre Park complex, with the intent of developing them for future recreation uses. These lands currently contain an open field and a wooded area along a tributary of Mill Creek. The development potential of the lands is limited due to the Core Greens designation, current zoning (Natural Environment), location within the floodplain, and proximity to a wetland. Pre-consultation with the GRCA and County Planning and Development Department indicated that passive recreational uses would be permitted. A more active form of recreation, such as soccer fields and parking, would require an amendment to the Zoning By-Law and assurances that no infrastructure or paved parking would be located on the lands, nor any significant change in grading.

In June 2012, the Township held a stakeholder group meeting to discuss options for the development of the newly acquired lands at the rear of the Park. Ideas generated from this session included a full size lit soccer field, walking track, parking, playground/picnic area, equestrian ring, outdoor pavilion, and skate park. A concept and master plan for the lands was subsequently developed, but has yet to be implemented.

Puslinch Lake Park (Private)

A private park is located in the private community of Puslinch Lake. This neighbourhood park largely consists of open space that can support a range of passive leisure opportunities. Active recreation facilities include an unlit tennis court, basketball hoop, and playground, which are all in generally fair condition. An old baseball backstop is also located at this park. Given that the private park is not operated or maintained by the Township, opportunities for improvement are limited.

Telfer Glen Park

Telfer Glen Park is a small naturalized park in Morriston with generally thick vegetation. Located along Calfass Road south of Queen Street and north of Settlers Court, Telfer Glen Park is approximately 1.5 hectares (3.8 acres) in size and offers a naturalized trail loop. Limited opportunities are available given the naturalized state of the park.

5.3 Trails

Approximately 33.3 kilometres of natural off-road trails are located throughout the Township of Puslinch. This section provides a brief description of each trail located on lands owned by the Township, County of Wellington, and various Conservation Authorities. A select number of trails are also located on privately owned lands and others are maintained by the Guelph Hiking Trail Club.

Badenoch Tract Trail

As previously described, Badenoch Tract is situated between the Badenoch Community Centre to the east and Badenoch Field to the west. Owned and maintained by Wellington County, the 1 kilometre trail has a grass and dirt surface for a number of activities including walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking. The trailhead is located along Watson Road South, which has limited parking, park signage, and a wayfinding station, although the wayfinding sign is currently not in use. Given that the Township does not own or maintain the Badenoch Tract, there is limited opportunity for improvement, although options may exist to develop connections to the Tract from Badenoch Field and the Badenoch Community Centre.

Lakeshore Lookout Trail

The Lakeshore Lookout Trail is located at the Mountsberg Conservation Area, which straddles the border between Wellington County and Halton Region, and is owned and maintained by the Halton Region Conservation Authority. This admission-based Conservation Area provides several passive recreation activities including, but not limited to, hiking, bird watching, educational programs, and environmental events such as maple syrup harvesting demonstrations and wagon rides.

The Conservation Area provides 16 kilometres of walking trails, although the Lakeshore Lookout Trail located within the Township measures approximately 5 kilometres, suitable for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing. Several amenities

are available along the trail including rest stations, trash receptacles, and two lookout towers. A visitors centre, signage, parking, and washrooms are also available.

Little Tract Trail

Little Tract Trail is located in the rural area of the Township on the north side of Wellington Road 34 between Wellington Road 32 and 35. This trail is owned and maintained by Wellington County Forest, which provides over 8 kilometres of natural hiking trails that range between easy and moderate difficulty levels as there are a number of sloping areas along the walking route. The trail length, difficulty, and quality may vary throughout as there may be a number of informal hiking trails blazed by previous users. The trailhead is located along Wellington Road 34 with park signage and a wayfinding station, although the wayfinding station does not display any information about the trail. It is currently being utilized by the community as an informational bulletin board. A parking lot is also located at the trailhead, which can support a number of vehicles.

Smith Side Trail

Smith Side Trail (also known as Smith Property Loop) is located approximately one kilometre northwest of Arkell. This trail is owned by the Grand River Conservation Area (GRCA) and is maintained by the Guelph Hiking Trail Club. The trail has a natural surface with a moderate difficulty and measures approximately 3 kilometres in length. The trailhead is located along Watson Road South with park signage identifying the trail route, ownership, and permitted uses, which includes walking, cross country skiing, and mountain biking. Permitted uses include motorized vehicles, hunting, horseback riding, and camping. Signage is also available reminding users that all dogs should be on a leash. Road-side parking is also available at the trailhead.

Speed River Trail

The Speed River Trail was established through an agreement between the Guelph Hiking Trail Club and private land owners, which permits club members and the public to cross their lands for the purposes of walking or hiking. Located in the northwest corner of the Township of Puslinch, there are two segments of this trail. The first trail measures approximately 5 kilometres and is located between Wellington Road 32 and Townline Road, on the south side of the Speed River. The second segment measures approximately 4 kilometres and is located between Wellington Road 32 and Sideroad 10 North, on the north side of Speed River. Given that this trail is located on privately owned lands, the trail route is unmarked and there may be variations in trail quality and difficulty.

Starkey Hill Trail

Starkey Hill Trail is located a short distance from Smith Side Trail and approximately 1.2 kilometres east of Arkell. This trail was originally constructed by the Guelph Hiking Trail Club but it is now owned and managed by the GRCA. The trail has a natural surface, which measures approximately 4 kilometres in length. Some sections of the trail are uneven, offering users a more challenging hike that have a moderate difficulty level. The

trailhead is located from Arkell Road, where there is ample parking, a park sign, and a wayfinding station that provides users with key information including a map of the walking route, native species, and rules for using the trail. Walking and hiking are the only activities permitted and any other activity, such as hunting and camping, are prohibited. This trail, however, does not have an address sign.

Telfer Glen Park Trail

The only trail owned and maintained by the Township of Puslinch is located at Telfer Glen Park in Morriston. This short trail loop measures approximately 270 metres in length and is located within a naturalized wooded area. Accessible from Calfass Road, this trail has a natural hiking surface with an easy to moderate difficulty. A park sign is located at the main trail access point; however, there is no wayfinding signage that identifies the trail route and other key information. Improvements can also be made to improve entrance visibility and vegetation clearing to widen the trail. Limited road-side parking is available along Calfass Road, although it is anticipated that this trail is used by local residents only.

Quarry Trail

Quarry Trail is owned and managed by the Hamilton Conservation Authority as part of the Fletcher Ecological Preserve. This unique trail is located in a former quarry, which has been rehabilitated since with an assortment of flora and fauna by the Conservation Authority in partnership with McMaster University. The trail measures approximately 3 kilometres with a natural hiking surface. Given that the lands were formerly used as a quarry, the trail traverses through elevation changes with moderate difficulty. The trail is accessible from Gore Road and Concession Road 7, with parking available at each.

Figure 9: Parks & Facility Inventory Map, Township of Puslinch

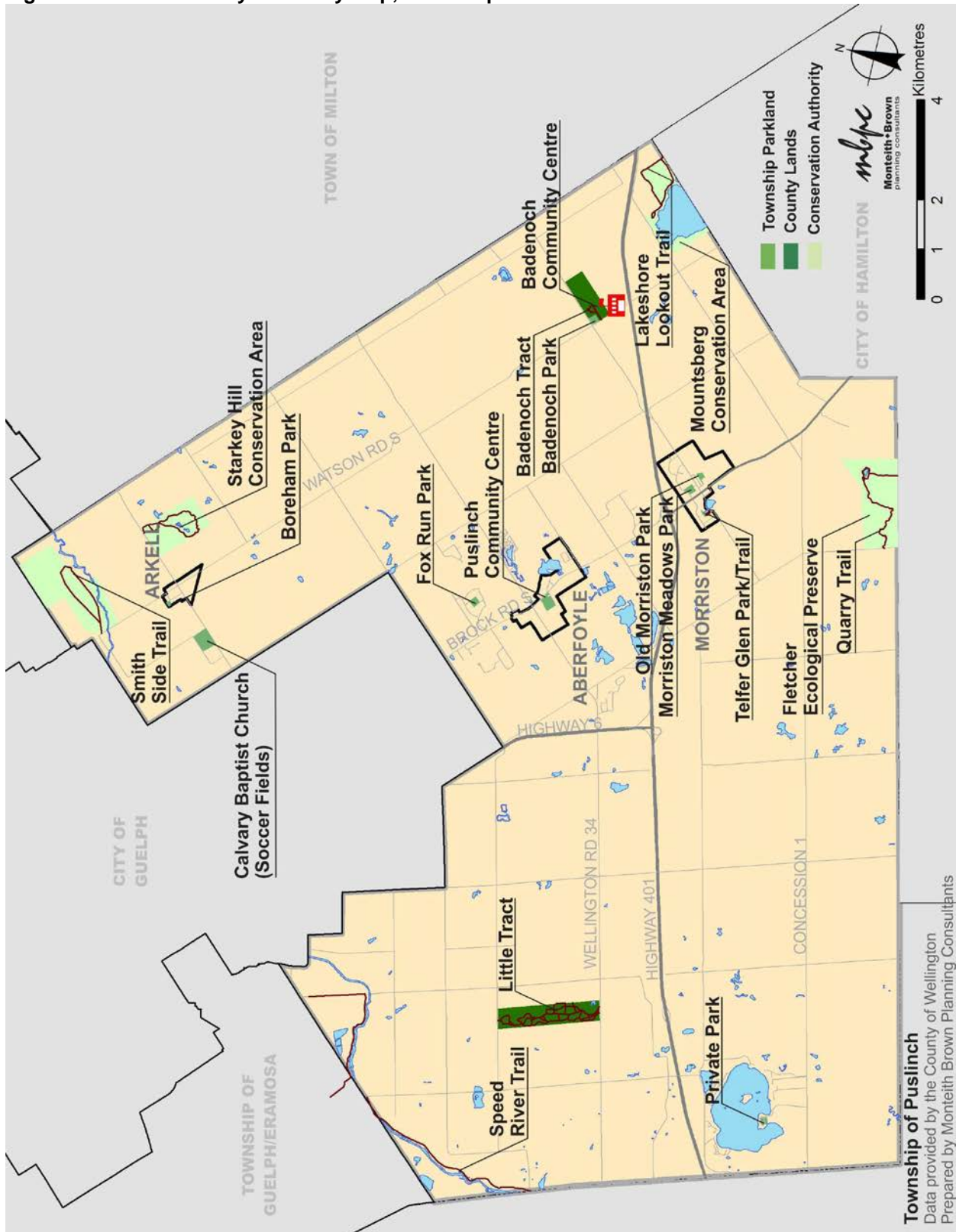


Figure 10: Parks & Facility Inventory Map, Aberfoyle

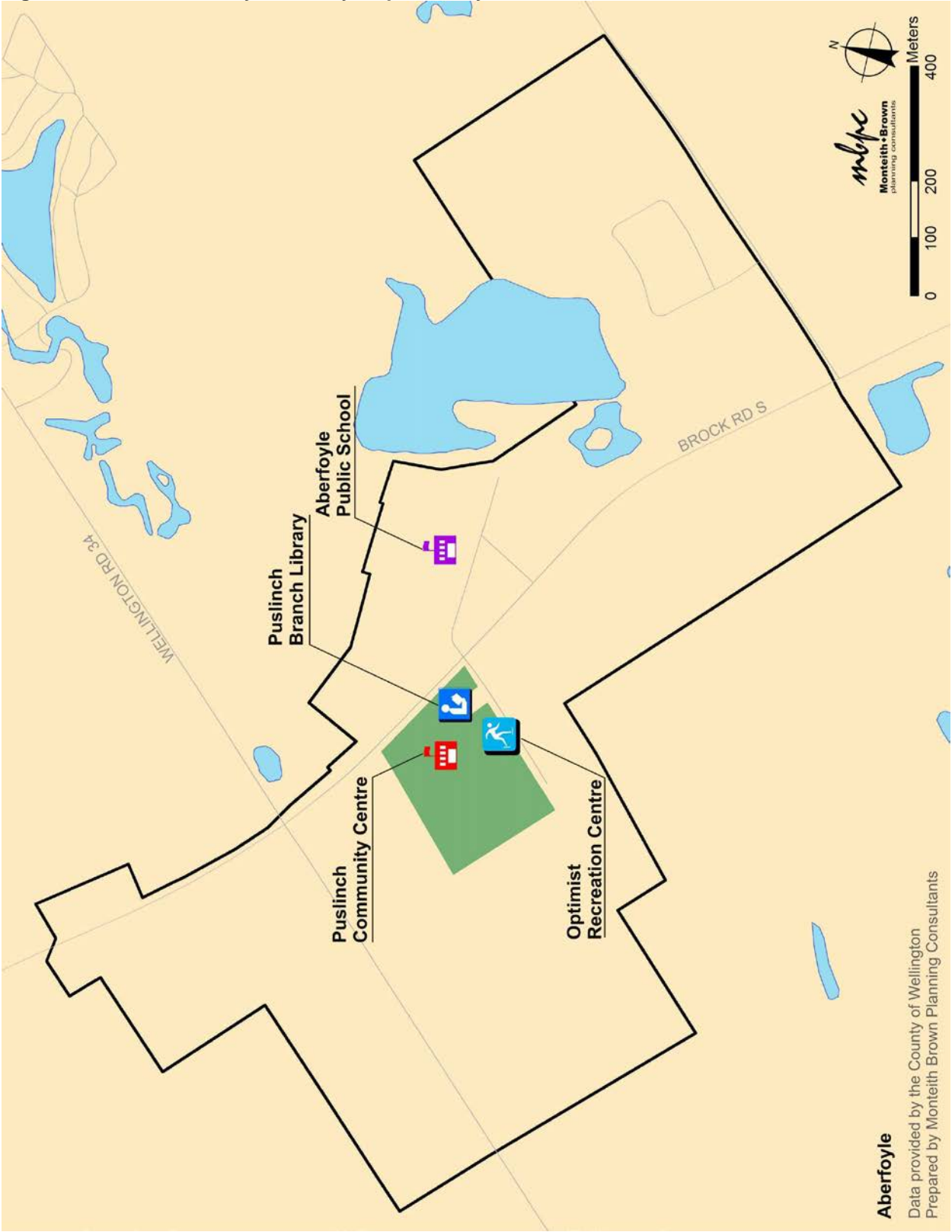


Figure 11: Parks & Facility Inventory Map, Morriston



5.4 Non-Municipal Facilities & Services

In addition to the recreation facilities, parks, and trails described in the previous sections, there are several not-for-profit, non-municipal, and private organizations that provide a variety of community services. In smaller communities, these organizations are often relied upon for providing vital leisure services as municipal resources are often limited. As a result, it is imperative that the Township of Puslinch continue to foster relationships and support these organizations, where possible, by ensuring that the residents are aware of their presence and the services that they provide. In some cases, some form of resource sharing may already exist between the Township and these organizations as a number of groups may utilize Township facility space to conduct their programs, meetings, or events.

A scan of community partners located in the Township, and those that provide services in the Township, are identified below, although this is not an exhaustive list. Detailed mandate or services that each organization provides is contained in Appendix E.

Conservation Authorities

- Conservation Halton
- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Conservation Authority

Community Service / Social Clubs

- 4 H Club Wellington
- Aberfoyle Agricultural Society
- Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association
- Aberfoyle Parent-Child Association
- Badenoch Community Centre Board
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph
- Clarks of Tomfad
- Friends of Mill Creek
- Gravel Watch Ontario
- Guelph Community Health Centre
- Guelph Hiking Club
- Ontario Quarter Horse Association
- Optimist Club of Puslinch
- Puslinch Power Camp / YMCA-YWCA of Guelph
- Puslinch Historical Society
- Puslinch Junior Garden Club
- Puslinch Lake Conservation Association
- Puslinch Red Cross Society
- Rotary Club of Guelph
- Seniors' Euchre Club
- Square Dance Club

- Twilights Dance Club

Sports Groups

- Intermediate Mens Fastball
- Ladies Softball
- Oldtimers Baseball
- Puslinch Minor Baseball
- Puslinch Minor Soccer Club
- Puslinch Tennis Club

Churches

- Arkell United Church
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Cross Roads Church
- Duff's Presbyterian Church
- Ellis Community Pioneer Chapel
- Knox Presbyterian Church-Crieff
- Mount Carmel-Zion United Church
- Seventh Day Adventists Reform Movement
- The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Puslinch

Schools

- Aberfoyle Public School (Aberfoyle)
- Little Country School (Rural)
- Scientists in School (Rural)
- Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool

Health and Fitness

- Aberfoyle Yoga
- Aberfoyle Family Chiropractic
- Fitness After 50
- Mango Tree Family Health Team
- Santosha Yoga and Pilates Studio

Other Providers (Commercial)

- Badenoch Archery
- Cherrylane Equestrian Centre
- Club 6 Practice Golf
- Copper County Foods
- Cornerstone Equestrian Centre
- Emerald Lake Trailer Resort and Water Park

- Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve
- Havencrest Riding Academy
- Irish Creek Stables
- Kasachie Stables
- Maple Grove Trailer Park
- Mini Lakes
- Puslinch Lake Golf Club
- Victoria Park Valley Golf Club

5.5 Parks and Recreation Amenities in Adjacent Communities

Township residents enjoy access to a wide variety of recreation and park offerings in the adjacent communities of Guelph, Milton, Cambridge, and more. Many of these facilities and programs are more common in large urban communities that have the population and tax base to support them (e.g., indoor arenas, aquatic complexes, municipal recreation programming, etc.). The following table contains a summary of municipal recreation facilities available in Guelph, Cambridge, and Milton, three urban municipalities surrounding the Township, although this is not an exhaustive list. Resident access to these services is explored more fully in the following sections of this Plan.

Table 4: Recreation Facilities in Guelph

Guelph		
Centennial Arena	• Single ice pad	
Centennial Pool	• 23 metre swimming pool	
Clair Road Emergency Services	• Community room	
Evergreen Seniors Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditorium / Gymnasium • Board room • Dining room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Multi-purpose rooms • Rotunda / Lounge
Exhibition Arena / Hall	• Single ice pad	• Hall
Guelph Civic Museum	• Children's museum	
River Run Centre	• 2 Halls	• Stage
Sleeman Centre	• Single ice pad	• Private suite rental
Victoria Road Recreation Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad • 50 metre swimming pool • 25 metre swimming pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapy pool • Conference room • 3 Multi-purpose rooms
West End Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twin ice pads • Lap pool • Leisure pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapy pool • Gymnasium • 2 Multi-purpose rooms

Guelph		
Outdoor Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 soccer field locations • 34 ball diamond locations • 11 tennis court locations • 32 basketball court locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83 playgrounds • 70 kilometres of trails • 9 splash pads • 8 leash-free zones

Table 5: Recreation Facilities in Cambridge

Cambridge		
Allan Reuter Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness centre / conditioning room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50+ Recreation Centre
Com Dev Indoor Soccer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor artificial turf 	
David Durward Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness centre / conditioning room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50+ Recreation Centre
Dickson Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	
Duncan McIntosh Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	
Galt Arena Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	
Hespeler Memorial Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twin ice pads 	
John Dolson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 metre swimming pool 	
Karl Homuth Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	
Preston Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	
W.G. Johnson Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 metre swimming pool • Gymnasium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness centre • 50+ Recreation Centre
William E. Pautler Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness centre / conditioning room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50+ Recreation Centre
Outdoor Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 soccer field locations • 45 ball diamond locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 splash pads • 1 skateboard park

Table 6: Recreation Facilities in Milton

Milton		
Boyer Community Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall 	
Mattamy National Cycling Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling track • Gymnasium • Walking track • Fitness centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meeting rooms • Event space • Ancillary services and shops
Memorial Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall
Milton Centre for the Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre • 2 halls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 multi-purpose rooms
Milton Indoor Turf Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor artificial turf 	
Milton Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 metre swimming pool • Therapy pool • Double gymnasium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness centre / studio • 2 multi-purpose rooms
Milton Seniors Activity Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 multi-purpose rooms 	

Milton		
Milton Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 ice pads • 25 metre swimming pool • Therapy pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double gymnasium • Walking track • 7 multi-purpose rooms
Nassagaweya Tennis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board room
Nassagaweya Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall 	
Tonelli Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single ice pad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 multi-purpose rooms
Outdoor Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 soccer field locations • 15 ball diamond locations • 6 tennis court locations • 16 basketball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 splash pads • 1 skateboard park • 57 playgrounds

6. SERVICE DELIVERY ASSESSMENT

This Section contains a review of the Township's existing parks and recreation service delivery system, including considerations related to policies, customer service, fees, governance, and more.

6.1 Township Roles & Responsibilities

Responsibilities for parks and recreation services are split between the Township's Public Works & Parks Department and Administration/Clerks Department. A primary function of the Township's Public Works & Parks Department is to manage the operations of the Optimist Recreation Centre and local parks. The Administration/Clerks Department oversees the management of the Puslinch Community Centre, facility rentals, special events, policy development, and community liaison. The Township does not currently have a direct programming role, although it does offer free drop-in times at the ORC.

The strength and success of the Township's parks and recreation system lies in its ability to work in partnership with the community to provide its residents and visitors with high quality facilities, programs, and events. In recognizing and utilizing the assets available within the community, the Township is able to concentrate on its current role as a facilitator of parks and recreation spaces while benefitting from the expertise in parks and recreation programming that already exists amongst local residents and organizations. This requires collaboration between the Township, volunteers, non-profit providers, stakeholder agencies, and the private sector, with each entity delivering a key component of the parks and recreation system. Strengthening these collaborations through the implementation of a variety of proactive and thoughtful mechanisms should be a key point of emphasis for the Township moving forward.

In terms of providing equitable service delivery, the Township's role is to respond to the broad parks and recreation needs of the community. In activating this role, the following municipal service delivery responsibilities are proposed:

- Understanding local demographics, community issues, and emerging needs and trends;
- Ensuring that the Township's community facilities are available, safe, affordable, and meet the needs of residents and community organizations;
- Building and fostering relationships with community partners;
- Playing a supporting role to community organizations, partners, and volunteer groups that are directly responsible for the delivery of programs and services;
- Encouraging parks and recreation opportunities that are inclusive of all groups, regardless of background, orientation, and abilities;
- Advancing parks and trail development through parkland dedication and conveyance of land for pathways through the land development process;

- Ongoing staff training and development to provide exceptional customer service, compliance with legislative requirements, etc.; and
- Engaging the community in meaningful dialogue through planning, decision-making, and service delivery processes.

Recommendation

1. Continue to serve as a provider of space for parks and recreation opportunities within Puslinch by offering the community access to core indoor and outdoor facilities (through free use, rental, or other agreement).

6.2 Programming

The Township does not currently have a direct role in programming. Other service providers such as YMCA-YWCA of Guelph and community groups offer these opportunities, while the Township is primarily responsible for facility provision, rentals, and maintenance. This model is typical of most small rural communities, but increasing pressure to maximize facility utilization and improve the financial bottom line provides an opportunity to rationalize the Township's role in program delivery.

Several program providers serving people of all age groups currently exist in the Township and surrounding municipalities. A summary of local organizations and the programs they provide has been compiled and is provided in Section 5.4 and Appendix E of this Master Plan. This inventory represents a good starting point in maintaining an inventory of recreational opportunities available in the Township. It is recommended that the Township continue to improve this inventory in order to maintain an updated portfolio of recreation activities in the area. In addition, through activating the proposed community development role, the Township should have regular contact with various community partners (e.g., YMCA, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health / in motion, Wellington County Library, Guelph/Wellington Volunteer Centre, Wellington County Social Services, Guelph Wellington Seniors Association, school boards, etc.) – either collectively (e.g., through committees, working groups, etc.) or individually – to identify potential opportunities for community-led programming and facility rentals, with an emphasis on low cost options for older adults/seniors and children/youth.

In terms of programming, types of offerings vary widely from community to community across the province. The following are the most common categories:

- Special events – typically free and open to all that wish to attend – are the most basic form of programming that is commonly offered amongst the municipal sector. The Township of Puslinch does not directly plan any special events, but does host several that are organized by local groups, such as the Aberfoyle Fall Fair, Winter Classic, and Canada Day.
- Drop-in programming – open times during which free or low cost structured or unstructured activity takes place, often with little instruction and/or direct supervision – is becoming increasingly common as it is responsive to busy schedules and is often accepting of a wide range of skill levels. The Township of

Puslinch offers drop-in times for sports such as “sticks and pucks” and basketball at the ORC.

- Registered programs – those requiring advance sign-up and often led by a paid instructor (paid for partially or fully through a registration fee) – represent the most sophisticated form of programming. Registered programs may be one-time or a series of sessions and typically require a minimum participant threshold in order to run. The Township of Puslinch does not offer any registered programs, although some are managed by community groups that rent municipal facilities. Examples of registered programs offered in other municipalities include swimming and skating lessons, arts and dance classes, summer camps, and a wide range of special interest courses such as computers, photography, cooking, specific sports, and much more.

Depending on the type of programming offered, the development of a municipal program function would come with it the need for additional staff resources, something in short supply in the Township. For example, registered programs for youth and/or older adults would require instructional and clerical support and would likely require ongoing municipal subsidies in order to encourage usage and maintain affordability to the user.

