

**PERTH, TAY VALLEY,
DRUMMOND/NORTH ELMSLEY,
& LANARK HIGHLANDS
RECREATION MASTER PLAN
Council Session Briefing**

March 2020



Sierra Planning and Management
advice • strategy • implementation

Presentation Outline

1. Scope & Process
2. Maintain Collaboration as Best Practice
3. Facilities
4. Programming
5. Q&A





Scope & Process

Purpose & Scope

The Recreation Plan for the Town of Perth, Township of Drummond/North Elmsley, Township of Lanark Highlands, and Tay Valley Township is a flexible blueprint to guide planning and decision making for parks, recreation, and cultural assets over the next ten years (to 2030). This Plan will help the four area municipalities manage the development of parks and trails, recreation and cultural facilities and services, and programming and events. It will help to ensure that planning for parks, recreation, and culture improvements in the municipalities prioritizes investment in essential infrastructure and programming that contributes to the health and well-being of residents and visitors.

The Master Plan is an integrated plan that evaluates needs and strategies related to the following:

Indoor Recreation Facilities

- Community Centres
- Arenas
- Community Halls
- Museums
- Theatres
- Youth Centres
- The Community Health Centre
- Fitness Centres



Parks and Trails

- Active and Passive Parkland Trails
- Trails



Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- Sports Fields
- Courts
- Playgrounds
- Outdoor Rinks
- Boat Launches, Swimming Areas, and Beaches, water access points



Programming and Events

- Programming
- Partnerships
- Service Delivery
- Special Events



Process

Phase 1: Project Start-Up & Data Collection

- Project Start-Up (June 2019)
- Data Collection, Research & Analysis
- Municipal Staff Interviews
- Inventory & Program Review
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation
- Interim Reporting

Phase 2: Creation of Recreation Master Plan

- Develop Options/Directions
- Develop Recommendations
- Implementation Framework
- Community & Stakeholder Consultation
- Presentation to Councils

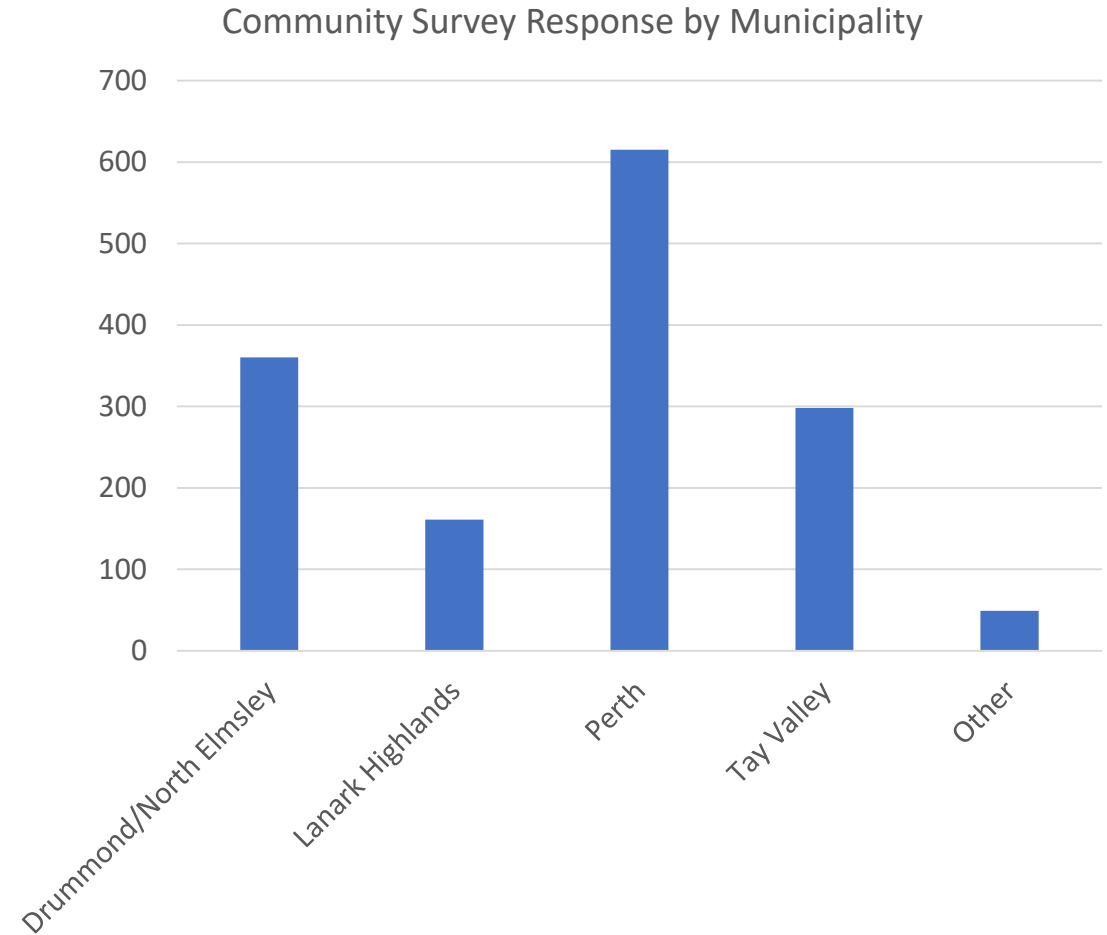
Phase 3: Final Approved Recreation Master Plan

