

**Owen Sound Parks, Recreation & Facilities Master Plan Update**

Dear Stakeholder,

The City of Owen Sound has retained MHBC Planning to undertake our Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan Update.

The scope of this study will include:

- A Complete review of the existing Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan with a focus on aligning this with the City's new Strategic Plan;
- Financial sustainability; and
- An analysis of the current and future needs of the City to determine if the parks and facilities are meeting the needs of residents and users today and into the future

The update was requested by Council through Service Review. The original Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan was created in 2007 and has seen several initiatives successfully implemented such as the construction of the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre in partnership with the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey-Bruce.

The update will rely heavily on feedback from the community and stakeholders throughout the process.

Please have an adult in your household answer the questionnaire by considering the needs of all members in your household or organization. The questionnaire will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

**Project Contacts:**

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*All questionnaire responses will remain confidential and will be analyzed and submitted as aggregated data. Completed questionnaires will be directly sent to the consultant, MHBC Planning.*

1. Are you a permanent or seasonal resident?

- Permanent
- Seasonal

2. How long have you lived in the Owen Sound area and/or region?

- Less than one year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 10+ years

3. Where do you live?

- City of Owen Sound
- Meaford
- Chatsworth
- Other (please specify)

4. Marital status?

- Single
- Married or domestic partnership
- Other (please specify)

5. Age group?

- Less than 18 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 25-34 years old
- 35-44 years old
- 45-54 years old
- 55-64 years old
- 65-74 years old
- 75+

6. Gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

7. Who are you completing the survey on behalf of? (Please select one)

- Myself
- Household
- Organization

If you answered organization, can you tell us which organization are you representing?

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Household size

8. How many people currently live in your household?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6+

9. Please describe the number of people in your household in the following age groups:

	Number of people
Less than 5	<input type="text"/>
6-12	<input type="text"/>
13-18	<input type="text"/>
19-29	<input type="text"/>
30-39	<input type="text"/>
39-49	<input type="text"/>
50-59	<input type="text"/>
60-69	<input type="text"/>
70-79	<input type="text"/>
80+	<input type="text"/>

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Usage of parks, recreational facilities/programs

10. Do you or your household use Owen Sound's parks and recreational facilities and/or programs? (E.g. public parks, Community Centres, Arenas, YMCA, etc.)

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

What motivates you to use recreational services, parks and facilities?

11. What are the reasons you or your household participate in recreational and leisure activities? Please select all that apply.

- Physical health/exercise
- To be with family/friends
- Relaxation
- To "get away"/stress management
- Experience a challenge
- Meet new people
- Pleasure/entertainment
- Help the community/volunteer
- Other (please specify)

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

How do you use Owen Sound's recreational facilities?

12. Please indicate the **recreational facilities** you use for recreation and leisure programs and how often you use them. Please select all that apply to you or your household.

	Never	Once a month or less	Once a week	More than 2-3 times per week	Every day
Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other private facility within or outside of Owen Sound (Please specify):

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

How do you use Owen Sound's public parks?

13. Do you or any member of your household use/visit **a public park(s)** in the City of Owen Sound?

- Yes
- No

Public park usage

14. How often do you or any member of your family use public parks?

- Never
- Once a month or less
- Once a week
- More than 2-3 times per week
- Every day

15. Which **public park(s)** do you frequent most? Please select all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Williams Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> High Park                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maitland Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Park                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelso Beach Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiwanis Skate and Bike Park           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelso Beach Splash Pad  | <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria Park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelso Beach Playground  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Taylor Park                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kinsmen Ball Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stoney Orchard Park                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duncan McClellan Ball Diamonds                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiwanis Soccer Field                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Westmount Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Queens Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Park Kiwanis Playground      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Park Tot Lot                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ryerson Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Park Good Cheer Outdoor Rink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. George's Park   | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Park Ball Diamond            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J. Irvine Brown Children's Playground (Bayshore Community Centre) | <input type="checkbox"/> Garafraxa Park                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timber McArthur Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Owen Heights Park                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)  |  |

How do you use Owen Sound's trails?

16. Do you or any member(s) of your household use anytrails in the City of Owen Sound for recreation and leisure?

- Yes
- No

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Owen Sound Trail Usage

17. How often do you or any member of your household use trails?

- Once a month or less
- Once a week
- More than 2-3 times per week
- Every day

18. Which trails do you frequent most? Please select all that apply.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgian Bluffs Rail Trail          | <input type="checkbox"/> Stoney Orchard Trail                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom Trail (Harrison Park)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront West                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Trail                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Rail Trail                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palisades Trails (Centennial Tower) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Thomson Trail (Waterfront east) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nine Bends Trails                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)              |  |

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Recreational Facilities and programs

19. On a scale of 1 to 7, how would you rate the **quality and maintenance** of the following facilities where **1 is poor** and **7 is outstanding**?

	Poor		Fair			Outstanding		Not sure
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Public parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play structure parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promenades/Boardwalks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Ice Rinks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball Diamonds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beach volleyball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Beaches/Access to waterfront	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike lanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash pads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments:



20. On a scale of 1 to 7, please indicate how important you feel the following facilities are to you and your family where 1 is **least important** and 7 is **most important**?

	Least important	2	3	Somewhat important	5	6	Most important	Not sure
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Public parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play structure parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promenades/Boardwalks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Ice Rinks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball Diamonds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beach volleyball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Beaches/Access to waterfront	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike lanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash pads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional Comments:

21. How much do you currently spend per month on outdoor or indoor recreation programs and activities?

- Nothing
- \$1-\$20
- \$21-\$50
- \$51-\$100
- \$100+

22. On a scale of 1 to 7 where **1 is not interested** and **7 is very interested**, please rank your interest in the following activities:

	Not interested		Somewhat interested			Very interested	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Activities for persons with disabilities (sports, crafts, social events, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adventure activities (Hiking, camping, boating, skiing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aquatics (swimming)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extreme sports (Skateboarding, BMX biking, snowboarding)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family fitness activities (Parent/child dances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental (nature study, bird watching)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor fitness (Exercise classes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor fitness (Running, cycling, snowshoe/cross-country skiing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor sports (fishing, hunting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor athletics (tennis, pickleball, soccer, baseball)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor athletics (Basketball, volleyball, badminton)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wellness and self-help (Martial arts, yoga)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gardening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

### Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

#### Participation outside of Owen Sound

23. Do you or any member of your household participate in recreational programs **outside of the City of Owen Sound**?

Yes

No

### Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

#### Programs and activities outside of Owen Sound

24. What programs(s) **outside of Owen Sound** are you engaged in and where do you engage in them?

Program & location 1

Program & location 2

Program & location 3

Program & location 4

Program & location 5

## Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

### Gaps in programs

25. Is there **one** specific group that you feel there are not enough recreational and leisure programs for?

- Parents & toddlers
- Youth (13 and under)
- Teenagers (14-19)
- Adults (19+)
- Seniors (65+)

What is the **most important change** that Owen Sound's Community Services department can make to address gaps for the group you selected?

## Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

### Barriers to participation

26. There are several barriers that prevent individuals and households from participating in recreational and leisure activities. From the list below, **please select the barriers that limit you or your household from participating in recreational and leisure activities.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time                                | <input type="checkbox"/> My preferred activity/program is not available in my area; There are better opportunities elsewhere |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are too high                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconvenient hours (schedule of programs/facilities)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation limitations (cost/availability) | <input type="checkbox"/> Overcrowded facilities; programs/classes are full   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities are not accessible                  | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know how to get started   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know what is being offered            | <input type="checkbox"/> Health issues   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor/inadequate facilities                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Associated activity costs (e.g. equipment)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Language/cultural barriers                     | <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                         |  |

## Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

### Additional Feedback

**The City of Owen Sound would like to obtain your personal opinion on a variety of issues.**

27. Please indicate your opinion(s) to the following questions about **recreational programs and facilities** based on a range from **'strongly disagree'** to **'strongly agree.'**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not sure
I am generally aware of the Owen Sound recreational facilities and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owen Sound is responsive to the physical recreation needs of the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owen Sound offers good quality recreation facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owen Sound facilities are safe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owen Sound programs and services are a good value for the fees paid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owen Sound's partnership with the YMCA meets the community's recreational needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe there is a need for more recreation facilities in Owen Sound	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Booking facilities for activities is easy and meets my expectations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional comments:

28. Please indicate your opinion to the following **health and well-being** related questions based on a range from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree.'

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not sure
There is a need for greater access to recreation programs and services that encourage healthy lifestyles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is a problem with the quality of health and well-being in my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Owen Sound is generally a healthy place to live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional comments:

29. What are the **top three new recreational programs/activities** you would like to see offered in the City of Owen Sound? Please list below.

1

2

3

30. Are you satisfied with the variety of programming the YMCA provides?

- Yes
- No

Please provide comments:

31. Is the non-resident fee a barrier to participate in minor sports?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain why this is a barrier:

Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Funding and resources

32. Funding for recreation, parks and facilities is important to healthy, well being and quality of life in the community. Please indicate your opinion to the following statements based on a range from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree.'

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not sure
I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be willing to pay more in property taxes for additional parks and recreational facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be willing to pay more in user fees for additional parks and recreational facilities to ensure my tax dollars do not increase	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be willing to support a dedicated fund (surcharge) for parks and recreation facilities in lieu of an increase in taxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional comments:

## Owen Sound Parks & Recreation Master Plan

### Staying informed about parks, recreation facilities and programs

33. Please indicate your preferred method for staying informed of recreational and leisure programs offered by the City of Owen Sound where **1 indicates 'would likely not use'** and **3 indicates 'would likely use.'**

	Would likely <i>not</i> use 1	Might use 2	Would likely use 3
Mail outs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newspaper advertisements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighbourhood brochure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School flyers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flyers in public spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Word of mouth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radio advertisements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facility road signs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Text messages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Email messages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Voicemail messages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobile apps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other methods (please specify):

Contact Information

**Thank you for taking our survey! Your input is valuable and will help inform the City of Owen Sound's Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan!**

**If you are interested in staying informed about the City of Owen Sound's Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan, please include your contact information below.**

34. Contact information:

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

35. If you have any additional feedback regarding Owen Sound's Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan, please include it below:

## Owen Sound Recreation, Parks and Facilities: Survey Results

### Overall trends:

- 497 respondents online + 8 hard copies = **505 total responses**
- 76% completion rate
- Typical time spent = 14 minutes

### 1. Are you a permanent or seasonal resident?

- 97% are permanent, 3% seasonal

### 2. How long have you lived in the Owen Sound area and/or region?

- Majority have lived in OS for 10+ years (80%)
- Followed by: 11% 1-5 years; 7% 6-10 years; and 1% less than one year

### 3. Where do you live?

- 72% in OS
- 5% in Meaford; 4% in Chatsworth
- 19% indicated other
  - **Georgian Bluffs**, South Bruce Peninsula, Hepworth, Shallow Lake, Markdale, Keady, Springmount, Sauble Beach, Leith, Rockford, Williamsford, Hanover

### 4. Marital status?

- 72% married/domestic partnership
- 24% single

### 5. Age Group?

- Diversity across age groups.
- Half of respondents between 25 and 44 years old

Less than 18 years old	0.00%
18-24 years old	4.44%
25-34 years old	23.99%
35-44 years old	23.79%
45-54 years old	19.76%
55-64 years old	18.35%
65-74 years old	7.66%
75+	2.02%

### 6. Gender?

- 60% female; 40% male



7. Who are you completing the survey on behalf of?

- 53% myself
- 43% household

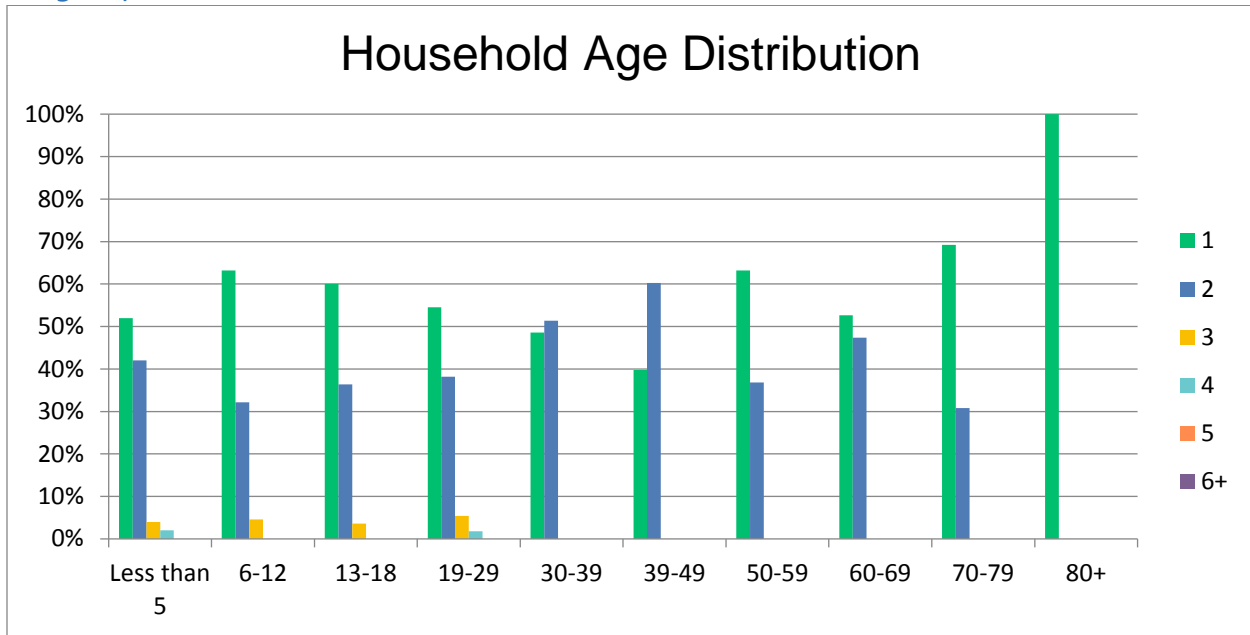
Organizations represented include:

- YMCA
- Owen Sound Adult Soccer League
- Owen Sound Sr. B Lacrosse
- Owen Sound Ultimate Frisbee
- Owen Sound Old Timer's Soccer
- Owen Sound Soccer
- Owen Sound Minor Soccer
- Owen Sound Rep U13 Soccer
- Owen Sound Eastside S.C.
- Renewed Computers
- Owen Sound Men's Rec Hockey
- Owen Sound Men's Slo Pitch
- Roselawn Lawn Bowling Club

8. How many people currently live in your household?

- 36% 4 person household
- 28% 2 person household
- 16% 3 person household
- 14% 5 person household
- 4% 6+ person household
- .5% 1 person household

9. Please describe the number of people in your household in the following age groups:

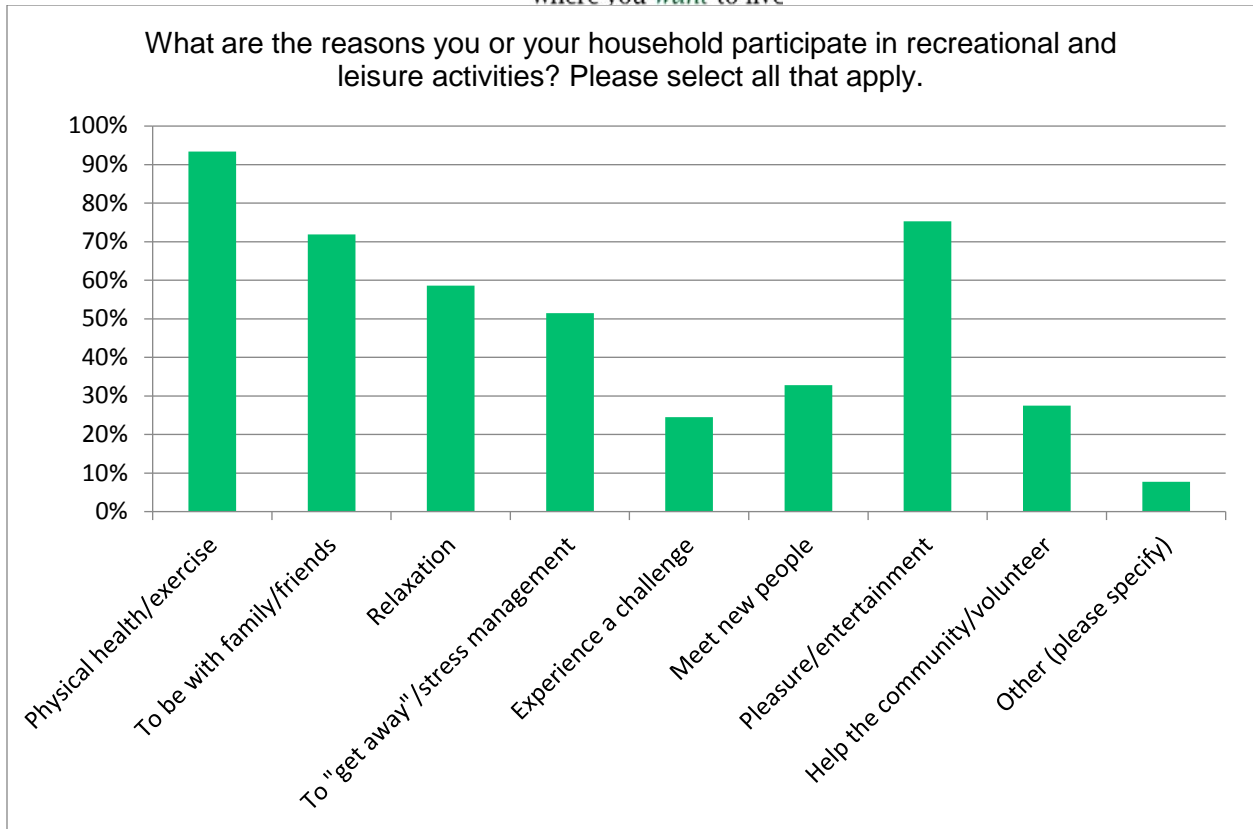


10. Do you or your household use Owen Sound parks and recreational facilities and/or programs? (E.g. public parks, community centres, arenas, YMCA, etc.)

- 97% indicated yes

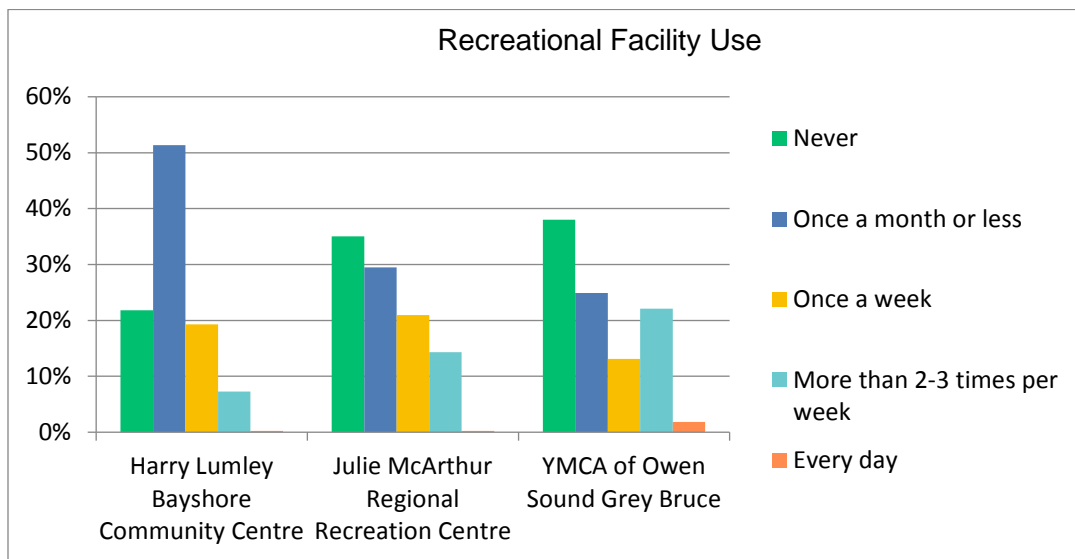
11. What are the reasons you or your household participate in recreational and leisure activities? Please select all that apply.

- \*\*Note – multiple choices selected, answers do not add up to 100%
- Physical health/exercise #1 (93%)
- Pleasure/entertainment #2 (75%)
- To be with family/friends #3 (72%)
- Other reasons include:
  - Walking dogs \*\*\*\*
  - Library use for pleasure
  - Experience nature
  - Bring visitors to enjoy
  - Work
  - Be outside
  - Explore
  - Host and attend outdoor interactive art projects
  - Stewardship – Maintaining the Bruce Trail
  - Recreation is free
  - Just to enjoy the space
  - Support my children’s growth and development including development of physical literacy skills
  - Competition
  - Play with grandchildren
  - Personal development
  - Bird watching/experience nature



12. Please indicate the recreational facilities you use for recreation and leisure and how often you use them. Please select all that apply to you or your household.

