

8.0 PARKS

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Parks and green spaces play a vital role in the well-being of communities, and for the Town of Renfrew, they are integral to enhancing residents' quality of life. These areas provide essential environmental benefits such as improving air and water quality and supporting biodiversity, while also offering recreational opportunities that promote physical health and mental well-being. Green spaces serve as social hubs, fostering community engagement and cohesion by hosting public events and providing tranquil spaces for relaxation and socialization. As Renfrew continues to grow and develop, prioritizing the expansion and improvement of its parks will ensure that all residents can enjoy the manifold benefits that these essential public resources offer.

Background to Assessment

There are 16 parks⁶¹ in Renfrew with a total area of over 70 hectares. The average park is 3.8 hectares in size. Table 8-1 highlights the existing amenities and non-scheduled facilities in each park.

Table 8-1: Existing Parks Inventory

#	Park Name	Type (from town)	Waterfront	Address	Area (ha)	Area (m ²)	Passive Green Space (lawn)	Pavillion/ Gazebo/ Amphitheatre
p1	Aberdeen Greenspace	Medium	No	840 Aberdeen Street	1.16	11,612		
p2	Victoria Park	Medium	No	150 Bruce Street	0.73	7,285	x	
p3	Hunter Gate Park (being renamed Mack Wilson Park)	Medium	No	1 Eagle Avenue	0.64	6,441	x	
p4	Kiwanis Park	Small	No	410 Haig Avenue	0.29	2,906	x	
p5	McConnell Park	Large	No	224 Patrick Avenue	2.22	22,226	x	
p6	Ma-Te-Way Park	Large	No	1 Ma-Te-Way Park Drive	57.64	576,423		x
p7	Legion Park	Medium	No	120 Munroe Avenue East	0.76	7,570	x	
p8	McLean Greenspace	Medium	No	~134 McLean Avenue	1.19	11,912	x	
p9	Oddfellows Park	Medium	No	280 Sidney Avenue	1.14	11,442		
p10	Stewart Park	Small	No	430 Raglan Street South	0.92	9,224	x	
p11	Fortington Park	Medium	No	280 Jordan Avenue	1.02	10,184	x	
p12	Mayhew Park	Small	No	480 Mayhew Street	0.16	1,631	x	
p13	Howard K. Haramis Park	Small	No	190 Mask Road	0.91	9,140	x	x
p14	Knights of Columbus Park	Small	No	680 Sixth Street	0.33	3,271	x	
p15	Horton Heights Park	Medium	No	152 Erindale Avenue	0.61	6,058	x	
p16	Low Square	n/a	No	127 Raglan Street	0.19	1,852		x

⁶¹ This section does not include waterfront parks (including RCAF Park, O'Brien Park, and Forgie Park). For detailed assessments of waterfront parks, please refer to Section 07.

The following section includes general recommendations that apply to all parks in Renfrew. Integrated recreation recommendations, which are more site-specific, are discussed in Section 8.2.

Table 8-1: Existing Parks Inventory Continued

#	Park Name	Parking	Washrooms	Benches, picnic areas	Waterfront/Water Access	Playground	Monument	Half Basketball Court	Passive Baseball
p1	Aberdeen Greenspace								
p2	Victoria Park			x				x	x
p3	Hunter Gate Park (being renamed Mack Wilson Park)								
p4	Kiwanis Park					x		x	
p5	McConnell Park								x
p6	Ma-Té-Way Park	x	x	x		x			
p7	Legion Park					x			
p8	McLean Greenspace								
p9	Oddfellows Park								
p10	Stewart Park	x		x	x				
p11	Fortington Park			x		x			x
p12	Mayhew Park								
p13	Howard K. Haramis Park	x					x		
p14	Knights of Columbus Park			x		x			x
p15	Horton Heights Park			x		x			
p16	Low Square	x		x			x		

Table 8-1: Existing Parks Inventory Continued

#	Park Name	Connection to Trails	Splash pad	Gardens	Off-leash Dog Park	Outdoor Rink/Loop	Tennis/ Pickleball	Skatepark	BMX Pump Track	Sports Field Unlit	Baseball Unlit
p1	Aberdeen Greenspace										
p2	Victoria Park										
p3	Hunter Gate Park (being renamed Mack Wilson Park)			x							
p4	Kiwanis Park										
p5	McConnell Park										
p6	Ma-Te-Way Park	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
p7	Legion Park										
p8	McLean Greenspace										
p9	Oddfellows Park			x							
p10	Stewart Park	x									
p11	Fortington Park										
p12	Mayhew Park										
p13	Howard K. Haramis Park			x							
p14	Knights of Columbus Park										
p15	Horton Heights Park										
p16	Low Square			x							



8.2 GENERAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

The following discusses overarching recommendations for all parks in Renfrew. The assessment is organized into five topics:

- Park Classification System
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Naturalization
- Accessibility, Safety and Comfort
- Programming

Park Classification System

Park classification systems are essential for categorizing the various elements of a park, such as its intended uses, service area, size, and provision targets. This framework is crucial for understanding and planning the spatial distribution of parks, anticipating future parkland needs, and guiding decisions regarding park acquisitions, disposals, and overall system development. Although the Town of Renfrew primarily organizes parks by size (small, medium, large), the Town does not currently have

a detailed parks classification system. The proposed system includes various park typologies that support the Town's strategic planning efforts by ensuring a balanced and well-distributed parks system that meets community needs and enhances recreational opportunities. The recommended park classification system includes the following typologies:

- Major Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Parkette
- Waterfront Park or Waterfront Access
- Underdeveloped Open Space

Table 8-2 lists the park classification typologies along with their description, current provision, design and use consideration, and parks assigned to that typology. As parks get planned and developed, a typology should be determined and assigned as soon as possible to ensure the park meets the recommended requirements.

Table 8-2: Proposed Park Classification System

Typology	Description	Examples of design, facility and amenity considerations	Parks to be included
Major Parks	Major Parks serve the entire Town and offer specialized services. These parks can be designed to be multi-purpose destinations which attract sport tournaments as well as hosting large events. This park classification permits (but is not limited to) recreation centres, specialty parks, and multi- field sport parks. Vehicular parking and/or washrooms should be provided where required to support park functions.	<p>Catchment Area: Should be designed to support Town-wide use</p> <p>Amenities should include: parking, washrooms, signage, waste receptacles, park sign, drinking water fountain or bottle fill station. Can include sports fields or ball diamonds fit for league play, ice rinks, skating loops, skate parks, tennis and pickleball courts, basketball courts, changeroom facilities, play equipment, public art, habitat enhancement features, interpretive signage, monuments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ma-Te-Way Park • McConnell Park
Neighbourhood Parks	Neighbourhood Parks will cater to the needs and interests of the residents living within the park's general vicinity for both organized and unorganized leisure activities. Neighbourhood Parks contain a mixture of passive areas, low to intermediate sports facilities, informal and formal play areas, and seating areas with shade.	<p>Catchment Area: Should be designed to support neighbourhood use (e.g., 800 metres to the residential area served, unobstructed by major pedestrian barriers)</p> <p>Amenities may include: play equipment, shade, and seating, waste receptacles, park sign. Can include splash pads, exercise equipment, gardens, trails, passive space, lighting, washrooms, parking, water fountain or bottle fill station, habitat enhancement features, interpretive signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Park • Mack Wilson Park (formerly Hunter Gate Park) • Kiwanis Park • McConnell Park • Legion Park • Oddfellows Park • Stewart Park • Fortington Park • Knights of Columbus Park • Horton Heights Park

Table 8-2: Proposed Park Classification System

Typology	Description	Examples of design, facility and amenity considerations	Parks to be included
Parkettes	Parkettes are small, passive spaces typically found at community gateways, major crossroads, or within small urban parcels.	<p>Catchment Area: Approximately 400 metres to the residential area served and/or designed for Town-wide, small-scale use (e.g., for special events)</p> <p>Amenities may include: Can include gardens, monuments, entry signs, paths, public art, interpretive signage, monuments. Generally smaller than Neighbourhood Parks, Parkettes often feature open lawns adorned with gardens. These areas serve as tranquil spots for relaxation and leisure, enhancing urban landscapes and providing aesthetic value to their immediate surroundings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McLean Greenspace • Howard K. Haramis Park • Low Square
Waterfront Park or Waterfront Access	A park or municipally-owned access point located on the waterfront that is designed to support typical waterfront uses such as boating, swimming, and fishing.	<p>Catchment Area: Should be designed to support Town-wide use where feasible</p> <p>Amenities may include: docks, boardwalks, picnic areas, small craft launch, boat launch, small craft rentals or storage areas, paths with trees and seating. Waterfront parks should include washroom access and parking where feasible and may include supplementary active features such as playgrounds, trails, or beach volleyball.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCAF Park • O'Brien Park • Forgie Park
Underdeveloped Open Spaces	Undeveloped parcels that could become parks and/or trails in the future.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen Greenspace • Mayhew Park

Signage and Wayfinding Strategy

An effective signage and wayfinding strategy is crucial for enhancing user experience and ensuring visual consistency in complex environments like parks, trails, and other public spaces. This strategy should focus on the strategic placement and design of various sign types, including safety, interpretive, and wayfinding signage. It is important that the signage conveys essential information while maintaining a visually appealing and non-cluttered appearance. Key elements include developing a consistent design that reflects the Town's brand, using a clear hierarchy of sign locations, and adhering to graphic standards that include specific fonts, colors, and icons. Additionally, signs should be compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) to ensure accessibility for all users.

The implementation of this strategy should be carried out in phases, in conjunction with ongoing development projects such as trail improvements and park upgrades. Budgeting for signage should be an integral part of the financial planning for these projects. Coordination with various stakeholders, including landowners and

public authorities, is essential, especially where signage interfaces with other jurisdictions. This ensures a cohesive and coordinated approach across different areas. Ultimately, the goal of the signage and wayfinding strategy is not only to improve navigation and safety but also to enhance the community's sense of place through consistent and unique signage throughout the Town.

Recommendations

- P 1. Develop and implement a comprehensive signage and wayfinding strategy that aligns with Town branding across all park typologies as defined in the parks classification system. This strategy should enhance navigation, provide consistent informational cues, and reinforce the Town's identity throughout its green spaces.

Naturalization

In discussions with the Council, staff, and various stakeholders, including community members, there was a strong interest in implementing environmentally conscious practices within parks. One effective method identified is naturalization, which not only improves the ecological functions of green spaces but also reduces maintenance requirements and costs, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. However, there are perceptions that naturalized areas, particularly those with immature trees, can seem “unkempt.” Beauty standards vary, typically favoring environments that are clean and feature new or well-maintained plantings and furnishings. The following section addresses these concerns and suggests strategies to reconcile these differing viewpoints.

Intentional Naturalization

Naturalization is the process of allowing natural plant growth to occur while managing that growth, typically by removing/limiting non-native and invasive species and planting and encouraging the growth of desired native species. Naturalization is an important strategy for improving ecosystem health, and, in turn, building climate change resilience. Naturalization, for all its benefits, comes with two main challenges. First, some residents interpret naturalized landscapes as messy and unkempt, leading them to request the municipality remove them. Second, contrary to appearances, in the early stages of plant growth, naturalized spaces can require more maintenance and specialized knowledge than mowed lawns. However, within a couple of years, naturalized spaces should require less maintenance and resources than mowed areas.

Municipalities are often caught in the middle as they attempt to moderate between residents who dislike naturalization in parks and residents who want more naturalization for its environmental benefits. Joan Iverson Nassauer is a landscape architect in the field of ecological design who has studied this problem extensively:

"Novel landscape designs that improve ecological quality may not be appreciated or maintained if recognizable landscape language that communicates human intention is not part of the landscape. Similarly, ecologically valuable remnant landscapes may not be protected or maintained if the human intention to care for the landscape is not apparent. Landscape language that communicates human intention, particularly intention to care for the landscape, offers a powerful vocabulary for design to improve ecological quality. Ecological function is not readily recognizable to those who are not educated to look for it. Furthermore, the appearance of many indigenous ecosystems and wildlife habitats violates cultural norms for the neat appearance of landscapes."

A key direction from that paper that can support efforts in naturalization is to implement "cues to care" – actions that increase the intentionality of naturalized spaces so that it is obvious that the space is deliberate and someone is caring for and grooming it. Some of these "cues" or grooming practices include:

- **Bold patterns/clean lines:** While naturalized areas will naturally drift and change over time, the initial plantings should be laid out and confined to clear patterns or lines. This will help slowly introduce the idea to residents who request neat gardens.
- **Bird feeders and pollinator gardens:** Bird feeders and plants for pollinators (e.g., butterfly and bee gardens) communicate the intention of the place (a place for nature), and reinforce that it is not abandoned or neglected. Also, encouraging birds could increase wildlife sighting and appreciation by residents.
- **Borders:** Borders have the quick ability to make any collection of plants look neater, and can be made by fences, plantings, shrubs, or by mowing around the edges.
- **Signage:** Educational signage describing the plants and/or process in the naturalized area may also help increase community understanding and, therefore, acceptance. Signage should also encourage visitors to stay out of the area to avoid trampling plants and exposure to ticks. Educational signage could be provided in collaboration with local groups and partners if interested.



When selecting potential sites for naturalization, it is essential to engage the community through consultations. These sessions serve as an opportunity to educate residents about the benefits of naturalization and to collaboratively develop a design plan that meets their preferences. While naturalized gardens, borders, or sections can be incorporated into nearly any park, it is important to consider the risk of ticks. The tall grasses and plants in these areas create ideal conditions for ticks, so design considerations should ensure that pathways do not direct people close to or through these zones. Additionally, clear signage should be posted to inform and educate about ticks.