Costs aside, the abundance of quality program opportunities in adjacent urban municipalities (particularly registered programs), combined with options offered by local volunteer organizations (e.g., sports groups, service clubs, etc.) and service providers, suggest that Township residents have reasonable access to a wide variety of program opportunities.

Given this and the level of risk associated with registered programming, we cannot recommend that the Township take on a direct programming role at this time. Instead, where resources and availability allows, additional efforts may be taken to offer a growing complement of drop-in programs or times (particularly at the ORC gymnasium, which has a dedicated staff presence), as well as non-registered special or one-time events. As outlined in the previous section, the Township should also play a stronger role in encouraging and promoting the programs of those community service providers that utilize municipal facilities.

In examining activity demands, it is important to note that the Township's population base is growing (slowly), but also aging. The older adult and senior age groups will become more important markets over time due to the aging baby boomer demographic. Trends suggest that there are a growing number of older adults participating in active recreational activities (e.g., zumba, pole walking, dance, etc.), thereby creating new demands for expanded and emerging activities.

In playing a supporting role in program delivery, the Township must work to facilitate and promote the provision of third-party active living, sport, and community activities in its facilities and parks. One opportunity to do so is through participation in “Guelph in motion”, a regional collaborative developed out of a partnership between Wellington County, Dufferin County, and the City of Guelph that aims to address physical inactivity

among its communities. The goals of “in motion” are to: increase access to recreation; design communities that allow citizens to safely commute to and from work, school or play by walking or cycling; increase residents’ physical activity rates; and create policies to support residents being active. Although the Township of Puslinch is already a partner in the “in motion” initiative, greater participation in this program will assist in achieving the goals of this Master Plan.

Recommendations

2. Maintain an up-to-date inventory of recreation opportunities within the community (including a database of community groups and their contact information) to ensure that a full range of activities are available for all age groups. This database should be made accessible to local residents and serve to enhance awareness of local activities, programs, leagues, and events.
3. Establish regular contact with various community partners (e.g., Public Health, Library, Social Services, Seniors Association, Volunteer Centre, YMCA, school boards, etc.) – either collectively (e.g., through committees, working groups, etc.) or individually – to identify potential opportunities for community-led programming and facility rentals, with an emphasis on low cost options for older adults/seniors and children/youth.
4. Through municipal leadership, practices, policies, and resources, support opportunities for informal, unstructured, and inclusive active recreation experiences, including drop-in programs and non-registered special or one-time events (where resources and availability allow).
5. Actively promote physical activity and healthy communities through participation in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph “in motion” initiative and similar programs.

6.3 Community Development & Partnerships

Community development involves building the capacity of local residents and community partners in order that they may work together to enhance the community, and in this case, the parks and recreation culture opportunities available for residents and visitors. It is through this collective attitude and cooperation that issues and gaps can be addressed and local expertise and assets emphasized. In Puslinch Township, this largely consists of a dedicated base of community organizations, service clubs, and volunteers, along with all of the resources (e.g., people power, fundraising capability, activity-specific skills and knowledge, etc.) that they possess.

The role of the Township in community development should be one of coordination, with respect to both facilities and service delivery. In particular, it is recommended that the Township continue to serve as a provider of space for parks and recreation opportunities by offering the community access to core indoor and outdoor facilities (through rental or other agreement). The geographic distribution of the Township’s population and strategic location in close proximity to a number of other communities

that offer a range of leisure opportunities also provide residents with variety and access to alternative providers.

Partnerships are a key tool in the provision of parks and recreation opportunities in most municipalities. This is particularly true in the Township of Puslinch, where there is a focus of providing facility space and where municipal resources are limited. As mentioned, the Township currently works with a number of groups to facilitate facility access, as well as countless volunteer groups. These organizations offer a range of programs, facilities, and services that enhance their quality of life of Township residents.

There are undoubtedly numerous organizations within the Township that may be good candidates for partnership, but care must be taken to ensure that these agreements are mutually beneficial. There are a number of criteria that must be considered prior to establishing a partnership with any entity (public, not-for-profit, private, etc.) wishing to introduce a new level of service with municipal assistance (e.g., a new facility or recreational program). At a minimum, the Township should consider:

- First and foremost, that the proposed partnership is consistent with the municipal mandate and philosophies;
- That there is a role for the Township to play in the provision of the program or service (e.g., facility provision, promotion, coordination, etc.);
- Whether there is a quantifiable or justified need for the service in the community;
- That the service can be sustainably accommodated within the Township's long-term capital and/or operating resources;
- Whether the partner is sufficiently capable/qualified (e.g., financially, staffing, internal expertise, etc.) to be able to deliver the service over the long-term, and in compliance with legislated policies and municipal standards;
- The level of risk (e.g., financial, liability, etc.) and how this will be managed by the partner or the Township;
- Whether the partner can provide the service on a sole source basis; and
- Agreeing upon terms, conditions, standards, and responsibilities for all parties involved.

After partnerships are developed and agreements are formalized, it is important that the Township regularly meet with its partners to discuss successes and challenges of the partnership by revisiting the original agreement and, where necessary, strengthening the agreement to ensure that a dynamic process exists to respond to challenges and public preferences. For example, the Township could arrange annual or semi-annual meetings with partners to discuss not only the effectiveness of the agreements but also as a means to continually understand local trends, needs, and usage patterns.

Recommendations

6. Seek fundraising, partnership, and sponsorship opportunities that are consistent with the Township's vision in order to reduce reliance on tax dollars in providing quality parks and recreation opportunities.

7. Build relationships with local religious institutions and adjacent municipalities to improve collaboration and ensure affordable access to facilities and programs for residents.

6.4 Staffing & Volunteerism

The Township has made a number of significant investments in the parks and recreation staffing complement in recent years. For example, the Township has added a full-time Facility Operator for the ORC, two part-time Facility Operators, and has elevated the Customer Service Representative to a full-time position. More recently, the Township transitioned an Equipment Operator position from seasonal to full-time.

In addition to municipal staff, volunteers from the Optimist Club of Puslinch (equivalent to one full-time position) are available during the week in the winter to assist with operations at the Optimist Recreation Centre.

Based on our review, there are four areas that require specific consideration relative to current and future staffing levels: (1) ORC daytime operations; (2) recreation management; (3) Township-wide facility maintenance responsibilities; and (4) growth-related maintenance requirements. These matters are discussed below.

While the Township has benefited from the volunteer services provided by the Optimist Club of Puslinch at the ORC, there are justified concerns with respect to liability, accountability, and shift coverage as the volunteers are not directly employed by the Township. Although the intentions of the Optimist Club are well placed, the potential liabilities associated with volunteer staffing, particularly where there is no immediate on-site municipal supervision, are considerable. With a desire to enhance utilization of the ORC, it is recommended that the Township strongly consider a municipal position to oversee the daytime operation of the ORC (the facility is currently supervised by a facility operator during evenings through the winter). Opportunities to redeploy the volunteer resources to other areas (with appropriate municipal oversight) may be considered.

There is currently a gap in the coordination of community recreation within the Township, particularly given the enhanced municipal role outlined in Section 6.1 relative to community development activities and policy development. As there is no senior administrative position dedicated solely to parks and recreation, these areas are generally addressed by the Deputy Clerk on an as-needed basis. An enhanced role in community development, drop-in and special event programming, and greater participation in the “in motion” program and related initiatives may require additional staff resources to make these a success. While a dedicated parks and recreation department or senior administrator are not recommended at this time, a part-time coordinator position would go a long way toward maximizing facility utilization and elevating the priority of recreation in the Township. Depending on how this role fits with other municipal requirements, there may be an opportunity to blend this role with the new position recommended for daytime supervision at the ORC.

It is also noted that there is currently no facility maintenance position responsible for municipal facilities and properties beyond the Optimist Recreation Centre. As these facilities age and require greater upkeep (including event set-up and takedown), this may be another area for the Township to address through additional staff resources. As this role extends beyond the scope of this Master Plan, consultation with other municipal departments is recommended to more fully explore this requirement.

Lastly, as the Township continues to grow and demand for high quality facilities and services increase, additional job realignments and/or new positions may be required in the future to enhance organizational competency and effectiveness. For example, the Puslinch Community Centre Park expansion lands will require additional resources for maintenance; one option may be to elevate a part-time position to full-time to address these new responsibilities or to blend this with a Township-wide facility maintenance position.

Special events and programs in the Township are dependent upon volunteers, which means that the demand for individuals to fill these positions is high. Traditionally, older adults have provided many volunteer hours, although there has been a drive in recent years to involve youth in volunteering through mandatory hours being required for graduation from Ontario secondary schools. There is still some concern across the province that as the population continues to age, there will be a shortage of volunteers if proactive solutions are not discovered and put into practice. Community development is the preferred approach in attempting to secure a long-term volunteer presence within the municipality; engaged residents are more likely to remain involved!

Recognition of the achievements and efforts of volunteers is also of great importance as it can serve as incentive for involvement as well as aid in the retention of existing volunteers. The Township recently initiated a volunteer recognition program to show their appreciation for volunteers and the Township's website promotes local volunteer opportunities offered by Wellington County. The County database of volunteers is an excellent tool to assist local community groups in identifying and matching volunteer needs.

Recommendations

8. Evaluate options to improve the existing municipal parks and recreation staffing model to enhance coordination, accountability, and transparency. This may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. The creation of a municipal position(s) to coordinate community development and recreation policy matters, as well as oversee the daytime operation of the ORC; and
 - b. Consolidating part-time staff into full-time equivalents (or creating a new full-time position) to address growing Township-wide facility and park maintenance requirements.

6.5 Governance

The Township recently completed a Committee Governance Review that examined the governance structure of several municipal committees, such as the Recreation Committee and Badenoch Community Centre Board.

The Recreation Committee is currently responsible for:

- advising Council on issues that affect all recreation facilities, parks, playing fields, playgrounds and community centre (including policy and fee schedules)
- providing input to Council on the operating and capital budget
- reviewing existing practices and policies and making recommendations to improve the delivery of services to the public
- bringing forward and discussing concerns raised by the public that may affect the operation of the department
- encouraging and assisting, where necessary, programs of recreation to meet the needs and interest of the community
- reviewing revenue and expense reports

While the Recreation Committee meets regularly, the length of its agendas are dependent upon key projects or issues. For example, the Committee played a large role in the planning of the Optimist Recreation Centre as well as this Master Plan. This Committee model is effective in many communities.

A primary role of the Committee is to give a platform for public input on matters relating to parks and recreation. In addition, the Committee should assist in defining community needs, responding to leisure trends, reviewing policies and budgets, and advising on service delivery partnerships. The Committee members have the tools and skills necessary to activate this mandate, with support from Township staff. A concentrated effort needs to be made to elevate the Committee's profile and to actively engage the community.

Special projects and initiatives are excellent opportunities to utilize the varied skills and knowledge on the Committee. One potential task would be to develop an annual work plan identifying key projects and priorities, using this Master Plan as a guide. Within this context, it is recommended that the Township undertake a comprehensive review of the Recreation Committee's terms of reference.

The Badenoch Community Centre Board is responsible for the following:

- advising Council on issues that affect the Badenoch Community Centre (including policy and fee schedules)
- providing input to Council on the operating and capital budget
- reviewing existing practices and policies and make recommendations to improve the delivery of services to the public
- bringing forward and discussing concerns raised by taxpayers, users or staff that may affect the operation of the department

As currently constituted, the Badenoch Community Centre Board operates with much autonomy from the Township and has taken over responsibilities for the management and operation of the Badenoch Community Centre, having hired a booking coordinator that is not a municipal employee. Procedurally, the Board (which has a sitting member of Township Council) does not report directly to Council like the Township's other committees, but rather operates as a board of management. However, the Board is not incorporated and, therefore, is not subject to the same policies, procedures, and guidelines as not-for-profit corporations (requirements that are in place to protect all parties involved, including insurance coverage). While this arrangement has been cost-effective for the Township, the current arrangement lacks the same accountability and transparency that other municipal operations enjoy and there are also concerns about the long-term viability of this model given the high level of commitment from a small number of members. It is recommended that the Township work with the Board to seek its incorporation as a not-for-profit entity responsible for the operation of the Badenoch Community Centre. Should this direction not be supported by the Board/Council, the Township may consider assuming the operational duties for this facility and absorb the Board's mandate into that of the Recreation Committee.

Recommendations

9. Undertake a comprehensive review of the Recreation Committee's terms of reference with consideration to the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Seek ways to activate the Committee's mandate through the development of an annual work plan identifying key projects and priorities.
10. Work with the Badenoch Community Centre Board to seek its incorporation as a not-for-profit entity responsible for the operation of the Badenoch Community Centre. Should this direction not be supported by the Board/Council, the Township may consider assuming the operational duties for this facility and absorb the Board's mandate into that of the Recreation Committee.

6.6 Communication & Awareness

Enhancing communication with the Township's residents should be a high priority. By promoting the benefits of maintaining creative, healthy, and active lifestyles, a higher quality of life will be achieved. The Township's recreation and parks system is supported by local and regional community partners, who also play a key role in educating the public and influencing the degree of active participation within the community. However, the availability and quality of leisure activities can be rendered ineffective if the public is unaware of the many opportunities that exist.

At present, Township residents can access recreation and parks information through sources such as the Township's website, Puslinch Pioneer, community organization advertisements and publications, roadside signs, and word-of-mouth. While this is a good start for promoting local opportunities, a lack of public awareness of facilities, activities, and services has been a longstanding issue for the Township (it was noted in the Township's 1988 Leisure Service Delivery System Study). This is not uncommon in

rural communities, where residents (and facilities/parks) are geographically dispersed and where word-of-mouth remains a preferred form of communication. However, as new forms of communication – such as the internet and social media – have become more established, more opportunities for raising awareness and reaching new audiences are emerging.

It is recommended that the Township undertake a Communications and Branding Strategy to promote local parks and recreation opportunities. Such a strategy can take many forms to maximize outreach to residents and regional visitors, thereby enhancing utilization of facilities. One option involves the creation of a bi-annual community leisure guide, containing all things related to recreation and parks such as the location of parks, trails, and facilities, as well as the amenities within them, services provided by the Township and its community partners, volunteer opportunities, an events calendar, and more. The Puslinch Pioneer and County of Wellington currently provide some of this information; however, consolidating all recreation and parks-related information into a dedicated community leisure guide would demonstrate the Township's commitment to provide high quality leisure experiences. The community leisure guide may also be supplemented with the distribution of digital newsletters containing key messages or discussions of current issues. The creation of consistent signage at all parks and facilities may also assist with building the Township's recreation and parks brand, and is discussed in greater detail in section 8.4 of this Master Plan.

Best practices suggest that the use of the internet (through Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, mobile applications, etc.) has become a primary medium for targeting the public. The use of technology is particularly effective for reaching younger demographics, although traditional means should continue to be utilized to remain inclusive of those who are less technologically-savvy. Extending the Township's marketing mediums to include emerging technological and social media solutions can assist with reaching a broader range of residents.

The Township recently completed an update to its website to improve its scope and usability. With respect to recreation and parks, online visitors may now find information about community facilities and parks and the amenities within them, as well as a recreation and leisure calendar for activities at the Optimist Recreation Centre. This is a positive step forward.

It is also crucial for the public to be aware of the many ways for them to become engaged and provide feedback to decision-makers. The Township should provide opportunities to facilitate dialogue between groups (e.g., the Recreation Committee, community partners, and residents) through an annual forum (or a similar approach) in order to bolster communication and to promote a collaborative approach in service delivery. Additional engagement opportunities should also be provided prior to undertaking large community projects to solicit input from the public.

Recommendations

11. Undertake a Communications & Branding Strategy to promote local parks and recreation opportunities. This Strategy may include:
 - a. Publishing a bi-annual community leisure guide containing information relating to parks, trails, and recreation opportunities, as well as other services provided by the Township and its community partners;
 - b. Exploring digital signage, social media, and emerging technologies to maximize awareness opportunities and outreach to wider audiences; and
 - c. Township-wide signage to easily identify municipal assets and branding (logo, tag line, etc.) and to provide consistent messaging.
12. Provide opportunities to facilitate dialogue between groups (e.g., Recreation Committee, community partners, and residents) through an annual forum (or similar approach) in order to bolster communication. Additional engagement opportunities should also be provided prior to undertaking large community projects to solicit input from the public.

6.7 User Fees & Financial Assistance

Recreational user fees can be relied upon to mitigate tax increases, particularly as some residents may not participate in certain activities. However, user fees can also create concerns relating to affordability and fairness, thereby negating the intrinsic benefits generated by subsidization. By allowing free community access to select activities at the Optimist Recreation Centre, the Township has recognized that recreation should be a subsidized service and that affordable community access is a priority.

There are also several other free to low-cost leisure programs in the City of Guelph and Wellington County that are promoted through the Access to Recreation Guide. For lower-income individuals and families, details regarding subsidies offered in the Guelph-Wellington area are also contained in this guide.

Residents of the Township have benefited from competitively-priced facility rentals for some time, including the arena and gymnasium at the Optimist Recreation Centre. The Township also applies fees for ball diamonds and soccer fields based on per user charge (e.g., residents are charged \$10 per player and non-residents pay an additional \$15).

The growing popularity of soccer has resulted in the need to revisit the Township's soccer user fee structure to assist with offsetting increasing maintenance costs. Other municipalities have implemented a range of fee structures such as per player, per game, or per season. The most common fee structure amongst other area municipalities may be the pay per game model, with rental rates generally ranging from

\$20 to \$80 for minor groups and \$30 to \$120 for adult groups, depending on the quality and amenity of the field. Forming an operating agreement with user groups or another third-party in order to shift maintenance responsibilities from the Township can also limit user fees increases. The simplicity and predictability of the participant-based charge are key advantages to the Township in maintaining this structure; however, there is also a need to establish an hourly charge for groups other than Puslinch Minor Soccer that may wish to utilize the fields.

For ball diamonds, the Township offers an hourly charge for adult and non-resident ball groups, as well as a participant-based charge for minor ball participants. Other area municipalities apply varying rate structures, although the most common model is per game pricing generally ranging from \$12 to \$60 per game for minor groups and \$30 to \$70 for adult groups. The Township's ball diamond rental rates are appropriate and do not appear to be a reason for the facilities being underutilized.

The Township's User Fees and Charges By-law identifies rental rates for various recreation facilities, but does not address circumstances for waiving or reducing the fees, leaving this to Council's discretion. For the purposes of equity and transparency, the Township should establish a policy relating to special requests for fee waivers. Examples from other communities include: each affiliated community organization may receive one two-hour room rental free each year for an annual meeting; and non-profit youth-based groups may qualify for a discount for Monday to Friday daytime rentals.

In terms of special funding and in-kind service requests, the Township occasionally provides one-time project-specific grants to community organizations to build or renovate facilities, provide equipment, or assist in the provision of specific events or activities. These grants are not based on a formal policy and are not guided by evaluation criteria. There is currently no ongoing annual subsidy available for local organizations; requests are heard and decided on by Municipal Council as they arise.

By adopting a community development approach, it is appropriate for the Township to provide a community grant system (with an annual intake from a set pool of money within the Township's budget) through which community organizations can apply for funds to:

- offset start-up funds associated with a group or activity (but not ongoing operational costs);
- to install, build, renovate, or upgrade smaller-scale parks or recreation facilities that are needed within the community; and/or
- to assist with a special program or event that would not otherwise be financially viable but that provides a justifiable social or economic return to the Municipality as a whole.

Note: We understand that the Township is seeking to put such a policy and mechanism in place in 2015.

There is typically an expectation that these grants be awarded on a cost-sharing basis, with the organization being required to fund a set portion of the cost themselves (e.g., through fundraising, user fees, etc.). Most applications would address project-specific or one-time projects; however, multi-year funding may also be considered. These grants should be based on published criteria that are aligned with the Township's mandate. The grants are not intended to be used to offset rental fees for municipal facilities; affordability related to this component is best addressed through a fees and charges review and allocation policies. Depending on the needs of the community, the Township may consider reducing or increasing the grant allocation on a year-to-year basis, recognizing that the program is not intended to be used for major facility or park expenditures.

These grants should be guided by a Community Funding Policy developed and implemented by the Township, with guidance from the Recreation Committee. This approach – which would set out an annual or bi-annual application process and evaluation criteria – is preferred over ad hoc decisions that are made in absence of municipal policy and an understanding of broader community needs.

Recommendations

13. Promote the use of external partners that provide subsidies for participation in recreational opportunities in order to mitigate financial barriers for low income households.
14. Regularly assess rental fees and charges to ensure that they represent a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits, are competitive in the broader regional market, and allow the Township to meet its financial goals.
15. Establish an hourly charge for groups interested in renting the Township's soccer fields (other than the local minor soccer association, which pays a fee per participant).
16. Establish a policy to address special requests for fee waivers in an equitable and transparent manner. (e.g., each affiliated community organization may receive one two-hour room rental free each year for an annual meeting).
17. Develop a Community Funding Policy and grant program to assist community organizations in implementing initiatives that are aligned with the Township's goals and priorities (funding could go towards offsetting the cost of items such as materials, equipment, promotion, staffing/administration, etc.). There is an expectation that organizations would also be required to fund a portion of the cost themselves.

6.8 Policies & Procedures

There is an increasing need for municipalities to ensure legislative compliance in all areas of operation. As these requirements can change from time to time, a staff member should be assigned to complete a full listing and ensure that all parks and recreation staff are aware of and are in compliance with applicable legislation.

Additional and improved facilities in Puslinch are creating the need for greater complexity in Township operations. The Optimist Recreation Facility is a good example of a project that has brought about the need for many new policies and procedures. A focus must continue to be placed on creating policies to guide matters related to risk and liability management, health and safety for staff and facility users, government regulations, fiscal responsibility, inter-departmental coordination, and operating performance.

Specifically, there is benefit in considering the establishment of a Facility Allocation Policy to establish scheduling procedures and booking priorities (e.g., residents v. non-residents, non-profit v. commercial groups, youth v. adult users, etc.). Furthermore, the Township does not currently have a policy to articulate the practices and procedures for the level and frequency of maintenance of the Township's sports fields and parks. Such a policy may outline a preferred maintenance schedule that gives priority to sports fields (as opposed to open space areas) given that these spaces accommodate extensive use by sports groups.

Tracking the number of users associated with sports groups and community organizations can assist in identifying facility utilization levels, key trends, changing demands, and allocation. Registration data is also commonly used to establish quantifiable provision targets to assist with identifying the level of need for municipal facilities (e.g., sports fields). It is recommended that the Township tracks annual registration data from minor sports organizations, including the number of non-residents. This should be extended to adult participants and different types of groups, which may be achieved through recommended Facility Allocation Policy.

Some of the Township's recreation and parks-related practices and procedures are not formally documented and there is a need to preserve the managerial and operational knowledge established over years of experience and commitment. Clear direction for staff is needed to respond to community requests (e.g., booking and insurance requirements), to perform day-to-day operations, and to standardize various approaches. It is recommended that the Township conduct an annual review of all applicable parks and recreation policies and procedures to identify gaps and ensure that current policies and procedures are current, fair, and accurate to the parties involved.

Recommendations

18. Conduct an annual review of all applicable parks and recreation policies and procedures to identify gaps and ensure that current policies and procedures are current, fair, and accurate to the parties involved.

19. Develop a parks maintenance policy for sports fields and other park types.
20. Develop a facility allocation policy to establish a priority ranking for facility and park scheduling, as well as scheduling procedures.
21. Collect annual registration data from all organizations that use Township parks and facilities and monitor facility utilization to assist in tracking trends, changing demands, and allocation.

DRAFT

7. FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This Section evaluates the current supply of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities utilizing a combination of market driven targets and other Master Plan inputs to inform future facility needs.

7.1 Methodology

The current and future (to 2026 and beyond) needs for recreation facilities in the Township of Puslinch have been assessed using a blend of factors. In completing this task, the Township's historic provision of leisure facilities has been assessed and gaps in geographic distribution have been identified. Public and municipal input has also been taken into account, as have local participation and utilization factors.

To assist in deriving and supporting meaningful recommendations pertaining to recreation facilities, quantitative projections of current and future demand for facilities have been developed using "Puslinch-specific" facility provision targets, where applicable. The purpose of the targets is to provide a general guideline for determining facility needs based upon population and/or participation thresholds. Participant-based provision targets (e.g., one soccer field per "x" participants) are generally used for leisure activities that are primarily registration-driven, while population-based targets (e.g., one tennis court per "y" population) are applied to facilities that serve a broader cross-section of the community and/or are less structured in their use. The provision of some facilities is not driven by provision targets due to a wider variety of factors affecting provision and delivery.

Although the focus of this Master Plan is the entire Township of Puslinch, the needs analysis also examines the geographic distribution of neighbourhood-level leisure opportunities to better assess proximity and accessibility to residents. Location, travel patterns, and historic service levels influence how local residents perceive the accessibility of recreation opportunities in the Township. Proximity is one of many factors that can increase one's physical activity.