- Harry Lumley Bayshore: 51% use once a month or less; 22% never use; 20% use one a week
- Julie McArthur RRC: 35% never use; 30% use once a month or less; 21% use once a week;
- YMCA: 38% never use; 25% use once a month or less; 22% use 2-3 times per week



Other facilities use include:

- Local schools/high schools for indoor sports (volleyball)
- Owen Sound Soccer Complex
- Kiwanis Soccer Fields
- Georgian College
- Curling club
- Lawn bowling Club
- Private gyms (Heartwood Hall, Velocity)
- Used to use YMCA, but no separate fee for pool. Didn't continue membership
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- A Woman's Journey
- Stone Tree Fitness Centre
- Bike trails
- Golf courses
- Blue Mountain Ski Resort
- Inglis Falls/Arboretum
- Shallow Lake Arena
- Early Years Centre
- Yoga studios
- Chatsworth Arena

13. Do you or any member of your household use/visit a public park(s) in the City of Owen Sound?

- 99% said yes

14. How often do you or any member of your family use public parks?

- 34% use them once a week
- 33% use them more than 2-3 times per week
- 24% use them once a month or less
- 9% use them everyday

15. Which park(s) do you frequent most? Please select all that apply.

(Ranked in order)

1. Harrison Park
2. Kelso Beach Park
3. Harrison Park Kiwanis Playground
4. Harrison Park Good Cheer Outdoor Rink
5. Kiwanis Soccer Field
6. Kelso Beach Playground and Kelso Beach Splash Pad
7. Duncan McClellan Ball Diamonds
8. Victoria Park

Other parks include:

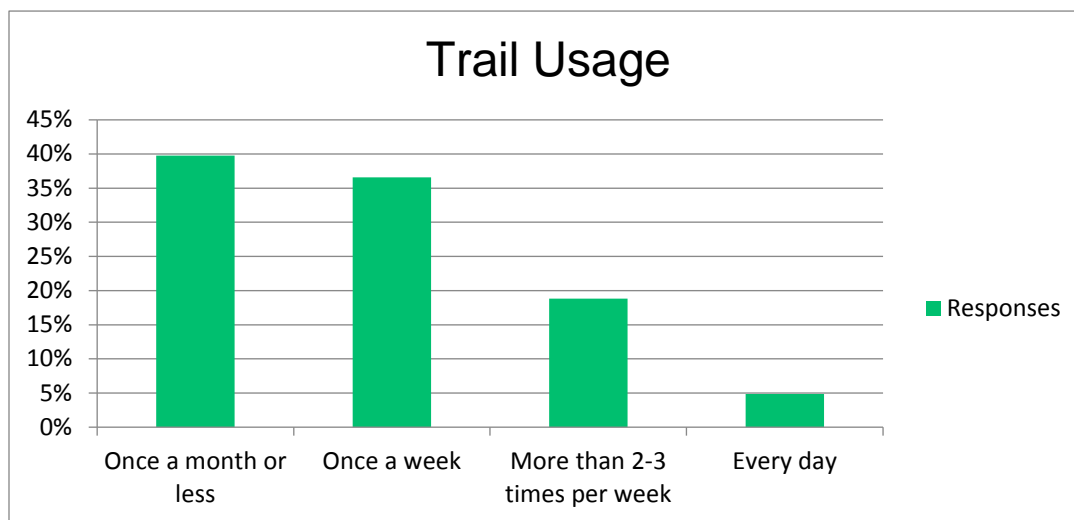
- Comerette Park, Indian Falls Conservation Area, Sarawak Family Park, West Rocks Conservation Area,

16. Do you or any member(s) of your household use any trails in the city of Owen Sound for recreation and leisure?

- 82% said yes
- 18% said no

17. How often do you or any members of your household use trails?

- 40% once a month or less
- 37% once a week
- 19% more than 2-3 times per week
- 5% every day



18. Which trails do you frequent most? Please select all that apply.

\*Note – able to select more than one response; do not add up to 100%

1. Freedom Trail (Harrison Park) – 72%
2. Tom Thomson Trail (Waterfront East) – 53%
3. Georgian Bluffs Rail Trail – 46%
4. Rail Trail – 42%
5. Fitness Trail – 40%
6. Waterfront West – 37%

Other trails include: Bruce Trail, Inglis Falls, West Rocks, Pottawatomi, Hibou Trail

\*\*Note – several mentioned that they didn't know about these trails and would like more information (a trail map).

19. On a scale of 1 to 7, how would you rate the quality and maintenance of the following facilities where 1 is poor and 7 is outstanding?

- Range of responses

- Responses indicate relatively high quality and maintenance of recreational facilities (overall, satisfied)
- Particularly strong responses for public parks, trails, the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre, and YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce
- 83% of respondents ranked parks good – outstanding
- 77% of respondents ranked trails good – outstanding
- Lower ranked facilities/amenities include bike lanes (25% ranked very poor to poor); public beaches/access to waterfront (21%) and tennis courts (20%)

Additional comments include:

- Demand for more/better/safer bike lanes\*\*
- Perception that there are no bike lanes in the city\*\*
- Baseball diamonds need significant improvements\*\*
- Overall desire for improved maintenance
  - Stairs and ramps on escarpment
  - Grass too long in parks
- Make trails more user friendly/multi-use by paving
- Poor access to safe swimming/water activities
- Tennis courts in poor condition and often in use by pickleball players which have indoor facilities
- Bike path from Bayshore North is great – desire for more bike paths such as this one
- Poor parking lots at recreation facilities
- Improve soccer fields
- Want to see more mountain biking trails like Collingwood – could be potential tourism opportunity
- Lack of water fountains
- Lack of knowledge of community gardens, bike lanes
- Harbour front walkway doesn't have any reason for people to visit it (no food)
- Better marking of trails
- McArthur Arena needs carpets on the floor leading to the Y – slipping hazard
- More diversity of recreational opportunities – YMCA is expensive

20. On a scale of 1 to 7, please indicate how important you feel the following facilities are to you and your family where 1 is least important and 7 is most important?

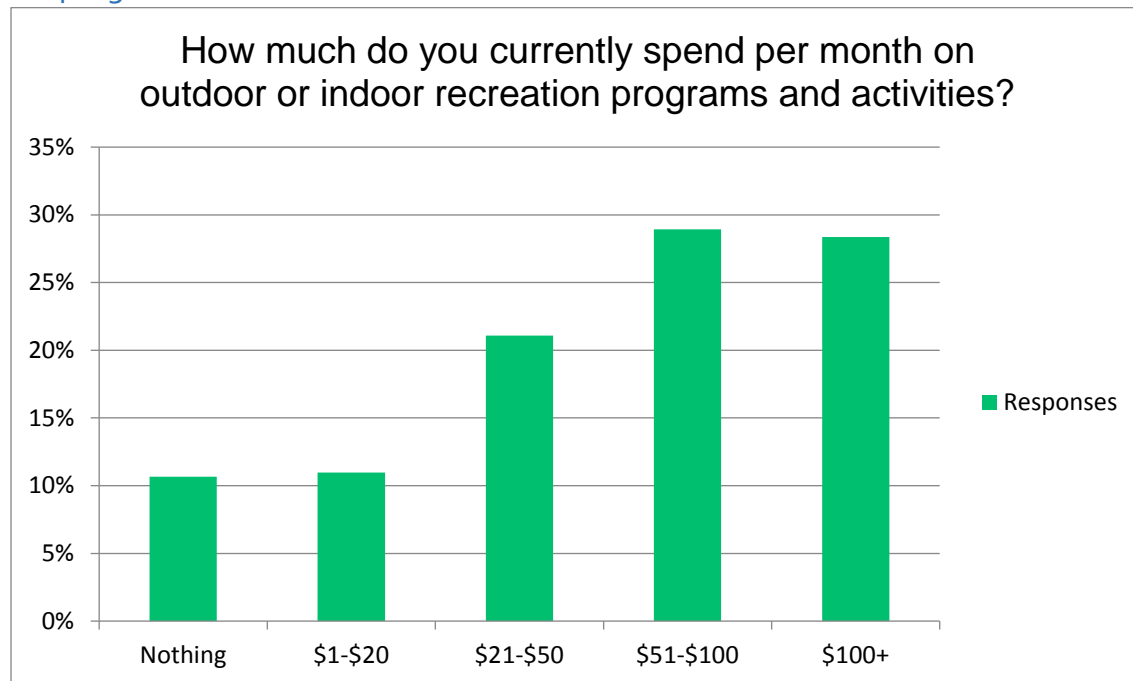
- The most important facilities are those that are **free to access – primarily parks, trails, play structure parks, promenades/boardwalks, and public beaches/access**
- 93% of respondents indicated parks as important – most important
- 92% of respondents indicated trails as important – most important
- 86% of respondents indicated public beaches/access to waterfront as most important
  - **If rated very important, but rated poor condition (above), may be a good priority area**
- Followed by the three recreational facilities (HLBCC - 65%; JMRR - 64%; YMCA – 65%)

- In terms of least important: beach volleyball courts (46% ranked least important), followed by dog parks (38%) and basketball courts (37%)

Additional comments include:

- Indoor facility for soccer/track\*\*\*\*
- More bike lanes needed
- Dogs shouldn't be allowed at Harrison Park and Kelso Beach
- Tennis courts used for pickleball

21. How much do you currently spend per month on outdoor/indoor recreation programs and activities?



- Over half (57.3%) of respondents spend more than \$50/month of recreation programs and activities

22. On a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 is not interested and 7 is very interested, please rank your interest in the following activities:

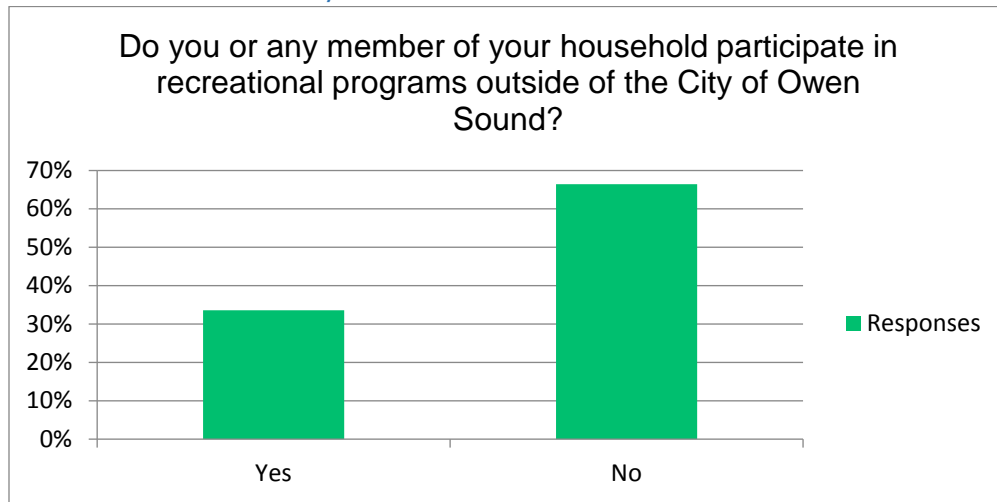
- Strong interest in adventure activities (hiking, boating, skiing), outdoor athletics (tennis/pickleball, etc.) and outdoor fitness (running/cycling)
- Not as interested in extreme sports (BMX, skateboarding), family fitness activities and outdoor sports (fishing, hunting)

Additional comments include:

- Canoeing/kayaking
- Tennis
- Yoga

- Indoor/turf activities
- Squash
- Pickleball courts
- Book clubs, self-help

23. Do you or any member of your household participate in recreational programs outside of the City of Owen Sound?



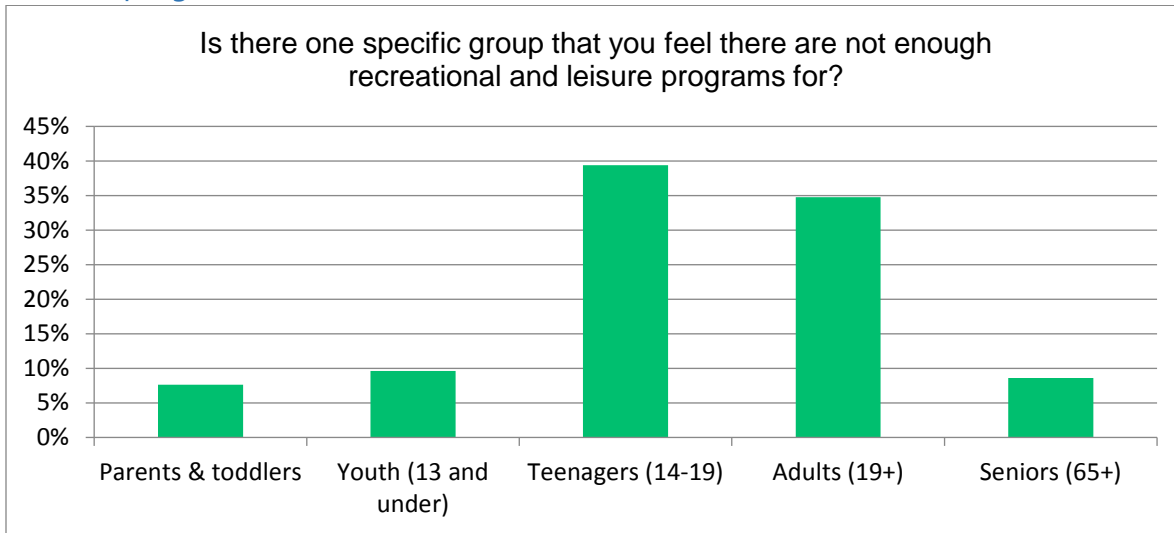
- 66% no; 34% yes

24. What programs(s) outside of Owen Sound are you engaged in and where do you engage in them?

- Neighbouring arenas (Hanover, Port Elgin, Meaford, Shallow Lake)
- Hiking (Bruce Trail)
- Blue Mountain (golf, skiing, biking)
- Softball/baseball – Desboro, Chatsworth, Meaford, Port Elgin, Holland Centre
- Curling – Tara
- Broomball – Keady, Hepworth, Desboro
- Lacrosse – Kincardine
- Soccer – Sauble Beach, Wiarton
- Hockey - Markdale



25. Is there one specific group that you feel there are not enough recreational and leisure programs for?



- Strong demand for programs for programs for **teenagers and adults**

Additional comments include:

- **Indoor turf facilities \*\*\*\*\***
  - Would free up gyms for other sports (e.g. Volleyball)
- **Need for more accessible programming \*\*\*\*\***
  - Programs need to have cost options for all
  - More basketball/volleyball (low cost activities)
- More/improved tennis courts \*\*
- Indoor basketball facilities \*\*
- Non-residence fee limits participation \*\*
- Outdoor turf to extend the season \*
- More for toddlers – only option is Early Years Centre (geared towards stay-at-home parents)
- Can't just do swim at YMCA
- A seniors only recreation centre
- Fix intersections that are unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists
  - 10<sup>th</sup> street West at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave West
- More drop-ins with activities
- More affordable programs for kids and teens (some larger families don't qualify for assistance, but are too stretched to give all their kids a chance to try activities)
- More options for young professionals
  - 20-50 years old, not much for those in the middle to do (ideas include: Pole dancing, burlesque, yoga, Pilates)
- Maintain and improve public parks
- After school programs for those that can't afford what's offered at facilities
- Single usage options (just pool, etc.) at the YMCA would improve accessibility
- Programs for 12 and under are well rounded; programs for 13-19 are not

- Need to take advantage of river and harbour waterfront
- More welcoming for neighbouring municipalities
- Better awareness of community gardens and access (maps, more promotion)
- Lack of gym space for volleyball teams
- More exercise programs/variation for seniors
- Transportation for youth to get to evening programs
- Make programs inclusive of whole community; not some
- Restore the soccer area in Westmount Park
- Some options for college/university aged students when they're home for the summer (pick-up?)
- Another splash pad/outdoor pool
- Improve childcare options for parents at the YMCA
- Better promotion and awareness of programs offered
- Dedicated play space for toddlers only
- More shade needed at soccer complex
- More focus on younger families
- Get kids active
- More programs for tweens that aren't hockey/lacrosse/soccer
  - Collaborate with local fitness facilities
- More places to sit
- Not enough programs for very active seniors
- Update trails for multi-use
- Need more than swimming for toddlers
- Challenges to get into swimming lessons – popular times fill up too fast
- More childcare options
  - For parents with more than 1 child, very challenging to bring one to an activity and supervise the others
- Parent & child activities run during business hours – not accessible for working parents
- Develop an online presence so people can see what is offered and register easily
- More advertising
- Pickleball courts
- Teen programs for physical and mental wellness
- Focus on lifetime sports – not just hockey and soccer
- More youth friendly recreation centres
  - Somewhere for youth to hang out without being considered loitering
- Most programs cater to seniors and not youth/25-35 age group of young professionals who we're trying to attract

26. There are several barriers that prevent individuals and households from participating in recreational and leisure activities. From the list below, please select the barriers that limit you or your household from participating in recreational and leisure activities.

- Key barriers are **time and money** (not enough time; fees are too high)
- There is also some lack in knowing what is being offered and inconvenient hours for some respondents

Additional Comments:

- Parking at JMRRC \*\*
- Inconvenient hours
  - Hours don't work for those who work
- Some classes (Zumba) are crowded
- No indoor turf facility
- No tennis courts
- Need improved childcare options at the YMCA (during evenings and weekend)
- Need to improve the trails system (connections, descriptions)
- Day use fees are too high at YMCA
- More drop-in options for those that can't schedule ahead of time

27. Please indicate your opinion(s) to the following questions about recreational programs and facilities based on a range from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree.'

\*\*Rounding errors\*\*

- I am generally aware of the Owen Sound recreational facilities and programs
  - **59% agree - strongly agree**
  - 28% somewhat agree
  - 13% disagree

Indicates overall awareness of programs. Based on responses to question 33, the City could potentially increase program/activity awareness through strengthened and targeted social media marketing.

- Owen Sound is responsive to the physical recreation needs of the community
  - 37% agree – strongly agree
  - **49% somewhat agree**
  - 18% disagree

Indicate that the City is doing a satisfactory job, but there may be gaps.

- Owen Sound offers good quality recreation facilities
  - **60% agree – strongly agree**
  - 30% somewhat agree
  - 9% disagree

Indicates relatively strong satisfaction with the quality of programs.

- Owen Sound facilities are safe
  - **74% agree – strongly agree**
  - 16% somewhat agree
  - 6% disagree

Indicates that facilities are considered safe.

- Owen Sound programs and services are a good value for the fees paid
  - **36% agree – strongly agree**
  - **34% somewhat agree**
  - 22% disagree

Mixed response. May want to consider alternative fee structures. E.g. single day usage for YMCA.

- Owen Sound's partnership with the YMCA meets the community's recreational needs
  - **39% agree – strongly agree**
  - **24% somewhat agree**
  - 22% disagree

Indicates mixed response.

- I believe there is a need for more recreation facilities in Owen Sound
  - **60% agree – strongly agree**
  - 15% somewhat agree
  - 16% disagree

Indicates demand for more recreation facilities. Based on open ended responses, indoor turf facilities and updated baseball diamonds and pickleball appear to be key priorities.

- Booking facilities for activities is easy and meets my expectations
  - 19% agree – strongly agree
  - 26% somewhat agree
  - 19% disagree
  - **(36% don't know)**

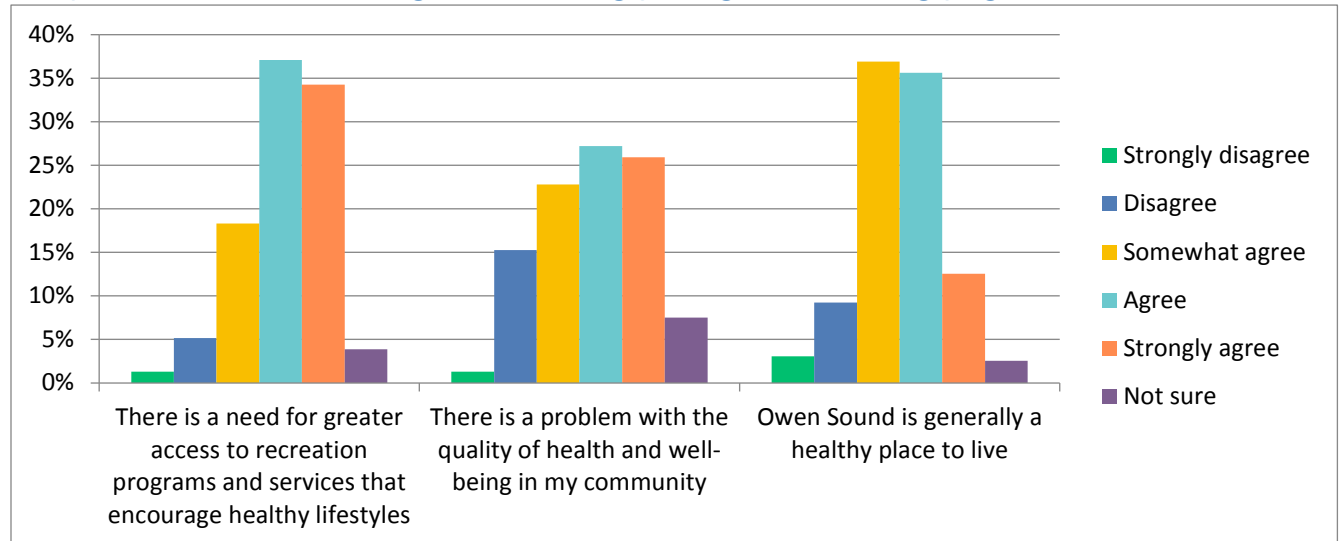
Indicates respondents may not be very familiar with booking; but may also be room for improvement (online booking).

Additional responses:

- Keen interest in indoor turf facility
- Non-resident fee is a barrier
- Need online book options
- Should be able to pay for activities online
- Ball diamonds (St. George and Duncan Park) are not safe.
- Canoe and kayak portaging signage over the Mill Dam
- Lack of adequate railing along Bayshore Centre
- Interest in squash courts
- Slippery floors at the YMCA and JMRRRC

- U-shaped parking at Rec. Centre is dangerous
- Better promotion of low-cost sports

28. Please indicate your opinion to the following health and well-being related questions based on a range from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree.'



- Indicates that there is strong demand for greater access to recreational programs and services that encourage and promote healthy lifestyles
- Over half of the respondents indicate that there is be a problem with the quality of health and wellbeing in the community
- Overall, respondents indicated that Owen Sound is a relatively healthy place to live.