Given the specialized knowledge required for successful naturalization – including selecting plants that are robust, aesthetically pleasing, and community-approved – the Town might consider hiring a staff horticulturist or someone with similar qualifications. For instance, Sault Ste. Marie employs multiple horticulturists year-round. During winter, these staff members cultivate plants and trees in City-owned greenhouses for spring planting throughout the City. The horticultural team also recently initiated a program to grow leafy greens for local food banks, which has proven efficient and beneficial, leading

to its continuation due to the significant yield and minimal staff involvement.

The Town of Renfrew has actively engaged horticultural services to assess and enhance the plant materials in its flower beds. To build on this, Renfrew should incorporate naturalization assessments into its future service contracts. This initiative would align with the Town's Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy (2023), which specifies preferred native species and vegetation. A specialized staff member would be tasked with overseeing naturalization and tree planting efforts, training operational staff, coordinating with community organizations and volunteers on various garden and planting projects, and supporting community gardens as required. Potential parks within the Town of Renfrew suitable for naturalization include McLean Greenspace, Legion Park, McConnell Park, and Stewart Park.

Recommendation

P 2. Implement managed naturalization practices, consulting with the community before embarking on projects.



Figure 8-2: GreenUP Ecology Park, photo by GreenUP

Accessibility, Safety, Comfort and Usability

Accessibility is often discussed as a standalone issue, with the focus on meeting minimum requirements. However, the general improvements discussed here have multiple, overlapping benefits that not only address accessibility, but serve to support public health and make spaces safer, more comfortable, and more usable (e.g., in different seasons, and for different activities).

Parks need to be upgraded over time to address accessibility. Infrastructure must meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standard requirements regarding seating (benches and picnic tables), playground equipment, playground safety surface, and pavement surface/path of travel (including tactile warning strips, handrails, and ramps). Safe and accessible paths of travel should be provided through parks with connections to amenities.

Examples of upgrades to playground accessibility include:

- Poured in place rubber or rubber tile safety/fall surface
- Cast in place flush concrete curb around perimeter of playground to retain safety surface and allow for barrier free access
- Playground design that meets minimum accessibility requirements as per CAN/CSA Z614-07 Annex H: Children's Playspaces and equipment that are accessible to persons with disabilities



Figure 8-3: Unwin Park, photo by the City of Surrey

Shelter from Sun and Rain

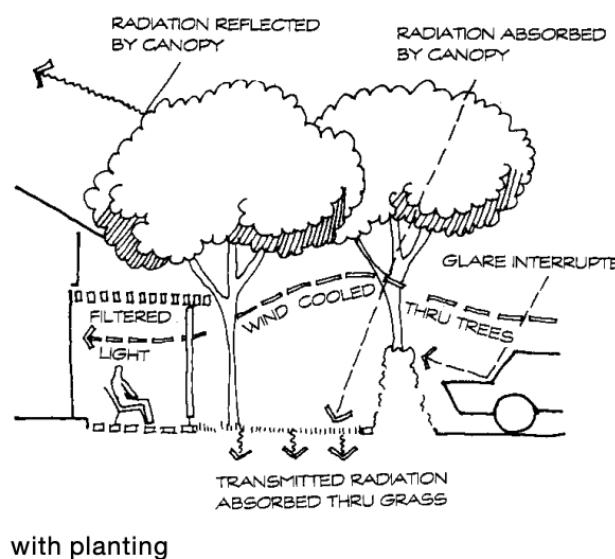
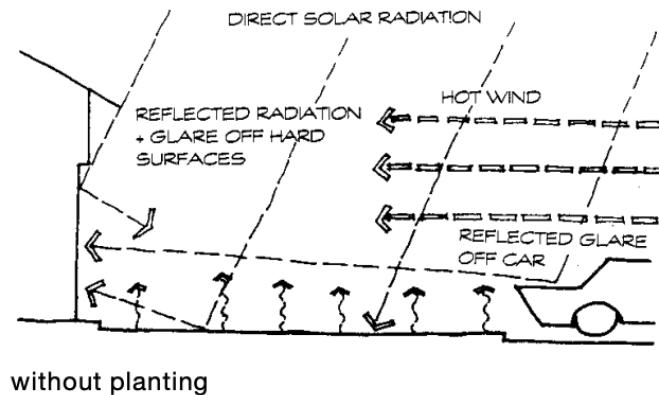
As a matter of community health and safety, and to support use of parks in all weather, adequate shelter needs to be provided in each park, either through the tree canopy or a built structure. This is particularly important in playgrounds, picnic areas, and sport fields where people often spend considerable time exposed to the sun, especially vulnerable populations such as children and seniors. Given the importance of providing shade in parks, shade structures and/or additional tree planting should be incorporated into all parks. Strategic tree planting should be a priority for the myriad benefits provided (e.g., shade, carbon sequestration, stormwater management, etc.). In the immediate and short term, however, shade structures and pavilions should also be provided, as trees will take years before reaching maturity and offering the benefits of shade. Larger pavilions intended for rentals for groups/special events can both encourage use of parks and help offset costs of providing shade structures.

The New South Wales Health Department (of Australia) and Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc. developed a comprehensive and helpful guide to sun protection entitled “Under Cover: Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design.” It is a technical guide that describes

how different structures (different built structures as well different tree types) provide shade (Figure 8-1), how to conduct a shade audit of a park, site-specific considerations (e.g., for sports fields and for parks) and more.



Figure 8-4: Diagram of Canopy Shade from Under Cover: Guidelines for Shade Planning and Design62



62 The New South Wales Health Department and Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc, 1998

The National Program for Playground Safety at the University of Northern Iowa also prepared a study for the Standards Council of Canada on this subject, entitled "Thermally Comfortable Playgrounds: A Review of Literature and Survey of Experts" (2020). This study contains valuable background research and provides guidelines for design of playgrounds, water features, and shade provision. Both guides can be valuable resources for the Town.

Washroom Access

Washrooms should be provided at busy community parks and trailheads, which may be accomplished through the provision of portable toilets, especially when water and sanitary service is not available. Certain highly used parks and trailheads in Renfrew may warrant investment in permanent washroom facilities, and this is discussed in the Site Specific Recommendations in Section 8.2. Currently, washroom facilities are only available at Howard K. Haramis Park and Ma-Te-Way Park. Where feasible, washrooms should remain available year-round, particularly at parks and trails with outdoor rinks/year-round use. For built facilities that are not winterized, portable toilets (i.e., "Porta Potties") can be provided during winter.

The park classification system (Table 8-2) recommends washrooms should be in Major Parks, and may be included in Neighbourhood Parks. McConnell Park has been classified as a Major Park and does not currently have a washroom. Among the Neighbourhood Parks in the park classification table, Victoria Park, Knights of Columbus Park, and Odd Fellows Park are suitable for washroom facilities given their existing amenities and park use. In these spaces “porta potties” may be more suitable; existing partnerships may also be able to support the fundraising necessary to build washrooms.

Drinking Water Sources

Providing a source of drinking water at parks allows people to increase the length of time they stay and can help prevent heat-related illnesses in hot weather. Drinking water is especially important in parks with sports and other active facilities that people use for more than an hour or two at a time (e.g., soccer fields, splash pads, picnic areas, etc.). If a park is in an unserviced area, the Town could assess the feasibility of installing a water tank or connecting to well water in order to provide drinking water.

Lighting

In order to encourage use of parks and facilities in winter months, this should be taken into account to ensure selected parks and facilities targeted for winter/shoulder season use are sufficiently lit (e.g., including sport fields/courts, outdoor rinks, etc.).

Sustainable lighting options such as LED or solar should be used. A challenge associated with solar lights has been that the lights lack the ability to retain their full intensity for the duration of the night. This may not be an issue for parks and facilities that are officially open/used until 11:00 pm. However, if the purpose of the lights is for safety and they need to remain bright all night, it may be problematic. Solar technology is evolving quickly, and it is now possible to address this issue by setting lighting profiles: pre-set schedules that dictate when the lights operate and the extent of their brightness, and the ability to switch to a motion sensor setting during the least used hours of the night.

Seating

Seating should be provided at all parks, in line with the type of use. Picnic tables are sometimes preferred as they allow groups to eat, play games, and converse. If picnic tables are fixed to the ground to prevent theft, they should be placed in a variety of formations to allow smaller and larger groups to sit together as needed.

It is occasionally the practice to remove seating and picnic tables during winter months to protect them from the elements, but seating should be selected and placed so that it can be used year-round to allow people to sit and socialize outdoors. As winters become milder due to climate change, the need for all-season seating will be greater as people will walk and gather outdoors more often in the winter months.

Drug Paraphernalia

During community consultations, a shared concern emerged regarding drug paraphernalia found in parks and on trails, posing potential safety risks. To address this issue, the Town should install hazardous waste disposal units in indoor facilities and should extend this initiative to outdoor areas. It is advisable to place these receptacles in parks and along trails, complemented by signs encouraging proper disposal of such materials. Additionally, these signs should provide support information, including addiction hotline numbers and details about the nearest shelters, to assist those in need.

Programming

Arts in the Parks

As public spaces that are available to and owned by all residents, parks provide vital opportunities for “the cultural expression of a community.⁶³ In turn, dedicated arts activities are powerful ways to revitalize a park. In coordination with the recommendations of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Master Plan, Renfrew should integrate small-scale arts and culture programming within local parks to animate these spaces and increase their use by all age groups. Potential offerings could include, but not be limited to: music concerts, drumming circles, open mics, storytelling/oral history sharing, stand-up comedy, magic, casual choir, art classes, photography walks, dance lessons, improv workshops, book clubs, creating writing/poetry circles, etc. Evening activities such as film screenings are also an opportunity to bring audiences into parks at night and limit vandalism in the late hours of the day.

Research has found unincorporated/non-commercial arts experiences such as the examples noted above help to build both individual identity and group solidarity.⁶⁴ They provide sites for personal expression and creativity and help to bridge social boundaries and inequalities relating to age, gender, language, race/ethnicity, and occupational status. Study findings included “greater tolerance of difference, trust and consensus building, collaborative work habits, use of innovation and creativity to solve problems, the capacity to imagine change and the willingness to work for it.”⁶⁵

63 American Planning Association. “City Parks Forum Briefing Papers - Arts and Cultural Programs.” (2005). Retrieved from https://www.brec.org/assets/General_Info/Why_R_Parks_Important/Papers/Parks-for-Arts-and-Cultural.pdf

64 Wali, A., Severson, R., & Longoni, M. (2002). “The informal arts: Finding cohesion, capacity and other cultural benefits in unexpected places.” Chicago: Chicago Center for Arts Policy, Columbia College. Retrieved from <https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/101040>

65 *ibid*



Online resources such as the Ontario Arts Council's Community-Engaged Art Workbook⁶⁶ and the Toronto Arts Foundation's Arts in the Parks toolkit⁶⁷ provide advice, frameworks, useful considerations, and case studies for planning arts activities in municipal parks, establishing partnerships, fundraising, conducting outreach and engagement, evaluating programs, etc.

66 Ontario Arts Council. (2017). "Framing community: A community engaged art workbook." Retrieved from <https://www.arts.on.ca/oac/media/oac/Publications/Framing-Community-A-Community-Engaged-Art-Workbook.pdf>

67 Toronto Arts Foundation. (2019). "Arts In The Parks Toolkit." Retrieved from [https://torontoartsfoundation.org/getattachment/Initiatives/Arts-in-the-Parks-\(1\)/Pages/Arts-in-the-Parks-Toolkit/CTA-TOOL-KIT/AITP-TOOL-KIT/AITP-Toolkit-2019.pdf.aspx](https://torontoartsfoundation.org/getattachment/Initiatives/Arts-in-the-Parks-(1)/Pages/Arts-in-the-Parks-Toolkit/CTA-TOOL-KIT/AITP-TOOL-KIT/AITP-Toolkit-2019.pdf.aspx)

Case Studies

Nature Book Club - Toronto, Ontario

The Nature Book Club is hosted by the High Park Nature Centre.⁶⁸ Each month, members select a nature-related theme (e.g., bees, water, birds, art in nature) and read a book of their choice on the topic. At the next meeting, participants present their books in a casual chat for 5-10 minutes each, retelling what they found most interesting or informative, showing pictures if there are any, and providing the year of publication and some information about the author. The book club runs from September to June and meets nine times via Zoom as well as outdoors in person in High Park, accompanied by a campfire and light refreshments.⁶⁹

Spíra - Halifax, Nova Scotia

Spíra is a drop-in, outdoor community choir run by a non-profit arts organization called Choirs for Change in the summer months. All are welcome to gather in Halifax's Fort Needham Memorial Park on Monday evenings to sing, develop their music skills, and build community. No auditions or experience is necessary. Participation is free and donations are accepted.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ <https://highparknaturecentre.com/nature-book-club/>

⁶⁹ <https://bookgagabooks.ca/2018/07/29/silent-book-club-in-the-park/>

⁷⁰ <http://www.choirsforchange.ca/>

Paint 'n Picnic - Cork, Ireland

A local artist in Cork, Ireland invited fellow community members to join her in a public park to create art and engage in conversation while enjoying lunch. Participants were invited to bring their own picnic, while painting materials and instruction were provided free of charge.