- Finalize Recommendations
- Master Plan Finalization
- Presentation to Councils

Engagement

Several engagement activities relating to the preparation of this Master Plan have been undertaken, with the purpose of gathering input from those who use and help to deliver the services. These activities include the following:

- **Community Survey - 1,483 responses – excellent response rate**
- **Three Community Workshops;**
- **Stakeholder / User Group Survey; and**
- **Engagement with external stakeholders (e.g. local schools and conservation authorities).**



Principles



Supporting health, wellness and physical activity



Accessible and inclusive recreation



Enhancing regional cooperation



Bolstering partnerships



Strengthening the municipalities' roles as a tourism destination

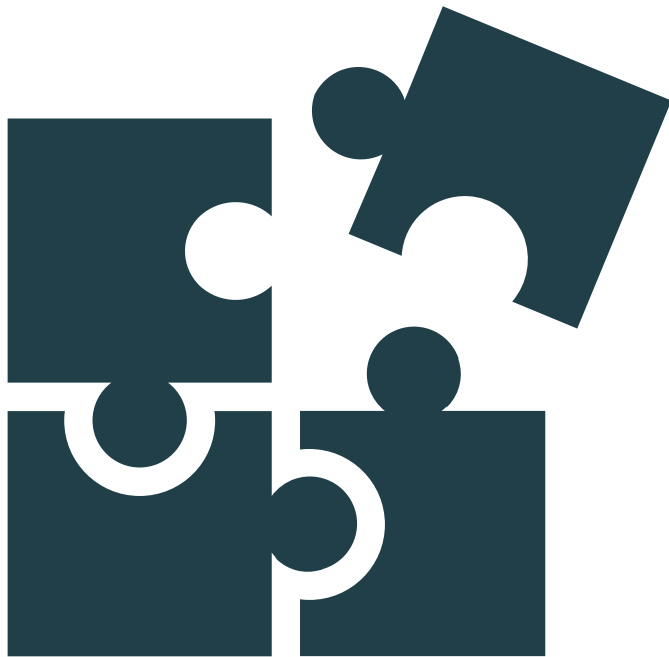


Smart investments in infrastructure



Maintain Collaboration as Best Practice

Four Municipalities – One Plan



A single plan for the region allows for:

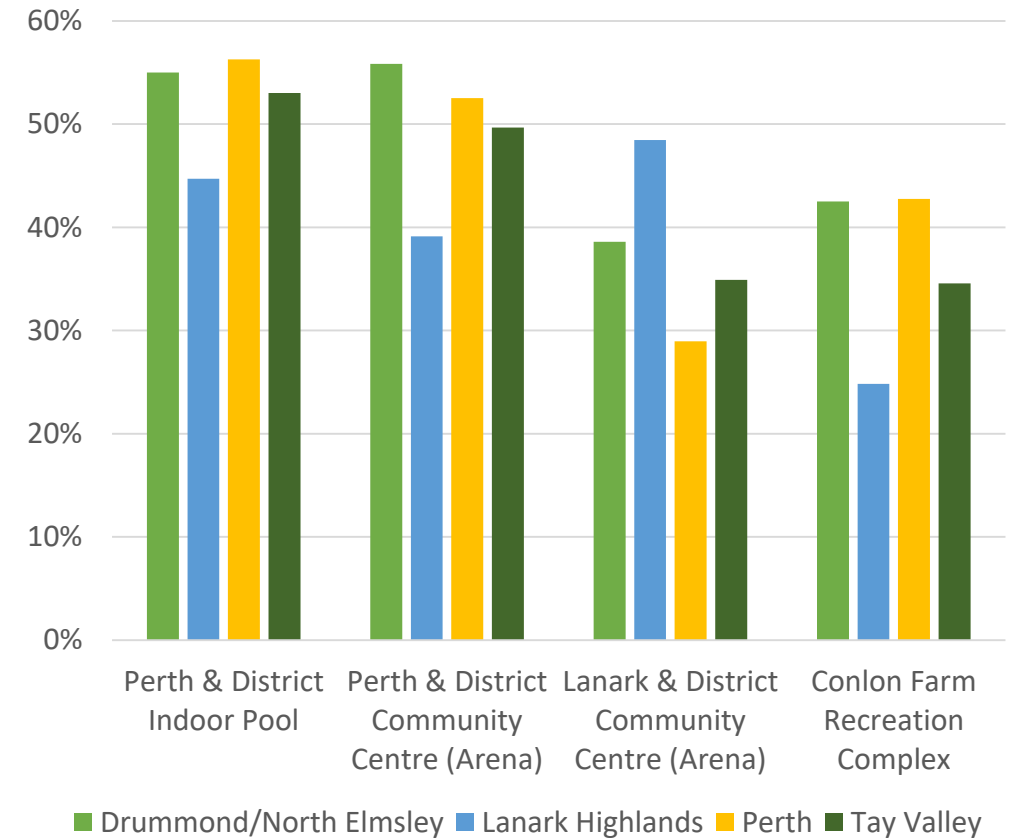
- **Enhancing regional support structures** and cooperation and searching for opportunities for partnership development for the delivery of facilities, programs, and activities
- **Cost sharing partnerships** between the municipalities and the principle of collaboration, enabling facilities and programs that would be challenging to deliver alone
- **Establishing Lanark Highlands, Tay Valley, Perth, and Drummond/North Elmsley as a service area** for this plan and for any agreements moving forward.