Additional Comments:

- Need safer bike lanes to encourage active transportation
- Health depends on socio-economic factors
- Need more accessible services

29. What are the top three new recreational programs/activities you would like to see offered in the City of Owen Sound?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor turf facilities<br/>*****</li> <li>• **</li> <li>• Pickleball *****</li> <li>• Dancing lessons for adults ****<br/>    o Latin dance</li> <li>• Squash ***</li> <li>• Community gardens **</li> <li>• Walking trails improved</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement of non-hockey days at good cheer Rink</li> <li>• Mountain biking</li> <li>• Sailing</li> <li>• Frisbee (ultimate)</li> <li>• Safe bike lanes</li> <li>• Multi-use trails</li> <li>• More wellness programs</li> <li>• Swing/Lindy Hop dance classes</li> <li>• Tai Chi</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

- More swim programs for youth and toddlers
- More/improved tennis courts
- Science/technology focused recreational opportunities
- Beginner golf lessons
- Self-defence for women
- Squash
- Free yoga and fitness classes
- Turf fields for rugby, Frisbee, soccer
- Arcade for youth
- More swimming lessons
- Cross country skiing
- More health related classes (e.g. spinning)
- Hiking/walking groups
- Intro to gardening
- Acrobatic Yoga
- Urban cycling infrastructure
- Kick boxing
- Rock climbing
- Develop the waterfront
- Competitive water polo
- Canoeing
- Martial arts
- CrossFit

### 30. Are you satisfied with the variety of programming the YMCA provides?

- 70% yes
- 30% no

Indicates overall satisfaction with the variety of programming.

Additional comments:

- Need to improve day care opportunities
- Scheduling doesn't work for everyone
- Most swim classes fill up fast

### 31. Is the non-resident fee a barrier to participate in minor sports?

- 49.2% yes
- 50.8% no

Indicates mixed responses.

Additional comments:

- Paying the NR fee for each individual child is burdensome
- Some feel it has dropped participation numbers in OS
- Just adds to the cost for out-of-town folks
- Some OS residents feel like others should pay as they're using their facilities
- Deters out of towners from joining, thus impacting competitive teams
- Not enough kids means not enough teams
- **OS should continue to monitor enrollment to better understand if the NR fee is impacting participation in recreational activities**

32. Funding for recreation, parks and facilities is important to health, well-being and quality of life in the community. Please indicate the opinion to the following statements based on a range from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree.'

I am satisfied with the recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars:

- **36% agree-strongly agree**
- **34% somewhat agree**
- 26% disagree-strongly disagree

Mixed responses – but overall satisfaction with value for money.

I would be willing to pay more in property taxes for additional parks and recreational facilities:

- 22% agree-strongly agree
- 20% somewhat agree
- **51% disagree-strongly disagree**

Strong message – do not increase property taxes to increase funding for parks and recreational facilities.

I would be willing to pay more in user fees for additional parks and recreational facilities to ensure my tax dollars do not increase:

- 30% agree-strongly agree
- 20% somewhat agree
- 44% disagree-strongly disagree

Mixed responses. But compared to other options, may be worth considering.

I would be willing to support a dedicated fund (surcharge) for parks and recreation facilities in lieu of an increase in taxes:

- 26% agree-strongly agree
- 19% somewhat agree
- **45% disagree-strongly disagree**

Lack of interest in supporting a dedicated fund.

Additional comments (verbatim):

Instead of trying to please everyone focus on the most used facilities and the openly public areas that have no fees. Support programs that allow low income people to access facilities.
taxes are affordable and easy way of sharing costs with business and residents
We pay a ton on taxes and on our water bill right now. I can't afford more.
Public parks are important for the health and wellness of Owen Sound residents.
We don't need new administration buildings. That money would've been better spent on parks and recreational facilities that actually benefit the citizens of Owen Sound. Surcharges and user fees will limit access for those in financial straits.

<p>If we start to impose user fees to use, for instance, Harrison Park, there would be limitations for lower income residents. I would suggest that if user fees are going to be put in place it would be things like parking at the Bayshore for Attack Games and Concerts but certainly NOT for minor hockey, lacrosse, etc.</p>
<p>Taxes in Owen Sound are already way too high.</p>
<p>I think this depends on who new services relate to my interests and how relevant they are to my lifestyle.</p>
<p>Hockey receives way too much funding. The only drawback at the Y was the installation of two rinks. A facility with synthetic turf should have been installed, a huge mistake.</p>
<p>Not an Owen Sound resident (Meaford unfortunately), Participate in OS sports for children.</p>
<p>I don't think we should charge for use of our parks</p>
<p>There are lots of individuals &amp; families that don't use any of the rec facilities in Owen Sound. To make them pay for something they don't use via a taxation hike wouldn't be fair. Is should be a per user fee.</p>
<p>We pay more than enough in property taxes, user fees and surcharges for the services we are offered in Owen Sound. It's time to find efficiencies somewhere else and start delivering on the promises of living here.</p>
<p>These funding questions highlight the problems with our regional municipal boundary distinctions</p>
<p>Our tax dollars go to support health care for conditions caused by patently unhealthy life styles. We should all share the cost for recreational facilities and programs that are needed to help counter these conditions.</p>
<p>Owen Sound property taxes are way beyond reasonable to justify an increase for recreation. But surcharges for the users? Fine as long as the city addresses the affordability aspect for low income individuals and households.</p>
<p>As long as the money went to the programs I value - allow me to choose when I pay/donate. I.e. my money goes to improving ball diamonds, or lowering ice rentals vs soccer, tennis courts etc. My money should go to the facilities I use not areas that I don't. I know several people who feel the same, our money does not improve the facilities we use but other facilities get constant care</p>
<p>Taxes are already too high. The cost to park at Inglis falls has gone up from 2.00 to 8.00 in the past few years. If you start charging people to enjoy nature it's going to limit the number of people who live in the community to actually go out and do it.</p>
<p>If these truly are public services and facilities then let's organize the public to create and maintain said facilities. Perhaps our approach to having all services created for us takes away from a collective public creating our own public places. Perhaps a campaign to help all of us see that the old ways are NOT sustainable.</p>
<p>I am a single woman earning a low income. already too expensive for taxes on my home and what I get for it</p>
<p>Although I realize funding is a factor, I'm not in a position to enjoy cost added services with my family at this time, nor do I anticipate a change in the near future.</p>
<p>Disagree with this line of questioning. Pay more taxes get more facilities? Higher user fees no increase in taxes. This would not apply to all.</p>
<p>Stop paying for dead beat drug programs that do not work and give more for the people who already pay too much taxes as it is.</p>
<p>I pay a fortune! For my city taxes as it is. I already do not feel I receive enough service for my taxes. If you want people to stay in Owen Sound, we need to offer things that families and kids can do together as well as employment opportunities. If you raise my taxes I wouldn't be able to afford to put my family in any programs. I'm already tax poor</p>



If the surcharge is applied to all residents then it is just a tax by another name. If you suggest gate fees for using city parks then you would need to control access to those parks. Users already pay fees to baseball, soccer, hockey etc. for those facilities
User pay system is the way to go.
OS has adequate facilities offering many free amenities. Do not wish to increase my taxes to offer more to out of towners.
We don't need more facilities.
Rent out food booths at arenas and Ball diamonds , their fees will help with the cost of employees and fees can stay as they are - Duncan is very expensive and to rent it at a high cost with a inadequate booth making money at an event can be challenging
I think this question is also a matter of preference. Recreation and sports are very important to me so I don't mind paying a bit extra for that. Someone who is an avid supporter of arts and culture may not feel the same way. My vote is to increase recreation activities and not touch taxes or have user fees..... just take it from the arts and culture budgets. :)
Having a surcharge when entering a park is just going to discourage people in using or going there. This year the parking fees went up to fees that seemed u reasonable. As a result you see cars lined up on the streets and people walking in so they don't have to pay which is not we want to see.
No public parks should be shut down. They are a crucial element of a good community & o/s is blessed.
Not a resident of Owen Sound
Would not support surcharge for public parks i.e. Harrison Park
Owen Sound wants to attract seniors to build our tax base. Good recreational activities are expected - not with user fees or higher taxes. Reduce firefighting costs and dollars will be available - to attract new residents and build the tax base.
Instead of expensive unnecessary renos of city hall which are not on schedule and will
Ho over budget we should be supporting these initiatives
With the high taxes in OS already, I would not support collecting more for recreation. I would support using the tax dollars wisely to find more in budget for recreation.
We pay enough taxes plus the fees we pay for Ladies & Mens slo pitch in this town is outrageous for the poor diamond conditions. The only time any money is put into Duncan is when there is a Fastball tournament.
I don't think we need more parks, I think we need to properly use and promote the facilities that we already have. Example - open skating times at 12noon weekdays are great for retired people or preschoolers, I realize we have a large hockey community, but let's make the schedule open and available online so people can see when there is availability. Drop in yoga or aerobic programs for parents while practices are scheduled would be fantastic at the Bayshore. The Y needs to promote their programs better at the rink so that parents know what is available during their child's ice-time.
An alternative to increasing fees and taxes would be to create community-building activities where people can offer get-together classes (one class to seasonal classes.) The venue, organization and promotion are needed.
Programs & services have to remain accessible no matter the income level!!
Taxes are too high now

<p>surcharges and fees are barriers to some in our community--taxes are a fairer allocation so that all members of the community share responsibility for the recreation needs of all members of the community--it should be tax based and not reliant on added usage fees</p>
<p>Taxes are already very high in Owen Sound. I do not believe people would be very happy for an increase in taxes as not everyone uses the facilities.</p>
<p>I would be willing to pay more in taxes for a better infrastructure for cycling in Owen Sound.</p>
<p>There are enough parks and facilities. Don't need more. Just take care of what we have.</p>
<p>These items should be part of property taxes. I am a taxpayer with no children and I would not support surcharges. The city should pay for itself. It benefits from visitors to our area.</p>
<p>Where would that money come from? If my taxes increase AGAIN I'm leaving. It's getting ridiculous. User fees are the way to go.</p>
<p>I feel the programs offered center around the YMCA, so in order to access the programs in Owen Sound they have a monopoly on programming and in turn pricing.</p>
<p>Surcharges limit the access of poor working class children and they are the ones that benefit the most from community programs.</p>
<p>Taxes already very high compared to similar municipalities.</p>
<p>I would like to make sure that staff receive training. Put that in the budget.</p>
<p>Taxes and fees are already high and yet the money is wasted on frivolous expenses like the Canada Day festival</p>
<p>The head of parks &amp; open space is over paid!</p>
<p>Prefer a tax increase as taxes are more than reasonable / affordable</p>
<p>I believe the heavy emphasis on supplying money to all of the arts programs needs to be re-examined. The theatres and art galleries cost too much money. Reduce fire complement and increase police to make our streets safe to enjoy.</p>
<p>Tourists would not want to pay extra and would just go somewhere else</p>
<p>I would like recreation program fees to be geared more towards user pay, but parks should be tax supported, and enhanced to the best of our ability. Owen Sound's green spaces and waterfront are what set it apart from more urban communities, and it is worth it to invest in those assets to attract residents who value beautiful, accessible green spaces.</p>
<p>Some of the parks around Owen Sound never been used</p>
<p>I feel strongly that Owen Sounders do not need to pay any additional taxes, and that our current recreation, parks and facilities are excellent.</p>
<p>We have the hugest tax dollars in our two counties (higher than Bruce power communities) there is no way tax dollars should be raised to better our facilities. Owen Sound needs to budget their tax dollars better as it is!!!!!!</p>
<p>That's stupid. It's the same as a tax increase- call it what it is. If you collect it via my tax bill, it's taxes. If you charge me at the gate, it's a fee. Don't try and trick people with language/semantics.</p>
<p>I think the city focuses too much on appearance maybe spend less on flowers and watering of them and more on what it's residents actually want.</p>
<p>I think that many of the facilities are being used by residents living outside of Owen Sound. Those of us living in the city pay high taxes to maintain many of these facilities that people living outside the tax base use but don't pay enough for.</p>
<p>As I am a resident of Georgian Bluffs and currently the city offer's no recreation program or activities that I am interested in, this area is difficult for me to assess.</p>

We don't need indoor recreational centres as badly as we need outdoor fitness programs and activities. Cross country ski trails, hiking trails, and biking trails. Being outdoors is so good for us mentally and physically. Indoor facilities are far more expensive to maintain and operate. Put bike rentals in Harrison Park or along the Waterfront for tourists and families in the community.
Give Owen Sound residents a discount and charge non-residents more.
It depends where the money goes. I would be upset to pay anymore for money to fix up soccer fields rather than ball fields when the majority of the adult population alone play some kind of ball (slo-pitch, fastball or baseball).
I don't think it would be fair to increase property taxes as everyone already complains about how high they are when not everyone will use the recreational facilities.

33. Please indicate your preferred method for staying informed of recreational and leisure programs offered by the City of Owen Sound where 1 indicates 'would likely not use' and 3 indicates 'would likely use.'

- Most likely methods to be used include: **social media, email messages, the City's website, word of mouth and mobile apps**
- The least likely method to be used includes: **voicemail messages, newspaper advertisements, school flyers, flyers in public spaces, text messages and mobile apps**

Additional comments:

- Website needs a lot of work
- Need everything in one place
- A town directory – what is out there?
- Social media needs to be used

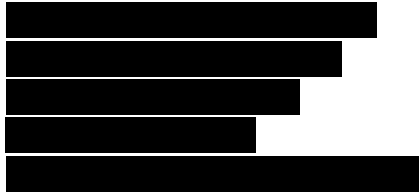
34. Contact information

Emails of those who should be sent the master plan when complete:

[Redacted contact information]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Final question (#35)**

Any additional feedback?

Thank you for creating this survey. It is very important to request input from the community
I know that the library is technically an independent board but funding for it is from the City primarily and I would think that I am not the only person thinking that recreation planning needs to consider library programs and services
dedicated cross country ski trails in Harrison Park
Do not create fields of memorial trees, parks are not cemeteries. Put plaques for existing trees flat in the ground.
The reality is that families like mine can't afford the YMCA. Which is sad because there was a time we could afford it. Our income levels have not changed but our expenses have. So we rely on Harrison Park and Kelso Beach. I love the Kiwanis Park and the Slash Pad. You could expand the bird pens with the Peacocks. Buy nicer fencing for the ducks. You could also consider keeping the paddle boats and canoes out longer for the weekends until it gets cold. It's beautiful in the fall. Since Harrison Park is our main Park you might want to consider making it assessable in winter time as well. Or at least certain areas for people in wheelchairs.
I added a note about the safety and dysfunction of the south parking lot at the rec center. The U shape, small parking spots and lack of safe walkway to the arena doors, especially in the winter are hazards. Please consider removing the medium and over-sized shrubs. More space and safe walking is more important.
Duncan Ball parks are disgracefully. Fix the ballparks or build new ones i.e. The old Pittsburgh plant area would be a great option to build new ballparks.
This is a good method of getting input. Thank you
Dance/Fitness / Yoga Centre / Wellness Centre
I understand that Owen Sound markets itself as a retirement area but it's a shame how the youth programs (i.e. - lacrosse) have died due to the out of town fees. I honestly believe the City should take care of its youth to promote healthy active living.
Would love to see turf in the Bayshore. Enhances our Lacrosse program. Also allows for possibility to host National Lacrosse League Exhibition games and grow the sport in our community.
Owen Sound is a beautiful city because of the many parks, green spaces and the water. We need to protect these community spaces for the future, and acknowledge how they contribute to the quality of life for all citizens, and for the health of the local environment. Please protect green spaces, natural areas, beaches and connecting trails and ensure everyone has easy access.
Leave the small parks alone, families enjoy these for special family times and celebrations.
Soccer is growing massively throughout Canada, the need for year round facilities is contrasting this. Having an indoor facility to meet these needs would benefit not just soccer, but several other sports and activities.
More tennis courts please!
It would be WONDERFUL to see a dedicated space for indoor soccer with turf, indoor lacrosse area.

Harrison Park is the heart and soul of this town. Get that pool fixed up.
I encourage the city to construct an indoor sports field. If council is unwilling to fund the project, it should become part of the Master Plan so that it is shovel-ready when other sources of funding become available as Guelph/Eramosa Township had the foresight to do: <a href="https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/2750125-marden-sports-facility-taking-shape/">https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/2750125-marden-sports-facility-taking-shape/</a>
It's dangerous to have counsellors advocating for fewer parks before research or consultation has been done. Neighbourhood parks are really important as social mixing places and spots for folks to go outdoors who might not otherwise have access. We could better develop the local parks with basics (like proper picnic tables) or look to other communities for new ideas including community gardens, exercise equipment, chess and checker tables, pizza ovens, dedicated barbecue areas, Frisbee golf nets, giant chalk boards, and any number of other interactive and engaging installations. The Y and local sporting agencies do good work but there's room to improve the more informal and citizen driven initiatives that we offer. You could even do things like move the summer movie feature to a different park every week so that people without transportation can more easily access them and so that other folks get to better know different corners of the city. Sports aren't accessible to everyone and a truly engaging and accessible parks and rec plan would zoom out to make sure that there's something for every single demographic and ability level to access.
Would like to see a facility with indoor turf.
The space is needed but the programming can be flexible. An indoor turf facility would serve many uses brought forward by the public. Schools could use during the day and public in the evenings to meet operational costs. Discuss options with BWDSB.
An indoor sports facility would serve a great deed for the kids who do not get all year round coaching there are not enough time for try-outs in spring an indoor facility for soccer and baseball tennis and basketball. We could have great teams.
Safe, active transportation networks are needed. Bikers are having to share the road with cars, scooters, e-bikes, etc. We need a more comprehensive trails system that connects to various parts of the city, increase SHADE throughout main walking corridors, have community gardens, flowers, access to water, access to information plaques, encourage a more walkable environment.
get rid of the out-of-town fee to create a regional recreational, healthy supporting community
Mr. Robert Blundell has turned soccer field maintenance into an art form. If there was a Nobel Prize for soccer field maintenance he would be a shoo-in!
We want the option of natural burial, healthier food and beverage choices are rec facilities. No candy machines. Refill stations for water bottles.
This is a beautiful planet, "we" need to change our approach to individuals taking responsibility for our areas rather than expecting "the government" or "the city" to take care of all of these areas. "We could do better"
I think that a turf facility (such as a bubble) to allow sports to be played throughout the winter would be a great addition to the community.
I think this is a great idea and hope that something does come out of this. I am hoping that our city will communicate better and work towards becoming a healthier and active community.
We used to use the YMCA frequently when it was downtown. Now, it's simply too far for us to walk (with young children) and transportation is an issue. Also, the new open concept means we pretty much have to be in the sun and with a sun allergy, it's an issue. It's nice to have a park nearby but it would be nice if we could go swimming again like we used to do.
An artificial playing surface is needed and would be used by many different groups and organizations and benefit all who use it.

Greater use of Bayshore Parking area; Upgrade Kelso Amphitheater; Upgrade Kelso Beach to something similar to Sugar Beach in Toronto.
Turf field would help get on the fields faster in the spring and after heavy rains in the summer
Indoor Soccer Turf Zone is the one thing many people would benefit from. Our soccer complex has been renovated. I know Barrie has one, London, Toronto. If we were to design one it would draw more attraction to the city.
Owen Sound need a turf facility/field indoor soccer field for kids, youth and adults
I feel Owen Sound needs to add an indoor turf field for soccer so we can compete with other cities where the kids can play all year round.
Parks and allowing healthy living are the main Priorities in attracting and retaining people to the area and needs to be supported strongly
Would really support a turf pitch for soccer.
I would stress the need for an indoor soccer (turf field) facility. Many other user groups would use it other than soccer. Ball could practice in winter as could lacrosse and numerous other sports. An outdoor turf field would also be very beneficial to the city and outdoor sports organizations.
Too much tax money is being spent on recreation.
I strongly agree that if we had a covered facility where kids could practice effectively for their sports would be able to give us a competitive edge with teams from outside Owen Sound. This could also allow teams to host tournaments all year round. This could also result in making an extra form of revenue to help offset some of the costs.
tennis courts Outdoor skating rink not taken over by hockey players
We are decades behind other communities that have indoor turf fields- lacrosse, soccer, baseball, rugby, football, and slo-pitch would fill the facility if it were built. We need 3-4 fields indoors.
OS is in need of a turf field or dome. Our competitive outdoor sports teams and school teams are at a distinct disadvantage to those of the surrounding cities.
Soccer is the fastest growing sport in the country. It would wonderful to see the city support that. Hockey's registration is way down, and has been for a few years. There isn't even enough interest to offer a House League program. Therefore wouldn't it be prudent to greater support another sport that is growing in popularity & is more economically obtainable for the residents of the city and surrounding area?
I feel an opportunity was missed when the new y was built. That would have been the perfect opportunity to include a turf surface.
A turf surface or dome would be used by so many groups within the city and surrounding area, it would be a revenue stream by the rental fees, but could help the many small businesses of the city by attracting visitors. Families would travel from surrounding areas & therefore seek out other services in the city (shopping, restaurants etc.)
I went to the public meeting regarding the Master Plan but had difficulty finding this survey even though I was well aware of it.
Maintain the current parks and add more whenever possible.
We don't have enough availability to those who come for lacrosse, hockey, and baseball tournaments. I hear nothing but negative comments from others about food services and things to do in between games.



I think overall Owen Sound has a good selection of parks and recreation. There are some things they need to do to make it better and keep costs down for families. I think the City should look at how the Y is being run. Personally I feel the costs are too high as well as the customer service is very poor. Our family does not use the facilities at all anymore. We used to use the swimming lessons programs but have found it is too hard to get into. The only thing we use there now are the rink pads.