Silent Book Club

Silent Book Club is a global community of readers and introverts with more than 500 chapters in 50 countries around the world led by local volunteers.⁷¹ Members gather at a set time in bars, cafés, bookstores, libraries, and online. Each participant offers an introduction to their recent and current reading that is uniquely their own. Then, the group reads together in quiet camaraderie for one hour, followed by optional time to socialize. In Toronto, a local Silent Book Club chapter moved its meeting outdoors in a neighbourhood park.

⁷¹ <https://silentbook.club/pages/about-us>

The Town should pilot one or more informal visual, literary, or performing arts programs on a monthly or bi-monthly basis within municipal parks in partnership with local instructors, students, the Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce, and community groups (especially those whose past contributions to the park led to the park being named after the group). To meet the needs of the community, inclusive, small-scale programs should be offered at low cost and designed for all ages as well as specific demographic groups (i.e., school-aged children, teenagers, younger adults, middle and older adults, families).

Parks classified as Neighbourhood Parks under the parkland classification table (page 157), such as Victoria Park, Mack Wilson Park (formerly Hunter Gate Park), Kiwanis Park, McConnell Park, Knights of Columbus Park, and Horton Heights Park are recommended for small group gathering. Arts activities anticipated to take place for longer timeslots (e.g., more than two hours at a time) or gather large groups of participants (e.g., more than two dozen people) should be delivered in Major Parks (e.g., Ma-Te-Way Park, O'Brien Park) where supportive amenities such as washrooms, drinking water fountains, seating, and shade structures (e.g., gazebos, pavilions) will ensure participants are comfortable.



Self-Directed, Unstructured Outdoor Recreation

From the COVID-19 pandemic there has emerged an even greater appreciation for time spent outdoors in the natural environment: [a cross-country survey by Park People](#) showed that Canadians' appreciation for parks and green spaces increased over the pandemic. However, the need to make use of existing assets and resources – to encourage more residents and visitors to use parks, trails, and water routes – has also been apparent. These open spaces have the potential to serve all age groups. Outdoor activities provide a critical benefit to the health and well-being of all people, particularly children and teens. Time spent outdoors has been shown to improve physical and mental health, boost confidence, reduce stress and build understanding of, and respect for, the natural environment.

Many people have developed new interests in spending time outdoors, and it is likely these interests will remain high. Coupled with increased awareness and concern about climate change, it is likely that interest in outdoor programming and self-guided activities will continue to rise as people, particularly youth, seek to reconnect with nature and obtain a better understanding of ecology and the environment. Organizations dedicated to parks and

outdoor recreation such as [Outdoor Play Canada](#) and [Park People](#) regularly share resources and funding opportunities to support Canadian communities in their efforts to foster more outdoor play and recreation.

The [ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth](#) (2020) recommends promoting and supporting "outdoor – and, when possible, nature-based – play opportunities given their association with both increased physical activity levels and improved mental health outcomes" (p. 48). Among others, the report's recommendations for governments include promoting healthy movement by increasing access to recreation centres and public spaces outside of school hours, supporting families' participation in sport and recreation activities and investing in no-charge active play spaces (especially outdoors) for families with children of all ages.

Mood Walks

[Mood Walks](#) is a province-wide initiative that promotes physical activity in nature, or "green exercise," as a way to improve both physical and mental health. Led by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario, in partnership with Hike Ontario and Conservation Ontario, Mood Walks provides training and support for community

mental health agencies, social service organizations and other community partners to launch educational hiking programs, connect with local resources, and explore nearby trails and green spaces. In 2016, the Mood Walks for Youth in Transition project supported 41 organizations across Ontario to launch new hiking groups for youth who are at risk of, or experiencing, mental health issues. Programs like Mood Walks also align with getting active outdoors in nature, which is the experiential link necessary to developing an appreciation for the natural environment and a conservation-minded perspective, which appeals to youth today.

Geocaching

One way to help create excitement and intrigue for users of trails is through supporting geocaching recreation. Geocaching is a community-driven, family-friendly activity that can be enjoyed in trails, parks and open spaces. This GPS-aided treasure hunt is facilitated through a number of online platforms. There is already geocaching activity in Renfrew: currently, the Geocaching mobile app shows there to be approximately 26 geocaches in and around the area. Other Ontario municipalities have supported geocaching as a facet of small-town tourism and recreation; a notable example is the Municipality of Highlands East, which has claimed the title of Canada's best "GeoTour." To support this self-directed, unstructured activity, municipalities can work with local geocachers to integrate geocaching with the municipal/regional park and trail system, develop a relevant geocaching information page on municipal websites, and ensure that trailheads include geocaching activity icons where suitable.

Recommendations

- P 3. As parks and playgrounds undergo updates to improve accessibility, ensure that Town inventories and webpages are also updated to reflect the new features and facilities.
- P 4. Install sufficient shelter (e.g., tree planting, seating) in all parks to accommodate the specific needs and usage patterns of each location.
- P 5. Following the parks classification system, prioritize installing washrooms in parks classified as Major Parks, and Neighbourhood Parks. Explore partnerships for fundraising and installing washrooms
- P 6. Implement lighting in parks that facilitate activities throughout the year, especially during the shoulder seasons and winter months, to enhance safety and usability.
- P 7. Pilot the delivery of small-scale, low-cost arts and culture programming within municipal parks.
- P 8. Encourage self-directed and community-led programming outdoors in parks and open spaces.



8.3 SITE-SPECIFIC PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Aberdeen Greenspace

Existing Conditions & Observations

- A vacant plot with overgrowth, located near the local hospital and former shopping mall site with a scenic view of Pinnacle Hill.
- It is in proximity to community housing units and an upcoming subdivision.
- There is no available parking.



Recommendation

P 9. Develop lands into a Neighbourhood Park.



Victoria Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Located next to a former school that has been converted into apartments, this park is frequently used by dog walkers.
- It is the only Neighbourhood Park on the north side of the Bonnechere River, supporting many local residents.
- Features include a half basketball court set up in a section of the parking lot for surrounding apartments.
- An old baseball backstop remains on the site, reflecting the park's recreational history.
- This location also serves as a tour bus stop for the Swinging Bridge, adding to its community value.
- It was the former site of an outdoor rink.
- There is one picnic table available for public use, offering a spot for relaxation and gatherings.
- There is no formal parking. Visitors commonly park their cars on the street.

Recommendations

- P 10. Consider selling a portion of the property for residential development and transforming the remaining area into parkland.
- P 11. Remove the existing backstop to clear space for new amenities or landscaping.
- P 12. Construct a playground for neighbourhood use.
- P 13. Develop a parking lot to accommodate visitors and improve accessibility to the area.
- P 14. Formalize the park area as a designated tour bus stop for visitors to the Swinging Bridge by installing appropriate signage.
- P 15. Explore the possibility of installing a splash pad in the future to enhance recreational opportunities.
- P 16. Transform this park into a gateway to the waterfront by creating a pathway that connects to Elgin Avenue (south of the park) and extends along Raglan Street North.

Mack Wilson Park (formerly Hunter Gate Park)

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Hunter Gate is a new subdivision that is attracting a mix of retirees and an increasing number of young families.
- The community is designed with volunteer maintained gardens, providing green spaces for residents.

Recommendations

- P 17. Consult Hunter Gate residents about installing new amenities in the park such as a small play structure.
- P 18. Erect a shade structure to serve as a gathering place and offer protection from the sun, enhancing comfort for visitors.
- P 19. Add picnic areas and benches to encourage relaxation and social gatherings in the outdoor space.



Kiwanis Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The park is accessible from two roads, offering convenient entry points for visitors.
- It features an outdated playground that may need renovation to better serve the community.
- Located in a low-income neighborhood, the park serves as a vital recreational space for local residents.

Recommendations

P 20. Explore the feasibility of creating community garden plots to promote local gardening activities and foster community engagement.

P 21. Evaluate the current playground's safety and usage in consultation with the local neighbourhood. Consider updating the equipment or constructing a small BMX Pump Track or skate park.



McConnell Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- A wooden playground that was removed 15 years ago once stood in the park.
- The park consists of two parcels connected by a bridge, enhancing its layout and accessibility.
- Lighting was temporarily repaired in 2023 with plans for replacement in 2024 to improve visibility and safety.
- The hill in the park was once a popular spot for tobogganing before Ma-Te-Way became the preferred location.
- An old backstop remains, hinting at the park's past recreational uses.
- Currently, the park is known for issues related to drug use, affecting its reputation and utilization.
- There is potential to enhance this space to support more programming and event use.

Recommendations

- P 22. Install a playground.
- P 23. Upgrade the asphalt surfacing on the trail within the park to better support use for walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, etc.
- P 24. Consider installing a trail loop within the park.
- P 25. Install a natural amphitheatre in the sloped portion of the park.
- P 26. Place more benches and picnic areas throughout the park to encourage relaxation and social gatherings in natural settings.
- P 27. Implement naturalization projects to enhance the ecological health and aesthetic value of the area. Explore obtaining easements to connect the park to the Millennium Trail along Vimy Boulevard, supported by street parking spots.



Ma-Te-Way Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The local high school utilizes the park's field for football games, integrating the park into community sports activities.
- The fields are not directly connected to the main facility, posing a challenge for accessibility and use.
- A staircase provides access to trails, enhancing the park's connectivity to natural areas. The trails have hosted events such as cycle cross and cross-country skiing, including during the Ontario Winter Games, showcasing the park's versatility for sports.
- There are ongoing issues with ATV use in the park, which can disrupt the safety of the area.
- The site formerly housed an outdoor rink.
- There is a vacant lot nearby, owned by Family & Children's Services, which could be used to support relocated park amenities.
- Site features natural wooded areas behind the park.

- New parking lot added to accomodate additional use of park and the myFM centre.
- Explore partnerships for fundraising and installing washrooms.
- There are mixed feelings on Council regarding the park's layout (e.g., positioning of outdoor facilities, opportunity for an additional park entrance). The Community Living organization has requested that cement walkways be installed from the parking lot to the splash pad and picnic shelter to better facilitate wheelchair access.
- Cement walkway from new parking lot to splash pad is planned for 2024.
- The Town is exploring a potential agreement with a local beach volleyball group to develop courts.



Recommendations

- P 28. Consider converting the underutilized all-wheels park into a basketball court, as the existing concrete pad is appropriately sized for this purpose.
- P 29. Add a secondary trail connecting the existing Bluegrass Trail to the Millennium Trail (approx. 100 m).
- P 30. Add a secondary trail connecting the Ma Te Way Centre to the Millennium Trail (approx. 90 m).
- P 31. Add a multi-use trail between the Millennium Trail and the Ma Te Way Recreational Trails (approx. 390 m).
- P 32. Install interpretive signage along trails to provide educational information about the natural and historical aspects of the area.
- P 33. Work with the Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation to explore the potential for outdoor spaces such as a communal garden or gathering circle with Indigenous plantings and grasses.



Figure 8-5: Proposed Recreational Trails at Ma-Te-Way Park (see section 9.0)

Legion Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Located near a public school, the park provides a convenient recreational space for students and families.
- The playground is relatively new, having been installed 6 years ago, and offers modern facilities for children.
- There is a large lawn space at the back of the park that is currently underutilized, presenting opportunities for additional activities or events.

Recommendations

P 34. To minimize park maintenance costs, implement naturalization strategies in the back lawn space.



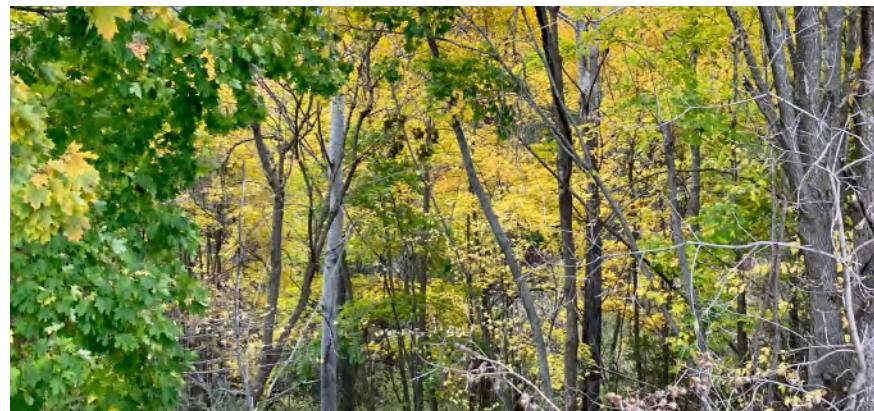
McLean Greenspace

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The site was formerly used as an outdoor rink.
- It could serve as a gateway to a proposed new conservation area and wilderness trail, however features steep terrain.
- The neighbourhood includes community housing and notably lacks a local playground, highlighting a need for play facilities to serve the local families.

Recommendations

- P 35. Install a play structure to serve the local neighbourhood.
- P 36. Consider reinstating the ice rink or alternatively, adding a sports court to provide a recreational area for various activities.
- P 37. Implement naturalization efforts to enhance the local biodiversity and improve the aesthetic appeal of the area.
- P 38. Install additional seating to accommodate visitors and provide comfortable resting areas. Address the steep drop-off area by implementing safety measures such as barriers or landscaping to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of all visitors.



Oddfellows Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- There is an ongoing issue with residents frequently using ATVs in the area, which may require attention to ensure safety in the community.
- The park features 60 community garden plots, with half of these being utilized by the Food Bank to support local food security efforts.
- A shed on the site was constructed by the Rotary Club.
- A water hookup is conveniently located in the middle of the garden plots, facilitating easy watering and maintenance of the gardens.