Existing Collaboration

- Since 2002, Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, and Perth have had a cost sharing agreement providing access to the Perth & District Community Centre (arena), the Perth & District Indoor Pool, and the Conlon Farm Recreation Facility at the same rates to residents of all three municipalities.
- Tay Valley and Drummond/North Elmsley provide an annual lump sum to Lanark Highlands for lower rates at the Lanark & District Community Centre arena.
- Drummond/North Elmsley has an existing agreement with Smiths Falls for use of their arena and other facilities.

Municipality	Operating	Capital	2019 Contribution
Drummond/North Elmsley	\$141,542	\$33,968	\$175,510
Tay Valley	\$154,179	\$41,674	\$195,852
Perth	\$206,566	\$55,814	\$262,380
Total	\$502,287	\$131,456	\$633,743

Regional Facility Use By Residents
(Community Survey)



Deepening Collaboration

Key Recommendations

- Host a collaborative **Recreation Forum** with local organizations on recreation program delivery to discuss new program opportunities, and how groups and the municipalities could help facilitate
- Through the development of a **common Parks and Recreation page**, establish a comprehensive **'Recreation Guide'** and recreation resource provides details on all programs offered (municipal / non-municipal) in Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, Perth, and Lanark Highlands. This could also serve as a common source of recruitment of volunteers.
- Develop a **common events calendar** to spread awareness of events taking place in each of the four municipalities to increase participation and further connections between each community.
- Undertake a **review of current user fees** (User Fee Study) and pricing schedule as it relates to facility, sports field, and parks rentals.
- Develop an intermunicipal working group comprising senior management from relevant municipal departments to regularly **review** (recommended every 2 years) and **evaluate the progress** of the recommendations included in the Master Plan.



Cost-Sharing



Key Recommendations

The options recommended for consideration as a basis of a revised cost-sharing agreement are as follows:

- a) Actual use data** – The most direct method of cost-sharing that fully accounts for the benefit that is received by residents of each municipality. However, usage changes each year which can be a challenge in terms of predicting costs to each municipality over a multi-year period, and rigorous data collection on use by residents by municipality becomes all the more important.
- b) Population** – This is the next best proxy for use. It is less precise than usage data, but more predictable.
- c) Geographic modelling** – In conjunction with weighted assessment, this is the basis for the current agreement. Geography is less indicative of use than options a) and b).

In all cases, an element of weighted assessment is appropriate in a blended approach.

Cost-Sharing Cont'd

Key Recommendations

- It is recommended that the proposed **multi-use facility** be considered for **capital and/or operating cost** sharing between the municipalities subject to detailed consideration of the potential opportunities for programming and use which directly benefit the residents of Tay Valley, Drummond/North Elmsley, and Lanark Highlands.
- It is recommended that the municipalities endorse the **principle of consideration of cost sharing as best practice for major new recreational infrastructure** (both indoor and outdoor) serving the four communities on a case by case basis.
- It is recommended that the municipalities utilize the joint working group to determine new assets which are most suitable for a level of cost sharing. In considering this, the municipalities should have regard to the expected usage of the facility by residents of the other municipalities.



Facilities

Indoor Ice

- The region will begin to face a **shortfall** of indoor ice **by 2030**
- P&DCC arena needs to be re-assessed within 15 years, with a replacement cost of nearly **\$10 million**
- BCA identifies nearly **\$2.4 million** in repairs/upgrades
- LHCC arena has undergone significant investment, and has applied for grants to undertake **\$5 million** in rehabilitation work
- At a minimum, **to maintain current service**, the Perth arena will need to be replaced and the Lanark Highlands arena will need to remain open
- A new facility will need to include provision for an **additional pad** to account for population growth

Indoor Ice Demand Projection

Ice Pad Provision	2016	2020	2025	2030
Plan Area Population	24,706	26,354	28,569	30,970
Target Standard	1 : 12,000			
Needs	2.06	2.20	2.38	2.58
Existing Supply	2	2	2	2
Surplus (Deficit)	(0.06)	(0.20)	(0.38)	(0.58)

Key Recommendations

- Continue planning for the **rehabilitation of the Lanark & District Community Centre**
- Continue planning for a **new multi-use recreation facility**. The facility should be designed and sited with the ability to accommodate a second ice pad as an addition (twin pad facility) in the future.

Aquatics

- The Perth & District Indoor Pool will reach the end of its lifespan within 15 years, with a **replacement cost of nearly \$5.8 million**
- **BCA has identified \$931,000 in repairs/upgrades**
- Serving the needs of a variety of populations (e.g. seniors) will require **additional tanks**, which is much more feasible at a new facility than the existing one
- To maintain adequate level of service, a **replacement pool will be required**
- There is no urgent need for capacity beyond replacement, but the **additional tanks will allow for growth beyond 2030**

Indoor Pool Demand Projection

Indoor Pool Provision	2016	2020	2025	2030
Plan Area Population	24,706	26,354	28,569	30,970
Target Standard	1 : 30,000			
Service Standard Needs	0.82	0.88	0.95	1.03
Existing Supply	1	1	1	1
Surplus (Deficit)	0.18	0.12	0.05	(-0.03)

Key Recommendations

- Through the feasibility and design process for a centralized multi-use multi-sport recreation centre develop a **new pool to replace** the **existing** Perth & District Indoor Pool.
- Design to accommodate **additional tanks** to support the **range of needs**.

