

Municipality of

Trent Hills

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

FINAL

April 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND	6
1.1 Project Purpose & Process	6
1.2 Geographic Context	7
1.3 Socio-demographic Context	7
1.3.1 Overview	7
1.3.2 Current Characteristics	8
1.3.3 Future Characteristics	9
1.4 Planning & Policy Context	12
1.5 Community Consultation	12
1.5.1 Municipal Council & Staff	13
1.5.2 Parks & Recreation User Groups	13
1.5.3 Residents	14
1.5.4 Community Visioning Workshop	17
1.5.5 Other Stakeholders & Interested Parties	17
2.0 RECREATION FACILITIES	19
2.1 Introduction & Context	19
2.2 Indoor Facilities	20
2.2.1 Facility Supply and Use	20
2.2.2 Community Facility Interests	22
2.2.3 Needs Assessments	23
2.2.4 Improvements to Indoor Facilities	35
2.3 Outdoor Facilities	37
2.3.1 Facility Supply and Use	37
2.2.2 Community Facility Interests	38
2.3.3 Needs Assessments	39
2.3.4 Improvements to Outdoor Facilities	46
3.0 PARKS & OPEN SPACES	51
3.1 Parkland Supply	51
3.1.1 Parkland Inventory	51
3.1.2 Parkland Provision & Distribution	55
3.1.3 Parkland Acquisition & Improvements	56
3.1.4 Parkland Classification	60
3.2 Park Safety & Comfort	64
3.2.1 Accessibility	65
3.2.2 Signage & Wayfinding	65
3.2.3 Shade	66
3.2.4 Site Furnishings	67

3.2.5 Washrooms	69
3.3 Park Amenities	72
3.3.1 Playgrounds	72
3.3.2 Skate Parks	75
3.3.3 Splash Pads	76
3.3.4 Basketball Courts	78
3.3.5 Outdoor Fitness Equipment & Tracks	80
3.3.6 Outdoor Rinks	82
3.3.7 Water Access Points	83
3.3.8 Community Gardens	85
3.3.9 Off-Leash Dog Parks	87
3.3.10 Outdoor Event Spaces	88
3.3.11 Art, Culture, and Heritage	89
3.4 Priority Park Sites	92
3.4.1 Hillside Park	92
3.4.2 Hastings Village Green	95
4.0 SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM	101
4.1 Municipal Service Delivery Model	101
4.1.1 Municipal Structure for Service Delivery	101
4.2 Recreation Programs & Events	103
4.2.1 Existing Supply	103
4.2.2 Community Feedback	105
4.2.3 Recreation Program Trends & New Opportunities	106
4.2.4 Support to Volunteer Organizations	115
4.3 Parks and Recreation Policies	117
4.3.1 Special Events	117
4.3.2 Bench and Tree Donation Program	117
4.3.3 Community Foundation Grant	118
4.3.4 In-kind Contributions/Subsidy Requests from Community Organizations	118
4.3.5 Ice Allocation Policy	119
4.4 Agreements	121
4.4.1 Existing Agreements	121
4.4.2 Potential Future Agreements	123
4.5 Accessibility and Inclusion	124
4.5.1 Inclusive Sport Facilities	124
4.5.2 Policies	126
4.5.3 Guidance for Disability Inclusion	128
4.6 Service Planning and Evaluation	129

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION	134
5.1 Monitoring & Updating the Master Plan	134
5.2 Consolidated List of Recommendations	134
5.2.1 Important Considerations	134
5.2.2 Suggested Schedule & Cost Estimates	135
APPENDICES	148
Appendix A: Online Survey Results	149
Appendix B: Telephone Survey Results	150
Appendix C: Prime Time Calculations	151
Appendix D: Programs Inventory	152



1.0

BACKGROUND

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE & PROCESS

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is intended to be a foundational guiding document for the development, renewal, and management of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, sports fields, parks, and other green spaces in Trent Hills over the next 20 years to 2045. It should be read in conjunction with the Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan (2024), Official Plan, and other municipal documents.

The Municipality engaged thinc design and Mehak, Kelly & Associates to develop the Plan. The project process spanned three phases from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026 and included the following tasks:

Phase 1: Current Context & Background Work

- Project Kick-off Meeting
- Data & Document Assembly
- Planning & Policy Review
- Socio-demographic Profile
- Mapping & Inventories
- Steering Committee Meeting

Phase 2: Community & Stakeholder Engagement

- Council & Staff Online Survey
- Representative Telephone Survey
- Public Online Survey
- User Groups Online Survey
- Preliminary Consultation Findings
- Steering Committee Meeting
- Site Visits
- Community Visioning Workshop
- Stakeholder Focus Groups/Interviews
- Steering Committee Meeting

Phase 3: Assessments & Plan Development

- Community Programs & Events Assessment
- Parks & Open Spaces Assessment
- Recreation Facilities Assessment
- Benchmarking & Trends Analysis
- Service Delivery Assessment
- Draft Master Plan
- Steering Committee Meeting
- Revised Master Plan
- Implementation Strategy
- Public Open House
- Online Feedback Period
- Steering Committee Meeting
- Final Master Plan & Executive Summary
- Presentation to Council

1.2 GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Trent Hills is a mixed urban-rural municipality located on the Trent River in Northumberland County, with three main settlement areas (Campbellford, Hastings, and Warkworth) and a number of rural settlement areas (Figure 1.1 below).

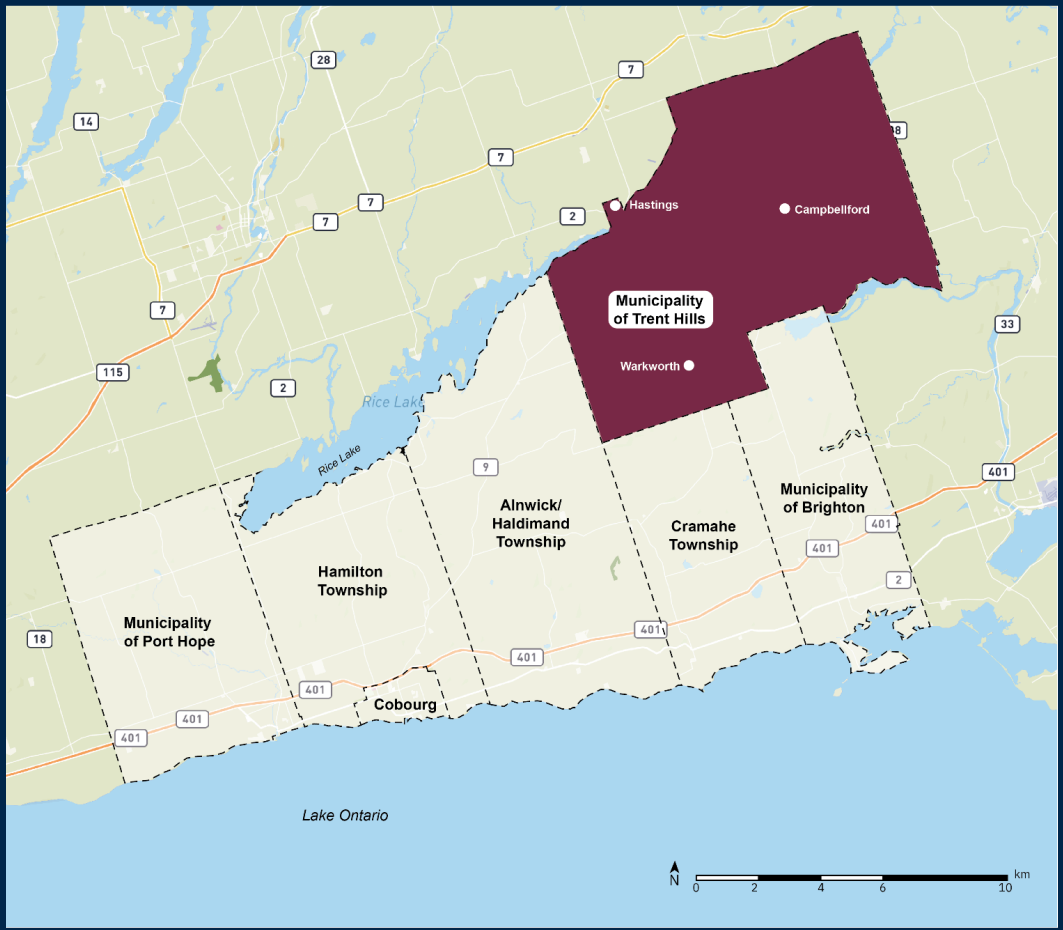


Figure 1.1: Northumberland County Communities

1.3 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

1.3.1 OVERVIEW

This section highlights current and projected populations, socio-demographic details, and population age distributions for the Municipality of Trent Hills. The data was compiled from the following sources:

- Statistics Canada: 2021 Canadian Census
- Municipality of Trent Hills: 2023 Development Charges Background Study

- Northumberland County: 2021 Official Plan Review, Municipal Comprehensive Review Long-Term Growth Forecast and Urban Land Needs Analysis
- Ministry of Finance: Ontario Populations Projections 2021-2046

1.3.2 CURRENT CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1.1 below shows a snapshot of Trent Hills based on 2021 Census data. This includes a total population of 13,861 residents. Municipal staff estimate that approximately 27% live in Campbellford, 9% live in Hastings, 6% live in Warkworth,¹ and the remaining 42% of the population lives in other communities and hamlets within the Municipality.

Table 1.1: Trent Hills Snapshot

	Municipality of Trent Hills
Population (2021)	13,861
Land Area	513.85 km ²
Average After-Tax Household Income (2020)	\$65,000
Indigenous Population	595 people (4.4% of total)
Language Spoken Most Often at Home	98% English

Source: Statistics Canada (2021)

CURRENT HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Table 1.2 below shows the distribution of households in the Municipality, where more than one third (36%) comprises couples without children, 26% are one-person households, and 20% are couples with children.

Table 1.2: Household Composition in Trent Hills

Household Type	#	% of Total
Couple Family ² Households with Children	1,180	20%
Couple Family Households without Children	2,155	36%
One Parent Family Households	435	7%
Multigenerational Households	180	3%
One-Person Households	1,530	26%
Other ³	425	7%
TOTAL	5,905	100%

Source: 2021 Canadian Census

¹ Based on an approximation of 3,500-4,000 residents in Campbellford; 1,000-1,500 residents in Hastings; and 700-1,000 residents in Warkworth.

² Includes both married couples and common law couples

³ Includes other household structures such as: multiple, separate census families sharing the same home; a census family plus additional persons sharing their home; two or more people of different census families sharing a home (e.g., roommates)

CURRENT AGE DISTRIBUTION

Table 1.3 below shows the distribution of age groups in the Municipality compared to Northumberland County and the Province of Ontario. The age range groups vary (e.g., school-aged children, teenagers, working adults, pre-retirees, older adults, seniors) to reflect their differing park, program, and facility needs.

The largest demographic group in Trent Hills is seniors aged 65 years and older (31.1% or 4,305 people). Approximately 17% of the population (2,355 people) are youth aged 19 years and younger, while 26.9% are working adults aged 20 to 49 years (26.9%). Trent Hills has a greater proportion of older adults (50- to 74-year-olds) and seniors (75+ years) than both the county and province.

Table 1.3: Distribution of Age Groups Compared to County and Province

Age Group	2021 Population	% of Total		
		Trent Hills	Northumberland County	Province of Ontario
0 to 4 years	515	3.7%	3.8%	4.8%
5 to 14 years	1,205	8.7%	8.9%	11.1%
15 to 19 years	635	4.6%	4.8%	5.7%
20 to 49 years	3,730	26.9%	29.5%	39.5%
50 to 64 years	3,465	25.0%	23.9%	20.9%
65 to 74 years	2,620	18.9%	17.0%	9.9%
75+ years	1,685	12.2%	12.1%	8.0%

Source: 2021 Canadian Census

1.3.3 FUTURE CHARACTERISTICS

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GROWTH

Table 1.4 on the following page shows the residential growth forecast for Trent Hills while Table 1.5 shows the estimated geographic location of residential development within the Municipality over a 27-year period to 2051. This includes an increase of approximately 68 new people each year, of which 39% are forecast within the first 10 years (2024-2034), and 41 new housing units each year, with nearly half (45.6%) constructed in the first 10 years. Two thirds of new housing (66%) is targeted for the urban area of Campbellford (Table 1.5). Based on these figures, it is calculated that the Municipality’s population will be 15,827 at the 20-year term of the Master Plan in 2045.

Table 1.4: Residential Growth Forecast for Trent Hills

Year	Population
early 2024	14,375
early 2034	15,101
mid 2051	16,230

Source: 2023 Development Charges Background Study (Watson & Associates) - Schedules 1 and 3

Table 1.5: Estimated Geographic Location of Residential Development in Trent Hills

Development Location	# of New Housing Units (2024-2051)	% of Total
Campbellford	734	66%
Hastings	221	20%
Warkworth	133	12%
Rural Trent Hills	21	2%
TOTAL	1,109	100%

Source: 2023 Development Charges Background Study (Watson & Associates) – Schedule 2

FUTURE AGE DISTRIBUTION

Table 1.6 below shows the 2021 age distribution in Northumberland County along with the projected age distribution in 2035, at the halfway point of the Plan’s term, and in 2051, at the end of the Plan’s term. It is anticipated that the Municipality of Trent Hills will mirror that of the County, which reflects decreases in youth aged 19 and younger and an increase in aging adults over 75 years. The proportion of working adults aged 20-64 years will roughly remain the same over time. Seniors over aged 65 will comprise one third (34%) of the County, and the proportion of those over 75 years will increase.

Table 1.6: Projected Age Distribution in Northumberland County

Age Group	2021 Population		Projected 2035 Population		Projected 2045 Population	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
0 to 4 years	3,405	3.8%	3,544	3.3%	3,981	3.4%
5 to 14 years	7,980	8.9%	8,251	7.7%	8,528	7.4%
15 to 19 years	4,275	4.8%	4,759	4.4%	4,602	4.0%
20 to 49 years	26,345	29.5%	33,476	31.1%	34,664	29.9%
50 to 64 years	21,345	23.9%	20,472	19.0%	24,562	21.2%
65 to 74 years	15,155	17.0%	16,630	15.4%	15,235	13.1%
75 to 84 years	7,810	8.7%	14,197	7.5%	15,120	13.0%

Age Group	2021 Population		Projected 2035 Population		Projected 2045 Population	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
85+ years	3,045	3.4%	6,140	5.7%	9,261	8.0%

Sources: 2021 Canadian Census, Ontario Populations Projections 2021-2046

FIGURES USED FOR ASSESSMENTS

The Master Plan and its assessments assume a current population of **13,861** based on the 2021 Census figure, and a projected population of **15,827** in 2045, at the end of the Plan’s 20-year term.

1.4 PLANNING & POLICY CONTEXT

The following plans, policies, studies, data, and reports were compiled to provide supportive contextual information for this Plan and its assessments:

- Northumberland County Municipal Comprehensive Review (2021)
- Municipality of Trent Hills Official Plan
- 2023-2027 Strategic Plan
- Recreation Master Plan & Needs Analysis (2003)
- Active Transportation & Trails Plan (2024)
- Municipal Cultural Plan (2011)
- Service Delivery Review Summary Report (2018)
- Tourism Development Plan (2024)
- 2024-2027 Accessibility Plan
- Development Charges Background Study (2023) and Addendum (2024)
- Downtown Revitalization Plan – Connecting Downtown Campbellford (2017)
- Asset Management Plan (2024)
- Service Delivery Review Summary Report (2018)
- Facility conditions assessments
- Facility rental schedules and utilization (2024-2025)
- Staffing and organizational charts and job descriptions
- GIS data
- Relevant leases, agreements, by-laws, and staff reports
- Consultation results from previous initiatives

1.5 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The consulting team conducted a series of engagement activities to consult Council members, municipal staff, parks and recreation user groups, stakeholders, and residents/the general public.

1.5.1 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL & STAFF

An invitation and link to an online questionnaire was administered via email to all seven members of Council and key municipal staff to better understand service delivery methods and municipal capacity and to identify needs and future opportunities. The survey was completed between June 26 to August 11, 2025 by the following 26 respondents:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor
- Councillor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Director, Finance/Treasurer
- Deputy Treasurer
- Director, Planning & Development
- Planner
- Planning & Development Assistant
- Director, Community Services
- Manager, Community Services
- Operator, Community Services
- Parks & Recreation Lead Hand
- Manager, Roads & Urban Services
- Urban Roads Lead Hand
- Roads Lead Hand
- Shift Operator
- Fire Chief
- Legislative Services Coordinator
- Customer Service Specialist
- Customer Service Specialist
- Accounts Clerk
- Tax Clerk

1.5.2 PARKS & RECREATION USER GROUPS

An online survey was developed specifically for organized groups that use parks and recreation facilities in Trent Hills. The link to participate was sent by invitation from municipal staff. Surveys were completed between June 30 and July 7, 2025 by a total of 31 representatives from the following groups:

- Bike Action Trent Hills Brighton District Minor Hockey Association
- Campbellford District High School
- Campbellford Farmers' Market
- Campbellford Figure Skating Club
- Campbellford Minor Hockey
- Campbellford Mixed League
- Cold Creek Comets Girls Hockey Association
- Hastings Youth Soccer Club
- Hillcrest Public School
- Lions Club of Campbellford
- Mixed Adult Volleyball League
- Peterborough City Soccer Club
- Quinte Red Devils AAA Hockey
- Rotary Club of Campbellford
- The Bridge Hospice Foundation
- Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Trent Hills Pride
- Trent Hills Soccer Club
- Trent Hills Titans
- Warkworth Business Association
- Warkworth Community Service Club
- Warkworth Lilac Festival Committee
- Warkworth Minor Baseball
- Westben

Respondents indicated they use indoor recreation facilities (55.6% of groups), parks and green spaces (55.6% of groups), and outdoor sport/recreation facilities (29.6% of groups). They provide both regular season programs/activities (e.g., leagues, weekly classes) as well as events (e.g., festivals, sports tournaments, community gatherings).

1.5.3 RESIDENTS

PUBLIC ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was developed and shared with the public from June 13-July 13, 2025. There were 136 completed surveys submitted. Results of the survey are in Appendix A.

As shown in Figure 1.2 below, participants' household composition included couples with children (32.9% of respondents), couples without children (24.8%), multi-generational households (13.9%), single adults (10.1%), multiple adults with children (7.3%) and without children (7.3%), and single parents with children (2.9%).

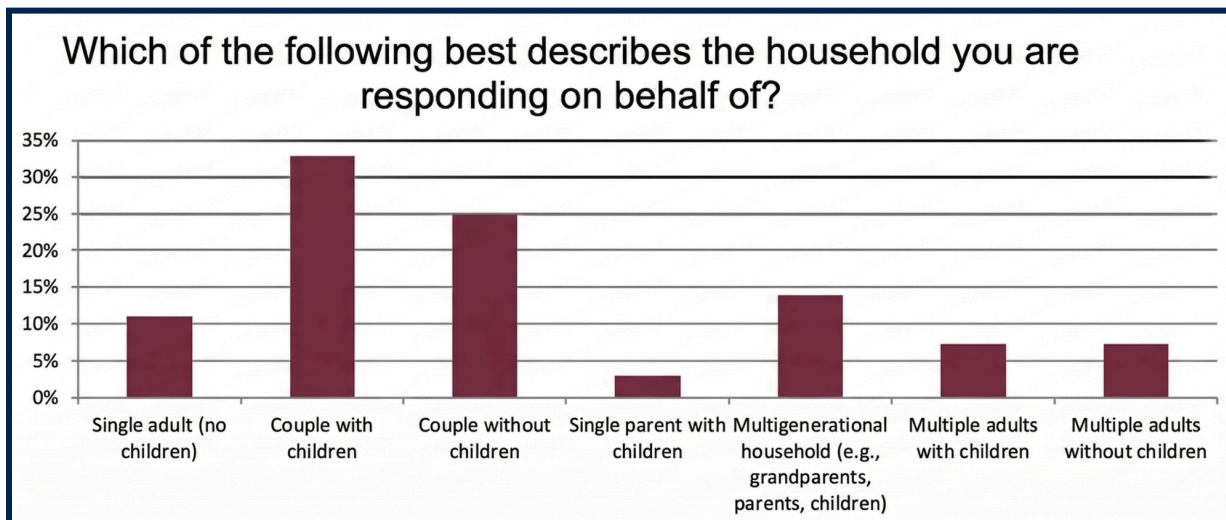


Figure 1.2: Online Survey Household Composition

As shown in Figure 1.3 on the following page, just over one third of online survey participants were from Campbellford (35.8%) and Hastings (35.8%), with other responses from Warkworth (10.2%) as well as rural Trent Hills (8.8%), Crowe Bridge (3.7%), Meyersberg (2.9%), and Trent River (0.7%). There were also three responses (2.2%) from residents of communities outside of Trent Hills.

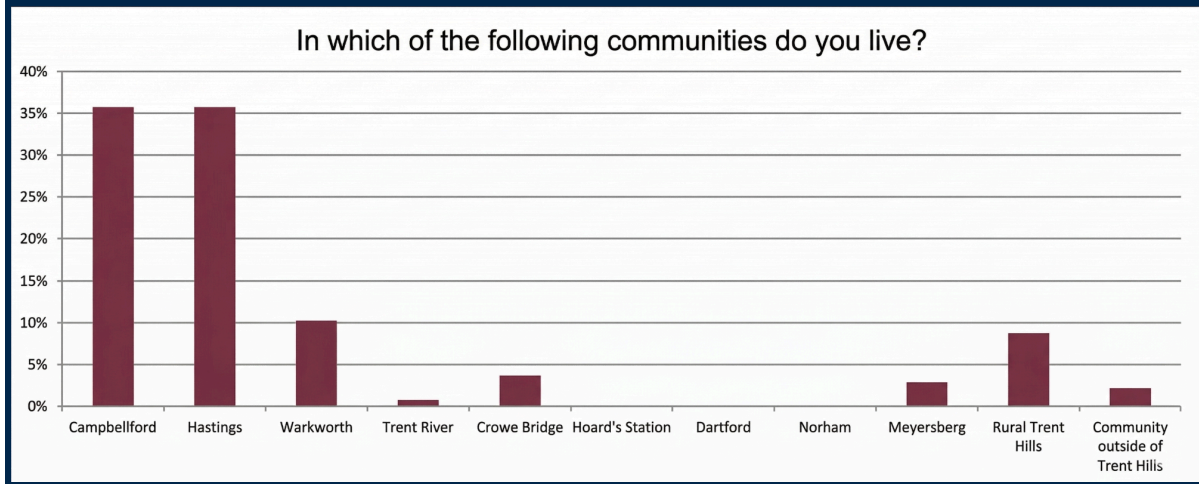


Figure 1.3: Online Survey Geographic Composition

Respondents' age ranges generally fell within three groups: 20-49 year-olds (35.8% of survey participants), 50 to 64 year-olds (36.5%), and 65 to 74 year-olds (25.6%). There were three responses (2.2%) from people aged 75 and greater, and no responses from those aged 19 years and younger.

It is important to note that the survey did not require every question to be answered. Thus, not all participants chose or were directed to answer all of the questions and the total number of respondents per question varied from 45 to 160 respondents.

HOUSEHOLD TELEPHONE SURVEY

Between June 28 and July 15, 2025, a telephone survey was administered to 300 randomly selected households in Trent Hills to capture a statistically representative sample of needs and interests in the community, including users and non-users of parks, facilities, and programs. The sample frame included landlines as well as cell phone-only households. Respondents were aged 18 years and older and asked to respond on behalf of themselves and members of their household. Results of the survey are found in Appendix B.

The composition of telephone survey participants was different from the online survey. The telephone survey included more couples without children (46.5%), slightly fewer couples with children (32.5%), single parents with children (6.0%), single adults with no children (5.5%), multigenerational households (5%), multiple adults without children (2.5%) and with children (2.0%), as shown in Figure 1.4 on the following page.

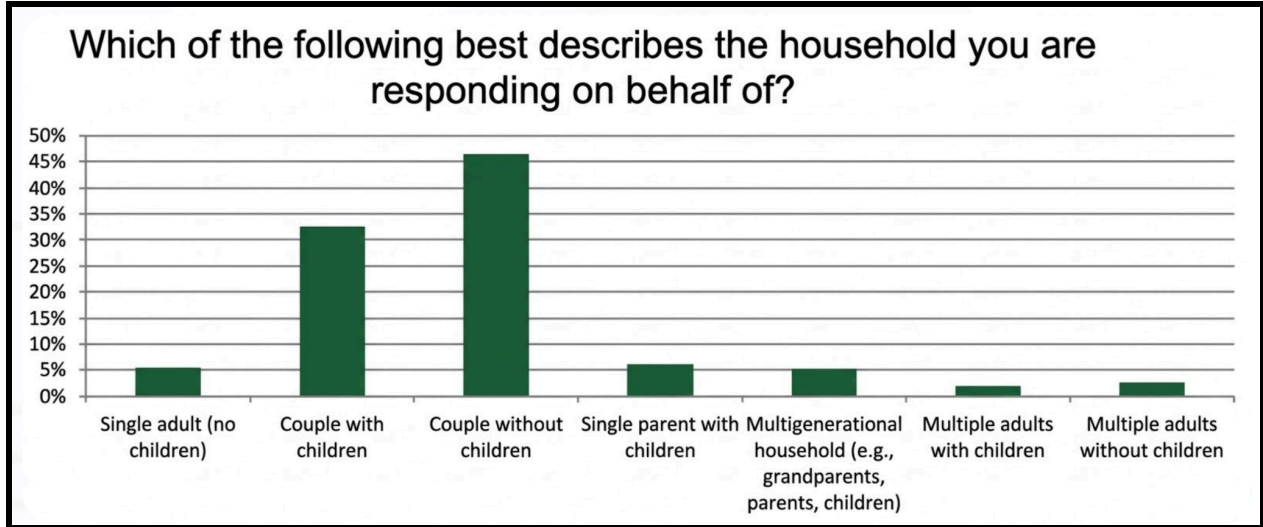


Figure 1.4: Telephone Survey Household Composition

Figure 1.5 below shows the composition of telephone survey respondents across communities in Trent Hills. Nearly one third of participants were from Campbellford (29.0%) while 5.5%-10.% were from each of Crowe Bridge, Hoard's Station, Trent River, Warkworth, Norham, Meyersberg, Dartford, and rural Trent Hills.

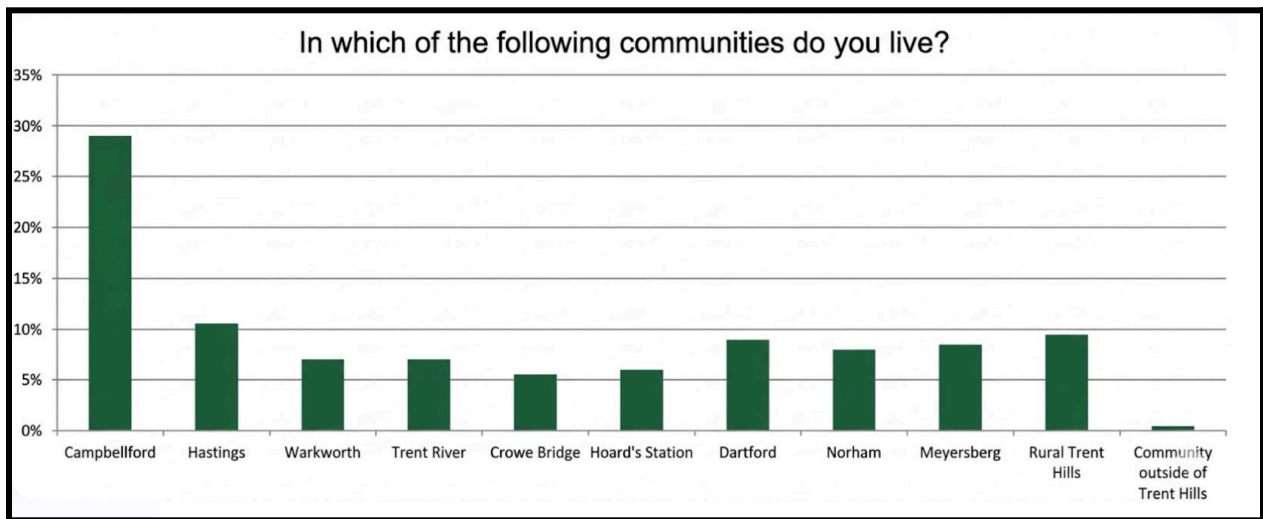


Figure 1.5: Telephone Survey Geographic Composition

Respondents' age ranges were generally within three groups: 20-49 year-olds (35.8% of survey participants), 50 to 64 year-olds (36.5%), and 65 to 74 year-olds (25.6%). There were three responses (2.2%) from people aged 75 and greater, and no responses from those aged 19 years and younger.

1.5.4 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

An in-person workshop was held on the evening of Thursday, July 31, 2025 at Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre and attended by 28 community members. Interactive panels invited conversation about the project process and timeline, and the current context of parks and recreation services in Trent Hills (Figure 1.6).

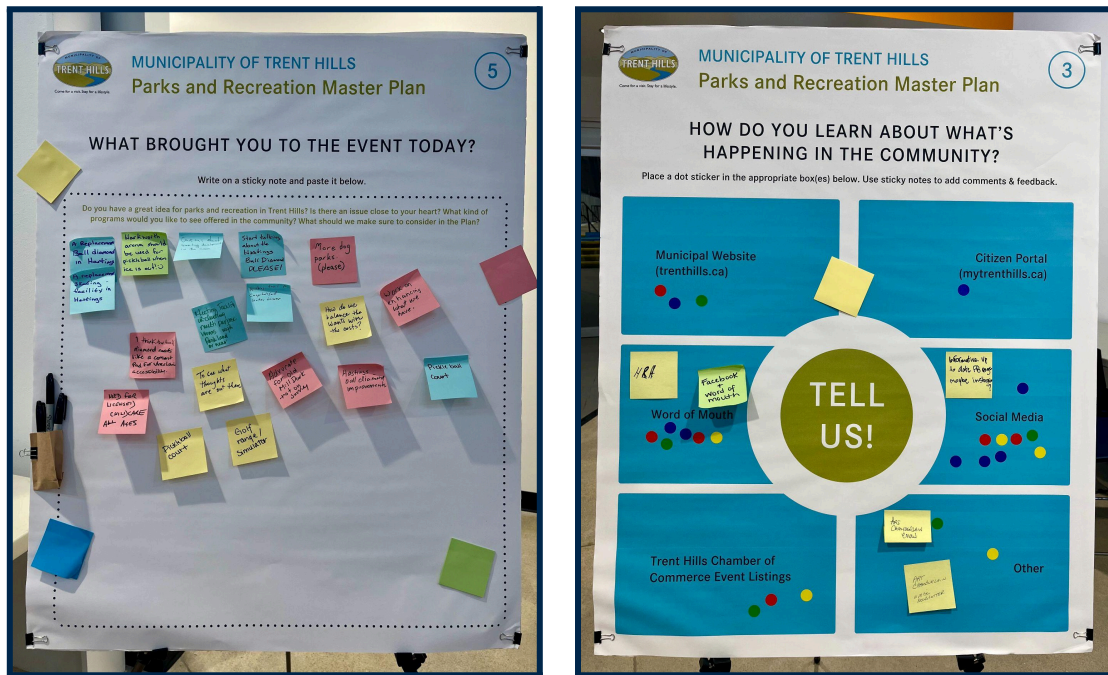


Figure 1.6 Sample panels from Community Visioning Workshop

1.5.5 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS & INTERESTED PARTIES

As phases of the Plan progressed, two priority projects were identified: Hillside Park and Hastings Village Green. Subsequently, the consulting team held two 90-minute focus groups with key stakeholders to discuss preliminary recommendations for the sites.

The focus group discussing preliminary recommendations for Hillside Park was held on February 26, 2026 with representation from the Municipality of Trent Hills, Trent Hills Public Library, CELC Beehive Daycare, Hillcrest Public School, Campbellford District High School, Campbellford Business Improvement Area, Westben, Artworth, and Aron Theatre Co-op.