Lastly, it is important to note that, given the size and composition of Puslinch, it is not feasible nor realistic for the Township to provide the same complement of facilities and services typically offered in large urban communities. For example, indoor aquatic facilities are one of the most sought after public facilities due to their ability to accommodate a wide range of ages, interests, and abilities. The Township does not currently provide any municipal indoor aquatic facilities; however, Township residents are within a 10 to 30 minute drive of several public indoor swimming facilities. Aquatic facilities are amongst the most expensive leisure facilities to operate and are seldom provided in smaller communities, particularly municipalities like the Township of Puslinch that have ready access to opportunities in adjacent communities. The Township's rural charm and affordability are two of the key aspects that residents value, and these factors must continue to be balanced against new levels of service.

7.2 Ice Rinks

Supply

The Township does not have an indoor arena; however, a covered refrigerated outdoor ice pad is located at the Optimist Recreation Centre, translating into a service level of one ice pad per 7,240 residents. Built in 2010 with the assistance of the Optimist Club of Puslinch and senior government funding, the ice pad measures 20 metres by 43 metres (65 feet by 140 feet) and is accompanied by four change rooms.

The primary uses of the Township's ice pad are private rentals (e.g., hockey games, practices, birthday parties, etc.) during the winter and ball hockey during the summer. The Optimist Club of Puslinch also utilizes prime time ice during one weekend in February for the Winter Classic Weekend. Some non-prime time hours are utilized by the Aberfoyle Public School and the Township, which offers free drop-in skating sessions that are very popular among residents.

Market Conditions

Hockey and skating are traditional Canadian pastimes; however, their popularity has declined slightly in recent years due to the high cost to participate, concerns over safety, multi-culturalism, and the shift towards unorganized, self-structured recreation pursuits. Hockey Canada reports that since the 2008-09 season, participation in minor hockey has steadily declined over the past five years across Canada and Ontario⁶. Recreational skating – which is the focus of the ORC rink – remains a popular activity for those learning to skate or seeking an occasional leisure time pursuit.

Outdoor rinks like the one in Puslinch provide neighbourhood-level programs and open skating/shinny opportunities and also help to foster community spirit through the various events. These facilities tend to have a shorter season and are subject to the elements, although the Township's facility is covered and refrigerated, thereby extending its availability.

Public Engagement

The Master Plan's online survey revealed that hockey, figure skating, or ice-skating were the most popular organized sports in Puslinch, with 45% of respondents having participated within the past 12 months. 14% of all respondents indicated that they participate in hockey/ringette in other municipalities. 23% of survey respondents also identified that they would like to see more hockey and recreational skating programs offered within the Township of Puslinch.

Input received from the Community Launch Event also echoed the need for more hockey and recreational skating programs for both youth and adult users. In particular, there was a specific reference to reinstate the drop-in "sticks and pucks / shinny"

⁶ Hockey Canada. Annual General Meeting Reports.

programs (note: the Township terminated a prior program due to various on-ice conflicts and has recently initiated a similar pilot program for specific age groups).

Analysis

In response to public demand, the Township recently initiated a Sticks and Pucks / Shinny pilot program beginning over the 2014 Christmas break, which provides children with designated times for drop-in hockey. Separate weekly drop-in Sticks and Pucks programs were announced for children ages 5 to 7, 8 to 12, and 13 to 17; the programs require adult supervision.

A review of a typical ice schedule for the 2013/14 winter season reveals that the Township's ice pad was operating at approximately two-thirds capacity (69%) during prime time hours.⁷ It is recognized, however, that the ice usage may fluctuate each week depending on rentals. As of February 2015, 30% of the facility's ice time was allocated to public skating, sticks and pucks, and shinny hockey. There is capacity at the facility – predominantly daytime and late evening – to accommodate additional demand during all months of the year. As usage increases, it is suggested that the Township develop a Facility Allocation Policy to guide decisions relating to ice time priority and scheduling.

In low growth rural communities, seldom are new arenas built where previously there were none. There are a number of reasons for this, with the primary being that arenas are rental-driven facilities that require substantial usage from minor sport associations. There are no minor hockey or figure skating associations in Puslinch, rather residents register with organizations in neighbouring urban communities.

The City of Guelph is currently in the planning stages for the South End Community Centre, which is proposed to include two ice pads, among other leisure facilities. This facility will be located approximately six kilometres from Aberfoyle and less than 10 kilometres from Morriston. It is anticipated that once completed, the South End Community Centre will satisfy needs for organized ice activities for residents living in the northern portion of the Township, many of which belong to Guelph's minor ice sports associations. Given these considerations, together with the Township's long-term growth forecast, the provision of an additional ice pad (or enclosed arena) is not recommended during this planning period.

7.3 Gymnasiums

Supply

The Township provides one gymnasium at the Optimist Recreation Centre, equating to one gymnasium per 7,240 residents. The gymnasium measures 17 metres by 16

⁷ Prime time hours are defined as 5 pm to 10 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 10 pm Saturday and Sunday.

metres (56 feet by 54 feet) and was developed along with the ice rink in partnership with the Optimist Club of Puslinch and senior government funding.

There is also a gymnasium at the Aberfoyle Public School. There is no formal reciprocal use agreement between the Township and the school, although it is believed that the school gym is used by community members for various activities.

Market Conditions

Gymnasiums provide flexible space that can accommodate a broad range of indoor sports and activities. Most often, gymnasiums are used for active sports, such as basketball, volleyball, and floor hockey, but can also be used for active programming including aerobics, fitness, dance, and other activities that are compatible with a hard surface court. Municipalities may also utilize gymnasium space for other non-recreational activities such as trade shows, large gatherings, and other events, although some activities are not compatible with certain floor types (as is the case at the ORC).

Public Engagement

62% of online survey respondents supported spending additional public funds on new or improved gymnasiums (12% oppose). Gymnasiums ranked ninth out of 17 facility types, suggesting that while there is modest support for additional spending on gymnasium facilities, there are other facilities that are higher in priority. The need for more youth-oriented gymnasium programs (e.g., basketball and volleyball) and resident-priority gymnasium use was also expressed at the Community Launch Event.

Analysis

A review of a typical weekly schedule reveals that with a prime time utilization rate of 51%⁸, the Optimist Recreation Centre gymnasium is moderately used. Non-prime time usage also exhibits low demand with a utilization rate of 25%. The gymnasium is used largely for birthday party rentals, private sports games, Parent and Tot groups, zumba classes, and open gym time for casual drop-in basketball games. During the summer, the gymnasium is used by the YMCA/YWCA Guelph for Puslinch Power Camp, a sports-based summer program. On occasion, a variety of non-recreational events and gatherings are also held in the gymnasium.

Given the gymnasium's modest usage levels, it can be expected that additional demand over the course of the next ten years can be accommodated within the existing gymnasium. Typical provision targets for municipal gymnasiums (excluding school gymnasiums) are in the range of one per 20,000 to 40,000 residents and the Township is well below this threshold. Moreover, the South End Community Centre in Guelph is proposed to include a double gymnasium that will accommodate a broad range of

⁸ Prime time is generally defined as 5 pm to 10 pm during the week and 9 am to close during the weekend, exclusive of holidays, maintenance, and closures.

recreation activities. Although the two facilities will have different pricing and dimensions, the South End Community Centre may have a modest impact on the Township's gymnasium. Emphasis should be placed on promoting the Optimist Recreation Centre gymnasium rather than providing a second such facility, with priority being given to local residents and active recreation rentals.

7.4 Multi-Purpose Spaces

Supply

The Township currently has two community halls and one meeting room, each with varying capacities, which translates into one multi-purpose space per 2,413 residents. A community hall and meeting room are located at the Puslinch Community Centre, known as the Archie MacRobbie Room and Alf Hales Room, respectively. The MacRobbie Room is equipped with a full kitchen, stage, and outdoor area, and the meeting room boasts ample storage space. A second community hall is located at the Badenoch Community Centre, which was a former school and converted into a community facility in 1965. This stand-alone facility is operated by the Badenoch Community Centre Board and is equipped with a warming kitchen.

Market Conditions

Community halls were historically provided as single-purpose facilities for passive activities (such as gatherings and meetings). The Badenoch Community Centre is an excellent example of such a facility, which continues to serve local residents today. Today, the co-location of community spaces with complementary facilities has become the norm in the provision of modern recreation facilities, thus functioning as multi-purpose spaces that accommodate a broader range of uses. These multi-purpose spaces can enhance cross-programming opportunities for public and private functions and achieve economies of scale in facility construction, maintenance, and/or management.

Public Engagement

The online community survey reported that 64% of respondents supported spending additional public funds on improving or developing new community halls, which ranked eighth out of 19 facility types. Local user groups indicated that they are generally satisfied with the community halls and meeting rooms in the Township. It was expressed that repairs to the storage cabinets in the Alf Hales meeting room were needed, although the Township is in the process of addressing this issue.

Analysis

A review of the Township's booking schedules for the Puslinch Community Centre reveals that these spaces are generally well utilized, predominantly on Fridays and the weekend. Although the weekdays typically observe lower levels of utilization, this is common in these types of municipal facilities, particularly where there is no direct

municipal programming function. Bookings at the Badenoch Community Centre are coordinated by a third-party and, thus, this information is not readily available.

In a small rural municipality such as the Township of Puslinch, the presence of local facilities provides a great deal of community benefit and ensures that affordable and accessible venues are available. These benefits are evident by the high levels of satisfaction of local users. The Township's multi-purpose spaces are meeting local needs, but have capacity to accommodate additional demand. Typical provision targets for municipal meeting and multi-purpose rooms vary widely, but are often in the range of one per 2,000 to 5,000 residents and the Township is well within this range. No new multi-purpose spaces are recommended during this planning period.

Given the vital role that these facilities have in the Township, continued improvement and maintenance of these multi-purpose spaces should be a priority. In early 2014, the Township completed building condition assessments to evaluate the structural conditions of each facility. These reports identified a number of building elements requiring repair or replacement over the next fifteen years, together with estimated costs (summarized in the table below).

Table 7: Total Capital Costs for Repairs and Replacement, by Building Component and Facility - 2014 – 2029

Building Component	Puslinch Community Centre	Badenoch Community Centre
Structural	\$3,000	\$10,000
Roof	\$100,000	n/a
Walls and Windows	\$140,000	\$80,000
Mechanical	\$45,000	\$25,600
Electrical	\$61,000	\$19,000
Fire and Safety	\$5,750	\$1,250
Total Uninflated (Inflated)	\$354,750 (\$488,184)	\$135,850 (\$158,422)

Source: Township of Puslinch Building Condition Assessments

Some of the aforementioned repairs and replacements have been considered in the Township's long-term Capital Budget Forecast. The Township should continue to identify and prioritize necessary improvements to these multi-purpose spaces to ensure that they remain responsive to the needs of mainstream users. As the Township is responsible for major capital projects at the Badenoch Community Centre, meaningful dialogue with the Badenoch Community Centre Board is necessary to identify and carry-out required improvements, particularly with respect to barrier-free compliance.

The Township should also explore opportunities to increase utilization of its community spaces and consider options for promoting them for a diverse and flexible range of uses. Reorienting the Township's single-use facilities to accommodate a wider variety of uses is important to their long-term sustainability. When assessing community halls – or any type of facility for that matter— consideration should be given to the following items:

- **Adaptable Design:** Can the facility accommodate various current and future opportunities and can it serve the functional needs of numerous activities at one location?
- **Community Wellness:** How does the facility benefit the health, wellbeing, and social development of the community?
- **Accessibility:** Is the facility barrier-free and inclusive of all potential users?
- **Sustainability:** Is the facility economically sustainable?
- **Geographic Coverage:** How does the facility contribute to the geographic spread of facilities throughout the Township?

Recommendation

22. Prioritize improvements to the Puslinch Community Centre and Badenoch Community Centre and link projects to the Township's long-term capital forecast.

7.5 Older Adult Spaces

Supply

The Township does not provide any dedicated older adult spaces, such as seniors' centres, but does accommodate a wide range of older adult programming in its facilities.

It should also be noted that there is also a good supply of older adult facilities and programming opportunities in surrounding communities, including the Evergreen Seniors Centre in Guelph, although Puslinch residents may be required to pay non-resident fees for programs and rentals in some cases.

Market Conditions

Providing accessible leisure opportunities for older adults and seniors has become an increasingly important requirement due to the aging population of baby boomers, which make up a significant portion of the population. This is particularly relevant in Puslinch as the Township has a median age of 47.6 years, the highest in the County. Looking further into the future, the Ontario Ministry of Finance projections for Wellington County forecast that the number of County residents age 70 and older will more than double by 2031, despite the entire population increasing by only 14%.

Research has revealed a number of key trends in older adult participation in recreation. Today's older adults are generally more physically active compared to previous generations and thus participate in active recreation activities longer in life, albeit at a reduced intensity. Popular activities typically sought by the aging baby boomers include

swimming, fitness, pickleball, walking, lifelong learning, and other low impact sports. Traditional older adult and seniors activities (such as cards, curling, and carpet bowling) also remain popular. This age group is generally more active and wealthier than ever before. As a result, these characteristics drive growing expectations for municipalities and their community partners to provide high quality recreation opportunities to meet the increasingly diverse range of activities desired by older adults and seniors.

Public Engagement

The online community survey indicated that approximately 13% of respondents had one or more members of their household who participated in organized seniors programs. 61% of respondents also supported spending additional public funds on improving or developing new seniors' facilities, which ranked tenth out of 17 facility types. The online survey was representative of the proportion of older adults age 55 to 69, but seniors over the age of 70 were under-represented.

The results of the online community survey may suggest that the demand for older adult space and activities is relatively low; however, comments were received at the Community Launch Event for more older adult activities such as board games, cards, movie nights, music, and discussion groups.

Analysis

Municipal facilities are heavily used for older adult-oriented activities. There are also a number of community organizations that provide senior-oriented opportunities through non-municipal spaces. For example, the Wellington County Library provides reading clubs, scrabble nights, and discussion groups, while Duff's Church also provides some older adult programming. The Mini Lakes retirement community provides older adult programming for their members at their recreation hall under the direction of their Social Committee; Mini Lakes are considering the development of a new recreation hall as they have outgrown their existing space. It is recommended that the Township strengthen partnerships with these organizations to promote and raise awareness about the services they offer to older adults and seniors in the Township.

With the Township's proportion of residents age 55+ growing from 36% in 2011 to nearly 50% by 2031, there is a need to proactively plan for the needs of this demographic. Over time, the Township should coordinate with local partners to assess facility needs for older adults and identify ways to maximize use of existing municipal spaces.

An important trend affecting older adults is the explosion of "pickleball", a variation of the sports of tennis and badminton that can be played indoors or outdoors on surfaces that are roughly half the size of a tennis court (which would be well suited for the ORC gymnasium). Interest in pickleball – which is among the fastest growing sports in Canada – can be expected in the Township, although little interest has been expressed to date. The unstructured and unprogrammed nature of these sports may bode well for future participation as the sport can be accommodated within a busy lifestyle.

The provision of a dedicated older adult space was raised as an option for the Township to consider. However, the Township's geographic size and dispersal of its population makes this a difficult and financially unsustainable proposition. The construction and operation of new recreation space can be costly (particularly for a smaller community), suggesting that the enhanced usage of an existing space may be a more feasible option, should demand exist.

Recommendation

23. Strengthen community partnerships and explore options for enhancing the use of existing municipal facilities for community-led programs and events for the Township's growing older adult population.

7.6 Youth Spaces

Supply

The Township does not currently provide any dedicated youth space, but does accommodate youth activities within its various facilities.

Market Conditions

The provision of engaging, interesting, and safe opportunities for youth is important in all communities. The facilitation of positive choices through the provision of spaces (both indoor and outdoor) is seen as a core component of healthy youth development. A lack of opportunities for social interaction and skill development can contribute to higher rates of physical inactivity, obesity, and involvement in unfavourable activities. The trends among youth participation have revealed a preference for unstructured pursuits compared to organized activities, promoting the emergence of drop-in youth activities in many communities. Although population projections by age group are unavailable for Puslinch, growth trends in the region suggest that this segment will remain relatively stable over time.

Public Engagement

The online community survey reported that 21% of respondents had one or more members of their household participate in preschool or children programs, while only 9% of respondents had one or more members of their household participate in organized teen programs. Nevertheless, 68% of respondents also supported additional spending on improving or developing new spaces for youth, such as a youth centre. Requests were also received for a broader range of drop-in sports at the Optimist Recreation Centre such as power skating, drop-in hockey, basketball, and volleyball, particularly for youth under the age of 16.

Analysis

Although the Township does not provide any dedicated youth space (which is more commonly provided in larger urban communities), designated time is available at the

Optimist Recreation Centre for free drop-in sports such as open gym time and “sticks and pucks” programs. There are also local and regional community partners that provide youth opportunities in Puslinch and surrounding municipalities, such as YMCA/YWCA Guelph, which utilizes the Optimist Recreation Centre to run a Puslinch Power Camp. The Puslinch Power Camp is a summer program attended by both local and regional youth to participate in a broad spectrum of indoor and outdoor recreation activities such as ball hockey, soccer, ultimate frisbee, cooking, photography, and arts.

The Puslinch Library also provides youth-oriented programs such as reading clubs and activities that promote creativity and learning. Other community providers of youth programs include the 4-H Club, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Guelph, and the Puslinch Youth Group (of the Duff’s Presbyterian Church).

The Township should continue to emphasize youth accessibility within its facilities and, where possible, encourage and promote activities offered by youth service providers. While there does not appear to be sufficient demand at the present time, should a need arise, opportunities to establish a drop-in youth centre time/location may be considered in partnership with a viable provider.

7.7 Fitness Centres

Supply

The Township of Puslinch does not currently provide any municipal fitness facilities, but is able to accommodate third-party fitness programs within its facilities.

Market Conditions

Access to fitness programs and opportunities has never been more important as mounting evidence reveals increased rates of physical inactivity and obesity. In addition to traditional fitness and aerobics, activities that promote active living and wellness are the fastest growing segments in the fitness industry. Active living and wellness are described as health-based and specialized programs such as yoga, pilates, Zumba, athletic training, physiotherapy, personal training, and more. The growth of active living and wellness is largely driven by the older adult and senior demographic, who seek low impact physical activities.

Public Engagement

The online survey undertaken for this Master Plan revealed that 56% of respondents participated in aerobics, fitness, or weight-training in the past 12 months, ranking third out of 19 leisure pursuits. 73% of respondents supported additional funding for the provision of fitness centres (14% opposed), ranking them fourth out of 17 facility types, suggesting that fitness centres are a fairly high priority. A suggestion for outdoor fitness programs was also received through the Community Launch Event.

Analysis

Equipment-based fitness facilities are traditionally provided by the private sector given their ability to provide a premium level of service and high quality facilities. For these reasons, smaller municipalities often elect not to enter this market and face competition from for-profit entities that can expend greater resources on the latest fitness equipment and offer a more comprehensive fitness experience. Those municipalities that decide to enter the market tend to provide basic fitness equipment and offer a more entry-level fitness experience, often in a turnkey environment. The provision of this type of facility is more affordable compared to the private sector, although a membership fee is typically imposed to assist with offsetting capital and operating costs.

Although there are no municipally owned fitness facilities in the Township, there are a number of private fitness studios and programs, including Aberfoyle Yoga, Aberfoyle Family Chiropractic, Mango Tree Family Health Team, and Santosha Yoga and Pilates Studio. Fitness After 50 also provides private, in home fitness classes. Fitness programs are also available to members at the Mini Lakes community and zumba for seniors is offered by Duff's Presbyterian Church. There are also several fitness providers located in Guelph and neighbouring communities. For example, Goodlife Fitness is located approximately four kilometres from Aberfoyle and eight kilometres from Morriston. The supply of fitness centres will further expand once the development of the new South End Community Centre is completed, which will include a new fitness centre. Given the presence of existing fitness providers in the Township and surrounding municipalities, it is not recommended that the Township enter into the equipment-based fitness market during this planning period.

The Township of Puslinch currently offers the rental of municipal facilities for fitness programming. The Badenoch Community Centre is currently used once a week for pilates classes and the Optimist Recreation Centre is used for zumba classes. It is recommended that the Township continue to focus on promoting and facilitating active living and fitness programs at existing municipal facilities.

7.8 Soccer Fields

Supply

The Township currently provides five unlit soccer fields – two adult fields and three intermediate fields. Each of these fields can be further subdivided into smaller mini fields to support simultaneous play. This supply includes one full field at Badenoch Field, one intermediate field at the Puslinch Community Centre, and three fields (one full and two intermediate) at the Calvary Baptist Church. This supply represents a service level of one soccer field per 1,448 residents. A sixth soccer field is also available at the Aberfoyle Public School; however, it is not utilized by the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club or the Township due to its lower quality.

Market Conditions

Soccer experienced tremendous growth during the 1990s when it overcame baseball and hockey as the most popular organized sport among Canada's youth. Coupling this trend with the sport's world-wide appeal, high fitness quotient, and low cost to participate, soccer fields are in high demand in most municipalities.

After years of tremendous growth, the Ontario Soccer Association has witnessed declining enrolment in outdoor soccer since 2007. The South-West Regional Soccer Association (which includes the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club) reported that between 2007 and 2013, participation declined by nearly 10%.

The provision of appropriately sized soccer fields have also been a growing concern across the Province, partially due to the Long Term Player Development (LTPD) program that has been adopted by the Ontario Soccer Association. The LTPD program introduced a series of new rules, regulations, and standards to promote grassroots soccer programs and skill development, with less emphasis on playing games and scoring. Some of these changes will have a direct impact on the provision of soccer fields (e.g., field sizes), thus influencing the demand for field time.

Public Engagement

The online survey for the Master Plan identified that 29% of responding households had at least one household member who participated in soccer within the past 12 months, which ranked as the second most popular organized sport (after hockey / ice sports) in the survey. 69% of survey respondents also supported spending additional public funds on improving or developing new soccer fields, particularly lit soccer fields. Consultation with the Puslinch Minor Soccer Club revealed that additional soccer fields were needed in order to accommodate continued growth as it has been reported that the current supply of fields is nearing capacity. The Club reports that the ideal soccer field would be a full size field (11v11) with lights. Artificial turf would also be an option to extend the playing season. The Club feels that at least one new soccer field could be accommodated on the newly acquired lands adjacent to the Puslinch Community Centre.

Analysis

Puslinch Minor Soccer Club has reported steady and consistent growth in membership, increasing from 430 registered participants in 2011 to 484 players for 2014, fuelled partially by residential growth in south Guelph. The Soccer Club notes that a majority of their participants play in the U8 category (age 8 and under), which the Club accommodated by dividing larger fields into multiple smaller sections. The Club expects to have over 500 participants for 2015; however, they feel that the current availability of soccer fields is the biggest constraint to accommodating growth.

A review of the Club's schedule reveals a heavy reliance on the soccer fields at the Calvary Baptist Church. Time slots are booked at 90 minute increments, which allows for up to two games to be played per field each night based on new LTPD standards.

Bookings are held no later than 9 pm as there are no lit soccer fields in the Township. In addition, it is understood that adult soccer leagues commonly use the full size field at this location.

Field quality at the Calvary Baptist Church is acceptable with the availability of supporting amenities including a portable washroom and on-site parking. However, concerns with respect to the long-term availability of these soccer fields have been identified as these fields are not municipally-owned. The Township is responsible for maintaining the lands for the Soccer Club; however, it is understood that no formal agreement exists between the Church and the Township. As a result, the Soccer Club is at risk of losing a key venue for games and practices should the Church elect to terminate this arrangement.

As previously identified, the Minor Soccer Club reported 484 participants for the 2014 season, translating into a service level of one field per 97 players. This service level is lower compared to communities with similar characteristics, which typically utilize a provision standard of one field for every 80 participants, which is the target recommended for Puslinch.

Proportionally, of the 484 players identified by the Soccer Club for 2014, half the registrants are Township residents (242 players), while the remainder are Guelph residents. Assuming that this ratio and soccer participation rates remain steady (about 20% of the population, ages 5 to 19), an interpolation of population projections (based on Ontario Ministry of Finance projections) suggests that by 2031, the Puslinch Soccer Club will have approximately 600 players. Despite recent growth in Club membership, the slowing growth of the youth age groups suggests that soccer registration will eventually plateau.

The demand for local adult soccer teams remains largely unknown at this point (as does the demand for other field sports, such as rugby, lacrosse, etc.), but it can be expected that some additional demand will be generated. Applying this forecast to the recommended provision target of one unlit field per 80 participants suggests the long-term need for 7.5 soccer fields, **2.5 more fields** than what is presently available. Long-term field needs should be evaluated through the monitoring of annual registration figures (and application of the recommended provision target), as well as regular communication with local soccer groups.

A scan of available Township-owned parkland suggests that the Puslinch Community Centre Park expansion lands represent the only viable option for new soccer fields. This site would serve as an excellent location for new soccer fields to satisfy the need for 2.5 additional fields during this planning period. One new lit full-size soccer field (11v11) and one smaller unlit soccer field (9v9) – an equivalent of 2.5 unlit fields as each lit field can accommodate 50% more use – at this location would complement the existing recreational uses at this park and would further enrich the Puslinch Community Centre and Optimist Recreation Centre as a destination leisure hub. The co-location of two new soccer fields with the existing field at this site would also enhance programming opportunities and simultaneous games, serving as an excellent location for hosting

tournaments. The design of the new fields should also have regard for the new LTPD rules and regulations (e.g., dimensions, goal posts, etc.). A preliminary examination of the site suggests that these two fields would fit within the space, along with an allowance for parking, trails, and appropriate buffers. As recommended later in the study, a Park Master Plan should be prepared to more closely examine the layout and features of the entire park site.