Halls, Museums & Other Indoor Recreation Spaces

Key Recommendations

- Conduct Building Condition Assessments for **community halls** that have not yet had one and **develop maintenance plans** based on the outcomes.
- Assess the potential for additional revenue opportunities through enhanced programming of the spaces (i.e. art, music, and craft classes, etc.) that are suitable for such locations.
- As part of the business planning exercise for a **new multi-use recreation facility**, seek to ensure the **inclusion of a full-size gymnasium** as, indicated in the design study, to accommodate a variety of program and rental opportunities.
- Commence planning and consulting with stakeholders on medium- and long-term plans for rehabilitation of the Crystal Palace.
- Work with stakeholders to explore options for **additional museum space**, either on site or offsite storage suitable for preserving artifacts that are not currently being exhibited.



New Multi-Use Recreation Facility

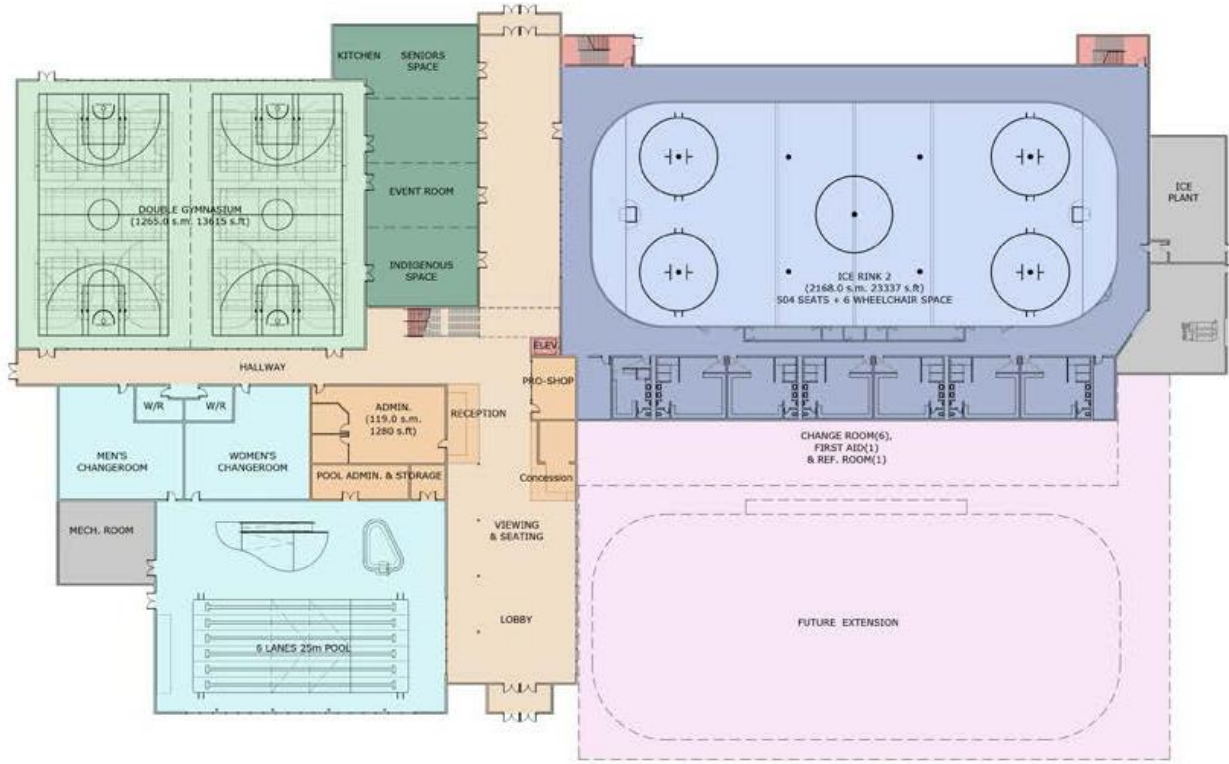
Rationale

- Need established by ice and aquatics demand forecast
- Building Condition Assessments
- Avoiding throwaway capital costs
- Best practice
- Survey results
- ICIP Grant
- Multi-Use efficiency