I feel that cleaning up our parks is a fine idea. I am concerned with the amount of graffiti that happens around the city and the amount of loitering that happens all of the hard work going into cleaning up the parks would just be a waste.

Duncan McLellan Ball Field hosts many of the adult recreation opportunities in Owen Sound. An incredibly busy park with excellent potential. Once a hub for large events, and still host to some provincial and national events for slo-pitch and fastball. Participation in both of these sports has grown rapidly in recent years. Duncan McLellan needs massive upgrades to continue to support organizations that bring these events to Owen Sound. Comparing Owen Sound's ball diamond facilities with other centres will easily show that we are lagging far behind the upgraded sports complexes in centres in Southern Ontario that draw from the same supporting population (considering that players that use the facilities at Duncan McLellan are from all over Grey and Bruce). In 2016 there was a ladies provincial tournament and a boy's bantam national tournament in a two-week span which brought hundreds of players, coaches and families to Owen Sound. The facilities barely supported play at this level (drainage, fencing, etc.).

This is not a random survey. You will get a distorted picture of the needs and interests of the general population. Special interest groups can easily dominate this kind of survey.

Don't get rid of any parks, will never be able to get them back. There might be a lot of small parks but it only takes the boys 10 mins to cut them so leave them be

Most of the Baseball diamonds in the City are not wheelchair accessible. St. Georges is not wheelchair accessible at all for a spectators to sit with others and watch the game. They have to stay in the parking lot or their vehicle. Duncan Park needs sidewalks coming into the diamond for people to use their wheelchairs on to get to the stands to watch the game

My family really enjoys making use of Harrison Park, Kelso park, visiting greenwood Cemetery, Grey Roots museum, The Public Library, Using any trail we come across, And always take in the Saturday Farmers Market when we are in Owen sound.

I strongly believe that our community is shifting towards a healthier focus. Our adult slo-pitch registration has increased 11% in the women's league, and approximately 15% in the men's league. We don't have to pay an "out of area" registration fee. We pay the same fee regardless of where we reside. But our fees only cover diamond prep and teardown, very little is allocated towards improvement. (Better fencing, leveling fields and updating washroom facilities.) If you organize it, they will come.

I think a great program to start promoting would be Sundays in the park. Let's get back to community. Run a radio campaign to encourage people to get out into our open spaces, perhaps then our wealthier residents see the parks being utilized they would be willing to donate to projects that have meaning, like playground upgrades, better fences and other updates.

The recent improvements on the trails and waterfront areas are great. Keep up the good work.

The staff at all the facilities are great

Cost recovery for staff time could be billed to organizers. What I mean is when staff assist in road closures like the Bayshore Race as an example there should be a fee for that service.
Harrison Park- A definite need to repair the road way. Also, fix the drainage area near the parking lot entrance. A new ditch could assist with the wet areas.
It is a problem!
Please increase the number of doggy bag dispensers in Harrison park
I suggest a free drop-in downtown exercise facility for the people who live in the downtown area.
Cut the budget, sell unnecessary parks to developers. Deep down, most residents understand this is the right decision.
There is not enough maintenance that is done on sports fields - soccer fields are kept up enough, baseball fields are hardly maintained, which is unsafe for the people playing on them. No enough parking at St. George's baseball field. Not enough gym space for sports, not enough soccer fields for recreational teams. No racquet sports facilities - i.e. minimal tennis courts, no courts for racquet ball
Unfortunately most "users" are only focused on the activities and/or facilities that impact themselves directly. I'm no different. I don't care about soccer (for example). The hockey league I run is quite satisfied with our current rental of the JMRRC. Suits our needs perfectly. The Men's Slo-Pitch league is another matter. Slo-Pitch has grown exponentially over the past 20 years and we have outgrown the facilities. Duncan McLellan park is a neglected disaster and Tom Williams Park is a "baseball" diamond. I have heard another rumour lately that minor baseball wants to "take back" Tom Williams Park and squeeze Men's Slo-Pitch out completely (even though we have 40 more teams than they do). The bottom line is that the City truly needs to do a complete overhaul of Duncan McLellan (including adding a 4th diamond in the area that is now used a parking lot beyond the outfield fence of Duncan Major) or...construct a new facility somewhere. I understand there are approximately 80 Slo-pitch teams in Owen Sound when you combine men's, ladies and co-ed. Unlike fastball that has been on the decline for over a decade, slo-pitch continues to grow. We have been able to get by with the diamonds we have but compared to other (and often much smaller) communities, our main ball complex is an embarrassment. Thank you for taking the time to request the feedback of the residents/users.
Hoping that you will focus on adding activities and infrastructure that will not ultimately rely of parents to pay fees for kids to use. Avoid concentrating on sports like hockey that are hard to afford and offer limited opportunities.
I would volunteer to help with this planning process.
I believe the city is doing a phenomenal job in this area for those involved. Of course the bottom line is ....get MORE of those involved ...thank you??
Did I mention this city needs squash courts?
Some neighborhood parks seem to be underutilized (like Timber McArthur) I would be nice to close these and refurbish the parks that are used more regularly.
There seem to be a lot of parks that resemble empty green space. Green space is great but not at a cost to the tax payer for maintenance and insurance liability. Take a real hard look and make some tough, unpopular choices.
We need a couple more decent sized baseball diamonds for slo-pitch. Also need to do a lot of work to outfield grass for our current diamonds to keep them safe.
Owen Sound and the community have been doing a pretty amazing job with sports and rec! Keep up the great work. Let's work to make things accessible and welcoming to everyone, and make Owen Sound the regional hub it should be.

<p>Nice survey, thank you. Also - PLEASE can we do something about hockey players firing pucks around my young kids on skating days at the Harrison Park rink? I don't think I have ever been there on a skating day without hockey players all over the place. Otherwise rec situation is awesome. Thank you.</p>
<p>Your last public forum showed that Owen Sound Minor Baseball is the only sport organization that saw growth over the last 3 years. In fact it doubled in size while all other groups saw a decline in registrations. Yet the ball diamonds we use are unsafe and poorly maintained. All the money goes to the arenas and other areas.</p>
<p>Need to put more time and effort into maintaining the condition of fields.</p>
<p>Need to control the heat in the Bayshore, no need for the Bayshore to be that warm all the time it is an arena.</p>
<p>I'd like to see work done to Duncan north and south outfield. They are dangerously uneven and have ruts that you could easily break an ankle in. St. George's is a better field but the drain on the left side of the outfield and the walking path is also dangerous. There is no fence around St. George's so it allows people to walk through your game so everyone has to stand and wait for the game to resume.</p>
<p>Please do NOT change the dirt infields at Duncan major and Duncan south ball diamonds to the crushed stone dust that is on Duncan north. Please change Duncan north infield back to the dirt infield. Please level out all the outfield at Duncan ball diamonds. The leagues that use the Duncan ball diamonds have a lot of people in the trades that would be willing to volunteer their time and skills to upgrade the benches/ grand stands/ fences.</p>
<p>Consider the recreational value of libraries. Realized half way through that you were ignoring this important resource and it's essential programs—not sure why</p>
<p>The city needs to stop planting trees in Harrison Park. Open spaces are being diminished to the point where the popular GBKOC dog show may have to move due to limited space.</p>
<p>Some of the parks I been at in the city is good BUT some are filled with garage and broken equipment and some time the grass has never been cut.</p>
<p>Please build some squash courts!</p>
<p>Keep our trails and parks and waterfronts free, clean, accessible to everyone and as natural as possible. Owen Sound is known for its natural beauty, lets enhance that and not take it away.</p>
<p>Your age breaks in the early question are not mutually exclusive!</p>
<p>This survey seems to be directed to increasing spending on parks and recreation in the city. The city is blessed with opportunities for all ages. Increased spending is a habit the city has become addicted to. Make do with what we have and work on improving or altering that with what is already being spent.</p>
<p>Bicycle rentals within the city at Harrison Park and along the waterfront for tourists. Cross country ski rentals in Harrison Park with groomed trails.</p>
<p>We pay high taxes in Owen Sound....more than the surrounding area.....we should be getting a discount at the y. For a family of 3 it would cost us almost 100.00 a month which is way too much. Because we own our house we don't qualify for subsidized membership.</p>
<p>Parks staff do a terrific job!</p>
<p>I think we need some big improvements on the Owen Sound ball parks they are in terrible condition and clubs pay good dollars for these and no improvements have been done in years. The stands are in very bad shape. Would love to see some major work done to these facilities.</p>

-we need more spaces in the learn-to-swim program

-squash/racquetball courts would be a great addition to our facilities.

Would love to see more soccer fields with lights so we can play at night.

Would love to have an indoor turf facility so we can play sports throughout the winter on a soft and safe floor.

Please bring back the rock climbing wall at the YMCA

# City of Owen Sound Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan Update

## We Want Your Input!

### Question 1:

What is your level of satisfaction with existing recreation, parks and facilities in Owen Sound? What are the 3 things you appreciate, and what 3 things would you like to see improved upon?

1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

### Question 2:

Develop a list of recreation, parks facilities and trails that you currently use. Using your list, how could these facilities be improved (maintenance, size of space, programming, accessibility)? What barriers exist to participating and using recreation, parks and trails in Owen Sound?

**Question 3:** What new programs would you like to see offered to the community? What programs would you like to see expanded upon?

**Question 4:** Are there enough parks and trails? Are existing parks and trails well located for ease of use? Are there parks and/or trails that could be improved upon so that they would be better utilized? Please identify these parks and trails.

**Question 5:**

Would you support the idea of altering the use of under-utilized parks and open spaces in order to improve their usage and meet the changing recreation needs of residents?

## Owen Sound – Recreation and Facilities Master Plan Update Feedback from September 27<sup>th</sup> Consultation Session

### Complete Transcription

**Q1. What is your level of satisfaction with existing recreation, parks and facilities in Owen Sound? What are the 3 things you appreciate and what 3 things would you like to see improved upon?**

#### Key Takeaways

##### *Appreciate/satisfied with...*

- Strong satisfaction with the YMCA, Harrison Park and trails/surrounding natural areas
- Recent updates (new washrooms/Bayshore improvements) are well received
- Stakeholders like the size and diversity of parks and facilities in Owen Sound
- Happy with the Julie McArthur Region Recreational Centre and partnership with the YMCA
- New splash pad at Kelso Beach

##### *Needs improvement...*

- Pickleball facilities and other activities designed for seniors
- Baseball diamonds in need of significant improvement/repairs
- Would like to see more multi-use trails
- Demand for more indoor activities in the winter (facility with turf)
- Payment structure for YMCA programs/minor sports (option for single use)
- More trees/more native trees
- Better use of underutilized parks/facilities; leverage partnerships to improve usage (Seniors Centre)

#### Transcribed from Flip Chart

##### *Appreciate...*

- YMCA and programs offered – rec centre
- Seniors centre
- Partnerships
- Addition of ice pads
- Variety of facilities and proximity
- Availability of ball fields
- Harrison Park

##### *Improve...*

- Use of other space – rental
- Trails – Connect and complete

- General maintenance
  - Conditions of fields, area around parks and facilities
- Outdoor pickleball
- Size of baseball and hardball field
  - Number of baseball fields
- Trees
- Member vs. non-member availability
- Use of fields for specified sports (E.g. ultimate frisbee)
- Tennis Courts
- Artificial turf

## Transcribed Worksheet Responses

Satisfaction Level	Appreciate	Needs Improvement
Fairly Satisfied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thought put into shade trees and placement of benches</li> <li>• Locality of small parks</li> <li>• Lots of great opportunities for recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground/exercise equipment for adults around kids parks</li> <li>• Interconnection of trails and bike lanes need improvement</li> <li>• Programming for children seems to disregard afternoon naps</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity of park space use</li> <li>• Ease of access and location</li> <li>• Openness to the new trends, activities and needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of multi-use trails- network, maintenance and distance markings</li> <li>• A greater emphasis on participation based on outdoor spaces</li> <li>• More outdoor courts for tennis, pickleball, etc (adaptable spaces)</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better management</li> <li>• Failure to provide winter, low budget management of highly popular harboursides and Harrison Park.</li> <li>• Lacking the little, affordable improvements ie for cross country skiers</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of parks</li> <li>• Tourists</li> <li>• Harbourside</li> <li>• Art Banners</li> <li>• Splash pad</li> <li>• New benches on walkway at Kelso and new water facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C.F. funding issues</li> <li>• Non-resident fee</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of available baseball fields in Owen Sound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball fields are not maintained</li> <li>• Fields are unplayable when it rains</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball diamonds are in bad condition (except at Duncan)</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety issues which have been a problem for 5+ years</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball courts</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• YMCA centre</li> <li>• Ball diamonds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrison Park is dangerous</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball is too expensive</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie McArthur Centre</li> <li>• Kiwanis Soccer Field</li> <li>• Walking Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Softball diamonds need to be maintained and the infield needs to be improved</li> <li>• Not safe to sit on wooden bleachers behind home plate- rotting boards at ball diamonds</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational fields are kept in good shape and restricted play when weather conditions make possible deterioration of field conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see large field area developed for more access to fields (i.e. soccer Frisbee)</li> <li>• Fields are dominated by soccer</li> <li>• Indoor facilities such as a Dome with artificial turf fields</li> <li>• More water re-fill stations wanted in parks and facilities</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You (or some earlier people) picked a most appealing location. Open water, rivers, the "bone structure" of sedimentary rock</li> <li>• It seems that our predecessors were aware of and made available or gave land, effort, ideas that benefit us today and posterity</li> <li>• I am in some doubt about the management – doubt about the supervision of staff, communication gaps between staff and direction - Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No – just management</li> <li>• No – just management and knowledgeable foresight</li> <li>• Failure to provide winter low budget management of highly popular events harbourside and Harrison park too (lacking the little, affordable improvements – e.g. for X-country skiers)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball diamonds other than Duncan are in horrible condition</li> <li>• Safety issues are a major concern. Problems that have existed for 5 years or more still have not been dealt with</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball facilities good</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball cost too high</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in some park facilities</li> <li>• Recreational fields are kept in good shape and restricted play when weather conditions make possible deterioration of field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable access to sports at the YMCA. Pay for the activity instead of use of whole facility (e.g. \$5 for pickleball, not \$12 for pay as you play)</li> <li>• Access to sports fields for less popular sports, such as ultimate Frisbee. Fields dominated by soccer</li> <li>• Indoor facilities such as a dome/artificial turf fields. Want to see more refill stations in our parks and facilities.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of trails (Harrison, Kelso, Rail trail, Smith Bush, West Rock and Potawatami)</li> <li>• Upgrade to Rail Trail between sewage and waterfront</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More bike lanes on major roads out of down (e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue towards Legacy)</li> <li>• Lack of paved trails in Harrison (pave for multi-use)</li> <li>• Lack of Pickle-Ball facilities outdoors</li> <li>• Poor signage for all trails</li> </ul>
Pretty good – 8/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soccer centre</li> <li>• Julie McArthur Rec. Centre (Family Y)</li> <li>• Harrison Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add artificial turf field (at soccer complex)</li> <li>• More pickleball</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrison Park and all of the waterfalls in the area (diversity in parks, diversity in size of different parks)</li> <li>• Trails up to Inglis Falls</li> <li>• YMCA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball courts: absolutely necessary</li> <li>• You want seniors to move here</li> <li>• 18 new pickleball courts a day built in USE</li> <li>• Move off road bike parks through the city</li> <li>• Fix-up to a level of perfection things we do have – like tennis courts at OSDHS – do double use of facilities</li> <li>• Listen to experts in their fields – let them lead projects and follow their leads appreciatively (size of BB courts in YMCA)</li> <li>• I see too many projects seemingly driven by volunteers – lack of support from City Hall</li> <li>• Pave the back trail at Harrison – make it usable for multi-use</li> <li>• Loop the trails – bike Owen Sound the Thornbury</li> <li>• Artificial turf field</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YMCA facility</li> <li>• Harrison Park</li> <li>• Soccer Field/Kelso Beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated pickleball courts could be at tennis courts on west side – would need resurfacing and nets</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrison Park and trails along the river and Bay</li> <li>• YMCA facility</li> <li>• Soccer complex</li> <li>• Splash pad at Kelso</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty sports fields (e.g. soccer field at Kelso, empty ball diamonds) – not efficient use of space</li> <li>• Poor and limited facilities for Pickleball courts</li> <li>• Limited tree species and additional trees required for Kelso Beach – too many Norways, English Oak, etc.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Y is most impressive and when I'm in town I go everyday</li> <li>• Harrison park is a great facility – awesome hiking, camping, well maintained</li> <li>• The many hiking trails nearby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper outdoor pickleball courts</li> <li>• Paved bike trails at Harrison Park</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrison Park – wonderful natural landscape</li> <li>• Various conservation areas around Owen Sound</li> <li>• Small neighbourhood parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better use of parks – champing empty space into more usable space</li> <li>• More pickleball courts</li> <li>• Planting of more trees in key locations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrison Park</li> <li>• Trails to falls</li> <li>• JMRRRC</li> <li>• Hiking trail variety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tennis courts – OSDSS</li> <li>• Need to extend rail trail further (loop it)</li> <li>• Frisbee golf</li> <li>• More for seniors to stay physically active</li> <li>• Artificial turf – extend season</li> <li>• Improve pickleball</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• More trees in key places</li> <li>• Bike lanes on exit routes out of town</li> <li>• Better use of certain places (St. Julien, Pickleball, Basketball, Kelso Soccer Field)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harrison Park is a gem</li> <li>• Like kiddie play area at Bayshore</li> <li>• Love the new Y</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball courts (Harrison Park)</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor softball diamonds poor; fencing is poor; users fees hurt</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The YMCA for Pickleball</li> <li>• Playgrounds for kids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some proper outdoor pickleball courts in Owen Sound</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trails for hiking and biking</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close and accessible</li> <li>• Variety of facilities and parks</li> <li>• Spread out well</li> <li>• Soccer complex</li> <li>• YMCA is a huge plus</li> <li>• Variety of programs and rooms</li> <li>• Harrison Park (trails, ice pads)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No transit to special events</li> <li>• No events in proximity to those able to travel</li> <li>• Owen Heights</li> <li>• No indoor facility</li> <li>• Harrison Field – cannot put lights</li> <li>• Non-resident fee, poor fencing, poor diamonds at Harrison Fields</li> <li>• No outdoor pickleball – fastest growing sport</li> <li>• No turf field</li> <li>• No swimming lessons at park</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soccer complex</li> <li>• Harrison Park (trails in the summer)</li> <li>• Basketball courts</li> <li>• Ice pad in the winter</li> <li>• Rec Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a turfed field so our summery athletes can begin their season training earlier</li> <li>• Would like an indoor facility</li> <li>• Better relationship between schools and City to utilize facilities</li> <li>• Swimming lessons in the summer</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfied with recreational YMCA</li> <li>• Ball parks are usable; but needing improvement</li> <li>• Ice time/pick-up hockey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New facility for other sports (dome)</li> <li>• Dugouts for all diamonds – new surfaces for some diamonds (outfield needs improvement)</li> <li>• Reduce fees which will increase usage</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YMCA</li> <li>• Harrison Park/hiking trails</li> <li>• Financial assistance for lower income families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased costs for rent ice</li> <li>• Take away non-resident fee to increase volume in minor sports</li> <li>• More trees in open field in front of JMRR</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rec Centre and Y programs offered are excellent</li> <li>• Facilities at Kelso Park are excellent – splash pad and new washroom assets</li> <li>• Harrison Park – an excellent resource</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to see better partnership between active lifestyles Senior’s centre and Y – programming for these not comfortable</li> <li>• Bayshore is underutilized – more access for senior programs</li> <li>• Maintenance of grandstand – Victoria Park</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good for most things</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough activities for seniors – need a floor without ice so at least minor summer sports could practice during the winter months</li> <li>• A partnership between the Y and the Senior’s Centre would be beneficial</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have healthier food options available at recreation centre</li> <li>• Affordable sports teams for low income families</li> <li>• Opportunity for water recreation (rentals) around harbour</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lot of fields for practice baseball (just not suitable for baseball games)</li> <li>• Ryerson Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ball diamond conditions – level of service</li> <li>• Safety and liability (ball diamonds)</li> <li>• Holes in fences</li> <li>• Kinsmen most used – 7 days a week</li> <li>• Feeling attention given to larger parks and taking resources away from the diamonds</li> <li>• Recreation rental \$ directed back to facilities</li> <li>• Services identified in promotion should be provided</li> <li>• How are services prioritized – feel like other sports are prioritized</li> <li>• Bulldoze Harrison and create 2 new fields</li> <li>• YMCA sign up members before general public can access</li> <li>• Diamonds not suitable for tournaments, or safe for use</li> <li>• Lost tourism opportunity – if not satisfied with product provided</li> </ul>

**Q2. Develop a list of recreation, parks, facilities and trails you currently use. Using your list, how could these facilities be improved (maintenance, size of space, programming, accessibility)? What barriers exist to participating and using recreation, parks and trails in Owen Sound?**

**Key Takeaways:**

- Baseball diamonds require repairs/improvements (some safety/maintenance issues)
- Need to continue updating parks as they age
- There are some barriers around single usage at the YMCA – May want to explore alternative cost structures (e.g. Pay a low fee to play 1 game of pickleball)
- There is demand for improved connectivity between trails/parks in the City and to connect with other areas (Thornbury, Chatsworth, etc.)
  - Also demand to extend trails (e.g. Rail trail) and update trails for multi-use (paved, widened)

- Better promotion/publicity of trails
- Barrier for seniors – limited year round activities

## Transcribed from Flip Chart

- Paved spine
- Improve n<sup>hd</sup> parks
- Connectivity of trails
- Trails – outdoor/indoor
- Victoria Park
  - Seems underutilized (e.g. Grandstands)