The focus group discussing Hastings Village Green was held on February 23, 2026 with representation from the Municipality of Trent Hills, Hastings Revitalization Association, Trent Hills Public Library, Hastings Public School, and Hastings Historical Society. This included both old and new residents, merchants, event organizers, community advocates, municipal staff, a Council member, and Accessibility Advisory Committee member.



2.0

RECREATION FACILITIES

2.0 RECREATION FACILITIES

2.1 INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

Supply, use and community interest in more facilities indicate relatively limited in the need to add to sports and recreation assets in Trent Hills. A key consideration with respect to supply is the new Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre, which opened in October 2024. The Centre added several ‘firsts’ to the supply of recreation facilities in Trent Hills: an indoor pool, a therapy pool and fitness studios. A new, state-of-the art NHL size ice pad and a fitness centre were also added. The full impact on participation that these will have across the community remains to be seen.

Moreover, the overall cost to the municipality to operate all its indoor facilities has increased with the addition of the new Centre. It would be premature, therefore, to significantly expand assets and operations to serve the community, at least in the immediate future. In relation to this, the community indicated majority opposition to tax increases: 6% (9 of 160) online survey respondents would pay higher property taxes, and several emphasized opposition to tax increases in the comments section at the end of the survey; 18.5% (37 of 200) random telephone survey participants would accept a property tax increase.

The focus of the facilities component of the Plan, therefore, is 1) identifying potential ‘gaps’ in supply and how to address these in a cost-conscious manner, 2) considering potential need to expand supply during the Plan’s 20 year term, which will be confirmed by continuous monitoring of relevant variables (population growth, participation in various sports/recreation programs/activities; allocations of time and use of facilities in relation to capacity, etc.).

This approach is supported by three of six values in Trent Hill’s Strategic Plan (2023-2027), which are directly related to planning and developing sports and recreation facilities and reflected in the Master Plan:

- **Community-focused** - Decisions are taken in the broad interest of the community and may not always reflect the specific interest of a particular individual or group.
- **Inclusive** - We welcome all people and undertake actions to ensure municipal services are available to the entire community.
- **Sustainability** - We are committed to a sustainable future and improving the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Trent Hills.

2.2 INDOOR FACILITIES

2.2.1 FACILITY SUPPLY AND USE

Table 2.1 below lists the major indoor facilities in Trent Hills, their locations and individual components.

Table 2.1: Trent Hills Indoor Facility Supply

Name of Facility	Location	Size & Components	Notes
Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre	Campbellford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 64,200 sq. ft. - 1 ice pad - fitness centre - 2 fitness studio rooms - 25m pool - therapy pool - concession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opened 2024 - fully accessible/ barrier-free
Warkworth Arena & Community Centre	Warkworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31,900 sq. ft. - 1 ice pad - auditorium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - auditorium (hall) rarely used - not accessible
Hastings Field House	Hastings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55,000 sq. ft., including 4,500 sq. ft. support building - multi-purpose court - 30m x 90m artificial turf field with players' benches and spectator bleachers - 200m indoor rubberized walking/running track - fitness space: cardio and resistance equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - court comprises 1 full size court for tennis, basketball or volleyball or 4 pickleball or badminton courts - field hosts soccer, lacrosse, softball, boot camp, fitness classes, and driving range for 10/session - 9 cardio machines - dumb and kettlebells, bench press, resistance machine, medicine, yoga and bosu balls
Ah! Centre: Warkworth Arts & Heritage Centre	Warkworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,600 sq. ft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gallery - volunteer-run - memberships available

Name of Facility	Location	Size & Components	Notes
Warkworth Centre for the Arts & Library	Warkworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4,280 sq. ft. - small hall on second level - kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in former Warkworth Town Hall - leased by Warkworth Business Association - accommodates library (on ground floor) and performing arts venue
Campbellford Library	Campbellford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - program and meeting space 	
Hastings Library (formerly Hastings Civic Centre)	Hastings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - large general meeting area - kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accessible - Hastings Library Branch and Early Years program located here
Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club	Campbellford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 sheets ice - 2 squash courts - cardio/fitness area - lounge/hall (capacity: 152) - kitchen, bar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not a municipally owned facility - operated by Campbellford Curling Club - accessible

Collectively, the community is very well served with a range of indoor facilities that are distributed throughout the municipality. Each of its population centres has one or more complexes that provide sports and recreation/leisure facilities for use by the community at large. Facility duplication in more than one settlement area is minimal. Although this requires residents to travel to use those that are located outside their immediate area, the population within each community is insufficient to feasibly support major facility duplications - despite some community interest in local replications.

Less than half (40% or 79) of respondents to the random telephone survey indicated their household uses indoor recreation facilities in Trent Hills. Over half (95 or 59%) of online survey participants' households use indoor recreation facilities.

Among the 200 random survey respondents, between 20% and 25% used one or more of the three indoor recreation centres: Warkworth Arena & Community Centre, Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre, and Hastings Field House. Comparable proportions of the 160 online survey respondents ranged from 21% to 48%, with the latter using the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre.

The 14 groups that reported use of indoor recreation facilities included youth soccer, minor (male and female) and triple A hockey, figure skating, volleyball, minor baseball and minor football, elementary and high school sports, hospice foundation, community service club and Pride. Eight (8) groups use the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre, seven (7) use the Warkworth Arena and Community Centre, and four (4) use the Hastings Field House. Non-municipal facilities used by eight (8) of the groups include public and Catholic school elementary and high school gyms (4 groups); Trent Hills Library, Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club, Warkworth Centre for the Arts and Campbellford Legion (1 group each). Among all groups, current waitlists total 10 for youth soccer. For the most part, therefore, the number and variety of indoor facilities available to user groups appears to be meeting their current needs.

2.2.2 COMMUNITY FACILITY INTERESTS

Figure 2.1 below provides responses to interest in additions or expansions to indoor facilities among residents, and Table 2.2 on the following page lists facilities of interest.

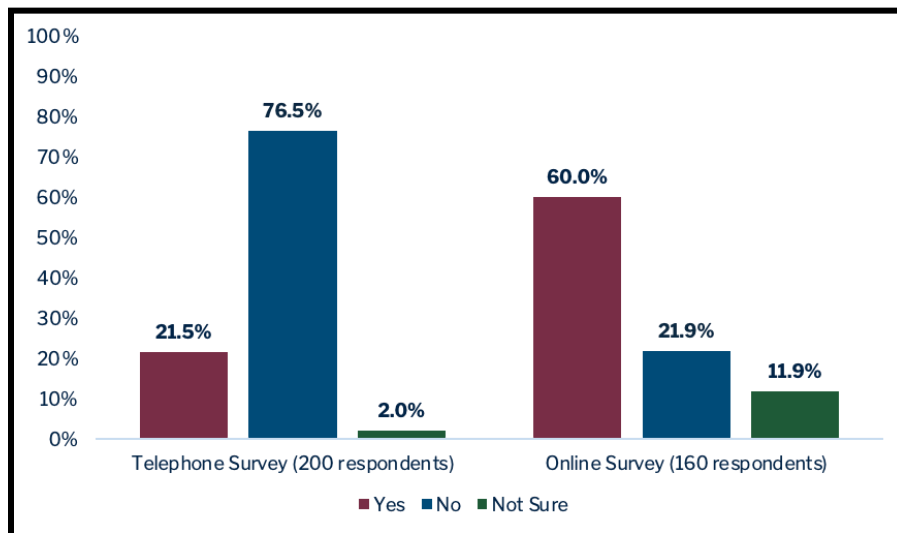


Figure 2.1: Resident Interest in Indoor Facility Additions/Expansions

As shown in Figure 2.1, a large majority of respondents to the random telephone survey (77%) indicated no need for additions or expansions to the supply of indoor facilities in Trent Hills, while almost two thirds (66%) of the online survey participants reported the need for more. Table 2.2 on the following page lists additional facility interests from both surveys. Facilities shaded in purple are currently part of municipal supply, while facilities shaded in green comprise non-municipal facilities that can or might be accessed for community use⁴, and facilities shaded in blue represent 'gaps' in supply.

⁴ In the case of the YMCA and curling club, community use = non-member use.

Table 2.2: Indoor Facilities of Interest to Residents

Indoor Facility Type	Need for Additions/ Expansion			
	Random Telephone Survey of Residents		Online Survey of Residents	
	# of respondents	% of 200	# of respondents	% of 160
Fitness facilities (e.g., weights, cardio room)	14	7%	21	13.1%
Walking/running track	13	6.5%	19	18.1%
Gymnasium	9	4.5%	13	8.1%
Dance/aerobics studio	5	2.5%	18	11.3%
Banquet hall	5	2.5%	17	10.6%
Arena	4	2%	18	11.3%
Community kitchen	4	2%	22	13.8%
Racquet sports facilities (e.g., squash, racquetball) ⁵	3	1.5%	18	11.3%
Multi-purpose space	3	1.5%	28	17.5%
Meeting space	3	1.5%	6	3.8%
Performing arts space	3	1.5%	9	5.6%
Artificial turf field	1	0.5%	3	1.9%
Arts/artisan studio	1	0.5%	14	8.8%
Indoor pool (other)	-	-	4	2.2%

purple = current municipal supply

green = non-municipal facilities

blue = 'gaps' in supply

Both surveys revealed that the numbers/proportions of respondent interest in more facilities by type is not strong. In the telephone survey, the highest level of interest that emerged was for fitness facilities at 7% (14 of 200 respondents). A walking/running track was the most frequently reported facility need by 18% (29 of 160 respondents) of online survey participants.

2.2.3 NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

ICE PADS

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- There are two (2) municipal ice pads in Trent Hills.
- Limited interest emerged among residents for another arena.

⁵ Not including those played in a multi-purpose gymnasium

- Among the 11 indoor facility user groups, 3 requested more ice time (during the week); BDMHA noted it would access more Trent Hills ice if it was available.

DISCUSSION

Facility use data from the 2024/25 season was used to determine the extent to which prime time is used on weeknights and weekends at both arenas, and is shown in Tables 2.3 and 2.4 below.⁶ In response to community requests, ice at SLRWC will be provided from the 2nd week of August until the May long weekend. Given its opening late in 2024, the extension for the 2024/25 season was limited to the spring.

Table 2.3: Warkworth Arena Prime Time Use 2024-2025 (September 18, 2024 to March 31, 2025)

	Prime Time	total Prime Time hours available	total Prime Time hours used	% Prime Time used
Weeknights (Mon-Fri)	4pm-11:30pm	917	808	88%
Weekends (Sat-Sun)	8am-11:30pm	784	609.75	78%
TOTALS		1,701	1,417.75	83%

Table 2.4: Sunny Life Arena Prime Time Use 2024-2025 (October 1, 2024 to May 18, 2025)

	Prime Time	total Prime Time hours available	total Prime Time hours used	% Prime Time used
Weeknights (Mon-Fri)	4pm-11:30pm	812	670.75	83%
Weekends (Sat-Sun)	8am-11:30pm	658	549	83%
TOTALS		1,470	1,219.75	83%

These figures represent very limited potential to increase prime time use. If it is assumed that 90% capacity of prime time is viewed as a reasonable target, Warkworth Arena can accommodate an additional 113 hours of use.⁷ The same calculation indicates that SLRWS can accommodate 103 more hours of use,⁸ not including future extended hours from mid-August to October.

Two ice pads, therefore, meet current ice needs in Trent Hills and represent a population-based ratio of 1 pad for every 6,930 people (1:6,930).⁹ A projected population of 15,827 in 2045, therefore will generate need for a total of 2.3 ice pads (15,827/6,930) or an additional third (0.3) of a pad. Need for another full pad, therefore, should be reviewed at the ten-year point when the

⁶ Hours include scheduled maintenance and shutdowns since ice is not available during these times.

⁷ 90% of total prime time available, which is 1,701 is 1,531. Removing existing hours of use (1,417.75) leaves 113 hours of unused prime time.

⁸ 90% of total prime time available, which is 1,470 is 1,323. Removing existing hours of use (1,219.75) leaves 103 hours of unused prime time.

⁹ The Master Plan and its assessments assume a current population of **13,861** based on the 2021 Census figure, and a projected population of **15,827** in 2045, at the end of the Plan's 20-year term.

Master Plan will be updated. In the interim, it is important to monitor and document the ice use on an ongoing basis, which will reflect participation trends and population growth, and can be used to verify need. These findings will provide evidence to inform the review and determine if unmet demand for prime-time hours is sufficient to support a third facility.

In the interim, as required, increasing prime time capacity use of existing pads could include one or a combination of options such as:

- Reallocating time distribution between users/municipal programs: The November 2025 schedules contain a considerable amount of public programming at the arenas, which is to be commended. If needed, and based on demand/use of these programs during peak use months, prime time could be considered for reallocation to user groups.¹⁰
- Consider increasing operating hours: Although the room to extend operating hours in the mornings and evenings is limited, and it would entail budget increases to staff, it may be a more cost-effective option to meeting need if unmet demand can be accommodated in this way.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF1. Do not develop another ice pad during the first half of the Master Plan's term.**
- RF2. Monitor and evaluate prime time use of ice pads on an ongoing basis to support assessing the need for a third ice pad as part of the ten-year update of the Master Plan.**
- RF3. Consider options to increase prime time capacity between now and the Plan's update, including reallocating distribution of time among user groups and municipal programs during peak periods, and extending morning and evening operating hours..**

GYMNASIUMS

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- There are no municipal gymnasiums in Trent Hills.
- Current supply comprises School Board gyms at Hillcrest Elementary School and Campbellford District High School (CDHS); Kent (Campbellford), Percy (Warkworth) and Hastings Public Schools have gymnasiums, with only the former two being large enough for courts sports such as volleyball and basketball.
- Some interest among residents in a municipal gym: nine (5%) and 13 (8%) of telephone and online survey respondents, respectively.
- No indication of need for a municipal gym was reported by Council/staff survey.

¹⁰ Warkworth = 25 hours of public programming per week November 2025 (sponsored public skates, stick & puck) during prime-time hours; Sunny Life = 14 hours of public programming per week November 2025 (sponsored public skates, stick & puck, adult (18+) shinny) during prime-time hours.

- 52% of user groups (13 of 25) indicated they use non-municipal recreation facilities, which include gyms (school or church), and one specified use of facilities at the CDHS.

DISCUSSION

While a municipal gym is not part of current supply and can be considered a gap, it was not emphasized as such by the community. A limited interest may be because the Hastings Field House provides certain functions/services that are typically accommodated in municipal gyms (e.g., track, courts for pickleball, volleyball, basketball, etc.). At the same time, three of four elementary schools in Trent Hills do not have gymnasiums. Hillcrest Public School and CDHS each have a gym.

A municipal gym in Trent Hills does not appear to be required now and would be quite costly to provide. Both CDHS and Hillcrest Public School submitted surveys that indicate they rely on access to municipal facilities for physical education and extra-curricular sports programs along with anticipated need to serve a growing population and new sport/recreation interests. The municipality notes that the CDHS hockey team uses the arena, and the Campbellford Baseball Diamond for physical education and games. Percy Public School uses the soccer fields in Warkworth Park, and the fields in Fowlds Millennium Park are used by Hastings Public School. Hillcrest and Kent Public Schools have also used the soccer fields in Campbellford for tournaments or events.

In the absence of a municipal gym, entering a formal agreement with the Kawarth Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) for access to school gymnasiums could provide facilities for programs/activities that require a gym. The Campbellford High School gym is large and may have the potential to accommodate a variety of community group uses such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, and floor hockey. A reciprocal agreement between the Board and the Municipality would detail the terms by which each party could access facilities within an exchange-based framework (see discussion on agreements in the section on Service Delivery).

None of the groups surveyed indicated they use arena floors, which may offer an opportunity during ice-out season at the Warkworth Arena to accommodate community groups that provide programs such as box lacrosse, pickleball, floor hockey, etc.¹¹

Over the long-term as part of the Master Plan update, a municipal gym could be considered as a component to be added to the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre, if program development backed by monitored use of unmet demand is sufficient to support it. The Municipality can continue to track the use of Hastings Field House for gym functions and, if an agreement is instituted with the School Board, community use of its gyms.

¹¹ The YMCA will use the arena floor at the SLRWC during the non-ice months of June and July for its programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF4. A municipal gymnasium is not required now and should be considered as a component added to the SLRWC in the long-term if need is verified by monitoring use of the Hastings Field House and community use of school gyms, if an agreement with the KPRDSB is developed.
- RF5. Consider providing a municipal gym as part of the Master Plan's mid-point update should unmet demand for one be verified in the interim.

HASTINGS FIELD HOUSE

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- The Field House provides a variety of facilities (see Table 2.1 above) that, collectively, accommodate a range of sport and recreation programs/activities.
- Resident interest in additional fitness facilities and walking/running track was relatively strong among both telephone and online survey respondents; the highest response was 18% (29 people) for a track among online survey respondents.
- Among 11 indoor facility user groups, 36% (4 groups) use Hastings Field House and one (1) is interested in a bit more time indoors for training from Thanksgiving to Easter, preferably on weekdays since some teams are busy playing on weekends away from home in the Greater Toronto Area. The following was reported by one (1) group: indoor turf, practice facilities for early season, which could be interpreted as either needing more access to existing spaces or requiring additional facilities.
- Considerable interest in additional/expanded facilities of the type at the Field House was reported by Council and staff, including sports courts: more needed (2); pickleball courts specifically (3); walking/running track: expand (1); add at Sunny Life (1); more washrooms, 2 more change rooms with showers, change table (1).

DISCUSSION

Although the community reported interest in additional fitness facilities, a walking/running track and indoor courts, the Field House is not used to capacity for most of the uses it houses. Full operating hours are limited to September to May. During June, July and August, use is minimal at approximately 2 to 20 people per day. During this period, operating hours are reduced to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7am to 2pm to accommodate those who prefer to play pickleball inside and to provide a rainy-day alternative to recreating outdoors. Most of the activity that takes place at the Field House in the fall and winter moves outside during the summer months.

Data on Hastings Field House for the months of May 2025 and December 2025 was used to estimate the extent of facility use in relation to capacity. The Field House comprises several components operating concurrently on different schedules. Moreover, the courts and turf are

booked for both community programs and private rentals while the track and fitness facilities are available to the public during all facility operating hours for drop-in use. Estimates of use in relation to capacity of booked components, therefore, are calculated separately for the courts and the turf. Use levels for the track and fitness equipment are based on input from facility staff.

Table 2.5 below shows the number and proportion of operating hours by day of the week that are scheduled for community programs on the court and turf, followed by hours that are privately rented. Each component is available for:

- 15 hours per day Monday to Friday (operating hours 7:00 am to 10:00 pm daily)
- 12.5 hours on each of Saturday and Sunday (operating hours 8:30 am to 9:00 pm daily)

Table 2.5: Community Program Hours Scheduled on Courts and Turf at Hastings Fieldhouse December 2025

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
courts: programs	40% (6)	27% (4)	40% (6)	47% (7)	27% (4)	28% (3.5)	12% (1.5)
courts: rented	60% (9)	73% (11)	60% (9)	53% (8)	73% (11)	72% (9)	88% (11)
TOTAL	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (12.5)	100% (12.5)
turf: programs	40% (6)	60% (9)	27% (4)	27% (4)	27% (4)	- (0%)	- (0%)
turf: rented	60% (9)	40% (6)	73% (11)	73% (11)	73% (11)	100% (12.5)	100% (12.5)
TOTAL	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (15)	100% (12.5)	100% (12.5)

The courts are scheduled throughout the week for recreational pickleball, competitive pickleball and open family time for a total of 32 hours, ranging from 12% to 47% of available court hours, from Monday to Sunday. The balance of operating hours (68) is privately booked and ranges from 53% to 88% from Monday to Sunday. It appears, therefore, that community interest in additional access to indoor courts - both now and in upcoming years - can be accommodated to some extent with existing Field House facilities by shifts in allocations between program and non-program times. This could include a reduction in non-residents rentals, if necessary, to accommodate Trent Hills’ resident/group needs.

The turf is booked for golf and open family time for a total of 27 hours, ranging from 0 to 60% of available turf hours, from Monday to Sunday. The balance of operating hours (72) is privately booked and ranges from 40% to 100% from Monday to Sunday. Although not defined as such, prime time for turf use is similar to that for ice, and comprises 4pm to 10pm Monday through

Friday, and 8am to 10pm on Saturday and Sunday. Use of prime time is 90% or more of capacity, with most users coming from communities outside Trent Hills.

One group indicated they need early season practice facilities, which could represent interest in indoor turf, and is a request that might be accommodated through the allocation process (see section 4.0 on Service Delivery). During the term of the Master Plan, however, additional demand for indoor turf may increase and should be monitored to determine requirements for the Municipality to respond with additional facilities or a reduction in non-local use of the Field House.

Although there is no data on the numbers of users of the track and fitness equipment, neither is used to capacity and availability totals all Field House operating hours at 100 hours per week during the fall and winter. As facilities for drop-in use, they cannot be booked and community interest in more of both types could be because popular times are heavily used while other times are not busy. For these facilities, the Municipality could consider introducing a software-based program for the Fieldhouse that communicates busy and slow times for users to be able to align their visits accordingly. These systems can publicize typically 'busy times' either statically or in real time using sensor-based occupancy tracking.

The approaches noted above to optimizing use of the Field House should be based on monitored evidence regarding the use of each component by activity, user and levels of participation to identify areas where adjustments could be made. In addition to accommodating community and renter needs, this information will also provide the basis for determining when a new facility may be needed and the form it should take.

The fieldhouse, in its current configuration and construction, cannot accommodate an expansion. All interior space is occupied by its component facilities and the structure's foundations would need to be enlarged and the dome itself would need to be replaced. In essence, therefore, it would be a new build. While there is room on the site to provide a larger facility, the feasibility of doing so would need to be determined through a detailed study on the costs of providing and operating it, including options to replace a dome with a more permanent structure and opportunities for funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF6. Continue to monitor use of individual Field House facility components by activity, user and levels of participation to identify areas where adjustments could be made to allocations to better meet needs.**
- RF7. Consider introducing a software-based program for the Fieldhouse that communicates busy and slow times for users to be able to align their visits accordingly.**
- RF8. Use ongoing monitoring of Field House use to inform the point at which a detailed feasibility study may be required to determine the feasibility of its replacement with a large, possibly more permanent structure.**

LARGE MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE AND COMMUNITY KITCHEN

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- There is no purpose-built multi-purpose space in Trent Hills. Intentions to provide this space were excluded from Hastings Field House plans due to cost in relation to the available budget.
- Interest in a multi-purpose space and community kitchen was relatively strong among online survey participants at 18% (28) and 14% (22), respectively and minimal among telephone survey respondents at 2% or less (3 and 4 respondents).
- Municipal multi-purpose space and a community kitchen appear as 'gaps' in facility supply.

DISCUSSION

The need to renovate the existing hall upstairs at Warkworth Arena and/or relocate it at grade with a commercial kitchen was mentioned in online community surveys, and by Council and staff. It was noted that renovations alone (i.e., not relocating it) would require making it accessible and soundproof.

All surveys indicated the need for an auditorium space at the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre to accommodate larger events such as tournaments, dances, etc., both for audience/spectator viewing and capacity. It was noted that there should be more spaces that allow 200+ people to gather (sit or stand comfortably) given the number of people who attend sporting events and others (e.g., graduations, tournaments, guest speakers) that require this level of accommodation.

Available information shows that arena auditoriums/banquet halls are rarely used. From data provided for May 1, 2024 to May 2, 2025 (covering all available time), the Warkworth Arena Auditorium was used for 133.0 hours for private rentals (e.g., Jack & Jills, meetings, dances, birthday parties, etc.). The Warkworth Centre for the Arts is a municipal facility that is operated by the Warkworth Business Association and can be rented for a variety of uses/events through the Association.

Key issues appear to be lack of kitchens, and that the Warkworth Auditorium is not accessible.

The SLRWC was intentionally designed to not replicate the auditorium/kitchen combination of other existing municipal facilities, for several reasons:

- generally low use of these now, as noted above
- the cost of constructing, maintaining and operating additional facilities for which use levels of others did not support need
- a decision to not compete with comparable, better equipped non-municipal venues

St. Paul's Church in Warkworth is fully accessible, with an event space/kitchen that is available for rent by the community. The Legions in Hastings, Campbellford and Warkworth are also accessible and promote their hall for rentals, and there are other large venues for weddings, etc. including the Grand Maple in Hastings, and the Masonic Hall, the Curling Club and the Kinsmen Hall - all in Campbellford.

Responding to community interest in improvements to the Warkworth Auditorium would require significant upgrades to make it function as an accessible, up-to-date event space beyond improvements needed to maintain its functional integrity and optimize its current use. It currently requires upgrading to provide sound proofing, it needs access to natural light, and the roof over this portion of the facility needs repair or replacement. With respect to kitchens, Warkworth Auditorium's (and Hastings Civic Centre) are both non-commercial facilities. Although they have passed the Health Unit's inspections, regulations could result in future compliance to commercial standards. If that should occur, the Municipality would need to assess the feasibility of upgrades or removal. Feasibility to upgrade these kitchens would be informed by the extent of demand for rentals as well as community programs/activities.

Given the limited use of municipal auditoriums/halls now and availability of other event spaces with commercial kitchens in the community, renovations beyond those that are essential do not appear to be warranted. At the same time, there is limited purpose-built multi-purpose program space. The multi-purpose room at the SLRWC is managed and programmed by the YMCA. The agreement between the Municipality and the YMCA allows the Municipality to request access to the multi-purpose space when it is needed for its purposes and that it may result in YMCA programs being cancelled or rescheduled.

Over the long-term, however, the need for additional multi-purpose program space may emerge. Ongoing monitoring of unmet demand for access to more purpose built facilities will establish need, and its provision could be considered as part of an expanded SLRWC to add a municipal gymnasium.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF9. Undertake upgrades to the Warkworth Auditorium that are needed to maintain its functional integrity and optimize use in its current form. If required to upgrade existing kitchens to comply with commercial standards, determine feasibility of investment based on the results of monitoring the extent of unmet demand for use of these facilities.**
- RF10. Consider the need for additional purpose-built multi-purpose program space as a component to be added to the SLRWC over the long-term in conjunction with a municipal gymnasium.**

DANCE/AEROBICS STUDIO

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Municipal facilities do not include these types of studios.
- Two (2) fitness studio rooms at Sunny Life are operated by the YMCA.
- Interest in a dance/aerobics studio was reported by 11% (18) of online survey participants and 3% (5) of telephone survey respondents.

DISCUSSION

The community expressed limited interest in additional studio facilities. The two new studios at the SLRWC are managed and programmed by the YMCA. Until the SLRWC opened there was no studio space available in the Trent Hills and the extent to which the new facilities will meet community need remains to be seen.

The agreement between Trent Hills and the YMCA stipulates coordinated roles in service provision:

- The YMCA will be the provider of fitness, aquatics, family, and related indoor recreational programs to respond to community needs as determined by the Municipality and/or by the YMCA, and any other programs agreed to between the Municipality and the YMCA, under a long term, renewable agreement.
- Staff from the Municipality will work with YMCA staff to avoid duplication of programs and services offered by the YMCA in the area of indoor health, fitness and recreation, childcare, day camps, and other family/youth services and programs.
- The Municipality will consult with the YMCA as it determines how it will respond to future community needs based on population growth.

If additional demand for studio-base programs emerges in the future, the Municipality will liaise with the YMCA to determine the appropriate response.

RECOMMENDATION:

- RF11. As per the Municipality's agreement with the YMCA, the Municipality will liaise with the YMCA to determine how to meet future demand for new studio-based programs.**

SMALL MULTI-PURPOSE/MEETING SPACE

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- There is a combination of municipal and non-municipal meeting spaces in Trent Hills.

- Interest in meeting space was reported by 4% (6) of online survey participants and 2% (3) of telephone survey respondents, respectively.

DISCUSSION

The Hastings Civic Centre is now managed and scheduled by the Library and, as the sole tenant of the facility, it has been rebranded the Hastings Library. The use of individual spaces in the premises, therefore, is not clear. From May 1, 2024 to May 2, 2025, however, 560.5 hours of use was reported for the Hastings Civic Centre.

Although there is limited interest in more meeting space now, demand may increase over time. Facility available across the community is unclear, when both municipal space in Libraries and other providers are considered. Service clubs, and churches (e.g., Oddfellows Hall in Campbellford, Rotary Hall Campbellford, St. Paul's United Church is where the Warkworth Community Service Club meets, etc.) may have these types of facilities. If the community can get better access to these facilities the more space will not need to be added to supply until existing resources are optimally used.

The Municipality can audit all available space in the community to create a detailed inventory of what is available and, for those not owned/operated by the municipality but available for community use, include them in a comprehensive information package on the municipal website. If, in the long-term the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre is expanded, meeting space could be considered for inclusion based on verified demand and integrated into the design of multi-purpose space.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF12. Create and post a detailed information package of all available meeting space in Trent Hills.**
- RF13. If, in the long-term, the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre is expanded, consider meeting space for integration in multi-purpose facilities, based on verified demand.**

CAMPBELLFORD AND DISTRICT CURLING AND RACQUET CLUB

The Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club is a not-for-profit that operates its facility on land leased by its board of directors from the Campbellford Agricultural Society. The Municipality has met with the Club in the past to offer its assistance with marketing and ideas for additional programming. Reported community interest in squash and racquetball facilities was 11% (18) among online survey respondents and 2% (3) of random survey participants. These are specialized facilities that do not represent a large market. The Club and interested users might benefit from increased promotion of its facilities. This working relationship between the

Municipality and the Club should continue and be developed, as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

RF14. Continue to work with the Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club to support the Club's efforts in marketing/promotion of its facilities.

ARTS SPACES

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- There are two (2) community arts centres in Trent Hills – Warkworth Centre for the Arts and Ah! Centre: Warkworth Arts & Heritage Centre – that are operated by not-for-profit organizations.
- Very limited interest for more of these types of spaces emerged in consultation.

DISCUSSION

The Warkworth Centre for the Arts and Ah! Centre: Warkworth Arts & Heritage Centre provide well developed programming in the performing and visual arts and heritage. The Centre is located in the historic Town Hall building. It is a venue for the performing arts, rotating exhibits, craft shows, etc., and hosts several annual community events. It is leased from the municipality by the Warkworth Business Association and operated by a board of directors supported by volunteers.

The Ah! Centre: Warkworth Arts & Heritage Centre is located in the Trent Hills Municipal Heritage Building. Volunteers operate the facility and offer visual and performing arts and heritage programs for residents of all ages.

Both are thriving centres of arts and heritage programming and their Boards work with community-based partners to provide a wide range of services to Trent Hill residents and visitors. It is noted that the Municipality's role in delivering arts and heritage services to the community focuses on facilitating their provision by volunteers. The Municipality should continue to support the work of these organizations through facility leases and in-kind services, as needed (see Service Delivery section for discussion on support to volunteers). This could include assistance in finding spaces to use in future but is not anticipated to extend to building new facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

RF15. Continue to support community-based arts and heritage groups to deliver programs and services to Trent Hills residents.

2.2.4 IMPROVEMENTS TO INDOOR FACILITIES

Table 2.6 below shows the responses by user groups when asked if their organization's needs are being met in relation to the following aspects of municipally owned indoor recreation facilities in Trent Hills.

Table 2.6: Indoor Facility Aspects that Meet/Do Not Meet Organizational Needs

Indoor Facility Aspect	# of groups (14 total)		
	yes	no	not sure
change rooms	14	0	0
parking	14	0	0
amenities	13	1	0
cleanliness	13	0	1
customer service	13	0	0
washrooms	12	1	1
up-to-date	11	2	1
audience/spectator viewing	11	2	1
cost	11	4	0
acoustics	11	0	3
location	11	2	1
AODA accessibility	10	2	2
meeting space	5	4	4

The groups largely agreed that existing facility aspects meet their organization’s needs. The strongest disagreement occurred regarding meeting space and cost (4 or 29% of groups).

Among the 14 user groups of indoor facilities, 11 reported that they anticipate the need for additional facilities during the Plan’s 20-year term to operate their programs/events. Of these groups, eight (8) indicated that improvements to existing facilities/spaces that would increase their suitability will likely meet their needs. Reported capital and operating improvement needs are listed below and summarize all provided through the community and Council/staff surveys.