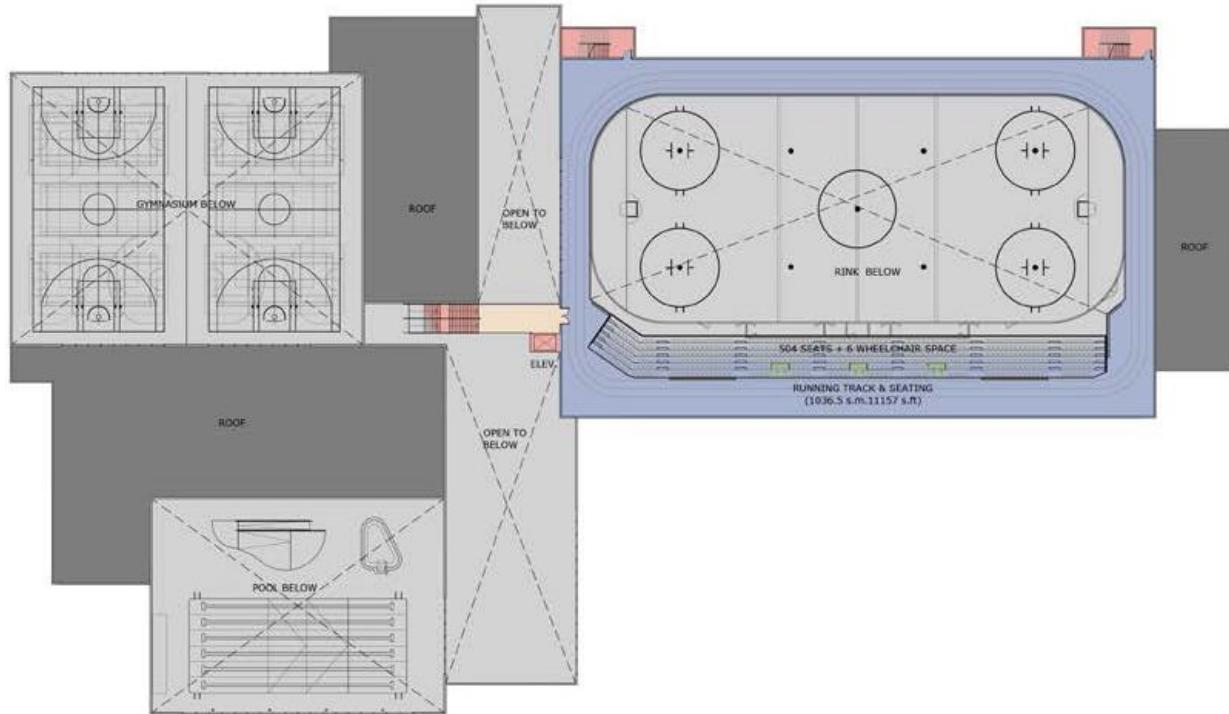


New Multi-Use Recreation Facility Cont'd

Ground Floor



Second Floor



Ball Diamonds

Ball Diamonds Demand Projection

Ball Diamond Provision	2016	2020	2025	2030
Plan Area Population	24,706	26,354	28,569	30,970
Target Standard	1 : 3,000			
Service Standard Needs	8.2	8.8	9.5	10.3
Existing Supply	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Surplus (Deficit)	6.3	5.7	5.0	4.2

Key Recommendations

- Address the **maintenance issues**, in particular drainage and water concerns at Conlon Farm.
- Consult with baseball, softball and other stakeholder groups, through the development of an annual Recreation Forum to gather feedback regarding actual registration numbers and ages, facility quality and performance, maintenance issues and projected usage.
- Consider potential for a **baseball diamond in Drummond/North Elmsley**. Supply of diamonds in Lanark Highlands, Perth, and Tay Valley will be sufficient throughout the planning period.

Soccer/Multi-Use Fields

Fields Demand Projection

Field Provision	2016	2020	2025	2030
Plan Area Population	24,706	26,354	28,569	30,970
Target Standard	1 : 2,000 population			
Service Standard Needs	12.4	13.2	14.3	15.5
Existing Supply	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75
Surplus (Deficit)	3.4	2.6	1.5	0.3

Key Recommendations

- Where not currently collected, require soccer and other field user groups provide registration numbers on an annual basis.
- Consider developing **up to three fields in Lanark Highlands**. One candidate for a new field is on the vacant Township owned industrial parcels off Canning Street by the Clyde River in Lanark Highlands. Consideration should also be given to sites near Hopetown and McDonald's Corners.
- Consider developing **a new field in Drummond/North Elmsley** to serve residents without easy access to Conlon Farm or cost shared facilities in Smith's Falls.

Sports Courts

Tennis/Pickleball Courts Demand Projection

Field Provision	2016	2020	2025	2030
Plan Area Population	24,706	26,354	28,569	30,970
Target Standard	1 : 5,000 population			
Service Standard Needs	4.9	5.3	5.7	6.2
Existing Supply	5	5	5	5
Surplus (Deficit)	0.1	(0.3)	(0.7)	(1.2)

Basketball Courts Supply

These facilities are typically provided based on the youth (10 to 19 years) population at a rate of 1 basketball court per 800 youth. With the municipal supply the current municipal standard is 1 court to 589 youth. Including the school supply, the standard is **1 court to 196 youth**.

Key Recommendations

- Consider developing **two new tennis courts in Lanark Highlands** by the end of the planning period. One of the courts should be developed outside of Lanark Village to achieve greater geographic equity.
- Consider planning for the development of tennis courts in **Drummond/North Elmsley** in the long term for local use.
- Overall supply of basketball courts is adequate. However, based on support from the community survey placement of nets or a court at Ferguson's Falls Community Hall should be considered.

Parks & Open Spaces

Key Recommendations

- Adopt a **Parkland Classification System**, per this Plan
- Develop Parkland Dedication and Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Dedication By-laws
- A potential site to consider for a new park is the parcel south of North Street, west of Willis Street in Lanark Highlands.
- Continue finalizing work on John Millar Park in Tay Valley.
- Continue with plans to develop the “Solar Farm Trail” park in Tay Valley following land acquisition. This may be the ideal site for a dog park, an amenity that could see significant cross-municipal use.
- Perth to target the acquisition of 1.91 hectares of parkland by the year 2030, to address growth related needs. Consider Town-owned sites such as the large Darou Farm site in the south end of Perth.
- Highlight and promote the potential opportunities for recreational activities on Crown Land within the Municipalities, such as hunting, fishing, ATV use, and snowmobiling.