Recommendations

- P 39. Replace fencing.
- P 40. Provide additional compost areas.



Stewart Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The park is situated near “Confusion Corner”⁷² and the Millennium Trail, making it a central and accessible location for visitors.
- It features a waterfall and is on the site of a former power station.
- A nearby Town-owned parcel is used as a snow dump, which may influence the seasonal landscape and usage of the park.
- Part of the park, including some parking areas, is owned by the local church, indicating a shared management or usage arrangement.
- The site is reportedly a common area for deer, which could appeal to wildlife enthusiasts but also might contribute to maintenance challenges.
- Town staff have identified challenges with maintenance service levels in this park.

Recommendations

- P 41. Develop trail connections to enhance accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.
- P 42. Construct a lookout bridge to provide scenic views and a unique vantage point for visitors.
- P 43. Plan for a future Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) to provide a dedicated space for dog owners to exercise their pets safely.
- P 44. Consider expanding the park into the adjacent snow dump area to increase recreational space and utility.
- P 45. Install informative signage about the historical significance of the old power site to educate visitors and enrich their experience.
- P 46. Add a secondary trail connection between Stewart Park and the the Millennium Trail (approx. 80 m).

⁷² https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news/what-s-going-on-here-confusion-corner/article_aeb1d895-6863-5232-8a58-343c50ceab76.html

Fortington Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- An old backstop remains in the park.
- There is a picnic table available for visitors, providing a space for gatherings and relaxation.
- The park includes hedges and a playground, offering a blend of natural beauty and recreational facilities for families.
- A former play structure that was located near the backstop has been torn down, reflecting changes in the park's layout and amenities.
- Visitors can enjoy a beautiful view through the trees, enhancing the serene atmosphere of the park.

Recommendations

- P 47. Update lighting.
- P 48. Utilize this area for community events as it offers a suitable space for gatherings and public activities.



Mayhew Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Located between two homes, the park's adjacent road is currently being expanded, and approximately 19 new homes are being added to the area, potentially increasing the park's usage and visibility.
- It is located near the Algonquin Trail, offering easy access for hikers, cyclists, and other users.

Recommendations

P 49. Consider selling this space to facilitate residential development, and locating a neighbourhood park elsewhere in the area to serve residents of new developments.



Howard K. Haramis Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The park is conveniently located near Renfrew's Visitor Information Centre, which provides seasonal washroom access.
- The site features a RV pump-out station, historical caboose, and park-and-ride facility, making it a multifunctional area for both locals and travelers, and would be suitable for a park.
- the addition of a park would serve travellers, users of the Algonquin Trail connection in the park, and future residents of the Renfrew East Secondary Plan Area.
- The Arts, Culture, and Heritage Master Plan recommends connecting the historical caboose to Renfrew's heritage. A play structure at this location in the long term could serve travelers, users of the Algonquin Trail, and future residents of the Renfrew East Secondary Plan Area.
- Town staff indicated there is interest in installing an electric vehicle charging station at this location to attract visitors.
- Positioned behind the park is the Renfrew East Secondary Plan Area.

- The park provides a connection to the Algonquin Trail, offering easy access for enthusiasts of hiking and biking to explore the scenic path.

Recommendations

- P 50. Pilot the delivery of small-scale, outdoor programming given the park's accessibility to washrooms, drinking water, and parking and in coordination with the recommendations of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Master Plan.
- P 51. Update gazebo structure and paving.
- P 52. Install a playground, potentially with a theme that focuses on diversity, culture, and heritage.



Knights of Columbus Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The park is well-utilized due to its prime location on a main arterial, making it easily accessible for residents and passersby.
- An old backstop remains on the site.
- The playground on site is used by children and families.
- A Town-owned lot is located across the road from the site and could be used for additional facilities.

Recommendations

- P 53. Consider adding parallel street parking, ideally coordinated with scheduled road work to optimize efficiency and minimize disruption.
- P 54. Upgrade the existing play structures to meet current safety standards and provide an engaging environment for children.



Horton Heights Park

Existing Conditions & Observations

- The playground was updated within the past seven years, featuring modern equipment and safety features to enhance the recreational experience for children.
- The playground surface is sunken, making the play area a risk for injuries.



Recommendations

P 55. Top up playground surfacing.



Low Square

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Located next to Renfrew's Town Hall, the space includes a monument, gazebo, and seating.
- The walkway through the site leads directly to the sidewalk on Raglan Street South, the Town's main shopping street. Given this central location, there is potential to enhance this space for more programming, placemaking, and event use such as concerts, markets, and cultural and historical activities. This is discussed further in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Master Plan.



Recommendations

- P 56. Update walkways to 1.2 m wide concrete paving to improve accessibility.
- P 57. Add colourful, programmable overhead LED catenary lighting.
- P 58. Develop a raised deck and seatwall that can double as a stage for events.
- P 59. Coordinate with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan to develop heritage and interpretation signage.
- P 60. Develop a cohesive site furniture strategy to complement the existing furniture on site.
- P 61. Provide an accessible picnic table in coordination with the site furniture strategy.
- P 62. Plant small trees/shrubs along Railway Avenue to help frame the space.
- P 63. Reduce mowing around the Town Hall building by planting native, low-maintenance perennials and grasses.
- P 64. Add an accessible entrance from the park to the front entrance of the Town Hall building.
- P 65. Position Low Square as a key site for community programming, events, and activities.



9.0 TRAILS

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Based on the comments received throughout the community engagement process, it is clear residents of Renfrew desire a trail system that provides reliable access to local attractions and connectivity to the County beyond Town lines. The network of trails should cater to a range of trail user groups without compromising the environment or user experience. Residents believe trails providing waterfront access will be well used by the community.

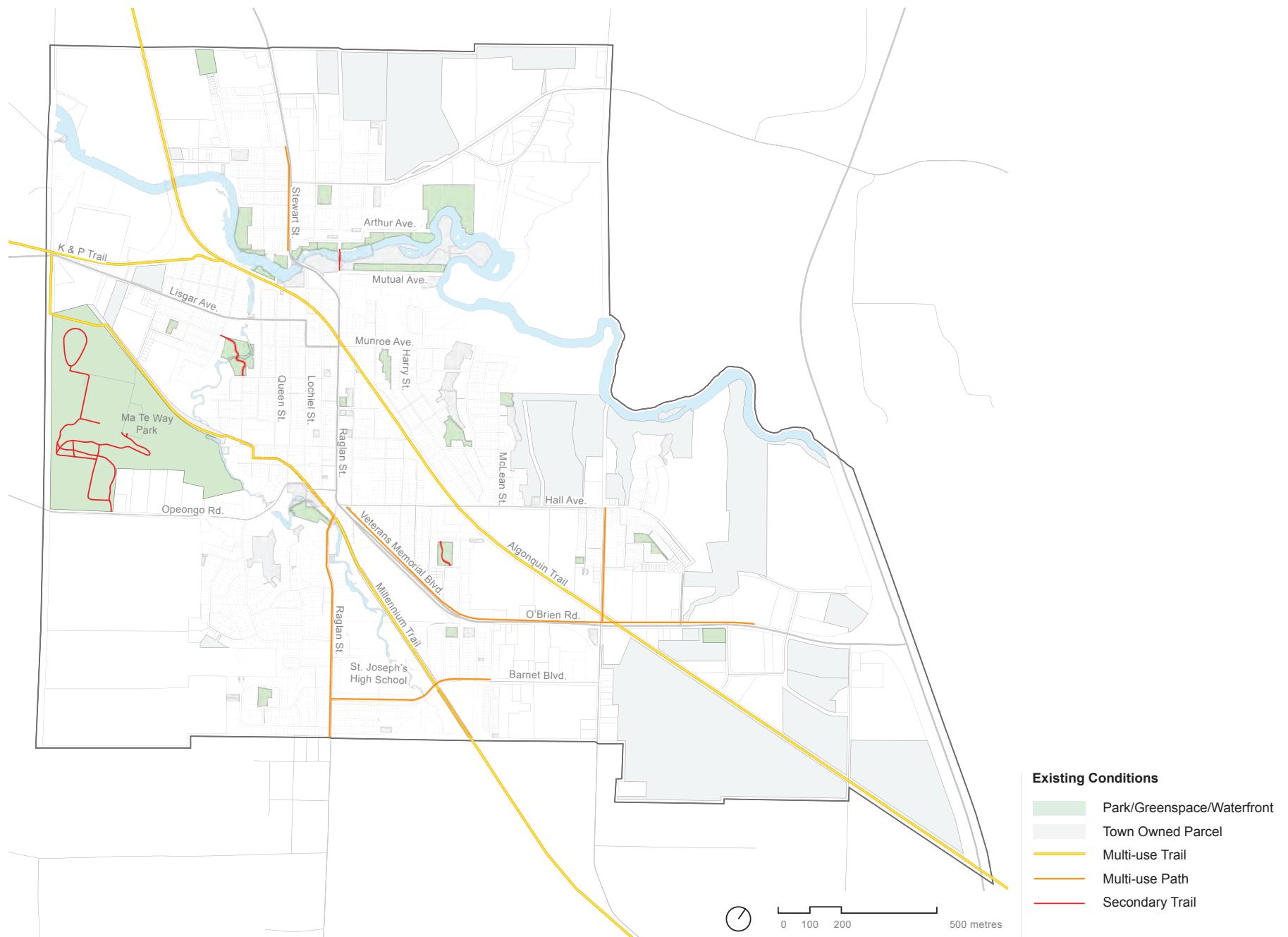


Figure 9-1: Existing Trails in Renfrew

9.2 EXISTING TRAILS

There are several existing multi-use trails and paths in Renfrew as depicted in Figure 9-1 and outlined in Table 9-1. The Town has installed five sections of multi-use paths (MUP) totalling approximately 6.4 kilometres. They run in two directions along Stewart Street, Veterans Memorial Boulevard, O'Brien Road, Barnet Boulevard, Gillian Road, and Raglan Street South. There are also three parks with existing trails including McConnell Park, Ma Te Way Park, and Fortington Park. Finally, three of these trails, the Algonquin Trail, the K&P Trail, and the Millennium Trail, total approximately 11 kilometres within the Town's boundary and extend into adjacent municipalities.

Algonquin Trail

The Algonquin Trail, as it is known in Renfrew County, is a small section of the 296-kilometre Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT). This former Canadian Pacific Rail corridor is a multi-use corridor that stretches from Smiths Falls to Mattawa. Some sections of the trail north of Petawawa are still under construction.

In Renfrew County, the Algonquin Trail is open to both non-motorized and motorized use (ATVs, ORVs, etc.). Motorized users and cyclists are asked to yield to walkers and hikers. The full list of permitted uses includes:

- Walking, running, hiking, dog walking
- Cross country skiing, snowshoeing
- Orienteering, geocaching
- Nature appreciation, bird watching, nature study
- Dog sledding
- Cycling, including the use of E-bikes
- Horseback riding
- Harvesting of non-wood products such as tree seed/

Table 9-1: Summary of Existing Trails in Renfrew

Trail Name	Trail Type	Description	Length ⁷³ (m)	Surface	Owner/Manager
Algonquin Trail	Multi-use Trail	From Smiths Falls to Mattawa	6,500	Stone dust	County
K&P Trail	Multi-use Trail	From Kingston to Renfrew	940	Gravel	County
Millennium Trail	Multi-use Trail	From Barnet Blvd. to Lisgar St. (within Town borders)	3,400	Gravel	Town
Stewart Street Trail	Multi-use Path	From Mason Ave. to Ready Ave. along Stewart St.	550	Asphalt	Town
Veterans/O'Brien Trail	Multi-use Path	From Raglan St. to 980 O'Brien Rd. (Walmart) along Veterans Memorial Blvd. & O'Brien Rd.	2,500	Asphalt	Town
Barnet Trail	Multi-use Path	From Raglan St. to Gillan Rd. along Barnet Blvd.	1,500	Asphalt	Town
Gillian Trail	Multi-use Path	From Hall Ave. to O'Brien Rd. along Gillian Rd.	620	Asphalt	Town
Raglan Street S. Trail	Multi-use Path	From the Millennium Trail crossing to the Town boundary at Graham Ave. along Raglan Street S.	1,200	Asphalt	Town
McConnell Park Trails	Park trail	Connects Vimy Blvd. to Patrick Ave.	280	Asphalt	Town
Ma Te Way Recreational Trails	Park trail	Connects Opeongo Rd. to the park and myFM Centre Connects to the Bluegrass Trail	2,000	Natural surface	Town
Bluegrass Trail (Ma Te Way Park)	Park Trail	Connections to the Ma Te Way Recreational Trails Outdoor skating oval in the winter	500	Gravel	Town
Fortington Park Trails	Park trail	Connects Jordan Ave. to Park Ave.	150	Asphalt	Town
Swinging Bridge to Hincks Avenue	Secondary	From the Swinging Bridge to Hincks Ave.	190	Gravel/ Natural surface	Town

73 Length of trail within Town of Renfrew borders

cones, mushrooms for personal use

- Electric-powered personal mobility vehicles (scooters, wheelchairs, etc.)
- Operating an Off-Road Vehicle on or between May 1 and November 30
- Other activities as approved through the execution of a land use agreement or special event permit obtained from the County of Renfrew
- Other personal transportation as approved by the County of Renfrew
- Snowmobiles, with permits from the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

K&P Trail

The K&P Trail gets its name from the former Kingston and Pembroke Railway that operated in eastern Ontario. The K&P was intended to connect Kingston to Pembroke. However, once the Canada Central Railway built a line from Renfrew to Pembroke, it made more sense to connect Kingston to Renfrew and continue north with the existing line to Pembroke.