Recommendations

24. Two soccer fields – one lit full-size soccer field (11v11) and one smaller unlit soccer field (9v9) – are recommended to be developed on the expansion lands of the Puslinch Community Centre Park.
25. Be prepared to explore alternative options for providing soccer fields, should the Calvary Baptist Church elect to terminate the informal arrangement with the Township.

7.9 Ball Diamonds

Supply

The Township maintains a total of four ball diamonds. Morriston Meadows Park has two unlit softball diamonds, one of which is smaller and more suitable for youth practices. Old Morriston Ball Field also has a lit diamond and the fourth diamond is located at the Puslinch Community Centre Park, which is also lit. Each lit diamond is equivalent to 1.5 unlit diamonds due to its extended play opportunities. As a result, the Township's effective supply is 5 diamonds, which translates into a service level of one ball diamond per 1,448 residents. There are also three ball diamonds at the Aberfoyle Public School; however, the quality and condition of these diamonds are not appropriate for league play. Batting cages are also found at the Old Morriston Ball Field and at the Puslinch Community Centre Park.

Market Conditions

Baseball in its various forms (fastball is predominantly played in Puslinch) has long been viewed as a sport in decline across Canada, driven by a number of factors including the worldwide appeal of soccer (particularly among children), slower game pace, and lower fitness quotient. According to Baseball Ontario, participation in this sport peaked in 2001 with 12,609 registered participants and declined to a low of 11,248 players in 2007, prior to rebounding slightly to 11,856 players in 2012.

Despite this trend, the popularity of baseball tends to remain strong in rural communities, although regional differences do exist. Compared to soccer and other field sports (which are generally youth-dominated), baseball and softball are adult-dominated sports, although groups have been attempting to enhance youth participation figures by promoting grassroots level opportunities, as has been the case in the Township. Locally, challenges with maintaining participation levels have been reported by Puslinch

Minor Ball, who reported a slight decline in registration from 80 participants in 2013 to 75 participants in 2014.

Public Engagement

The online community survey found that approximately one-quarter (26%) of households had at least one household member who participated in baseball or softball in the past 12 months, making it the third most popular team sport after hockey and soccer. 57% of survey respondents also supported spending additional public funds on new or improved ball diamonds, ranking them 12th out of 17 facility types.

By contrast, the consultation process received some requests for improved (and additional) ball diamonds. Specific requests included new bleachers, better field lighting, new fencing, and improved infield maintenance.

A desire for a baseball complex (Fergie Jenkins Baseball) was also expressed by a member of the public. The proponent's vision for this facility is to serve not only local participants, but also to attract amateur ball players from across Ontario for tournaments and year-round training. This facility would include two youth and four adult diamonds, complemented by a large indoor fieldhouse (similar to the Royal Distributing Athletic Centre in Guelph/Eramosa), elevated indoor walking track, and restaurant. While a formal business plan has not been advanced, facility options for the ball complex were articulated, which included a Township-owned and maintained facility model with the proponent being responsible for operations.

Analysis

The Township's ball diamonds are generally well used, with Old Morriston Ball Field being the primary venue among adult user groups. The ball diamonds at the Puslinch Community Centre and Morriston Meadows are also well used, although to a lesser extent.

Consultation with local ball groups indicates that there were approximately 132 ball participants in 2014, consisting of 75 minor participants and 57 adult league players. These low levels of participation, particularly amongst youth, raise concerns about the long-term sustainability of the sport in the Township. Further, the predominant form of play in the Township (fastball) is not shared by all centres, further diluting the market.

The current number of local participants translates into a service level of one ball diamond per 26 participants, which is well within the acceptable provision level as ball diamonds typically have a capacity of approximately 80 to 100 players each. It is recommended that the Township adopt the lower end of this standard (one diamond per 80 players) to identify current and future diamond needs.

The current number of ball participants represents about 6% of the Township's youth population (ages 5 to 19) and 2% of the adult population (ages 20 to 54). Assuming that participation trends remain steady, an interpolation of population projections (based on Ontario Ministry of Finance projections) suggests that there will be approximately 150

ball participants by 2031. The projected number of participants translates into a need for two ball diamonds, two less than what is currently provided. Based on the recommended provision target, the Township will not require any additional diamonds during this planning period. Long-term diamond needs should be evaluated through the monitoring of annual registration figures, as well as regular communication with local ball groups.

It is recommended that the Township focus on enhancing selected ball diamonds to ensure that they remain responsive to the needs of local users. This should be undertaken in coordination with user groups to identify and prioritize improvements.

Recognizing that there is an oversupply in ball diamonds, there may also be opportunities to repurpose under-utilized diamonds at some point in the future. For example, the ball diamond at the Puslinch Community Centre Park will soon require new light standards (a significant expense) and is located in the heart of a very busy park, where there is the potential for conflicts with several adjacent amenities (e.g., playground, ORC, etc.). Furthermore, access to the expansion lands at the rear of the park is likely to create additional traffic alongside the diamond, thereby creating additional safety concerns. The Township should consider re-purposing the Puslinch Community Centre Park ball diamond to alternate uses (e.g., splash pad, mini soccer field, improved pedestrian/vehicular circulation, etc.) to allow for improved flow and function within this park, while at the same time investing in other diamonds within the Township to ensure that they remain responsive to community needs. As discussed later in this section, a Park Master Plan is recommended to more closely examine this and other options for the park.

Lastly, given the lack of demand for additional ball diamonds, together with modest local participation in the sport and low population growth, municipal involvement in the unsolicited proposal for the Fergie Jenkins baseball recreation complex is not recommended at this time. Although a recreation facility of this calibre would facilitate opportunities in sport tourism, the community benefits are limited and this facility would be subject to competition from facilities within the broader region (existing and future), placing an undue burden on the taxbase. While the proponent is welcome to present a more detailed business case to the Township, this type of facility is not a core service, even within larger urban communities. As the future outlook of local baseball participation is relatively weak, municipal resources should instead be geared towards higher priority areas that benefit a greater number of local residents.

Recommendations

26. Engage local ball user groups to identify and prioritize improvements to select municipal ball diamonds.
27. Consider re-purposing the Puslinch Community Centre Park ball diamond to alternate uses (e.g., splash pad, mini soccer field, etc.) to allow for improved flow and function within this park.

7.10 Hard Surface Courts (Tennis, Basketball)

Supply

The Township provides three lit tennis courts at the Puslinch Community Centre Park, which represents a service level of one tennis court for every 2,413 residents. Public access to the courts is not available as the courts are operated by the Puslinch Tennis Club. Residents who wish to use this facility must become a club member.

A full basketball court is located at Morriston Meadows Park, which is the Township's only outdoor basketball court. In addition to this supply, an asphalt pad with a basketball hoop is located at the private Puslinch Lake Park and two full basketball courts are located at Aberfoyle Public School.

Market Conditions

Tennis and basketball courts are neighbourhood-level facilities, meaning that distribution is a key determinant in assessing current and future requirements. Trends in tennis suggest that interest has declined since its peak in the 1970s, but that there is a potential resurgence in participation from the aging baby boomer generation (a segment that makes up a significant portion of the Township's population). Experience also suggests that interest in tennis varies greatly between municipalities and can be influenced by the existing level of service and demographic composition.

Basketball maintains strong participation rates amongst youth. Demand for outdoor basketball courts has been found to be high in many communities as they are relatively low cost amenities that can be easily incorporated into local parks, thus allowing for easy access, and opportunities for spontaneous, informal play. Unlike tennis, however, basketball can simply be played at home to meet much of this demand.

Public Engagement

The online community survey found that both tennis and basketball are relatively unpopular sports in the Township. 7% of survey respondents indicated that there was at least one household member who participated in tennis in the past 12 months. Similarly, 7% of survey respondents indicated that there was at least one household member who participated in basketball during the same period. 60% of respondents supported spending additional public funds on outdoor basketball courts and 48% supported additional spending on tennis courts. These facility types ranked 12th and 15th, respectively, out of 17 facility types, suggesting that there may be higher priorities for recreation facility provision.

Despite the survey results, requests for more basketball courts were expressed by residents to ensure that sufficient recreation opportunities are available for local youth. One particular appeal was for a basketball court installation at Boreham Park due to the lack of recreation facilities in Arkell. Further, the Puslinch Tennis Club expressed interest in court improvements, noting that the third court has a severe slope and that

the current location of the court is problematic due to road noise, wind, and sun orientation.

Analysis

The Township's three tennis courts are operated by the Puslinch Tennis Club, which has maintained a steady membership of approximately 200 participants per year. Demand for the Club courts is partially driven by members living outside the Township. Typically, a provision target of one tennis court for every 5,000 residents is applied in communities similar to the Township. With a forecasted population of 9,920 by 2031, two tennis courts would be required; the Township is more than meeting this target at this time.

With regard to the current condition of the tennis courts, there is little doubt that the third court (furthest from the road) is sloping due to soil stability issues. With that being said, the court is still playable, but does cause some level of nuisance, and may become worse over time. While the Club indicated a preference for rebuilding the courts (ideally at another location within the park), this would come at a significant expense with no promise of expanded usage or demand. Maintaining the courts at their existing location for the foreseeable future is the most prudent direction, with the Club undertaking improvements as needed in coordination with the Township (e.g., installation of wind and noise screening). Given the forecasted need for only two courts, the Club should also be approached to divest control of the third court (furthest from the road) and to convert this into a public court without controlled access in order to promote use for non-members.

A provision target of one basketball court for every 800 youth (age 10-19) is recommended for the Township. With approximately 590 youth (2011 Census), this demographic makes up approximately 8% of the Township's population. Based on County-wide population forecast percentages, the number of local youth ages 10 to 19 is projected to grow to 685 by 2031, suggesting a need to maintain the existing basketball court at Morriston Meadows Park. Although the installation of a basketball court in Arkell's Boreham Park may improve geographic distribution, the small size of this community and the potential conflict with neighbouring properties suggests that this would be a low priority for the Township.

Recommendation

28. Work with the Puslinch Tennis Club to facilitate improvements to the existing courts (e.g., installation of wind and noise screening) and to convert the third court (furthest from the road) into a public court without controlled access in order to promote use for non-members.

7.11 Splash Pads

Supply

The Township does not currently have a splash pad in its recreation facility inventory. An admission-based, non-municipal pool and splash pad is available at the Emerald Lake Trailer Resort and Waterpark. A second non-municipal pool is also located at Mini Lakes; however, it is available to members only.

Market Conditions

Splash pads are highly sought after amenities for young families seeking affordable and accessible opportunities to cool down on a hot summer day. They have proven to be more cost-effective than traditional pools to build and operate as they do not require staffing and can be easily integrated into most parks systems. Splash pads can be developed in a wide variety of designs with a range of different apparatuses that provide an enhanced aquatic experience for residents of all ages. The two main mechanical systems used for splash pads are: (1) a municipal system, which utilizes fresh municipal water; or (2) an environmentally friendly recirculation system that uses treated water. The latter would be the likely option for Puslinch.

There are a number of recent examples of splash pad developments in nearby municipalities. For example:

- The City of Guelph is currently in the process of constructing a new splash pad as a part of the master plan for the South End Community Park. The barrier-free design offers users unique interactive water play experiences and utilizes a water-saving, re-circulation system with a state-of-the-art ultraviolet water treatment system.
- Scheduled to open in spring of 2015, the Township of Wilmot is constructing their first splash pad, which will be fully accessible and feature a recycling water system. At a cost of \$334,000, the Township committed \$100,000 to the project, with the remainder received through donations, fundraising, and \$130,000 from the Province.
- The Township of Wellesley also opened its first splash pad in 2011, which was made possible with the assistance of the Lions Club, volunteers, and donations, including a \$75,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. At a cost of approximately \$260,000, the splash pad features a range of unique water features and a sophisticated water recycling system. The Township's local service club is responsible for most of the costs associated with the splash pad's operation.

Public Engagement

Consultation with the public revealed that there was considerable support for the development of a water-based recreation facility. The online community survey found that 63% of respondents had at least one household member who participated in swimming within the past 12 months. As there are no municipal pools provided by the Township, it is likely that these activities were undertaken at private pools, locations outside the Township, or at a non-municipal provider. 69% of survey respondents also supported spending additional funds on improving or developing splash pads. Throughout the process, residents expressed their desire for a splash pad to be developed at the Puslinch Community Centre Park.

Analysis

Urban municipalities may utilize a per capita target to identify splash pad needs; however, this metric is not generally suitable for rural applications due to the geographic distribution of the population. A service area standard is also not practical for the Township given the capital investment required to provide this type of facility. As a result, the provision of splash pads should be determined based on the ability to satisfy local needs in the Township of Puslinch. Although there are non-municipal options in the Township, Mini Lakes is a members-only community and the Emerald Lake Trailer Resort and Waterpark is a premium level facility that is accessible by admission only. As a result, these venues will not appeal to all public users who are seeking low-cost leisure opportunities.

The Puslinch Community Centre Park is the Township's principal leisure hub located in the municipality's primary settlement area. It is this site that residents and stakeholders identified as a suitable location for the Township's first splash pad facility. Although they are more affordable than outdoor pools, splash pads require capital and operating funding that may prove to be challenging for small rural municipalities with limited resources, although this can be mitigated through partnerships and other means of offsetting municipal costs.

Given the interest expressed by the public, it is recommended that the Township seek and engage a willing community partner to pursue the development and potential operation of a splash pad at the Puslinch Community Centre Park. Efforts should be made to pursue potential funding sources from senior levels of government as well as through a fundraising campaign – without outside funding, this project may not be feasible in the Township. Given the rural location of the park, a water recirculation system should be utilized in the absence of municipal services. The splash pad may need to be located within the established area of the park (necessitating the removal or relocation of an existing amenity, such as the ball diamond) given the development restrictions associated with the expansion lands; further consultation with the Conservation Authority is required in this regard.

Recommendation

29. Seek and engage an interested community partner in the development and potential operation of a splash pad at the Puslinch Community Centre Park. Efforts should be made to pursue funding from senior levels of government and through a fundraising campaign.

7.12 Playgrounds

Supply

Playgrounds are provided in three parks throughout the Township, with at least one in each settlement area, including Puslinch Community Centre Park, Morriston Meadows Park, and Boreham Park. This supply translates into a service level of one playground for every 2,413 residents or 193 children under the age of 10. Non-municipal playgrounds are also available at the Aberfoyle Public School and the Puslinch Lake Private Park.

Market Conditions

Playgrounds serve as neighbourhood-level amenities that can provide children with a wealth of opportunities that benefit early childhood development, such as fostering cognitive and social skills and physical activity. Playgrounds are typically found within residential areas and should generally be available within walking distances, without crossing major barriers such as major roads, railways, and water bodies.

Playground design is guided by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), which has established standards on children's play spaces and equipment. These standards have driven the evolution of traditional playgrounds to creative play structures that feature softer materials in addition to unique designs, bright colours, and interactive components to stimulate the senses to provide an enhanced play experience. Some communities have also explored barrier-free playgrounds (or components of playgrounds) to remain inclusive of those with disabilities. It should be noted that the new built environment regulations of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act will apply to playgrounds installed or redeveloped in 2016 and beyond.

Public Engagement

The popularity of playgrounds was evident in the public input received as a part of this process. The online community survey revealed that in the past 12 months, at least one member of 41% of responding households used playground equipment. Playgrounds were also identified as the highest priority in the Township, with 81% of survey respondents supporting additional public spending on improving or developing new playgrounds. Comments were received to replace the existing playground at the Puslinch Community Centre Park with a larger structure located away from the ball diamond and parking lot (safety concerns). Prior to undertaking this Master Plan, a brainstorming session was held with stakeholders to identify potential uses for the

Puslinch Community Centre Park expansion – one of the ideas that was advanced was a new playground and picnic area.

Analysis

Playgrounds are highly desirable recreation facilities as they provide enormous benefits to the quality of life to growing families. As such, easily accessible playgrounds are essential and can be achieved by ensuring that they are located within 800 metres of all residential / settlement areas without crossing major barriers, which generally represents a 10 minute walking distance. It is recognized that in rural areas with a geographically dispersed population, it is not always possible to achieve complete coverage; however, it is recommended that at a minimum, key settlement areas be serviced as best as possible.

Strict application of this service target reveals some small gaps in each of the Township's main settlement areas. For example, residents in southeast Aberfoyle may experience challenges accessing the playground at Aberfoyle Public School as the sidewalk link along Brock Road South is fragmented. Further, there are small gaps west of Brock Road South in Morriston, in northwest Aberfoyle (north of Wellington Road 34 and west of Brock Road South), and northeast Aberfoyle. However, these gap areas all have small populations and accessibility to existing play structures will be improved once the Highway 6 / Brock Road bypass is in place.

Observations of existing Township playgrounds suggest that there is potential to upgrade Boreham Park to more modern and creative play equipment. Opportunities may also exist to relocate and enhance the playground (including barrier-free components) at the Puslinch Community Centre Park to be co-located with the recommended splash pad at this site to improve safety and cross-over appeal. The Township should continue to regularly inspect its playground structures to identify maintenance and repair needs on a regular basis, together with other parks and recreation equipment.

Recommendations

30. Assess opportunities to update and modernize the playground at Boreham Park and the Puslinch Community Centre Park with creative play equipment. Consideration should be given to relocating the playground at the Puslinch Community Centre Park (including barrier-free components) to complement the splash pad recommended in this Master Plan.

7.13 Skateboard Parks

Supply

The Township does not have any skateboard parks.

Market Conditions

Research has shown that youth are trending towards unstructured, unscheduled, and low-cost activities. Skateboarding checks all these boxes and has contributed to its sustained longevity to the point where it has become a core municipal service in many communities.

Early skateboard parks were developed to provide users with a controlled environment with various components typically found in urban areas replicated for use by skateboarders; however, these sites were mostly located in undesirable areas and away from the public eye. Many communities have now embraced this activity through the provision of municipal skateboard parks that appeal to skateboarders, BMX riders, and in-line skaters. Often located at parks and community facilities, skateboard parks can take the form of various sizes that feature an array of components from a variation of skate bowls to simplified skate-zones. Skateboard parks can also be constructed from concrete or use modular components that can be moved.

Public Engagement

During past consultations for the expansion of the Puslinch Community Centre Park, some suggestions were made for the inclusion of a skateboard park. However, based on the Master Plan consultations, the demand for skateboarding is generally low in the Township. The online community survey reported that only 3% of respondents had at least one household member who participated in skateboarding in the past 12 months, ranking the lowest in participation out of 17 activities. Skateboarding also received the lowest level of support (42%) for spending additional public spending. Based on this data, it appears that Township youth are not particularly interested in skateboarding; although it is noted that youth were slightly under-represented the survey.

Analysis

Based on public input, there is currently insufficient demand to consider the development of a skateboard park. Looking to the future, it is important to consider the size of the local youth population (ages 10 to 19), which is expected to see only modest increases over the course of the planning period. Unless a local organization comes forward and is able to fully fund the development of a skate park, this should not be a priority for the Township at this time.

In the event that the Township does consider providing a skateboard park, locations adjacent to recreation centres or within community parks are preferred as they provide access to other amenities and typically have both the visibility and necessary buffers to deter inappropriate behaviours and mitigate noise. Skateboard facilities should not be

placed directly adjacent to playgrounds or splash pads. Input from local skaters is essential in the design of skateboard parks and also helps to create buy-in to the final product.

7.14 Off-leash Dog Parks

Supply

The Township does not have any designated off-leash dog parks.

Market Conditions

With local by-laws regulating the use of leashes, dedicated off-leash areas provide pet owners with the opportunity to exercise and socialize dogs in a controlled area. Leash-free parks should not be viewed as being facilities strictly for pets, but also venues for exercise and social interaction for residents with a common interest.

Off-leash parks have proven to be quite successful in many municipalities, with larger urban areas often having several such facilities. Often, the need for dog parks in rural areas is lower since there are generally sufficient private open spaces available for dogs.

Public Engagement

Dog parks can be polarizing in some communities; in Puslinch, the online survey found low to moderate support (42%), but also some opposition 24% (the highest of all facility types).

Analysis

Based on public input, there is currently insufficient demand to consider the development of an off-leash dog park. Unless a local organization comes forward and is able to fully fund the development and maintenance of a dog park (many municipalities require that their dog parks be managed by an affiliated organization in order to act as park stewards), this should not be a priority for the Township at this time.

In the event that the Township does consider the provision of an off-leash dog park, they should be aware that the selection of appropriate sites that are supported by residents is often the most significant challenge. The safety of other park users, setbacks from residential and environmentally sensitive areas, and the provision of amenities (e.g., parking, benches, waste containers, etc.) are important considerations in the design of leash-free parks. Most municipalities establish criteria for evaluating sites for future dog parks, with consideration of the following factors (at a minimum):

- existing park locations, uses, and intensity
- potential environmental impacts (environmentally sensitive features should be avoided)
- sufficient land base (ideally a minimum of two hectares)

- availability of on-site parking
- ample buffers from adjacent land uses (particularly schools and residential areas)
- accessibility via pathways and/or trails and roads

7.15 Other Facilities

From time to time, the Township may be approached to provide certain recreation facilities that are generally not within the scope of municipal services or were not considered in this Master Plan. As a result, the Township must be prepared to respond to future requests that may emerge for existing activities or facilities, or for those that evolve according to participation trends and preferences in recreation. When these requests are brought forward, the Township of Puslinch should cautiously evaluate the need for new opportunities, as some activities may be desired by only a small segment of the community. Focus should be placed on delivering a high quality recreation and parks system that appeals to a broad range of residents in order to maximize the benefits of the resources available.

Nevertheless, the Township should remain open to considering opportunities that are not currently provided if legitimate requests are brought forward by individuals or community partners. It is recommended that these requests be supported by the appropriate justification for new services and facilities, and should include, but not be limited to, a proponent-led needs assessment and business plan, a statement of the organization's capacity to support the request, a demonstration of project sustainability, evidence of community benefits, and a full risk analysis.

Recommendation

31. Evaluate requests for facilities and services not presently within the Township's core mandate on a case-by-case basis. Unsolicited proposals should be supported by a proponent-led assessment that demonstrates the risks and benefits of the Township becoming involved in the provision of a non-core facility, as well as a business plan and funding strategy suitable to the Township.

7.16 Puslinch Community Centre Park Expansion

As indicated earlier, the Township has purchased 4 hectares (10 acres) of land immediately adjacent to the rear of the Puslinch Community Centre Park. This site is currently fallow farmland that is relatively flat. The lands are within a Core Greenlands designation in the County of Wellington Official Plan, which recognizes a floodplain associated with the Mill Creek tributary. Section 5.6.1 of the Official Plan permits a limited number of uses in this designation, such as passive uses, provided that certain criteria are met. It is stated that other uses permitted in the applicable adjacent or underlying designations may also be permitted. The Puslinch Community Centre Park is located within a Recreational designation, which permits a broad range of leisure uses. Given that the lands are regulated by the Grand River Conservation Area, however, consultation with this agency is required prior to any form of land alteration as certain

planning approvals may be necessary depending on the ultimate uses proposed and their location on the site. At this point in time, it is anticipated that the lands cannot sustain any structures or paved parking lots, but could accommodate playing fields and passive recreation uses.

Earlier in this section, a number of facility needs were recommended for further consideration for the Puslinch Community Centre Park (including both the existing park and expansion lands):

- one new lit full-size soccer field (11v11) and one smaller unlit soccer field (9v9)
- splash pad (with a structure containing the water recirculation system)
- larger playground with barrier-free components
- unpaved parking lot to serve the expansion lands
- Club-led improvements to the existing tennis courts, including conversion of the third court to public use
- potential re-purposing of the ball diamond to alternate uses (e.g., splash pad, mini soccer field, improved pedestrian/vehicular circulation, etc.)

Aerial Photography of Puslinch Community Centre Park and Expansion Lands (2010)



Source: County of Wellington Online Mapping, "Explore Wellington"

On the last point, access to the expansion lands is likely to be gained through the existing park, which poses concerns related to safety and circulation within the site, as the main drive is located between the playground, Optimist Recreation Centre, and the ball diamond, with little room to spare. Although netting is in place for the ball diamond, it is not ideally located, it requires capital improvements, and there is a surplus of diamonds in the Township, all of which point to an opportunity to consider alternate uses for this portion of the park, such as improved pedestrian/vehicular circulation, splash pad, or mini soccer field.

It is recommended that a Park Master Plan should be prepared to more closely examine the layout and features of the entire park site, including additional consultation with local stakeholder groups. The recommendations of this Recreation and Parks Master Plan should be used to guide the Park Master Plan process.

Recommendations

32. Develop a Master Plan for the Puslinch Community Centre Park to more closely examine the layout and features of the entire park site, including the expansion lands.

