



# Town of Fort Erie Parks & Open Space Master Plan

Final Draft Presented for Adoption

February 2025





**We acknowledge** that the land upon which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Attawandaronk, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe people. We are the beneficiaries of ancient agreements such as the Dish With One Spoon between the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee, who agreed to share the abundance of the land through peace, friendship and mutual respect; the Two Row Wampum, by which the Haudenosaunee welcomed the settlers and agreed to share the land in mutual respect; and the Treaty of Niagara, considered a fundamental document by First Nations in all future relations and treaties with the British.

We recognize that we have a responsibility to be stewards of the land, in cooperation and collaboration with the Indigenous peoples, not only for one generation but for all generations to come. We understand that we have an obligation to learn the lessons of our history, educate ourselves about the experiences of the Indigenous people and seek opportunities to heal the wounds that will result in reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers.

Many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people live and work in Fort Erie. We stand with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live. We have the good fortune to live in a land of such abundance, diversity and beauty – let us be vigilant in protecting Turtle Island.





# Acknowledgments

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan (POSMP) for the Town of Fort Erie reflects the contributions of numerous organizations and individuals from across the community. This plan has been developed with input from Fort Erie Council and staff, representatives from the local parks and recreation sector, community and volunteer associations, agency partners, and the general public. We extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to this important initiative. We hope that the POSMP provides Fort Erie residents with a sustainable vision to meet parks and recreation needs for the next decade and beyond.

## Town of Fort Erie Council

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Councillor Nick Dubanow	<b>Ward 2</b>
Councillor Darren Flagg	<b>Ward 3</b>
Councillor Joan Christensen	<b>Ward 4</b>
Councillor Tom Lewis	<b>Ward 5</b>
Councillor Ann-Marie Noyes	<b>Ward 6</b>
Regional Councillor Tom Insinna	

## Community Members & Organizations

- Beachcomber's Senior Citizens Association
- District School Board of Niagara
- Fort Erie Adult Mixed Slo Pitch Club
- Fort Erie Cannons Baseball Club
- Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
- Fort Erie United Men's Soccer
- Greater Fort Erie Minor Ball Association

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**Town of Fort Erie Parks & Open Space Master Plan**

February 2025

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# 1 Introduction

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**Parks bring life to a city — literally.** They provide outdoor spaces that support the health and vitality of the community, they function as habitat for local flora and fauna, they help create physical and social connections, and they enhance the overall beauty and aesthetic appeal of the urban environment.

Parks and open spaces are an essential part of the public infrastructure, and like other forms of infrastructure have significant needs when it comes to planning, development, maintenance, and operations. They are more than just nice-looking places: parks provide many key benefits to residents, which include promoting health and well-being, preserving and providing access to natural features, bolstering civic identity and pride, and supporting community economic prospects and initiatives.

As with other types of infrastructure, municipal officials and elected leaders are frequently called upon to make important decisions about how to invest in the performance, renewal, and maintenance of parks and open spaces, as well as how to ensure that all residents have equitable access to high-quality outdoor spaces. That is where this document comes in — the Town of Fort Erie’s new **Parks & Open Space Master Plan**.



## 1.1 Purpose & Scope

The primary purpose of this Parks & Open Space Master Plan is to provide a **framework for making decisions** about the Town of Fort Erie's parks and open spaces and for helping ensure that those decisions are made in an environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable manner.

The Parks & Open Space Master Plan encompasses **outdoor spaces and outdoor facilities** that are **owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Fort Erie**. Its scope comprises spaces and facilities for both active and passive recreation, including parkland, sports fields, hard-surfaced courts (such as tennis and pickleball courts), playgrounds, public open spaces, and natural areas.

This Master Plan also considers the Town's trail network, which, in addition to providing connections between different parks and open spaces, themselves serve as important outdoor recreation resources.