73 www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

The K&P corridor was the first purchase of an abandoned rail corridor by the County of Renfrew in 2001⁷³. Today the corridor holds a 180-km multi-use recreational rail trail that connects Kingston to Renfrew, where it intersects with the Algonquin Trail (part of the OVRT). Permitted uses are the same as those listed under the Algonquin Trail.

Millennium Trail

The Millennium Trail is 3.4 km long and follows the route of the CN Railway through the heart of Renfrew between Barnet Boulevard to Lisgar Street. The trail extends southeast beyond Barnett Blvd and into Horton Township and McNab Braeside Township (it is called the McNab Braeside trail at this point). The trail terminates at Division and Poole Streets at the McNab Braeside and Arnprior boundary.

The Millennium Trail is suitable for walkers, joggers, wheelchairs, bicycles, bird watching, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling in the winter. There is existing interpretive signage along the trail describing Renfrew's heritage.

9.3 OVERALL TRAIL DIRECTIONS

The overall planning and design directions for Renfrew's trail network are outlined in the section below.

The subsequent section outlines site-specific trail recommendations. For a map of the recommended trail network, please refer to Figure 9-2.

Educating Potential Trail Users

The 2010 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Culture recognized there is an opportunity to raise public awareness of the trail system in Renfrew⁷⁴. Improved public awareness of the trail network will serve as a catalyst for fostering community engagement and responsible outdoor recreational spaces, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural habitats and respecting wildlife, and creating a sense of ownership. Safety on the trail network can be improved with more knowledge and information about proper trail etiquette, navigation skills, and emergency procedures. Activating the trails with interpretive signage about a variety of topics encourages users to explore and appreciate the diverse ecosystems and scenic landscapes along the trails, promoting physical activity and mental well-being. As recommendations from this Plan are implemented, targeted initiatives

and outreach efforts, such as educational campaigns, community events, and digital platforms will help illuminate the new and improved trail network.

Building Trails Through Development

Trails are essential components of community infrastructure. New trails should be integrated into existing and future parks as well as new neighbourhood developments. This trail network should also link Renfrew's various neighbourhoods, whenever possible, through off-road connections. However, when this is not possible in the foreseeable future, using signage and other on-road demarcations should be considered.

As new developments are built, there should be an expectation to provide pedestrian links and recreational trails as part of the development. This proactive approach fosters connectivity within neighborhoods and encourages sustainable modes of transportation. By incorporating pedestrian-friendly pathways and recreational trails seamlessly into the urban fabric, new developments can enhance residents' access to green spaces while mitigating the environmental impact of increased

⁷⁴ Town of Renfrew Master Plan for Parks Recreation and Culture (2010), page 64

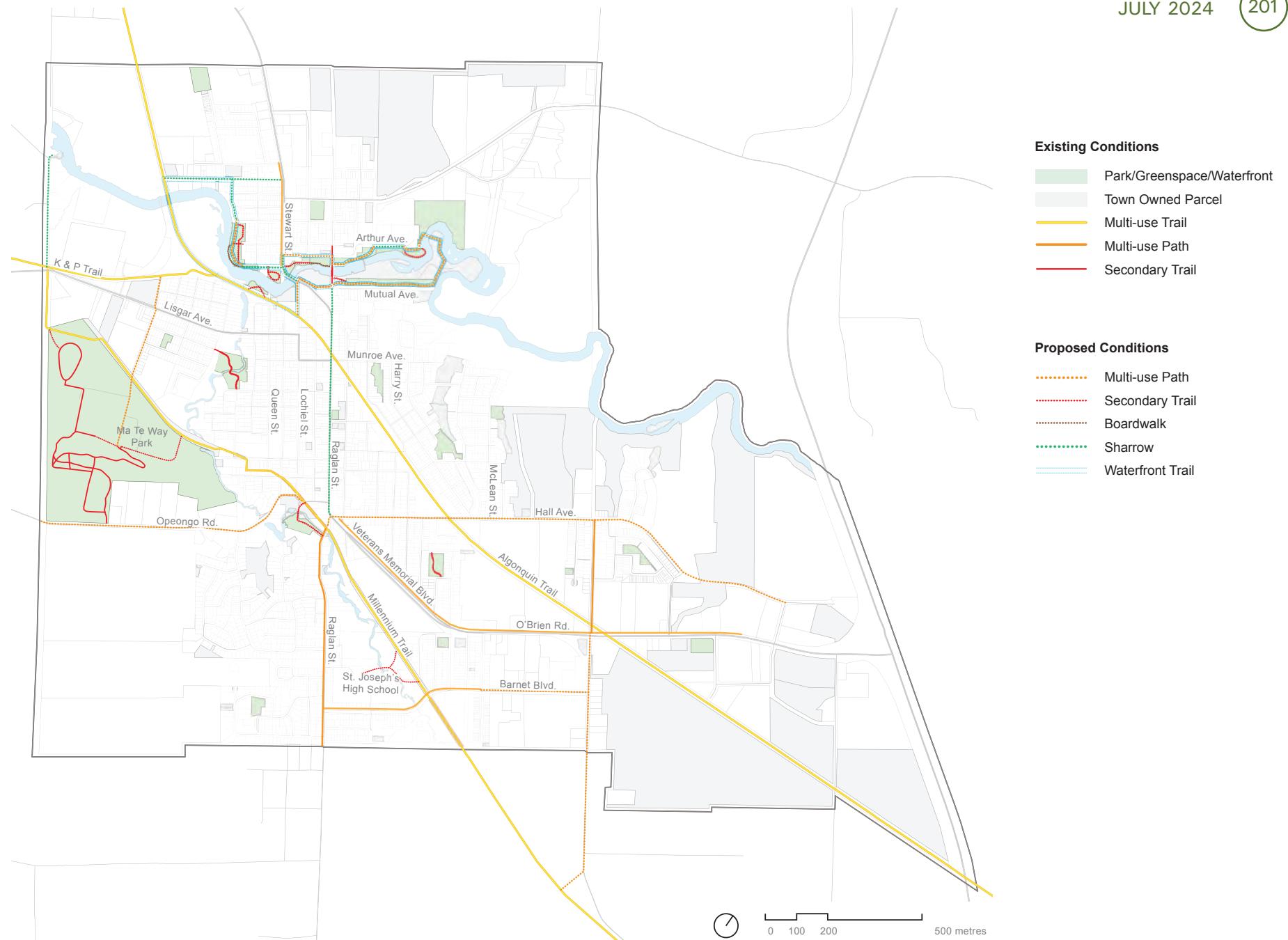


Figure 9-2: Overall Trail Recommendations



development. Such initiatives not only benefit current residents but also contribute to the long-term vitality and livability of evolving communities.

An example of this forward thinking approach might appear if a second Bonnechere River crossing were to be developed. The bridge's infrastructure should be designed with trails and active transportation in mind, such as with a wide pedestrian area and bike lanes. Additionally, if Bridge Street is ever updated, it should be rebuilt with a generous pedestrian walkway and viewing nodes, as well as dedicated bike lanes to facilitate active transportation (Figure 9-3).

Improving Accessibility

The typical definition of an accessible trail refers to a trail that is primarily designed to accommodate users with mobility challenges who may require a wide, flat, smooth surface (i.e., visitors with mobility devices). However, not all persons with a disability require a mobility device and may find other aspects of a trail difficult to navigate. For example, a 5 km accessible trail might meet mobility requirements but still not be accessible to someone who has a visual challenge.

The Town should aim to provide access for as many people as possible. Providing a range of trail types throughout Renfrew will help ensure an enjoyable experience for the widest range of users. The concept of accessibility extends far beyond compliance with legal standards. What is accessible varies among trail users and encompasses a diverse range of needs and abilities. Ultimately, a commitment to inclusivity and transparent communication will enable individuals of all abilities to enjoy the trail network.

Improving Connectivity

Aligning with the 2010 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Culture, the Town should consider further recreational trail development to improve connectivity between parks and open spaces with residential areas. A cohesive trail network creates links between Town amenities while also providing a destination for recreation on the trail itself. Efforts should focus on the connections that will enhance pedestrian movement and encourage residents to walk or use active transportation. Where off-road trail connections are not possible, new active transportation trails in Renfrew should align with the County's program of hardening shoulders on County Roads to allow for movement removed from the main flow of traffic.

Active transportation infrastructure encourages the use of self-propelled modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, jogging, rolling, and skiing. A multi-modal transportation system will encourage healthy and active living, as well as limit impacts to the environment. Building on and improving existing active supportive features, such as signage, benches, picnic areas, rest stops, lighting, and bike racks, will help increase the comfort and security of users of all ages and abilities.



Figure 9-3: Example of Viewing Node on Bridge St. in Carleton Place

Rest and Viewing Areas

Rest and viewing areas provide opportunities to take a break, appreciate the natural surroundings, and enjoy moments of tranquility. Rest areas may include benches, picnic tables, or seating arrangements strategically placed along the trail. Viewing areas offer scenic views or points of interest, often equipped with interpretive signage to educate and engage users. Well-designed rest and viewing areas can make trails more inclusive. Depending on how the trail is used, more specific amenities may be desired at rest areas. For example, for cyclists, this might include a bike repair station and bike racks.

Rest areas should be spaced at least 350 metres apart when feasible. This can be increased to 150 and 200 metres to provide additional accessibility, to a maximum of 350 metres apart. Viewing areas should be located in view of a significant feature, with seating arranged to optimize sightlines.

A viewing area may replace a rest area as long as it fulfills the requirements noted in the text above. Viewing areas are often located near water or high elevation points, where edge control and safety are important. Managing viewing areas may involve ongoing maintenance and pruning of vegetation to preserve desired views. It is important to know which views are important to the trail

experience and how they will be preserved over time as part of the vegetative management program for the trail.

Maintenance and Safety

Developing new trails involves more than just creating a path through nature, it necessitates a comprehensive approach to maintenance and safety to ensure long-term sustainability and the safety of all users.

The Town should understand its responsibility and level of commitment to trail maintenance prior to developing new trails. Maintenance is important to keep trails clear of debris, manage erosion, and address wear and tear. Safety measures and clear signage essential to guide and protect users.

Before new trails are developed, the Town should consider consultations with local emergency response personnel to understand the risks associated with the terrain, potential hazards, and necessary access points for timely rescue operations. This will help ensure safety protocols are adequately addressed in the planning and construction phases of trail development.



9.4 OVERALL TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town of Renfrew is growing, and so should its trail network. This section describes trail recommendations that apply to the entire trail network as a whole, reflecting the Overall Trail Directions from the previous section.

Developing a Trail Hierarchy

This Plan identifies seven (7) types of trail infrastructure as defined in Table 9-2. The table also indicates recommended surfacing, width, and location. The Town should have regard for this recommended trail hierarchy in the planning, design, and development of its trail network.

Recommendations

- T 1. Implement the recommended Trail Hierarchy when developing new trails and updating existing trails



Table 9-2: Recommended Trail Hierarchy

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Trail Type	Description	Permitted Uses	Amenities	Min. Width (m)	Surface Type
Waterfront Trail	Continuous waterfront trail Supports a wide range of uses (recreation, utilitarian) Off-road trails (if possible) used year-round	Walking, hiking, cycling, and other non-motorized forms of transportation	Parking, signage, trailhead, washrooms, seating, trash receptacles	3.0 (when possible)	Asphalt, concrete, limestone screening, or other firm and stable
Boardwalk	Branches off from the Waterfront Trail to bring people closer to the water	Walking, hiking	Signage and seating	3.0	Wood, metal
Multi-Use Paths and Trails	Supports a wide range of uses (recreation, utilitarian) Off-road trails used year-round Often located next to roads Can be motorized or non-motorized	Walking, hiking, cycling, and other non-motorized forms of transportation	Parking, signage, trailhead, washrooms, seating, trash receptacles.	1.8 – 3.0	Asphalt, concrete, limestone screening, or other firm and stable
Secondary Trail	Short pathways or loops located off-road or within parks Connects to MUPs	Walking, jogging, hiking, and cycling	Signage and seating	1.2	Asphalt, limestone screening, or other firm and stable
Sidewalks	Located next to roads	Walking, hiking	Signage and seating	1.2	Concrete
Sharrows	Located along local roads that share ROW with vehicular traffic Denoted by pavement markings and signage Suitable for low-volume roads Temporary until a permanent solution can be implemented	Walking, hiking, cycling, and other motorized/non-motorized forms of transportation	n/a	1.5 - 2.0	Existing road condition (asphalt)
Paved Shoulder	Located adjacent local roads but within the ROW Suitable for low-volume roads	Walking, hiking, cycling, and other motorized/non-motorized forms of transportation	n/a	1.5 - 2.0	Existing road condition (asphalt)

Signage Standards

A signage strategy will provide the direction necessary to create visual consistency for the placement and design of trail signage throughout Renfrew. Signage has been organized into the following types: safety, wayfinding, education, and trailheads (Table 9-3).

Signage provides critical information, and in many cases, the more information the better, but when signs are added gradually it can result in cluttered and confusing messaging which is an eye sore. A strategy will help the Town provide the required information that is both helpful to the reader and visually appealing.