8. PARKS, OPEN SPACE & TRAILS ASSESSMENT

This Section analyzes parks, open spaces, trail needs, and policy considerations. The Township's current parkland and open space supply is examined in this section. The County of Wellington's Official Plan outlines its support for the provision of public spaces, parks and open space as places within which healthy and active communities can be fostered, including guidelines for planning and parkland acquisition.

8.1 Parkland Form & Function

Parkland is a valuable component of the Township's landscape and its presence enhances the quality of life for the community as a whole. These spaces can take many different forms, ranging from manicured parkettes and open spaces to large naturalized tracts of ecologically significant areas. Primary considerations for the parks system as a whole include (but are not limited to):

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

As such, it is important to incorporate parks planning through the municipal land use decision-making process. Land use planning in the Township is guided by the County of Wellington Official Plan, which contains broad policies regarding the provision and development of parkland. A review of Official Plan policies reveals the absence of a local parkland classification system, which is commonly used to assist communities in defining the functional hierarchy of a municipal parks and open space system. A classification hierarchy is essential in advancing the sustainable planning of active and passive forms of parkland by directing many aspects of park usage as defined through size, form, function and/or level of amenity. Moving forward, it is recommended that the Township of Puslinch consider the following parkland classification system in the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces.

Table 8: Recommended Parkland Classification Hierarchy

Park Type	Amenities	Service Level	Size (Ha)
Parkettes	Sub-neighbourhood park lands located in residential areas that provide limited opportunities for passive recreation with supporting rest areas.	Centrally located within residential areas.	<0.5
Neighbourhood Park	Designed for small scale recreation activities and may include hard surface courts and a single sports field. Select portions may also be naturalized.	Accessible by walking or cycling and centrally located to optimize visibility and safety of users.	0.6 – 3.0
Community Park	Supports a range of recreation activities that serves the Township and surrounding communities such as major sports fields, open spaces, water features, and playgrounds. Select portions may also be naturalized.	Located along main arterial roads, bicycle and pedestrian networks, and contains sufficient off-street parking.	4.0+
Natural Parks	Township owned lands that are predominantly naturalized or protected due to significant features. May also be used for passive recreation such as hiking.	Located in areas with naturally significant features, wooded areas, and may consist of topographical variations.	Varies

Recommendation

33. Utilize the Master Plan's parkland classification hierarchy to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level, and the amenities that they provide.

8.2 Parkland Supply

As illustrated in the table below, the Township of Puslinch owns and maintains approximately 22.2 hectares (54.9 acres) of developed and undeveloped parkland. In addition to these parks, residents benefit from a number of parks and open spaces provided at the Aberfoyle Public School, conservation areas, County Forests, and private parks.

Table 9: Municipal Supply of Parkland

Municipal Parkland	Area (Ha)
Morrison Meadows	2.5
Badenoch Field	2.2
Puslinch Community Centre Park	9.8
Badenoch Community Centre	0.4
Boreham Park	0.9
Old Morrison Ball Field	2.5
Fox Run Park	2.3
Telfer Glen Park	1.5
Historic Corner Block	0.1
Total Parkland	22.2
Service Level (population = 7,240)	3.1 ha / 1,000 residents

For the purposes of this assessment, focus is placed on the supply of municipally-owned parkland as these are the only lands under the Township's direct control, where the provision of access, safety, and appropriate amenities can be guaranteed. Notwithstanding this assessment, it is essential that the Township continue to collaborate with its community partners to maximize the benefits of providing accessible parks and open spaces.

The County of Wellington Official Plan does not establish a minimum level of service with respect to parkland, although the Township's current supply equates to approximately 3.1 hectares per 1,000 population based on a population of 7,240 residents. Supplementing this inventory with the supply of non-municipal parkland and open spaces provided by community partners, Township residents are generally well served in this regard. It is recommended that the Township continue to maintain an accurate inventory of municipal parkland to ensure that residents' needs are met.

Parkland needs (discussed further in the next section) are not only a function of the total supply, but also of the distribution and functionality of the sites. For example, community parks that are capable of accommodating a broad range of activities are generally in demand, as are neighbourhood-level parks that provide close-to-home opportunities for young children. Passive parkland (e.g., woodlots, open space, etc.) are also desired, but need to be thoughtfully provided and managed. The majority of the Township's parks are generally functioning well for their intended use. The most notable exception, however, is Fox Run Park, which lacks visibility, frontage, and amenities and thus serves as an extension to backyards for residents in the estate subdivision, while the Township pays for its maintenance. It is recommended that the Township consult with local residents and seek opportunities to naturalize or divest this parcel in order to reduce maintenance and carrying costs. Should this site be sold, any proceeds should be allocated to other park improvements or acquisitions.

Recommendation

34. Consult with local residents and seek opportunities to naturalize or divest Fox Run Park in order to reduce maintenance and carrying costs.

8.3 Parkland Needs & Acquisition Strategies

Generally speaking, parkland service levels can vary dramatically between municipalities, but are typically provided at a minimum rate of 2.5 hectares per 1,000 residents in urban/rural communities. Parkland provision targets are dependent on a number of factors such as distribution, non-municipal providers, urban density, local needs, and the types of existing parks and open spaces.

It is recommended that the Township of Puslinch adopt a parkland service target of **3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents**, which is a similar target used in comparable municipalities and should generally be sufficient to meet the active recreational needs of local residents. This target should be applied to active parkland only, no open space lands and natural areas. **Applying this target to the projected 2031 population (9,920 residents) suggests that the Township will need approximately 7.6 more hectares of active parkland by 2031.**

The optimum parkland development strategy is to focus on the provision of neighbourhood or community level parks with emphasis on enhancing geographic distribution and serving settlement areas that are poised for residential development (e.g., Aberfoyle and Morriston). Improving and enhancing existing parks to respond to new pressures and facility needs will also be a key point of emphasis moving forward.

There are several provincial and municipal regulations, policies, and guidelines governing the acquisition and location of parkland. The County of Wellington Official Plan is one of these tools for implementation, which contains parkland acquisition policies guided by the Planning Act. Section 13.10 of the Official Plan identifies that local Councils may require the dedication of parkland in accordance with the Planning Act for all developments, redevelopment, or plans of subdivision. The Planning Act identifies that municipalities may require the conveyance of lands for park or other recreational purposes at a rate of 5% of land for residential (2% for commercial and/or industrial) or 1 hectare per 300 dwelling units proposed (note: Bill 73 is proposing to change the alternate requirement to 1 hectare per 500 units). Under certain requirements, Council may also require cash-in-lieu of parkland, to be used towards future acquisition or development of parkland within the Township.

Section 13.10.2 of the Official Plan describes the locational criteria for evaluating potential lands for parkland dedication. It is identified that suitable municipal parkland shall be:

- Land adjacent to established parks, schools, or storm water management ponds;
- Land within easy walking distance of the residential area served;
- Land located near the highest density residential areas;

- Land with adequate street frontage to provide for visibility and safety;
- Land that is level, regularly shaped and not susceptible to major flooding, poor drainage, or other environmental or physical conditions, which would interfere with their development or use for public recreation.

In addition to these criteria, municipal parkland development shall be of an appropriate size and configuration to effectively utilize municipal resources and facilitate meaningful recreation activities. There are good examples (such as the expansion of the Puslinch Community Centre Park) and bad examples (such as Fox Run Park, with limited frontage and public utility) of parkland dedication in Puslinch and the Township needs to be thoughtful about the lands they acquire for future parkland.

At a minimum, future park development should concentrate on providing neighbourhood level amenities; thus, the provision of parkettes (e.g., >0.5 ha) should be discouraged, unless there is a need to reconcile gap areas. In cases where the development is too small to result in a meaningful park parcel or where the immediate area already has suitable and unimpeded access to sufficient parkland, then the Township may consider accepting cash-in-lieu.

Pursuant to the Planning Act, the Township may also accept undevelopable lands, storm water management areas, and woodlots for the purposes of passive recreation and educational uses, although these lands should not be considered part of the required parkland dedication (as per Section 13.10.4 of the Official Plan).

Should there be a need to supplement parkland supplies beyond the mechanisms permitted by the Official Plan and Planning Act, there are a number of other park acquisition strategies that the Township may pursue, such as (but no limited to):

- Municipal land purchase or lease;
- Land exchanges or swaps, particularly if development is to occur in natural areas highly valued by the community;
- Off-site conveyance of parkland;
- Establishment of a Parks Foundation (e.g., community, corporate, or municipal donations towards parkland acquisition);
- Reallocating surplus municipal lands to park use; and/or
- Partnership/joint provision of lands with local partners.

Recommendations

35. Adopt a parkland service target of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents, which would require an additional 7.6 hectares of parkland by 2031 to serve growing settlement areas (e.g., Aberfoyle and Morriston) within the Township of Puslinch.
36. Continue to pursue the dedication of parkland and cash-in-lieu through the provisions of the Official Plan and Planning Act.

37. Avoid developing or accepting active parkland parcels of less than 0.5 hectare in size unless the Township has determined that there is a need to fill a gap in parkland and other options are inadequate.
38. Accepting undevelopable Open Space lands (e.g., storm water management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement is strongly discouraged. The Township may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement if appropriate.
39. Where necessary, employ alternative acquisition tools to enhance future parkland opportunities to serve current and future residents.

8.4 Parkland Design Considerations

As the Township acquires or redevelops parkland, there are a number of key design features that should be considered to ensure that they are effective and functional. Emphasis should be placed on developing parks as vibrant destinations where residents and visitors can engage in meaningful experiences. This can be achieved through incorporating unique park designs that facilitate traditional activities and are flexible in accommodating informal and emerging pursuits.

Ensuring that parks are inclusive and barrier free is also crucial to achieving the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. Other design features that should be considered include supporting amenities such as seating, shade, parking, connections to key destinations, and safety. In certain instances, environmental protection and naturalization should be sought to preserve sensitive spaces. The Township should also continue to encourage the organized and non-programmed use of its parks and support its community partners in local beautification, environmental management, and stewardship – all of which are highly valued by communities.

Signage is also an essential design feature that plays an important role in establishing a visual identity and communicating what amenities are available in the community. The Township of Puslinch does not currently have a signage programme within its parks and recreation facilities. By having consistent signage throughout the Township, a number of benefits are achieved, including:

- Serving as an indicator of the quality of the local parks system as a whole. As a first impression, a high quality sign can lead people to perceive that the park is of high quality.
- Communicating the corporate brand, carrying consistency throughout the Township, and promoting tourism.
- Promoting awareness among all residents that are part of the larger Township, in addition to non-residents from adjacent municipalities.
- Informing residents and visitors of the location of public property, thereby avoiding confusion regarding access.

- Developing a sense of place to create unique park experiences and foster aesthetic development, while improving wayfinding among residents and visitors.
- Providing interpretive information connecting users to the park and encourage them to take an interest in their surroundings.

A good sign is attractive, clearly designed with contrasting colours to enhance visual recognition, and has regard for its context and local surroundings. Signs should clearly state the name of park or facility, provide an address for emergency purposes, and/or state the name of the local organization that assisted with the development of the facility. Specific to signage on trails, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* requires that any recreational trail must have signage at each trailhead that contains the trail length, surface type, average and minimum width, running and cross slope, and location of amenities.

Recommendations

40. Maintain a commitment to accessibility, safety, and comfort within the Township's parks system through compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. In recognition of the Township's aging population, greater attention should be paid to the development of amenities such as washrooms, shade, and benches/seating areas in parks and along trails.
41. Establish a consistent signage design template and install at all parks, recreation facilities, and trail heads.

8.5 Trail Network

The Telfer Glen Park Trail is the only trail that is owned and maintained by the Township; this trail measures approximately 270 metres in length and provides users with a naturalized hiking route in the Morriston settlement area. In addition to this trail, approximately 33 kilometres of naturalized hiking trails are located throughout the rural area of the Township, such as the Badenoch Tract Trail, Lakeshore Lookout Trail, Little Tract Trail, Smith Side Trail, Speed River Trail, Starkey Hill Trail, and Quarry Trail. These trails are owned and maintained by various entities including Wellington County, Halton Region Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority, private property owners, and the Guelph Hiking Trail Club. There are park pathways and sidewalks located in the Township's settlement areas.

The importance of a connected trail network has never been greater as communities across the Province strive to promote healthier lifestyles given the lack of physical activity among Canadians. Trails are a cost-effective method to increasing physical activity levels and supporting positive interaction between the community and the natural environment to facilitate recreational activities and utilitarian purposes, by forming the link between destinations and in some cases, providing alternative transportation choices if trails are linked to key employment areas.

Trails are among the most desirable features in a community and are often a key consideration in the home buying process. While trails can be enjoyed by all members of the community, studies show that there is a correlation between age and walking for leisure. As age increases, so too does the propensity to identify walking as the most common leisure activity. This is largely due to that fact the intensity of physical activity declines with age. Nevertheless, the provision of trails can be flexibly designed to accommodate a range of uses, regardless of age.

The public input collected for this Master Plan aligns with national trends as the online survey ranked walking and hiking for leisure as the most common physical activity, with 81% of respondents participating in the past 12 months. 89% of respondents felt that trails and pathways were important to their household. However, despite the importance of trails and pathways, only 31% of survey respondents were satisfied with the trails in the Township. This gap between importance and satisfaction suggests that there is a critical gap where expectations are not being met. This is further underscored by the 79% of survey respondents that supported spending additional public funds on new or improved nature trails, which ranked as the second highest priority out of 17 facility types.

In addition to the data collected from the online community survey, a number of comments were received from the public and stakeholders regarding the need for a network of multi-use trails that formed loops within parks as well as connections to key destinations. The need for additional promotion of trail locations was also expressed.

The development of trails in the Township is guided by the Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan (2012), which identifies potential on and off-road trail corridors throughout the County. A number of active transportation routes were proposed for the Township, including shared roadways, signed bicycle routes, paved shoulders along County roads, and off-road walking routes. The Township should support the recommendations contained in the Active Transportation Master Plan and consider potential partnerships with the County to enhance active transportation opportunities in the Township. Some of the key recommended trail routes in the Township of Puslinch included:

- Developing an off-road trail loop at the Puslinch Community Centre in Aberfoyle and connecting Aberfoyle Public School to the Community Centre.
- Completing the connection along Downey Road/Wellington Road 35 to Concession 4 and west to Townline road to connect south Guelph with Hespeler.
- Creating a signed route connection in Morriston along Wellington Road 36.
- Investigating the potential to develop an off-road trail loop on public lands in northeast Morriston.

The County of Wellington Official Plan also provides a high level framework for enhancing the Township's trails and pathways. Specifically, policies regarding the pedestrian facilities are contained in Section 12.2, which maintains that pedestrian facilities will be encouraged for recreation and utilitarian purposes. The Official Plan identifies that this will be achieved by:

- a) Requiring sidewalks in all new development within urban centres and encouraged in hamlets, where possible,
- b) Key destinations such as schools and convenience commercial uses will be centrally located in residential neighbourhoods and higher density residential will be encouraged along main streets to facilitate walkable atmosphere;
- c) Pedestrian friendly facilities such as pedestrian crossings, signalized intersections, curb cuts, pedestrian bridges and lighting, will be incorporated into community design practices to encourage walking, and
- d) Pedestrian trails, particularly those that re-use abandoned railway right-of-ways will be encouraged.

Section 12.3 of the Official Plan contains policies that encourage cycling as recreational pastime and utilitarian purposes. This can be achieved by the (selected policies shown):

- a) Undertaking studies to determine the potential to provide bicycle lanes on roadways in urban centres,
- d) Supporting the development of recreational trails that allow for cycling, and
- e) Providing linkages between intensification areas and adjacent neighbourhoods, including dedicated land space for bicyclists on the major street network where practical and feasible.

Of note, Subsection 51(25)(b) of the Ontario Planning Act, affecting the conveyance of land for pedestrian and bicycle pathways, was amended within the past few years. The *Planning Act* now allows for the dedication of land for “pedestrian pathways, bicycle pathways and public transit rights of way” as a condition of plan of subdivision approval, at the municipality’s discretion. While this provision does not affect parkland supplies (it is over and above the prescribed parkland dedication), it is a useful tool for the acquisition of linear corridors and trails that support and link parks and natural features. It is recommended that the Township consider the conveyance of land for pathways within new subdivisions, and that they encourage the County of Wellington to include this policy within its Official Plan.

The Township’s 2010 Design Guidelines also supports the installation of sidewalks and bike racks (among other amenities) within villages, as well as bicycle lanes from Guelph to Aberfoyle.

To enhance these policies, the Township should require developers to fund the construction of trails and connecting pathways that primarily serve the subject lands. Maintenance of trails becomes a municipal responsibility once assumed by the Township; therefore, appropriate municipal resourcing (e.g., staff, capital, etc.) is required to maintain these assets over the long-term. Guidelines should be established to articulate municipal trail development and maintenance standards that are congruent with AODA standards.

While the Official Plan contains appropriate direction for trails and pathways created through new development, a challenge for the Township is the creation of trails in areas where there are no active development applications, such as existing neighbourhoods.

With residents seeking enhanced trail connectivity, it is incumbent upon the Township to work to expand the trail network, particularly by connecting destinations such as parks, schools, and commercial areas within its urban communities. The Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan is an excellent first step toward achieving this goal. As part of the Plan's implementation, it is recommended that the Township engage local service clubs and the public in a process to: (1) establish and/or confirm guidelines and responsibilities for trail development and maintenance; and (2) identify and/or confirm potential trail routes, implementation projects, and funding sources over a multi-year timeframe. The local adoption of guidelines for trails planning and development will be an important deliverable that can be used by staff to assess trail matters relative to development applications. Consideration may also be given to including conceptual trail routes within the Official Plan to create awareness and to allow for developers to reflect these intentions within their applications.

Recommendations

42. Seek opportunities to include trails and pathways (unpaved) within the Puslinch Community Centre Park (existing portion and/or expansion lands) through the recommended Park Master Plan process.
43. Assign high priority to the creation and promotion of local active transportation routes and trail development identified in the Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan, coordination of community efforts, and mechanisms afforded the Township through the development approvals process.
44. Engage local service clubs and the public in a process to: (1) establish and/or confirm guidelines and responsibilities for trail development and maintenance; and (2) identify and/or confirm potential trail routes, implementation projects, and funding sources over a multi-year timeframe.
45. Consider permitting the conveyance of land for pathways within new subdivisions (as permitted by Section 51 of the Planning Act). The Township should encourage the County of Wellington to include this policy within its Official Plan.

9. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

This Section summarizes the action plans put forth within this Master Plan, along with their suggested priority and timing. A framework for reviewing and updating the Plan is also identified.

9.1 Implementation Strategy

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

This implementation strategy provides guidance for ensuring that the most critical recommendations are dealt with in a timely fashion, while the less critical (yet important) recommendations are implemented over time. In addition, high level capital cost estimates for key recommendations have been identified in collaboration with the Township to ensure that local cost factors and standards are properly reflected. Annual operating costs for programs, services, and facilities (existing or recommended under this Plan) are not included in this analysis. It is expected that an analysis of operating budget implications and partnership options would be undertaken prior to approving any capital project and that sufficient annual operating funds would be allocated to any approved project. Identified cost implications are estimates for budgeting purposes only and have not been adjusted for inflation.

The timing of the projects proposed in this Master Plan recognizes the need for phased implementation as some recommendations are based upon what is needed and not necessarily what is financially achievable by the Township at the present time. As such, the timing proposed for some recommendations may not align with the Township's funding capacities as time goes by. As part of the annual budget process, this Plan will be reviewed to identify areas where the availability of resources may affect the timing of implementation.

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

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

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

The Township has limited resources and cannot afford to do everything that the community desires; this is one of the primary reasons for undertaking a Master Plan in the first place. Although the Township of Puslinch may be challenged in providing the appropriate financial resources to meet the Master Plan's recommendations, the Township has an obligation to make every reasonable effort to implement these strategies through a variety of appropriate and acceptable means. The full implementation of this Plan will require the pursuit of development charges, grants, alternative funding, and the establishment of various partnerships and collaborations with community organizations, schools, agencies, and other partners.

Recommendations

46. Ensure that sufficient annual operating funds are allocated to approved capital projects.
47. Continue to seek alternative funding sources (e.g., fundraising, sponsorships, grants, etc.) to supplement existing resources and to enable full implementation of the Master Plan.

Priority is often, but not always, synonymous with timing – the higher the priority, the sooner the recommendation should be implemented. Priority has been determined based on an assessment of need, as identified throughout the planning process (including public engagement, trend and demographic analysis, assessments of facilities, parks, services, etc.). The size of the Township's population and tax base restricts the resources that can be allocated to leisure facilities and services. In turn, meeting the widest range of needs possible through the efficient use of resources is paramount.

Within the tables that follow, the priority and timing of recommendations are organized into the following categories:

Priority

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

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

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

Timing

Short-term: 2015 to 2018

Longer-term: 2019 and beyond

Ongoing: Best practices to be followed on a continual basis

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

Implementation Strategy: Township of Puslinch Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Township Roles & Responsibilities			
1. Continue to serve as a provider of space for parks and recreation opportunities within Puslinch by offering the community access to core indoor and outdoor facilities (through free use, rental, or other agreement).	High	Ongoing	
Programming			
2. Maintain an up-to-date inventory of recreation opportunities within the community (including a database of community groups and their contact information) to ensure that a full range of activities are available for all age groups. This database should be made accessible to local residents and serve to enhance awareness of local activities, programs, leagues, and events.	Medium	Ongoing	

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
3. Establish regular contact with various community partners (e.g., Public Health, Library, Social Services, Seniors Association, Volunteer Centre, YMCA, school boards, etc.) – either collectively (e.g., through committees, working groups, etc.) or individually – to identify potential opportunities for community-led programming and facility rentals, with an emphasis on low cost options for older adults/seniors and children/youth.	Medium	Ongoing	
4. Through municipal leadership, practices, policies, and resources, support opportunities for informal, unstructured, and inclusive active recreation experiences, including drop-in programs and non-registered special or one-time events (where resources and availability allow).	High	Ongoing	Potential operating cost implications due to additional events and drop-in programs
5. Actively promote physical activity and healthy communities through participation in the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph “in motion” initiative and similar programs.	High	Ongoing	
Community Development & Partnerships			
6. Seek fundraising, partnership, and sponsorship opportunities that are consistent with the Township’s vision in order to reduce reliance on tax dollars in providing quality parks and recreation opportunities.	High	Ongoing	
7. Build relationships with local religious institutions and adjacent municipalities to improve collaboration and ensure affordable access to facilities and programs for residents.	Low	Ongoing	

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Staffing & Volunteerism			
<p>8. Evaluate options to improve the existing municipal parks and recreation staffing model to enhance coordination, accountability, and transparency. This may include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The creation of a municipal position(s) to coordinate community development and recreation policy matters, as well as oversee the daytime operation of the ORC; and b. Consolidating part-time staff into full-time equivalents (or creating a new full-time position) to address growing Township-wide facility and park maintenance requirements. 	Medium	Short-term	New staff will have operating cost implications – to be determined through further study
Governance			
<p>9. Undertake a comprehensive review of the Recreation Committee's terms of reference with consideration to the recommendations contained in this Master Plan. Seek ways to activate the Committee's mandate through the development of an annual work plan identifying key projects and priorities.</p>	Medium	Short-term	
<p>10. Work with the Badenoch Community Centre Board to seek its incorporation as a not-for-profit entity responsible for the operation of the Badenoch Community Centre. Should this direction not be supported by the Board/Council, the Township may consider assuming the operational duties for this facility and absorb the Board's mandate into that of the Recreation Committee.</p>	High	Short-term	

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Communication & Awareness			
<p>11. Undertake a Communications & Branding Strategy to promote local parks and recreation opportunities. This Strategy may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Publishing a bi-annual community leisure guide containing information relating to parks, trails, and recreation opportunities, as well as other services provided by the Township and its community partners; b. Exploring digital signage, social media, and emerging technologies to maximize awareness opportunities and outreach to wider audiences; and c. Township-wide signage to easily identify municipal assets and branding (logo, tag line, etc.) and to provide consistent messaging. 	High	Short-term	Initial and ongoing operating cost implications dependent on scope and scale
<p>12. Provide opportunities to facilitate dialogue between groups (e.g., Recreation Committee, community partners, and residents) through an annual forum (or similar approach) in order to bolster communication. Additional engagement opportunities should also be provided prior to undertaking large community projects to solicit input from the public.</p>	Medium	Ongoing	
User Fees & Financial Assistance			
<p>13. Promote the use of external partners that provide subsidies for participation in recreational opportunities in order to mitigate financial barriers for low income households.</p>	Medium	Ongoing	
<p>14. Regularly assess rental fees and charges to ensure that they represent a fair and equitable balance between true costs and public benefits, are competitive in the broader regional market, and allow the Township to meet its financial goals.</p>	Medium	Ongoing	
<p>15. Establish an hourly charge for groups interested in renting the Township's soccer fields (other than the local minor soccer association, which pays a fee per participant).</p>	Medium	Short-term	