### *Improve/Barriers*

- Pick and choose Y membership
- Bike lanes and trails
- Non-residential fee
- Owen Heights – increase utilization
- Add benches to trails
- Allocation of time
- Size/maintenance and safety of parks
- Size for tournament parking
- Age friendly in community

## Transcribed from worksheet

- Baseball diamonds\*\*\*\*\*
  - Diamonds not utilized for tournaments or safe for WMBA
  - Dugouts, outfield, in field – safety
  - Not enough diamonds to accommodate all the ball diamonds
  - Non-residents
  - Need boards replaced on wooden bleachers on Duncan Major Diamonds
  - Duncan Major and South diamond are sand pits
  - Major safety issues – large holes in fence (along First Base)
  - Only one hardball field for older players – need another field (we have to share with men' league)
  - Fields need to be better maintained (grass, benches, washrooms)
  - Maintenance not done to promised levels
  - Diamonds are not of the quality that a city of this size should be
- Baseball planning/schedules
  - Mens and ladies need deadlines to be ready
- YMCA \*\*\*\*
  - Cost even though subsidies available
  - Cost for single use/play is too high
  - Pick and choose Y membership
  - Figure out a way to allow visitors to play pickleball without paying for a full day

- Victoria Park \*\*\*
  - Better maintenance
  - Grand stand and facility beneath need rebuilding/removal
  - What is the purpose? Can it be the other complex if it stands and other building removed
- JMRRC \*\*
- Bike lanes/trails\*\*
  - Dis-continuity
  - Get bike lanes on major roadways
- Kinsmen – most used 7 days a week
- Natural shade features around facilities and parks
- Natural play areas/playground for children
- Bicycle racks around parks and recreation
- Soccer Centre
  - Takes a long time for fields to dry after winter melt – this is why we should invest in artificial turf field
- General
  - Residence fees should be dropped
  - Age friendly communities, accessibility to all areas
  - Fairness in planning and scheduling
  - No parking at library and art museum
- Seniors Centre
  - More room needed for seniors centre
  - Better connections
- Active lifestyles senior centre
  - Location/size are barriers
- Library/art gallery
  - Parking is a barrier
- North entrance of JMRRC
  - Better placement of accessibility buttons for opening door – more convenient placement
- Aquatic programs
  - Shortage of swim instructors, limits # of swim lessons Y offers, lose young adults to university/college
- Fees for sports
- Recreation Centre
- Minor sports
  - Non-resident
- Soccer Complex
- Owen Heights
  - Too big, no shade
  - Not impactful/useful for current demographic
- Hiking trails

- Pickleball
  - No good outdoor courts
  - Need to reduce rate for players (at YMCA) using pickleball only – fee for day is unfair and far too expensive for an hour or two of play. \$3 is an appropriate amount for pickleball only
- Mile drive/fitness trail
  - Pave for multi-use
  - Make it accessible
- Trails (Harrison Park; Potawatami Trails, Inglis Falls, Sarawak Tennis courts, Bruce Trail access)
  - Loop back into town (economic development benefit)
  - Better publicity of trails
  - Need better signage for trails
  - Keep existing rail trail towards Chatsworth
  - Extend the rail trail
  - Make Harrison Park one mile loop accessible
  - Use walking trails at Bayshore – inside and out
- Parks
  - Keep neighbourhood parks and use them better
  - Improve to meet needs today
  - Kelso Beach Park – Planting of more trees, add more planting areas for shrubs/flowers
  - St. Julian Park – improve and utilize the empty green space with more sports facilities, sitting areas to relax
  - More access to fields/parks
  - Waterfront Park – size
  - Harrison Park – Maintenance on fountains needed
  - Kelso Beach – widen trail for multi-use
  - Park at 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> Street – not well maintained
  - One mile drive – continue to improve
  - Kelso Park - Get Frisbee golf
- Age friendly community initiatives
- Enlist the minds and resources of staff – dig up Charles Benz (?) work as to how to do this
- Don't ignore small problem (cheap to fix)
- Closures of trails for engineering projects that don't get communicated to the users/public
- Little sign here of intelligent use of citizens to sit on committees and do work on projects – the volunteer idea was used in so many U.S. parks at all levels
- Indoor/outdoor running – other than the Bayshore, we have no year round exercise possibilities

**Q3. What new programs would you like to see offered to the community?  
What programs would you like to see expanded upon?**

**Key Takeaways**

- Strong demand for Pickleball (dedicated, outdoor court) and water related recreation (kayaking/rowing)



- Need to ensure program offerings for all age groups and diversity offered year round
  - Particular interest in programs for teens and seniors
- Interest in gardening programs
- Expansion of trails (extend, signage, multi-use)
- Some demand for updates to dog park – more naturalized (otherwise, improvements unspecified)

## Transcribed from Flip Chart

### *Offer...*

- Recreational pickleball
- All ages – participate at the same time
- + 2 play for adults
- Community gardens
- Teen focus programs
- Seniors shinny hockey
- Signage
- Loop old CP Rail Trail

### *Expand...*

- Programs age 15-19 – Group leagues
- Water recreation
- Program organizers
- Outdoor swim lessons
- Y members vs. non-members
- Improved access
- Transform tennis courts

## Transcribed from Worksheet

- Pickleball \*\*\*\*\*
  - Quality outdoor courts
  - Dedicated courts
  - Possible upgrading of Harrison Park or high school courts
- More gardening programs\*\*\*\*\*
  - Community Gardens – edible planting
- Teen programs\*\*\*\*
  - Add teen focused programs – not just sports (dance)
  - More participation 15-18 years old
- Expand water recreation opportunities \*\*\*\*\*
- Improve dog park \*\*
  - Change location to more natural
- Anything participation based with the possibility of daycare: rowing, kayaking, beginner sailing

- Multi-age group programs
  - More inclusion programming to span ages from kids to seniors – don't know what that would be but it would be great
- Minor lacrosse folded, baseball doubled
- Expand programs offered at YMCA to non-members
  - Opportunity lost if can't apply at same time
  - Inequality of registration dates and equal access
  - Fair opportunity to sign up at same for
- Senior programs that are affordable
- Recreational pickleball
- Road hockey facility
- Disputes at rink, at Harrison Park
- Partnerships between Senior's Centre and YMCA with City
- More 'learn to play' programs
  - For all ages
- Let people do their job with respect to running programs
- Swimming lessons back to outside
- More signage for education (interpretive signs)
- Expand CP Rail Trail
- Transform OSDSS courts to ball hockey and basketball
  - Outdoor basketball with other uses
- Better signage (uses, how to book, etc.)
- Greening of school campuses
- Planting of more trees
- Basketball courts/ball hockey
- Semi-professional soccer
- Consultation – get people that are living around these parks – they make a list of existing uses for their area
- Snowshoe group in winter as a daily activity based at Harrison Park
- Access to soccer fields for ultimate Frisbee team
- All programs at the YMCA offered to all city residents without preferences given to members
  - An equal playing field
  - If programs are already filled because of preference given to members, the general population is left out
- Expand on hardball diamonds – Owen Sound needs another field with a mound
- Looping of trails – Rail Trail
- Park benches and benches on walkways
- Outdoor swimming lessons
- Teen dances

**Q4. Are there enough parks and trails? Are existing parks and trails well located for ease of use? Are there parks and/or trails that could be improved**

upon so that they would be better utilized? Please identify these parks and trails:

## Key Takeaways

- There are enough parks and trails – need to ensure they are well maintained (have a clear purpose) and are connected
  - Participants seem happy with updates to Ryerson Park and used this as an example of how they would like other parks to be upgraded
- Trails/parks should be updated for more multi-use (paved and widened trails)
- Demand to upgrade ball diamonds

## Transcribed from Flip Chart

*Better utilize...*

- Tree planting – strategic areas
- Overall satisfied (enough parks and good locations)
- Connectivity could be improved

## Transcribed from Worksheet

- Bike lanes on specific hard shoulders on road leading out of town (Safety) \*\*
- Enough parks – altering use (shouldn't lose any)
- Ryerson appreciated – upgrade is great
- Community Hubs – consultation with neighbours
- Not enough ball diamonds of good quality for Owen Sound minor baseball
- Diamond maintenance is poor/non-existent
- Yes – better use would be to integrate both city and trails connected to the City
- Need trails that are bike friendly for multi-use – that are very long trails; loop trails
- Harrison Park is well located and used however if the trails were paved, there would be more participation
- Owen Sound has a variety of parks and trails that are well located
  - Harrison Park is a place of natural beauty and is well diversified
  - However, some smaller parks (e.g. St. Julian Park) could be better planned out
  - Rather than an empty greenspace, you could add sports facilities, areas of natural plants that provide relaxation spots
- Connectivity
- Re-pave Legacy Trail
- Pickleball Courts at Harrison Park
- Too few bike trails – they sometimes stop with no continuation nearby
- St. George's Park
  - New in-field surface
  - Improve outfield
  - Install shelters at baseball, soccer
  - Strategic tree planting – natural shade

- Improve diamonds to draw more tournaments to increase revenue for the City – Out of towners will spend more money
- More benches along longer trails
- Consultation with residents living in area before making changes
- Ryerson – well located
- Lots of little parks
  - Focus maintenance on most used (closer to underprivileged areas may be more use/need more upkeep)
- Seems like trails are borrowed –they are there, then change
- Park in centre – wartime houses around 5<sup>th</sup> street and 7<sup>th</sup> avenue East is old, worn, underutilized – could be a great recreation spot for kids, especially if park/playground at Bayview is removed/not maintained
- No – if you know where they are, they're ok (maintenance 5/10)
- Trail improvement – City section of Bruce Trail, Mile Drive, Harrison Park (Fitness Trail)
- Park – if it is there, what is its purpose? A park is not just a place where the grass is cut

## **Q5. Would you support the idea of altering the use of under-utilized parks and open spaces in order to improve their usage and meet the changing recreation needs of residents?**

### **Key Takeaways**

- Strong support for altering recreational use to ensure better utilization
  - Through consultation with neighbours
- Harrison Field may need to be redesigned to meet recreation needs (4 diamonds to 2 diamonds)

### **Transcribed from Flip Chart**

#### *Revise/repurpose...*

- Support to alter – but keep in system
- Harrison Field – 4 diamonds to 2 better diamonds
- Empty schools as community hubs
- Consultation needed if change – include community
- Ryerson Park – good example
- St. Julian Park – community garden
- Kelso Beach

### **Transcribed from Worksheet**

- Altering use – Yes, as long as still used for recreation \*\*\*\*\*
  - Yes, with consultation
  - Ryerson Park is a great example of investing in park to meet needs and improved uses

- St. Julian idea – basketball, pickleball, trees, naturalized, walkways, beaches
- Kelso Soccer field/ball diamond
- This would be a better solution than using the underutilized parks for building more houses
- Redesign parks so they are inviting for many of all ages
- More naturalized areas (pollinating areas), trails in specific spots
- Outdoor activities for aging population
- The soccer association does not use the field at Kelso – there exists a partial field at Commerette Park that we do not use
- Commerette Park hardly used
- Fields not being used – should be made into other large field (E.g. Harrison Field)
- Parks should incorporate the idea of indoor spaces for public access for recreation year round; not just continual reliance on school-based facilities
- We're not ready yet – It's a workable idea though
- Harrison Field – design not right
  - Could flatten and create 2 diamonds instead of 4 diamonds underused
- Empty schools – community hubs, new diamonds or programs
- YMCA could hold programs in other spaces (overflow)
  - Look to other communities – Like London
- More availability for community gardens
- Signage for what parks can be used for and cost/who to call
- Paper – post a full page ad with all activities, times, location of activities, etc.
- Strategic tree planting

# RECREATION, PARKS & FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE MEETING



7:00 PM  
DECEMBER 13, 2017

## PURPOSE OF THE UPDATE

The purpose of the update to the Recreation, Parks & Facilities Master Plan was to:

- Review demographic trends
- Identify recreation, parks and programming trends and gaps
- Identify service provision improvements/efficiencies
- Update the Master Plan according to analysis results
- Provide recommendations to implement vision to 2028



## MASTER PLAN 2007 IMPLEMENTATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The following recommended action items have been completed to date:

- ✓ Construction of the JMRRC
- ✓ Partnership with the Owen Sound Grey Bruce YMCA for programming
- ✓ New accessible playground at Harrison Park in partnership with Kiwanis
- ✓ Skate and Bike Park at Victoria Park
- ✓ New Dog Park in partnership with Miller Paving
- ✓ Trail improvements and partnership with Tom Thompson trail group
- ✓ Splash pad at Kelso Beach courtesy of the Scenic City Order Good Cheer
- ✓ New washroom/change room at Kelso Beach
- ✓ Completion of Master Plans for several parks

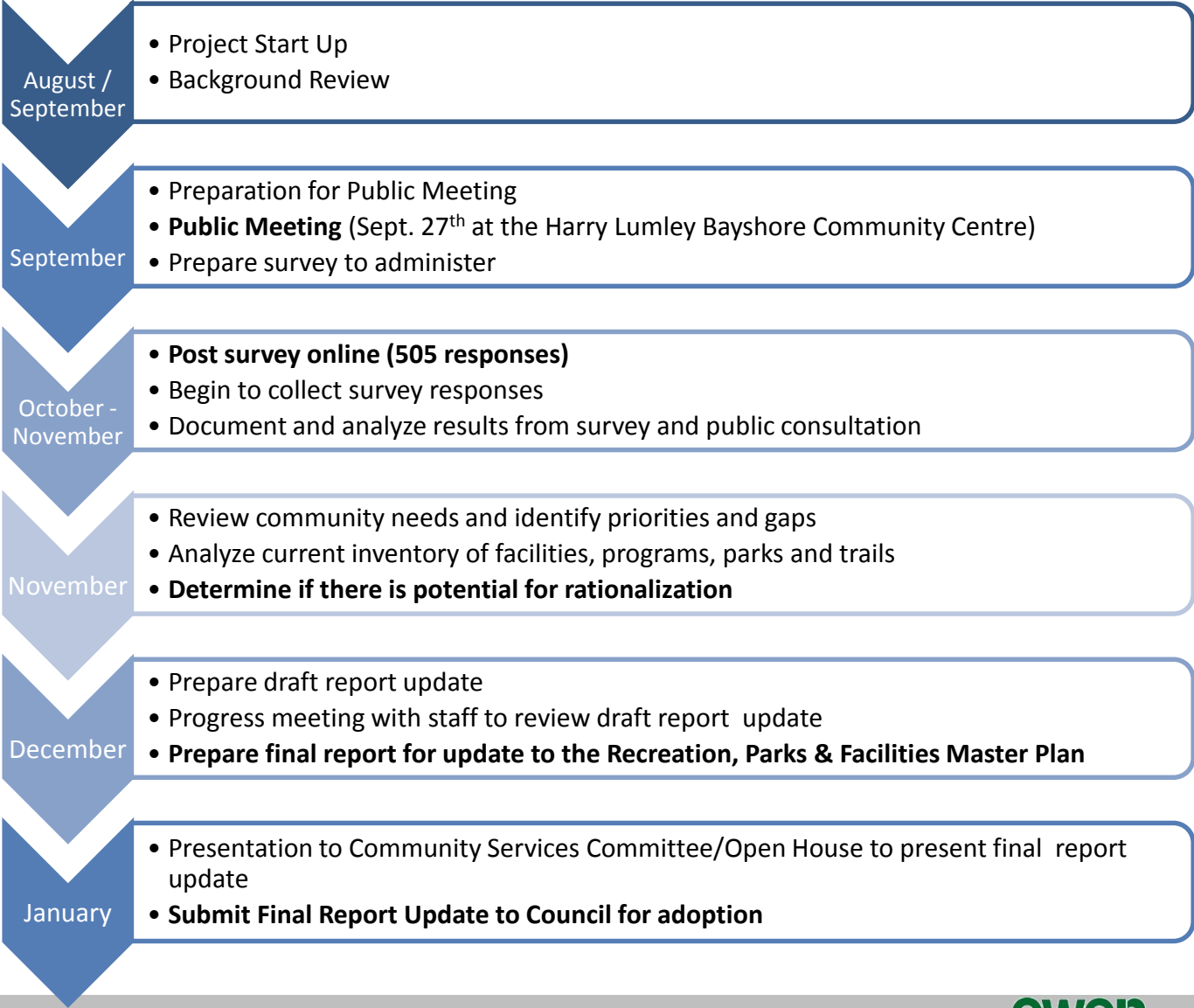


## Background & Scope

- Existing Plan was published in 2007
- Population make-up and statistics have changed
- Recreation programming needs trends have changed
- New recreation facilities
- New partnerships
- Service Review (2016)



# RECREATION, PARKS & FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE



## TRENDS IN RECREATION & PROGRAMMING

- Physical activity and wellness
- Children's participation
- Unstructured and spontaneous use opportunities
- Evolving role of community recreation
- Volunteerism (decline in number of volunteers)
- Social inclusion



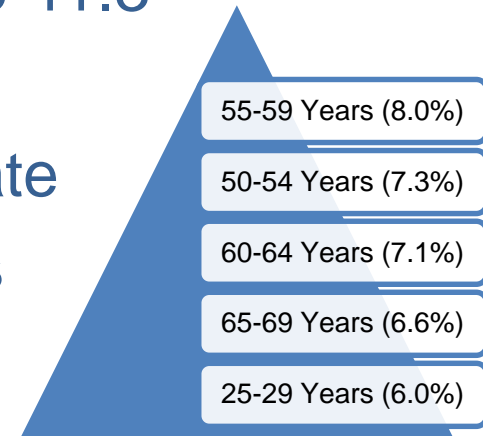
## TRENDS IN RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Creating opportunities for all under one roof
- Spaces that encourage social interaction
- Spontaneous and scheduled activities
- Integrating indoor and outdoor environments
- Including convenience amenities
- Multipurpose spaces and expandability
- Special events and competitions



## DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES (2016 Census)

- Population = **21,341**
- 2011 to 2016 population change = **-1.6%**
- Number of households did increase
- Median age of residents = **47.8** (compared to 41.3 for Ontario)
- 5<sup>th</sup> largest cohort is 25-29 years – May indicate growing centre for new and/or young families



Top five age cohorts, Owen Sound (Statistics Canada, 2016)

## KEY THEMES FROM STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

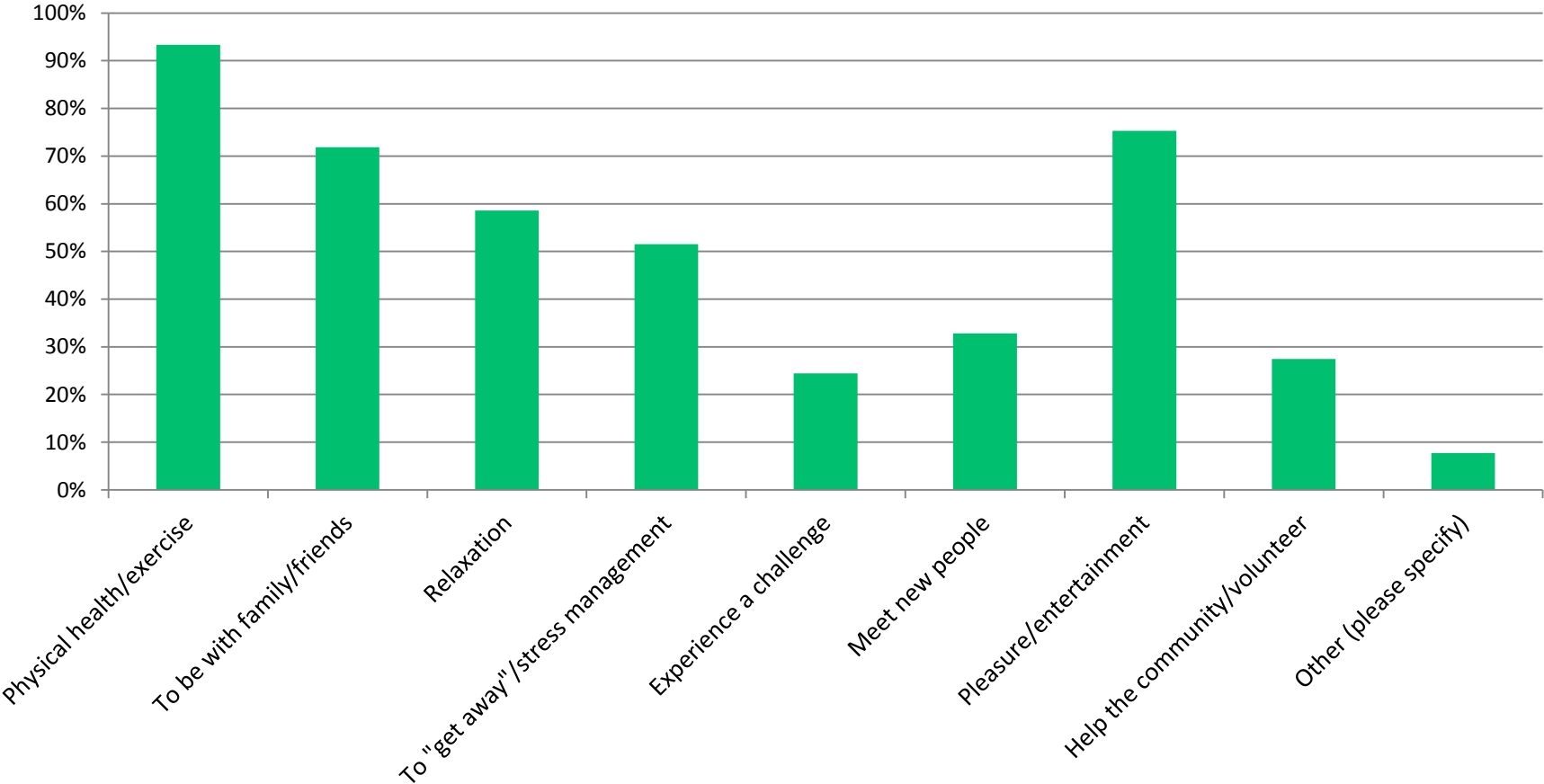
- Accessibility/Affordability
- Marketing & Communications
- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Desire for Indoor Turf Facility