Overall the signage strategy should:

- Develop standards for location, hierarchy, and graphic style/design for all types of signage
- Provide a large overall map of the trail network and information about the trail at an information kiosk at each trailhead location (Figure 9-4)
- Include a small map and road signage to local and regional destinations for directional signage
- Include rules and regulations to encourage safe trail etiquette, such as signage for owners to pick up after their dogs, etc.

- Implement signage over time in conjunction with park, trail, and open space improvement and development projects
- Be considered when budgeting for park, trail, and open space improvement projects
- Incorporate the Town of Renfrew logo
- Include standards for the strategic placement of signage
- Consider pre-existing signage of other organizations and jurisdictions and defer to those pre-existing signs when appropriate

Recommendations

T 2. Develop a trails signage strategy

Table 9-3: Components of the Signage Strategy

Component	Recommendation
Guidelines	Standards for strategic placements and location of signage Considerations of accessibility (AODA compliant) and effective communication by utilizing intuitive design, consistency, lighting, etc.
Budget	Full cost analysis including construction, manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and lifespan of signage
Implementation Plan	Cohesive, multiyear implementation plan in conjunction with trail improvements Implementation plan to be included in budgeting for trail projects
Design	Final design concept including specifications for materials, dimensions, installation requirements, and branding based on location and hierarchy Incorporation of the Renfrew logo on signs when possible Consideration of flexibility for updating signs (e.g., population numbers, change of location)



Figure 9-4: Example of an Information Kiosk Recommended for Each Trailhead

9.5 MILLENNIUM TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS



The existing trails in Renfrew require significant improvements and protection. However, since the Algonquin Trail and K&P Trail belong to the County, they fall beyond the scope of this Plan. It is recommended the Town work with the County whenever possible to implement the Overall Trail Directions and Recommendations discussed in Sections 9.2 and 9.3, respectively. Working together with all governing bodies will help to create a cohesive and connected trail network.

The recommendations below discuss improvements to the Millennium Trail, including existing and proposed access points. This is followed by a summary table which is organized by recommendation type. All Millennium Trail recommendations are reflected in Figure 9-5. Please note, recommendations for waterfront trails are discussed in Section 7.0, and recommendations for park trails are discussed in Section 8.0.

Existing Access Point Recommendations

The following recommendations refer to existing access points along the Millennium Trail.

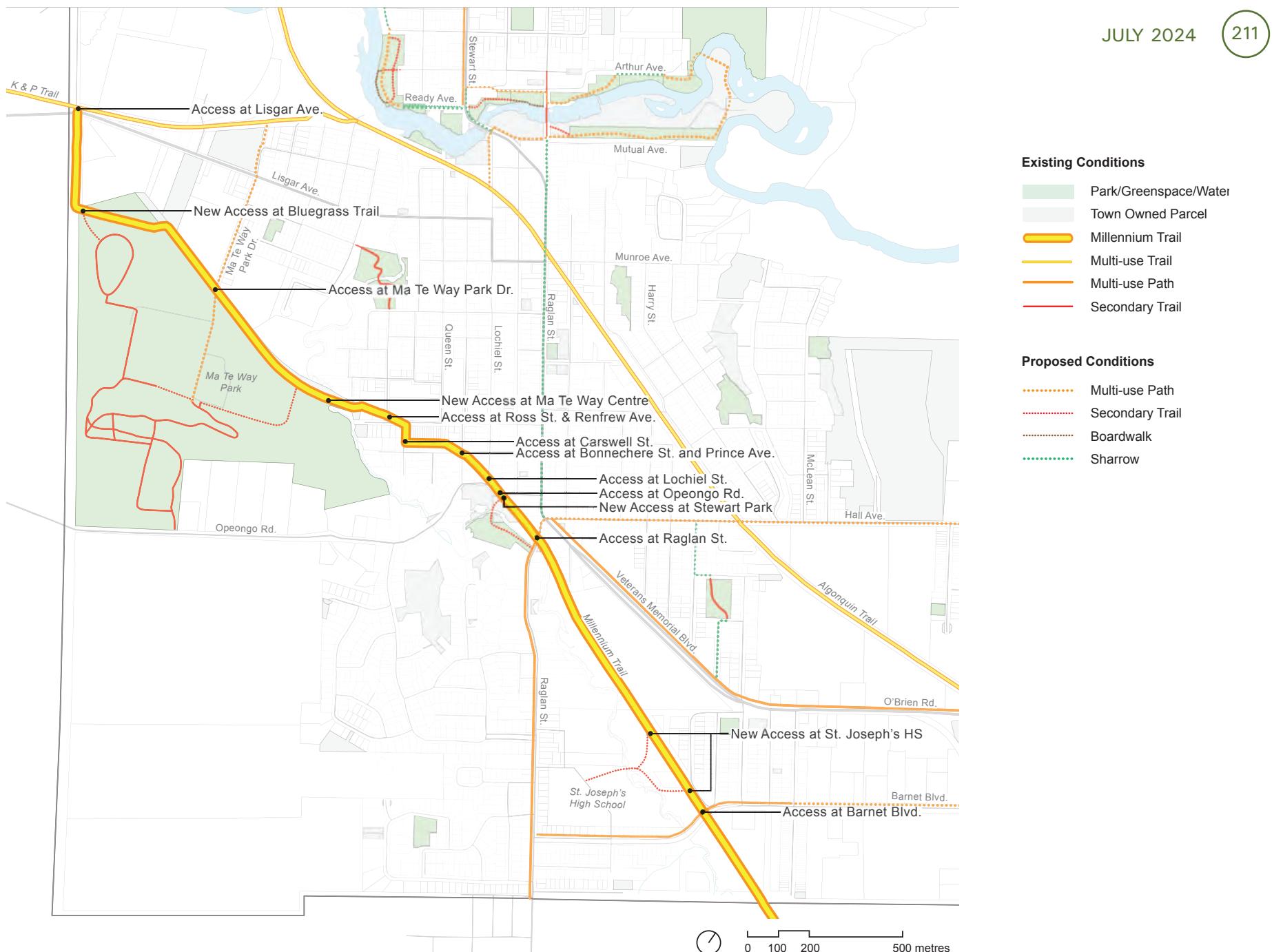


Figure 9-5: Map of Millennium Trail Recommendations

Access at Lisgar Avenue

Existing Conditions & Observations

- K&P Trail connection across the street
- Sidewalk connection towards the east
- P-gate, Renfrew sign

Recommendations

- T 3. Add an information kiosk to the Millennium Trail at Lisgar Avenue
- T 4. Add pedestrian crossing with lights to the intersection of Riverview Drive and Lisgar Avenue
- T 5. Add a bench to the Millennium Trail at Lisgar Avenue

Access at Ma Te Way Park Drive

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Trail crosses Ma Te Way Park Drive
- No adjacent sidewalks
- P-gates on each side

Recommendations

- T 6. Add an information kiosk to each side of the Millennium Trail at Ma Te Way Park Drive
- T 7. Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Ma Te Way Park Drive
- T 8. Add a bench to each side of the the Millennium Trail at Ma Te Way Park Drive

Access at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Narrow parcel between Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue
- Trail follows the north edge of the parcel along Ross Street
- Bench, shade structure, sign
- Large hedge denoting ownership

Recommendations

- T 9. Upgrade to a larger shade structure to the access at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue
- T 10. Add more benches and picnic opportunities to the access at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue
- T 11. Add an information kiosk to the Millennium Trail at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue
- T 12. Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue

Access at Carswell Street

Existing Conditions & Observations

- No signage

Recommendations

T 13. Add an information kiosk to the access at Carswell Street

Access at Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Trail warning signs
- Stop sign
- Garbage bin

Recommendations

- T 14. Add an information kiosk to one side of the Millennium Trail at Carswell Street Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue
- T 15. Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Carswell Street Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue

Access at Lochiel Street

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Trail warning signs
- Garbage bin

Recommendations

- T 16. Add an information kiosk to one side of the Millennium Trail at Lochiel Street
- T 17. Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Lochiel Street

Access at Opeongo Road

Existing Conditions & Observations

- Trail warning signs
- P-gates

Recommendations

- T 18. Add an information kiosk to one side of the Millennium Trail at Opeongo Road
- T 19. Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Opeongo Road

Access at Raglan Street

Existing Conditions & Observations

- P-gates
- Garbage bin

Recommendations

- T 20. Add an information kiosk to both sides of the Millennium Trail at Raglan Street
- T 21. Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Raglan Street

Access at Barnet Boulevard

Existing Conditions & Observations

- P-gates
- Bench
- Garbage bins
- Stop sign
- Crosswalk

Recommendations

- T 22. Add an information kiosk to both sides of the Millennium Trail at Barnet Boulevard

Proposed New Access Points

As new trails and active transportation routes get developed, additional connections and access points to the Millennium Trail should be provided whenever possible. New access points should be developed to reflect the Overall Trail Directions and Recommendations discussed earlier in Section 9.0. This includes providing large overall maps, trail information, and directional signage at each new trailhead location.

This Plan recommends five new access points to the Millennium Trail. The three new recommended access points are from existing parks in Renfrew, two from Ma Te Way Park, and one from Stewart Park. Please refer to the Parks Section (8.0) for more information. The other two new recommended access points are from St. Joseph's High School.

Recommendations

- T 23. Work with St. Joseph's High School to add two new access points to the Millennium Trail

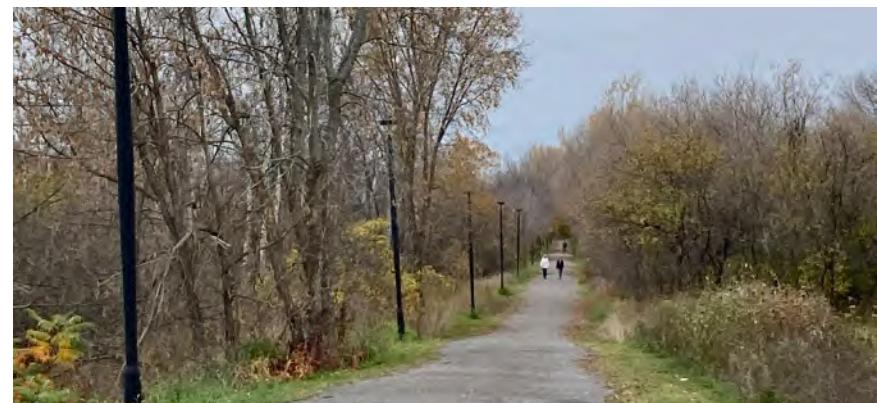


Table 9-4: Summary of Existing Access Point Recommendations for the Millennium Trail By Type

Recommendation	Location
Add information kiosk to one side	Lisgar Avenue Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue Carswell Street Carswell Street Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue Lochiel Street Opeongo Road Stewart Park
Add information kiosk to both sides	Ma Te Way Park Drive Opeongo Road Raglan Street Barnet Boulevard
Add a crosswalk	Ma Te Way Park Drive Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue Carswell Street Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue Lochiel Street Opeongo Road Raglan Street
Add pedestrian crossing with lights	Riverview Drive and Lisgar Avenue
Add a bench	Lisgar Avenue Ma Te Way Park Drive
Upgrade to a larger shade structure	Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue
Add more benches and picnic opportunities	Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue

9.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW TRAILS

This section discusses recommendations for new trails in Renfrew. Please note, recommendations for trails in the waterfront and parks are discussed in Sections 7.0 and 8.0 respectively.

Building this network of trails will be a long term endeavour. While certain connections may not be possible in the short or medium term, having a long-range outlook to provide trail connections will help ensure that future opportunities are not missed and that there is an overall strategy in place to accommodate future opportunities should they arise.

The Town of Renfrew is undertaking a Transportation Master Plan (TMP) concurrently with this Plan. In the spring of 2024, preliminary recommendations for additional active transportation routes were presented at a Public Open House.

This Plan recommends the following MUP, which align with TMP. These recommendations were strongly supported by those who attended the the Public Open House for this Plan in June 2024

Recommendations

- T 24. Add a MUP from the Ma Te Way Centre to the Millennium Trail along Ma Te Way Park Drive and Tupper Street
- T 25. Add a MUP from the Town Boundary to the Millennium Trail along Opeongo Road
- T 26. Add a MUP from Raglan Street to Wrangler Road along Hall Avenue and Gibbons Road
- T 27. Add a MUP from Hall Avenue to the Millennium Trail along Gillan Road
- T 28. Add a MUP from 8th Street to Gillan Road along Barnet Boulevard

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 CONSIDERATIONS

This Master Plan includes 200 recommendations for Renfrew's indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, waterfronts, parks, trails, and delivery of recreation services. These are intended to guide the Town strategically in meeting residents' needs across the age and stage spectrum to 2034.

Appendix D lists all of the Plan's recommendations with an anticipated timeframe for implementing each one. The implementation sequence distributes the recommendations over the Master Plan's 10-year timeframe based on priority: Immediate (1 year), Short Term (2-5 years), Medium Term (6-10 years), and beyond 10 years. Considerations for determining priority included accessibility, safety, backlog, consultation findings, and preparation for the future.

The recommendations are not rigid rules or requirements. Many of them will require further discussion and consultation with the public to reflect changes in Town capacity, trends, community needs and interests, etc. before they are approved by Council and implemented. Roll-out of the recommendations is based on the information available at the time of the Plan's development and includes the following considerations:

- Operational vs. Capital Projects
- Dependencies and Efficiencies
- Staff Resources
- Flexibility

Operational vs. Capital Projects

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

As an internal accompaniment to this Master Plan, a set of capital cost estimates has been provided to staff for recommendations related to facilities, parks, trails, and waterfront spaces. These estimates include design fees, initial project start-up permits, insurance, protection fencing, construction signage, contingency, and are intended to support budget planning and monitoring.