CAPITAL

These focus on required improvements identified by the community that were not addressed in the assessments of need for additional or expanded facilities since they relate to existing facilities. They include both general and specific improvements.

- Hastings Field House: replace sports courts when required; better sports court flooring; plan for steel structure replacement in event of dome failure; a better court covering
- Warkworth Arena: replace lights; replace roof; replace ice plant
- figure skating jumping harness
- improve accessibility
- backup power generators at all three locations
- facilities are good now but need to keep them up to date and fresh so they don't seem old in 20 years
- maintenance is key; two very new facilities require plans and resources to be allocated for future big ticket maintenance items
- do a better job of maintaining what we already have
- continue to improve facilities to encourage and facilitate the needs of younger demographics
- fix leaking/out of order drinking fountains
- need for more storage for indoor soccer

OPERATIONS

- Hastings Field House requires more field maintenance
- provide operating hours that are sufficient to meet community needs/interests
- align operating hours with the needs of those who commute beyond Trent Hills for work, so that they and their families can use facilities at home
- existing buildings/facilities need to be cleaned and maintained regularly, including appearance of facilities exterior and indoor upgrades, painting, etc.
- do a better job of managing what we already have.

DISCUSSION

Table 2.6 on the previous page identifies general areas of potential improvements in order of frequency as identified by user groups, the details and feasibility of which need to be further investigated.

In terms of recent work, 2025 improvement included installing LED lights in Hastings Field House and replacing the condenser in the Warkworth Arena. Both the men's and women's washrooms have an accessible stall and automatic door.

Building conditions assessments were prepared in 2020 for the Warkworth Arena, the Warkworth Performing Arts Centre/Library, and the Hastings Library. Other indoor facilities were reviewed in 2013. The 2020 reports provided recommendations for improvements to the Arena and the Performing Arts Centre/Library.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF17. Consult with indoor facility users to clarify their requests for improvements and to inform a budgeted improvement program, as required.
- RF18. Update the Building Conditions Assessments to identify long term capital investments to be addressed in the improvement program.

2.3 OUTDOOR FACILITIES

2.3.1 FACILITY SUPPLY AND USE

Table 2.7 below lists the outdoor facilities in Trent Hills and their locations.

Table 2.7: Trent Hills Outdoor Facility Supply

Name of Facility	Location	Ownership	Notes
Kennedy Park	Campbellford	Municipality	- 2 mini and 2 full soccer fields (unlit)
Warkworth Park	Warkworth	Percy Agricultural Society	- softball diamond (lit): \$100k in upgrades in the last 3 years (backstop, bleachers, lights)
		Municipality	- 2 full size and 1 mini soccer fields: mini not used, always wet; park floods every spring
Fowlds Millennium Park	Hastings	Municipality	- 4 unlit soccer fields
Campbellford Ball Diamonds	Campbellford	Campbellford Agricultural Society	- softball diamond (lit): needs LED and washroom upgrades
Campbellford Courts	Campbellford	Parks Canada	- 2 dual tennis/pickleball courts (lit)
Lawn Bowling Green	Campbellford	Campbellford Lawn Bowling Club	- Owned and operated by the Campbellford Lawn Bowling Club; located on Parks Canada land

Collectively, the community has a variety of outdoor facilities for organized sport and recreation. These facilities serve both the population centres in which they are located and the community at large. Ball diamonds and soccer fields are replicated in each settlement area and are relatively evenly distributed by type and number across Warkworth, Campbellford and Hastings. One-third (33% or 65) of respondents to the random telephone survey indicated their household uses outdoor recreation facilities in Trent Hills, while over half (89 or 56%) of online survey participants' households use outdoor recreation facilities.

A total of eight (8) groups provided information on their use of outdoor facilities and comprised minor and adult ball groups, youth soccer, minor football, elementary and high school sports/recreation and Pride. Three (3) groups use Campbellford Ball Diamond, and one (1) group uses the Warkworth Ball Diamond. Three (3) use Campbellford Soccer Fields, two (2) groups use Hastings Soccer Fields, and one (1) group uses the Warkworth Soccer Fields. One (1) group uses the field at Campbellford District High School.

Fifteen people were reported on waitlists for soccer in the 2025 season. For the most part, therefore, the outdoor facilities available in Trent Hills appear to be meeting scheduling needs.

2.2.2 COMMUNITY FACILITY INTERESTS

Figure 2.2 below provides responses to interest in additions or expansions to outdoor facilities among residents.

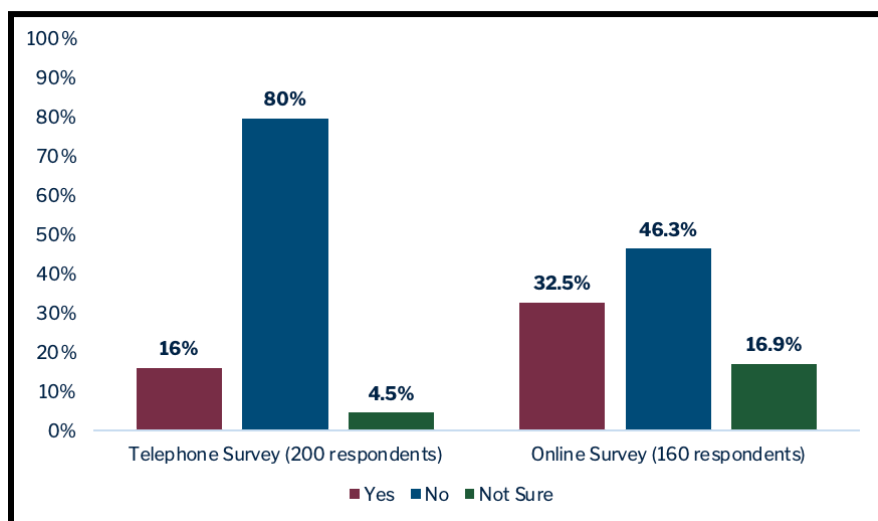


Figure 2.2: Resident Interest in Outdoor Facility Additions/Expansions

Just over three quarters (77%) of random telephone survey respondents indicated no more outdoor facilities are needed in Trent Hills while the largest proportion of online survey participants (60%) reported the need for more. Table 2.8 on the following page lists additional facility interests from both surveys. Facilities shaded in green are currently part of municipal supply while facilities shaded in purple represent 'gaps' in supply.

Table 2.8: Outdoor Facilities of Interest to Residents

Outdoor Facility Type	Need for Additions/ Expansion			
	Random Telephone Survey of Residents		Online Survey of Residents	
	# of respondents	% of 200	# of respondents	% of 160
tennis courts	15	7.5%	7	4.4%
multi-purpose field (e.g., rugby, football, lacrosse, field hockey)	15	7.5%	39	24.4%
soccer fields	13	6.5%	10	6.3%
pickleball courts	9	4.5%	27	16.9%
ball diamonds	9	4.5%	43	26.9%
cricket fields	5	2.5%	2	1.3%
artificial turf field	5	2.5%	8	5.0%
outdoor pool (other)	-	-	5	3.1%

green = current municipal supply

purple = 'gaps' in supply

Note: basketball courts, skate parks, splash pads, outdoor rinks, and other non-scheduled park amenities are assessed under Parks and Open Spaces in section 3.3.

2.3.3 NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

BALL DIAMONDS

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Two (2) lit softball diamonds are available in Trent Hills, one in Warkworth and one in Campbellford, both of which are located on Agricultural Society lands.
- Interest in additional ball diamonds was reported by 27% (43) of online survey participants and 5% (9) of telephone survey respondents.
- Of the six (6) groups that reported using outdoor facilities, three (3) use the Campbellford ball diamond and one (1) uses the Warkworth ball diamond.
- User groups indicated need for a proper multi diamond ball field to attract new teams and tournaments.
- Four (4) responses to the Council and staff survey indicated need for more ball diamonds, of which two (2) indicated Warkworth as a location and one (1) suggested Campbellford.

DISCUSSION

Facility use data from the 2024 season was used to determine the extent to which prime time is used on weeknights and weekends at both diamonds, as shown in Table 2.9 on the following page.

Table 2.9: Proportion of Ball Diamond Weeknight Prime Time Used for Twelve (12) Week Season¹²

Location (Ownership)	weeknight prime time capacity		weekend prime time capacity	
	hours	% of 12-week season	hours	% of 12-week season
Campbellford Ball Diamond (Municipality)	154.50	51.5%	130.0	36%
Warkworth Ball Diamond (Percy Agricultural Society)	141.0 ¹³	47%	0	-
TOTAL	295.5	49%	130.0%	18%

These findings show that the ball diamonds in Trent Hills can accommodate considerably more prime time use, especially on weekends. Municipalities are increasingly unable to provide outdoor sports facilities for use that is limited to weeknights, while weekends sit idle. Weekend time must now be considered as prime to optimize use in the same way that indoor facilities like arenas are treated.

The figures from Table 2.9 above, along with current and projected population, are used to anticipate the need for access to diamonds over the term of this Master Plan. This information indicates:

- Total current hours of use per season of 425.5 (295.5 + 130) = 0.031 hours per capita supply (425.5/13,861).
- Applying this per capita figure to the projected 2045 population generates a total of 490.5 hours of use (15,827 x 0.031) or an increase of 65.0 hours (490.5-425.5).
- This represents 84% of weeknight prime time hours (490.5/600), without using any weekend prime time.
- Including weekend prime time reduces overall use to 37% of available hours (490.5/1,320).

These findings indicate that no additional ball diamonds will be needed over the term of the Master Plan, based on current population and hours of use. This reflects overall low use now, and largely exclusive use of diamonds on weeknights. If needed, there is ample time on weekends to be integrated into regular use as part of prime time. If participation in ball increases, additional hours will be used but not likely to the point where additional facilities are needed.

Consultation revealed dismay at the removal of the Hastings ball diamond. In 2013 a storm destroyed its fencing and netting, all of which was removed due to safety concerns. Prior to this incident, it was not being used as a ball diamond. It was undersized with an outfield that faced the parking lot and street intersection. The diamond was not replaced and, as use of the two

¹² See Appendix C for prime time determinations.

¹³ Includes 108 hours of use for the season by the Warkworth Rattlers.

existing diamonds indicates, unmet demand to support a third diamond in Trent Hills has not emerged in the intervening years.

Consultation suggested the need for a proper multi diamond ball field to attract new teams and tournaments. Typically, providing facilities to host teams and tournaments for a market that extends beyond the community is determined based on a detailed feasibility study to warrant a significant capital investment in facilities, to consider ongoing financial sustainability and to identify potential partners to development. This type of work is also required for eligibility for any capital grants that might be made available to develop a facility. While this is an undertaking that the Municipality might consider in years to come, if there is evidence of demand, the use of ball diamond facilities does not support it now. Both ball diamonds, which require considerable staff resources to maintain now, and have been improved for local use over time, generate limited revenue. Moreover, there is interest in the community to retain geographic distribution of facilities, which would be negated by developing a single, multi-diamond complex.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF16. Based on current prime time use levels and anticipated population growth, no new ball diamonds will be required during the term of the Master Plan.**
- RF17. Integrate minimal use of weekend prime time on ball diamonds into regular prime time use in meeting any additional verified demand for access to facilities that cannot be met on weeknights.**
- RF18. Verify demand for additional use by ongoing monitoring of prime time use.**
- RF19. Any future interest in providing facilities to regional interest in a multi-diamond complex host teams and tournaments needs to be based on a detailed feasibility study to warrant consideration.**

SOCCER FIELDS

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Six (6) full, unlit and five (5) mini soccer fields are available in Trent Hills, distributed across Warkworth, Campbellford and Hastings, of which two (2) full fields and one (1) mini field are located on Agricultural Society lands.
- Interest in additional soccer fields was reported by 7% (13) of telephone survey respondents and 6% (10) of telephone survey respondents.
- Of the six (6) groups that reported using outdoor facilities, three (3) use Campbellford soccer fields, two (2) use Hastings soccer fields and one (1) uses Warkworth soccer fields.
- Trent Hills Soccer Club is interested in modifications to existing fields to provide smaller facilities for children's practices and games.
- Two (2) responses to the Council and staff survey indicated additions/expansions to the supply of soccer fields, suggesting Hastings, Campbellford and Warkworth as locations.

DISCUSSION

Facility use data from the 2024 season was used to determine the extent to which prime time is used on all soccer fields, as shown in Table 2.10 below.

Table 2.10: Proportion of Soccer Field Weeknight Prime Time Used for Eleven (11) Week Season¹⁴

Location (Ownership)	full fields weeknight prime time capacity		mini fields weeknight prime time capacity	
	hours	% of 11-week season	hours	% of 11-week season
Kennedy Park (Municipality)	Field 1: 42.0 Field 2: 47.0	30.5% 41.5%	Field 3: 42 Field 4: 42	30.5% 30.5%
TOTAL Campbellford	99.0	35.0%	84.0	30.5%
Warkworth Park (Percy Agricultural Society)	Field 1: 0.0 Field 2: 11.5	0.0 8.0%	Field 3: 0.0	-
TOTAL Warkworth	11.5	4.0%	0.0	-
Fowlds Millennium Park (Municipality)	Field 1*: 82.5 Field 2: 56.0	60.0% 41.0%	Field 3: 87.0 Field 4: 54.0	63.0% 39.0%
TOTAL Hastings	138.5	50.0%	141.0	51.0%
TOTAL Trent Hills	249.0	30.0%	225.0	41.0%~

* new

~ mini field at Warkworth not usable and not included in above calculations

The use shown in Table 2.10 is for weeknights only, since no time is booked on weekends at any of the fields. The mini field at Warkworth Park (Field 3) is not scheduled as it is not usable due to spring flooding and water retention throughout the season. Prime time hours for this field, therefore, were excluded from calculations.

The results of prime time calculations in Table 2.10 show that all soccer fields can accommodate more use during weeknight prime time. Fowlds Millennium Park fields are the most heavily used at 50% and 51% prime time capacity, respectively. Field #1 is the Municipality’s best soccer field. It is irrigated and was constructed with adequate run-offs to produce a high quality field for play. Very limited use occurs at Warkworth Park on the full fields. In addition to available hours on weeknights, weekend hours are unused at all locations. As noted with ball diamonds, all prime time hours on soccer fields should include weekends and use in relation to capacity should be optimized before adding to supply. The Master Plan views facilities collectively as serving the entire municipality as opposed to communities within the whole.

¹⁴ See Appendix C for prime time determinations.

The figures from Table 2.10 on the previous page, along with current and projected population, are used to anticipate the need for access to soccer fields over the term of the Master Plan, for both full and mini fields. These calculations are shown in Table 2.11 below.

Table 2.11: Anticipated Need for Access to Soccer Fields to 2045

	Current Use & Supply		Future Use & Supply (to 2045)	
	hours per season	per capacity supply (hours/13,861 population)	total hours used (per capita supply x 15,827 population)	increase in hours over current use
Full fields	249.0	0.018	285.0	36.0
Mini fields	225.0	0.016	253.0	28.0

This represents:

- 35% of weeknight prime time hours (285/825) on full fields, without using any weekend prime time, which could provide 1,584 hours of use per season
- 46% of weeknight prime time hours (253/550) on mini fields, without using any weekend prime time, which could provide 1,056 more hours of use per season

These findings indicate that no additional soccer fields will be needed over the term of the Master Plan, based on current population and hours of use. This reflects overall low use now, and exclusive use of fields on weeknights. If needed, all weekend hours are available to be integrated into regular use as part of prime time. If participation in soccer increases, additional hours will be used but not likely to the point where additional facilities are needed.

A multi-purpose field was the first and second most often reported outdoor facility interest among random and online survey respondents, respectively. Titans Minor Football indicated need for practice facilities for early season use, and more availability for local teams and organizations (they currently use the high school field and Campbellford Seymour Agricultural Society Grounds). At this point, it would seem they would be the primary user group to benefit from a multi-purpose field and they currently have access to the high school field. Warkworth Park fields are the least used of all the large fields, and the mini field is not used at all. Decommissioning the small field and repurposing the large field to serve a variety of field sports other than soccer would seem to be a reasonable approach and the municipality can track requests for non-soccer uses to determine when to implement changes to accommodate other activities.

The Trent Hills Soccer Club reported it would like to work with the Municipality to modify one full field at either Campbellford or Warkworth Park to provide two smaller fields with permanent nets for children. The challenge for the Municipality with modifying a full field into smaller fields is that it may need to be reversed when the children using them now age into full field use.

Alternatively, adding goals to the sidelines of full fields to create smaller cross-fields would pose a safety hazard when the large fields are being used. The Municipality should consult with the Trent Hills Soccer Club to investigate options to better meet the needs for child-appropriate soccer fields while retaining an appropriate supply of full fields and consider all facilities in the community as potential locations for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF20. Based on current prime time use levels and anticipated population growth, no soccer fields will be required during the term of the Master Plan.**
- RF21. Integrate unused weekend prime time on soccer fields into regular prime time use in meeting any additional verified demand for access to facilities that cannot be met on weeknights.**
- RF22. Verify demand for additional use by ongoing monitoring of prime time use.**
- RF23. Consider decommissioning the mini field at Warkworth Park and repurposing the large field to serve a variety of field sports other than soccer based on tracked requests for non-soccer uses to determine when to implement changes to accommodate other activities.**
- RF24. In consultation with the Trent Hills Soccer Club consider options to modify a full field into smaller fields for use by children.**

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS

SUPPLY & COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Two (2) dual purpose lit tennis/pickleball courts owned by Municipality and located on Parks Canada land are available for casual public use.
- Interest in additional tennis courts was reported by 8% (15) of telephone survey respondents and 4% (7) of telephone survey respondents.
- Interest in additional pickleball courts was reported by 5% (9) of telephone survey respondents and 17% (27) of telephone survey respondents.
- One user group suggested providing dual purpose pickleball/badminton courts
- It was also noted that the pickleball lines should be repainted in a contrasting colour, since the existing blue-on-blue is not visually differentiated.
- Four (4) responses to the Council and staff survey reported the need for more outdoor courts (1), pickleball only courts (2) and tennis/pickleball courts (1), the latter to be located in Warkworth and Hastings.

DISCUSSION

Community interest in additional tennis and pickleball courts was relatively strong, with telephone survey respondents expressing greater interest in the former and online survey participants favouring the latter.

At the current level of supply, the forecasted population would not generate the need for additional courts. Given the popularity of pickleball, this is unlikely. Moreover, an existing supply of two courts seems low, especially as they are dual tennis/pickleball facilities.

As casual, drop-in facilities, there is no documented information on use or requests for more to inform demand. Monitoring use of the existing courts by activity and tracking requests from the community for more tennis and pickleball courts should be initiated. Many municipalities are moving to providing single use courts since sharing generated conflict between tennis and pickleball players, especially during peak demand times.

If demand warrants it, the existing courts should revert to tennis only and the Municipality should provide between two (2) and four (4) dedicated pickleball courts on municipal land with ongoing monitoring to determine the need for more of both types of facilities.

The tennis/pickleball courts were upgraded in 2017 in response to the 2013 facility conditions report that recommended refurbishment of all site components. The courts appear to be in good condition now and well maintained. When courts are resurfaced, repainting the pickleball lines on the existing court will make them easier to use in the short-term before new designated courts are developed.

Any courts developed in the future should be located on municipal land with sufficient space to add more later and to ensure municipal control over the long-term. If tennis or pickleball clubs emerge, the need for additional courts could be better justified and the courts could be operated by clubs through an agreement with the municipality that would provide introductory programs to the community and ensure public access - including prime time hours - is integrated into the court schedule.

School respondents to the user group survey reported interest in outdoor pickleball/badminton courts, suggesting the former municipal pool site would be an ideal location for walk-to access for all schools and residents. If this approach is considered, the School Board should be approached to investigate its interest in contributing to capital and/or operating costs for access to a limited number of courts during academic hours.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF25. Monitor the use of existing tennis/pickleball courts and community requests for additional access to both to verify demand for adding to supply.**
- RF26. If demand warrants providing designated courts for each activity, start by reverting the existing courts to tennis only and building between two (2) and four (4) dedicated pickleball courts.**
- RF27. Repaint the pickleball lines on the existing courts in a contrasting colour when the courts are resurfaced.**

- RF28. Develop any new tennis and/or pickleball courts on municipally owned land.
- RF29. Investigate the potential to accommodate school interest in badminton on a limited number of courts during academic hours, alongside School Board’s capacity to contribute to capital and/or operating costs.
- RF30. Continue to monitor use of all courts to verify demand for additions to supply during the term of the Master Plan.

LAWN BOWLING

The Campbellford Lawn Bowling Club owns and operates a lawn bowling green and clubhouse. Club activity occurs on Monday and Thursday evenings, and during the day on Tuesdays and Fridays, from late May to mid-October. In addition to club play, experienced members provide instruction to anyone who is interested in giving lawn bowling a try.

Although interest in lawn bowling did not emerge in the surveys, there may be an opportunity to work with the Club to increase structured community access (e.g., junior/youth programs, etc.) to optimize use of available assets to grow participation in diverse activities. The section on Service Delivery also discusses the potential to enhance in-kind support to community-based volunteer groups through affiliation with the municipality.

RECOMMENDATION:

- RF31. Pursue opportunities that may emerge to support the Lawn Bowling Club in program development.

2.3.4 IMPROVEMENTS TO OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Table 2.12 below shows the responses by user groups when asked if their organization's needs are being met in relation to the following aspects of municipally owned outdoor recreation facilities in Trent Hills.

Table 2.12: Outdoor Facility Aspects that Meet/Do Not Meet Organizational Needs

Outdoor Facility Aspect	# of groups (14 total)		
	yes	no	not sure
change rooms	14	0	0
cleanliness	7	0	8
parking	7	0	1
location	6	1	1
cost	6	0	2
customer service	5	0	3

Outdoor Facility Aspect	# of groups (14 total)		
	yes	no	not sure
up-to-date	5	2	1
audience/spectator viewing	5	2	1
availability to book at convenient hours	5	1	2
size	4	3	1
AODA accessibility	4	0	4
storage space	4	3	1
washrooms	3	4	1
food service	2	3	3
Amenities (e.g., drinking water fountains, seating, waste receptacles, etc.)	2	4	2

Generally, the groups agreed that existing facility aspects meet their organization’s needs. The strongest disagreement occurred regarding amenities and washrooms (4 or 50% of groups), followed by facility size and storage space (3 or 38%).

Among the eight (8) user groups of outdoor facilities, 5 reported that they anticipate the need for additional facilities during the Plan’s 20-year term to operate their programs/events. These groups indicated that improvements to existing facilities that would increase their suitability will likely meet their needs. Reported capital and operating improvement needs are listed below and summarize all provided through the community and Council/staff surveys.

CAPITAL

These focus on required improvements identified by the community that were not addressed in the assessments of need for additional or expanded facilities since they relate to existing facilities. They include both general and specific improvements.

BALL DIAMONDS

- Campbellford Diamond: better upkeep, update, LED lighting
- ball diamonds always need improvements/rehabilitation
- irrigate ball diamonds

SOCCER FIELDS

- Campbellford and Warkworth Soccer Fields: ideally more washroom facilities especially further up near the middle and top fields in Campbellford, as well as a storage facility for equipment
- Warkworth Soccer Field: if no longer using lower fields, convert to parking lot
- Hastings Soccer Fields: player benches and spectator bleachers

GENERAL

- Campbellford, Hastings Soccer Fields, Campbellford Ball Diamond: seating is very limited in these outdoor spaces, especially for large groups; food service options are not existent in some locations; on site storage appears to be limited but, respecting the need for green space, storage could be provided elsewhere; portable, seasonal washrooms are at times too few to serve the number of teams participating in an event; shade/canopies
- continue to improve facilities to encourage and facilitate the needs of younger demographics
- more/better washrooms
- new and more seating, picnic tables, including accessible
- develop plan for year-round outdoor washrooms that are durable and vandal proof
- upgrades to most outdoor facilities and washrooms due to aging to make them more accessible and family-friendly

OPERATIONS

- soccer fields and ball diamonds get little to no regular maintenance
- maintaining grass beyond mowing (e.g., trim/weed eating, etc.)
- maintaining amenities (e.g., paint or replace benches, trash receptacles)
- budget for regular maintenance with allocated budget for proper equipment
- focus on upkeep required staff training and improvements to equipment/tools to do the work properly

DISCUSSION

Table 2.12 on the previous page identifies general areas of potential improvements in order of frequency as identified by user groups, the details and feasibility of which need to be further investigated.

With respect to the Warkworth diamond, the Municipality owns the lighting, fencing and support building and the Percy Agricultural Society is the landowner. In the past three years, the municipality has invested approximately \$100,000 in upgrades to the diamond including new LED lights, a new infield, new fencing/backstop, and bleachers. The 2025 budget included repairs and improvements to the Warkworth Ball Diamond support building. There is no formal agreement

with the Agricultural Society for use of the property, which should be addressed to clarify the terms of the arrangement as the basis for the Municipality's responsibility for future community use and upkeep (see section 4.4).

With respect to the Campbellford diamond, the Municipality owns the new bleachers and trash receptacles but does not own the ball diamond or associated buildings. The ball diamond and the property is owned by the Campbellford Agricultural Society. The agreement between the Society and the Municipality for community use of the diamond has expired. Although the diamond needs washroom upgrades and LED lights, a new agreement should be executed before these investments are made (see discussion on agreements in Delivery Section of the report).

In 2025, two zero turn mowers were purchased for increased inefficiency in park/field maintenance.

The most recent Building Conditions Assessments were conducted in 2013 and should be updated in the short-term to establish needed expenditures and estimated costs for planning and budgeting required investments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RF32. Consult with outdoor facility users to clarify their requests for improvements and to inform a budgeted improvement program, as required.**
- RF33. Update the Building Conditions Assessments, including outdoor facilities, to identify long term capital investments to be addressed in the improvement program.**



3.0

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

3.0 PARKS & OPEN SPACES

This section addresses parks, trails, and outdoor amenities intended for casual community use. It is presented under the following headings:

- parkland supply;
- park safety and comfort;
- park amenities; and
- priority park sites, including Hillside Park and the Hastings Village Green.

3.1 PARKLAND SUPPLY

Residents should have access to a balance and variety of park types, sizes, and amenities to support health, play, and belonging. An analysis of park supply and park distribution helps to determine if enough parks and amenities are being provided (and in the right locations) and where parks and amenities might be missing.

3.1.1 PARKLAND INVENTORY

Trent Hills has 29.65 acres of municipally-owned parkland as well as 32.23 acres of parkland owned by other groups (Parks Canada, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, Campbellford Lions Club, Percy Agricultural Society). Collectively, this totals 71.88 acres (26.04 hectares) of public parkland. On these park parcels are outdoor recreation facilities for scheduled sports use (see section 2.0) as well as supporting amenities including:

- 8 passive green spaces
- 6 trails
- 6 gazebos/picnic shelters
- 5 playgrounds
- 3 water access points/beaches
- 2 skate parks
- 2 outdoor fitness equipment pieces
- 2 pergolas
- 2 boat ramps
- 1 splash pad
- 1 outdoor basketball net
- 1 outdoor rink
- 1 marina
- 1 small craft launch
- 1 dock
- 1 bandshell

Table 3.1 on the following pages shows an inventory of the 22 parks and open spaces in Trent Hills and their park amenities.

Table 3.1: Trent Hills Parks and Open Spaces Inventory

Park/Open Space Name (Alternate Name)	Size (acres)	Property Ownership	Park Amenities
Mill Creek Park (Mill Park)	2.67	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - playground - passive green space - trail around perimeter
Warkworth Park	4.88	Percy Agricultural Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - skate park
		Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gazebo - trail connection(s) - passive green space - portable washroom - parking
Millennium Lilac Trail lands	10	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millennium Lilac Trail
Lions Gateway Park	0.24	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pergola - passive green space - parking
Trent Drive Triangle	0.90	Parks Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boat launch/ramp - trail connection(s)
Kennedy Park	9.29	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - skate park - trail connection(s) - splash pad - playground - passive green space - drinking water/bottle filler - parking
Picnic Island	0.95	Parks Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pergola - trail connection(s) - passive green space
Front/Saskatoon Greenspace	0.65	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trail connection(s) - passive green space
Hillside Park	1.93	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trail connection(s) - passive green space

Park/Open Space Name (Alternate Name)	Size (acres)	Property Ownership	Park Amenities
Old Mill Park	2.45	Parks Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gazebo - 5 km trail - picnic area(s) - passive green space - Two Dollar Coin sculpture - docking
Campbell's Park	0.23	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - historical plaque - passive green space
Campbellford Cenotaph	0.30	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cenotaph memorial structure
Western Core Wall	0.25	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trail connection(s)
Campbellford Lions Park	4.05	Campbellford Lions Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - playground - water access/beach parking - 2 picnic shelters
Campbellford Town Square	1.15	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trail connection(s) - gathering/event space
Crowe Bridge Park	19.00	Crowe Valley Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water access/beach picnic area(s) - parking
The Point - Trent River Village	0.10	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water access - picnic area
North Shore Community Dock	0.04	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trail connection(s)
Fowlds Millennium Park	8.83	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - outdoor fitness equipment - basketball net - playground - trail connection(s) - passive green space - parking
Ed Brownlee Park + Hastings Village Green	0.32 + 2.1	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seasonal outdoor rink - picnic area(s) - playground - passive green space - parking
Hastings Waterfront	1.18	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gazebo - marina

Park/Open Space Name (Alternate Name)	Size (acres)	Property Ownership	Park Amenities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small craft launch - dock - trail connection(s) - water access/beaches - picnic area(s) - passive green space - parking
Ogilvie Hill Park (Hill Top Park)	0.37	Municipality of Trent Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - passive green space
TOTAL	71.88 acres		

NAMING CONVENTIONS

As a municipality grows and accumulates more facilities and parkland, naming conventions become important for internal organization and communication with the public. It is best that each park or open space has only one name associated with it, and that this name be consistent throughout all municipal inventories, maps, publications, webpages, and signage. Facilities or water access points located within parkland should not be inventoried as a separate space, but instead be noted as a park feature.

RESIDENTS’ VIEWS ON EXISTING PARKS

Table 3.2 below summarizes feedback provided by 200 respondents to the telephone survey and 114 respondents to the online survey regarding the location, number, size, and variety of parks and green spaces in Trent Hills. Generally, telephone respondents indicated their parkland needs are met. Among online respondents, a majority are satisfied with parks’ locations and sizes. There are mixed views on the number of parks, with 42.9% indicating their needs are not met, and the variety of parks, with 48.2% indicating their needs are not met. There may be opportunities to improve the amount and types of parkland and assorted amenities over the term of this Plan.

Table 3.2: Survey Respondents’ Views on Amount, Location, and Variety of Parkland in Trent Hills

Park/Green Space Attributes	200 Telephone Survey Respondents		114 Online Survey Respondents	
	needs are met	needs are not met	needs are met	needs are not met
Location	90.5%	7.0%	71.3%	22.8%
Number/amount	91.0%	6.5%	47.3%	42.9%
Size	90.5%	70.5%	61.8%	26.4%
Variety	89.5%	10.0%	41.7%	48.2%

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P01. Update municipal inventories, maps, publications, webpages, and signage to reflect one name for each park.**
- P02. Promote the new naming conventions to encourage consistency and understanding through the Municipality.**

3.1.2 PARKLAND PROVISION & DISTRIBUTION

Given the current population of 13,861 residents and parkland total of 71.88 acres, Trent Hills’ parkland provision rate is 2.10 hectares (5.19 acres) per 1,000 people. This is lower than guidelines once set by the former Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, which suggested a general standard of 4.0 hectares (9.88 acres) of open space per 1,000 population.¹⁵ The Trent Hills’ Official Plan (2025) reflects this Ministry provision rate: “In the case of a proposed plan of subdivision, the parkland dedication shall be used for the creation and/or improvement of neighbourhood or community park facilities including community centres up to approximately 4.0 hectares per thousand residents” (Section 5.2.5.3).

Parkland provision across municipalities varies greatly, and what is considered good planning practice in densely developed urban areas is not necessarily applicable to low density, dispersed communities where residents have access to more private recreation space, water access points, etc. Table 3.3 below shows the distribution of existing parkland supply across the three villages in Trent Hills (Hastings, Campbellford, Warkworth). Residents in Trent Hills also have access to additional 470 acres of parkland at Ferris Provincial Park in Campbellford, owned by the Ministry of the Environment. Among online survey respondents, Ferris Provincial Park was reported as the most-used open space in Trent Hills (selected by 68.4%).