*505 survey respondents*



## KEY FINDINGS

Key reasons household participate in recreational and leisure activities



# KEY FINDINGS

**Specific groups that survey respondents feel there are not enough recreational and leisure programs for**





# KEY FINDINGS: PRIORITY RANKING

Amenity	Rated Importance	Rated Quality and Maintenance
Parks	Blue	Blue
Play Structure Parks	Green	Green
Trails	Blue	Blue
Promenades/Boardwalks	Green	Blue
Bayshore Centre	Green	Blue
JMRRC	Green	Blue
YMCA	Green	Blue
Outdoor Rinks	Green	Green
Pools	Green	Green
Baseball Diamonds	Yellow	Yellow
Basketball Courts	Yellow	Yellow
Tennis Courts	Yellow	Red
Beach Volleyball	Red	Yellow
Soccer Fields	Green	Green
Public Beaches/Access to water	Blue	Yellow
Campgrounds	Yellow	Yellow
Bike Lanes	Green	Red
Dog Parks	Yellow	Green
Community Gardens	Green	Green
Splash Pads	Green	Blue

### Legend

Rated Importance	Rated Quality and Maintenance
Very important	Outstanding
Important	Good
Somewhat important	Fair
Least Important	Poor

## KEY FINDINGS

Key barriers to participation in recreation and leisure programs:

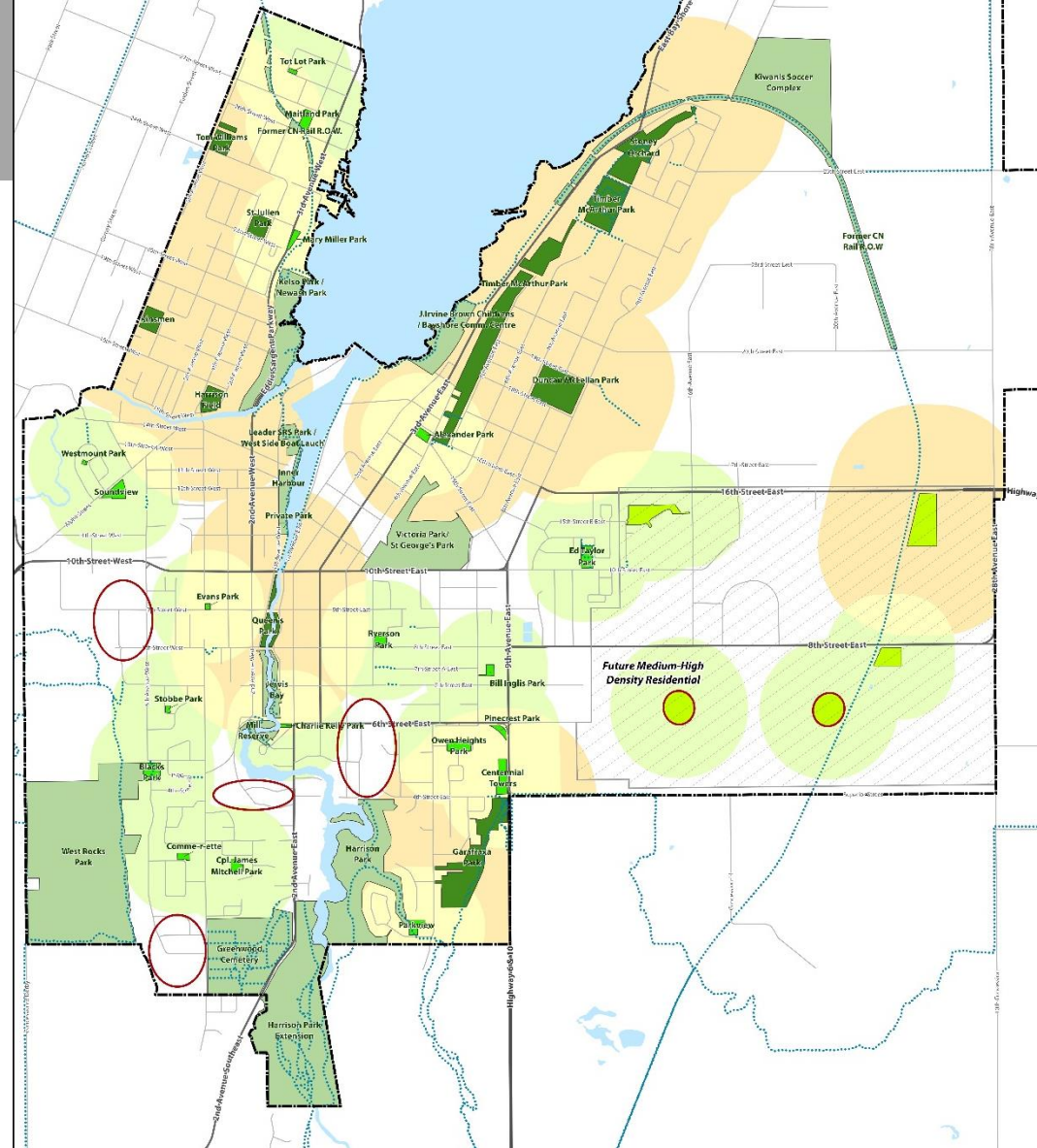
- Time (scheduling)
- Financial barriers

Top three new recreational programs/activities survey respondents would like to see offered in the City of Owen Sound:

1. Indoor turf facilities for year-round activities
2. Pickleball
3. Dancing lessons for adults

# PARK PROXIMITY ANALYSIS

- Red circles note gaps in the current parks system



## Parks

- Neighbourhood Parks
- Community Parks
- City Parks, Regional Parks, & Open Space Corridors
- Proposed Parks - Sydenham Heights

## Proximity Analysis

- Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood Park (300m)
- Within Walking Distance of a Community Park (500m)
- Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood and Community Park
- Areas to Assess for Potential Parks

# PARK PROXIMITY ANALYSIS





## Quadrant 1

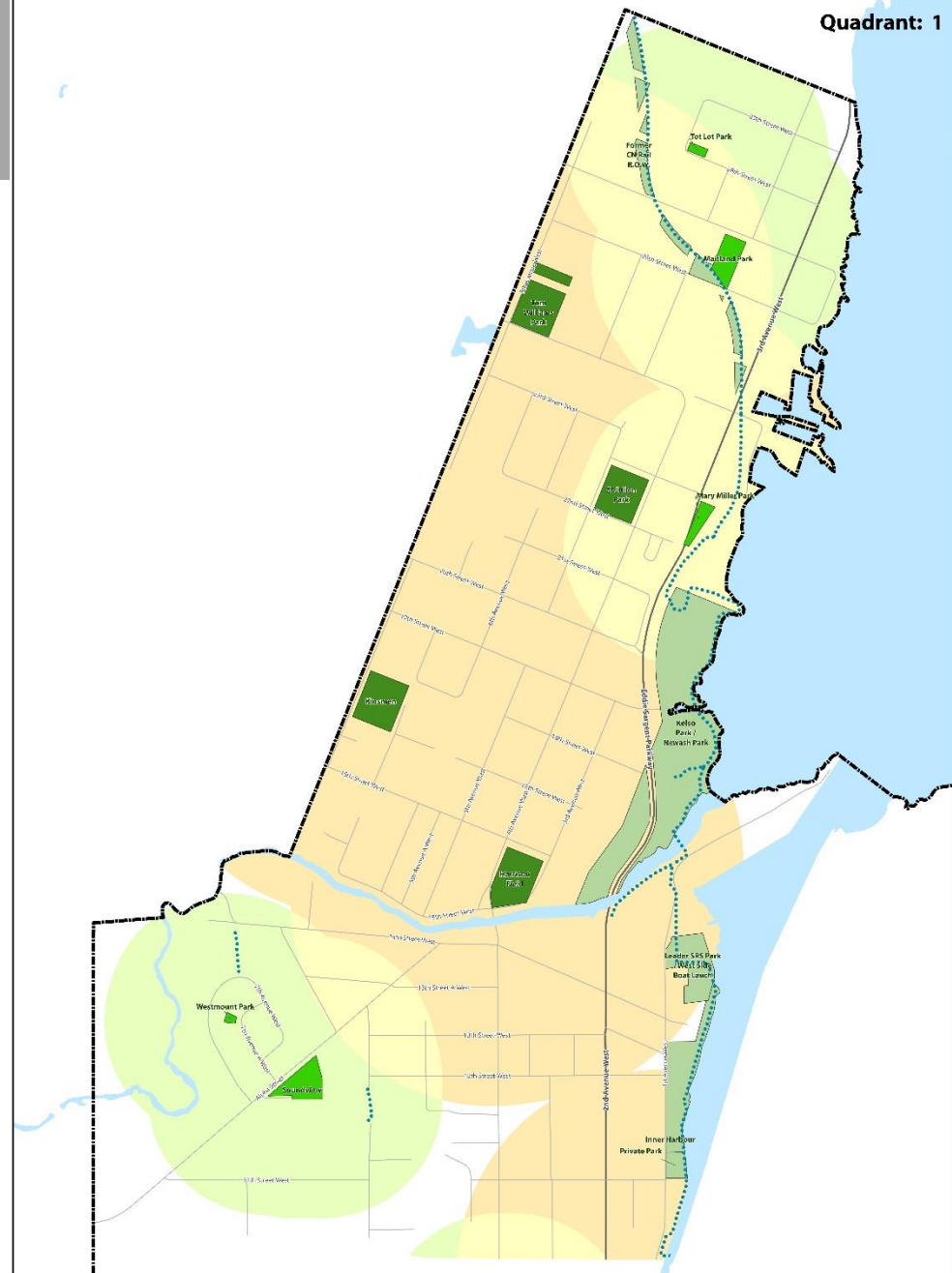
Quadrant: 1

### Parks

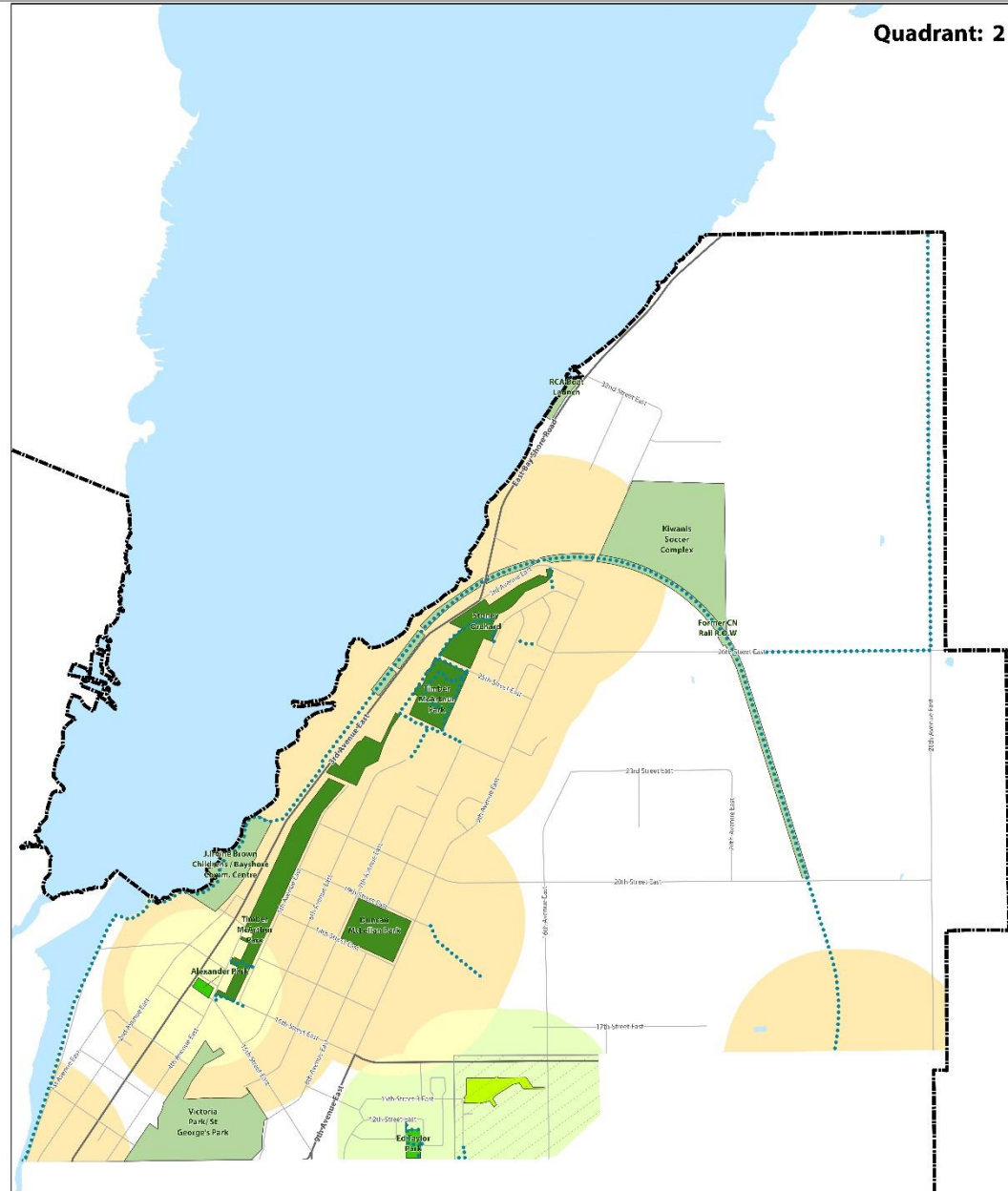
-  Neighbourhood Parks
-  Community Parks
-  City Parks, Regional Parks, & Open Space Corridors
-  Proposed Parks - Sydenham Heights

### Proximity Analysis

-  Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood Park (300m)
-  Within Walking Distance of a Community Park (500m)
-  Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood and Community Park
-  Areas to Assess for Potential Parks







# PARK PROXIMITY ANALYSIS Quadrant 2



### Parks

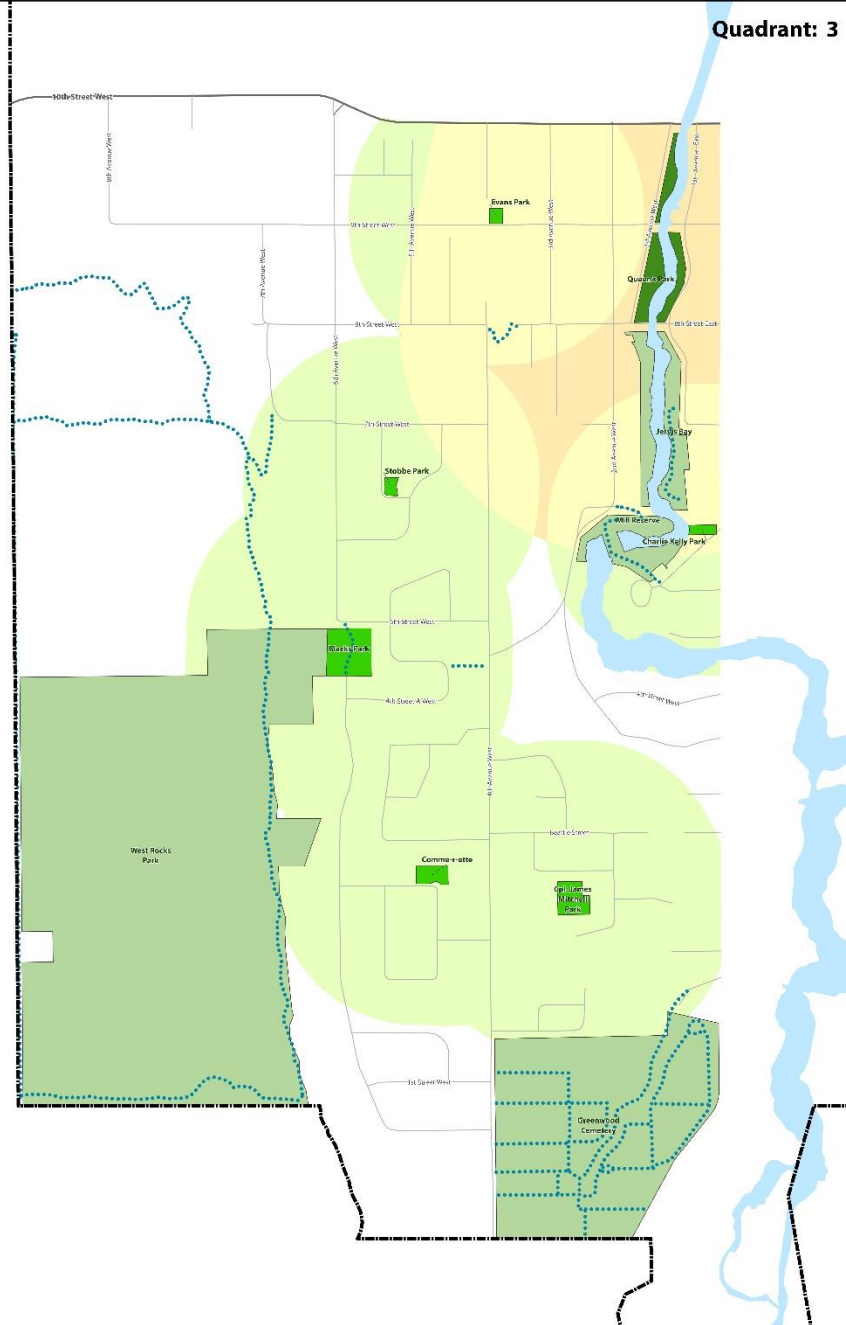
-  Neighbourhood Parks
-  Community Parks
-  City Parks, Regional Parks, & Open Space Corridors
-  Proposed Parks - Sydenham Heights

### Proximity Analysis

-  Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood Park (300m)
-  Within Walking Distance of a Community Park (500m)
-  Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood and Community Park
-  Areas to Assess for Potential Parks

# PARK PROXIMITY ANALYSIS





## Quadrant 3



**Parks**

-  Neighbourhood Parks
-  Community Parks
-  City Parks, Regional Parks, & Open Space Corridors
-  Proposed Parks - Sydenham Heights

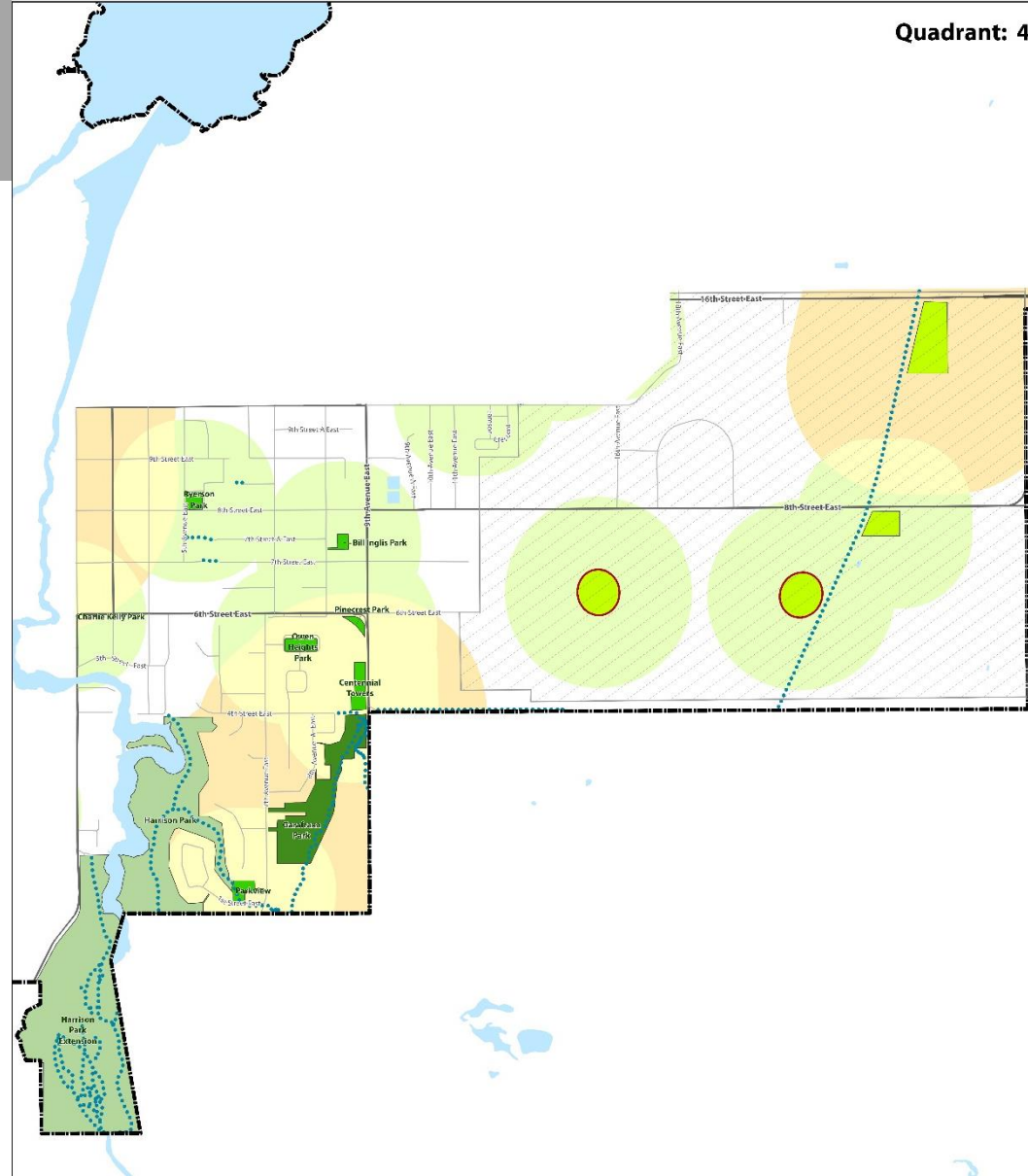
**Proximity Analysis**

-  Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood Park (300m)
-  Within Walking Distance of a Community Park (500m)
-  Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood and Community Park
-  Areas to Assess for Potential Parks