Dependencies and Efficiencies

While recommendations are described as individual initiatives, many are interrelated and need to be considered in the larger context of achieving efficiencies in implementation. Some recommendations must be initiated and completed before other recommendations can begin, while others may benefit from being undertaken simultaneously in terms of process efficiency and providing a more fulsome approach to physical improvements.

Staff Resources

The need for staff resources to do the work requires both a distribution of tasks over time and, in some cases, hiring additional staff to take responsibility for implementation. It will also require coordinated efforts both internally and externally.

Flexibility

It is expected that some projects may need to be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. There may also be opportunities to “fast-track” other initiatives. Ongoing initiatives are to be carried through each year to the end of the Master Plan’s term; however, their applicability throughout the entire period will depend on evolving needs in relation to service development.

Some recommendations may extend beyond the 10 years of the Master Plan; it may take longer to complete the identified activities and/or the completion of a recommendation may result in a new system component or procedure. Recommendations to establish formal agreements or contracts, for example, are shown as time-limited for negotiating arrangements that will create new, ongoing relationships between the Town and other providers (e.g., volunteers, agencies, businesses, etc.).

Another factor to consider are cost premiums/fluctuations due to the pandemic and inflation. The current situation makes it especially difficult to attach estimates to

recommendations. This is particularly true at a master plan level where the potential range in design and the quality of materials and finishes are also unknown, and are determined by the municipality.

APPENDIX A - LIST OF USER GROUPS

List of Parks and Recreation User Groups

- Art Class*
- Baby Beats Music*
- Baby College Ottawa West and Area
- Ballet*
- Belly Dance
- Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu*
- Dog Obedience*
- Fitness and Movement Circuit Training
- Frew the Woods Cycling Group*
- Forever Active/Gentle Exercise/Rise & Shine
- Golden Age Activity Centre*
- Karate
- Ottawa Valley Cycling & Active Transportation Alliance
- Renfrew & District Historical Society & Museum Inc.
- Renfrew Art Guild
- Renfrew Freemasons – Lodge. No. 122*
- Renfrew Lions Club*
- Renfrew Minor Hockey Association
- Renfrew Minor Baseball*
- Renfrew Minor Soccer Club*
- Renfrew Rotary*
- Renfrew Skating Club
- Renfrew Tennis Club
- Royal Canadian Legion Br. 148 Renfrew*
- RVH Foundation*
- Step Dancing*
- Upper Ottawa Valley Ringette Association
- Vipers Wrestling Club*
- Watercolour Painting with Pat
- Yoga*
- Youth Gymnastics EH!
- Zumba
- Queen Elizabeth Public School*
- Central Public School*
- Admaston Public School*
- Renfrew Collegiate Institute and Renfrew Collegiate Intermediate School*
- St. Thomas The Apostle School*
- Our Lady of Fatima School*
- St. Joseph's High School*

* = did not respond to invitation to complete survey

APPENDIX B - ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES HEALTHIER VENDING TOOLKIT

Healthier Vending and Snacks

The consumer demand for healthier products is creating opportunities for growth in vending.

- Offering foods and beverages with more nutritional value can increase sales from customers looking for healthier options.
- Use this guide* to help choose vending options that support the health and wellbeing of students, staff, and visitors in settings like:
 - recreation centres
 - healthcare facilities
 - other public buildings
 - workplaces
 - middle/ high/ post-secondary schools
- Follow the **4Ps of Marketing** (Product, Placement, Promotion, and Pricing) to maximize revenue and make the healthy choice the easy choice for consumers.
- Vending is just one part of the eating environment. When possible, try to make changes in all areas of your facility where food is offered or sold, such as:
 - cafeterias
 - canteens
 - catering
 - celebration
 - gift shops
 - lunchrooms



Sample tools and templates to support activities

- Communication Plan
- Patron Surveys and Letter
- Request for Proposal
- Sample Guideline
- Tracking Sales and Trends
- Vending Inventory Tool
- Vending Environment Scanning Tool
- Working with Vendors



Find these resources and more by visiting the [Healthier Vending Toolkit](#).



If you have questions about these tools or need additional support, contact: publichealth.nutrition@ahs.ca

4Ps of Marketing: Product

A Guide to Healthier Food & Drinks

Sell More

Foods/ Snacks

- Baked apple chips
- Baked chips or rice crisps
- Baked crackers
- Canned fruit cups, no sugar added.
- Baked snap pea crisps.
- Chicken or tuna salad, or hummus and crackers (kits)
- Dried fruits
- Dry roasted nuts or seeds
- Fruit and nut bars
- Fruit sauces
- Granola bars
- Individual cheese portions, yogurt (refrigerated machine)
- Jerky (lower sodium)
- Pemmican
- Protein bars
- Popcorn or pretzels
- Roasted seaweed snack
- Sugar-free gum
- Trail mix

Drinks

- Milk, yogurt, plant-based beverages such as soy (including high protein)
- Plain, sparkling, or flavoured water (no sugar added)
- Unsweetened teas, cold brewed coffees

Sell Less (and in smaller portions)

- Baked goods (\leq 350 calories)
- Candy, gummies (\leq 30 g)
- Chocolate Bars (\leq 55 g)
- Regular chips (\leq 40 g)
- 100% fruit or vegetable juice (\leq 355 mL)
- Diet soft drinks (\leq 500 mL)
- Regular soft drinks or iced tea (\leq 355 mL)



Not Recommended

- Energy drinks
- Kombucha
- Vitamin enhanced water or drinks

These items may not be safe for some people.

* Your organization may follow other guidelines such as the [Alberta Nutrition Guidelines](#), [Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children & Youth](#) or Alberta Health Services [Healthy Eating Environment Guidelines](#). Check with your organization for guidance.

4Ps of Marketing: Placement

- First in Sight = First in Hand. Customers are more likely to buy products that are easy to see.
- Cluster healthier products together at eye level; between the waist and top of the head (green squares).
- Dedicate an entire row or machine to one type of healthy product, such as water, baked chips, or crackers.



4Ps of Marketing: Promotion

- Survey your customers to help inform product choices and to identify potential barriers.
- Communicate changes through posters and media to help increase buy-in to change.
- Promote healthier items with taste tests or samples.



4Ps of Marketing: Pricing

- Make the price of all items easy to see.
- Price healthier items competitively (the same or less than less healthy items). Offset this with an increase in price of less healthy items.



How to Market Healthy Food and Drinks: The 4 P's

Placement	Price
Put healthy choices where people will see them first	Make the healthy choices the better price
Promotion	Product
Make healthy options stand out	Increases the number of healthy items available

Check out infographic posters on the 4P's: [How to Market Healthy Food and Drinks](#).

APPENDIX C - PEMBROKE KINSMEN POOL AND EXPLORATION OF P3 FOR NEW RECREATION COMPLEX

Pembroke Kinsmen Pool and exploration of P3 for new recreation complex.

December 2023: Council decided to: 1) move forward with exploring a public-private partnership (P3) option for a new multi-use facility that would include a pool, ice pads and other recreation space; 2) close the pool to save money on repairs and fully operating the aged facility, with minimum maintenance, at least until the results of the P3 exploration are complete, which is expected around the fall of this year.

January 5, 2024: Kinsmen Pool was closed to the public on January 5 due to safety concerns about the building for patrons and staff, as well as the overall state of repair of the facility. The structural safety and liability concerns, coupled with the fact the pool is at the end of its life, led to the decision.

February 6, 2024: Feedback from the City's public budget meeting held on January 15 indicated strong support to repair the Kinsmen Pool and re-open it as soon as possible. As a result, the 2024 budget includes repairing the Kinsmen Pool (\$1.4M), with the stipulation that at least 25% of the repair costs be covered by contributions from other area municipalities whose residents use and benefit from the facility and/or donations from the general public. To support this initiative, a Regional Pool Fundraising Campaign was launched. fundraising campaign has been launched, with all funds raised to be used for the construction, maintenance, repair and/or equipment of the current Kinsmen Pool and any new aquatic facility. The City issued a tender for the repair which is expected to be brought forward for decision in March.

February 27, 2024: A request for an Expression of Interest (EOI) was issued to gather information related to exploring a P3 for the proposed New Recreation Complex

<https://pembroke.ca/en/news/kinsmen-pool-closed-as-council-explores-public-private-partnership-potential.aspx>

Source: City of Pembroke website, various pages.

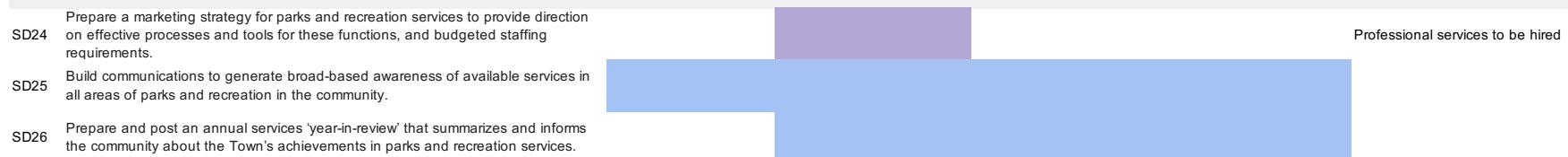
APPENDIX D - SUGGESTED TIMELINE AND PRIORITY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

#	Recommendation	Immediate (1 year)	Short Term (2-5 years)	Medium Term (6-10 years)	Beyond 10 years	Notes/Assumptions
Municipal Role and Organization						
SD1	Continue strengthening the role and reach of the new, amalgamated Library, Community and Recreation Services Department in providing a full range of community program services.					
SD2	As the restructured staffing 'baseline' becomes fully functional, add to the Town's staff complement, as required, to keep pace as services grow and diversify.					Costs TBD based on staffing requirements
Existing Collaborations and Agreements						
SD3	Renegotiate and update existing service agreements with surrounding municipalities.					
SD4	In support of an envisioned regional role for the myFM Centre, consider the possibility of new service agreements with other communities served by the Town.					
SD5	Continue to develop relationships and enter service agreements with non-municipal providers for short-term program provision using municipal facilities					
SD6	Continue to regularly review agreements in consultation with collaborators/partners, and incorporate required updates/amendments.					
Potential Collaborations						
SD7	Expand collaborations with community-based service providers to grow and diversify programs and services.					
SD8	Continue to access school facilities, as required, to supplement municipal provision of needed spaces for community programs.					
SD9	Reach out to regional and provincial sport and recreation organizations to determine the potential to facilitate their use of facilities in Renfrew to deliver programs to the community.					
SD10	Investigate opportunities to collaborate with post-secondary schools in Ottawa to access academic expertise and facilitate student placements in parks and recreation in Renfrew.					
Policies and Practices						
SD11	Develop a detailed Events Manual to supplement the Tourism and Events Policy and clarify Town and volunteer host roles in provision, and to guide providers in planning, delivering and preparing to evaluate events.					
SD12	Conduct a service pricing study as the basis for setting fees in relation to cost recovery targets, and to inform a pricing policy					Professional services to be hired; cost is for parks and recreation services only; a corporate wide study would increase the cost
SD13	Develop affordable access and inclusion policies.					
SD14	Develop a facility allocation policy to provide consistent and equitable access to facilities based on municipal service objectives and priorities.					
SD15	Develop a community group affiliation policy to provide clarity and consistency in terms of the range of support services available to all volunteer groups and what they must do to be eligible to be, and remain, affiliated.					
SD16	Consult with volunteer recreation groups to confirm the type and extent of required assistance to sustain/grow their programs/events, and to inform development of the policy within the capacity of the Town to provide support.					
SD17	Develop a collaborations and partnerships policy to guide the Town in working with other providers to deliver parks and recreation services.					
SD18	Regularly review and, as required, update policies.					