Service Delivery Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
16. Establish a policy to address special requests for fee waivers in an equitable and transparent manner. (e.g., each affiliated community organization may receive one two-hour room rental free each year for an annual meeting).	Medium	Short-term	
17. Develop a Community Funding Policy and grant program to assist community organizations in implementing initiatives that are aligned with the Township's goals and priorities (funding could go towards offsetting the cost of items such as materials, equipment, promotion, staffing/administration, etc.). There is an expectation that organizations would also be required to fund a portion of the cost themselves.	High	Short-term	Reallocation of existing expenditures – no net impact
Policies & Procedures			
18. Conduct an annual review of all applicable parks and recreation policies and procedures to identify gaps and ensure that current policies and procedures are current, fair, and accurate to the parties involved.	Medium	Ongoing	
19. Develop a parks maintenance policy for sports fields and other park types.	Low	Longer-term	
20. Develop a facility allocation policy to establish a priority ranking for facility and park scheduling, as well as scheduling procedures.	Low	Longer-term	
21. Collect annual registration data from all organizations that use Township parks and facilities and monitor facility utilization to assist in tracking trends, changing demands, and allocation.	Medium	Ongoing	

Facility Needs Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Multi-Purpose Spaces			
22. Prioritize improvements to the Puslinch Community Centre and Badenoch Community Centre and link projects to the Township's long-term capital forecast.	Medium	Ongoing	Building Condition Audits identify costs of \$354,750 (PCC) and \$135,850 (BCC) between 2014 and 2029
Older Adult Spaces			
23. Strengthen community partnerships and explore options for enhancing the use of existing municipal facilities for community-led programs and events for the Township's growing older adult population.	High	Ongoing	
Soccer Fields			
24. Two soccer fields – one lit full-size soccer field (11v11) and one smaller unlit soccer field (9v9) – are recommended to be developed on the expansion lands of the Puslinch Community Centre Park.	High	Short-term	Estimated capital cost of \$550,000 for two soccer fields and ancillary amenities
25. Be prepared to explore alternative options for providing soccer fields, should the Calvary Baptist Church elect to terminate the informal arrangement with the Township.	High	Ongoing	Potential capital cost implications
Ball Diamonds			
26. Engage local ball user groups to identify and prioritize improvements to select municipal ball diamonds.	Medium	Short-term	Funding dependent upon identified priorities
27. Consider re-purposing the Puslinch Community Centre Park ball diamond to alternate uses (e.g., splash pad, mini soccer field, etc.) to allow for improved flow and function within this park.	Medium	Short-term	Further input and/or study required

Facility Needs Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Hard Surface Courts			
28. Work with the Puslinch Tennis Club to facilitate improvements to the existing courts (e.g., installation of wind and noise screening) and to convert the third court (furthest from the road) into a public court without controlled access in order to promote use for non-members.	Low	Longer-term	Estimated capital cost of \$10,000
Splash Pads			
29. Seek and engage an interested community partner in the development and potential operation of a splash pad at the Puslinch Community Centre Park. Efforts should be made to pursue funding from senior levels of government and through a fundraising campaign.	Medium	Short-term	Potential capital and/or operating cost implications, dependent upon arrangement and design (capital costs starting at \$250,000)
Playgrounds			
30. Assess opportunities to update and modernize the playground at Boreham Park and the Puslinch Community Centre Park with creative play equipment. Consideration should be given to relocating the playground at the Puslinch Community Centre Park (including barrier-free components) to complement the splash pad recommended in this Master Plan.	Medium	Short-term	Estimated capital cost of \$50,000 - \$200,000 per playground
Other Facilities			
31. Evaluate requests for facilities and services not presently within the Township's core mandate on a case-by-case basis. Unsolicited proposals should be supported by a proponent-led assessment that demonstrates the risks and benefits of the Township becoming involved in the provision of a non-core facility, as well as a business plan and funding strategy suitable to the Township.	Low	Ongoing	

Facility Needs Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Puslinch Community Centre Park Expansion			
32. Develop a Master Plan for the Puslinch Community Centre Park to more closely examine the layout and features of the entire park site, including the expansion lands.	High	Short-term	Consultant / landscape architect – \$15,000

Parks, Open Space & Trails Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Parkland Form & Function			
33. Utilize the Master Plan's parkland classification hierarchy to guide the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces according to park type, size, service level, and the amenities that they provide.	High	Ongoing	
Parkland Supply			
34. Consult with local residents and seek opportunities to naturalize or divest Fox Run Park in order to reduce maintenance and carrying costs.	Low	Longer-term	Potential cost savings
Parkland Needs & Acquisition Strategies			
35. Adopt a parkland service target of 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents, which would require an additional 7.6 hectares of parkland by 2031 to serve growing settlement areas (e.g., Aberfoyle and Morriston) within the Township of Puslinch.	High	Ongoing	
36. Continue to pursue the dedication of parkland and cash-in-lieu through the provisions of the Official Plan and Planning Act.	High	Ongoing	
37. Avoid developing or accepting active parkland parcels of less than 0.5 hectare in size unless the Township has determined that there is a need to fill a gap in parkland and other options are inadequate.	High	Ongoing	

Parks, Open Space & Trails Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
38. Accepting undevelopable Open Space lands (e.g., storm water management ponds, woodlots, valley lands, floodplains, hazard lands, etc.) as part of the parkland dedication requirement is strongly discouraged. The Township may assume these lands through voluntary dedication or easement if appropriate.	High	Ongoing	
39. Where necessary, employ alternative acquisition tools to enhance future parkland opportunities to serve current and future residents.	Medium	Ongoing	
Parkland Design Considerations			
40. Maintain a commitment to accessibility, safety, and comfort within the Township's parks system through compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. In recognition of the Township's aging population, greater attention should be paid to the development of amenities such as washrooms, shade, and benches/seating areas in parks and along trails.	High	Ongoing	Minor capital cost implications
41. Establish a consistent signage design template and install at all parks, recreation facilities, and trail heads.	Medium	Longer-term	Estimated capital cost of \$1,500 to \$2,000 per sign
Trail Network			
42. Seek opportunities to include trails and pathways (unpaved) within the Puslinch Community Centre Park (existing portion and/or expansion lands) through the recommended Park Master Plan process.	High	Short-term	Capital costs start at \$120 per metre (source: Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan)
43. Assign high priority to the creation and promotion of local active transportation routes and trail development identified in the Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan, coordination of community efforts, and mechanisms afforded the Township through the development approvals process.	High	Ongoing	See implementation plan for the Wellington County Active Transportation Master Plan

Parks, Open Space & Trails Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
44. Engage local service clubs and the public in a process to: (1) establish and/or confirm guidelines and responsibilities for trail development and maintenance; and (2) identify and/or confirm potential trail routes, implementation projects, and funding sources over a multi-year timeframe.	High	Short-term	
45. Consider permitting the conveyance of land for pathways within new subdivisions (as permitted by Section 51 of the Planning Act). The Township should encourage the County of Wellington to include this policy within its Official Plan.	Medium	Short-term	

Implementation Recommendations	Priority	Timing	Considerations
Implementation Strategy			
46. Ensure that sufficient annual operating funds are allocated to approved capital projects.	High	Ongoing	
47. Continue to seek alternative funding sources (e.g., fundraising, sponsorships, grants, etc.) to supplement existing resources and to enable full implementation of the Master Plan.	High	Ongoing	
Monitoring and Updating the Master Plan			
48. Implement a system for the regular implementation, monitoring, and review of the Master Plan.	High	Short-term	
49. Reconfirm the direction, priorities and accomplishments of the Master Plan in 2020. Undertake a complete review and update of the Master Plan in the year 2025.	High	Longer-term	Consultant: \$60,000 (2025)

9.2 Monitoring and Updating the Master Plan

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

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

- review of the past year (recommendations implemented, capital projects undertaken, success/failure of new and existing initiatives, changes in participation levels, issues arising from the public and community groups, etc.);
- identification of issues impacting the coming year (anticipated financial and operational constraints, political pressures, etc.);
- cursory review of the Plan for direction regarding its recommendations;
- preparation of a staff report to indicate prioritization of short term projects and determination of which projects should be implemented in the coming year based upon criteria established by staff (e.g., financial limitations, community input, partnership/funding potential, etc.);
- communication to staff and Council regarding the status of projects, criteria used to prioritize projects, and projects to be implemented in the coming year; and
- budget requests/revisions as necessary.

Recommendations

48. Implement a system for the regular implementation, monitoring, and review of the Master Plan.
49. Reconfirm the direction, priorities and accomplishments of the Master Plan in 2020. Undertake a complete review and update of the Master Plan in the year 2025.

9.3 Estimated Recreation Facility Costs

The following table provides a high level estimate of capital costs for the construction or replacement of recreation facilities discussed in this Master Plan. These estimates should be interpreted with caution as there are many variables that may impact costs, including (but not limited to) regional pricing, economies of scale achieved through multi-use facility development, design quality and construction methods, specifications, equipment, terrain, materials, and inflation. These estimates are construction costs only and exclude consulting and design fees, contingency, and supporting amenities such as landscaping, parking, and other ancillary services (e.g., washrooms and concessions).

Facility Type	Estimated Capital Cost
Arenas	\$12 - \$15 million for a twin-pad arena
Gymnasiums	\$1.5 - \$2 million
Fitness Facilities	Starting at \$1 million
Soccer Fields	\$100,000 - \$250,000 (add up to \$175,000 for lights)
Ball Diamonds	\$200,00 - \$350,000 (add up \$175,000 for lights)
Tennis Courts	\$70,000 per pair (up to \$50,000 for lights)
Multi-Use Courts	\$10,000 - \$50,000
Pickleball Courts	\$35,000 a pair (up to \$20,000 for lights)
Skateboard Parks	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Splash Pads	Starting at \$250,000
Playgrounds	\$50,000 - \$200,000

Appendix A – Background Document Review

A number of documents that were pertinent to the development of the Recreation & Parks Master Plan was received and reviewed. This section summarizes each of these documents.

A Study of the Leisure Service Delivery System in Puslinch Township (1988)

The Leisure Service Delivery System Study was prepared in 1988 by a group of students from the University of Guelph. The purpose of this study was to provide the Recreation Committee with future directions to meet the present and future leisure needs of its residents. Several key areas for improvement were identified including the mandate of the Recreation Committee; policy and procedures development; communication; and, identifying and meeting needs. Recommendations for various recreation and parks activities and facilities were also identified, in addition to an inventory of leisure assets, and local community groups and service providers.

County of Wellington Official Plan (2011) & OPA 81 (2013)

Growth in the Township of Puslinch is guided by the Wellington County Official Plan, which provides direction on matters relating to the physical development within the County over a 20 year period. A five-year review was most recently completed in 2013 (referred to as Official Plan Amendment 81).

With respect to population growth, the County Official Plan indicates that by 2031, the Township of Puslinch will reach 9,920. A breakdown of population growth by Census year is contained in the table below.

Table 10: Population Forecast, Township of Puslinch

	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Population	7,490	8,130	8,720	9,320	9,920

Policies regarding public spaces, parks, and open space are contained in Section 4.11, which maintains that the County will promote healthy, active communities by:

- Planning public roads, streets and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, and facilitate pedestrian and non-motorized movement, including, but not limited to, walking and cycling
- Providing a full range and equitable distribution of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, open space areas, trail, and where practical and appropriate, water-based resources
- Providing opportunities for public access to shorelines
- Considering the impacts of planning decisions on parks, agreement forests and conservation areas.

2014 Development Charges Background Study

The 2014 Development Charges Background Study identifies new development charges and policies for the Township of Puslinch. As expressed in the *Development Charges Act*, municipalities may impose development charges against land to pay for increased capital costs required due to the increased needs for services arising from development. The services included in the development charges for the Township of Puslinch include roads infrastructure, fire protection, outdoor and indoor recreation, and other administrative services.

The Development Charges Background Study identified a current population estimate of 7,240 persons. The Township's population is expected to reach approximately 8,564 by 2024 and 9,808 by 2034, resulting in an increase of 1,324 and 2,568 persons, respectively, over the 10-year and 20-year forecast periods, excluding undercount. In accordance with forecast demand and available land supply, the 2014 Development Charges Background Study allocated housing growth over the 20-year forecast period. Aberfoyle and Morriston are slated to receive 6% and 4% of new housing growth, respectively, with the difference occurring in rural areas (90%).

With respect to existing parkland, the Background Study indicates that the Township of Puslinch has approximately 17.8 hectares (44 acres) of developed parkland, including the new Puslinch Community Centre lands. In addition, the Township provides 3,288 square metres (35,395 square feet) of indoor recreation facility space. Ten vehicles and machinery items were also reported.

Approximately \$192,000 in capital costs have been forecasted over the next 10 year period, allocated towards parkland (\$100,000), playground (\$50,000), trail development (\$37,000), and park vehicle lease (\$5,000). Applying the existing reserve balance (\$28,990) and statutory 10% deduction (\$19,200), the net growth-related capital costs for parks and recreation services over the next ten years is approximately \$143,810.

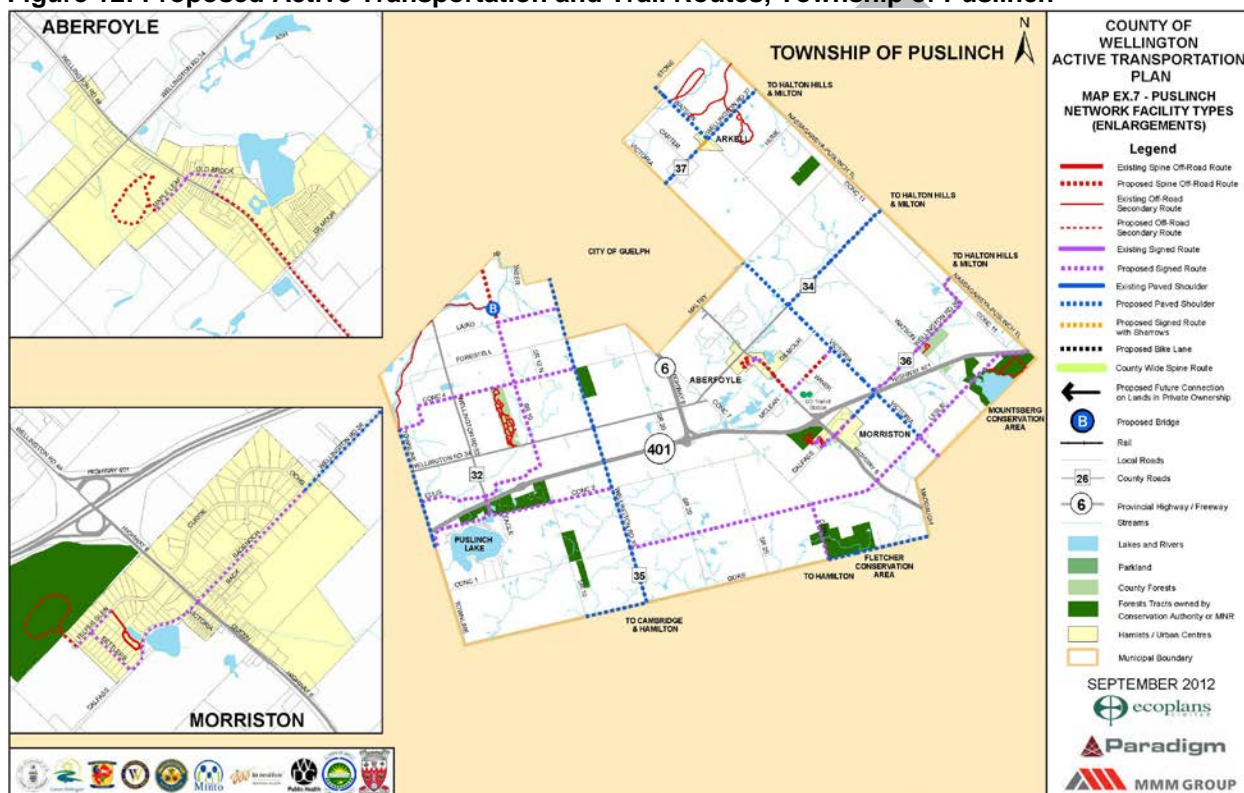
Wellington County Active Transportation Plan (2012)

The Wellington County Active Transportation Plan is a long-term pedestrian and cycling strategy to encourage utilitarian and recreational travel across the entire County. This Plan assists the County and local municipalities in providing planning and transportation guidance with respect to on and off-road trails and active transportation corridors within the County. The Vision for this Active Transportation Plan is described as to “creative and improve opportunities through the County for active recreation and active transportation”. Objectives included, but were not limited to, existing the current state of trails and active transportation in the County, recommended a network of active transportation routes, new policies, design guidelines and standards, promotional strategy, and financial and priority considerations through a phased action plan.

The Plan recommends nearly 755 kilometres of active routes throughout the County. With respect to the Township of Puslinch, the recommended priority routes are described below, followed by a summary map of all proposed routes in the Township.

- Develop an off-road trail loop at the Puslinch Community Centre in Aberfoyle and connect Aberfoyle Public School to the Community Centre.
- Complete the connection along Downey Road/Wellington Road 35 to Concession 4 and west to Townline Road to connect south Guelph with Hespeler.
- Create a signed route connection in Morriston along Wellington Road 36.
- Investigate the potential to develop an off-road trail loop on public lands in northeast Morriston.
- Investigate reinstatement of Stroy's Bridge as a trail connection and part of the main side loops in southwest Wellington.

Figure 12: Proposed Active Transportation and Trail Routes, Township of Puslinch



Building Conditions Assessment – Puslinch Community Centre (2014)

A building conditions assessment for the Puslinch Community Centre was prepared in for the Township, which examined several structural elements of the building including the structure, roof, walls and windows, mechanical, electrical, fire and safety. Several recommendations were made over a 15 year period (2029). The assessment concluded that the structure is generally in good condition with no anticipated structural remedial works required in the next 15 years, although it was recommended that the loose boards in the decorative architectural element at the front of the building be repaired. The roof is also in good condition after repairs to the roof were completed in 2013 to address roof leaks; however, it was noted that the roof is nearing the end of its life expectancy. As such, replacement of the roofing panels was recommended.

The walls, windows, and doors were described as in fair condition, with requirements for a wall rehabilitation program and windows and doors replacement program recommended within the next 15 years. Several pieces of mechanical equipment were also recommended for replacement within the next ten years, including, but not limited to, the gas furnace, hot water tank, and condenser unit. In addition, replacement of electrical items included electrical panels, interior and exterior lighting were advanced. A summary of total estimated capital costs to undertake repairs and replacement of the recommended items are summarized in the following table.

Figure 13: Capital Costs for Repairs and Replacement, Puslinch Community Centre - 2014 – 2029

Building Component	Total Capital Costs
Structural	\$3,000
Roof	\$100,000
Walls and Windows	\$140,000
Mechanical	\$45,000
Electrical	\$61,000
Fire and Safety	\$5,750
Total Uninflated (Inflated)	\$354,750 (\$488,184)

Building Conditions Assessment – Badenoch Community Centre (2014)

A building conditions assessment for the Badenoch Community Centre was prepared for the Township, which examined several structural elements of the building including the structure, roof, walls and windows, mechanical, electrical, fire and safety. Several recommendations were made over a 15 year period (2029). The assessment concluded that although there was no structural remedial work required within the next 15 years, repairs were recommended to stop water infiltration into the basement. The roof was generally in good condition as it was recently replaced in 2010.

The walls, windows, and doors were described as in fair condition, with requirements for a wall rehabilitation program and windows and doors replacement program recommended within the next 15 years. A number of mechanical equipment pieces were identified for replacement including the oil fired furnace unit, heating oil tank, fixtures, water treatment equipment, and more. Replacement of interior and exterior light fixtures were also identified, in addition to new smoke alarms, existing lighting, and basement fire extinguisher. A summary of total estimated capital costs to undertake repairs and replacement of the recommended items are summarized in the following table.

Figure 14: Capital Costs for Repairs and Replacement, Badenoch Community Centre - 2014 – 2029

Building Component	Total Capital Costs
Structural	\$10,000
Roof	n/a
Walls and Windows	\$80,000
Mechanical	\$25,600

Building Component	Total Capital Costs
Electrical	\$19,000
Fire and Safety	\$1,250
Total Uninflated (Inflated)	\$135,850 (\$158,422)

Township of Puslinch Partnership Agreements (Various)

Smaller municipalities with limited resources often rely on local and regional community partners to assist with delivering vital recreation and parks facilities, programs, and services. Some of the relevant agreements and collaborations that currently exist between the Township and community partners include the following:

Agreements

- The Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association uses the ice rink at the Optimist Recreation Centre for the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market
- YMCA/YWCA Guelph holds a Puslinch Power Camp during the summer at the Optimist Recreation Centre
- The Whistle Stop Co-Operative Inc. operate a children's daycare at the Puslinch Community Centre
- Aberfoyle Parent-Child Place (Playgroup) operate a drop-in weekly playgroup for children and parents at the Puslinch Community Centre
- The Badenoch Community Centre Board operate the Badenoch Community Centre

Recreation & Parks Collaborations

- The Puslinch Soccer Club uses the soccer fields at Aberfoyle Park and Badenoch Field
- The Puslinch Tennis Club use the tennis courts at Aberfoyle Park
- The Optimist Club of Puslinch provides volunteers for maintenance of ice and supervision of skating, use of facilities for meetings and events
- The Aberfoyle Public School uses Aberfoyle Park for various track events, the Puslinch Community Centre for chess tournament and Grade 8 graduation, and the ice rink at the Optimist Recreation Centre for winter skating
- Calvary Baptist Church – no formal agreement, soccer pitches are used by Puslinch Soccer Club and grounds are maintained by Township

Township of Puslinch Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2011)

The Township adopted the County of Wellington Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM). The Manual addresses accessibility requirements for the design and construction of new facilities, as well as the retrofit, alteration, and addition to existing facilities. It incorporates the belief in universal design, which recognizes the broad diversity of people who use Township facilities. The Township will continue to ensure

that all future construction and major renovation projects comply with the FADM and/or the AODA Accessible Built Environment Standard, whichever is more stringent.

The Township has recently completed (or plans to complete) the following accessibility improvements to recreation buildings and open spaces:

- The Optimist Recreation Centre (2010) – Accessible features included within new construction
- Puslinch Community Centre building (2012/2013) – Accessible washrooms installed
- Puslinch Community Centre grounds (2016) – Fully accessible play area for children
- Puslinch Community Centre building (2018) – Kitchen and bar area renovation to include lowering of countertops for wheelchair access
- Badenoch Community Centre (3-year phased project beginning in 2019) – Accessible washrooms and doorways, lowering of kitchen countertop for wheelchair access, ramp installed at front of building, front door widened and automatic door opener installed

Puslinch Design Guidelines (2010)

The Puslinch Design Guidelines were developed to direct community design and protect the rural character of the Township. The design guidelines were crafted to achieve three design principles, which were based upon specific design objectives contained in the Official Plan, key settlement areas, and the design team. Design principles included: enhancing the streetscape; promoting quality and development; and respecting established character. Some of the relevant design guidelines identified in this document include:

- Provide roadside bicycle route on paved shoulder of Brock Road (WR 46) to support cycling as a means of travel and recreation.
- Place a priority on community centre property, which houses the key institutional and recreational uses serving the Township. A professionally designed entrance incorporating banners, directional signage, etc. and enhanced landscaping along the property frontage would improve visibility and profile of the property.
- Consider improvements to the Historic Corner Block at the northwest corner of Queen Street and Church Street to improve visibility, profile and use of this public park.
- Provide bicycle parking facilities for customers and staff.

Appendix B – Community Launch Event

The section summarizes the input received from the Community Launch Event that was held at the Optimist Recreation Centre, concurrently with the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market, on October 4, 2014 to introduce the Recreation & Parks Master Plan

Q1. What I like most about the Township of Puslinch is...

- Sense of community (3)
- Rural atmosphere (2)
- Open spaces

Q2. In 20 years, I want the Township of Puslinch to be...

- Independent
- Separate from larger communities such as Guelph and Hamilton

Q3. How can we improve local recreation facilities?

- Splash pad (2)
- Ensure that facilities are easy to get to and are accessible
- Raise awareness of recreation facilities to encourage use
- Build more sidewalks and maintain them
- More recreation facilities at the Badenoch Community Centre
- Older adult centre
- Improve access to the ORC for local residents

Q4. How can we improve programs and activities?

- Activities for older adults and seniors (2)
- More programs at the ORC
- Power skating programs at the ORC
- More activities for youth
- More community involvement events
- Have older adults instruct or teach a program
- Board games, cards, movies, music, discussion groups
- Bring back hockey and drop-in
- More program options for all age groups
- Basketball and volleyball programs for adults
- Scheduled programs
- Promote adult and youth fitness programs

Q5. How can we improve local parks?

- Convert old quarries into parks or campgrounds
- Splash pads

Q6. How can we improve local trails?

- Raise awareness of trails in the Township (2)
- Limit quarry growth
- Stop people from hunting in Conservation Areas

Q7. The Township recently purchased the land behind the Puslinch Community Centre – what outdoor amenities should we consider for this land?

- Trails for walking or cycling (6)
- Splash pad (3)
- Running track for public and school use
- Gardens or naturalized lands
- Leash free dog park
- Soccer fields

Appendix C – Online Survey Summary

To assist with the preparation of the Master Plan, an online survey was available between the months of August and October 2014. A total of 98 surveys were completed and analyzed. The following is a summary of the input received.