# PARK PROXIMITY ANALYSIS

## Quadrant 4

- Potential for new park development in Sydenham Heights Planning Area

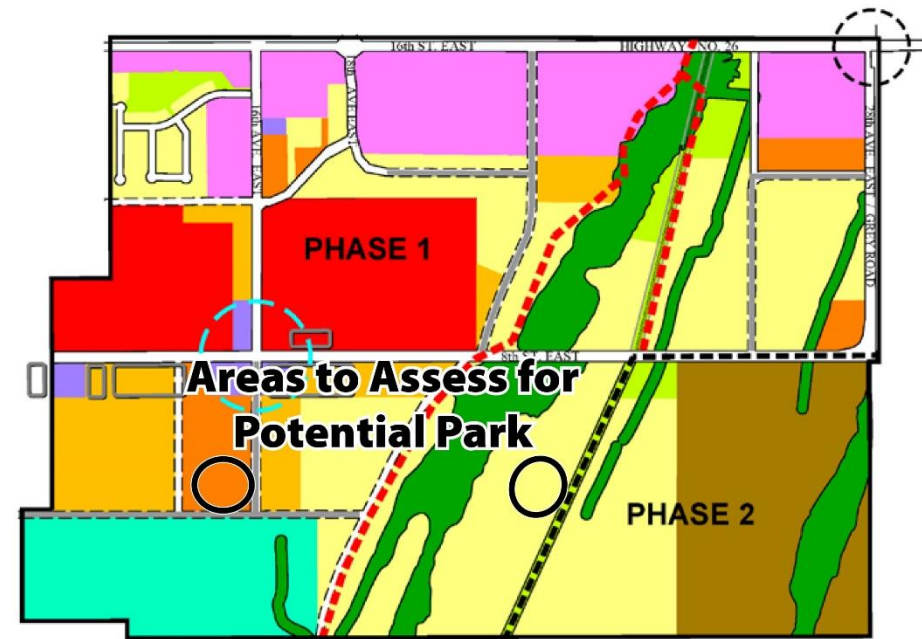


- Parks**
- Neighbourhood Parks
  - Community Parks
  - City Parks, Regional Parks, & Open Space Corridors
  - Proposed Parks - Sydenham Heights
- Proximity Analysis**
- Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood Park (300m)
  - Within Walking Distance of a Community Park (500m)
  - Within Walking Distance of a Neighbourhood and Community Park
  - Areas to Assess for Potential Parks

# Sydenham Heights Planning Areas Future Parkland Development

In addition to the three park areas proposed on Schedule A2, two new parks should be designed and developed.

- Final locations would be determined through planning applications.
- Trail connectivity should continue to be maintained in this area, particularly along the linear rail trail.



SYDENHAM HEIGHTS PHASE I AND II  
PLANNING AREAS



## SCHEDULE 'A2'

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 4  
BY-LAW No. 2012-112



CITY OF OWEN SOUND OFFICIAL PLAN

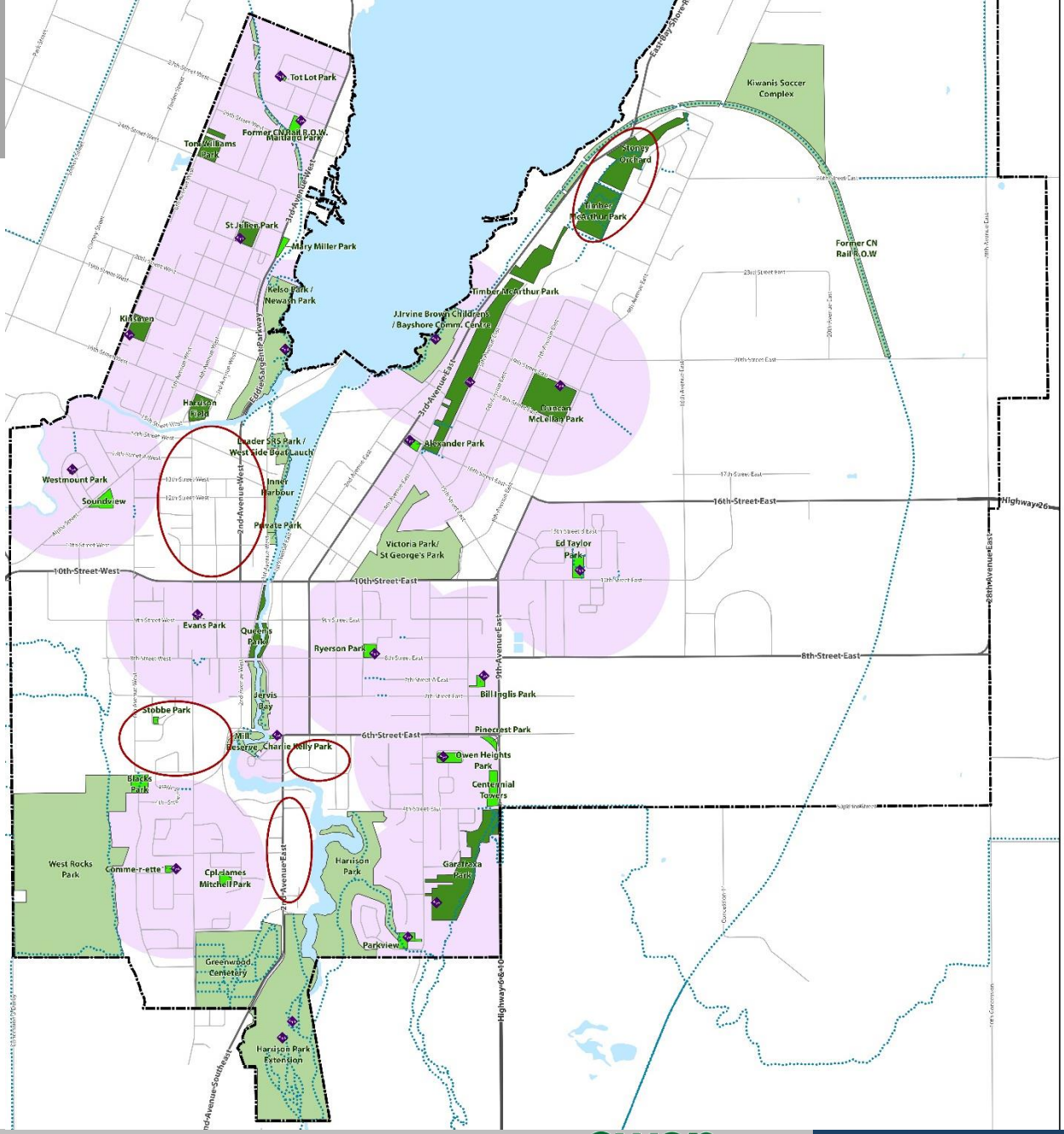


# PLAYGROUND ANALYSIS

Goal: *Provide playground equipment within a 500 metre radius of all residential areas, without causing pedestrians to cross a major natural or man-made barrier.*

Potential areas to develop future playgrounds:

- Harrison Field
- Stobbe Park
- Stoney Orchard Park



# KEY FINDINGS: PARKLAND ANALYSIS

Based on data and consultation findings, there are some underused parks in Owen Sound.

Park	Rationale
<b>St. Julien (ball diamonds)</b>	This is a very basic ball diamond (without lights, etc.) and has had low bookings.
<b>Harrison Field (ball diamond)</b>	Very low use (low bookings) in recent years.
<b>Garafraxa Park</b>	Large area with little frontage onto arterial roads.
<b>Portion of Kelso Beach Park (soccer field)</b>	Very large parcel of land/open space that is rarely used for soccer (very low bookings). Leased lands.
<b>Owen Heights Park</b>	This park is relatively underused. However, its playground meets the need for play structures in this area. Partial disposition of the parklands could be considered.

- Options to consider:
- Repurposing
  - Transition of function
  - Partial/full disposition of lands

## PARKLAND PROVISION STANDARDS

Park Classification	Standard Provision	Walking Distance/ Radius Served
<b>Neighbourhood Park</b>	0.5 hectares per 1000 population	0.5 km
<b>Community Park</b>	1.5 hectares per 1000 population	1.5 – 2.5 km
<b>City Park</b>	1.5 hectares per 1000 population	n/a
<b>Open Space Corridor</b>	Strategic Linkages	n/a
<b>Regional Park</b>	No minimum requirement	n/a

In terms of the classification and standard provisions, an assessment of other municipalities on the standards and classification suggested that the existing Official Plan provisions are appropriate. The current benchmarks should be maintained.

## KEY FINDINGS: PARKLAND ANALYSIS

	Population (2016)	Required (2016)	Actual (2016)	Population (2022*)	Required (2022)
<b>Neighbourhood Parks</b>	21,341	10.7 hectares	8.41 hectares	21,799	10.9 hectares
<b>Community Parks</b>	21,341	32.0 hectares	40.21 hectares	21,799	32.7 hectares
<b>City Parks</b>	21,341	32.0 hectares	107.9 hectares	21,799	32.7 hectares

\*Population based on estimates in Grey County Growth Management Strategy Update (Hemson Consulting Ltd., 2015)

## MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### ***Guiding Principle of the Master Plan:***

*To encourage residents of all ages to maintain physical, social and mental well-being through the provision and facilitation of a range of recreational opportunities and choices.*

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**1. Accessibility & Affordability**

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**2. Marketing & Communications**

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**3. Partnerships & Collaborations**

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**4. Desire for Indoor Turf Facility**

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**5. Parkland Requirements & Acquisition**

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**6. Recreational Asset Improvements**

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**7. Programming**

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**8. Service Delivery and Monitoring**

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# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## **Accessibility & Affordability**

*Goal: To ensure community facilities, services and procedures enhance accessibility for all.*

---

### **Recommendations**

Review rates and fees policies on annual basis to ensure that they continue to respond to community needs and promote access for all regardless of age, income level, culture, gender and abilities

Consider expanding the core set of free programs that can be established to further create a degree of universality and inclusiveness for all in Owen Sound

Coordinate with existing organizations (E.g. Teen Advisory Group) to ensure recreational facilities, parks and trails remain relevant and consistent with changing trends, and address the barriers to access and participation.

# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Marketing & Communication

*Goal: Be a leader in user retention and growth through the implementation of strategic communication efforts.*

---

### Recommendations

Coordinate information session with relevant departments and divisions to share the outcomes and recommendations of this updated Master Plan

Continually update a comprehensive data base of key stakeholders and designate a staff person with the responsibility of keeping database current

Introduce an online booking system for all recreational facilities that includes online registration and transactions

# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Partnerships & Collaborations

*Goal: Build capacity and promote healthy lifestyles for all ages through partnership and collaboration.*

---

### Recommendations

Continue to investigate corporate marketing and sponsorship partnerships to fund facilities, programs and service enhancements

Consult with baseball groups to explore options for improving existing ball diamonds, the need for additional diamonds and/or repurposing of existing diamonds

Review site-specific agreements and complete a reciprocal joint-use agreement with school boards to guide future arrangements

---



# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## **Desire for Indoor Recreation Facility**

*Goal: Through consultation with stakeholders, assess need and financial feasibility for an indoor turf facility.*

---

### **Recommendations**

Undertake a detailed analysis of the current use of soccer fields in Owen Sound and determine key user groups through consultation (OSMSA, Frisbee, Lawn Bowling, Rugby, Lacrosse, etc.)

Encourage and support organizations and groups to complete a business plan for an indoor turf facility

Conduct review of best practices for developing indoor turf facilities

---

# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Parkland Requirements & Acquisition

*Goal: Update parkland policies to be consistent with current policy framework and continue to monitor parkland needs in the future.*

---

### Recommendations

Update parkland policies in Official Plan to be consistent with updated *Planning Act (parkland dedication rates)*

Update Official Plan to include requirements for parkland through site plan development process in addition to subdivision process

Update Sydenham Secondary Plan to include parkland conveyance policies for future development of planning area.

---

# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Recreational Asset Improvements

*Goal: An integrated parks, trails and open space system that connects the community and creates recreation opportunities for all.*

---

### Recommendations

Review and update Trails Master Plan based on recommendations from this Master Plan

All Park Master Plans (E.g. Harrison Park, Kelso Beach Park) should be reviewed and updated to ensure relevance. Older plans should be reviewed first.

Establish a framework for potential consideration of repurposing/transitioning or disposition of parks.

# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Programming

*Goal: Support effective program delivery by facilitating partnerships and collaboration with community service providers and key stakeholders.*

---

### Recommendations

The City should maintain its role as a coordinator for facilitation of recreation and leisure activities

Allocation policies for facilities should be reviewed annually to allow for more efficient and effective allocation of resources and to ensure facilities are meeting needs of users

The City and community service providers should explore ways to improve program coordination and provide complementary services with a view towards addressing gaps in delivery

# MASTER PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Service Delivery & Monitoring

*Goal: To deliver efficient services through effective management, policies and partnership frameworks while continually monitoring the success of the Master Plan.*

### Recommendations

Organize annual workshop with all physical activity service providers to educate, synchronize programs and share resources

Continue to work collaboratively with adjacent municipal governments to ensure appropriate access to facilities and programs in Owen Sound for all residents in the area in a manner that is responsible to Owen Sound taxpayers

Undertake an annual review of the recommendations in the Master Plan as part of the municipal budgeting process, including a description of recent achievements and future objectives.

OWEN SOUND  
RECREATION, PARKS & FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

THANK YOU!



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Recreation Plan  
**Date:** December-14-17 6:01:43 PM

---

I like the commitment to a fully connected trail system. I think a system suited to casual cyclists and walkers is appropriate in town.

There is also a constituency of road cyclists here, and Owen Sound cyclists are blessed with a large and various choice of rides on the surrounding rural roads. The challenge lies in getting out of town. The pavement on 3rd Avenue West/ Grey Road 1 going east after Kelso, Third Avenue East from the Bayshore for a Km or so, and Second Avenue East from about Harrison Park to Inglis Falls Road are all poorly maintained. From cyclist's perspective they are battering at best and downright dangerous at worst. The danger on Third Ave E and Second Ave E. arises because the margin lacks a clear edge, is badly potholed and bordered by an uneven shoulder.

I presume this problem lies outside the plan under consideration but while roads are involved they nonetheless are part of your of the recreational system as a whole and you should make recommendations to other departments who have direct responsibility.

Thanks for considering these remarks

Sent from my iPhone

Jan. 12, 2018

To: MHBC Planning, Urban Design & Landscape Architecture

Cc: The City of Owen Sound, Community Services

Re: Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan.

Upon reading the 'master plan' authored by MHBC, I discovered that some of the smaller neighbourhood parks have been earmarked for '*repurposing/transitioning uses/disposition of lands*', (Table 4, page 49 of report). What is most disturbing is a report that all or part of Owen Heights Park is being considered for sale to a developer for residential construction. This, even before the 'master plan' has been approved and adopted by City Council.

The plan report claims 'considerable consultation' with residents. Our house on [REDACTED] (The Circle) faces Owen Heights Park and I was not once contacted. Be that as it may, completely contrary to what the report claims, I have witnessed for well over 20 years, that this park is not "relatively underused" as stated in Table 4 cited above.

Children, including our own grandchildren, play in this park year round. In all seasons, groups of children come from day camps, daycares, schools and the neighbouring areas. This park is also the venue for community activities and social gatherings such as 'get to know your neighbour' type events. The Owen Heights Park is a safe, accessible, and convenient green space for children, families, seniors and neighbours.

There are other places for residential development in Owen Sound. There are 3 abandoned schools in the area (Bayview is right around the corner from Owen Heights Park), which can easily and profitably be 'repurposed, transitioned, or disposed of', instead of green spaces.

Parkland and green space are so very important in cities, and Owen Sound is very fortunate to have parks such as Harrison Park and Kelso Park to name just two. However, smaller neighbourhood and community parks with play grounds are no less important.

I am strongly urging City Council to reject any 'repurposing' of any existing parks, large or small. In fact, I strongly recommend that more green spaces be created and existing ones be expanded and improved where needed.

Yours sincerely,

(original signed by)

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Owen Sound  
**Date:** December-14-17 4:34:06 PM

---

Julie Welch

It is our hope that the city of Owen Sound will consider bicycle access and recreation trails as a significant element of an overall plan.

We know from other cities and municipalities that trails are among the most cost efficient recreation infrastructure available.

The growth of interest in cycling as a healthy and environmentally passive activity continues to grow. We see it every day.

And of course cycling, whether as transportation or just recreation, reaches across every age group.

Unlike so many activities, the cost to participate in cycling is relatively low.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Owen Heights Park  
**Date:** January-08-18 5:57:08 PM

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Att: City Council

I am a resident on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the park across from my front door. I am appalled that this park is considered for residential development. Obviously, it is not used as Harrison's Park is used, but it "is used" in many different ways. All summer, the playground equipment is used, people bring their dogs to play chase the ball, kites have been flying, some throw balls to practice their catching and throwing skills, school groups have come to practice their running skills, and the one and only picnic table has been used for a picnic lunch. I am sure I have not seen everything that happens in the park.

Why not plan to "develop" the park more as a park rather than residential? If you had more tables, more playground equipment, a ball diamond, a track, more trees and made it into a "park," I am sure more people would be there. I have lived here for only two summers and I noticed that more people used the park last summer than the summer before.

If you have to have an income from the land, why not "Community Gardens". That can enhance the area as well. I came from Vancouver and I saw many beautiful Community Gardens on land that could have been sold for residential development. Besides enhancing the beauty of the area they were also a source of enjoyment for people to stroll through and see all the vegetables and flowers growing. There are many people who would like to have a garden but do not have the land to use for gardens. In our economic environment right now, this Community Garden could be very beneficial for them.

Please consider the benefits of maintaining this area as a "park" and not the almighty dollar.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Julie Welch](#)  
Subject: OWEN SOUND  
Date: January-03-18 10:51:02 AM

---

Hi Julie

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the organizer of [Owen Sound Ultimate Frisbee](#).

I just wanted to **express our interest in an indoor turf field** for various field sports including ultimate frisbee.

While an indoor turf field would be great for field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee in the winter, there is so much **more potential** than that.

Not only can an indoor turf field accommodate sports like soccer, baseball, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, field hockey, etc... it can also be used for more **non-traditional activities** such as:

- fly fishing lessons
- drone flying practice
- dodgeball
- volleyball
- badminton
- football
- batting practice
- rugby
- cheerleading
- marching band practice
- conferences & large meetups

Additionally, given unpredictable weather, an indoor playing field would provide teams and groups with a place where they can participate in their activity **during the summer months** regardless if it's raining, lightning, stifling hot or just too dark outside!

This is a huge benefit not only from a scheduling point of view but also from a **safety** point of view.

We would be happy to help the city with any planning or input you might require.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**MEMO:**

**TO:** J. Welch (MHBC Planning, Urban Design & Landscape Architecture)

**FROM:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**RE:** Owen Sound 2017 Parks, Recreation & Facilities Master Plan Update  
(and more specifically OWEN HEIGHTS PARK)

It has come to our attention that the recent report has singled out Owen Heights Park as being “Relatively Underused” but that it’s playground “meets the needs in this area” - and goes on to say that “Partial disposition of the parkland could be considered”.

We have lived here on [REDACTED] opposite Owen Heights Park since June of 1977 (and don’t intend to move any time soon), and as such we feel that we are in a unique position to be commenting on the report as it effects the future of the park and our neighbourhood. Our comments are as follows:

**With regard to the remark that the park is “relatively underused” (To which we disagree) :**

- By mid spring, all summer and into the fall - the park is often visited by young families to play on the playground structures, fly kites, run their dogs, play catch, or just sit on a table or in the shade & enjoy the day. (The park seems busier during the evenings and on weekends & holidays, which makes sense as young parents are working during the weekdays as a rule.)

- A local church often brings their youth group for outdoor activities.

- From time to time a group of youth come & play football games

- A former owner of one of the Motels on 9th. Avenue has told us that they often sent their customers over here to the park because it was “the only decent one in the area”. We believe this because during the summer especially we often see folks come with a car and use the park - then never see them again.

- Now that Bayview School has been closed, how long with the facilities there be available for public use? (And for that matter, how well will they be maintained in the meantime?). If you take away some of the open area from Owen Heights Park, where are folks going to go in the future? Certainly nowhere in walking distance.

- Other than yearly maintenance of the playground structures & picnic table, and yearly addition of sand or sawdust to the area, the Park only requires limited maintenance (grass cutting & emptying the garbage cans), which from our viewing standpoint does not take either much time, nor much manpower.

**With regard to the remark that “partial disposition could be considered” (also, to which we disagree) :**

There are several reasons why this is not a good idea that currently come to mind and we offer them to you here:

- One of the reasons that Owen Heights Park is a favourite of young families is that it is so open & airy. To sell off part of the park for residential purposes would take away that feeling - and I would also create so conflict between the users of the park and the new residents should errant balls end up in their yards, or heaven forbid, their windows.