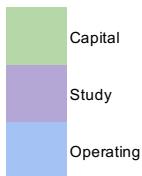
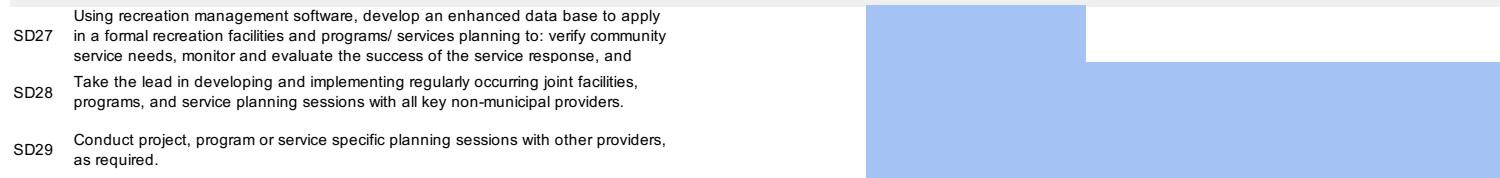
Revenue Generation



Marketing, Promotion and Communications



Ongoing Planning and Evaluation



F28	Additional pickleball court use to be generated by anticipated population growth should not require the Town to provide more facilities during the term of the Plan.					
F29	Prepare to provide Town support to developing a pickleball club if the volunteer community expresses interest in forming one, and support it with an agreement similar to that with the tennis club.					
F30	Establish and maintain an appropriate balance of club and casual use of the courts.					
F31	Monitor all court use to continue to verify levels in relation to capacity.					
	Concessions					
F32	Determine demand for more, and more consistently available, food services in Ma-te-Way Park and the potential to meet this need through responses to Expressions of Interest for contracted services with commercial operators.					
	Capital					
	Study					
	Operating					

W16	Coordinate with the County to create a lookout and rest area for the Algonquin Trail					Cost TBD based on recommendations from the County
Forgie Park						
W17	Add a lookout with views of the river at Forgie Park					Concrete pad with wood railing
W18	Add a picnic area and seating at Forgie Park					Two picnic tables and two benches
W19	Add a gazebo at Forgie Park					Wood gazebo
W20	Add secondary trails to Forgie Park (approx. 30 m)					
W21	Add heritage and interpretation signage in coordination with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan at Forgie Park					Refer to the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan
W22	Explore the potential for a monument or art piece, and programming space in coordination with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan at Forgie Park					Refer to the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan
Forgie O'Brien Connection						
W23	Conduct a study to determine if the existing concrete steps are suitable for repairs at the Forgie O'Brien Connection					Work to be done in coordination with the sewer work
W24	If existing stairs at the Forgie O'Brien Connection are not salvageable, they should either be removed or replaced (materials to be confirmed by engineer)					Cost depends on materials (concrete vs. wood vs. metal, etc.)
W25	Add a path connection between Forgie and O'Brien Parks to facilitate the waterfront trail (approx. 120 m) if stairs remain or are replaced					
O'Brien Park						
W26	Develop a concept plan for O'Brien Park					Cost depends on who does the plan (Renfrew staff vs. consultant)
W27	Update O'Brien Park based on the concept plan					Includes new bandshell, seating, boardwalk, picnic areas, etc.
W28	Adding a multi-use trail to Arthur Avenue between Stewart Street and the swinging bridge (approx. 300 m) to facilitate the Waterfront Trail					
Wilson Developments/ McGrimmon Property						
W29	Acquire property the Wilson Developments/McGrimmons Property					Pending Town approval
W30	Create new parking area for O'Brien Park and the Swinging Bridge at Wilson Developments/McGrimmons Property					900 m2 gravel surface, 20 precast concrete curbs
W31	Add a multi-use trail to Wilson Developments/ McGrimmons Property (W10) between the swinging bridge and Arthur Avenue Pole Yard (approx. 120 m) to facilitate the Waterfront Trail					120 m trail around proposed parking lot
Arthur Avenue Pole Yard						
W32	Coordinate with RHI to remove the poles and develop Arthur Avenue Pole Yard into a public space					Pending approval by RPG and Renfrew Hydro
W33	Add a multi-use trail to Arthur Avenue Pole Yard (W11) between Wilson Developments/McGrimmons Property and the Stewart Property (approx. 120 m) to facilitate the Waterfront Trail					
W34	Add a lookout with views towards the dam at the Arthur Avenue Pole Yard					
W35	Adding heritage and interpretation signage in coordination with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan					
W36	Exploring the potential for a monument or art piece, and programming space in coordination with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan					
Stewart Property						
W37	Acquire the Stewart property for the facilitation of the Waterfront Trail (refer to the Trails section for more information)					Pending Town approval
Lindsay Property						
W38	Develop a concept plan for the Lindsay Property					Cost depends on who does the plan (Renfrew staff vs. consultant)
W39	Update the Lindsay Property based on the concept plan					Includes small craft amenities, seating and picnic areas, naturalization planting, lookout, trails, etc.
W40	Add a multi-use trail to the Lindsay Property (W13) between the Stewart Property and 330 Mutual (approx. 100 m) to facilitate the Waterfront Trail					
330 Mutual						
W41	Develop a concept plan for 330 Mutual					Cost depends on who does the plan (Renfrew staff vs. consultant)

W42	Add a multi-use trail to 330 Mutual (w14) between the Lindsay Property to new pedestrian bridge (approx. 65 m)					
W43	Explore the potential to add a new pedestrian bridge between 330 Mutual and Mutual North to facilitate a continuous waterfront loop					
	Mutual North					
W44	If a new pedestrian bridge is added, coordinate with RPG to develop new trails					Pending bridge construction
	Former Treatment Plant					
W45	Decommission the former sewage treatment plant					
W46	If a new pedestrian bridge is built, add a waterfront trail connection to the Former Treatment Plant (approx. 170)					Pending bridge construction
	Mutual Avenue					
W47	Includes small craft amenities, seating and picnic areas, naturalization planting, lookout, trails, etc.					Assumes approx. 5000 m2 of naturalization planting
W48	Add an accessible secondary path between Mutual Avenue and the swinging bridge (approx. 90 m)					Approx. 100 m trail/ramp to swinging bridge
W49	Add seating areas at Mutual Avenue					Assumes four benches
W50	Add a lookout at Mutual Avenue					Concrete pad with wood railing
W51	Add a multi-use trail to Mutual Avenue (w17) between the Former Treatment Plan and Swinging Bridge (approx. 500 m) to facilitate the Waterfront Trail					
W52	Add a fitness equipment along the new multi-use trail at Mutual Avenue					Assumes five exercise equipment stations
W53	Add heritage and interpretation signage in coordination with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan at Mutual Avenue					Refer to the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan
W54	Explore the potential for a monument or art piece, and programming space in coordination with the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan at Mutual Avenue					Refer to the Arts, Culture, Heritage Master Plan
	Capital					
	Study					
	Operating					

#	Recommendation	Immediate (1 year)	Short Term (2-5 years)	Medium Term (6-10 years)	Beyond 10 years	Notes/Assumptions
General Park Recommendations						
P1	Develop and implement a comprehensive signage and wayfinding strategy that aligns with Town branding across all park typologies as defined in the parks classification system.	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #8050A0; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 90%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>			
P2	Implement managed naturalization practices, consulting with the community before embarking on projects.					
P3	As parks and playgrounds undergo updates to improve accessibility, ensure that Town inventories and webpages are also updated to reflect the new features and facilities					
P4	Install sufficient shelter (e.g., tree planting, seating) in all parks to accommodate the specific needs and usage patterns of each location.					
P5	Following the parks classification system, prioritize installing washrooms in parks classified as Major Parks, and Neighbourhood Parks. Explore partnerships for fundraising and installing washrooms	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #F0F0F0; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 90%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>			
P6	Implement lighting in parks that facilitate activities throughout the year, especially during the shoulder seasons and winter months, to enhance safety and usability.	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #F0F0F0; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 90%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>			
P7	Pilot the delivery of small-scale, low-cost arts and culture programming within municipal parks.		<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #F0F0F0; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>		
P8	Encourage self-directed and community-led programming outdoors in parks and open spaces.		<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #F0F0F0; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 90%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>		
Site-specific Park Recommendations						
Aberdeen Greenspace						
P9	Develop lands into a Neighbourhood Park.	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #F0F0F0; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>		
Victoria Park						
P10	Consider selling a portion of the property for residential development and transforming the remaining area into parkland.	<div style="width: 30%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 70%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>			
P11	Remove the existing backstop to clear space for new amenities or landscaping.			<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>		
P12	Construct a playground for neighbourhood use.					
P13	Develop a parking lot to accommodate visitors and improve accessibility to the area.			<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>		
P14	Formalize the park area as a designated tour bus stop for visitors to the Swinging Bridge by installing appropriate signage.	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>				
P15	Explore the possibility of installing a splash pad in the future to enhance recreational opportunities.				<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>	
P16	Transform this park into a gateway to the waterfront by creating a pathway that connects to Elgin Avenue (south of the park) and extends along Raglan Street North.	<div style="width: 30%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 70%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>		<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>	
Mack Wilson Park (formerly Hunter Gate Park)						
P17	Consult Hunter Gate residents about installing new amenities in the park such as a small play structure.	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>		
P18	Erect a shade structure to serve as a gathering place and offer protection from the sun, enhancing comfort for visitors.		<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>			
P19	Add picnic areas and benches to encourage relaxation and social gatherings in the outdoor space.		<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>			
Kiwanis Park						
P20	Explore the feasibility of creating community garden plots to promote local gardening activities and foster community engagement.	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>		
P21	Evaluate the current playground's safety and usage in consultation with the local neighbourhood. Consider updating the equipment or constructing a small BMX Pump Track or skate park	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 10%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>	<div style="width: 80%; background-color: #6495ED; height: 10px;"></div>		
McConnell Park						
P22	Install a playground.			<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #90EE90; height: 10px;"></div>		

P23 Upgrade the asphalt surfacing on the trail within the park to better support use for walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, etc.

P24 Consider installing a trail loop within the park.

P25 Install a natural amphitheatre in the sloped portion of the park.

P26 Place more benches and picnic areas throughout the park to encourage relaxation and social gatherings in natural settings.

P27 Implement naturalization projects to enhance the ecological health and aesthetic value of the area. Explore obtaining easements to connect the park to the Millennium Trail, supported by street parking spots.



Ma-Te-Way Park

P28 Consider converting the underutilized all-wheels park into a basketball court, as the existing concrete pad is appropriately sized for this purpose.

P29 Add a secondary trail connecting the existing Bluegrass Trail to the Millennium Trail (approx. 100 m)

P30 Add a secondary trail connecting the Ma Te Way Centre to the Millennium Trail (approx. 90 m)

P31 Add a multi-use trail between the Millennium Trail and the Ma Te Way Recreational Trails (approx. 390 m)

P32 Install interpretive signage along trails to provide educational information about the natural and historical aspects of the area.

P33 Work with the Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation to explore the potential for outdoor spaces such as a communal garden or gathering circle with Indigenous plantings and grasses.



Legion Park

P34 To minimize park maintenance costs, implement naturalization strategies in the back lawn space.



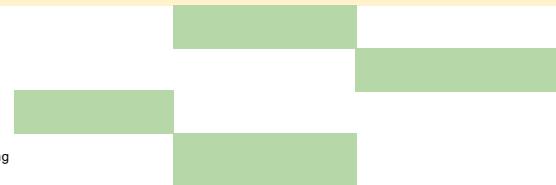
McLean Greenspace

P35 Install a play structure to serve the local neighbourhood.

P36 Consider reinstating the ice rink or alternatively, adding a sports court to provide a recreational area for various activities.

P37 Implement naturalization efforts to enhance the local biodiversity and improve the aesthetic appeal of the area.

P38 Install additional seating to accommodate visitors and provide comfortable resting areas. Address the steep drop-off area by implementing safety measures such as barriers or landscaping to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of all visitors.



Oddfellows Park

P39 Replace fencing.

P40 Provide additional compost areas.



Stewart Park

P41 Develop trail connections to enhance accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

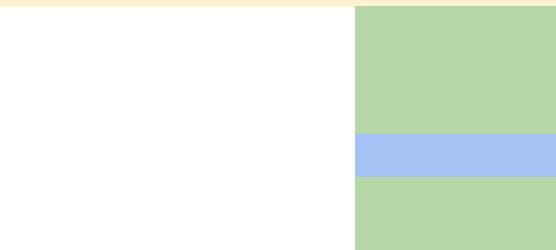
P42 Construct a lookout bridge to provide scenic views and a unique vantage point for visitors.

P43 Plan for a future Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) to provide a dedicated space for dog owners to exercise their pets safely.

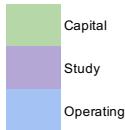
P44 Consider expanding the park into the adjacent snow dump area to increase recreational space and utility.

P45 Install informative signage about the historical significance of the old power site to educate visitors and enrich their experience.

P46 Add a secondary trail connection between Stewart Park and the Millennium Trail (approx. 80 m)



Fortington Park



#	Recommendation	Immediate (1 year)	Short Term (2-5 years)	Medium Term (6-10 years)	Beyond 10 years
Overall Trail Recommendations					
T1	Implement the recommended Trail Hierarchy when developing new trails and updating existing trails	<div style="width: 25%;"></div>			
T2	Develop a trails signage strategy	<div style="width: 15%; background-color: #8050A0;"></div>			
Millennium Trail Recommendations					
Access at Lisgar Avenue					
T3	Add a kiosk to the Millennium Trail at Lisgar Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T4	Add pedestrian crossing to the intersection of Riverview Drive and Lisgar Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T5	Add a bench to the Millennium Trail at Lisgar Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Ma Te Way Park Drive					
T6	Add a kiosk to each side of the Millennium Trail at Ma Te Way Park Drive		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T7	Add a crosswalk to the Millennium Trail at Ma Te Way Park Drive		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T8	Add a bench to each side of the the Millennium Trail at Ma Te Way Park Drive		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue					
T9	Upgrade to a larger shade structure to the access at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T10	Add more benches and picnic opportunities to the access at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T11	Add kiosk to the Millenium Trail at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T12	Add a crosswalk to the Millenium Trail at Ross Street and Renfrew Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Carswell Street					
T13	Add kiosk to the access at Carswell Street		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue					
T14	Add kiosk to one side of the Millenium Trail at Carswell Street Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T15	Add a crosswalk to the Millenium Trail at Carswell Street Bonnechere Street and Prince Avenue		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Lochiel Street					
T16	Add kiosk to one side of the Millenium Trail at Lochiel Street		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T17	Add a crosswalk to the Millenium Trail at Lochiel Street		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Opeongo Road					
T18	Add kiosk to one side of the Millenium Trail at Opeongo Road		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
T19	Add a crosswalk to the Millenium Trail at Opeongo Road		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		
Access at Raglan Street					
T20	Add kiosk to both sides of the Millenium Trail at Raglan Street		<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #60A060;"></div>		