The recommendations made in this Master Plan address matters that include the following:

- updating the classification system used to categorize the Town's parks and open spaces;
- incorporating parks and open space resources into the Town's broader asset management planning

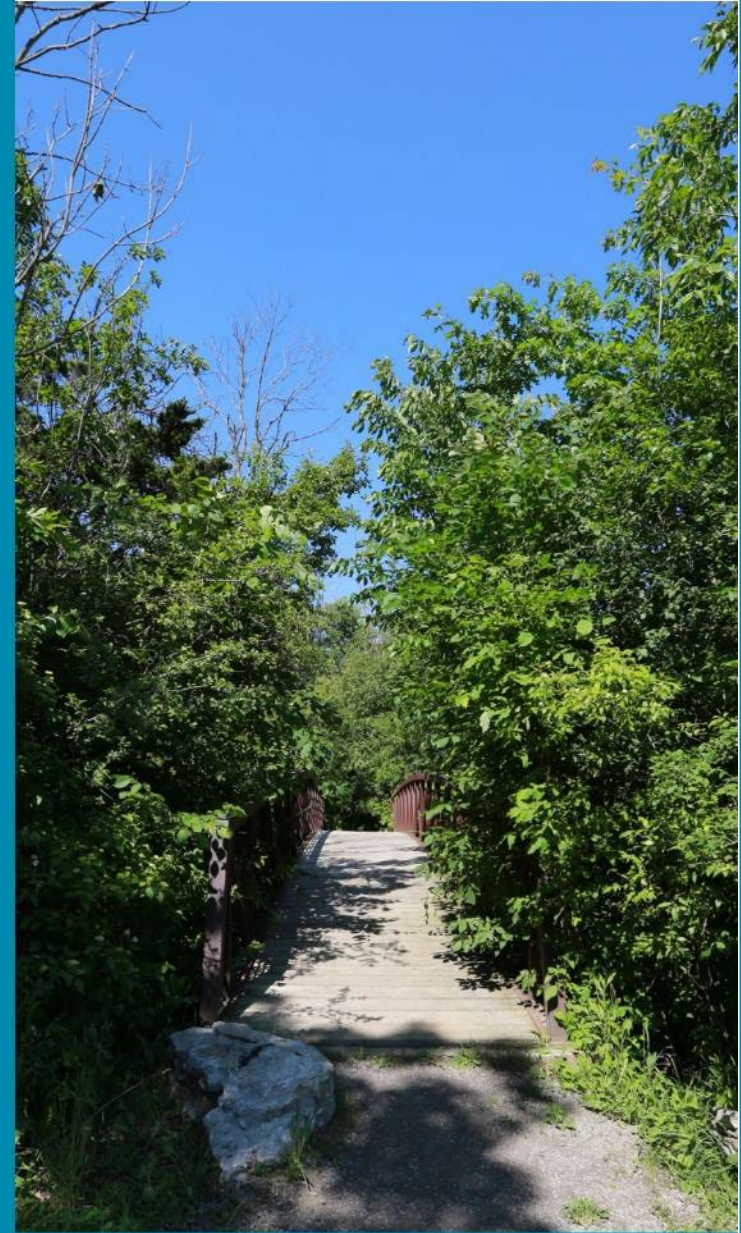




- assessing the current provision of parks and open spaces to residents in different parts of the Town;
- identifying the anticipated need for parkland and outdoor facilities, based on population projections and demographic forecasts;
- prioritizing the renewal, repair, and replacement of different in-park features and facilities; and
- cultivating partnerships with other agencies, such as the Niagara Parks Commission (“NPC”) and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, as well as with school boards, community members, and private landowners.

It should be noted that many of the Town’s residents take advantage of the additional recreational opportunities provided by parks owned and operated by other agencies, particularly the NPC. Those outdoor spaces often serve as a complement to the Town’s parks and open spaces, in addition to playing their own unique role in Niagara Region more broadly. (However, because they are not owned or operated by the Town, they fall outside the scope of this Master Plan’s recommendations.)

This document is meant to align and work in harmony with the Town of Fort Erie’s Strategic Plan, Official Plan and Secondary Plans, Waterfront Strategy, Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, Asset Management Plan, and other plans, strategies, and initiatives that pertain to the provision of outdoor spaces and recreation facilities. (Section 1.4 below provides some more detail about the relationship between this Master Plan and these other plans and policies.)