1. In the past 12 months, which of the following activities have you or anyone in your household participated in? By participation, we mean situations where you or a member of your household actively participate (which does not include attending an event or watching others), either at home or in public.

Activity	#	%	Activity	#	%
Walking or Hiking for Leisure	77	81%	Volleyball	9	9%
Swimming	60	63%	Organized Teen Programs	9	9%
Aerobics, Fitness or Weight-training	53	56%	Basketball	7	7%
Hockey, Figure Skating, or Ice Skating	43	45%	Tennis	7	7%
Dog Walking (on and off leash)	43	45%	Skateboarding	3	3%
Cycling or Mountain Biking	39	41%	Other Responses		
Use of Playground Equipment	39	41%	Aquafit / Hydrotherapy	1	1%
Soccer	28	29%	Archery	1	1%
Running or Jogging	25	26%	Bowling	1	1%
Baseball or Softball	25	26%	Canoeing	1	1%
Pre-School or Children Programs	20	21%	Dance	1	1%
Gymnastics	12	13%	Golf	1	1%
Organized Seniors Programs	12	13%	Roller Derby	1	1%
Curling	10	11%	Triathlon	1	1%
			Total Respondents	95	

2. Where does your household primarily participate in recreation and parks activities?

Activity	#	%	Activity	#	%
At home	44	46%	Church or religious institution	5	5%
Municipal park or facility provided by the Township of Puslinch	38	40%	Other Responses		
Municipal park or facility outside the Township of Puslinch	37	39%	Golf Courses	1	1%
Private club	20	21%	Various trails	1	1%
Conservation Area	18	19%	YMCA	1	1%
School	9	9%	Total Respondents	96	

3. Are you and members of your household able to participate in recreation and parks activities as often as you would like?

	#	%
Yes	46	47%
No	47	48%
Don't Know	5	5%
Total	98	100%

4. Why are you and members of your household not able to participate in recreation and parks activities as often as you would like?

Barrier	#	%
Lack of personal time / Too busy	26	57%
Lack of desired facilities or programs	25	54%
Lack of information / Unaware of opportunities	8	17%
Program not offered at a convenient time	7	15%
Lack of transportation / Facility too far away	7	15%
Lack of money / Too expensive	6	13%
Health problems / Disability / Age	3	7%
Lack of Child Care	1	2%
Language / Cultural Barrier	0	0%
Don't Know	0	0%
Total Respondents	46	

5. Generally, what proportion of your recreation and parks needs are met within the Township of Puslinch?

	#	%
All	5	5%
Most	11	11%
About Half	31	32%
Some	44	45%
None	4	4%
Don't Know	3	3%
Total	98	100%

6. What activities do you or members of your household typically participate in outside of the Township of Puslinch?

Activity	#	%	Activity	#	%
Swimming	33	38%	Basketball	2	2%
Fitness, aerobics, weight-training	22	25%	Dance	2	2%
Walking / Running / Hiking	20	23%	Gymnastics	2	2%
Hockey / Ringette	14	16%	Indoor soccer	2	2%
Baseball / Softball	10	11%	Ball hockey	1	1%
Cycling	9	10%	Boot Camp	1	1%
Golf	6	7%	Bowling	1	1%
Soccer	5	6%	Camping	1	1%
Curling	4	5%	Cheer	1	1%
Organized children's activities and early years drop-in	4	5%	Horseback riding	1	1%
Aquafit	3	3%	Roller Derby	1	1%
Playground	3	3%	Tennis	1	1%
Skateboarding	3	3%	Volleyball	1	1%
			Total	87	100%

7. Why does your household participate in these activities outside of the Township of Puslinch?

	#	%
Closer to work or school	5	6%
Closer to other activities or shopping	7	8%
Facility/program is not available in the Township	70	84%
Facility/program not available at the preferred time	5	6%
"Connected" to other community / Used to live there	9	11%
Quality of facility/program is superior	14	17%
Less expensive	4	5%
Tournaments / Special events / Travel teams	5	6%
Don't Know	0	0%
Other Responses		
Walking group or walking dog	1	1%
Total Respondents	83	

8. Are there any recreation and parks activities that you or members of your household would like to see offered in the Township that are not currently available?

	#	%
Yes	61	63%
No	16	16%
Don't Know	20	21%
Total	97	100%

9. What activities would you like to see offered?

Activity	#	%	Activity	#	%
Swimming	23	38%	Summer camps	2	3%
Hockey / Recreational skating programs	14	23%	Volleyball	2	3%
Hiking trails	11	18%	Badminton	1	2%
Aerobics / Fitness / Weight-training	8	13%	Ball hockey	1	2%
Splash Pad	7	11%	Camping	1	2%
Cycling lanes and bike trails	6	10%	Curling	1	2%
Off-leash dog park	5	8%	Dance	1	2%
More organized programs for adults/teens/children	4	7%	Indoor soccer	1	2%
Organized sports and leagues for adults	4	7%	Indoor walking	1	2%
Senior activities	3	5%	Marital arts	1	2%
Soccer	3	5%	Playground (in Fox Run)	1	2%
Basketball	2	3%	Tennis Courts	1	2%
Skateboarding	2	3%	Total	61	100%

10. In your opinion, which of the following organizations should provide these new programs/activities?

	#	%
Township of Puslinch	26	43%
Community / volunteer organization	10	17%
Private sector	5	8%
A combination of the above providers	40	67%
Don't know	2	3%
Other Responses		
GRCA	1	2%
County/Province	1	2%
Total	60	100%

11. In general, how important are the following items to your household?

	Not at all Important / Not Important		Neither Important or Not Important		Important / Very Important		Don't Know		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Trails and Pathways	4	5%	6	7%	78	89%	0	0%	88	100%
Outdoor Recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	7	8%	6	7%	79	86%	0	0%	92	100%
Passive Parks that preserve natural areas and open space	6	7%	11	12%	71	79%	2	2%	90	100%
Indoor Recreation facilities such as arenas and community centres	8	9%	17	18%	67	73%	0	0%	92	100%

12. Thinking about those facilities that currently exist in the Township of Puslinch, what is your level of satisfaction with the following?

	Not at all Satisfied / Not Satisfied		Neither Satisfied or Not Satisfied		Satisfied / Very Satisfied		Don't Know		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Trails and Pathways	29	32%	28	31%	28	31%	5	6%	90	100%
Outdoor Recreation facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds	17	18%	18	20%	55	60%	2	2%	92	100%
Passive Parks that preserve natural areas and open space	18	20%	32	35%	34	37%	7	8%	91	100%
Indoor Recreation facilities such as arenas and community centres	13	14%	24	26%	51	55%	4	4%	92	100%

13. What is your level of satisfaction with the recreation and parks opportunities in the Township of Puslinch for the following age groups?

	Not at all Satisfied / Not Satisfied		Neither Satisfied or Not Satisfied		Satisfied / Very Satisfied		Don't Know		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Children (0-12 years)	19	22%	18	21%	30	34%	20	23%	87	100%
Teens (13-18 years)	22	26%	28	33%	25	29%	10	12%	85	100%
Older Adults and Seniors (55+)	22	26%	23	27%	14	16%	27	31%	86	100%
Adults (19-54 years)	16	19%	25	30%	12	14%	30	36%	83	100%

14. To what degree do you oppose or support the Township spending additional public funds on the following types of facilities?

	Strongly Oppose / Oppose		Neither Oppose or Support		Strongly Support / Support		Don't Know		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Playgrounds	5	5%	12	13%	74	81%	0	0%	91	100%
Nature Trails	5	6%	14	16%	70	79%	0	0%	89	100%
Parks and Open Space	6	7%	15	17%	68	76%	1	1%	90	100%
Fitness Centres	12	14%	12	14%	64	73%	0	0%	88	100%
Soccer Fields	8	9%	20	22%	62	69%	0	0%	90	100%
Splash Pads	12	13%	15	17%	62	69%	1	1%	90	100%
Space for Youth	9	10%	18	20%	60	68%	1	1%	88	100%
Community Halls	14	15%	19	21%	58	64%	0	0%	91	100%
Gymnasiums	11	12%	23	26%	56	62%	0	0%	90	100%
Space for Seniors	8	9%	25	28%	54	61%	2	2%	89	100%
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	10	11%	24	28%	52	60%	1	1%	87	100%
Baseball or Softball Diamonds	15	16%	25	27%	52	57%	0	0%	92	100%
Community Gardens	10	11%	29	33%	50	56%	0	0%	89	100%
Tennis Courts	16	18%	30	34%	43	48%	0	0%	89	100%
Paved Trails	18	20%	28	32%	42	48%	0	0%	88	100%
Off-Leash Dog Parks	22	24%	28	31%	38	42%	2	2%	90	100%
Skateboard Parks	15	17%	34	39%	37	42%	2	2%	88	100%

15. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree / Disagree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Strongly Agree / Agree		Don't Know		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
The Township's recreation and parks facilities are generally well maintained.	4	4%	15	16%	69	76%	3	3%	91	100%
Recreation and parks should be a high priority for Township Council.	6	7%	18	20%	68	74%	0	0%	92	100%
The Township should offer recreation and parks programs (registered or drop-in) for residents.	9	10%	23	25%	59	64%	1	1%	92	100%
Your household is generally satisfied with the geographic distribution of recreation facilities in the Township.	18	20%	25	27%	45	49%	3	3%	91	100%

	Strongly Disagree / Disagree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Strongly Agree / Agree		Don't Know		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
There are sufficient parks and open spaces in your area to meet your needs.	25	28%	22	24%	43	48%	0	0%	90	100%
Your household is generally satisfied with the geographic distribution of parks and open spaces in the Township.	14	16%	33	37%	41	46%	2	2%	90	100%

16. Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding recreation and parks in the Township of Puslinch.

The results of this question have not been summarized due to the open ended nature of this question; however, they have been considered in the needs assessment phase of this Master Plan.

17. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

Number of Persons	#	%
1	4	4%
2	30	33%
3	14	15%
4	22	24%
5	12	13%
6	8	9%
7 or more	1	1%
Total	91	100%
Average Household Size	3.4	

18. Please indicate the total number of persons within your household that fall into the following age categories.

	#	%
Under 10 years	60	20%
10-19 years	28	9%
20-34 years	43	14%
35-54 years	90	30%
55-69 years	64	21%
70 years and over	19	6%
Total	304	100%

19. In what year were you born?

	#	%
Prior to 1944 (70 years or older)	6	8%
1944 to 1958 (55 to 69 years old)	22	28%
1959 to 1978 (35 to 54 years old)	39	49%
1979 to 1994 (20 to 34 years old)	12	15%
After 1994 (19 years or younger)	1	1%
Total	80	100%
Median Age	49.5	

20. In 2013, what was your household's total annual income before taxes?

	#	%
Under \$20,000	1	1%
Between \$20,000 and \$39,999	2	2%
Between \$40,000 and \$59,999	9	10%
Between \$60,000 and \$79,999	12	13%
Between \$80,000 and \$99,999	6	7%
\$100,000 or more	32	36%
Don't Know/Prefer Not to Disclose	27	30%
Total	89	100%

21. Are you a resident of the Township of Puslinch?

	#	%
Yes	89	95%
No	4	4%
Don't Know	1	1%
Total	94	100%

22. You indicated that you are not a resident of the Township of Puslinch. In what municipality do you reside?

	#	%
Guelph	3	75%
Wellington North	1	25%
Total	4	100%

23. In which part of the Township do you live?

	#	%
North of Highway 401 and east of Hanlon Parkway / Highway 6 North (e.g., Aberfoyle, Arkell)	39	45%
North of Highway 401 and west of Hanlon Parkway / Highway 6 North	12	14%
South of Highway 401 (e.g., Morriston, Puslinch Lake)	35	40%
Don't Know	1	1%
Total	87	100%

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Appendix D – Stakeholder Survey Summary

A self-administered online survey oriented towards stakeholder groups (e.g., community associations, volunteer organizations, local agencies, partners, facility/park renters, etc.) was initiated in October 2014 to collect information regarding group participation, facility utilization, and future group needs, and more. This section summarizes the input received from each stakeholder that completed the survey.

Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association

The Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association was incorporated in 2010 and is responsible for organizing and operating the Aberfoyle Farmers' Market, which is a seasonal, producer-based farmers' market that supports local farmers and small businesses, artisans, and community organizations, and draws over 800 persons per week. This market is held on every Saturday between May and October, on the arena floor at the Optimist Recreation Centre.

Over the next five years, the Association hopes to expand their services by increasing the number of vendors, and while the arena floor has the capacity to accommodate this growth, the Association identified that the space can be improved to better suit their needs. As a result, a number of improvements to the arena floor space were identified to enhance safety and user friendliness such as curtains around the floor to shield the market from the weather, drop down electrical outlets, warming or covering the concrete floor to prevent moisture, and locating the potable water near the sink for improved access. The Association also suggested that the Township should coordinate with the City of Guelph to extend the bus route towards Aberfoyle to provide easier access to the market. This is particularly important given that many of the visitors to the market are residents of Guelph.

Aberfoyle Parent-Child Place

The Aberfoyle Parent-Child Place is a free, two-hour, drop-in program for children under the age of six and their care takers. This program focuses on child development through creative play and fosters social interaction between children as well as parents. The group reported about 170 users (children and parents combined) for 2014 and indicated that participation has fluctuated over the past three years due to the drop-in nature of the program. It is estimated that approximately two-thirds of participants are Township residents, while the remainder are residents of south Guelph.

The group uses the Puslinch Community Centre and reported that repairs are needed to the storage cupboards. Storage for larger items was also expressed. When the group is not utilizing this facility, they reported using other facilities in Guelph, including parks, churches, and schools. The group's most pressing concern is the availability of funding to continue providing this program. This is a concern given that the program is being offered at no cost. Funding is currently provided by the County of Wellington; however, it was noted that funding was recently reduced.

Badenoch Community Centre Board

The Badenoch Community Centre Board was established in 1965 and is responsible for operating the Badenoch Community Centre with assistance from the Township of Puslinch. The organization provided limited information about the group's future needs but did indicate that they do not plan to expand the scope of their programs or services. The group also does not anticipate the need for new parks or recreation facilities over the next five years; however, the group indicated that their organization can benefit from additional funding from the Township.

Cross Roads Memorial Church

Cross Roads Memorial Church was founded in 1962 with a vision to bring local help to the community and Christian hope to the Township and surrounding municipalities. Several programs and services are provided by the Church including Sunday worship, Sunday school, bible study, drop-in play group, meals, counseling, recreational activities, and volunteer services.

Over the next five years, the group intends to expand their program offerings, although expansion is limited by physical constraints given that the lower level of the church is not wheelchair accessible. The ability to attract, train, and retain volunteers is also a factor. The church also utilizes the Puslinch Community Centre and did not identify any areas of improvement as it currently meets their needs. The church indicated that they are unsure whether or not there is a need for a new recreational facility; although it was expressed that they would be open to a potential partnership with the Township should an opportunity be presented. Further, the church identified that it has 3 acres of undeveloped lands with an opportunity to develop a new community space, should it be determined that one is necessary.

Fergie Jenkins Baseball

Fergie Jenkins Baseball is a new ball organization with a proposal to establish a new baseball complex to help develop players of all skill levels to serve the Township of Puslinch and surrounding municipalities. Organizers of the group envision that this complex would offer up to three full size ball diamonds, a multi-use field, and an indoor field house that can accommodate both teams and community rentals. The organization feels that the Township is a prime location within proximity to several large communities who are looking for one location to accommodate all their ball needs.

Puslinch Minor Ball

Puslinch Minor Ball offers junior level baseball to Township of Puslinch, south Guelph, and Cambridge players. The group indicates that there are currently 75 registered participants (two-thirds are Township residents), which is a slight decline from the previous year of 80 participants. A broad range of leagues are offered including t-ball, three pitch, atom, squirt, peewee, bantam, midget, and junior. Over the next five years, the group does not intend to expand the current scope of programming. The group indicated that they utilize the ball diamond at Morriston Meadows and mentioned that

there is currently nothing that can be done to improve this facility as it is well maintained. The group also travels often for ball games, utilizing ball diamonds in Guelph/Eramosa, Erin, Wellington North, North Perth, and other rural communities.

Puslinch Minor Soccer Club

The Puslinch Minor Soccer Club was founded in 1995 to achieve three objectives – to promote, develop, and administer the game of outdoor soccer; to develop character by promoting physical, social, and leadership skills in the players and emphasis in concepts such as sportsmanship, team spirit, and respect for others; and to strive to promote the interests of soccer in the community, recognizing the players as a priority. The Club currently utilizes the soccer fields at the Calvary Baptist Church and Puslinch Community Centre Park. The Club plays and participates in winter training in adjacent communities, including Guelph/Eramosa and Guelph.

The Club has consistently grown over the past three years from 430 players in 2012 to 484 players for 2014 (half of whom are Township residents). The Club expressed hopes of expanding their programs; however, they indicated that they are nearing maximum capacity and limited field space. It was identified that more soccer fields in the Township are needed to alleviate concerns, with one being lit. The Club identified that they would be open to contribute funding or consider partnerships with the Township in the delivery of new recreation facilities, should it be required. Other Township supports that would benefit the Club include a mail box, and space for an office and storage.

The Clarks of Tomfad

The Clarks of Tomfad was established in 1995 by two individuals to track events, families, and individuals in the Township of Puslinch. The group currently operates a website where users can visit to retrieve and gain a wealth of knowledge on the history of the Township dating back to the 1800s. The group also sells a hardcopy book, which is available at the Township Hall. No major needs were identified with respect to the provision of recreation and parks; however the group indicated that the greatest concern was the availability of funding to remain current with technology in order to continue producing online materials.

The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Puslinch

Created in 1979, the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Puslinch is a faith-based organization dedicated to worshipping the Baha'i Faith, a global religion whose purpose is to bring about a new society that will unite the peoples of the world. This organization has 12 members that serve the Township of Puslinch in devotion gatherings and the study of Baha'i scriptures. This organization utilizes the Puslinch Community Centre and did not identify any opportunities for improvement as the facility generally meets their needs. Praise was expressed towards the facility's accessibility features, as a number of members are seniors with mobility issues. Access to a new facility or additional supports from the Township is not required over the foreseeable future for the organization.

Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool

Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool was formed in 1987 to provide a place for children and parents from the Township and surrounding area to come together in a stimulating, social, and creative learning environment. This organization provides children of all abilities with an opportunity to develop their physical, social, and cognitive abilities through play. Educational programs for parents are also available. There are approximately 16 active participants currently registered with the program, although only 7 children are residents of the Township. A majority of children are from the south Guelph area. The Co-op currently use the small multi-purpose room at the Puslinch Community Centre and indicated that repairs and locks to the storage cupboards are needed. The group also uses the Aberfoyle Public School.

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Appendix E – Inventory of Parks, Trails, Municipal and Non-Municipal Facilities, and Services

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GENERAL	Park Name	Aberfoyle Public School Grounds	Badenoch Community Centre	Badenoch Field	Boreham Park	Calvary Baptist Church Soccer Fields	Fox Run Park	Historic Corner Block Park	Morriston Meadows	Old Morriston Ball Field	Puslinch Community Centre Park	Puslinch Lake Private Park	Telfer Glen Park
	Park Type	Public School	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	N/A/	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood Park
	Associated Facilities	Public School Gymnasium	Open Space, Ball Diamond, Swing Set, Badenoch Community Centre	N/A	N/A	Calvary Baptist Church	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Puslinch Community Centre, Optimist Community Centre, Wellington County Library - Puslinch Branch	N/A	N/A
	Land Area	1.8 hectares (4.5 acres)	0.4 hectares (1.0 acres)	2.2 hectares (5.5 acres)	0.9 hectares (2.1 acres)	9.26 hectares (22.8 acres)	2.3 hectares (5.7 acres)	0.13 hectares (0.31 acres)	2.5 hectares (6.1 acres)	2.5 hectares (6.1 acres)	9.8 hectares (24.1 acres)	0.9 hectares (2.2 acres)	1.5 hectares (3.8 acres)
	Ownership	Upper Grand District School Board	Township	Township	Township	Calvary Baptist Church	Township	Township	Township	Township	Township	Private	Township
	Operating Agreement	N/A	Operated by the Badenoch Community Centre Board (No formal agreement)	N/A	N/A	Township maintains the lands but a formal use agreement currently does not exist	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Puslinch Tennis Club operate the tennis courts	Privately owned and operated	N/A
LOCATION	Community	Aberfoyle	Badenoch	Badenoch	Arkell	Arkell	Aberfoyle	Morriston	Morriston	Morriston	Aberfoyle	Puslinch Lake	Morriston
	Municipal Address	16 Old Brock Road	4217 Watson Road South	4227 Weston Road South	Boreham Drive	454 Arkell Road	Deer View Ridge	Queen Street	Currie Drive	Main Street	23 Brock Road South	McCormicks Lane Private	Calfass Road
	Longitude and Latitude Coordiniates	80°8'51.15"W 43°28'20.503"N	80°4'35.129"W 43°28'16.83"N	80°4'52.629"W 43°28'26.076"N	80°10'20.681"W 43°32'17.236"N	80°10'48.626"W 43°31'46.46"N	80°9'21.902"W 43°29'2.284"N	80°6'57.033"W 43°26'49.383"N	80°7'1.286"W 43°27'0.837"N	80°6'46.534"W 43°26'56.751"N	80°9'6.6"W 43°28'14.742"N	80°15'58.715"W 43°24'46.52"N	80°7'21.347"W 43°26'48.711"N
	Adjacent Land Uses	Residential, Agricultural	Agricultural, Natural Environment	Agricultural, Natural Environment	Residential, Agricultural	Residential, Agricultural	Residential	Residential	Residential, Natural Environment, Commercial	Residential, Agricultural	Residential, Natural Environment	Residential	Residential
AMENITIES	Soccer Fields	1 intermediate field in poor condition	N/A	1 full unlit - adult	N/A	2 intermediate unlit, 1 adult unlit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 full unlit - intermediate	N/A	N/A
	Baseball Diamonds	3 practice diamonds	1 practice diamond	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 Unlit - Adult, 1 practice diamond	1 lit softball	1 lit adult softball	N/A	N/A
	Tennis Courts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3 lit - operated by the Club with no public access.	1 unlit tennis court	N/A
	Basketball Hoops	2 Full courts - asphalt, unlit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 Full court - ashphalt, unlit	N/A	N/A	1 basketball hoop	N/A
	Ice Rinks	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 Covered outdoor ice rink with four change rooms 140'x65'	N/A	N/A
	Playgrounds	1 junior playground and swing set	Swing set only	N/A	1 slide and swing set, sand base with no border	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 playground (junior and senior) - sand base	N/A	1 playground (junior and senior)	1 playground	N/A
	Horseshoe Pits	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 horse shoe pits	N/A	N/A
	Pavillions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 small pavilion	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Community Gardens	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ornamental Community Garden provided by the Horticultural Society	N/A	N/A
	Other Features	N/A	Open space	Small storage building	1 bench, trash receptical, street light	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Batting cage, open space	Batting cage, Horse paddock, tractor pull area	N/A	N/A
	Washrooms	N/A	N/A	Portable washroom	N/A	Portable washrooms	N/A	N/A	Yes - concrete building in good condition	Permanent	Available at the Puslinch Community Centre and Optimist Recreation Centre via exterior access	N/A	N/A
	Parking	Off street	Off street	Grass	On street	Off street	On street	On street	Off street	Limited off street	Limited off street	N/A	On street
CONDITION / DESIGN	General Condition	Fair	Practice diamond is in adquate condition for practice and casual community play.	Good	Poor-Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair
	Accessibility	Partially accessible	Partially accessible	Partially accessible	Partially accessible, Deep swalves through the park	Partially accessible with some uneven grass areas	Partially accessible	Accessible	None	Partially accessible	Fully accessible	Partially accessible	Not accessible
NOTES				Opportunities for a trail along Mill Creek to the north but a destination or connection is unknown at this point. Trail development may require additional parking.	No park sign or address. Could support additional facilities but must remain cognizant of adjacent residences		Limited opportunity, no park signage			Old lighting structures, no park signage			