Table 3.3: Distribution of Parkland Supply Across Trent Hills

Village	Total Parkland
Hastings	12.47 acres (3.10 hectares)
Campbellford	22.15 acres ¹⁶ (9.15 hectares)
Warkworth	17.55 acres (7.10 hectares)

By the term of this plan in 2045, Trent Hills is projected to increase by 1,966 residents to a total of 15,827 people. Five parkland parcels are currently anticipated within new developments: Haven-on-the-Trent (Campbellford), Camelot Subdivision (Campbellford), Hastings Hilltop (Hastings), New Street Subdivision (Hastings), and Hastings Meadow Park (Hastings). It is estimated that approximately 6.44 hectares (15.91 acres) of parkland will be dedicated to the

¹⁵ Guidelines for Developing Public Recreation Facility Standards, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation (2004)

¹⁶ excludes Crowe Bridge Park

Municipality within the next 10 years, bringing the total to 35.53 hectares (87.79 acres). In 2045, the municipal parkland provision rate will thus be 2.24 hectares (5.54 acres) per 1,000 people.

This Plan encourages the Municipality to strive for a parkland provision target of 2.5 hectares (6.12 acres) per 1,000 people by 2045. In Trent Hills, this means aiming to secure a minimum of 4.04 hectares (9.98 acres) of additional public parkland over the next 20 years, resulting in a total parkland of approximately 40 hectares (100 acres). To meet this goal, the Municipality can utilize tools including a parkland dedication by-law, cash-in-lieu of parkland policy, and parkland classification system, as discussed in the following sections.

RECOMMENDATION:

PO3. Strive for a parkland provision goal of 2.5 hectares per 1,000 residents by 2045.

3.1.3 PARKLAND ACQUISITION & IMPROVEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The Planning Act (1990) governs land use planning and control in Ontario. Section 42 of the Planning Act allows municipalities to secure land or funds for parks and recreational areas through a parkland dedication by-law. A parkland dedication by-law is the legal tool that makes parkland or "cash-in-lieu" of parkland a condition of development approval (e.g., plan of subdivision). As a formal by-law passed by a municipality, a parkland dedication by-law allows the municipality to enforce its established requirements for parkland dedication.

The provision in Section 42 initially required up to 2% of the land for commercial or industrial projects to be parkland, and up to 5% for other development (e.g., residential), or cash equivalent. In certain circumstances, municipalities could also apply alternative rates based on dwelling units.

In 2022, Bill 23, the "More Homes Built Faster Act," amended the Planning Act, lowering parkland dedication rates. The alternative rate is now 1 hectare per 600 residential units, or 1 hectare per 1,000 high-density units for cash-in-lieu. Parkland dedication is capped at 10% for sites smaller than 5 hectares and 15% for sites that are larger. Municipalities must also accept encumbered lands (e.g., land with infrastructure underneath) or privately-owned public spaces (POPS) as parkland conveyance. Under Bill 23, a parks plan is now required before passing a parkland dedication by-law.

This Master Plan examines Trent Hills' needs for parks and recreation; for all intents and purposes it is considered a municipal parks plan under section 42 of the Planning Act.

PARKLAND DEDICATION & CASH-IN-LIEU

Trent Hills does not currently have a formal Parkland Dedication By-law. As such, parkland has not been appropriately conveyed to the Municipality as a condition of (re)development. Section 5.2.5.3e of the Official Plan states, “As an alternative to parkland conveyance, Council may require the payment of money in lieu of such conveyance.” However, the Municipality does not have a corresponding Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Policy to outline the terms of implementation. Staff report that at one time the value of cash-in-lieu of parkland was set at \$1,000 for severances; this amount is long out of date.

This Plan recommends Trent Hills should use parkland dedication opportunities to their full capacity by creating a Parkland Dedication By-law and Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Policy. This will ensure parkland is appropriately conveyed as a condition of development, and support the goal of an adequate ratio of public open space lands to population.

The Municipality should amend section 5.2.5.3 of its Official Plan to align with the new policies under Bill 23 as well as this Master Plan. The new Parkland Dedication By-law should clearly state it “establishes the entirety of the Municipality as an area for which the conveyance of a portion of land to be (re)developed or the payment of money in lieu of such conveyance shall be required as a condition of the (re)development.” The by-law should include:

- conveyance rates for residential and nonresidential development;
- language to allow for cash-in-lieu of land dedication accompanied by allocation of funds;
- parkland conveyance conditions; and
- dedication or payment timing.

The Official Plan’s amended parkland dedication policies should indicate that parkland conveyance shall be suitable for park or public recreational purposes and land may be for both passive or active parks and other public recreation purposes. Factors that can be used to consider suitability for conveyance may include:

- adequate size and configuration;
- physical state;¹⁷
- abutting lands;
- connectivity to existing park and trail systems;
- pedestrian and cyclist access; and
- equitable distribution with the community.

A Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Policy should be prepared at the same time as the Parkland Dedication By-law to outline an alternate rate for parkland conveyance in alignment with Bill 23.

¹⁷ This Plan recommends that natural heritage areas and stormwater ponds are not acceptable as parkland conveyance.

A cash-in-lieu policy is beneficial as these funds can be used to revitalize and upgrade existing parkland and recreational facilities.

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

A Development Charges Background Study was prepared for Trent Hills by Watson & Associates¹⁸, resulting in the approval of By-law No. 2024-026. The Study identified parks and recreation infrastructure costs that could potentially be recoverable by development charges, including the Sunny Life Recreation & Wellness Centre, a new ice resurfacers, redevelopment of Hillside Park, etc. The current schedule of development charges within the parks and recreation services category is as follows:¹⁹

- Bachelor & 1-Bedroom Apartments: \$9,214 per housing unit
- Other Multiples: \$11,843 per housing unit
- 2+ Bedroom Apartments: \$11,476 per housing unit
- Single & Semi-Detached Dwellings: \$17,350 per housing unit
- Non-Residential Units: \$15.56 per square metre of Gross Floor Area

In addition to lowering parkland dedication rates, Bill 23 also reduced the amount of development charges permitted under municipalities' existing and future development charges by-laws. Specifically, development charges for rental housing units have been further reduced, and municipalities can no longer use development charges to purchase land for parks and growth-related infrastructure. In addition, a variety of new housing units – affordable, attainable, nonprofit, and inclusionary zoning housing units, as well as gentle density (up to three units per lot) and rental buildings with four or more units – are exempt from development charges and parkland dedication fees. Revised definitions of these housing typologies may result in larger proportions of housing supply considered eligible for these exemptions.

Future development charges that are collected and reserved for parks and recreation services should continue to be used to their full capacity to support Trent Hills' parks and recreation system. The collection of these fees supports necessary additions and improvements to Trent Hills' parks, amenities, facilities, recreation vehicles, and equipment as a result of development. Recommendations and cost estimates in this Plan can be used to guide future studies.

SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PARK FEATURES

Table 3.4 on the following page shows typical land area requirements for facilities and amenities commonly found in public parks. The Municipality can refer to these estimates when discussing parkland parcels as part of new development. Actual sizes may vary depending on design standard, layout, and site conditions.

¹⁸

<https://www.trenthills.ca/media/yxzdskkh/trent-hills-2023-development-charge-background-study-office-consolidation-feb-8-2024.pdf>

¹⁹ Schedule "A" - By-law No. 2024-025

Table 3.4: Size Requirements and Considerations for New/Improved Park Amenities

Park Facility/Amenity	Size (approximate) ²⁰	Key Considerations
Fitness Equipment	80-300 m ²	depends on number of stations, equipment types ²¹
Splash Pad	150-600 m ²	depends on number of water features
Pickleball Court	175-250 m ²	13.4 m × 6.1 m court, allow extra for circulation and fencing
Playground	300-1,200 m ²	depends on age range, number of structures, surfacing, etc.
Skate Park	400-2,000 m ²	depends on use (local vs. community-wide)
Basketball Court	400-600 m ²	full court
Tennis Court	650-700 m ²	recommended area 36.6 m × 18.3 m with run-off
Ice Rink	800 m ²	40 m x 20 m for neighbourhood parks, large enough for recreational skating and casual hockey
Pump Track	1,000-3,000 m ²	compact asphalt designs at lower end; full circuit with multiple lines at upper end
Off-Leash Dog Park	2,000-10,000+ m ²	highly variable
Softball Field	8,000-15,000 m ²	includes outfield and player areas; fast pitch (76 m) at lower end, slow pitch (100 m) at upper end; youth diamonds may be smaller (~4,000 m ²)
Soccer Field	9,000-10,000 m ²	standard full-size field; rugby field about the same size; youth fields are smaller (~ 500 m ²)
Football Field	10,000 m ²	Canadian football
Cricket Field	15,000-25,000 m ²	typically oval, 130-150 m diameter depending on level of play
Baseball Diamond	16,000 m ²	122 m in centre field

* Estimates do not include parking and buffers to residential zones.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P04. Amend section 5.2.5.3 of the Official Plan to reflect new policy under Bill 23 and support a new parkland dedication by-law.**
- P05. Create a parkland dedication by-law.**
- P06. Create a cash-in-lieu of parkland policy.**

²⁰ Estimates do not include parking and buffers to residential zones.

²¹ General allocation of 20-30 m² per equipment station, including the use zone (clearance area), circulation paths, and space for accessible maneuvering. A fitness trail should allocate 15-30 m² per station pad, spread along a walkway.

- P07. Continue using development charges to their full capacity to support parks and recreation services.**

3.1.4 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

A parkland classification system (also known as a parkland typology or parkland hierarchy) defines the elements of a park such as its size and catchment area and provides guidelines for recommended uses, amenities/facilities, and provision rate. It is typically used when planning new parks to:

- improve parkland equity;
- encourage the appropriate supply of parkland during development;
- support the acquisition of quality-sized parcels; and
- understand and plan the spatial distribution of parkland across the entire municipality.

Trent Hills does not have an existing parkland classification system. This Master Plan proposes one with four typologies:

- Community Parks;
- Waterfront Parks;
- Neighbourhood Parks; and
- Parkettes.

Table 3.5 on the following pages lists each typology, its description, and guidelines, and assigns existing parks in Trent Hills to each typology. The Municipality should adopt this formal parkland classification system to help guide future park acquisitions and development of the overall parks system.

This Plan recommends the Municipality aims for a minimum park size of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres) for future parks. However, small parcel sizes can limit the type and amount of facilities and amenities that can be provided, leaving potential for service gaps of larger facilities. Larger parks generally allow for greater opportunity for the provision/co-location of park facilities and amenities such as sport fields and courts. When possible and appropriate, parkland parcels should be combined to create larger parks. New parks should be connected by accessible pedestrian trails or pathways to existing parks, trails, and amenities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P08. Adopt a parkland classification system consisting of Community Parks, Waterfront Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Parkettes.**
- P09. Aim for a minimum park size of 0.2 hectares.**
- P010. When possible and appropriate, combine new and existing parkland parcels to create larger parks to support facilities and amenities.**

Table 3.5: Proposed Parkland Classification System for Trent Hills

Park Classification Type	Description	Guidelines	Existing Parks in this Typology
Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - serves multiple neighbourhoods, centrally located - offers mix of active & passive uses, with specialized services/amenities - may host community events and programming - may be near major roads or have prominent street frontage; may share a site with/about a community centre or school - top priority for upgrades to accessibility (e.g., seating, paths, lighting, play equipment) 	<p>Catchment area: community-wide use (multiple residential areas)</p> <p>Size: typically 1.0 hectare (2.5 acres) or greater</p> <p>Amenities should include: seating, shade, lighting, waste receptacles, washrooms, vehicular parking, drinking fountain/bottle fill station (if possible), focal amenities (e.g., event space, facilities for physical activity or organized sport)</p> <p>Amenities may include: stage, bandshell, pavilion, skate park, disc golf, outdoor ice rink, ice skating loop, ball diamonds, tennis courts, pickleball courts, multipurpose fields, changeroom facilities, concessions/canteen, splash pad, play equipment, trails, dogs off-leash area, public art, habitat enhancement features, interpretive signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warkworth Park - Fowlds Millennium Park - Kennedy Park - Campbellford Lions Park - Hastings Village Green - Hillside Park

Park Classification Type	Description	Guidelines	Existing Parks in this Typology
Waterfront Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - located on the waterfront and designed to support waterfront uses (e.g., boating, fishing, swimming, beach volleyball), active uses (e.g., running, group outdoor fitness) and leisure uses (e.g., picnics, arts or social programming) - has unique considerations such as shoreline erosion control/management, waterfront accessibility, etc. 	<p>Catchment area: varies, typically designed to support municipality-wide use where feasible</p> <p>Size: varies</p> <p>Amenities should include: seating, signage, waste receptacles, waterfront view and/or water access</p> <p>Amenities may include: dock, boardwalk, pavilion, small craft launch, small craft rentals or storage areas, safety/rescue station, location identifiers, washrooms, shade, lighting, vehicular parking, drinking water fountain or bottle fill station (if possible), event space, facility for physical activity or organized sports (e.g., beach volleyball court), change room facilities, concessions/ canteen, play equipment, trails, dogs off-leash area, public art, habitat enhancement features, interpretive/educational signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old Mill Park - Lions Gateway Park - Front/Saskatoon Greenspace (Western Core Wall) - Campbell's Park - Hastings Waterfront - North Shore Community Dock

Park Classification Type	Description	Guidelines	Existing Parks in this Typology
Neighbourhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mostly, but not exclusively, serves the surrounding neighbourhood as a local focal point for residents within 5- to 10-min. walking distance - may be adjacent to schools or other institutions - mix of active & passive uses and supports, organized and self-directed leisure activities - usually has fewer amenities than a Community Park 	<p>Catchment area: typically neighbourhood use (approx. 800 metres to the residential area served, unobstructed by major pedestrian barriers)</p> <p>Size: typically 0.2-0.6 hectares (0.5-2.5 acres)</p> <p>Amenities should include: seating, shade, signage, waste receptacles, and a focal amenity (e.g., play equipment, event space)</p> <p>Amenities may include: play equipment, basketball court, tennis court, pickleball court, multipurpose field, ball diamond, outdoor exercise equipment, outdoor event space, community garden, orchard, arboretum, trails, vehicular parking, washrooms, lighting, drinking water fountain or bottle fill station, habitat enhancement features, interpretive signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campbellford Town Square - Mill Creek Park (Mill Park) - Ogilvie Hill Park (Hill Top Park) - Ed Brownlee Park

Park Classification Type	Description	Guidelines	Existing Parks in this Typology
Parkette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small, passive space often for leisure functions (e.g., gardening, nature/water appreciation, beautification, picnic) - often open lawn or hardscape manicured with gardens; may have natural or naturalized vegetation cover - usually located at community gateways, major crossroads, or in small remnant parcels 	<p>Catchment area: varies, but often approx. 400 metres to the residential area served and/or designed for community-wide, small-scale</p> <p>Size: varies, usually less than 0.2 hectares (0.25 acres)/smaller than a Neighbourhood Park</p> <p>Amenities: gardens, pathways, picnic areas, public art, interpretive signage, lookout points, monuments/cenotaphs, habitat enhancement features</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campbellford Cenotaph - The Point at Trent River Village - Trent Drive Triangle - Picnic Island

3.2 PARK SAFETY & COMFORT

Good parks are safe, inviting, and easy to navigate. In addition to maintenance and accessibility, comfort amenities such as adequate shade, access to drinking water, and available waste receptacles and washrooms all contribute to an enjoyable park experience. Together, these elements encourage longer stays and ensure that parks are usable for people of all ages and abilities.

3.2.1 ACCESSIBILITY

All new parks and open spaces in Trent Hills should be designed and constructed to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards. A major component of AODA standards is providing everyone with access to outdoor spaces. This Plan recommends adopting universal design whenever possible for all new open spaces, and improving existing open spaces through a phased approach.

Universally designed spaces are for everyone. The concept of universal design recognizes that almost all people at some point in their lives will benefit from accessible features such as a washroom, seating, low-grade changes, clear signage, etc. Planning for everyone will ensure that everyone belongs in open spaces in Trent Hills.

To achieve universal design, the Municipality should aim to:

- connect open space amenities together with paths;
- install accessible surfacing and play equipment;
- provide accessible parking stalls near amenities and paths; and
- provide washrooms and water fountains at major parks, trailheads, and water access points, where possible.

Several of these amenities are discussed in more detail in the following section.

RECOMMENDATION:

- **PO11. Strive for universal design by integrating accessibility upgrades within existing open spaces over the term of this Plan.**

3.2.2 SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

Each municipal park and open green space in Trent Hills should have consistent signage identifying the name of the park (see 3.1.1 on naming conventions) using a clear, AODA-compliant sign design that reflects the Municipality's brand and matches the name of the park on the Municipality's website. As a general rule, signage should be provided at all municipal park entrances, trail access points, facility entrances, throughout the sites as needed (e.g., directional signage, trail rule and regulations, no-dumping signage, no-parking signage) and along major routes. Municipal signage should be strategically placed so there is a clear hierarchy and graphic style/design for all types of signage including safety, wayfinding, and interpretive signage.

The Millennium Lilac Trail is a popular 2.5-km route near Warkworth Park, the Warkworth Arena and Community Centre, and Warkworth Soccer Fields. Signage should be added along the trail at regular intervals (e.g., every 100-250 metres) to indicate distance travelled. This helps to ensure

the trail is safe, accessible, and user-friendly. Distance markers can act as micro-goals: passing each one provides a sense of progress and improves the overall user experience. Signage can also make trails more usable for the general public. For example, parents with young children can manage attention spans and energy levels (e.g., "We will walk to the 1km mark and then turn around"), and users with limited mobility or chronic health conditions can know the exact distance that meets their specific physical limits, helping them calculate their return trip. It is also recommended that distance markers be added to the trail around the canal in Campbellford.

Aside from increasing awareness and user experience, consistent and unique signs ensure public use of municipal parkland and contribute to building a community's sense of place. As new parks and trails are developed, the existing signage strategy should be followed. Signage should always be included in budgeting for park and trail projects. Figure 3.1 shows conceptual designs for inspiration.



Figure 3.1: Sample Wayfinding Signage (Images Generated by AI)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P012. Ensure every municipal park has clear, accessible signage that reflects the Municipality's brand and the proper name of the park.**
- P013. Add distance markers to the Millennium Lilac Trail and the trail around the canal in Campbellford.**

3.2.3 SHADE

Parks need to have adequate shelter to support community health and safety in all weather conditions. Shelter can be achieved through tree canopy or built structures and is particularly crucial at playgrounds, picnic areas, and sports fields. Given the time required for trees to mature and provide adequate shade, immediate and short-term solutions such as shade structures and pavilions are essential. Figure 3.2 on the following page shows a shade structure near the playground in Kennedy Park. Larger pavilions, designed for group rentals and special events, can not only encourage park usage but also help offset the costs of providing shade structures. Trent

Hills has four (4) gazebos found at Warkworth Park, the Millennium Lilac Trail, Old Mill Park, and Hastings Waterfront. There is also a pergola at Picnic Island and Lion's Gateway Park. When surveyed about shade and tree canopy in parks, 49.1% of 114 online respondents and 87% of 200 telephone survey respondents indicated their needs are met.

Strategic tree planting should be prioritized due to its numerous benefits, including shade, carbon sequestration, and stormwater management. A valuable resource for sun protection is the comprehensive guide "Under Cover: Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design"²² developed by the New South Wales Health Department (Australia) and the Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc. This technical guide explains various shade-providing structures, including built structures and different tree types. It also covers how to conduct a shade audit of a park and addresses site-specific considerations for sports fields and other park areas.



Figure 3.2: Shade Structure at Kennedy Park

Over the term of this Plan, the Municipality should work with a horticulturalist or arborist to start the next generation of trees in parks that have few to no young trees, ensuring that new trees are able to replace aging trees over time. The Municipality should also direct developers to provide sufficient tree planting in all new park and open space parcels, as well as sufficient protection for new trees planted such as watering aids (i.e. tree diapers) to support tree health and establishment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P014. Initiate an ongoing tree planting program to replace aging trees in existing parks, where possible, over the term of this Plan.**
- P015. Ensure developers include sufficient tree planting and protection in all new park and open space parcels.**

3.2.4 SITE FURNISHINGS

Site furnishings such as seating, tables, lighting, and waste receptacles make public parks comfortable and appealing, and help to support continued uses and activities in these spaces. Site furniture should be durable, secure, and easy to repair and/or replace if required. Community surveys showed differing answers regarding these comfort amenities in Trent Hills' parks and open spaces: 90.5% of 200 telephone survey respondents and 29.0% of 114 online survey respondents indicated their needs are being met.

²² https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Guidelines_Under_Cover.pdf

SEATING

There were many requests in the online survey for more picnic tables and seating, especially at playgrounds and along waterfronts. Current and future municipal parks should have sufficient seating elements in line with the type of uses in the space. These may include bleachers, benches, picnic tables, and lounge chairs. Bleacher seating should incorporate space for a wheelchair to view the field. Benches should be accessible and located on an accessible surface (e.g., concrete pad), with space for a wheelchair to rest beside the bench along with space behind the bench to allow a caregiver to assist with transitioning from a wheelchair to the bench. Similarly, picnic tables and other types of fixed seating should allow for a wheelchair to sit at the table. Picnic tables are often preferred as they allow groups to eat, play games, and converse. If picnic tables are fixed to the ground to prevent theft, they should be placed in a variety of formations to allow smaller and larger groups to sit together as needed. Lounger-styled chairs are usually appropriate in waterfront parks or parks with scenic views and lookouts.



Figures 3.3-3.4: Old & Upgraded Benches Along the Millennium Lilac Trail

It is often the practice to remove seating and picnic tables during winter months to protect them from the elements, but seating should be selected and placed so that it can be used year-round to allow people to sit and socialize outdoors. As winters become milder due to climate change, the need for all-season seating is greater as people walk and gather outdoors in the winter months. To support this, staff should conduct an audit of all existing seating in municipal parks and trails, and develop a seating replacement program to plan to update these elements to accessible furnishings over the 20-year term of this Plan and beyond. Initial upgrades to accessible seating should be prioritized in Community Parks and Waterfront Parks, beginning with Kennedy Park, Fowlds Millennium Park, and Old Mill Park.

WASTE RECEPTACLES

Online survey respondents requested more waste receptacles in municipal parks, especially those with playgrounds and outdoor sports facilities (e.g., Fowlds Millennium Park). Receptacles in public parks could include separate deposits for both garbage and recycling to encourage proper waste sorting. Over the term of this Plan, the Municipality should explore the feasibility of rolling out dual-stream or additional waste



Figure 3.5: Waste Receptacle on the Millennium Lilac Trail

receptacles in Community Parks and Waterfront Parks such as Warkworth Park, Kennedy Park, Old Mill Park, and Fowlds Millennium Park.

DRINKING WATER

Providing a source of drinking water at parks and at trailheads allows people to increase the length of time they stay and can help prevent heat-related illnesses in hot weather. Drinking water is especially important in parks with sports and active facilities that people use for more than an hour or two at a time (e.g., fields, courts, swimming, picnic areas). A drinking fountain and bottle filler station is available at Kennedy Park in Campbellford (Figure 3.6), as well as inside the Warkworth Arena, Hastings Field House, and Sunny Life Recreation & Wellness Centre. Over the term of this Plan, the Municipality should add drinking water fountains and/or bottle fillers to remaining Community Parks and Waterfront Parks. Where no water service exists, the Municipality should investigate installing an exterior bottle filling station at an adjacent location, with appropriate signage at the park site (e.g., bottle filler at Warkworth Fire Hall with directional signage in Mill Creek Park). Future parks provided as part of new subdivisions should include a drinking water amenity/connection, where possible.



Figure 3.6: Drinking Water & Bottle Filler at Kennedy Park

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- PO16. Ensure all new benches and picnic tables are accessible.**
- PO17. Install accessible seating at Community Parks, beginning with Mill Creek Park, Kennedy Park, and Fowlds Millennium Park.**
- PO18. Conduct an audit of all existing outdoor seating and develop a seating replacement program for upgrading accessible benches and picnic tables.**
- PO19. Explore the feasibility of installing dual-stream or additional waste receptacles in Community Parks for both garbage and recycling.**
- PO20. Provide drinking water at Community Parks.**
- PO21. Work with developers to include a drinking water amenity/connection in future parks, where possible.**

3.2.5 WASHROOMS

Public washrooms in municipal parks are among the most requested amenities by the public, yet they remain one of the most difficult and expensive facilities for a municipality to provide and maintain. When surveyed about washrooms in parks and open spaces in Trent Hills, 31.2% of 114 online respondents and 87% of 200 telephone survey respondents indicated their needs are met. In the online survey, there were several requests for additional washroom facilities. Among 25 Council members and municipal staff, 52% rated municipal park washrooms as “average” and 40% as “poor.”

The most immediate barrier to public washroom provision is the high cost. A single, winterized, accessible washroom building can cost a municipality \$500,000–\$1,000,000 to construct due to the requirement for commercial-grade durability, utility trenching in green spaces, and adherence to strict building codes. Beyond construction, operational costs include cleaning crews, restocking supplies, and rapid-response plumbing repairs.

Vandalism of public washrooms is typically the single most cited reason for washroom closures. Vandalism occurs for a variety of reasons including “to convey a message, to express frustration, to stake revenge, to make money, or as part of a game.”²³ The nature of public-facing facilities makes them more susceptible to frequent interaction with the public, and therefore increases the opportunity for defacement. Thus, to a certain degree, the vandalism or damage of public amenities such as equipment found in public parks or recreation facilities is widely acknowledged to be unavoidable.

However, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, media outlets have reported a spike in vandalism (e.g., graffiti), damage (e.g., light smashing, removing/bending signage), or theft in municipal, provincial, and national parks across Canada and the rest of North America.²⁴ Frequent targets include public restrooms, vacant buildings, signage, play equipment, sports field equipment (e.g., soccer, cricket, baseball), street furniture (e.g., benches, picnic tables), and even significant ecological and natural features.²⁵ The illegal dumping of garbage and litter has also increasingly become a concern.²⁶

Municipalities fight a constant battle against graffiti, destruction of fixtures, and arson. To combat this, planners now rely on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). This involves designing facilities with clear sightlines (no hidden corners), high-intensity lighting, and durable materials like stainless steel mirrors and toilets that cannot be easily smashed. However, “vandal-proof” design is costly and often creates a tension between aesthetics and durability. Electronic locking systems on timers are increasingly common to ensure facilities are only accessible during park hours, reducing nighttime illicit activity.

In colder climates, winterizing washroom facilities can be a logistical hurdle. Older park washrooms were typically built with uninsulated pipes that burst in freezing temperatures; subsequently retrofitting these buildings for year-round use requires expensive insulation, heating systems, and deep-trench plumbing.

In many cases, a municipality’s only financially viable option is to provide portable toilets. In Trent Hills, 13 portable washrooms can be provided throughout the community annually; they are

²³ Scott, Michelle L., Nancy G. La Vigne, and Tobi Palmer. 2007. “Preventing Vandalism.” Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Justice Policy Center. Retrieved from <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/31256/1001192-Preventing-Vandalism.PDF>

²⁴ e.g., https://www.muskokaregion.com/news/crime/bathrooms-vandalized-signs-spray-painted-at-huntsville-park-july-11/article_c8b0e9b2-cdff-581d-a7af-ac48db6d08a3.html; <https://www.lakeshore.ca/en/news/vandalism-and-damage-prompts-closure-of-park-washrooms-in-lakeshore.aspx>

²⁵ Scott, La Vigne, and Palmer (2007)

²⁶ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-parks-clean-campaign-1.6105439>

available at Warkworth Park, the Millennium Lilac Trail, and the Environment Canada-owned boat ramp at the Trent River Cenotaph. However, many public parks and open space have access to existing public washroom facilities within close proximity (e.g., two-block radius). The Municipality should improve awareness of these alternative options: directional signage should be provided at high-traffic areas (e.g., playground, picnic bench, park entrance) indicating the nearest washroom's location (e.g., "Public Washroom: 3-minute walk (Library)" with an arrow). A map of available public washrooms, including in municipal buildings and community services, should be created and posted on the municipal website and shared on other important communications platforms such as the Trent Hills Tourism website, Downtown Campbellford BIA, etc. Park signs/welcome boards could also include this map (or link via QR code to the mobile-friendly online version). On a case-by-case basis, the Municipality could also consider formalizing partnerships with friendly local businesses to serve as a "designated" washroom for a municipal park. In exchange for a small stipend or maintenance support, the business would allow public access, and the municipality would install signage in the park directing users to their doors.

A self-cleaning toilet could reduce maintenance costs related to rentals, operations, and vandalism repair. NIU, a Quebec-based corporation, offers a variety of models made in Canada (Figures 3.7-3.10). The T-BOX is a single smart toilet with compact dimensions (5'x6'x9') that can be used for mobile or permanent purposes. The D-BOX is a solid steel insulated cabin available in single, double, or AODA sizing (8'x10' to 8x16'). A range of customizable finishes are available and it can be set up in two hours with no previous preparation or on-site installation. All models contain a completely enclosed space containing a UV light disinfection system, combined automatic tap and hand dryer, and ventilation system with HEPA filter. The Municipality should explore the feasibility of installing a self-cleaning washroom in a Community Park in Trent Hills.



Figures 3.7-3.10: NIU Self-Cleaning Toilets

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- PO22. Where applicable, add signage in municipal parks and open spaces indicating the location and walking distance to available public washrooms nearby.**
- PO23. Share a map of public toilets on the municipal website.**
- PO24. Consider partnering with local businesses to serve as designated washrooms for municipal parks without a nearby washroom facility.**
- PO25. Explore the possibility of installing a self-cleaning washroom in a Community Park.**

3.3 PARK AMENITIES

Parks with a range of amenities serve as vital hubs to promote physical activity, social interaction, and diverse recreation for all ages. This section discusses active, self-directed play and exercise including playgrounds, skate parks, splash pads, basketball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, outdoor rinks, walking/running tracks and trails, as well as other open space amenities such as boat launches, community gardens, off-leash dog parks, and outdoor event spaces. Providing open spaces that support diverse types of activities ensure every park user can find an enjoyable recreational outlet.

3.3.1 PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds are important spaces for children to play, exercise, use their imagination, and enhance their physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development. They are also an important gathering place and social space for families. As of the 2021 Census, there are 1,720 children aged 0 to 14 years living in Trent Hills, comprising 12.4% of the population (see section 1.3.2). The Municipality has four playgrounds at the following locations:

- Mill Creek Park (Warkworth)
- Kennedy Park (Campbellford)
- Fowlds Millennium Park (Hastings)
- Ed Brownlee Park (Hastings)

In the telephone survey of 200 households, 25% indicated they use playgrounds and 7.8% think more playgrounds are needed in Trent Hills over the term of this Plan. In the online survey of 140 households, 52.6% indicated they use playgrounds and 40.4% think more are needed.

ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds should be renewed as needed, especially in relation to accessibility. At the end of a playground’s lifecycle, the Municipality should update its equipment and surfacing. Examples of upgrades to playground accessibility include, but are not limited to:

- poured in place rubber or rubber tile safety/fall surface;
- cast in place flush concrete curb around perimeter of playground to retain safety surface and allow for barrier-free access; and
- playground design that meets minimum accessibility requirements as per CAN/CSA Z614-07 Annex H: Children’s Playspaces and equipment that are accessible to persons with disabilities. Topics include ground-level play, accessible routes, ramps, play tables (e.g., surfaces, slabs, counters), and reach ranges.

An accessible swing was added to the playground at Kennedy Park through the contributions of the Lions Club. To improve accessibility across Trent Hills, and ensure children of all ability levels can play, accessible swings should be installed at Mill Creek Park and Fowlds Millennium Park.

NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

Natural playgrounds are outdoor play spaces designed to connect children with nature by replicating outdoor environments and incorporating elements like logs, boulders, slopes, and native plants and vegetation instead of traditional plastic or metal equipment. These environments encourage imaginative play, exploration, and problem-solving, as children can build, climb, balance, and create using natural materials. Outdoor musical instruments may also be included such as cedar xylophones and chime fences, as well as sand and water play such as log chutes and sensory tables. By blending into the landscape, natural playgrounds promote environmental awareness and stewardship while offering diverse sensory and physical experiences. They also tend to be more sustainable and adaptable, evolving naturally over time as vegetation grows and seasons change. See section 3.4.1 for a discussion on a proposed new natural playground at Hillside Park in Campbellford.

CASE STUDY: BATAWA LIONS NATURAL PLAYGROUND - QUINTE WEST, ONTARIO

This natural playground was fundraised by the Batawa Lions Club and incorporated local topography into the design features (Figures 3.11-3.12). The junior area (ages 2-5 years) includes a play hut, a small embankment slide, and a fallen log climber. The senior area includes a large log jam with a slide and climbing net, a horizontal log-climbing wall, and a large hill slide installed on a man-made berm that mimics the nearby ski hill. Between these two feature areas, a concrete runnel in the shape of the Trent Severn waterway is set into a large sand play area for water play. The runnel includes weirs to represent the lock system and is surrounded by seating logs and boulders. The playground also has a dual swing bay with an accessible basket swing, an adventure hill slide, a limestone boulder maze, and a zipline.



Figures 3.11-3.12: Batawa Lions Natural Playground (Source: Earthscape)

DESTINATION PLAYGROUNDS

Destination playgrounds are large, feature-rich play spaces designed to attract families and visitors from beyond the immediate neighbourhood. These playgrounds often include a variety of unique and exciting play features (e.g., track rides or gliders with secure harness or bucket seat options, in-ground trampoline), inclusive and accessible equipment, themed design elements, and supporting amenities such as washrooms, shaded seating, and picnic areas. They are typically located in major parks or recreation hubs and serve as community landmarks that encourage longer visits and social interaction. By combining imaginative play opportunities with comfort and convenience, destination playgrounds create memorable experiences that draw people together and contribute to a community's identity and vitality. Figures 3.13-3.14 show examples of destination playgrounds in other municipalities.



Figures 3.13-3.14: Wooden Pirate Ship and Cableway Play Features (Source: KOMPAN)

PLAYGROUNDS FOR OLDER YOUTH/ADULTS

Playgrounds designed for older youth and adults focus on providing challenge, social connection, and active recreation opportunities that especially appeal to teens and pre-teens. These spaces often include climbing walls (Figure 3.15), parkour or ninja/obstacle-style equipment (Figure 3.16), outdoor fitness stations, and areas for informal sports or creative expression, such as basketball hoops, multi-sport court, skate features, or performance spaces. Unlike traditional playgrounds, they emphasize independence and exploration, encouraging older youth to test their strength, coordination, and problem-solving skills. Well-designed youth play areas also include social zones with seating and shade, creating a welcoming environment where young people can gather, be active, and feel a sense of belonging in their community.

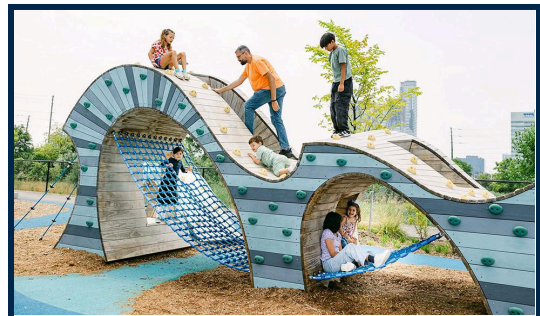


Figure 3.15: Cortelluci Park Bouldering Playground (Vaughan, ON)



Figure 3.16: Mission Park Ninja Playground (Parry Sound, ON)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P026. Install an accessible swing at the Mill Creek Park playground.
- P027. Install an accessible swing at the Fowlds Millennium Park playground.
- P028. Update play equipment and surfacing at the end of a playground's lifecycle, incorporating accessibility upgrades.
- P029. As parks and playgrounds undergo updates to improve accessibility, ensure that municipal inventories and webpages are also updated to reflect the new features and facilities.

3.3.2 SKATE PARKS

Skate parks are lower cost, self-guided recreation amenities that support healthy and physical activity. They are also informal social spaces that promote independence among youth and younger adults. Trent Hills has two skate parks located at Kennedy Park (Figure 3.17) and Warkworth Park.



Figure 3.17: Skate Park at Kennedy Park

Table 3.6 on the following page shows the number of skate parks in 18 municipalities of similar size to Trent Hills, both in terms of population (Trent Hills' current and projected population) and geography (land area), including three peer communities in Northumberland County (Hamilton,

Brighton, Port Hope). Among the 18 total comparator communities, the average number of skate parks is 1.16 and the median number of splash pads is 1. Based on this benchmarking, Trent Hills does not need additional skate parks during the 20-year term of this Plan.

Table 3.6: Skate Park Provision Comparisons Among Similar Sized Municipalities

Municipality	Population (2021 Census)	Land Area (km ²)	# of skate parks
Hamilton*	11,059	256.03	0
Brighton*	12,108	223.24	1
Brock	12,567	422.64	3
Gravenhurst	13,157	489.11	1
South Glengarry	13,330	605.02	0
The Nation	13,350	658.93	0
South Stormont	13,570	447.71	0
Trent Hills*	13,861	513.85	2
Central Elgin	13,746	279.87	1
Thames Centre	13,980	433.99	2
Severn	14,576	523.06	1
St. Clair	14,659	618.57	1
Mississippi Mills	14,740	511.25	2
Clearview	14,814	556.37	3
West Lincoln	15,454	387.02	1
North Perth	15,538	493.09	1
Saugeen Shores	15,908	170.19	1
Greater Napanee	16,879	462.30	1
Port Hope*	17,294	278.80	1

* Northumberland County municipalities

RECOMMENDATION:

PO30. Additional skate parks are not required during the term of this Plan.

3.3.3 SPLASH PADS

Splash pads are a common request in communities with many families, as they provide opportunities for water play without lifeguard supervision. Trent Hills currently has one splash pad located at Kennedy Park in Campbellford (Figure 3.18), with use reported by 42% of online survey

respondents and 24% of telephone survey respondents. Splash pads were the top requested new park amenity in the online survey (selected by 45% of 141 respondents), with particular interest in Warkworth. Telephone survey respondents reported less interest in a new splash pad (29% of 43 respondents).



Figure 3.18: Splash Pad at Kennedy Park

Table 3.7 on the following page shows the number of splash pads in the 18 comparator municipalities from section 3.3.2. Among this group, the average number of splash pads is 1.26 and the median number of splash pads is 1. Given Trent Hills' staff resources, current population size, and projected population of 15,827 residents, the existing provision rate of one splash pad is sufficient. Beyond the term of this Plan, if the community grows to 20,000-25,000 residents and as warmer temperatures become more frequent due to climate change, the Municipality could consider providing a second splash pad. However, it should be noted that splash pads incur significant construction and maintenance costs and require access to a municipal (potable) water source. Given the amount of water required for a splash pad, a recirculating system would be preferred.

RECOMMENDATION:

PO31. Another splash pad is not required during the term of this Plan.

Table 3.7: Splash Pad Provision Comparisons Among Similar Sized Municipalities

Municipality	Population (2021 Census)	Land Area (km ²)	# of splash pads
Hamilton*	11,059	256.03	0
Brighton*	12,108	223.24	1
Brock	12,567	422.64	0
Gravenhurst	13,157	489.11	1
South Glengarry	13,330	605.02	1
The Nation	13,350	658.93	2
South Stormont	13,570	447.71	1
Trent Hills*	13,861	513.85	1
Central Elgin	13,746	279.87	1
Thames Centre	13,980	433.99	2
Severn	14,576	523.06	0
St. Clair	14,659	618.57	6
Mississippi Mills	14,740	511.25	1
Clearview	14,814	556.37	1
West Lincoln	15,454	387.02	1
North Perth	15,538	493.09	1
Saugeen Shores	15,908	170.19	2
Greater Napanee	16,879	462.30	1
Port Hope*	17,294	278.80	1

* Northumberland County municipalities

3.3.4 BASKETBALL COURTS

Basketball was in the top five sports played by Canadians overall in 2023. Considering youth, basketball was the third most played sport (after soccer and swimming) at 43%.²⁷ Trends indicate interest in basketball will remain strong, and likely grow in the coming years:

Basketball's simplicity is one of its greatest strengths. Minimal equipment required, and the proliferation of basketball courts globally means there should be minimal expenses to play. It's a sport, when delivered through a positive youth development lens, that can be used as a vehicle for developing and delivering life-long outcomes related to health, education and employment.

²⁷ <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/o1/en/plus/4863-diving-data-sports-participation-canada>

The global popularity of basketball is another factor. It is the most popular North American sport worldwide and second most popular globally after soccer. The stars of the game are some of the most recognizable figures, representing a diverse spectrum of identities. The culture of basketball, which connects the sport to music, fashion, art, design, film and tech, offers many in-roads to a deeper relationship with the game.

And the growth of basketball is also significant: WNBA viewership has increased 300% in the 2024 season, 3×3 was introduced as an Olympic sport in 2020, and wheelchair basketball continues to lead in sports for different abilities (Sport Information Resource Centre, 2024).²⁸

The growth of basketball in Canada has also benefitted girls and women. Plans for a WNBA team in Toronto by 2026 are underway, promising to boost the sport's profile and encouraging more girls and women to play. Canada's national teams have also seen success, performing well in international competitions like the FIBA World Championship and the Olympics (Sport Information Resource Centre, 2024).²⁹

There are no outdoor basketball courts in Trent Hills. In Hastings, there is a half court (1 net) at Fowlds Millennium Park. The modular court inside the adjacent Hastings Field House can be used for basketball, though community feedback indicated the flooring is unsuitable and has limited availability for play. Similarly, the gymnasium at Campbellford District High School was reported as having minimal public availability for basketball. Basketball courts were requested by 35% of 43 respondents in the telephone survey and 25% of 114 respondents in the online survey, and suggested by a respondent to the Council and staff survey.

Guidelines by the former Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation suggest a general standard of 1 basketball court per 5,000 population.³⁰ With this service target, and given its current population of 13,861 residents and projected 2045 population of 15,827 residents, Trent Hills should have three basketball courts to meet the community's needs by the term of this Plan. Two of these outdoor courts can be added to new park parcels anticipated in planned developments in Campbellford (e.g., Haven-on-the-Trent, Camelot Subdivision) and Hastings (e.g., New Street Subdivision, Hastings Meadow Park), while the third outdoor court should be considered for Warkworth (e.g., Mill Creek Park, Warkworth Park) to balance distribution across the municipality.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

PO32. Add an outdoor basketball court to a new park parcel in Campbellford.

PO33. Add an outdoor basketball court to a new park parcel in Hastings.

PO34. Consider adding an outdoor basketball court to an existing park in Warkworth.

²⁸ <https://sirc.ca/articles/leveling-the-playing-field-accessibility-in-youth-basketball/>

²⁹ <https://sirc.ca/news/the-rise-of-basketball-in-canada-2016-2024-lessor-du-basketball-au-canada-2016-2024/>

³⁰ Guidelines for Developing Public Recreation Facility Standards, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation (2004)

3.3.5 OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT & TRACKS

Outdoor fitness equipment provides individuals of all ages and fitness abilities the opportunity to enjoy free workouts at their own pace while gaining health benefits such as increased muscle strength, endurance, balance, and flexibility. These amenities can provide a social outlet for exercise and promote a sense of pride within neighbourhoods. When positioned in close proximity to/within sight lines of a playground, both parents and children (or children and older siblings) can engage in physical activity simultaneously, making parks appealing to diverse age groups.

Fitness parks/stations vary in their space requirements depending on the type and amount of equipment installed, which may include:

- push-up bars
- parallel bars
- rope climbing
- monkey bars
- dip stations
- balance beams
- vault bars
- hurdles
- slacklines
- step benches
- climbing boulders

These can be stand-alone or multi-use pieces, or designed as an entire circuit/obstacle course within a larger geographic area (Figures 3.19-3.20). Equipment can also be designed for children through use of lower heights, brighter colours, and design elements (e.g., netting). Generally, the parts are durable and require minimal maintenance. The best fitness equipment is immovable and safe (e.g., no pinch parts).



Figures 3.19-3.20: Fitness Equipment Examples (Source: Trekfit)

In Trent Hills, an outdoor fitness piece is provided next to play equipment at both Mill Creek Park and Fowlds Millennium Park. Approximately 23% of 141 online survey respondents and 18 of 43 telephone survey respondents were interested in new outdoor fitness equipment being installed in Trent Hills. Although there was limited interest from survey respondents, outdoor equipment could offer exercise opportunities to teenagers and seniors. With 31% of Trent Hills' population

over the age of 65 (see section 1.3.2), outdoor fitness should be promoted to seniors as a means of improving balance and strength, keeping healthy, and socializing with neighbours.

Over the term of this Plan, the Municipality should consider installing contemporary outdoor fitness equipment pieces or fitness circuits in multiple parks (ideally, one Community Park or Waterfront Park in each village), and work with developers to include outdoor fitness equipment in new Community Park and Neighbourhood Park parcels. Equipment within each location should vary in form and ability level to support users. For example, pushup bars and dip stations could be provided in addition to balance beams and step benches. Boulders and slack lines (Figures 3.21-3.22) are increasingly popular with pre-teens, teens, and adults looking for adventure and challenge equipment that is recognizable and intuitive.



Figures 3.21-3.22: Fitness Equipment Examples (Source: Trekfit)

Residents demonstrated interest in new or expanded outdoor walking and running tracks over the next 20 years, with 44.4% of 115 online survey participants and 18 of 32 telephone survey participants indicating a need. There are no outdoor tracks at the elementary and secondary schools in Trent Hills. Municipal outdoor tracks and walking paths serve as accessible, traffic-free spaces for fitness enthusiasts of all levels. Unlike gyms that require memberships or gravel trails that may be uneven or isolated in natural heritage areas, public tracks and walking paths offer a standardized, safe environment open to everyone from competitive runners to parents pushing strollers. They act as a "third place" for physical activity, removing the barriers of cost and safety, and allowing residents to focus entirely on their movement without the worry of cars, stoplights, or stray dogs.

Many modern track surfaces are a synthetic, rubberized material (e.g., polyurethane or latex bound with rubber granules) that offers significant shock absorption to reduce the impact on joints, tendons, and muscles compared to running on asphalt or concrete. A standard 400-metre loop provides a perfect tool for precision; runners and walkers can track their distance and pace with exactitude, facilitating structured workouts like intervals or tempo runs that are difficult to replicate on the open road.

In Trent Hills, a 200-metre collegiate track is provided indoors at the Hastings Field House. There is also a 5-km limestone trail at Old Mill Park in Campbellford and the 2-km Millennium Lilac Trail in Warkworth. The Municipality should consult further with residents to clarify interest in additional walking/running tracks, specifically to determine if the demand is for high-performance athletic surfaces (i.e., formalized, rubberized oval tracks for measured training) or paved, accessible pathways (or soft-surface nature trails) suitable for active aging.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P035. Consider installing contemporary outdoor fitness equipment pieces or fitness circuits in a park in each village.**
- P036. Work with developers to include outdoor fitness equipment in new park parcels.**
- P037. Consult further with residents to clarify interest in additional walking/running tracks.**

3.3.6 OUTDOOR RINKS

Outdoor ice rinks are a beloved part of winter in Ontario, acting as community hubs that bring together residents of all ages and income brackets. During months when sedentary behaviour typically increases, ice skating provides free or low-cost outdoor physical activity including cardiovascular/muscular fitness, flexibility, balance, and coordination.³¹ Many rural municipalities install ice skating rinks, loops, and trails to celebrate winter and support self-led recreation. Over the past four years, an outdoor community rink has been developed in the Village Green space next to Ed Brownlee Park by volunteers in Hastings. The Municipality has supported the amenity through provision of water and lighting.

Keeping these rinks running is becoming difficult due to warmer, unpredictable weather and rising costs. While natural ice is cheaper, it melts easily in "freeze-thaw" cycles and has high labour costs. Relying on local champions or volunteer neighbourhood groups to maintain community rink operations often leads to burnout and fatigue among these volunteers. Conversely, refrigerated systems guarantee a skating season but often cost over \$1 million to install. Planning a designated outdoor rink includes balancing the high cost of cooling technology against the reliability of the ice, while also prioritizing energy efficiency, ensuring the space is accessible to people of all abilities, and designing the surface to be used for summer sports like basketball.

Among survey participants who thought more amenities needed to be added or expanded in Trent Hills over the next 20 years, almost half (45.2% of 115 online respondents and 46.5% of 43 telephone respondents) indicated interest in additional outdoor rinks. Should a group wish to develop another natural ice rink in Trent Hills, the Municipality should support them, find a suitable location, and outline roles and responsibilities pertaining to supplies, construction, operations, maintenance, and programming. This may include a contract to be signed by relevant parties to address risk management regarding ice quality, helmet usage, and unsupervised skating (e.g., signage and inspection protocols). When selecting a location, the Municipality should

³¹ <https://sportsmedicineweekly.com/blog/how-ice-skating-can-enhance-health-and-wellness/>

account for wind patterns and solar load. Shade structures or north-facing orientations are preferred, as sun exposure significantly softens ice even in sub-zero temperatures.

Should sufficient interest in a refrigerated outdoor rink emerge over the term of this Plan, the Municipality should consider a hard-court surface that could be used for basketball, pickleball, or ball hockey in the summer, helping to justify the high cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

P038. Monitor interest in establishing natural ice rinks and support residents in their development.

3.3.7 WATER ACCESS POINTS

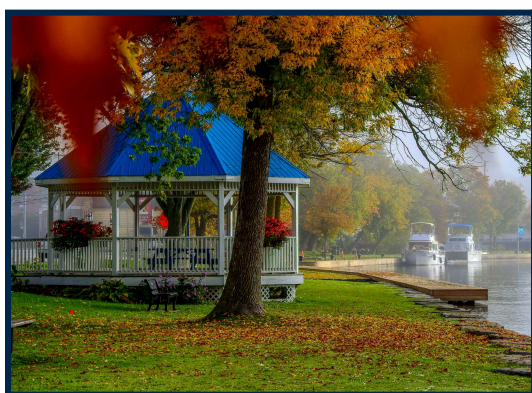
The Trent Hills community deeply values its surrounding natural environment, especially the ecological health of its local waterways. The Trent-Severn Waterway is central to this identity, serving as an iconic historical and cultural link that connects the municipality's settlements. In the municipality there are a number of spaces with public access to the water.

HASTINGS WATERFRONT

The public can access both the north and south sides of the Trent River through municipal parkland. On the north side (along Front Street), there is a short boardwalk (approximately 150 metres), swimming beach, day use dock, gazebo, open green space, seating, portable toilet, and two launches for boats and small craft (e.g., kayaks, canoes). The south side over the river, along Dit Clapper Drive, is home to the Hastings Village Marina and a fish sculpture called Pisces Pete (Figure 3.23). The vegetation along the waterfront includes wildflowers planted by local Girl Guides and Scouts groups. West of the marina is another public beach, open green space, seating, and portable toilet. Both beaches are monitored for the local public health unit for water quality.



Figure 3.23: Pisces Pete Sculpture



Figures 3.24-3.25: Hastings Waterfront

CROWE BRIDGE PARK

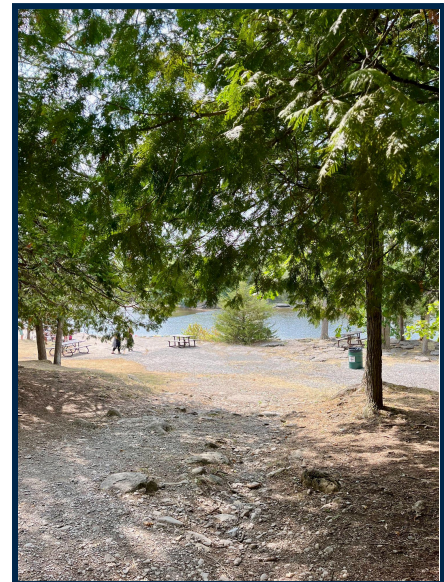
At the weir dam, the Crowe River flows over the fossilized shale rock and creates a popular shallow swimming hole that provides different levels for visitors of all ages or abilities to wade through or jump into the water. The land is owned by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and managed by the Municipality. Crowe Bridge Park is open from June to the end of September with a per-vehicle charge; Trent Hills households may purchase a seasonal pass.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

When asked about adding or expanding park attributes and comfort amenities over the next 20 years, survey participants' top interest was in beaches and water access points (selected by 60.3% of 141 online respondents and 53% of 17 telephone survey respondents). Upgrading beaches and water access points improves visitor experience, safety, environmental resilience, and accessibility.

ACCESSIBILITY

In line with universal design (see section 3.2.1), everyone should be able to enjoy the water regardless of their ability and mobility level. One way to improve waterfront accessibility is to install a beach access mat or mobility mat, providing balance and stability for people with wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, and scooters to be on the beach (see Figures 3.28-3.29 on the following page). Many municipalities with waterfronts are installing these mobility mats to promote inclusivity and belonging. Long spikes secure the mat into the sand, and the mat is removed at the end of the season. The mat's surface can also serve as a tactile marker for people with visual impairments looking to access the water's edge. Given its strong community values and aging population, Trent Hills should consider installing a mobility mat at the Hastings waterfront to improve access to the designated swimming beach. Accessible picnic tables could also be added to enhance enjoyment of the waterfront for all users.



Figures 3.26-3.27: Crowe Bridge Park



Figure 3.28-3.29: Mobility Mats in Seguin, Ontario and Gimli, Manitoba³²

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- PO39. Consider installing a mobility mat on the beach to provide access to the water's edge for all.**

3.3.8 COMMUNITY GARDENS

Trent Hills has two community gardens, both located in Campbellford and managed by IncrEdible Trent Hills, a non-profit organization that aims to support and strengthen the local food system. One of the gardens is permitted on municipally-owned land on Simpson Street, adjacent to Trout Creek. Approximately 31% of 141 online survey participants and 3 of 200 telephone survey respondents indicated a need for additional community gardens during the 20-year term of this Plan.

Community gardens provide opportunities for education and programming, which is increased when gardens are located near schools and facilities with kitchens. Program participants can learn gardening skills and grow food during the summer. As produce is ready for harvesting, it can be used for cooking and preserving classes in partnership with community groups or volunteers. Community gardens are also an excellent opportunity for intergenerational programming, which strengthens community bonds by forging relationships between people of varying ages (children, teens, adults, seniors). IncrEdible Trent Hills currently delivers programming with grade 8 students at Hillcrest Public School and Kent Public School. Students visit the gardens in the fall and spring, helping to prepare the beds for winter and planting the public beds while learning about seeds, compost, and growing food.

There has been an increase in community gardens in Ontario with the rising costs of food and interest in community building following the COVID-19 pandemic. In most cases, community gardens are provided through a partnership with the municipality and community organizations, whereby the municipality provides the land (free of charge), planter frames, soil, fencing around the site, and a shed with basic supplies. In turn, the community group takes on the administration

³² Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/mayor-of-gimli-rolls-out-plan-to-make-beach-more-accessible-1.3052463>

and operation of the site. Maintenance can be shared between the two partners, typically with the municipality providing grass cutting and taking care of larger repairs. Given the strong connection between growing food, well-being, and food security, food banks and public health units are potential partners for community garden development. Gardens can also incorporate Indigenous artwork and native species of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennial plants as part of placekeeping and reconciliation (see section 4.2.3.4).

Should groups wish to form additional community gardens in Trent Hills over the 20-year term of this Plan, the Municipality should support them, find a suitable location, and outline roles and responsibilities pertaining to supplies, construction, operations, maintenance, and programming. This may include a contract to be signed by relevant parties to ensure that gardens are properly cared for.

CASE STUDY: GROW WITH ME - WEST PERTH, ONTARIO

The Municipality of West Perth offers a free intergenerational gardening program called “Grow With Me” in Keterson Park for older adults and children ages four and older. It is funded by the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors grant and in partnership with Mitchell & Area Community Outreach. The 12-week program takes place on Thursdays from mid-June to late August. Participants spend time outside, complete different gardening and craft activities, and take home and share any vegetables that they harvest.

CASE STUDY: I-GROW - SUDBURY, ONTARIO

Led by Sudbury Shared Harvest in Sudbury, Ontario, this intergenerational gardening program aims to bring together people of all ages and generations to learn and share knowledge about how to grow more food locally. Volunteer activities include planting and maintaining food forests across Sudbury, delivering the “Little Farmers” program in pre-schools and daycares, and leading field trips for schoolchildren to community food forests.

CASE STUDY: SHO’ARISHON PARK - LINCOLN, ONTARIO

The Town of Lincoln has made considerable effort to recognize the history and culture of Indigenous peoples through the redevelopment of a municipal park for cultural learning, gathering, ceremony, reflection, and relationship building. Created in collaboration with Indigenous partners, Sho’arishon Park has a special focus honouring the legacy of the Neutral Nation, the first known inhabitants of the land now called Lincoln.³³ The park opened in fall 2025 and directly responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action by creating a space for truth-telling and learning, elevating Indigenous

³³ <https://speakuplincoln.ca/shoarishon-park>

voices and cultural expression, and supporting intercultural understanding, empathy, and respect for Indigenous rights, identity, and presence.

Sho'arishon Park's design features cultural forms inspired by Indigenous architecture, including a longhouse-inspired structure for shade and community events, and a palisade-inspired feature referencing traditional village design. A rain garden with native species, walkways, paved parking, enhanced trail access, bicycle parking and repair station, convenience power, water bottle refill station, educational signage, seating and gathering spaces support land-based learning and community use. The Town also commissioned permanent public art works by Indigenous-led artist teams honouring language, story, and the waterways that connect us. Funding for the project was provided by Niagara Region, the Greenbelt Foundation, Niagara Community Foundation, Government of Canada, and Plenty Canada.³⁴

RECOMMENDATION:

PO40. Monitor interest in establishing new community gardens and support residents in their development over the term of this Plan.

3.3.9 OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

There is a growing expectation in municipalities by both dog owners and non-dog owners that leash-free areas be provided to allow safe areas for people to run their dogs without conflict with other park uses. When asked about new amenities to be added to Trent Hills, dog parks were among the top five requests, with approximately 43% of 141 online survey respondents and 10 out of 17 telephone survey respondents indicating their households' interest in these spaces.

Trent Hills does not have a municipally-run dog park, though dogs are reportedly taken off-leash at the Campbellford-Seymour Agricultural Society lands (also known as the Campbellford Fairgrounds). With a service target of 1 dog park per 10,000 people, it is appropriate for the Municipality to have one dog park for community access.

A 1,250 sq. ft. off-leash area is available at Ferris Provincial Park in Campbellford. It was installed by the Province of Ontario in 2023 and paid for by park fees. Visitors who arrive by car must pay for a standard day-use ticket (\$12.25), while walk-in visitors do not pay a cost. Trent Hills residents can thus access the park on foot for free via the open-bottomed Ranney Gorge Suspension Bridge (although some dogs may not be willing to walk across) or from Saskatoon Avenue (approximately 500 metres or 10 minutes' walk). To ensure residents are aware of how to access this publicly available amenity, the Municipality should increase its promotion through signage near the two walk-in park entrances as well as web and social media communications.

³⁴ <https://www.pelhamtoday.ca/local-news/town-of-lincoln-celebrates-opening-of-shoarishon-park-11437670>

It should be noted that while the Provincial Park is accessible year-round, some residents have observed the off-leash dog area closing during the winter season due to insurance regulations.³⁵ Over the 20-year term of this Plan, the Municipality should engage with Ontario Parks to explore opportunities to extend use of the leash-free space.

With an anticipated population of 15,827 people in 2045, a second dog park will not be required in Trent Hills during the term of this Plan. The provincial dog park should continue to be sufficient to meet the community's needs. However, the Municipality can remain open to exploring opportunities with developers to incorporate a dog off-leash trail segment or loop within any multi-use trails proposed as part of new parkland provision. For example, if lands included as parkland in approved and proposed plans of subdivision are integrated within natural heritage features identified on or in proximity to development sites, this could be suitable for an off-leash area that would not require extensive fencing. It is recommended that at least a 10-metre buffer be provided between a dog park/trail and a neighbouring residential community. The buffer should contain dense, evergreen vegetation to block sight, sound, and smell to be present year-round.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- P041. Increase promotion of the off-leash dog park at Ferris Provincial Park through signage at walk-in entrances to the park and web and social media communications.**
- P042. Engage with Ontario Parks to explore opportunities to extend use of the leash-free space.**
- P043. If feasible, work with developers to explore installing a leash-free trail as part of new parkland provision.**

3.3.10 OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES

Parks need to support the delivery of outdoor events and activities, which foster social cohesion and a shared sense of community among residents, local organizations, government, businesses, and visitors. In Trent Hills, these needs are met through a bandshell at Mill Creek Park and pavilions at Lions Community Park. There are also gazebos at Warkworth Park, Old Mill Park, Hastings Waterfront, and the Millennium Lilac Trail that serve as aesthetic features. Other municipal open spaces such as the Hastings Village Green property (see section 3.4.2) have been used for events as well.

As the Municipality acquires additional parkland, Waterfront Parks and Community Parks (see section 3.1.4) in central locations should include amenities to accommodate events, placemaking, celebration, and unstructured play, where possible. Event spaces might include public squares, parkettes, pavilions, gazebos, or picnic shelters with protection from sun/rain. There should be sufficient seating (including accessible furnishings), shade, and waste receptacles; if possible, these spaces should have paved space for parking, electric site servicing

³⁵ <https://www.trenthillsnews.com/p/dog-park-or-anti-dog-park>

(to provide pedestrian-scale evening lighting), access to a washroom, outdoor water fountains/bottle fillers, power/sound system hook up, etc. Outdoor event spaces may be supported by other amenities such as kitchenettes, water hook-ups, and amphitheatres/stages. See section 3.4.2 for further discussion on a new gathering and event space at Hastings Village Green.

Increasingly, municipalities are moving away from staffed (municipal or volunteer) canteens and accommodating food vending trucks at sporting and social events, and particularly large gatherings, in municipal parks and open spaces. Where possible, Trent Hills should consider providing additional servicing hookups to support this use. Key considerations for encouraging food trucks on sites include providing:

- power pedestals for food truck operation to avoid the need to use loud generators while in operation;
- hose bib in the vicinity to help with cleanup and keeping the area clean; and
- sufficient nearby waste receptacles.

RECOMMENDATION:

PO44. Design future parks with amenities to accommodate events and activities such as parking, water and electric site servicing, where possible.

3.3.11 ART, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE

Public art can animate parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities by creating points of interest, celebrating community and local artists, enhancing infrastructure, and encouraging tourism. Public art is a visible, interactive, relatively affordable way to support and develop arts and culture while offering opportunities for exposure for local artists. Trent Hills has an active and vibrant arts community that would likely be supportive of this initiative and would have valuable insights and ideas to contribute. Heritage is also a significant part of the Municipality's identity.

PUBLIC ART POLICY

Trent Hills should prepare a public art policy to plan, organize, and facilitate opportunities for incorporating public art and heritage throughout municipal parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities. The policy should be developed in consultation with local artists, collectives, and organizations such as Artworth to support communication and coordination of the planning and application process and to ensure heritage elements are respected. The policy should include opportunities for standalone pieces, design motifs, and artistic elements integrated into infrastructure. These may include, but not be limited to:

- sculptures;
- murals;
- temporary installations;
- community art projects;

- monuments;
- street furniture (e.g., benches, planters, picnic tables);
- historical text panels;
- outdoor artefact installations;
- signage, wayfinding, and interpretation; and
- artistic features incorporated into engineering or architectural features (e.g., railings, lighting, walls, steps, paving patterns, shade structures).

These elements can help to inspire civic and neighbourhood pride and engage residents and visitors in conversations about a space’s past and present.

The public art policy should inform the process for procurement, placement, budget, and implementation. The execution of the art should be done in conjunction with the larger project (i.e., at the same time as construction and other improvements) and in partnership with appropriate groups (e.g., Trent Hills Public Library). A predetermined percentage of the overall project budget could be established to help determine the amount of funding to allocate to public art.