## 1.2 Strategic Pillars

The Town of Fort Erie’s Strategic Plan establishes six Strategic Pillars, identifying these are priority areas on which the Town will focus moving forward: **(1)** Sustainable, Reliable Access to Local Health Care; **(2)** Quality of Life & Community Well-Being; **(3)** Sustainable & Managed Growth; **(4)** Economic Prosperity & Diversification; **(5)** Environmental & Climate Change Resiliency; and **(6)** Comprehensive Housing Options.

This new Parks & Open Space Master Plan supports and relates to many of these Strategic Pillars, which, as the Strategic Plan notes, are interrelated and often overlap with one another.

**Local Health Care** — Having a variety of parks and accessible outdoor spaces supports a community’s physical and mental health. Parks support physical activities, both organized and unstructured, as well as serving as places where people can simply relax, recharge, and revitalize themselves.

**Quality of Life & Community Well-Being** — In addition to providing benefits for community health and well-being, parks and open spaces make the Town a more enjoyable place to live. They support the availability of year-round recreational opportunities for people of all ages and all abilities, as well as providing venues for cultural and social events and encouraging interaction between members of the community.





**Sustainable & Managed Growth** — The provision of suitable park space needs to be incorporated into growth management strategies, to ensure that new residents have opportunities to participate in recreational activities and access outdoor spaces, no matter where in the Town they live.

**Economic Prosperity** — By making the Town a more attractive and enjoyable place to live, well-maintained parks and open spaces help draw and retain new residents to support a more diverse employment base. High-quality outdoor facilities are also a key component of sport tourism and event-based tourism.

**Environmental & Climate Change Resiliency** — The Town’s parks and open spaces are integrated with its natural areas, and serve as important features for protecting and preserving local wildlife and biodiversity. Parks also help urban areas and their residents adapt to the effects of climate change, such as extreme heat and increased precipitation events.

**Comprehensive Housing Options** — As the range and variety of housing options available to Town residents increase, it will be important to provide sufficient outdoor space for people who might not have convenient access to private outdoor amenity space.



### 1.3 Foundation: The 2006 Master Plan

This new Parks & Open Space Master Plan builds upon a foundation provided by the Town's previous Parks & Open Space Master Plan, which was adopted in 2006 and which has guided the development and management of the Town's parks for over a decade and a half.

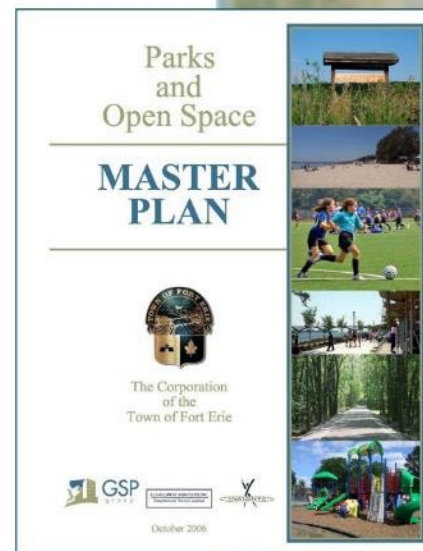
The eight principles that formed the basis of the 2006 Master Plan focus on equity, balance, flexibility, sustainability, leadership, and collaboration — all of which remain relevant to this day.

**Provide a balanced mix of park and open space venues.** The recreation needs and interests of Town residents are diverse and evolve over time. The parks and open space system needs to provide a well-balanced variety of venues to address the full spectrum of recreational and cultural interests.

**Provide a geographically diverse range of venues.** Each area of the Town has its own unique needs, with different demographic profiles, backgrounds, and built environments. Parks and open spaces must be able to meet each neighbourhood's needs at a level of service that reaches the most residents.

**Provide venues that are flexible in their uses.** Flexible venues can support a range of activities and thus respond to changing priorities. Parks and open spaces should contribute to a wide array of initiatives, such as health and fitness, transportation, youth involvement, and economic development.

**Ensure that the system can respond to change.** Just as venues need to be flexible, park-related services must be able to respond to changes in the operational environment (such as changes in demographics, utilization patterns, government policy, and funding). Continuing to monitor and evaluate Town activities, resources, and investments is therefore vital.