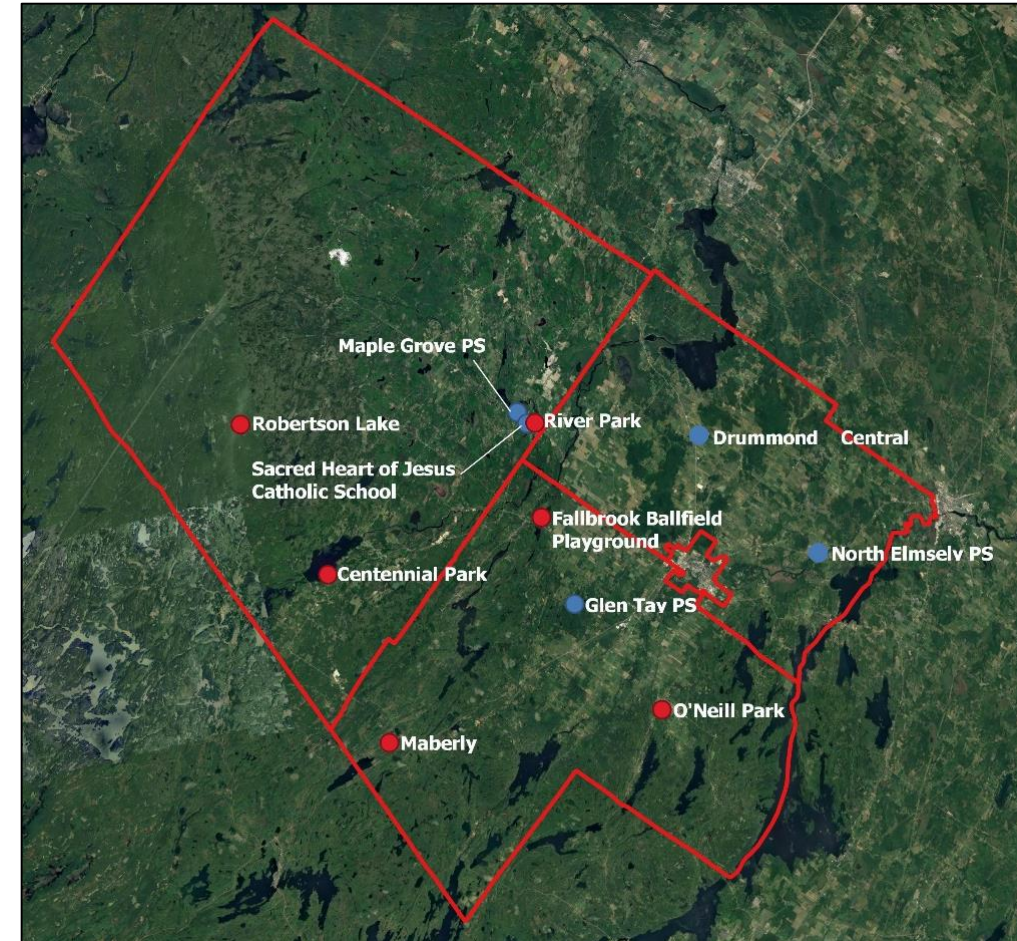
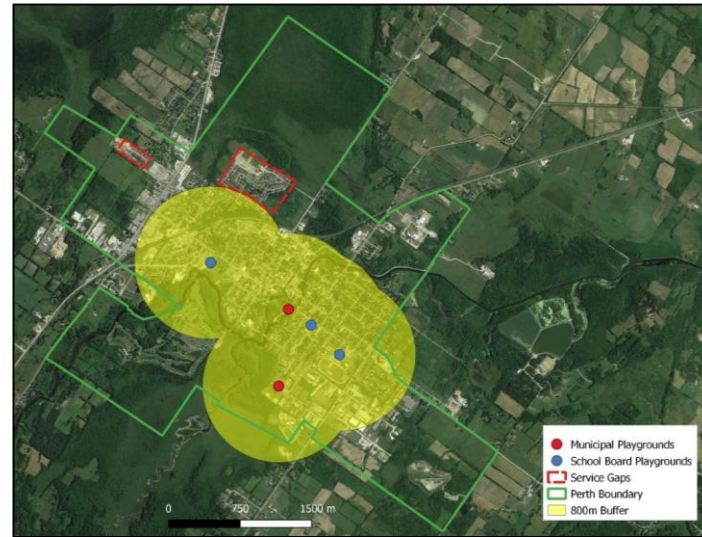
Parks Classification System

Typology	Purpose/ Function	Service Area	Optimal Location	Potential Facilities
Community Parks Includes: Stewart Park, Daines Park, Central Perth Playground, Code-Haggart	Active / passive recreation. Community focal points.	Serves local community / surrounding area. May also serve entire municipality and region.	May be co-located with indoor recreation facilities and/or adjacent to secondary schools. Highly visible with frontage on major roads.	Sports fields, play structures, open space, pathways/trail linkages, community gardens, bike racks, etc.
Neighbourhood Parks Includes: Scott Park, Perthmore Park, Ecoforest Park, Arnold Carson Park, O'Neil Park, John Miller Park	Active / passive recreation. Neighbourhood focal points.	Local neighbourhood, 400m to 800m (5 - 10 minute walk).	Centrally located within service area. Prominent local street intersections with frontage. May be located adjacent to schools, natural areas or environmental features.	Informal sports field(s), play structures, open space, pathways, etc.
Waterfront Parks Includes: Last Duel, River Park, Robertson Lake Park, Centennial Park	Active / passive recreation, water access.	Varies	Riverside lands, lakefront areas, natural corridors.	Passive open space, trails, interpretive signage, benches, conservation.