- Owen Heights Park (otherwise known as "Block B, Plan 373") was obtained by the city on June 1, 1957 with the deed containing the condition that the block be retained for use as a public park for 50 years. By our math, the 50 year restriction ended on June 2, 2007 - and although the City may have the legal right to sell some or part of the parkland for other than public purposes, after over 60 years of park use is it really morally right to do so?

- This "circle" of homes has always been looked upon as a prime location for starter homes, with only one home being of newer construction and design than the rest, a reputation of safe, friendly & well maintained properties, and the park in the middle has only increased the attraction. To reduce the size of the park and allow some new residential development would negatively affect both the atmosphere of the neighbourhood & our existing property values.

- The street surrounding the park is often one of the last streets in Owen Sound to be plowed after a storm - sometimes even a day or two after. Because of the shape of the circle and the fact that it includes plowing up a hill, the city is often forced to use a large grader (sometimes even with a V-Plow) to clear the street, and because of the volume of the snow under these circumstances they "wing" the excess snow into the park itself, allowing for a safer street. Should some of the parkland be sold for residential purposes, they could no longer use this method of plowing at that point of the street, slowing down the snow removal.

- The utilities here in "the Circle", as its known, are old and in need of repair (most were installed in the mid-late 1940's) and at times are hard-pressed to serve the existing residences. We would expect that, should the residential density in the "Circle" be increase even in a nominal manner, the services would need to either be replaced or at the very least, substantially upgraded to provide reasonable water and sewer services. It is our understanding that in cases such as these, the developer is usually expected to bear the cost of the improvements - and as they would be substantial, we expect that they would seek permission to erect the highest density residential units they can get permission for to allow a lower per-unit cost. The other scenario would be to include we existing residents in the payment for the improved infrastructure through local improvement taxes - and we can assure you that we would strenuously object to either scenario and encourage our friends & neighbours to do likewise.

- The current Official Plan shows the park to be currently zoned as Open Space - so an Official Plan Amendment would most likely be required to allow for the sale & other use of any of the parklands. Again we can assure you that any attempt at an OPA (or Zoning Amendment or Minor Variance either for that matter) would be considered by us to be a threat to our property and our neighbourhood, and we would strenuously object to the extent of taking the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board if necessary.

- For many years now we have been concerned with the fact that all the properties on top of the hill, from 5th. Street southward are serviced by one two lane road (7th. Avenue East). A vehicle accident at either the corner of 5th. Street & 7th. Avenue or corner of 6th. Street & 7th. Avenue, or a fire or other emergency anywhere between 5th. Street & Sixth Street on 7th. Avenue completely blocks access to literally thousands of people (including a large retirement facility and several County managed limited-income facilities). The only alternative access to everyone, emergency vehicles included, is a locked "emergency access" at the top of 6th. Street, which is not always accessible due to the locks or maintained

at the best during the winter even if the locks are opened. This takes time, which may not be available for the person waiting for an ambulance, fire truck or the police. Until the city of Owen Sound creates a permanent, year-round opened & maintained SECOND access to the area south of 6th Street East we will strenuously oppose ANY and ALL development in the area, residential or otherwise, by any and all means possible.

**IN SUMMARY:**

- We feel that any moderate income the city may gain by selling part of Owen Heights park would not be worthwhile considering a) the detriment to the park & neighbourhood, b) the costs it would incur to defend the action, and c) the limited savings on maintenance for the removal of a small portion of the park.

We are both retired and available pretty much at your convenience should you like to discuss any of the enclosed points, or for that matter, anything else with regards to Owen Heights Park & the "5th. Street Circle". Our telephone number is: [REDACTED] our e-mail is: [REDACTED]

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the process.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Owen Heights Park  
**Date:** January-11-18 6:51:18 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this for my mother, [REDACTED] in regards to the proposed changes to Owen Heights Park. She writes as follows:

My parents, [REDACTED], moved to the circle (Owen Heights) in 1952. My mother still lives there. The residents of the circle have often regarded the green area, at the center, as an extension of their yard. The top of the circle is a large and open, undesignated space, unlike most of the other large park areas. We need to keep this area because it will assist in the fight against global warming and it is also attractive for people with children coming to this area. The circle is often the reason people bought their homes here. It has a relatively low traffic flow therefore it is a safe place for children to play and for the elderly to walk. Your report states that this area is underused; however, it is a place where parents from outside the neighbourhood bring their children to play in the park. It is a place for the "Y" to hold summer camp, some local church members visit the park to practice soccer, a place to have your dog run and play catch, to practice your golf swing, to fly a kite, to play catch with your child. A place to gather with your neighbours for a meal, fireworks, or an impromptu game of baseball or football. Owen Heights is one of two decent play areas in an area from 8th street to the end of 7th Avenue. The other area is Garafraxa Park which is located behind houses, against the east rocks and it is very soggy in the spring and when it rains.

Building houses on this land would increase traffic, make the water pressure even lower, and possibly cause flooding in some of the basements. It will also destroy the charm and character of the area. At present there are many housing projects in development - why destroy a fantastic green space?

[REDACTED]

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail my mother at this address

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** OWEN SOUND  
**Date:** December-30-17 6:54:33 PM

---

Dear Ms. Welch,

I am writing to provide some feedback concerning the Owen Sound Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan Update draft report. I, along with other local sports enthusiasts, was involved in promoting a petition in support of an indoor turf facility that was mentioned in the draft report.

I am concerned that the draft report does not place enough responsibility on the City of Owen Sound to take a proactive leadership role concerning an indoor turf facility. Given the longstanding need for this facility, it is evident that the city has to be willing to take a more significant role in its planning, funding, construction and operation, if it is to be realized. However, I don't see words to that effect appearing in the draft report. I would also suggest the final report recommend that the city form a special committee comprised of city representatives and potential user groups to address the need for this facility.

A significantly greater role for government is necessary to achieve this project given the inability of private businesses and organizations to meet this need so far. The city has to be willing to fill the gap between what it has been willing to do, and what other groups are able to do, if we are to accomplish this goal. I don't feel MHBC's recommendations properly address this reality and I hope the firm will consider amending the report to reflect this.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** re: Owen Heights Park  
**Date:** January-08-18 9:11:00 PM

---

this park should be left as is, so families can enjoy the peace and quiet. - middle aged plus elderly can play with their grandchildren and great grandchildren. -we that live in this area take great pleasure Owen Heights!!!!!!

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** OWEN SOUND  
**Date:** January-12-18 2:48:43 PM

---

Hi Julie,

I am writing on behalf of Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association with regards to the Draft Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan. Our organization had over 900 participants registered this past year. We feel that the 2 of the major themes that emerged as part of the study has significant impact to our organization; Partnerships and Collaboration and Desire for Indoor turf facility. With that in mind we would like to provide input on few aspects of the draft plan.

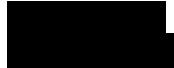
1. The "Raise the Dome" group that is referenced in the plan is no longer active. While the group was investigating the ability to utilize a dome that was made potentially available to that group at a reasonable price, it became clear that an initiative of this magnitude was too much for an organization which relies on volunteers to be the sole driving force behind it. They also no longer have access to this dome. Since this plan is for the next 5 to 10 years, we feel that all references to a group which is no longer active should be removed from the draft. However, OSMSA is extremely interested in being involved partnering with the City and other interested groups in reviewing options for an indoor turf facility whether it be a dome or other type of facility.
2. We agree that *"Municipalities can no longer be the central provider of all recreation and cultural facilities so partnerships arrangements are becoming increasingly important and prevalent in the service delivery model. Municipalities are adopting a greater oversight role and providing leadership and support to non-profit agencies and organizations..."* We strongly feel that pursuing an indoor facility requires leadership and initiative from the city with strong support/input from all the potential user groups. However, when the draft plan was released, Travis Dodd, Councillor and Chair of the Community Services Committee stated that "if they're going to explore the idea the interested parties need to come up with a business plan on how to build it and operate it on a daily basis". This is hardly *"the leadership and vision that will demand support and the combined efforts of the Community Services Department and prospective partners from all community sectors in order to make changes that will allow for success."*

In section 5.5.4 Recommendations and 8.1(4.0), we feel that the plan should be clearer that it is the City that should undertake the analysis required, in partnership with the user groups. In points a,b,c we would like to ensure that the city is the lead for doing the analysis and investigation for the indoor turf facility. As indicated above, there is no longer a Raise the Dome group, so point (d) should be clear that the City is taking the lead on providing a business case with **partnership** of the user groups. Our desire is the city takes the lead in investigating the feasibility of an indoor turf facility by setting up an ad-hoc committee made of councilors, city staff and community members, similar to what has been done for other large initiatives in the past.

3. With respect to repurposing Kelso soccer fields, we feel that it is premature at this time to be reducing soccer fields. The Adult Soccer League has grown leaps and bounds over the past several years with a waiting list of players to join their league. We do not agree with the assessment that growth can be done through expansion at the Kiwanis Soccer Complex as we are already close to capacity at that facility, both in terms of field bookings and physical space at the

park. The cost of creating a new soccer field is significant and we would rather explore how to increase usage of the Kelso field as opposed to repurposing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the draft plan and we hope that the above will be reflected as the master plan gets finalized.

 – Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Owen Heights Park  
**Date:** January-08-18 3:35:34 PM

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Hello I am a resident in the Circle of Owen Heights. I have lived in this circle for 6 years this park is used all the time dogs are walked there, children play, older people walk around the park it's lovely and one of the reasons we purchased our house there. Turning this into housing isn't ok at all I do not agree with this and unless I will be compensated for the value of my house decreasing because of this there is A Problem. Families play in this park with their kids all the time hockey is played, soccer and more people love this park and ruining it for housing is stupid. People in this circle will not agree or be happy at all. This proposal sucks. Maybe you should actually meet with people who live in the circle and listen to their thoughts about this. Please please please don't ruin this park. Sincerely , [REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Owen Heights Park  
**Date:** January-12-18 4:54:50 PM

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this park is used. By groups. Church, high School runners, Soccer practice etc. It's safe, trouble free and one of the few larger areas for games. My grand children play catch, ball, fly kites and just have fun playing in the snow. Also we cannot handle any more development in this area until there is another OPEN access point. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Owen Heights Park - 5<sup>th</sup> Street East

I have lived in this subdivision for over 25 years. Homes for Sale do not last long on this street. People buy and raise their families here. It is the park that makes this area so desirable. One time we had three generations of the same family occupying three homes in the neighborhood. I have very fond memories of my time here sitting on the front porch watching all the activities going on in the park.

When I first moved here, the neighborhood would have games, barbecues and fireworks in the park on holidays.

Play equipment provided at west end of park is always being utilized by the many youngsters in the huge surrounding areas both summer and winter. Often you can hear the squeak of the swings as parents took their turn. Shade trees that provide shade for those wanting to put down a blanket have a picnic and read a good book.

Residents from surrounding nursing homes enjoying the park with family members.

Summer day camps utilizing the park

Soccer games played at east end of park

Golfers practicing their golf swing

Children playing catch or baseball with their family or friends

Flying a new kite on a windy day

Track and field activities

Children and their families riding their bikes around the neighborhood

Joggers

Dog walkers

### Improvements/Possibilities

Several new trees have been planted over the past few years that will provide much needed shade for those watching or participating in activities in the park.

Provide more picnic tables and benches for park

Provide Community Gardening for those who live in surrounding apartment buildings.

Years ago there was always an Ice Rink in the park during winter (apparently the fire department would flood the ice)

If we were to lose our park the value of our homes would decrease. We would no longer be a desirable neighborhood for real estate.

Our neighborhood has gone full circle. When I moved into the circle it was mainly older individuals. We now have young adults with children. Two young couples that each purchased their first home. There are now more and more children and adults in our park.

With all the school closures, our population needs the park.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Date:** January-08-18 1:55:01 PM

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Hi my name is [REDACTED] me my wife and my son live in the circle where Owen heights park is my son always gone and plays at that park he loves it and there is always kids there even summer programs and day care and day camps go there as well it is enjoyed by slot of children they would be devastated if they took it out I know my son will be so let's save the park for the children I hope we can do it kids need them



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** 2017 Parks, Recreation Master Plan - Owen Sound  
**Date:** January-09-18 2:13:16 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

This email is in response to page 49 of the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan Update (Owen Heights Park) City of Owen Sound. Your recommendation of the partial disposition of the parkland could be considered. Does this mean sale? I strongly think this should be reconsidered. When was the last time you were in this park? A couple of years ago I would agree with your findings that the park was underused. Today this is not the case. Anecdotally I can attest to the parks frequent use by the neighbourhood. In recent years there has been a huge increase in families to the once elderly community. I am one of those people who live in the area and have had their children grow up and move away. I've seen this park go from a vibrant meeting and playing place for kids to being underused. Not so today. It is with great pleasure that every day I see young families with children using this park. Soccer, playing catch, walking their dogs, playing on the playground equipment or just having a run about. At almost anytime of the day there is someone using this park. It would be a travesty to sell this park merely for the greed of the city coffers. Maybe save some of the money on the huge waste that is the City Hall refurbishment. Where I once took my three children to play, I know have the pleasure of taking my three grandchildren to play. Please don't sell this land.

Make sure to remind the councillors that 2018 is a municipal election year and for everyone that votes for the sale of this cherished parkland I will guarantee there will be a social media response. This neighbourhood will encourage voters to really think about who they are voting for.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Owen Heights Park  
**Date:** January-12-18 8:30:24 AM

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Good Morning, I was sad to receive the notice that Owen Heights Park is being considered for sale. My family and I moved to Owen Sound just over a year ago onto 8th Ave E. We have two daughters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] has a developmental disability (down syndrome). They were so excited that there was a park at the end of the street and we visited it each time we went for a showing of the house we purchased. All year they access the park at least one day a week if not more. They can walk there by themselves and [REDACTED] loves the swing and the climber. This was a good source of exercise all summer and a way to meet other kids in the area and some lasting friendships have been made. I noticed this past summer that the park was used by a day camp as well. I know that one of the schools uses it on occasion for soccer practices and running drills as well as the Runner's Den. I was even thinking about approaching the town about using the park for a Boot Camp in the spring/summer months as I am a certified personal trainer. When we moved in in August of 2016 things were pretty quiet on our street, but this summer a few new families with young children have moved in and I noticed that the park was used a lot more. This park is a vital part of our little part of the community. It is used by families, clubs/camps and schools. It would be a devastating blow to [REDACTED] if it wasn't there as that is one of her most favourite places to go. During summer break and March break our oldest looks after [REDACTED] and they visit the park everyday just to get out of the house as Harrison Park is too far for them to go on their own. As well, it is a great place to have a picnic or sit in the shade of the trees on a really hot day. When I told the girls that the city wants to sell the park, they were very upset. [REDACTED] said "But that's our Park. They can't do that!", my oldest said "That's crazy, don't they realize how many people use it, especially us!" **On behalf of my kids especially [REDACTED], Please reconsider the sale of this park!**

**Sincerely,**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** OWEN SOUND  
**Date:** December-17-17 10:40:28 AM

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Yes to Pickleball. Missed the survey deadline. Shirley

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Draft report parks and recreation plan  
**Date:** January-03-18 3:47:12 PM

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Hi,

I have reviewed the draft report and as an executive of Owen Sound Minor Baseball I am very concerned. Your information on ball diamonds needs to be updated to include last years data.

Our registration numbers have more than doubled in the past 3 years. This created a large problem for us in that we didn't have enough diamonds time on our primary diamond for our younger ages (under 14) last year. Our primary diamond is Kinsman park. None of the diamonds in town were appropriate when we started looking around. The biggest issue was the size of the infield being too small as most ages in OSMB require 65 or 75 foot base paths. Some diamonds such as diamonds at Harrison Field were also unsafe due to having no protection for the player benches.

We eventually settled on moving our Rookie divisions to St. Juliens park for several days of the week. The diamond wasn't ideal but was workable and was the only one we found that had fencing in front of the player benches. There was no space behind home plate for an umpire but Rookie ball uses a pitching machine so only one umpire is needed and he stands by the pitcher. The bases also went out to almost the grass area so we had to be careful. There is also a leveling issue outside the infield but as Rookie Ball players don't typically hit the ball far it wasn't an issue.

One of your recommendations was to remove St. Juliens as it was under utilized. This may have been the case in the past but as we continue to grow we need another diamond or two and this is the only one with safe benches. If you continue to recommend this diamond be removed then a replacement needs to be considered for us, and in close proximity to the current ones we use (Kinsman and Tom Williams).

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
OSMB Executive  
WOBA Vice President

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Owen Sound  
**Date:** January-09-18 9:13:52 PM

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Hello

I am writing to correct the statement made in the Parks Master Plan Update on page 49 about Owen Heights Park. The park is not "underused". Since there are no bookings for the space, how is utilization measured? As a nearby resident I do see people using the open space. In our area there are no other public open spaces suitable for throwing or kicking a ball, or throwing a Frisbee. Garafraxa Park is mainly wooded escarpment, and is more of a neighbourhood park with a playground suitable for small children. Bayview school grounds may be considered as open space, but the school has closed and will soon become private property, possibly in-fill housing.

The nearby Edwards plant on 6th St. near 7th ave. has closed and its approximately 6 acres is for sale. If that is developed for housing, there is further justification for maintaining Owen Heights Park intact. I disagree that Owen Heights Park could be "considered for disposition" and I would like that suggestion removed from the report.

Regards

[REDACTED] Owen Sound

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Julie Welch](#)  
**Subject:** Input on the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan  
**Date:** January-12-18 2:25:52 PM

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To the authors of the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan:

I am writing in response to an opportunity for feedback from the public on this plan. As a resident of Owen Sound, and one very concerned about the environment, our community, and being a responsible citizen, I am commenting specifically on the consideration of selling parkland and developing it in other ways.

Parkland and green space are so very important in cities, and Owen Sound is very fortunate to have, for instance, a park such as Harrison Park.

We all know, however, how important smaller community parks with play grounds are for families, groups and individuals, as well. To have smaller parks close to our residences makes our city healthier and happier.

I am particularly concerned about Owen Heights Park in the east side of Owen Sound. Our family has lived in this area for 30 years, and I have witnessed that this park is not "relatively underused". I am not sure how these parks were assessed, and I admit I see and use this park more often than others in the city, but I have worked in the community as well, and I have never seen a park where I would say, oh, Owen Heights Park is not used as much as any other.


Children play in this park in all seasons. In summer, groups of children come from day camps, and in all seasons schools and daycare providers bring children to this park. Families and children come from the several apartment buildings just a few blocks away, and also from a residential development just to the north of this park. Groups of runners and individual runners use the street surrounding this park, and I think that choice of venue is chosen because it's so close to green space.

There is enough space in this park to have community picnics, games, even kite flying, which I have had the pleasure to watch. The people who live in the wartime houses surrounding this park are often young families buying their first home. There are lots of kids using this park!

The extra space that there is can and will be used by the community. Several people have discussed having a community garden, with vegetables and fruits of all kinds. We could plant fruit trees. I believe that with good planning and participation, this could work in Owen Heights Park. And we have some great examples in the city to learn from.

The point is, it's being used, but it's still GREEN SPACE.

There are other places for residential development in Owen Sound. Save our parkland!

Yours sincerely, 

## **Feedback for the Review of Owen Sound's Recreational Plan**

***From:*** [REDACTED] runner, trail user, former Phys. Ed. teacher, running coach, soccer coach and fitness enthusiast.

First of all, I would like to commend the city and its leadership for continuing to take a bold and progressive approach to this area of city life. After examining the 2007 plan, the revisions of 2017, the master plan of Victoria Park/St. Georges and the master plan for the trail system, I am very impressed with the commitment to improving the overall state of the city's recreational base. I hope that this will continue with this updated proposal.

I support much of the present direction and much of what has been put into place in the community. It is hard to please everyone in the city and outlying areas but there appears to be many efforts to do just that. The purpose of my comments will be to direct thinking around what I feel could use more thought or emphasis as planning becomes direction and as direction is realized as implemented projects.

My first area of concern is Victoria Park. As a past and present user of the area, I see the existence of the two old structures on the property as impediments to further growth. If they were removed and replaced by more multi-use field space, I feel this would be a good use of the space in this area. I appreciate the efforts of the master planners but can't support structures that only get used a couple of days in the year over a field or two that would get months of steady use; something outdoors to complement the outstanding indoor facility next to it. You might even think to improve the track as well.

Secondly, the proposed indoor facility: This idea is excellent! It complements what has been done with the building of the Recreation Center/ YMCA. Some might even say it goes beyond that initiative. It will not just replace existing facilities that were in need, but it will establish new centers for participation that have not existed to this point in the city's history (ie: turf field(s)). It also helps to promote and meet the needs of teens who desire more opportunities to be involved in what interests them.



**This Proposal is a bold one and has a big dollar sign attached to it but I encourage the city to take strong action to appeal for government funds to support this project. It is my long held opinion that areas of the province like Midwestern Ontario are the most disadvantaged when it comes to government funding and tax generated support. The '401' corridor has the tax base and the 'north' seems to acquire funding. (Essex county has 6 or more all weather track and field facilities and Grey-Bruce only one, in its most western corner). In any regard, let us not let funding limit our thinking!**

**Thirdly, the trail system. Again, I applaud the city for what it has and is doing to improve and establish this system. My thinking here is directed to continuing the process and making it a wonderful signature of the city. Owen Sound, the city of trails, the active city where you can see the natural beauty however you wish, in every season. So let's connect the trails and make them easily visible from many locations (ie. Harrison Park to Inglis Falls). Trails could even become so popular that they might need to be open all year. Walking is one of the favourite activities through all the generations.**

**I realize that this is a big issue with many stakeholders involved so I appreciate the opportunity to input the process. I look forward to hearing what will come of the review and wish you well as you consider all the information before you.**