**Create venues that are sensitive to the environment, that preserve significant natural and cultural features, and that support educational opportunities.** The development, management, and operation of parks and open spaces frequently intersects with other Town goals related to environmental preservation, social sustainability, public health, and heritage conservation. An approach based on this principle focuses on the holistic development of each individual and nurtures the long-term well-being of the entire community.

**Provide fair and equitable opportunities.** Providing parks and open spaces in a fair and equitable way means ensuring that all residents have reasonable opportunities to access venues and participate in recreational activities. This principle further recognizes the need to consider members of specific groups who experience barriers to access and participation, who require different types of informational resources, or who have other considerations that need to be addressed.



**Establish intensive and collaborative partnerships.** The principle of partnership is central to implementing the 2006 Master Plan's recommendations. It means working collaboratively with community organizations, public agencies, and other levels of government, cultivating existing relationships while seeking out opportunities for more intensive partnerships.

**Recognize and fulfill the Town's leadership role.** The Town of Fort Erie plays an important leadership role in the provision and delivery of park and open space resources. In fulfilling this role, the Town needs to ensure that it works collaboratively with community members and other stakeholders to achieve the desired benefits from its parks and open space strategies.

Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the 2006 Master Plan set out the priorities that guided its recommendations. The figures on the next page identify those priorities and assess the Town's performance with respect to each.



Could be better    All right    Pretty good    Great!



Continued development & expansion of trail system



Could be better    All right    Pretty good    Great!



Increased accessibility for people with disabilities



Enhanced access to & protection of waterfront resources



Incorporation of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles to prevent vandalism & provide safer spaces



Emphasis on increasing quality of maintenance, presentation & signage



Increased planning in preparation for growth in soccer participation



Additional focus on activities that support access & participation for youth, teens & seniors



Development of parkland in under-served geographic areas



Could be better    All right    Pretty good    Great!



Balanced distribution of facilities & resources



Could be better    All right    Pretty good    Great!



Promotion of volunteerism & long-term viability of volunteer-delivered programs & services



Development of facilities & infrastructure to support sport tourism & event tourism initiatives



Periodic review of role, criteria & levels of park user rates & fees



Greater integration of art, heritage & cultural components



Continuing assessment of trends & renewal of infrastructure



Sustained marketing to create awareness of park opportunities & appreciation of the importance of park resources



Development of maintenance standards and strategies



## 1.4 Background Review: Other Plans & Policies

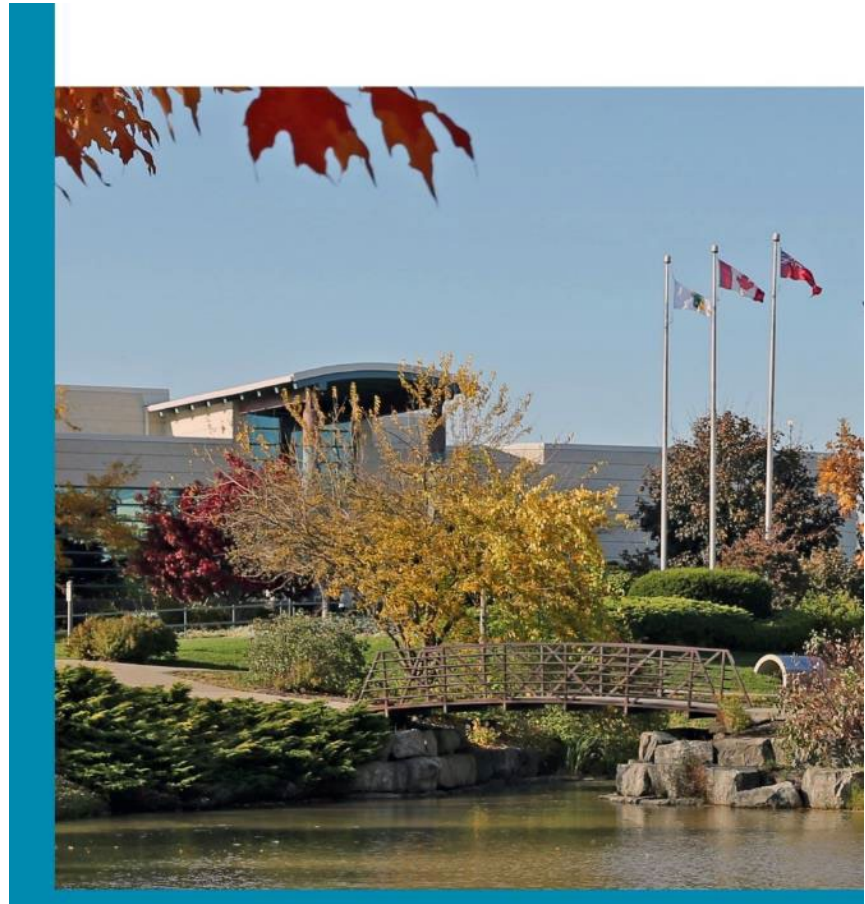
The previous sections have explained how this new Parks & Open Space Master Plan relates to the Town of Fort Erie's current Strategic Plan and to the 2006 Master Plan. In addition, plans and policies established at various levels of government often have an effect on how the Town plans for and manages its system of parks and open spaces and the delivery of related services.