Playgrounds

Key Recommendations

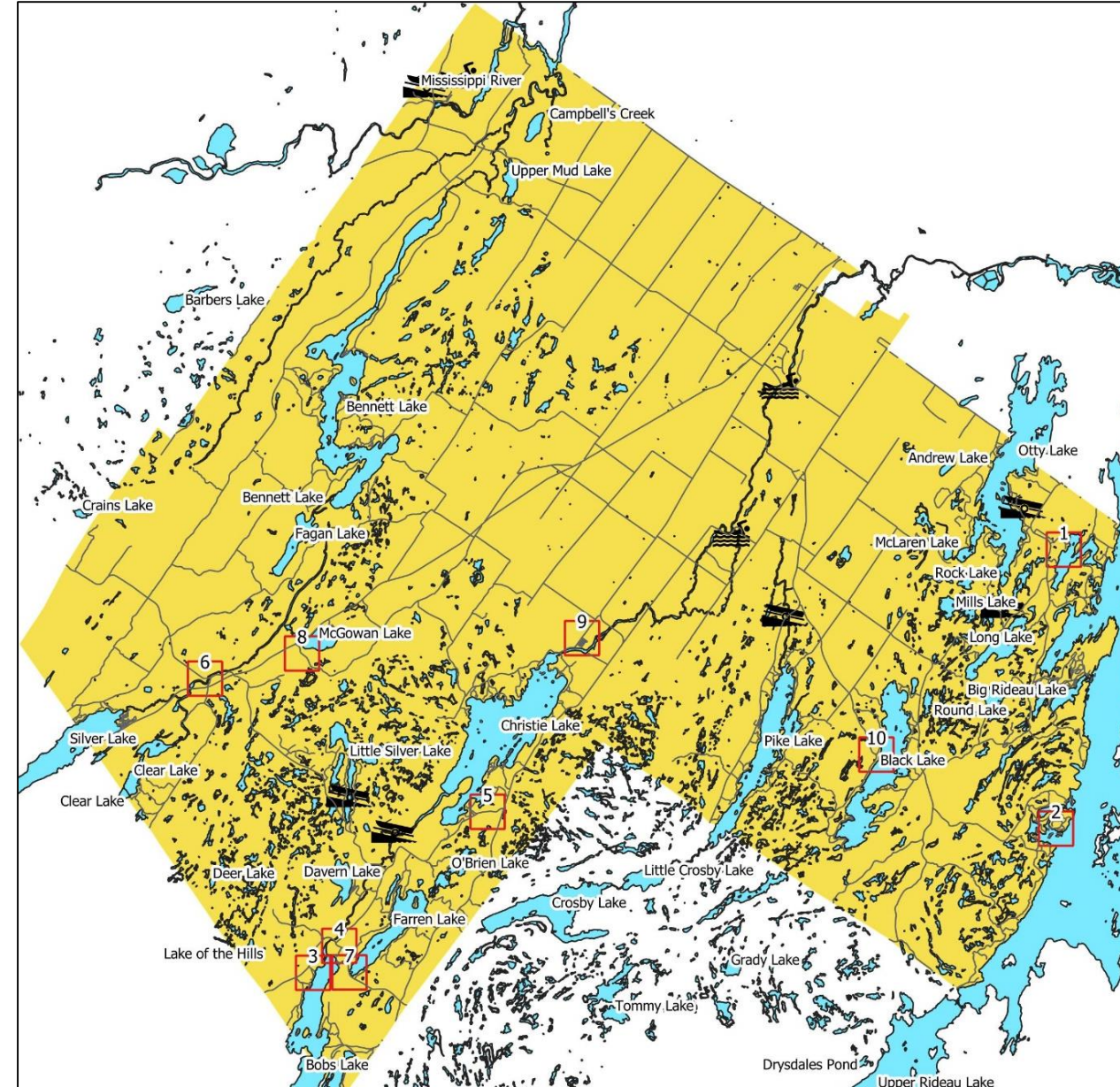
- Adopt a service-level target of 1 playground location accessible within an 800m walking distance of residential dwellings in new residential development areas in Perth
- Assess the feasibility of incorporating a new playground into the **proposed multi-use facility**.
- Assess the feasibility of developing a new playground in or near **Wayside in Drummond/North Elmsley**.
- Consider incorporating playground/play structures into **River Park** and other municipally owned green space in **Lanark Highlands**