GENERAL	Trail Name	Badenoch Tract Trail	Lakeshore Lookout Trail (Mountsberg Conservation Area)	Little Tract Trail	Smith Side Trail	Speed River Trail	Starkey Hill Trail	Telfer Glen Park Trail	Quarry Trail (Fletchers Creek Ecological Preserve)
	Trail Type	Natural Trail	Natural Trail	Natural Trail	Natural Trail	Natural Trail	Natural Trail	Natural Trail	Natural Trail
	Associated Facilities	N/A	Visitors Centre	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Trail Length	1 Kilometre	5 kilometres	8 kilometres	3 kilometres	9 kilometres	4 kilometres	270 metres	3 kilometres
	Ownership	Wellington County	Halton Region Conservation Authority	Wellington County	GRCA	Private	GRCA	Township	Hamilton Conservation Authority
	Operating Agreement	N/A	N/A	N/A	Maintained by the Guelph Hiking Trail Club	Guelph Hiking Trail Club	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOCATION	Community	Badenoch	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural	Morriston	Rural
	Municipal Address	4223 Watson Road South	2259 Milborough Line	6710 County Road 34	0624 Watson Road South	N/A	Arkell Road	Calfass Road	Concession Road 7
	Longitude and Latitude Coordinates	80°4'48.308"W 43°28'22.611"N	80°2'51.185"W 43°27'58.356"N	80°10'57.608"W 43°32'56.499"N	80°10'54.24"W 43°32'56.946"N	80°17'40.499"W 43°27'34.524"N, 80°15'35.305"W 43°29'40.35"N	80°9'22.813"W 43°32'42.094"N	80°7'17.039"W 43°26'46.227"N	80°7'13.786"W 43°24'50.181"N
	Difficulty	Easy	Moderate	Easy to Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Adjacent Land Uses	Agricultural, Natural Environment, Parks (soccer fields)	Natural Environment	Agricultural, Natural Environment	Agricultural, Natural Environment	Agricultural, Natural Environment, Residential	Agricultural, Natural Environment	Residential, Agricultural	Agricultural, Natural Environment
AMENITIES	Trail Surface	Natural, Grass	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural	Natural Trail
	Permitted Uses	Walking, Hiking, Cross County Skiing, Mountain Biking	Walking, Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Snow Shoeing	Walking	Walking, Hiking, Cross County Skiing, Mountain Biking	Walking, Hiking	Walking, Hiking	Walking, Hiking	Walking, Hiking
	Signage	Park sign and wayfinding station, although the wayfinding sign is not in use.	Park sign and wayfinding station	Park sign and wayfinding station, although the wayfinding sign is not in use.	Park sign and wayfinding station	None	Park sign and wayfinding station	Park sign but no wayfinding	Park sign
	Benches	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Other Features	N/A	Trash receptacles, rest areas, lookout tower	Trash receptacle	Trash receptacle	N/A	Trash receptacle	N/A	N/A
	Washrooms	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Parking	Limited granular parking (approx. 2 spaces)	Granular parking	Limited granular parking (approx. 12 spaces)	Road-side paved shoulder (approx. 5 spaces)	Road-side	Granular parking (approx. 20 spaces)	Road-side	Granular Parking
CONDITION / DESIGN	General Condition	Good	Good	Good	Good	N/A	Good	Average	Good
	Accessibility	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NOTES						Given that this trail is located on privately owned lands, the walking route is unmarked and the quality may vary	No address sign Cycling prohibited	No address or park signage	

GENERAL	Facility Name	Badenoch Community Centre	Optimist Recreation Centre	Puslinch Community Centre
	Facility Type	Community Centre	Recreation Centre	Community Centre
	Associated Facilities	Open Space, Ball Diamond, Swing Set	Community Park, Community Centre, Wellington County Library - Puslinch Branch	Puslinch Community Centre Park, Recreation Centre, Wellington County Library - Puslinch Branch
	Facility Area	139 sqm (1,500 sqft) excluding basement	1,821 sqm (19,600 sqft)	657 sqm (7,071 sqft)
	Land Area	0.4 ha (1.0 ac)	See PCC	9.8 ha (24.10 ac)
	Ownership	Township	Township	Township
	Operating Agreement	Badenoch Community Centre Board	Optimist Club of Puslinch	Whistle Stop Day Care, Puslinch Tennis Club
LOCATION	Community	Badenoch	Aberfoyle	Aberfoyle
	Municipal Address	4217 Watson Road South	23 Brock Road South	23 Brock Road South
	Longitude and Latitude Coordinates	80°4'35.129"W 43°28'16.83"N	80°9'4.755"W 43°28'16.266"N	80°9'6.103"W 43°28'17.547"N
	Adjacent Land Uses	Agricultural, Natural Environment	Natural Environment, Residential	Natural Environment, Residential
AMENITIES	Ice Pad	No	20 metres by 43 metres (65 feet x 140 feet)	No
	Gymnasium	No	17 metres by 16 metres (56 feet by 54 feet) with two change rooms shared with the ice rink (Capacity: 249 - 373)	No
	Hall / Auditorium	Yes (Capacity: 73 - 108)	No	Yes (Capacity: 247 - 362)
	Activity / Meeting Room	No	Small activity room	Yes (Capacity: 40 - 70)
	Kitchen	Full Kitchen	Fridge only	Full Kitchen
	Bar	No	No	Yes
	Washrooms	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Parking	Gravel, Limited to 15 - 20 spaces	On-site, Asphalt	On-site, Asphalt
	HVAC	No A/C	Yes	Yes
CONDITION / DESIGN	Year Built	1889	2010-2011	1981, 2013 update
	General Condition	Very Good	Excellent	Good
	Accessibility	Exterior ramp not up to code	Fully accessible	Fully accessible
CAPITAL/ OPERATING	Planned Capital Improvements	Washroom exhaust fan, fire safety supplies, water infiltration repairs, oil furnace and heating oil tank replacement, window and door replacement, exterior wall rehabilitation, hot water tank replacement, water treatment equipment, light fixtures - \$136,850 between 2014-2024		Splash Pad (2018) - \$60,000
	Replacement Value (value incl. land, parking, landscaping, etc.)	\$505,725 (\$531,011)	\$5,957,442 (\$6,255,315)	\$910,502 (\$956,027)
	Operating Costs (2013)	\$2,250	\$166,625	\$530,800
	Operating Revenue (2013)	n/a	\$73,000	\$75,000
	Operating Subsidy (2013)		\$93,625	\$455,800
USAGE PROFILE	Service Providers / Users	Badenoch Community Centre Board	Optimist Club of Puslinch	Whistle Stop Day Care, Puslinch Tennis Club
	Primary Programs	Weddings, Banquets, Meetings, Community Hall events	Recreational skating, gymnasium sports, birthdays, farmer's market, meetings, social events	Childrens day care, Weddings, Banquets, Hall events, Meetings, Tennis, Soccer, Softball, Aberfoyle Fall Fair, Aberfoyle Farmers' Market
NOTES		Former school building with no heritage designation. The facility does have a basement that is currently not in use.	Covered outdoor ice rink is also used for the Township's Aberfoyle Farmer's Market	New accessible washroom added in 2013

Group Name	Location	Mandate / Purpose	Membership Fees (HST excluded; specific programs and services offered by organizations may be subject to additional fees)	Primary Activities, Programs, Recreational Facilities	Target Market	Municipal Facilities Used
Conservation Authority						
Conservation Halton	2259 Milborough Line, Campbellville	Manages over 1,000 square kilometres of natural resources, including the Lake Ontario shoreline and Niagara Escarpment.	\$50 / Individual \$42.50 / Senior \$115 / Family \$97.75 / Senior Family			
Grand River Conservation Authority	119 Jennings Road, Brantford	Manages the Grand River watershed, which includes 6,800 square kilometres of water and other natural resources on behalf of 39 municipalities.	\$110.62 / Individual	Agricultural education and awareness Aberfoyle Fall Fair		
Hamilton Conservation Authority	838 Mineral Springs Road, Dundas	Responsible for managing 568 square kilometres of watershed area.	\$105.00 / Per Car \$79.00 / Senior Car			

Community Service / Social Club

4 H Club Wellington	111 Main Street North, Rockwood	A youth-serving organization dedicated to provide education through experience. Members gain valuable skills in communication, leadership, critical thinking, and goal setting. These skills are achieved through participating in several key areas of programming that are centred around four key pillars - Community Engagement & Communication, Environment & Healthy Living, Science & Technology; and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security.	\$95 / Year / Resident \$115 / Year / Non-resident	Skills Club Sheep Club Square Dancing Club	Township of Puslinch, Hamilton, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo	Location of programs and activities varies. Valens Community Centre in Hamilton.
Aberfoyle Agricultural Society	7 Clair Road West, Guelph	To raise awareness of, and to improve the quality agriculture, home crafts, and the rural lifestyle, by presenting an annual Fall Fair to exhibit livestock, produce, crafts, pets, and equipment.	N/A	Aberfoyle Fall Fair	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo	Puslinch Community Centre and Optimist Recreation Centre
Aberfoyle Farmers' Market Association	23 Brock Road South, Puslinch	To enhance the local economy while showcasing local artisans, small businesses, and community organizations by organizing and operating a weekly farmers' market between May and October.	N/A	Aberfoyle Farmers' Market	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Optimist Recreation Centre
Aberfoyle Parent-Child Place	23 Brock Road South, Puslinch	A free, two-hour, drop-in program for children and their care takers to interact, socialize, and develop essential skills in a safe environment.	N/A	Parent-Child drop-in program	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Puslinch Community Centre
Badenoch Community Centre Board	4217 Watson Road South, Puslinch	To manage and operate the day-to-day activities of the Badenoch Community Centre	N/A	Manage and operate the Badenoch Community Centre	Township of Puslinch	Badenoch Community Centre
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph	2G - 155 Suffolk Street West, Guelph	To provide preventative mentoring programs to children and youth in Guelph and surrounding areas.	N/A	Children and youth mentoring Volunteering	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Guelph/Eramosa	
Clarks of Tomfad	N/A	To document the history of the Township of Puslinch including, but not limited to, Council meetings, geneology, families, events, and more.	N/A	Document the history of the Township of Puslinch	Township of Puslinch	n/a
Emerald Lake Trailer Resort and Waterpark	7248 Gore Road, Puslinch	A family destination for RVs, camping, and day trips.	Camp rentals vary \$14 / Person for waterpark (<3 years free) \$7 / Persons 65+	Seasonal trailer sites Overnight RV and camp sites Furnished cabin rentals Waterpark 2 Playgrounds Picnics and pavilions space Event hall	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	
Friends of Mill Creek	7404 Wellington Road 34, Aberfoyle	Volunteer community organization that supports landowners in rehabilitating Mill Creek.	N/A	In-stream and bank clean up Trail and stream rehabilitation	Township of Puslinch	Puslinch Community Centre, Puslinch Fire Hall
Gravel Watch Ontario	Lawson Park Ltd, Box 15, RR1, Freelon	To act in the interest o residents and communities to protect the health, safety, quality of life of Ontarians, and the natural environment in matters that relate to aggregate resources.	Free for Non-voting member \$20 / Year / Voting individual \$50 / Year / Voting individual	Monitor aggregate resource activity	Wellington County, Hamilton-Wentworth Region	Puslinch Community Centre
Guelph Community Health Centre	176 Wyndham Street North, Guelph	To work with the community to provide innovative programs and services. We believe that a person's health is determined by social, environmental, economic, mental, and physical well-being. We commit to working with and meeting the needs of people who may find it hard to access health care.	N/A	Registered and drop-in Children's programs Fitness programs Health care Social and outreach assistance	Aberfoyle and surrounding area	Puslinch Community Centre

Group Name	Location	Mandate / Purpose	Membership Fees (HST excluded; specific programs and services offered by organizations may be subject to additional fees)	Primary Activities, Programs, Recreational Facilities	Target Market	Municipal Facilities Used
Guleph Hiking Trails Club	Guelph	A volunteer organization that builds and maintains trails from Cambridge to Limehouse, and from Guelph to West Montrose.	\$25 / Year \$100 / 5 Years	Build and maintain trails Group hikes Puslish newsletters and trail maps Social events	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo	Township of Puslinch trails
Mini Lakes	7541 Wellington Road 34, Comp 93, Puslinch	A resident owned and managed community in a park-like setting. Recreational amenities include a recreation hall, library, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, outdoor swimming pool, alotment gardens, and fishing.		Social events	Township of Puslinch	
Ontario Quarter Horse Association	n/a	To promote the American Quarter Horse through horse shows, clinics, trail rides, friendship, and fellowship among members. To educate and encourage quarter horse ownership and participation.	\$16 - \$575	Quarter Horse shows and events Trail rides	Wellington County	Puslinch Community Centre
Optimist Club of Puslinch	7404 Wellington Road 34, Aberfoyle	Chartered by Optimist International, Optimist Club of Puslinch strives to improve our community to be a better place for the our citizens. The purpose of the Optimist Club is to promote an active interest in civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth in the belief that giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of man, his community, and the world.	N/A	Scholarship awards Euchre club Fundraisers Social events		Puslinch Community Centre
Puslinch Historical Society	29 Brock Road South, Aberfoyle	To bring people with an interest in heritage of the Township of Puslinch together and to promote interest in and the study of the heritage of the Township.	\$10 / Person \$15 / Family	Gather and publish historical information and resources Public education programs	Township of Puslinch	The Historical Society meets at the Puslinch Library Branch.
Puslinch Lake Conservation Association	Information not available	This group's primary purpose is to clean up Puslinch Lake with the assistance of other organizations and agencies including the Township of Puslinch, Grand River Conservation Authority, and Ministry of Natural Resources.	Information not available	Cleaning up Puslinch Lake by coordinating dredging efforts with supporting organizations and agencies.	Information not available	None
Puslinch Power Camp / YMCA - YWCA of Guelph	130 Woodland Glen Drive, Guleph	A camp provided in collaboration between the YMCA-YWCA Guelph and the Township of Puslinch, Puslinch Power Camp offers a range of programs for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12. Participants are bussed to the Optimist Recreation Centre, although they can be dropped off directly. These programs are designed to provide skill development, fitness training, goal setting, nutrition, wellness, and focus on team building.	\$170 / Week \$35 / Extended care	Girl Power Kulinary Kids Sports (ball hockey, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, soccer) Photo Voices Try the Arts Y Workout Guest speakers	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Optimist Recreation Centre Aberfoyle Park
Puslinch Red Cross Society	29 Brock Road South, Aberfoyle	A non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to helping Canadians, as well as the most vulnerable throughout the world.	N/A	Fundraising Programs and training for injury prevention, water safety, first aid, disaster management, boating, swim safety, abuse, and home care	Township of Puslinch	The Society holds training sessions and programs at the Puslinch Library Branch.
Rotary Club of Guelph	135 Ferguson Street, Guelph	An organization dedicated to community service, building friendships, learning skills, exchanging ideas and perspectives, advancing education, learning about new cultures, and supporting local projects.	N/A	Supporting local organizations, causes, and projects Social events Scholarship programs	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	The Club uses the Puslinch Community Centre for events and a holds a number of Adopt-a-Road events in the Township.
Seniors' Euchre Club	23 Brock Road South. Puslinch	Friendly euchre card games.	None	Euchre card games	Township of Puslinch	Puslinch Community Centre

Group Name	Location	Mandate / Purpose	Membership Fees (HST excluded; specific programs and services offered by organizations may be subject to additional fees)	Primary Activities, Programs, Recreational Facilities	Target Market	Municipal Facilities Used
Sports Groups						
Intermediate Mens Fastball	Township Diamonds	To provide local intermediate softball for adult men		Mens baseball Social activities	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Township Diamonds
Ladies Softball	Township Diamonds	To provide local intermediate softball for adult women		Womens softball Social activities	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Township Diamonds
Oldtimers Baseball	Township Diamonds	To provide local baseball for mature and older adult men	\$9 / Resident \$25 / Non-Resident	Mens baseball Social activities	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Township Diamonds
Puslinch Minor Baseball	Township Diamonds	To provide local youth with minor softball opportunities.	\$10 / Resident \$25 / Non-resident	Minor softball	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Township Diamonds
Puslinch Minor Soccer Club	Township and Calvary Baptist Chruch soccer fields	1. To promote, develop and administer the game of outdoor soccer 2. To develop character by promoting physical, social and leadership skills in the players and emphasis will be placed on concepts such as team spirit, sportsmanship, respect for officials and each other 3. The Club will strive to promote and develop the best interests of the game of soccer within the community, while recognizing that the player is the first priority	\$10 / Resident \$25 / Non-resident	Minor soccer	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Township and Calvary Baptist Chruch soccer fields
Puslinch Tennis Club	23 Brock Road South. Puslinch	To promote the game of tennis	\$10 / Resident \$25 / Non-resident		Township of Puslinch, Guelph	Puslinch Community Centre tennis courts

Church

Arkell United Church	600 Arkell Road, Arkell	A church that aspires to live out its faith in Jesus in an open, inclusive way.		Weekly worship services and education Bible studies Breakfast and Lunches Afternoon games Children's program and nursery	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	n/a
Calvary Baptist Church	454 Arkell Road, Arkell	To live lives as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.		Weekly worship service in English and Mandarin Bible studies Children's program and camps Social gatherings and trips Global missions	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	n/a
Cross Roads Church	4614 Wellington Road 32, Puslinch	Spiritual enrichment in christianity.		Weekly worship service Children's program and nursery Family programs	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	n/a
Duff's Presbyterian Church	319 Brock Road South, Puslinch	To demonstrate fellowship in a friendly, welcome, and caring way for all. To support missions both locally and world wide. To be challenged and nurtured by worship and preaching. To offer opportunities for faith and expression and nurture. To be challenged by God's call for us to recognize we are managers, and not owners of our resources.		Weekly worship service Choir and music Pot Luck Luncheons Children's programs and childcare Puslinch Youth Group Gym night at the ORC Seniors fitness Room rentals	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	n/a
Ellis Community Pioneer Chapel	6705 Ellis Road, Puslinch	Built in 1861, Ellis Chapel is a historical site that was restored in 1963 to be used as a place of worship and reflection. The Chapel can also be used for weddings, baptisms, and christenings.		Worship service, Chapel rental	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo	n/a
Knox Presbyterian Church - Crieff Congregation						n/a
Mount Carmel-Zion United Church	22 Victoria Street, Morriston	To unite all ages, newcomers, and old timers in active and committed service to God.		Weekly worship service, Breakfast and luncheons, Food drives, Outreach programs, Children's program and nursery	Township of Puslinch	n/a
Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement East	3997 Highway 6, Puslinch	International protestant Christian denomination that observes the seventh day sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Teaches certain fundamental beliefs which, together with scriptural references upon which these beliefs are based.		Weekly worship service, Bible study, Children program and nursery,	Township of Puslinch	n/a
The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of Puslinch	18 Badenoch Street, Morriston	A group of individuals who are members of the Bahá'I Faith, a global religion whose purpose is to bring about a new society that will unite the peoples of the world.		Devotion gatherings Study of the Bahá'I writings	Township of Puslinch	n/a

Schools

Aberfoyle Public School	16 Old Brock Road, Puslinch	A part of the Upper Grand River District School Board, Aberfoyle Public School is a rural public school for children in Kindergarten to Grad 8.		School for children K-8 Support for local events and community organizations	Aberfoyle and surrounding area	Puslinch Community Centre
Scientists in School	31B Queen Street, Morriston	An organization dedicated to providing a broad range of science-related learning opportunities to students K-8 in Ontario and Alberta and to encourage future careers in the field of science.		Workshops and classroo resources for a range of science-related fields including technology, math, environmental stewardship, and engineering	Students K-8 in Ontario and Alberta	

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The Little Country School (Montessori School)	7377 Calfass Road South, Puslinch	To provide Montessori enriched preschool programs and elementary school up to Grade 3 by combining indoor learning with interactions with farm animals.		Montessori School for children from Junior kindergarten to Elementary After School Care	Township of Puslinch, Cambridge, Campbellville, Freelon	
Whistle Stop Co-op Preschool	23 Brock Road South, Puslinch	To provide an opportunity for children and parents from the local community and surrounding area to join together in a stimulating, social and creative learning environment for their children.	\$12 / Child / Half-day \$14.50 / Child / After school program	Child development programs Special needs programs Parent education	Township of Puslinch, South Guelph, Cambridge	Puslinch Community Centre

Health / Fitness

Aberfoyle Yoga	Gilmour Road, Aberfoyle	To provide fitness classes based on a Vinyasa style of yoga.	\$150 / 11 week program \$15 / Drop-in	Registered and drop-in yoga		
Aberfoyle Family Chiropractic	32 Brock Road North, Aberfoyle	To provide chiropractic health care and education.		Chiropractic adjustments	Township of Puslinch, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo	
Fitness After 50	n/a	Personal home training.	Personal Training - \$120-\$350 Group Training - \$80-\$200	Personal and group fitness and training	Township of Puslinch, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo	
Mango Tree Family Health Team	23 Brock Road North, Guelph	To provide high quality family medical care by an experienced caring team	n/a	Urgent, routine, and periodic care. Well babies Prenatal care Dietrician Mental Wellness	Township of Puslinch, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo	
Pilates	4217 Watson Road South, Badenoch	To provide a low impact, high result movement exercise programs in the Township.	\$154 / 14 Classes	Pilaties exercise classes	Township of Puslinch	Badenoch Community Centre
Santosha Yoga and Pilaties Studio	843 Watson Road South, Arkell	To provide fitness instruction through a traditional Hatha yoga style, as well as pilates.	\$30 / 3 Classes	Yoga and pilates	Township of Puslinch	

Library & Museums

Wellington County Library - Puslinch Branch	29 Brock Road South, Puslinch	To enhance the knowledge, skills, enterprise, and enjoyment of the people of Wellington County through the provision of high quality library service.	\$15/ Hour \$50 / Half-day \$100 / Full day \$120 / Full Day / Non-resident	Borrowing materials Online resources Reading programs and events (e.g., book clubs, art classes, story time, special guests, etc.) Room rentals	Wellington County	
Wellington County Museum & Archives	535 Wellington County Road 18, Fergus	A National Historic Site and one of the oldest remaining House of Industry in Canada, the Museum & Archives serves as a cultural centre for historical education and artistic interest in Wellington County.	General admission based on donations Fees vary by program and event	Exhibitions and festivals Historical tours Drop-in historical and art workshops Archive room (microfilm reader/printer and other online resources) Room rentals	Wellington County	

Group Name	Location	Mandate / Purpose	Membership Fees (HST excluded; specific programs and services offered by organizations may be subject to additional fees)	Primary Activities, Programs, Recreational Facilities	Target Market	Municipal Facilities Used
Other Providers (Commercial)						
Badenoch Archery	15 Badenoch Street, Morriston	To provide the sale of archery products, supplies, and accessories.		Archery products, supplies, and accessories	Township of Puslinch, Guelph	
Cherrylane Equestrian Centre	4145 Ontario Road 6, Puslinch RR2	To produce hay and to provide high quality equestrian riding lessons.		Instructional indoor and outdoor riding Production of hay	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	
Club 6 Practice Golf	4560 Concession 7, Guelph	To provide golfers of all skill levels with a venue to practice the game of golf.	N/A	Driving range Mini putt Sand and chipping practice Golf academy/lessons Resturant	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	
Copper County Foods	3-1277 Bridge Street, New Dundee	To provide frozen home-style soups, entrees, and desserts to your doorstep.		Home food delivery	Halton, Peel, Etobicoke, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Hamilton, Brandford, York, Caledon, Bolton, Simcoe, Grey Bruce, Barrie, Orillia	
Cornerstone Equestrian Centre	7827 Wellington Road 36, Moffat	To provide a fun, family oriented and safe atmosphere for people of all ages and skill levels to learn horseback riding.		Recreational and competition level riding lessons	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	
Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve	Concession Road 7, Puslinch	Owned by the Hamilton Conservation Authority, this ecological preserve was a former quarry that was abandoned and rehabilitated as a wetland. In addition to the re-introduction of native plant and animal species, a trail system with interpretive panels is also located on the lands.		Walking Trail Ecological Preserve	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	N/A
Havencrest Riding Academy	4272 Watson Road, Puslinch	To pass on the ideals of true horsemanship to our students and to prepare them to enjoy future success at any level of the sport. Whether they wish to pursue an Olympic dream or enjoy a life with horses as a hobby, Havencrest strives to equip it's students with a strong foundation to become compassionate equestrians with proper habits and skills.		Horse riding lessons	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	
Irish Creek Stables	RR 22 Station Preston, Cambridge	To offer lessons for beginners to advanced riders in the three Olympic disiplines (dressage, stadium jumping, and cross country) known as Eventing. We also offer off site hacks, special events, and horse shows. Indoor and outdoor board is also available, as well as offering entry and pre-training level courses, which includes water drops and ditches.	N/A	Horse boarding Hores lessons Horse shows and events	Township of Puslinch, Guelph, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Milton	
Kasachie Stables	4726 Wellington Road 32, Puslinch	To enrich people's lives through horses and our farm, which includes an indoor arena, outdoor sand ring, dressage grass arena, tracks, and trails.		Horse boarding Hores lessons	Township of Puslinch, Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, Stratford	
Maple Grove Trailer Park	1488 Concession 11 West, Flamborough	A trailer park that offers a relaxed and family atmosphere for seasonal campers.		Seasonal trailer sites Outdoor pool Playground Basketball court Hiking trails Fishing pond Horseshoe pit Event hall Passive open space	Township of Puslinch, Hamilton	
Puslinch Lake Golf Club	6527 Ellis Road, Cambridge	A 18 hole par 70 golf course designed to challenge players of all skill levels.	\$1,650 / Full individual membership \$2,575 / Full couples membership \$1,960 / Full parent-child membership \$500 / Junior membership \$1,235 / Weekday membership \$1,900 / Weekday couples membership	18-hole golf Golf events	Township of Puslinch, Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph	
Victoria Park Valley Golf Club	7660 Maltby Road, Puslinch	27 hole golf course - 9 holes in each of the Pines, Valleys, and Lakes	Varies	Golf lessons, leagues, and clinics Tournaments		