PUBLIC ART ELEMENTS

Possible public art elements that could be developed over the term of this Plan and beyond may include, but are not limited to, painted picnic tables in Community Parks, community-led freestanding mural walls in Neighbourhood Parks, and a sculpture garden.

ART PARK

The Municipality could also consider designating a specific park as an “art park,” or dedicating space within a park in each village as a “Culture Corner.”

CASE STUDY: DOWNTOWN VIBRANCY PROJECT - PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

Led by the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area, this project commissioned local artists to paint 25 wooden picnic tables that were installed at various locations in Peterborough’s downtown core. Lumber and paint was donated by local businesses and a nearby casino funded the project. In addition to showcasing local artists and supplying businesses with extra furniture for patios, the project also served as a self-guided art tour for residents and visitors.

CASE STUDY: TORONTO SCULPTURE GARDEN - TORONTO, ONTARIO

The Toronto Sculpture Garden is a small, 0.08-hectare City of Toronto park located between two of the City’s oldest buildings, dating from the 1840s. Since its opening in

1981, the Garden has hosted temporary artworks by over 80 artists.³⁶ Currently, it is managed by the City of Toronto and provides artists with the opportunity to work experimentally in public space. Commissioned exhibitions change two per year, typically in the spring and fall. The park is open from 9 AM to 9 PM daily.

CASE STUDY: ART NINE DISC GOLF COURSE - SHAWNEE, KANSAS

This 9-hole disc golf course opened in 2024 at Shawnee Mission Park and integrates pieces from the local County's Public Art Program. After a call for artists, and upon review by an art selection committee made up of artists, community members, and disc golf advocates, 10 design proposals by four local artists were commissioned to create the art. Artists were encouraged to design art sculptures that highlighted and celebrated the natural environment including native flora, fauna, animals, and birds (Figures 3.30-3.31).³⁷



Figures 3.30-3.31: Art Nine Disc Golf Course Pieces by Scott Diven & Amie Jacobsen (Source: Johnson County Park and Recreation District)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- PO45. Working with local artists, develop a public art policy for incorporating more public art in Trent Hills' parks and open spaces.**
- PO46. Consider integrating public art and sculpture gardens within parks.**
- PO47. Consider designating a specific park as an "art park," or portions of parks as "Culture Corners."**

³⁶

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/public-art/public-art-monuments-collection/comp-sculpture-garden/>

³⁷ <https://www.nrpa.org/blog/an-artful-approach-to-disc-golf/>

3.4 PRIORITY PARK SITES

Two open spaces within Trent Hills have been identified as priority projects in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The recommendations and draft concept plans below provide suggestions and guidance for undertaking a detailed redevelopment of each park.

3.4.1 HILLSIDE PARK

Hillside Park is a 1.93-acre municipal parcel at 21 Ranney Street in Campbellford and the district entrance to the Downtown Campbellford BIA of shops, restaurants, and essential services including the post office, pharmacy and banks. It is located across the street from the Campbellford Branch of the Trent Hills Public Library and within 500 metres of a day care centre, two elementary schools, and a high school. The park is also a 10-minute walk from Campbellford Memorial Hospital. This proximity to essential community hubs means Hillside Park is naturally integrated into the daily routines and foot traffic of the community, making it an ideal gathering space for residents of all ages. The park previously had an outdoor swimming pool and children's playground, both of which have been removed. Although it has no current amenities, the space is well used year-round.

Given its central location in Campbellford and proximity to other uses, Hillside Park is a prime candidate for a significant park redevelopment during this term of this Master Plan. New amenities should focus on introducing multi-functional and inclusive features that can be used for a variety of purposes, support surrounding demographics and services, and prioritize natural elements and community building. To achieve this, upgraded lighting, signage, seating, and sidewalk panels are critical for accessibility and safety, particularly for students and families traveling through the park to/from school, day care, and the library.

Figure 3.32 on page 93 shows a draft design concept for Hillside Park. Features include a natural outdoor classroom, natural playground, bandshell with amphitheatre seating on the hill, and self-cleaning washroom. More details on these proposed improvements are provided below.

On the south end of the park, the Municipality should install an outdoor classroom with natural aesthetics that positions the park as a functional learning space. These elements would provide a dedicated space for the library, nearby schools, and local organization to host lessons, children's story hours, nature talks, activities, and educational workshops.

A natural children's playground in the northeast section of the park, on the site of the former playground, would promote creative and sensory play and also support the schools and community providers that surround Hillside Park. As discussed in section 3.3.1, natural playgrounds integrate organic materials found in nature such as climbing and balancing structures made from sturdy logs, boulders, and rock stacks, which contrast with traditional, manufactured metal and plastic equipment to offer varied and challenging surfaces. Natural shelters like willow tunnels or simple dens can also be incorporated to provide quiet areas for

imagination and social interaction. Together, these natural elements encourage unstructured and imaginative play, prompting children to explore, solve problems, and take calculated risks, which are crucial for cognitive and motor skill development. These environments often lead to longer, more engaged playtime and foster a deeper connection with the natural world, offering significant benefits for children's physical, emotional, and social well-being.

The centre of the park should include additional seating and picnic areas to support users of all ages and abilities. The site of the former outdoor swimming pool, on the north end of the park, is currently vacant and temporarily used for surface parking. In addition to parking spots, the space could be appropriate for a multi-use covered bandshell with level area in front and adjacent amphitheatre seating to accommodate park activities in the event of inclement weather and serve as a shaded space for markets, fitness classes, performances, and other events and programs. Natural materials and aesthetics should be used as much as possible. For example, a tiered, semi-circular arrangement of benches could be carved into the gentle slope to form an amphitheatre utilizing natural contours. Together, this dedicated space could be an inclusive and visually engaging setting for intergenerational community programs, open-air civic meetings, public events and performances. Users might include the library, nearby schools, arts organizations (e.g., Westben, Artworth) and other community groups. A self-cleaning washroom (see section 3.2.5) would be well suited on this property near the bandshell/event space.

This location includes a significant intersection for vehicular traffic, with Booth St. N., Centre St., and Bridge St. E. intersecting. As part of the park's redevelopment, the Municipality should consider installing visually suitable elements that support safe access to and from the park, such as perimeter containment or controlled entry points (e.g., edging, curb cuts, fencing, barricades, adult-operated gates). This supports playground accessibility and is particularly helpful for users who are at risk of fleeing (e.g., young children, individuals with disabilities). Seating positioned near exits can also add appropriate caregiver visibility.

A vibrant, prominent gateway sign could also be fitting in the southeast corner of the park where the three streets meet, formally marking Hillside Park as the gateway to Downtown Campbellford while blocking noise and serving as a safety barricade.

By incorporating thoughtful, contemporary features into the currently open greenspace, Hillside Park can evolve from a passive parcel into a vibrant, renewed civic asset that promotes culture, learning, community, and well-being year-round.

RECOMMENDATION:

P048. Use the concept plan to guide the redevelopment of Hillside Park to include new amenities focused on community and learning including upgraded lighting, seating, signage, and parking; accessible pathways; a natural outdoor classroom and playground; a bandshell with natural amphitheatre seating on the hill; and a self-cleaning washroom.

Hillside Park Design Concept



Legend

- 1. Self-cleaning washroom facility
- 2. Bandshell (with level area in front)
- 3. Natural amphitheatre seating on the hill
- 4. Natural playground
- 5. Accessible park walkways and lighting
- 6. Updated accessible concrete sidewalks
- 7. Parking lot with accessible parking stalls
- 8. Maintain natural tree canopy
- 9. Additional seating and picnic areas
- 10. Natural outdoor classroom
- 11. Gateway feature (timber and limestone)
- 12. Accessible parking stall along Booth Street
- 13. Park lighting and wayfinding signage



Figure 3.32: Proposed Design Concept for Hillside Park

3.4.2 HASTINGS VILLAGE GREEN

This 2.1-acre parcel is located next to Ed Brownlee Park (0.32 acres) at 9 Front Street West in Hastings. A ball diamond on this site was removed due to lack of use. Each winter, committed volunteers lead installation of a large outdoor ice rink, and in July, a local group organizes a Canada Day event. Like Hillside Park in Campbellford, this open space is in a central location close to the local post office, grocery store, bank, pharmacy, food bank, restaurants, and stores. It is less than 400 metres from Hastings Public School and the Hastings Branch of the Trent Hills Public Library, with new residential developments planned nearby.

In March 2022, the Municipality consulted residents about this property via an online survey. A majority of respondents (67.6% of 216) were from Ward 5 (Hastings), with a preference for the property's continued use as or redevelopment as parkland. Community comments included:

- "The ball park for sure needs to remain as recreational green space. There is also a need to . . . develop some community type gathering area and/or activity area."
- "Redevelopment of the former ball park property is paramount to the continued growth of Hastings and support for the downtown core."
- "Having free/green space downtown like the ball park is important for visitors and residents alike. Destination events like festivals, art shows, live music and food booths all add to the allure of Hastings!"
- "Ballpark land will prove invaluable as parkland into the future as both housing and commercial development continue to increase drastically throughout Northumberland and surrounding areas northward, and as a centralized resting place for both residents and the tourists coming into the village via the trail, docks, and roadways."
- "This land is critical to the current and future community to foster a sense of belonging and contributing to community events that could be held in this space."
- "We have an opportunity to beautify and create a masterpiece with these heart of Hastings lands."

Hastings is a village of approximately 1,500 close-knit neighbours with a strong sense of identity and spirit. This property has potential to be a "village green" type of space:

- **Central and Highly Visible Location:** A true village green is situated at the heart of the community. It is often bordered by main commercial streets, civic buildings like a town hall or library, or historic districts, acting as the village's front lawn.

- **Unprogrammed Open Space:** The defining physical feature is a large, flat, and unobstructed central lawn. Unlike parks heavy with fixed playgrounds, splash pads, or sports courts, the green is an open canvas that invites residents to bring their own blankets, lawn chairs, or informal games.
- **A Distinct Civic Anchor:** While the centre is open, one edge of the green is typically anchored by a structural focal point. This is usually a covered bandshell, a heritage gazebo, or a performance pavilion that gives the space a sense of purpose.
- **Perimeter Pathways and Shading:** Walkways usually frame the outside edge of the park rather than cutting directly through the center. Mature shade trees are also kept to the perimeter to provide comfortable, shaded seating areas along the edges without disrupting the open sightlines of the main lawn.
- **Multi-Use Flexibility:** The design intentionally supports a constant rotation of uses. A well-designed village green seamlessly transitions from a quiet spot for a weekday afternoon lunch to a bustling Saturday farmers' market or a packed Sunday evening summer concert.

In Hastings, the village green space is already a year-round destination for gathering and community building. To make it a highly flexible, community-focused park, a covered stage structure (e.g., bandshell, amphitheatre) and wide, open green space would support community-oriented activation such as:

- festivals, markets, pop-ups, and fundraiser events
- ceremonies, concerts, theatre and other performances
- outdoor movie screenings
- picnics
- yoga/bootcamp in the park
- public art installations
- casual fitness and play (e.g., Frisbee, catch)

The structure could be positioned in an appropriate location at the edge of the greenspace with an orientation relative to sunlight. Figure 3.33 on the following page shows conceptual examples of parks in other municipalities with similar features for inspiration. In Trent Hills, natural materials and aesthetics should be encouraged where feasible.

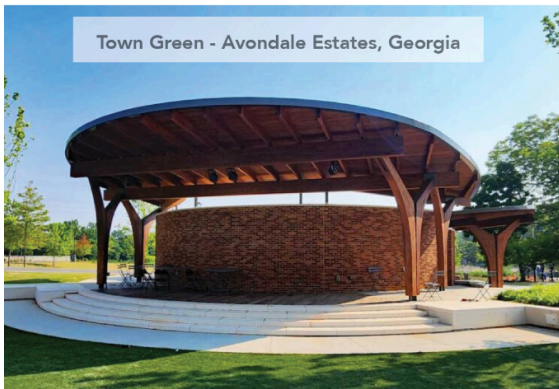


Figure 3.33: Conceptual Village Green Examples from Other Municipalities

Figure 3.34 on the following page shows a full draft design concept for Hastings Village Green. In addition to the covered bandshell and open green space, features include an upgraded parking lot with accessible parking spaces, park lighting and wayfinding signage, a picnic shelter with storage and self-cleaning washroom (see section 3.2.5), and outdoor fitness equipment (see section 3.3.5) by the existing playground. The design also proposes relocating the “Pisces Pete” fish sculpture currently on the south side of the waterfront to the Village Green site as part of a welcoming gateway feature. Additional details on the proposed improvements are provided below.

As discussed in section 3.3.10, new event spaces should be supported by accessible seating, wayfinding, waste receptacles, and accessible parking spaces. Electric site servicing, a power/sound system hook up, and proximity to parking and loading will support performances at the bandshell; the draft design concept includes a dedicated road/multi-use path from the parking area to the bandshell, which continues around the perimeter of the site in a loop to support casual walking and exercise.

The design maintains space for the large seasonal ice rink and proposes including weather-resistant outdoor fitness equipment (e.g., pull-up bars, sit-up benches, bouldering) to promote movement, play, and free exercise (see section 3.3.5) for all ages at the Hastings Village Green destination. The picnic shelter is proposed for the west end of the site, adjacent to the ice rink and suitable for lacing up skates or supporting non-skating activities. The structure is proposed to contain a self-cleaning washroom and dedicated storage space.

It is important to note the site’s current limitations that prevent municipal maintenance: grass cutting is typically delayed until soil conditions improve in July. Redevelopment of this space must be phased carefully and incorporate a robust subsurface drainage system such as strategically installed weeping tile to manage the significant seasonal pooling and high water table.

RECOMMENDATION:

- PO49. Use the concept plan to guide the development of a Community Park at Hastings Village Green that focuses on flexible, open greenspace for multi-purpose, multi-season gathering supported by upgraded lighting, seating, and signage; accessible pathways; a covered stage/bandshell; outdoor fitness equipment; and a picnic shelter with storage and a self-cleaning washroom.**

Hastings Village Green Design Concept



Figure 3.34: Proposed Design Concept for Hastings Village Green



WARKWORTH ARENA & COMMUNITY CENTRE



4.0

SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

4.0 SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

The service delivery discussion addresses resources needed to ensure successful implementation of the Master Plan’s recommendations in each of the foregoing service areas. Assessments and recommendations are presented under the following topic headings:

- Municipal Service Delivery Model
- Recreation Programming and Events
- Parks and Recreation Policy
- Agreements
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Service Planning and Evaluation

4.1 MUNICIPAL SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

The Municipality of Trent Hills is an indirect recreation service provider. In this role, the municipality facilitates the volunteer sector in providing its services using public facilities and parks, with staff support in implementing programs and activities. Municipal staff provide access to facilities for volunteer groups to deliver their programs to residents, and ensure facilities are well maintained for this purpose.

Other organizations have staff to deliver programs directly. The Trent Hills Public Library is a key program provider. With the opening of the Trent YMCA in Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre, the YMCA also became a direct service provider to area residents. As noted in the agreement between the Municipality of Trent Hills and YMCA Northumberland, the YMCA is the designated program provider in the areas of health, fitness, aquatics, and services such as day camp, child minding and licensed childcare, and other family/youth services. (p. 3, p. 9). Its programming is directed to responding to community needs as determined through ongoing consultation between the Municipality and the YMCA (p. 3, p.11). The parties will also work together to avoid municipal duplication of programs and services provided by the YMCA in its program areas (p. 11). The agreement, therefore, clarifies the division in responsibility for direct and indirect service provision by the YMCA and the Municipality, respectively.

4.1.1 MUNICIPAL STRUCTURE FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

Responsibility for the parks and recreation services under the Director of Community Services is outlined in Figure 4.1 on the following page and is structured to implement its indirect role in provision.

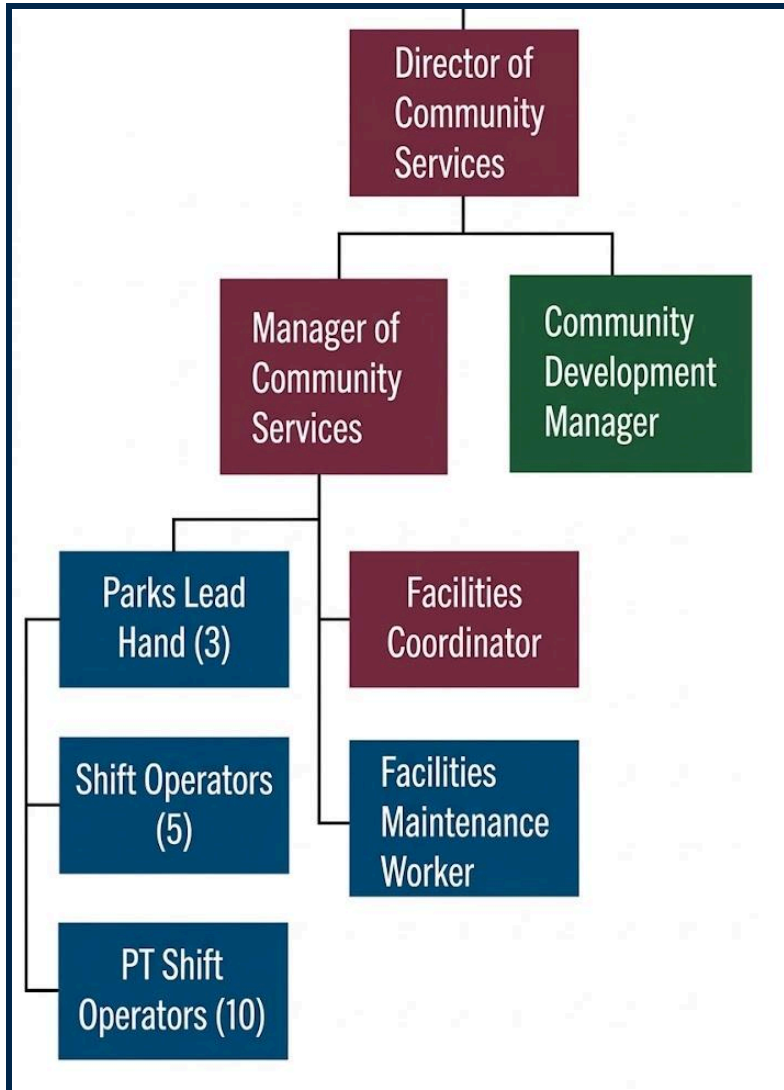


Figure 4.1: Organizational Structure for Municipal Parks and Recreation Service Delivery

The Manager of Community Services oversees the operations and maintenance of select corporate facilities, recreation facilities, and parks, and is responsible for the preventative maintenance program and asset management of all municipal buildings, parks and related amenities.

The Facilities Coordinator reports to the Manager of Community Services and is responsible for duties associated with the management and scheduling of programs/activities at all municipal facilities including the Hastings Field House, the arenas, sports fields and other recreation facilities.

The Facility Maintenance Worker conducts janitorial services at the Municipal Office and completes special projects or supports Lead Hands, at the direction of the Manager, in maintenance tasks and special projects.

The municipality's urban centres - Campbellford, Warkworth and Hastings - have a parallel complement of staff that deal with their respective indoor and outdoor facilities, parks and trails.

This structure works well for the Municipality and is not expected to change significantly in the foreseeable future. As Trent Hill grows, however, there may be a need to introduce a position to focus on program development, if required, to work in tandem with the Facilities Coordinator. While the Facilities Coordinator is currently tasked with promoting assets for program providers to use, community outreach to facilitate new program development in response to demand may require additional staff resources, especially if needs are not within the mandate of the YMCA to address. Ongoing monitoring of facility/program use and requests for services not currently offered will indicate the possible need for additional staff for this purpose.

4.2 RECREATION PROGRAMS & EVENTS

This section assesses the balance of recreation programs, activities, and events available to residents in Trent Hills.

4.2.1 EXISTING SUPPLY

Models for delivering recreation programming, activities and events can differ significantly from one municipality to another, with public agencies, non-profits, volunteer organizations, and private industry collaborating to provide recreational offerings. These programs, activities and events help to foster social cohesion and a sense of community among residents, local organizations, and visitors. User groups reported providing the following types of programs/activities in Trent Hills:

- field sports - 8 groups
- arena ice programs - 6 groups
- learning programs - 3 groups
- club/social programs - 3 groups
- performing arts programs - 3 group
- social support - 3 groups
- children's play programs - 3 groups
- fitness/wellness programs - 2 groups
- visual arts programs - 2 groups
- gym sports/recreation programs - 2 groups
- outdoor nature-based programs - 2 groups
- seniors' programs - 1 group
- court sports - 1 group
- heritage programs - 1 group
- cooking/nutrition programs - 1 group

Appendix D contains a list of current recreation programs available in Trent Hills by organizer, age group, and program area. A successful recreation ecosystem addresses residents' holistic well-being through a variety of physical and non-physical program areas, including:

- Aquatics
- Arts, Culture, Heritage & Hobbies
- Educational & Learning
- Fitness, Movement & Wellness

- Social Clubs/Groups
- Sports (Leagues/Drop-in)

In Trent Hills, there are programs available in each of these areas, as summarized in Table 4.2 below. The majority of current programs are available for all ages (i.e., youth, adults, older adults). Some program areas (e.g., aquatics) include age-specific activities for groups such as adults, seniors, and youth/families. Collectively, this supports a well-rounded program supply.

Table 4.2: Overview of Program Area Provision by Age Group

Program Area	Age Group			
	All Ages	Adults	Seniors	Youth & Families
Aquatics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arts, Culture, Heritage, Hobbies	✓			✓
Education & Learning	✓			✓
Fitness, Movement & Wellness	✓		✓	
Social Clubs/Groups	✓			
Sports (Leagues/Drop-in)	✓	✓		✓

Events throughout Trent Hills are organized and executed exclusively by community groups and volunteers (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Sample of Events in Trent Hills

Organizer	Type	Event
Community-based Volunteer Groups, Public Agencies & Not-for-Profits	Holiday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbellford Santa Claus Parade • Warkworth Santa Claus Parade • Hastings Trail Town Christmas • Hastings Children’s ChristmasFest • Warkworth Cookie Extravaganza & Festival of Trees • Warkworth Magic Under the Stars • Celebrate Canada
	Community & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbellford Seymour Fair • Warkworth Fall Fair • Trent Hills Pride • Annual Polar Plunge • Warkworth Lilac Festival • Hastings Medieval Festival • Gratitude Project • Memorial Euchre Tournaments

Organizer	Type	Event
	Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IncrEdible Edible Festival ● Warkworth Long Lunch ● Warkworth Maple Syrup Festival ● Campbellford Farmers Market ● Perfect Pie Contest
	Holiday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Easter Treats in the Streets ● Fokal Fest ● Pumpkinfest
	Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Warkworth Music Fest ● Crooks Rapid Country Fest ● Porchella Music Festival ● Westben Summer Festival ● Melodies at the Mill ● Sounds in Nature ● Campbellford Legion Open Mic
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chrome on the Canal ● Hastings Waterfront Festival ● Donnybrook Auction ● Dave Down Run, Walk & Wag

As seen in Table 4.3, Trent Hills is home to events including holiday celebrations, parades, cultural festivals, markets and fairs. Many of these are focused on food or music. The existing offering and diversity of events (and organizers) is quite strong for a municipality of this population size.

The Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce acts as a core community resource in the Municipality. In addition to listing its organized events and member businesses, the Chamber’s website includes a list of events taking place in the community and a directory of local organizations. Notably, a “virtual volunteer fair” page is updated each month with upcoming opportunities to contribute.

4.2.2 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Several respondents to the online survey contributed suggestions and feedback regarding recreation programming in Trent Hills. There is interest in additional programs for youth and weekend programs for adults:

- “I would love to see clubs to cater to the younger population.”
- “We have no recreational programs in Hastings other than Scouts for the children.”
- “Too many adult programs only during work hours; next to none on weekends.”

- “During the summer we have attended hockey camps outside of Trent Hills. Brighton, Cobourg, Peterborough, Belleville. Weekly camps for kids. Having programs available in Campbellford would be fantastic. And there is now a facility to do it.”

An attendee at the Community Visioning Workshop holding a music night in Hastings would encourage boaters travelling between Campbellford and Peterborough to stay overnight.

4.2.3 RECREATION PROGRAM TRENDS & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

4.2.3.1 PICKLEBALL

The growing interest in pickleball is a North American-wide phenomenon. A national survey conducted in January 2025 indicates that there are around 1.54 million individual Canadians playing the sport.³⁸ This reflects a 57% increase in participation since the survey was first conducted in 2022, which showed that 1 million Canadians were playing pickleball, and a modest year-over-year growth of 15% since 2024. The largest increase in participation over the past year has been in the 35-54 age group.

Ontario has the highest number of participants, with an estimated 598,900 people playing pickleball. The experience of other municipalities indicates that pickleball is currently among the most requested programs in Ontario communities, and there are a number of factors that will likely support continued growth in participation, including:

- play is relatively easy, in terms of rules and physical intensity;
- there is all-ages appeal;
- the national organizational is committed to growing participation;
- recognition of pickleball as a legitimate sport is improving nationally and internationally, with both recreational and competitive categories;
- play can be year-round, indoors and outdoors, with appropriate facilities; and,
- participants report that it is fun as well as physically beneficial.

4.2.3.2 PADEL

As municipalities across Canada adapt to the surging demand for racquet sports, padel has emerged as a critical trend to monitor alongside pickleball. Padel is a fast-paced racquet sport that combines elements of tennis and squash, played exclusively in doubles on a court surfaced with artificial grass, acrylic, or tartan floors. At 10m x 20m, a standard padel court is roughly 25% smaller than a tennis court and slightly larger than a pickleball court. However, unlike pickleball, a padel court is surrounded by glass or mesh walls and a metal cage. Because the sport relies on enclosure, noise mitigation is often superior to open-court sports like tennis and pickleball, making padel courts more compatible in parks and open spaces close to residential areas. A

³⁸ <https://pickleballcanada.org/pickleball-in-canada-january-2025-survey/>

padel racquet is shorter than a tennis racquet, perforated with a pattern of holes, and often made of either carbon fibre or fibreglass. While pickleball uses an entirely plastic ball, padel uses a less pressurised tennis ball.³⁹

Padel is extremely popular in Europe and Latin America and is rapidly gaining traction in major Canadian cities.⁴⁰ Its appeal lies in its high accessibility for beginners due to the use of an underhand serve and shorter racquets paired with a high ceiling for strategic mastery.

4.2.3.3 ALL-SEASON OUTDOOR RECREATION

From the COVID-19 pandemic emerged an increased value for time spent outdoors in the natural environment. A [cross-country survey by Park People](#) showed that appreciation for parks and green spaces increased over the pandemic, and Canadians want to see expansion of parks-based community programming and events. The need to make use of existing assets and resources – to encourage more residents and visitors to use parks and facilities – has also been apparent. These public spaces have the potential to serve all age groups. The pandemic led many people to develop new interests in spending time outdoors. Coupled with increased awareness and concern about climate change, it is likely that interest in outdoor programs will continue to rise as people, particularly youth, seek to reconnect with nature and obtain a better understanding of ecology and the environment.

MOOD WALKS

[Mood Walks](#) is a province-wide initiative that promotes physical activity in nature, or “green exercise,” as a way to improve both physical and mental health. Led by the Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario, in partnership with Hike Ontario and Conservation Ontario, Mood Walks provides training and support for community mental health agencies, social service organizations and other community partners to launch educational hiking programs, connect with local resources, and explore nearby trails and green spaces. In 2016, the Mood Walks for Youth in Transition project supported 41 organizations across Ontario to launch new hiking groups for youth who are at risk of, or experiencing, mental health issues. Programs like Mood Walks also align with getting active outdoors in nature, which is the experiential link necessary to developing an appreciation for the natural environment and a conservation-minded perspective, which appeals to youth today.

PARX PRESCRIPTIONS

Given the growing trend of green prescribing as a medical treatment, there may be emerging opportunities to direct public health budgets toward supporting greenspace development and improvements, and encouraging organized and self-guided recreation within municipal green spaces.

³⁹ <https://www.itapadel.org.uk/play/padel-vs-pickleball/>

⁴⁰ <https://padelgo.ca/blogs/news/canada-are-you-ready-for-the-global-padel-wave>

Canadian physicians are permitted to issue “green prescriptions” to patients whose medical conditions might benefit from ecotherapy.⁴¹ Nature therapy or “shinrin yoku” (forest bathing) and its benefits were first pioneered by the Japanese government in 1982⁴², and green prescriptions have been formally part of New Zealand’s health care system since the late 1990s⁴³. Park Rx America was established in 2017 as a grassroots movement. In Canada, [Park Prescriptions](#) (PaRx) launched in 2019 as an initiative of the B.C. Parks Foundation; it has since expanded across all provinces. PaRx facilitates written prescriptions that advise patients to get outdoors for at least two hours a week (at least 20 minutes at a time).

PaRx has been endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association and is scaling at a rapid pace according to the Ontario Public Health Association. Over 10,000 health care providers have registered across Canada and 4,000 prescriptions have been written.⁴⁴ Collaborations with organizations such as Parks Canada, local conservatories, and botanical gardens have provided patients with free or discounted access to spaces that fulfill their green prescriptions.

The PaRx website advises patients to “make easy green tweaks” to their routine such as booking a lunchtime walk in the park, doing cardio workouts on a trail, choosing an active commute to work or school along a greenway, and planning a weekend getaway around an outdoor experience.⁴⁵

Presence in nature has been shown to improve mental and physical health including depression, anxiety, stress, inflammation, blood pressure, diabetes, cancer care, cardiovascular health, respiratory health, ADHD, pregnancy, asthma, and obesity.⁴⁶ Given this growing evidence, there may be creative opportunities to channel funding from other relevant government departments toward the development, improvement, and/or maintenance of parkland. Drayson (2014) suggests that there is “a potential case for local authority public health budgets to directly support urban green space maintenance and improvement” (p. 37-38). This was introduced in Sunderland, England in 2014: as parks funding declined sharply, public health funds were directed to wider services including parks to explore how facilities such as picnic benches, outdoor gyms, or connected cycle routes would promote more use of existing green spaces and improve physical activity levels in the community. A similar model has been used in the borough of Hillingdon, London: Healthy Hillingdon is a partnership between the parks department and the local primary health care trust, pooling resources to encourage greater use of green spaces to promote public health and prevent illness.⁴⁷ In Birmingham, Alabama, the Red Rock Trail System was developed with a blend of funding sources and partnerships from civic, environmental and health

⁴¹

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/Victoriaforster/2022/02/08/canadian-physicians-can-now-prescribe-nature-to-patients/?sh=2fe8a5bd6f20>

⁴² <https://www.doseofnature.org.uk/around-the-world1>

⁴³ Pringle R: Green Prescriptions: effective health promotion?. J Phys Educ N Z. 1998, 31: 7-16.

⁴⁴ <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/green-prescriptions-health-nature-parks/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/en/prescribers#Tips-for-creating-a-nature-habit>

⁴⁶ <https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/en/whynature>

⁴⁷ <https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/fileadmin/uploads/dc/Documents/paying-for-parks.pdf>

organizations. The 750-mile bike and pedestrian path system was funded through grants from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and investment from the local Department of Health.⁴⁸

GEOCACHING

One way to help create excitement and intrigue for users of parks and trails is through supporting geocaching recreation. Geocaching is a community-driven, family-friendly activity that can be enjoyed in trails, parks and open spaces. This GPS-aided treasure hunt is facilitated through a number of online platforms. There is already geocaching activity in Trent Hills: currently, the Geocaching mobile app shows there to be over 100 active geocaches in the Municipality. Other Ontario municipalities have supported geocaching as a facet of small-town tourism and recreation; a notable example is the Municipality of Highlands East, which has claimed the title of Canada's best "GeoTour."

To support this self-directed, unstructured trail activity, the Municipality or Chamber of Commerce could develop a relevant geocaching information page on its website and ensure that trailheads and parks include geocaching activity icons where suitable.

4.2.3.4 INDIGENOUS PLACEKEEPING, RECONCILIATION & STEWARDSHIP

Trent Hills is located on the Gunshot Treaty Lands of 1788. It is on these lands and on the shores of the big lake that the Mississauga Anishinabeg met with the Crown to facilitate the opening of these lands for settlement. Today, many Indigenous peoples continue to call this land home, including the Alderville, Hiawatha, and Curve Lake First Nations.