Boat Launches, Swimming Areas, Water Access Points, and Beaches

Key Recommendations

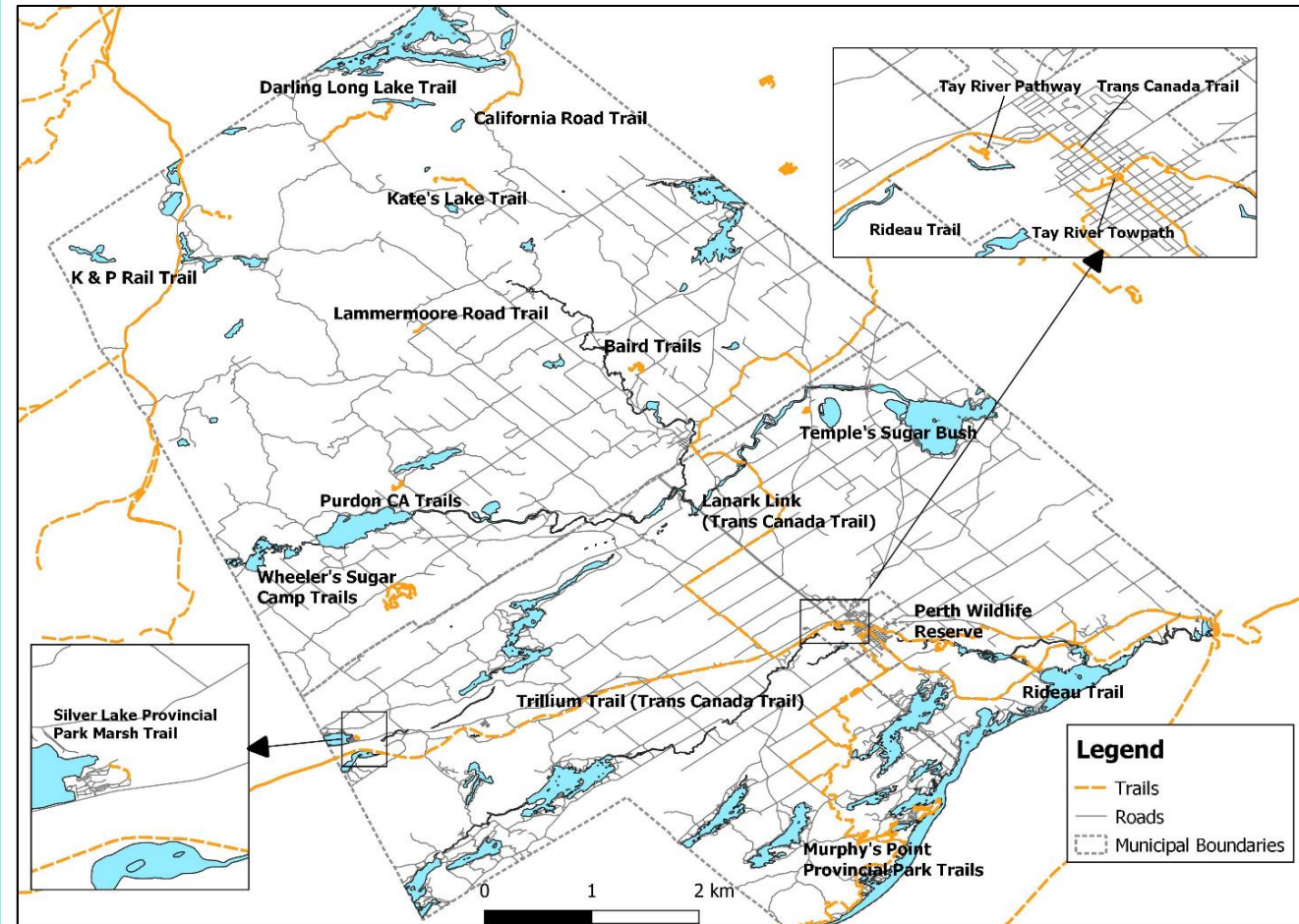
- Explore opportunities for improved / additional water access points either through improvement to municipally owned lands or through partnerships with community organizations.
- There are a number of sites in Tay Valley along unopened road allowances that could be used for swimming and/or canoe and kayak launch points. Based on the distribution of existing facilities and the principle of geographic equity, we recommend prioritizing study of enabling water access at **McGowan Lake (site 8), Big Rideau Lake (site 2), Black Lake (Site 10), and Bob's Lake (Site 3).**



Trails

Key Recommendations

- Over the long term work to improve connections between the Rideau Trail and the Lanark Link of the Trans Canada Trail, linking together with the Glen Tay to Havelock Trail and determine other important future connections. This could potentially include extending the Tay River Pathway to connect to the other trails and running to downtown Perth.
- Study the potential for a waterfront trail by the Fall River, starting behind the Maberly Community Hall in Tay Valley.
- Develop policies in the municipalities' Official Plans to:
 - Require the dedication of land for pedestrian and bicycle pathways as a condition of the subdivision of land; and
 - Require the identification and provision of walkways and other means of pedestrian access, accessibility supports as well as bicycle parking facilities and other sustainable design elements on municipal streets, as may be required for site plan approvals and developments





Programming & Events

Programming & Events

Key Recommendations

- Expand the suite of non-traditional programs to enhance the utilization of existing infrastructure and natural assets (e.g. arts and craft programs at community halls, trails activities, ATV, snowmobiling, mentorship programming for hunting/fishing, etc.).
- Develop a methodology to track, on an annual basis, program registrations and assess the rate of take-up for individual programs offered by the municipalities.
- Undertake regular resident surveys to assess resident/user needs and required improvements to the recreation service delivery model. Progressively address methods to improve the delivery of services over time.
- Consider opportunities to hold events geared towards youth and seniors.
- Provide support to new and existing festivals/community events





Q & A



Thank You