The Municipality recognizes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 each year, and has an established relationship with the neighbouring Alderville and Hiawatha First Nations. Many local organizations such as Westben, IncrEdible Trent Hills, and the Aron Theatre Co-Op have included Indigenous-supportive activities within their programming.

Over the term of this Plan, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, the Municipality should continue to build and strengthen a reciprocal relationship with neighbouring First Nations and Indigenous organizations to support integration of Indigenous traditions, knowledge, and practices with placemaking, placekeeping, and recreation. The free online resources provided by Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.⁴⁹ are good resources for ensuring partnership and consultation with Indigenous communities is grounded in a Nation-to-Nation or government-to-government approach that acknowledges Indigenous self-governance. Another good resource is the Civic-Indigenous Placekeeping and Partnership Building Toolkit⁵⁰, written by Tanya Chung-Tiam-Fook for Evergreen and Future Cities Canada.

⁴⁸ <https://givingcompass.org/article/how-to-secure-new-funding-for-parks-and-green-space>

⁴⁹

<https://www.ictinc.ca/free-ebooks?hsCtaTracking=87c5fddb-375b-4b9f-bde6-2e3316410907%7C1e50b5e1-2377-4d31-988b-897012bfe843>

⁵⁰ <https://evergreen.ca/resource-hub/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/fcc-civic-indigenous-toolkit-final-2022.pdf>

Placemaking is an international movement, defined by the Project for Public Spaces as the following:

“[P]lacemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value . . . Placemaking pays close attention to the myriad ways in which the physical, social, ecological, cultural, and even spiritual qualities of a place are intimately intertwined, and we continue to be inspired by the visionary placemakers who have worked to promote this vision for generations.”⁵¹

The concept of placemaking has its roots in early human settlements where symbols/ icons were used to represent community (e.g., totem, Inuksuk) and shared stewardship. Today’s parks, trails, open spaces, and public art continue these stories of place.

Placekeeping focuses on the “long-term maintenance and management of public spaces” through quality partnerships, participation and governance.⁵² In comparison to placemaking, placekeeping adopts a more active role, promoting stewardship and care, “prioritiz[ing] ecological, historical and cultural relationships.”⁵³ Initiatives rooted in placekeeping present opportunities to co-design with Indigenous communities through creative engagement, “address[ing] Indigenous worldviews, ways of knowing and methodologies that can reveal the local narratives at the heart of place... and shape a holistic environment that is meaningful.”⁵⁴

Collaborating with others such as the Trent Hills Public Library and Ah! Centre the Municipality should further discuss co-developing placekeeping efforts and recreation programming with local Indigenous groups. Possible activities could include, but not be limited to:

- art creation
- sharing circles
- Elder-led learning programs on Indigenous worldviews
- integration of Indigenous plants and medicines (e.g., sweetgrass) in municipal gardens
- traditional foods and harvesting programs
- guided walks and outdoor education

One key partner might be the Aron Theatre Co-operative in Campbellford, which established an Indigenous Circle in 2022 to shape Indigenous and reconciliation-focused programming at the theatre and to help grow the Indigenous arts and culture community in Williams Treaty territory⁵⁵.

⁵¹ Project for Public Spaces. (2007). “What Is Placemaking?” Retrieved from <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>

⁵² Dempsey, N. & Burton, M. (2011). Defining place-keeping: The long-term management of public spaces. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 11(1), doi: 10.1016/j.ufug.2011.09.005.

⁵³ <https://www.evergreen.ca/blog/entry/through-an-indigenous-lens-a-shift-from-placemaking-to-placekeeping/>

⁵⁴ Soland, P. (2020, May 20). Placekeeping. Council for Canadian Urbanism. Retrieved from [https:// www.canu.ca/post/placekeeping](https://www.canu.ca/post/placekeeping)

⁵⁵ <https://arontheatre.com/about-us/indigenous-circle/>

According to the website, the Aron Indigenous Circle has five active members, including four with roots in Alderville First Nation.

The Municipality's Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan (2024) also encourages exploring opportunities to work with local First Nations to build relationships, trust, and reconciliation. The Plan suggests using trails as a space of traditional education and history sharing, including signage and wayfinding honouring Indigenous peoples in and around Trent Hills, and planting traditional Indigenous plant medicines.

All activities co-developed between Trent Hills and local Indigenous groups should be grounded in gathering, healing, truth, reconciliation, stewardship, and volunteerism. Where possible, youth, seniors, and families should be consulted to ensure activities are provided for diverse ages, abilities, and income levels.

4.2.3.5 INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

As discussed in section 1.3, the largest demographic group in Trent Hills (31.1%) is seniors aged 65 years and older. The Municipality has a greater proportion of older adults (50- to 74-year-olds) and seniors (75+ years) than both the county and province, and over the 20-year term of this Plan it is anticipated that the proportion of seniors over 75 years will increase.

Intergenerational programming convenes people of different age groups (e.g., youth and seniors) to experience shared activities together and/or exchange knowledge, skills, and resources. Academic research indicates that the most successful intergenerational programs involve at least two non-adjacent generations and provide mutual benefits to participants. Evidence of higher self-esteem, better academic performance, improved social skills, and increased motivation to learn has been found in young people, while the benefits for seniors include improved health and self-esteem, reduced loneliness and social isolation, and increased feelings of well-being and life satisfaction.

The Municipality should encourage user groups and local organizations to develop additional intergenerational programming as a means of building community, strengthening networks, and using municipal parks and facilities. Consideration given to time of day, transportation/travel distance for youth and seniors, energy levels, movement requirements, accessibility, washroom availability, and coordination with existing extracurricular activities. The BC Care Providers Association's Creating Caring Communities Guide notes that, "Seniors who reside in care tend to have more energy earlier in the day and fatigue easily in the afternoon. In general terms, seniors' time tolerance ranges from 15 minutes to 1.5 hours depending on their state of wellness and if they are required to take certain medications which cause drowsiness" (p.11). Subsequently, programming with older seniors in Trent Hills (e.g., 80 years and greater) may be more appropriate on weekend mornings; younger seniors (e.g., 60-79 years) may be available and interested in afternoon and evening activities.

Seniors and youth should both be consulted to brainstorm intergenerational programming and gauge primary areas of interest that appeal to all age groups. Potential activities include, but are not limited to:

- **games** (e.g., Bingo, trivia, cards, board games, puzzles);
- **technology** (e.g., computers, iPads, online shopping, TikTok, Instagram);
- **performing and creative arts** (e.g., open mic, standup comedy, music, painting, poetry, writing, photography, collage)
- **food** (e.g., cooking, baking, pizza making, food literacy, gardening);
- **conversation** (e.g., mentorship, memoir writing, language learning/practicing, penpals/letter writing)
- **reading** (e.g., library buddies, book club, story time);
- **needlework** (e.g., knitting, crochet, sewing); and
- **health and wellness** (e.g., mindfulness, nature walks, meditation walk).

Resources like the BC Care Providers Association’s Creating Caring Communities Guide⁵⁶ and the City of Edmonton’s Intergenerational Programming Toolkit⁵⁷ provide key considerations, examples, and tools for developing intergenerational projects of various sizes and scales.

In their response to the user group survey for this Plan, Trent Hills Pride noted:

“Trent Hills Pride is exploring developing year-round programming designed specifically for youth and seniors in the community. This initiative aims to build on the success of seasonal events by creating ongoing opportunities for engagement, education, and social connection throughout the year. For youth, the programming may include leadership workshops, inclusive art and storytelling projects, mentorship, and safe-space gatherings. For seniors, activities might involve intergenerational dialogue, wellness and resilience sessions, and social events that reduce isolation while fostering community pride. This expanded focus reflects Trent Hills Pride’s commitment to inclusivity, community building, and meaningful support for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals across all ages.”

CASE STUDY: DEMENTIA-INCLUSIVE PARK - CALGARY, ALBERTA

The Martin Family Legacy Garden is an award-winning, first-of-its-kind outdoor space designed with and for people living with dementia, their caregivers, and families. Located in the community of Dover in southeast Calgary, the site was selected for its proximity to seniors residences and support programs, transit options, and accessibility. The park’s concept design includes a playground, perimeter fencing, outdoor musical instruments, mural, community plaza, amphitheatre, sensory gardens, and “wander” loops. Safety

⁵⁶ <https://www.bccare.ca/wp-content/uploads/BCCPA-Intergenerational-Toolkit.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/PDF/afe-intergenerational-toolkit.pdf>

features, seating, shaded rest areas, bird feeders, vertical wayfinding solutions, and wide painted pathways are integrated based on dementia research.⁵⁸

4.2.3.6 EQUIPMENT LENDING

The Trent Hills Public Library promotes a Library of Things collection where shared kits and resources can be borrowed for three-week periods using a free library card. Available items in the collection include bicycle repair kits, snowshoes, and trekking poles. The Chamber of Commerce also offers kayak rentals for both locals and visitors.

The Municipality should work with the library to expand the equipment-borrowing initiative to support additional self-directed recreation opportunities as an alternative to formal sports leagues. Residents would be able to sign out equipment such as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, baseballs, soccer balls, and Frisbees to use in public parks. It is important that pick up/drop off of the lending equipment is based at accessible and familiar locations such as an indoor facility (e.g., municipal office, public library, community centres), or space close to sports facilities.

The Municipality and Library could approach local organizations (e.g., Lions Club) and/or businesses to sponsor/supply the equipment. Previous municipalities have had success securing equipment through government grants, as noted in the South Dundas case study below.

CASE STUDY: LENDING LIBRARY - SOUTH DUNDAS, ONTARIO

The Municipality of South Dundas has developed and implemented a free lending library to support active, healthy lifestyles and participation in sports and leisure activities in the community. After signing up for a membership, residents can access a wide array of sporting equipment including soccer balls and small portable nets, footballs, volleyballs, basketballs, bocce ball set, a road hockey set (goalie pads, blockers, gloves, sticks, balls), horseshoes, croquet sets, bicycles (adult and youth road bikes, mountain bikes, helmets) as well as equipment for water sports (stand-up paddleboards, single and double kayaks, canoes, life jackets, paddles), winter sports (cross-country skis, poles, boots; snowshoes), and racket sports (badminton/tennis/pickleball nets, rackets, paddles, birdies, balls). In order to borrow equipment, individuals must be a resident of South Dundas, provide identification, and complete a Loan Agreement Form. If under 18, a parent or guardian must be present. Pickup and dropoff is based at the local arena and appointments are mandatory, with reservations made at least 24 hours in advance. Once signed out, equipment can be kept for three days. The Lending Library was established with funding from a Trillium Grant and expanded by a Canada Healthy Communities Initiative grant.

⁵⁸ <https://www.parksfdn.com/dementia-inclusive-park>

4.2.3.7 PARK CRAWL EVENT

For a number of years, the David Suzuki Foundation led a day-long park crawl event between four City of Toronto parks along Toronto's former Garrison Creek corridor. Participants flowed from park to park by foot, bike, and portaged canoe, supported by food booths, entertainment, and eco-activities in each park.⁵⁹ In Alberta, parent-child clubs have developed a park crawl series, visiting a different park in their community each week.⁶⁰

The City of Surrey, British Columbia, has also used the StoryMaps function in ArcGIS to invite residents and tourists to get to know the City's parks. Six themed park crawls are shared online, focused on municipal green spaces best suited to bird watching, public art, flowers, ponds and creeks, forest bathing, and young children. A virtual map tour powered by ESRI marks the locations and tour route.

Trent Hills could explore advancing and promoting these and other self-guided activities in its parks system. A Trent Hills Park Crawl could be an opportunity to celebrate municipal green spaces, foster a shared sense of community among residents, and promote the idea of being a "tourist in your own Town." One option could be to schedule the Crawl for a particular day with programming at each location (e.g., musical performance, honey tasting, local bird identification, tree scavenger hunt, egg & spoon race, arts and crafts). Another option is to develop a self-guided event, drawing participation from locals and visitors through an interactive component such as a printable map or passport that tasks park goers with locating a placemaking element (e.g., painted rock, outdoor stamp station, secret message) in each park and recording it on the map/passport.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- SD1. Work with community groups to build upon and strengthen recreation program offerings including outdoor recreation, Indigenous placekeeping, intergenerational programming, and adaptive/inclusive programs.**
- SD2. In partnership with the Trent Hills Public Library, expand the Library of Things to include sports equipment such as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, baseballs, and Frisbees to use in public parks.**
- SD3. Approach local organizations, service clubs, and businesses to sponsor/supply sports equipment for the lending library.**
- SD4. Consider developing a Trent Hills Park Crawl event or self-guided activity that promotes visiting parks in each of Warkworth, Hastings, and Campbellford.**

⁵⁹ <https://www.goodfoodrevolution.com/park-crawl/>

⁶⁰ <https://mamabearplayclub.com/family-park-crawl>

4.2.4 SUPPORT TO VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

A key role for the Municipality as an indirect service provider is supporting community-based volunteer organizations to provide programs. It currently performs this function through the responsibilities assigned to staff, as discussed above. User groups appear to be largely happy with the support received from staff, and complimented staff on their professionalism and patience in dealing with their needs and concerns. Nine (9) of 25 groups indicated interest in additional assistance from the Municipality in developing and providing their programs, activities or events. Levels of interest are illustrated in Figure 4.2 below.

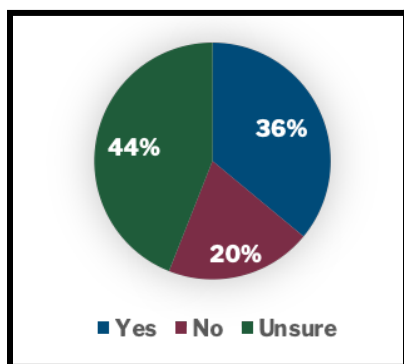


Figure 4.2: Interest in Additional Municipal Assistance

The largest proportion of organizations (44% or 11 groups) were unsure with respect to requiring additional municipal assistance, while 36% (9 groups) responded positively. The areas of assistance identified by these groups are shown in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Interest in Additional Municipal Assistance

Area of Support/Assistance	Organizations Expressing Interest	
	#	% of total
fundraising	6	67%
assistance with funding applications	4	44%
digital advertising and promotion	4	44%
print advertising and promotion	4	44%
volunteer recruitment, training, or recognition	4	44%
better facility scheduling	2	22%
communicating with the municipality	2	22%
insurance (e.g., securing, cost)	2	22%
making program(s)/event(s) more inclusive	2	22%

Area of Support/Assistance	Organizations Expressing Interest	
	#	% of total
accessing facilities in neighbouring communities	1	11%
facilitating partnerships with other service providers	1	11%
service planning and evaluation	1	11%

As the responses indicate, the focus of interest is program/service funding, advertising and volunteer development. Comments related to this topic also emerged in responses to priorities and included free promotion/signage, assistance providing transportation to facilities/services, partnerships and resources to grow support, keep user fees affordable, more front line staff to expand this function, membership development, and subsidizing players who cannot afford to participate in rep programs. With respect to subsidizing participants, the Municipality continues to promote Kids Sport and Jump Start in response to inquiries about financial assistance to access sport.

While there were requests that the Municipality cannot fulfill, such as subsidizing players to participate in rep programs, assisting interested groups in setting up bursary programs to support their members is a possible area for the Municipality to play a role. The Municipality should consult with volunteer organizations collectively to better understand their support requirements, and to inform the appropriate municipal response. The support currently provided to groups and new areas as indicated in consultation for the Master Plan can be considered in these consultations.

The Municipality formerly held a Volunteer Recognition Night, which was discontinued a number of years ago. It is important to validate and appreciate the substantial contribution volunteers make to delivering recreation services to the community. Recognition both thanks individuals for their work and generates awareness in the community about their significant role in providing the programs their families enjoy. Without volunteers, the range of recreation programs and services available to the community would, at a minimum, be much more limited. The Municipality is planning to move to an on-going recognition program that will occupy a standing place on the Council agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- SD5. Consult with volunteer organizations to clarify support requirements in program development and provision in relation to the Municipality’s capacity to respond.**
- SD6. Develop the planned volunteer recognition program to support organizations in thanking the significant contributions of individual volunteers to the breadth of recreation programs enjoyed by the community.**

4.3 PARKS AND RECREATION POLICIES

Although not named as formal policies there are several guidance documents and programs that relate to parks and recreation services delivery:

- By-law to Regulate and Govern the Holding of Special Events
- Bench and Tree Donation Program
- Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland Grant
- In-kind Contributions/Subsidy Requests from Community Organizations
- Ice Allocation Policy

Each of these is summarized below. Other corporate wide policies (e.g., accessible customer service, communications strategy, asset management) encompass recreation but are not specific to it.

4.3.1 SPECIAL EVENTS

The Municipality's website provides access to the information and applications required to host a special event in Trent Hills, defined as a cultural, recreational, educational or similar event of a short-term nature that has either:

- free admission and is held on municipal property, and requires municipal resources or road closures; or
- paid admission and is held outdoors on private or municipal property⁶¹

The webpage provides links to the relevant by-law, application, obtaining a liquor license in a public place, Lakelands Public Health special event permit, and the Municipality's event insurance provider that offers event hosts a discounted rate on coverage. This support and process appears to be working well in facilitating the many events held in Trent Hills throughout the year.

4.3.2 BENCH AND TREE DONATION PROGRAM

The Municipality of Trent Hills Bench and Tree Donation Program Guidelines and Application is posted on its website.⁶² It provides donors with an opportunity to pay tribute to an individual while contributing to beautification and providing amenities in parks and along trails. Donations towards both new and existing trees and benches can be made, with an associated donor recognition plaque. Opportunities other than benches or trees to secure a dedication or memorial can be arranged through the Community Services Department.

⁶¹ <https://www.trenthills.ca/parks-recreation-community/event-hosting/>

⁶² <https://www.trenthills.ca/media/rx5fb1uu/bench-and-tree-program-application-2024.pdf>

At the next review of this policy, the Municipality should consider expanding the program to include other amenities such as bike racks, picnic tables, sun shelters, sports equipment (basketball standards, tennis nets, soccer goals, etc.), playground structures, etc., which are recommended in the Master Plan for park spaces. Ideally, the selection and siting of amenities should be guided by master plans for the parks or other locations where they are requested for installation.

4.3.3 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Community Foundation of Campbellford/Seymour and Northumberland⁶³ provides grants to charitable organizations. It was created in 2001, with the proceeds from the sale of the 100 year old Public Utility Corporation. Since then, more than 4.2 million dollars have been invested into the community. The program provides grants in the following areas:

- Animal Welfare
- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Children & Youth
- Community Development
- Education & Literacy
- Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Recreation
- Social Services

Since 2003, qualified/eligible grant recipients in Trent Hills have received direct support for a variety of parks and recreation related initiatives through a Community Fund component. The distribution of The Municipal Fund component is directed by Council to support its recreation initiatives in the community.

For the most part, these policies and programs appear to be working well. They should be periodically reviewed and, if required, updated to ensure they are current and meeting the Municipality's objectives.

4.3.4 IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS/SUBSIDY REQUESTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

This policy outlines the process and parameters for requests to municipal Council for in-kind contributions/subsidies to support local not-for-profit, charitable and community-based volunteer organizations that provide beneficial programs and services to Trent Hill residents. It helps ensure equitable distribution to eligible groups within the capacity of the Municipality to provide support. The policy also identifies ineligible applicants. Eligible organizations may apply for and receive

⁶³ <https://www.cfcsn.ca>

use of municipally owned facilities or equipment (waived or reduced rental fee; municipal staff support (expertise) for an event (waived or reduced wages).

4.3.5 ICE ALLOCATION POLICY

The Municipality has an ice allocation policy that processes applications for ice rentals and tournament requests according to 11 priority groups, ranging from municipal uses (top priority) through age groups for league games and practices to non-organized use, as the last group.

Should future demand for prime time access to outdoor sports facilities require a similar approach to allocation, the policy can be further developed to cover ball diamonds, soccer fields, etc. Table 4.5 shows variables, and generic examples of these, to consider.

Table 4.5: Example of Outdoor Facility Allocation Variables

Variable	Outdoor Facilities
Facilities covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ball diamonds, soccer fields, multi-purpose fields, etc. - tennis and pickleball courts - does not apply to facilities for which user operating agreements are in place to operate (e.g., community tennis club)
For each facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a date range for regular spring/summer and fall season, (weather dependent) - time request deadline date and a municipal confirmation date for each of regular season and tournament scheduling
Definition of season of play	generic example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 1 to September 30 inclusive
All operating hours are categorized as prime or non-prime time	lit facilities example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prime time Monday to Friday 6pm to 11pm; Saturday and Sunday 8am to 11pm - non-prime time Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm unlit facilities example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prime time Monday to Friday 6pm to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday 8am to 8pm - non-prime time Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

For the purposes of the policy, prime time is defined as the ‘window’ of time when a facility is permitted and used on a consistent basis, as it relates to the day of the week and time of day. Non-prime comprises all operating hours other than prime time when a facility is consistently not permitted for use. A use related definition can be applied even if there is no differentiation between prime and non-prime time user fees.

Each community is different in the number and types of user groups it accommodates at its facilities as well as in the capacity it has to meet all allocation requests. Table 4.6 below is an example of how time might be allocated, at a minimum, depending on the user group and its representation among locally based organizations.

Table 4.6: Example of Annual Outdoor Facility Time Allocation Guideline by Sport

sport/activity	age group / # of participants	minimum hourly allocation per team per week (guidelines)	maximum # per team
Softball	Minor Mite (up to 8), Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee	4.00	14
	Bantam, Midget (17-21)	6.00	14
	Adult	1.25	13
Rep & Select Minor Baseball	8U-13U	5.50	13
	14U-18U	7.00	14-15
	Pee Wee to Midget (13-18)	6.00	15
Soccer - Instructional	4 Under	1.00	15
Soccer - House League/Recreational	4-8 Under	1.00	18
	12 Under	1.25	18
	18 Under	1.50	18
	19+	2.00	18
Soccer - Rep	Select League (8-18)	3.00	18

* per age division/field

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- SD7. Consider expanding the Tree and Bench Donation Program to include other park amenities that are recommended in the Master Plan.
- SD8. Periodically review and, if required, update policies to ensure they are current and meeting the Municipality's objectives
- SD9. Consider extending the Municipality's allocation policy to outdoor facilities if demand requires it.

4.4 AGREEMENTS

4.4.1 EXISTING AGREEMENTS

4.4.1.1 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS AND YMCA NORTHUMBERLAND (BY-LAW NO. 2024-094, SEPTEMBER 2024)

This is an agreement between the Municipality and YMCA Northumberland for the latter’s operation of the Trent Hills YMCA portion of the Sunny Life Recreation & Wellness Centre. The agreement is based on the following shared goals:

In keeping with the Municipality's and the YMCA's mutual commitment to residents of the Trent Hills community, programs and services delivered by the YMCA will respond as reasonably possible to local needs and issues primarily through the provision of health, fitness and aquatic programming, including but not limited to the following:

- facilitate residents' participation and education towards the goal of a healthy Trent Hills community;
- be inclusive and never turn anyone away on the basis of an inability to pay the fees;
- recognize and leverage the strengths and unique abilities of both parties while striving to seamlessly deliver quality programs and services to the community;
- volunteer contributions and provide opportunities to enhance volunteer leadership; and
- engage the broader community in fulfillment of the above goals.

The term of the agreement is for an initial period of 20 years with an option to renew for additional periods of up to 20 years. A review of the agreement and schedules is to occur at the end of each 5-year period, for the purposes of revisions that both parties deem necessary.

4.4.1.2 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS AND THE CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (BY-LAW NO. 2023-077, MAY 2023)

This agreement comprises a 5-year lease for Crowe Bridge Park Agreement for \$2.00 in annual rent and any applicable taxes. The Municipality is responsible for paying all utility costs for the park, maintaining and leaving it in good repair at the end of the lease term, snow removal, weed control, parking, accessible washroom, trash collection, signage, inspections, and insurance. The Municipality can make improvements or alterations at its own expense with CVRA’s approval of plans. Both parties would work together to develop and enforce regulations for public use of the park. The agreement runs from May 1 2023 through April 30, 2028.

4.4.1.3 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS AND AH! ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE (APRIL 2023)

This agreement is a lease for a municipally-owned building in Warkworth for the Centre's operations. The lease runs from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028, with an annual rent calculation of a base rent relative to the previous year's costs plus 10% and HST. The lease details the terms and conditions for each party with respect to: the tenant's use of the premises; access, repair and maintenance; alterations; insurances; damages; defaults and termination.

4.4.1.4 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS AND THE SEYMOUR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (BY-LAW 2007-42, MAY 2007)

This is an agreement between the Municipality and the Agricultural Society for resident use of the Kinsmen Memorial Ball Park, subject to use by Society. The Municipality is responsible for scheduling and rentals, utility cost payments, general management, supervision and maintenance of the ball park and associated buildings, and insurance coverage.

4.4.1.5 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS AND THE CAMPBELLFORD LIONS CLUB (BY-LAW No. 2021-107 JANUARY 2022)

This is a 5-year agreement between the Municipality and the Lions Club for monetary support in the amount equal to the total annual property taxes of the Lions Community Park in exchange for the Lions continuing to operate the property as a public park. The agreement runs from Jan. 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026.

4.4.1.6 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS AND TRENT HILLS THUNDER (BY-LAW No. 2024-082)

This is an agreement for five (5) ice seasons, ending in April 2029, authorizing the Trent Hills Thunder Junior C Club to administer and manage the dasher board advertising program for the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre and Warkworth Arena for the express purpose of a fundraising opportunity to support the Club. It outlines the terms and conditions of the authority, including a seasonal monetary amount to be paid to the Municipality for each advertisement sold.

There is one more in the file from 1977 between the Township of Percy and the Percy Agricultural Society that provides the Society with access to the arena and community centre at no charge in exchange for donating the land for its construction.

4.4.1.7 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PERCY AND THE PERCY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (1977)

This agreement provided the Society with access to the arena and community centre at no charge in exchange for donating the land for its construction. It is currently being reviewed and revised. Existing agreements appear to be working well and should be reviewed regularly (e.g., every five years) or more frequently, if required, to identify and incorporate necessary updates.

4.4.2 POTENTIAL FUTURE AGREEMENTS

4.4.2.1 ORGANIZED MUNICIPAL COURT USE

There are no tennis or pickleball clubs in Trent Hills now that use outdoor courts on a regular basis. All facilities are for general public use - first come, first served. Should volunteer based clubs emerge over time in response to increased participation and facility development, and express interest in using municipal courts, access should be covered by agreements with the relevant group(s) to govern facility operation and use. Key items to be considered in these agreements are:

- the division of responsibility for court (and clubhouse, if appropriate) operations, capital improvements, etc. between the club and the municipality
- designated weekly time periods during which the general public (i.e., non-members) can access the courts for casual use. Hours for public use should comprise both prime and non-prime hours.
- the club's responsibilities for providing instruction/play for all age groups, including children and youth.
- mechanisms for regular reports to the municipality on facility use in a form that aligns with the data collection variables for all municipal courts

If needed, and for all dual purpose courts for unscheduled use, the Municipality could post rules at each location to explain protocols to uninformed users who arrive at courts without a booking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- SD10. Review and update existing agreements regularly (e.g., every five years) or more frequently, if required.**
- SD11. Should volunteer based clubs emerge over time, and express interest in using municipal courts, prepare and enter agreements with relevant groups to govern facility use, operations and maintenance.**

4.5 ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

The Municipality's Accessibility Plan for 2024 to 2027 makes specific reference to continuing to work towards expanding accessible recreation and public spaces by investing in "accessible outdoor amenities, such as playgrounds, parking, paths of travel, and seating areas, to create fully inclusive recreational spaces" (p.11). The following objectives are particularly relevant to parks and recreation services:

- Expanded Accessible Recreation and Public Spaces: Invest in accessible outdoor amenities, such as playgrounds, parking, paths of travel, and seating areas, to create fully inclusive recreational spaces (p.11).
- Innovation and Best Practices: Regularly research and adopt best practices and innovative approaches to accessibility from other municipalities, incorporating new ideas and technologies that support Trent Hills as a leader in accessible municipal services (p.12).
- Policy Review and Redevelopment: Complete a review and redevelopment of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy and the Accessible Customer Service Policy, identify and implement any additional policies that will support accessibility standards in the municipality (p. 10).

With respect to the first two items above, when planning new or renewing existing facilities, opportunities to provide those that are deliberately designed to be inclusive should be investigated. Keeping abreast of constantly evolving facility design is important to being current about possibilities. Two current examples of inclusive facilities are inclusive multi-sport courts and ball diamonds.

4.5.1 INCLUSIVE SPORT FACILITIES

4.5.1.1 MULTI-SPORT COURT

These facilities provide users of all abilities to participate in both organized sport and casual play. They are designed for a variety of sports and allows accessible programming for all ages. Features include:

- adjustable basketball nets
- high-contrast four-square court and hopscotch play area
- contrasting colours to support visual impairment
- shaded double-wide benches for improved accessibility
- wheelchair-accessible seating and tables
- shaded accessible bleachers
- cushion-comfort Plus Laykold acrylic surfacing system
- court lighting

At 13,200 square feet, the Town of Uxbridge's facility is configured to enable users to play a variety of sports and para-sports (Figure 4.3). Supported sports including:

- pickleball
- sitting volleyball
- tennis
- volleyball
- wheelchair basketball
- wheelchair tennis
- ball hockey
- badminton
- basketball



Figure 4.3: Inclusive Multi-sport Court - Uxbridge, Ontario

4.5.1.2 INCLUSIVE BALL FIELDS

The Jays Care grant program provides funding to design, refurbish and build local baseball diamonds in communities. In the past 10 years, 163 diamonds have been built across Canada (Figure 4.4). Field Of Dreams diamonds are created to be safe and inclusive spaces. Municipalities are eligible to apply through an annual intake.



Figure 4.4: Field of Dreams Diamond

Any player can get in the game on these inclusive baseball fields. At 100,000 square feet, they feature a rubberized surfacing and high-contrast colours. The dugouts are deeper than standard to allow for easy access for those using mobility devices. Seating areas and restrooms are accessible, pathways are clear and even, and there are rest and quiet areas.

4.5.2 POLICIES

With respect to the Policy Review and Redevelopment component of the Accessibility Plan, two potential policies are discussed below.

4.5.2.1 INCLUSION POLICY

Parks and Recreation Ontario's audit of the 2015 Framework for Recreation in Canada⁶⁴ references several policy areas for consideration by municipalities. These encompass the need to address concerns regarding affordability, diversity, and inclusion. While attention may be paid in practice to some or all these concerns, interest in documented policy is becoming more apparent. It can also build on/ dovetail with legislated requirements of the AODA and support the relevant Committee of Council. The Town, therefore, should consider developing one that fits the needs and aspirations of the community.

Inclusion policy can be corporate-wide or specific to recreation services. The latter focuses on the topics addressed in the Framework:

- affordable access
- enabling people of all ages to participate in recreation
- actively engaging persons of diverse and racialized backgrounds in developing, leading, and evaluating recreation and park activities
- developing and monitoring policies, programs, and practices to facilitate full participation of women and girls in all types of recreation
- ensuring non-discrimination of, and providing a welcoming and safe environment for, people of all sexual orientations and sexual identities
- working with persons with disabilities to facilitate their full participation in recreation across all settings by removing physical and emotional barriers

Inclusion can be narrowly or broadly defined. In formulating relevant policy, therefore, the meaning of 'inclusion' and what it will encompass is important to clarify as it represents a promise to the community. It should, therefore, be tied to the capacity of the municipality to realize stated goals and objectives and specify where this will require assistance from other public or not-for-profit agencies and community groups to achieve.

⁶⁴ <https://www.cpra.ca/framework>. The 2015 Framework has since been updated (March 2024). Upon inquiry, CPRA noted that the audit remains applicable to the current version of the Framework.

4.5.3.2 RZONE POLICY

The purpose of an Rzone Policy is to create a positive, safe, enjoyable and supportive environment for all users of municipal recreation services. It is based on zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour and it promotes appropriate behaviour through Respect for self, Respect for others and Responsibility for your actions. The City of St. Catharines Rzone Policy provides an example of one such initiative.⁶⁵ The policy sets out:

- expectations for behaviour of all users (staff, volunteers, participants, spectators, visitors, coaches, parents, etc.) in all municipal recreation settings: programs, facilities and properties owned or operated by the municipality.
- protocols to address inappropriate behaviour or violence in all municipal recreation settings.

Components of the policy include:

- definitions of inappropriate behaviour, vandalism or violence
- expectations that major permitted users of municipal facilities will adopt policies that align with the municipality's Rzone policies, and the role of staff in assisting with compliance and in supporting any sanctions imposed by the permitted user
- roles and responsibilities of municipal staff, major user group representative in acting in response to an incident
- description of steps to be taken in four possible scenarios:
 - upon witnessing or suspecting physical violence
 - upon witnessing continued verbal abuse or activity
 - upon reported actions of physical violence by community group/representative or volunteer
 - upon reported actions of verbal abuse or activity by community group/representative or Volunteer
 - when police are to be contacted
- consequence(s) of individual(s)' non-compliance to the terms of the Rzone policy the depending on the severity of the offense could include permanent or temporary barring from recreation programs, facilities and properties; restitution in cases of vandalism; police reports
- an appeal process for individual(s) wanting to dispute imposed sanction(s)
- reporting protocols and procedures on incidences of inappropriate behaviour, vandalism or violence
- duty to report to municipal staff, police, etc. at the time of the incident and any required follow up on a resolution

⁶⁵ https://stcatharines.civicweb.net/document/70598!/PRCS-RZONE.pdf?handle=8FC7999BAA9A45B590B_D0E672843334A

The Municipality of Trent Hills should consider developing an RZone Policy, particularly in view of the potential for it and an Inclusion Policy to support each other's goals and objectives. At the time of its adoption, the City of St. Catharines allocated \$30,000 to promote and educate the community about its new Policy.

4.5.3 GUIDANCE FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION

A recent publication by Active Abilities Canada provides direction to municipalities in disability inclusion in Recreation and Physical Activity. The purpose of the guide is to provide "how-to strategies for staff at all levels in municipal recreation departments to make sure persons with disabilities are included in their programs and activities." It looks at a range of areas of practice including programming, the built environment, partnerships, and evaluation. It includes important definitions on the meanings of relevant words and phrases, which are replicated here:

- **Inclusion** means making sure everyone can take part in activities, programs, events, or roles to the best of their ability.
- **Accessibility** is the foundation that allows everyone to be included. Inclusion helps create meaningful experiences. When these experiences happen regularly, they lead to high-quality participation.
- **Inclusive physical activity:** Physical activity programs where persons with and without A recent publication by Active Abilities Canada provides direction to municipalities in disability inclusion in Recreation and Physical Activity.⁶⁶ The purpose of the guide is to provide "how-to strategies for staff at all levels in municipal recreation departments to make sure persons with disabilities are included in their programs and activities." It looks at a range of areas of practice including programming, the built environment, partnerships, and evaluation. It includes important definitions on the meanings of relevant words and phrases, which are replicated here:
 - disabilities participate together in the same activities.
 - **Adapted physical activity:** Sports, games, exercise, or physical activity programs that are modified so persons with disabilities can fully participate.
 - **Integrated physical activity:** Physical activity programs or settings where persons with disabilities are brought into a program that has been designed for persons without disabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- SD12. Continue to implement the Municipality's Accessibility Plan in all areas of parks and recreation services.**
- SD13. When planning new or renewing existing facilities, investigate opportunities to provide those that are designed to be inclusive.**

⁶⁶ Active Abilities Canada and Canadian Disability Participation Project 2.0 (2025, December 3). Municipal Guide for Disability Inclusion in Recreation and Physical Activity. Active Abilities Canada. Canada. <https://activeabilities.ca/municipal-guide/>

SD14. Develop an inclusion policy.

SD15. Develop an RZone Policy.

SD16. Allocate a budget to promote and educate the community on both the Inclusion and the Rzone policies.

4.6 SERVICE PLANNING AND EVALUATION

The motivation for formal planning, monitoring and evaluation processes is to contribute to informed decision-making, direct investment in parks and recreation services based on 'needs' vs. 'wants' and ensure investment in needs is judicious and generates returns. Further, there is a requirement to both anticipate future needs and manage existing assets. Planning is essential to a rational and prioritized approach to required investment.

Municipal collaborations with the volunteer sector, and other non-municipal organizations, will likely increase over the Plan's 20-year timeframe. Effective working relationships with external collaborators will require collective planning activities. The Municipality and the YMCA will coordinate planning service development and delivery in a formal working relationship. The agreement between the Municipality and the YMCA details the roles and responsibilities of each party with respect to the facilities, programs and services to be delivered at the YMCA, aspects of which relates to ongoing joint planning activities:

- "The YMCA will submit annual reports pertaining to the Trent Hills YMCA outlining Key Performance Indicators related to its annual operating plan and budget for program delivery and quality satisfaction to the Director of Community Services, CAO and Municipal Council" (p. 8).
- The YMCA will "develop and maintain a volunteer Trent Hills YMCA Advisory Committee (the "Advisory Committee") that is representative of the participants of the Trent Hills YMCA and area community and its interests, in accordance with YMCA policy. The YMCA will consult with the Advisory Committee to design program strategies in response to participants' and community need" (p.9).
- "The Municipality will consult with the YMCA as it determines how it will respond to future community needs based on population growth...and...Staff from the Municipality will work with YMCA staff to avoid duplication of programs and services offered by the YMCA in the area of indoor health, fitness and recreation, childcare, camping, and other family/youth services and programs" (p.11).

The partnership between the Municipality and the YMCA is working well and is precluding program/service duplication. Computerized platforms can be used to collect much of the data needed to inform ongoing planning functions. The Municipality's recreation management software can be used to support this work. Ideally, YMCA data will be collected in a compatible form to facilitate an approach that integrates planning for direct (YMCA) and indirect (Municipal)

program services. If data collection platforms are not compatible, however, the YMCA and Trent Hills could investigate options to manually compile necessary information.

The key components of information collection and use in needs-based planning are summarized below under the following headings:

- Verify community service needs
- Monitor and evaluate use to determine the success of response
- Incorporate results in subsequent planning activities

The discussions include tasks that may already be conducted by the Municipality to show where they fit in relation to other activities. Although both facilities and program services are under the same headings, facility (infrastructure) planning is typically a longer-term endeavor than program planning, which is annual or even seasonal.

VERIFY COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS

MAINTAIN A SINGLE, COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY

- Document and regularly update an inventory of all facilities and relevant information by type. Ideally, all facilities now or potentially available for community use in the Town should be included in a single, integrated database.
- Document and regularly update an inventory of all programs and relevant information by type. Ideally, all programs/services available either directly or indirectly through collaborations with the Municipality should be included.

DOCUMENT DATA ON USE RELATED TO CAPACITY

- Track actual hours of facility use in relation to capacity (within total prime and non-prime time hours, where applicable).
- Institute periodic, rotating checks on unscheduled facilities to document use at different times.
- Track program/service fill rates in instances with a capacity limit or simple counts of participants/users/attendees when there is no limit on capacity.

DEVELOP INDICATORS OF UNMET DEMAND

- Document information on unmet demand for facilities, programs and services from organized users, online community engagement, resident inquiries/requests to the Municipality, periodic surveys, etc.

Recreation management software enables information collection on service use and trends in performance to inform the planning and evaluation process. The Municipality has software it uses

for recreation services management functions. In expanding its planning and evaluation capacity, staff can develop a comprehensive menu of information requirements - based on needed indicators in all service areas.

MONITOR AND EVALUATE TO DETERMINE SUCCESS OF RESPONSE

MEASURE SERVICE PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS

- Using the tools noted above to gather feedback, evaluate success of individual facilities and programs/services on an ongoing basis with organized and casual users, program participants, and instructors, in relation to predetermined performance targets.

INCORPORATE RESULTS IN SUBSEQUENT PLANNING ACTIVITIES

ADJUST SERVICE PLANS ACCORDING TO EVALUATION FINDINGS

- As a cyclical activity covering both short and long-term service provision, the findings on evaluation can be used to maintain alignment between the supply/delivery of services and community needs.

The results of this work will reveal patterns of use/participation over time, available facility/program capacity that is not being used, and measures of outstanding demand. The Municipality can determine if the response to unmet demand will be adding more facilities to supply or improving the performance of existing assets.

The results of the monitoring and evaluation will also inform annual planning and budgeting and can be used to update relevant components of the Master Plan. The extent that these measures can be used to project into the future will also assist in confirming longer-term facility requirements. At the same time, long-term projections must be subject to ongoing monitoring, verification and, if required, adjusted to reflect changing levels of participation and use. A sport or activity that shows high growth in participation today may level off or decline in future years and initially projected facility needs might require adjustment.

With respect to programs and related services, joint planning work with the YMCA and other non-municipal organizations, will reveal areas for change and the party with responsibility for this work will depend on the nature of verified need.

ENGAGING OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Municipal-YMCA agreement formalizes the working relationship between the two parties in planning and delivering the services for which they will be responsible. The Advisory Committee noted above will be central to this work.

Joint service planning with other key providers in the community - the volunteer sector, library, School Boards, etc. - should also occur on a regular basis, with a view to integrating the efforts of all in developing facilities, programs and services. The municipality can take a leadership role in facilitating joint planning activities.

The number of sessions per year in which all participants should engage can be determined collectively. At least one full group session per year, however, would be required. Ideally, it should be scheduled to align with both service and budget planning but this might not be possible with multiple participants.

Smaller group planning sessions, therefore, by specific service area may be more reasonable in terms of accommodating other organizations, with the Municipality feeding this information into internal planning activities. Engagement in major project planning/development or one-time events can be more narrowly defined in terms of the parties involved and the number of 'sessions' needed. Periodic joint sessions may also be needed to address new/unforeseen topics of relevance to the parties involved. A process that works for the Municipality and other providers, therefore, should be developed and implemented in the short-term and it can grow over time, as needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- SD17. Develop an enhanced database using the Municipality's recreation management software to apply in a formal recreation facilities and programs/services planning to: verify community service needs, monitor and evaluate the success of the service response, and incorporate results in subsequent planning activities.**
- SD18. Work with the YMCA to create a compatible planning and evaluation information base for an integrated planning process.**
- SD19. Take the lead in developing and implementing regularly occurring joint services planning sessions with other key non-municipal providers in Trent Hills.**
- SD20. Conduct project, program or service specific planning sessions with other providers, as required.**



5.0

IMPLEMENTATION

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 MONITORING & UPDATING THE MASTER PLAN

The monitoring and evaluation results will support annual planning and budgeting. They can be used to update key parts of the Master Plan in real time. These insights can also help predict future facility needs. However, long-term projections should be regularly reviewed and updated as participation levels change. A sport that is growing quickly today might slow down or decline in the future, meaning the original plans for new facilities may need to be scaled back.

The Plan comprises a 20-year framework for the Municipality's parks and recreation system based on the current context and anticipated change. Much can change in the operating environment over 20 years, however, which will require a review and update of the Plan halfway through its term.

The review will be facilitated by the ongoing work noted above in tracking the progress on implementing recommendations and documenting contextual changes that have impacted/influenced this work. Ideally, this will provide a current information base on which to proceed directly to the update.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- IM1. Use the ongoing results of planning and evaluation activities to update the Master Plan on an annual basis in conjunction with the budgeting process.
- IM2. Conduct a comprehensive review of the Master Plan halfway through its 20-year term.

5.2 CONSOLIDATED LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

This Plan includes a total of 107 recommendations developed by the consulting team to help guide the Municipality in meeting current and future parks and recreation needs during the Plan's 20-year term. These recommendations are not rigid rules or requirements. Many of them will require further discussion and consultation with the public to reflect changes in municipal capacity, trends, community needs and interests, etc. before they are approved by Council and implemented.

Many recommendations are operational in nature: this means their implementation would be undertaken by staff as part of their day-to-day activities. The remaining capital recommendations, and those to undertake supplementary studies, require discrete budget allocations for execution. This includes both improvements/repairs to existing facilities, as well as the design and

construction of new facilities and amenities. The capital cost estimates for park amenities and facilities include design fees, initial project start-up permits, insurance, protection fencing, construction signage, contingency, and a cash allowance.

5.2.2 SUGGESTED SCHEDULE & COST ESTIMATES

This section contains a suggested implementation schedule over the Plan’s term to 2045. This includes timelines (Short Term: Years 1-5, Medium Term: Years 6-10, Long Term: Years 11-20) and capital cost estimates (if applicable). The proposed roll-out of the recommendations is based on the information available at the time of the Plan’s development and considers staff resources, flexibility, dependencies and efficiencies.

Costs for some recommendations are yet to be determined. These have been noted in the forecast and would be in addition to the numbers provided in the Plan. Another factor to consider is cost premiums/fluctuations due to inflation and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, current economic environment, etc. It may take longer to complete the identified activities.

Table 5.1 below provides a summary of the Master Plan’s recommendations and costs by service area and time frame. On the following pages, Table 5.2 lists each of the recommendations and its corresponding implementation timeframe and cost estimate.

This Plan is intended to be a living document. Therefore, in monitoring and evaluating the implementation strategy, the Municipality should track the progress of recommendations from initiation to completion in annual work plans and budgets. Tracking should include any changes to implementation resulting from an evolving context. Recommendations related to this work are included in section 4.6 (Service Planning & Evaluation), and section 5.1 (Monitoring & Updating).

Table 5.1: Capital Cost Summary of Master Plan Implementation by Service Area & Time Frame

Service Area	# of Recos	Short Term (Years 1-5)	Medium Term (Years 6-10)	Long Term (Years 11-20)	Total Capital Cost Estimate
Recreation Facilities	36	\$540,000	TBD	TBD	\$540,000+
Parks & Open Spaces	49	\$95,000	\$400,000+	TBD	\$495,000+
Service Delivery	20	–	–	–	–
Implementation	2	–	\$85,000	–	\$85,000
TOTAL	107	\$635,000	\$485,000	TBD	\$1,120,000+

Table 5.2: Master Plan Recommendations with Suggested Implementation Schedule

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
RECREATION FACILITIES				
Ice Pads	RF1	Do not develop another ice pad during the first half of the Master Plan’s term.	–	–
	RF2	Monitor and evaluate prime time use of ice pads on an ongoing basis to support assessing the need for a third ice pad as part of the ten-year update of the Master Plan.	Short & Medium Term	–
	RF3	Consider options to increase prime time capacity between now and the Plan’s update, including reallocating distribution of time among user groups and municipal programs during peak periods, and extending morning and evening operating hours.	Short & Medium Term	–
Gymnasiums	RF4	A municipal gymnasium is not required now and should be considered as a component added to the SLRWC in the long-term if need is verified by monitoring use of the Hastings Field House and community use of school gyms, if an agreement with the KPRDSB is developed.	Short & Medium Term	–
	RF5	Consider providing a municipal gym as part of the Master Plan’s mid-point update should unmet demand for one be verified in the interim.	Medium Term	–
Hastings Field House	RF6	Continue to monitor use of individual Field House facility components by activity, user and levels of participation to identify areas where adjustments could be made to allocations to better meet needs.	Ongoing	–
	RF7	Consider introducing a software-based program for the Fieldhouse that communicates busy and slow times for users to be able to align their visits accordingly.	Short Term	TBD
	RF8	Use ongoing monitoring of Field House use to inform the point at which a detailed feasibility study may be required to determine the feasibility of its replacement with a large, possibly more permanent structure.	Medium Term	–

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Large Multi-Purpose Space & Community Kitchen	RF9	Undertake upgrades to the Warkworth Auditorium that are needed to maintain its functional integrity and optimize use in its current form.	Short Term	\$500,000
	RF10	If required to upgrade existing kitchens to comply with commercial standards, determine feasibility of investment based on the results of monitoring the extent of unmet demand for use of these facilities.	Medium Term	TBD
	RF11	Consider the need for additional purpose-built multi-purpose program space as a component to be added to the SLRWC over the long-term in conjunction with a municipal gymnasium.	Long Term	TBD
Dance/Aerobics Studio	RF12	As per the Municipality's agreement with the YMCA, the Municipality will liaise with the YMCA to determine how to meet future demand for new studio-based programs.	Ongoing	–
Small Multi-Purpose/ Meeting Space	RF13	Create and post a detailed information package of all available meeting space in Trent Hills.	Short Term	–
	RF14	If, in the long-term, the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre is expanded, consider meeting space for integration in multi-purpose facilities, based on verified demand.	Long Term	TBD
Curling & Racquet Club	RF15	Continue to work with the Campbellford and District Curling and Racquet Club to support the Club's efforts in marketing/promotion of its facilities and in meeting community program needs.	Ongoing	–
Arts Spaces	RF16	Continue to support community-based arts and heritage groups to deliver programs and services to Trent Hills residents.	Ongoing	–
Improvements to Indoor Facilities	RF17	Consult with indoor facility users to clarify their requests for improvements and to inform a budgeted improvement program, as required.	Short Term	-
	RF18	Update the Building Conditions Assessments to identify long term capital investments to be addressed in the improvement program.	Short Term	\$30,000
Ball Diamonds	RF19	Based on current prime time use levels and anticipated population growth, no new ball diamonds will be required during the term of the Master Plan.	–	–

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Ball Diamonds	RF20	Integrate minimal use of weekend prime time on ball diamonds into regular prime time use in meeting any additional verified demand for access to facilities that cannot be met on weeknights.	Short Term	–
	RF21	Verify demand for additional use by ongoing monitoring of prime time use.	Ongoing	–
	RF22	Any future interest in providing facilities to regional interest in a multi-diamond complex host teams and tournaments needs to be based on a detailed feasibility study to warrant consideration.	Long Term	–
Soccer Fields	RF23	Based on current prime time use levels and anticipated population growth, no soccer fields will be required during the term of the Master Plan.	–	–
	RF24	Integrate unused weekend prime time on soccer fields into regular prime time use in meeting any additional verified demand for access to facilities that cannot be met on weeknights.	Short Term	–
	RF25	Verify demand for additional use by ongoing monitoring of prime time use.	Ongoing	–
	RF26	Consider decommissioning the mini field at Warkworth Park and repurposing the large field to serve a variety of field sports other than soccer based on tracked requests for non-soccer uses to determine when to implement changes to accommodate other activities.	Short Term	TBD
	RF27	In consultation with the Trent Hills Soccer Club consider options to modify a full field into smaller fields for use by children.	Short Term	–
Tennis & Pickleball Courts	RF28	Monitor the use of existing tennis/pickleball courts and community requests for additional access to both to verify demand for adding to supply.	Ongoing	–

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Tennis & Pickleball Courts	RF29	If demand warrants providing designated courts for each activity, start by reverting the existing courts to tennis only and building between two (2) and four (4) dedicated pickleball courts.	Medium Term	TBD ⁶⁷
	RF30	Repaint the pickleball lines on the existing courts in a contrasting colour when the courts are resurfaced.	Medium Term	TBD
	RF31	Develop any new tennis and/or pickleball courts on municipally owned land.	Ongoing	–
	RF32	Investigate the potential to accommodate school badminton interest on a limited number of courts during academic hours, alongside the School Board's capacity to contribute to capital or operating costs.	Medium Term	TBD
	RF33	Continue to monitor use of all courts to verify demand for additions to supply during the term of the Master Plan.	Ongoing	–
Lawn Bowling	RF34	Pursue opportunities that may emerge to support the Lawn Bowling Club in program development.	Ongoing	–
Improvements to Outdoor Facilities	RF35	Consult with outdoor facility users to clarify their requests for improvements and to inform a budgeted improvement program, as required.	Short Term	–
	RF36	Update the conditions assessments of outdoor facilities to identify long term capital investments to be addressed in the improvement program.	Short Term	\$10,000
PARKS & OPEN SPACES				
Parkland Supply	PO1	Update municipal inventories, maps, publications, webpages, and signage to reflect one name for each park.	Short Term	As part of park budgets ⁶⁸
	PO2	Promote the new naming conventions to encourage consistency and understanding through the Municipality.	Ongoing	–

⁶⁷ Estimated cost of building two (2) pickleball courts in 5 years' time: \$330,000. Includes (de)mobilization, clearing and grubbing, asphalt surface, line painting, fencing with two gates, net and posts, lighting, misc. amenities (e.g., seating, signage), consulting and design fees.

⁶⁸ Allocate approx. \$2,500/per sign installed in each park.

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Parkland Provision	PO3	Strive for a parkland provision goal of 2.50 hectares per 1,000 residents by 2045.	Ongoing	–
Parkland Acquisition	PO4	Amend section 5.2.5.3 of the Official Plan to reflect new policy under Bill 23 and support a new parkland dedication by-law.	Short Term	–
	PO5	Create a parkland dedication by-law.	Short Term	–
	PO6	Create a cash-in-lieu of parkland policy.	Short Term	–
	PO7	Continue using development charges to their full capacity to support parks and recreation services.	Ongoing	–
Parkland Classification	PO8	Adopt a parkland classification system consisting of Community Parks, Waterfront Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Parkettes.	Short Term	–
	PO9	Aim for a minimum park size of 0.2 hectares.	Ongoing	–
	PO10	When possible and appropriate, combine new and existing parkland parcels to create larger parks to support facilities and amenities.	Ongoing	–
Accessibility	PO11	Strive for universal design by integrating accessibility upgrades within existing open spaces over the term of this Plan.	Ongoing	As part of park budgets ⁶⁹
Signage & Wayfinding	PO12	Ensure every municipal park has clear, accessible signage that reflects the Municipality's brand and the proper name of the park.	Short Term	–
	PO13	Add distance markers to the Millennium Lilac Trail and the trail around the canal in Campbellford.	Short Term	\$45,000 ⁷⁰
Shade	PO14	Initiate an ongoing tree planting program to replace aging trees in existing parks, where possible, over the term of this Plan.	Ongoing	As part of park budgets ⁷¹

⁶⁹ Allocate approximately \$10,000 for new accessible seating, signage, etc. in one location. Possible funding opportunity: [RBC Barrier Busting Grants Program](#).

⁷⁰ Approx. \$3,000/per sign x 15 signs.

⁷¹ Allocate approximately \$3,200 for trees in one location (\$800/tree x 4 trees per park). Possible funding opportunities include [Growing Canada's Community Canopies](#) (Green Municipal Fund via Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Government of Canada), [Edible Trees Community Tree Grant](#) (Tree Canada), [Jack Kimmel Grant](#) (Canadian Tree Fund), and [Tremendous Communities](#) (Tree Canada).

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Shade	PO15	Ensure developers include sufficient tree planting and protection in all new park and open space parcels.	Ongoing	–
Site Furnishings	PO16	Ensure all new benches and picnic tables are accessible.	Ongoing	–
	PO17	Install accessible seating at Community Parks, beginning with Mill Creek Park, Kennedy Park, and Fowlds Millennium Park.	Short Term	\$20,000 ⁷²
	PO18	Conduct an audit of all existing outdoor seating and develop a seating replacement program for upgrading accessible benches and picnic tables.	Medium Term	–
	PO19	Explore the feasibility of installing dual-stream or additional waste receptacles in Community Parks for both garbage and recycling.	Short Term	–
	PO20	Provide drinking water at Community Parks.	Ongoing	As part of park budgets ⁷³
	PO21	Work with developers to include a drinking water amenity/connection in future parks, where possible.	Ongoing	–
Washrooms	PO22	Where applicable, add signage in municipal parks and open spaces indicating the location and walking distance to available public washrooms nearby.	Short Term	TBD ⁷⁴
	PO23	Share a map of public toilets on the municipal website.	Short Term	–
	PO24	Consider partnering with local businesses to serve as designated washrooms for municipal parks without a nearby washroom facility.	Short Term	–
	PO25	Explore the possibility of installing a self-cleaning washroom in a Community Park.	Short Term	TBD
Playgrounds	PO26	Install an accessible swing at the Mill Creek Park playground.	Short Term	\$15,000

⁷² Per 3 seating units (1 seating unit per park). Possible funding opportunity: [RBC Barrier Busting Grants Program](#).

⁷³ Allocate approx. \$10,000 per unit.

⁷⁴ Allocate approx. \$2,500/per sign installed in each park.

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Playgrounds	PO27	Install an accessible swing at the Fowlds Millennium Park playground.	Short Term	\$15,000
	PO28	Update play equipment and surfacing at the end of a playground's lifecycle, incorporating accessibility upgrades.	Ongoing	As part of park budgets ⁷⁵
	PO29	As parks and playgrounds undergo updates to improve accessibility, ensure that municipal inventories and webpages are also updated to reflect the new features and facilities.	Ongoing	—
Skate Parks	PO30	Additional skate parts are not required during the term of this Plan.	—	—
Splash Pads	PO31	Another splash pad is not required during the term of this Plan.	—	—
Basketball Courts	PO32	Add an outdoor basketball court to a new park parcel in Campbellford.	Medium Term	\$200,000
	PO33	Add an outdoor basketball court to a new park parcel in Hastings.	Medium Term	\$200,000
	PO34	Consider adding an outdoor basketball court to an existing park in Warkworth.	Medium Term	\$200,000
Outdoor Fitness Equipment & Tracks	PO35	Consider installing contemporary outdoor fitness equipment pieces or fitness circuits in a park in each village.	Short Term	TBD ⁷⁶
	PO36	Work with developers to include outdoor fitness equipment in new park parcels.	Ongoing	—
	PO37	Consult further with residents to clarify interest in additional walking/running tracks.	Short Term	—
Outdoor Rinks	PO38	Monitor interest in establishing natural ice rinks and support residents in their development.	Ongoing	—

⁷⁵ Allocate approx. \$200,000 per new playground.

⁷⁶ Allocate \$30,000 for a station with 5-8 fitness units, surfacing, and signage.

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Water Access Points	PO39	Consider installing a mobility mat on the beach to provide access to the water's edge for all.	Medium Term	TBD ⁷⁷
Community Gardens	PO40	Monitor interest in establishing new community gardens and support residents in their development over the term of this Plan.	Ongoing	–
Off-Leash Dog Parks	PO41	Increase promotion of the off-leash dog park at Ferris Provincial Park through signage at walk-in entrances to the park and web and social media communications.	Short Term	–
	PO42	Engage with Ontario Parks to explore opportunities to extend use of the leash-free space.	Short Term	–
	PO43	If feasible, work with developers to explore installing a leash-free trail as part of new parkland provision.	Ongoing	–
Outdoor Event Spaces	PO44	Design future parks with amenities to accommodate events and activities such as parking, water and electric site servicing, where possible.	Ongoing	As part of park budgets
Art, Culture, and Heritage	PO45	Working with local artists, develop a public art policy for incorporating more public art in Trent Hills' parks and open spaces.	Short Term	–
	PO46	Consider integrating public art and sculpture gardens within parks.	Ongoing	TBD
	PO47	Consider designating a specific park as an "art park," or portions of parks as "Culture Corners."	Ongoing	–
Priority Park Sites	PO48	Use the concept plan to guide the redevelopment of Hillside Park to include new amenities focused on community and learning including upgraded lighting, seating, signage, and parking; accessible pathways; a natural	Short Term	TBD ⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Allocate \$8,000 (approx. \$5,000 for installation and \$2,500 for a 10-metre segment of recycled polyester).

⁷⁸ Allocate between \$1,000,000 and \$2,00,000 for cost components including project management and design fees (e.g., concept development, community consultation, detailed design, contract documents and tender, contract administration), site preparation (e.g., mobilization, clearing, grubbing), surfacing (e.g., asphalt paths, asphalt surfacing, concrete sidewalk), park elements (e.g., bandshell, amphitheatre seating, natural playground, natural classroom, entrance feature), site furniture (e.g., benches, picnic tables), planting (e.g., perennial planting, trees, sod), and utilities (e.g., self-cleaning washroom, civic works, park/site lighting). The Canadian Dermatology Association's [Shade Structure Grant Program](#) could be pursued as a possible source of funding.

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
		outdoor classroom and playground; a bandshell with natural, amphitheatre seating on the hill; and a self-cleaning washroom.		
Priority Park Sites	PO49	Use the concept plan to guide the development of a Community Park at Hastings Village Green that focuses on flexible, open greenspace for multi-purpose, multi-season gathering supported by upgraded lighting, seating, and signage; accessible pathways; a covered stage/bandshell; outdoor fitness equipment; and a picnic shelter with storage and a self-cleaning washroom.	Short Term	TBD ⁷⁹
SERVICE DELIVERY				
Recreation Programs & Events	SD1	Work with community groups to build upon and strengthen recreation program offerings including outdoor recreation, Indigenous placekeeping, intergenerational programming, and adaptive/inclusive programs.	Ongoing	–
	SD2	In partnership with the Trent Hills Public Library, expand the Library of Things to include sports equipment such as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, baseballs, and Frisbees to use in public parks.	Short Term	–
	SD3	Approach local organizations, service clubs, and businesses to sponsor/supply sports equipment for the lending library.	Short Term	–
	SD4	Consider developing a Trent Hills Park Crawl event or self-guided activity that promotes visiting parks in each of Warkworth, Hastings, and Campbellford.	Short Term	–

⁷⁹Allocate between \$800,000 and \$1,500,000 for cost components including project management and design fees (e.g., concept development, community consultation, detailed design, contract documents and tender, contract administration), site preparation (e.g., mobilization, clearing, grubbing), surfacing (e.g., gravel paths, asphalt road, concrete pad), park elements (e.g., bandshell, picnic shelter, fitness equipment, entrance feature), site furniture (e.g., benches, picnic tables), planting (e.g., perennial planting, trees, sod), and utilities (e.g., self-cleaning washroom, civic works, park/site lighting).The Canadian Dermatology Association's [Shade Structure Grant Program](#) could be pursued as a possible source of funding for the picnic shelter..

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Support to Volunteer Organizations	SD5	Consult with volunteer organizations to clarify support requirements in program development and provision in relation to the Municipality's capacity to respond.	Ongoing	–
	SD6	Develop the planned volunteer recognition program to support organizations in thanking the significant contributions of individual volunteers to the breadth of recreation programs enjoyed by the community.	Short Term	–
Parks & Recreation Policies	SD7	Consider expanding the Tree and Bench Donation Program to include other park amenities that are recommended in the Master Plan.	Short Term	–
	SD8	Periodically review and, if required, update policies to ensure they are current and meeting the Municipality's objectives	Ongoing	–
	SD9	Consider extending the Municipality's allocation policy to outdoor facilities if demand requires it.	Short Term	–
Agreements	SD10	Review and update existing agreements regularly (e.g., every five years) or more frequently, if required.	Ongoing	–
	SD11	Should volunteer based clubs emerge over time, and express interest in using municipal courts, prepare and enter agreements with relevant groups to govern facility use, operations and maintenance.	Ongoing	–
Accessibility & Inclusion	SD12	Continue to implement the Municipality's Accessibility Plan in all areas of parks and recreation services.	Ongoing	–
	SD13	When planning new or renewing existing facilities, investigate opportunities to provide those that are designed to be inclusive.	Ongoing	–
	SD14	Develop an inclusion policy.	Short Term	–
	SD15	Develop an RZone Policy.	Short Term	–

Service Area	#	Recommendation	Suggested Timeline	Capital Cost Estimate (if applicable)
Accessibility & Inclusion	SD16	Allocate a budget to promote and educate the community on both the Inclusion and the Rzone policies.	Short Term	–
Service Planning & Evaluation	SD17	Develop an enhanced database using the Municipality's recreation management software to apply in a formal recreation facilities and programs/services planning to: verify community service needs, monitor and evaluate the success of the service response, and incorporate results in subsequent planning activities.	Short Term	–
	SD18	Work with the YMCA to create a compatible planning and evaluation information base for an integrated planning process.	Short Term	–
	SD19	Take the lead in developing and implementing regularly occurring joint services planning sessions with other key non-municipal providers in Trent Hills.	Ongoing	–
	SD20	Conduct project, program or service specific planning sessions with other providers, as required.	Ongoing	–
IMPLEMENTATION				
Monitoring & Updating the Master Plan	IM1	Use the ongoing results of planning and evaluation activities to update the Master Plan on an annual basis in conjunction with the budgeting process.	Ongoing	–
	IM2	Conduct a comprehensive review of the Master Plan halfway through its 20-year term.	Medium Term	\$85,000

Municipality of

Trent Hills

Come for a visit. Stay for a lifestyle.