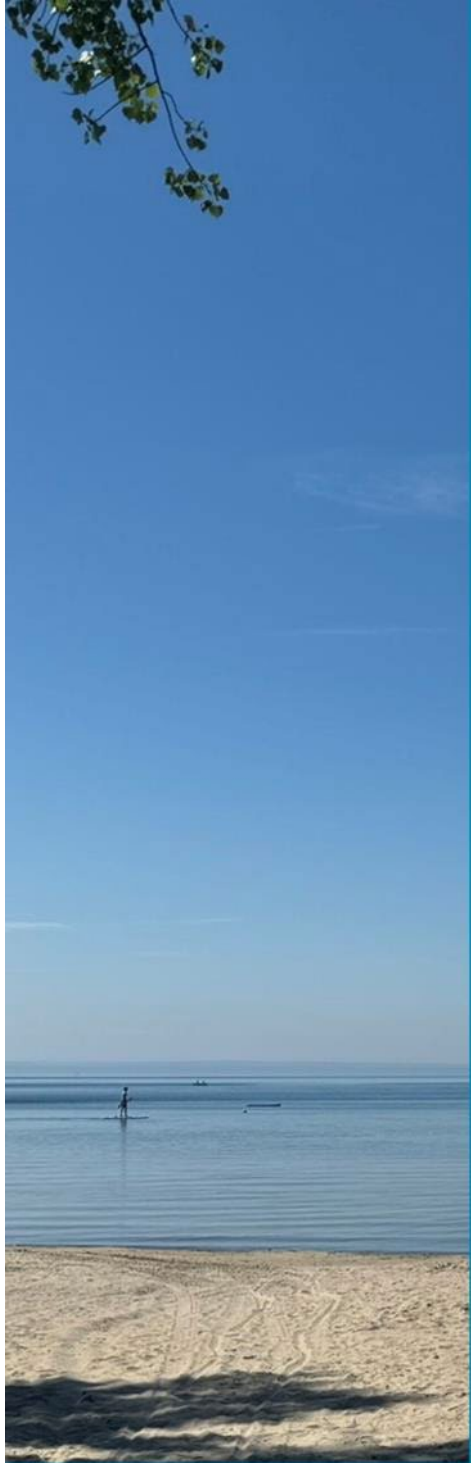
### 1.4.1 Town of Fort Erie Plans, Strategies & By-laws

In addition to the Strategic Plan, this Master Plan is meant to work alongside and support a number of other plans, strategies, and initiatives established by the Town of Fort Erie. Those plans and strategies complement this Master Plan in achieving its goals, provide additional policy direction, and assist in implementing its recommendations.

**Town of Fort Erie Official Plan.** The Town's Official Plan provides overall policy direction for growth and development in the Town of Fort Erie, including the locations of parks and open spaces, the preservation of natural areas and features, and the acquisition of land for park purposes through development applications.

The Official Plan establishes an overall standard for providing parkland and public recreational areas at a rate of **4 hectares per 1,000 population**. It includes policies that address the incorporation of significant wooded areas





into the Town’s open space network and the strategic acquisition of shoreline lands to enhance public access.

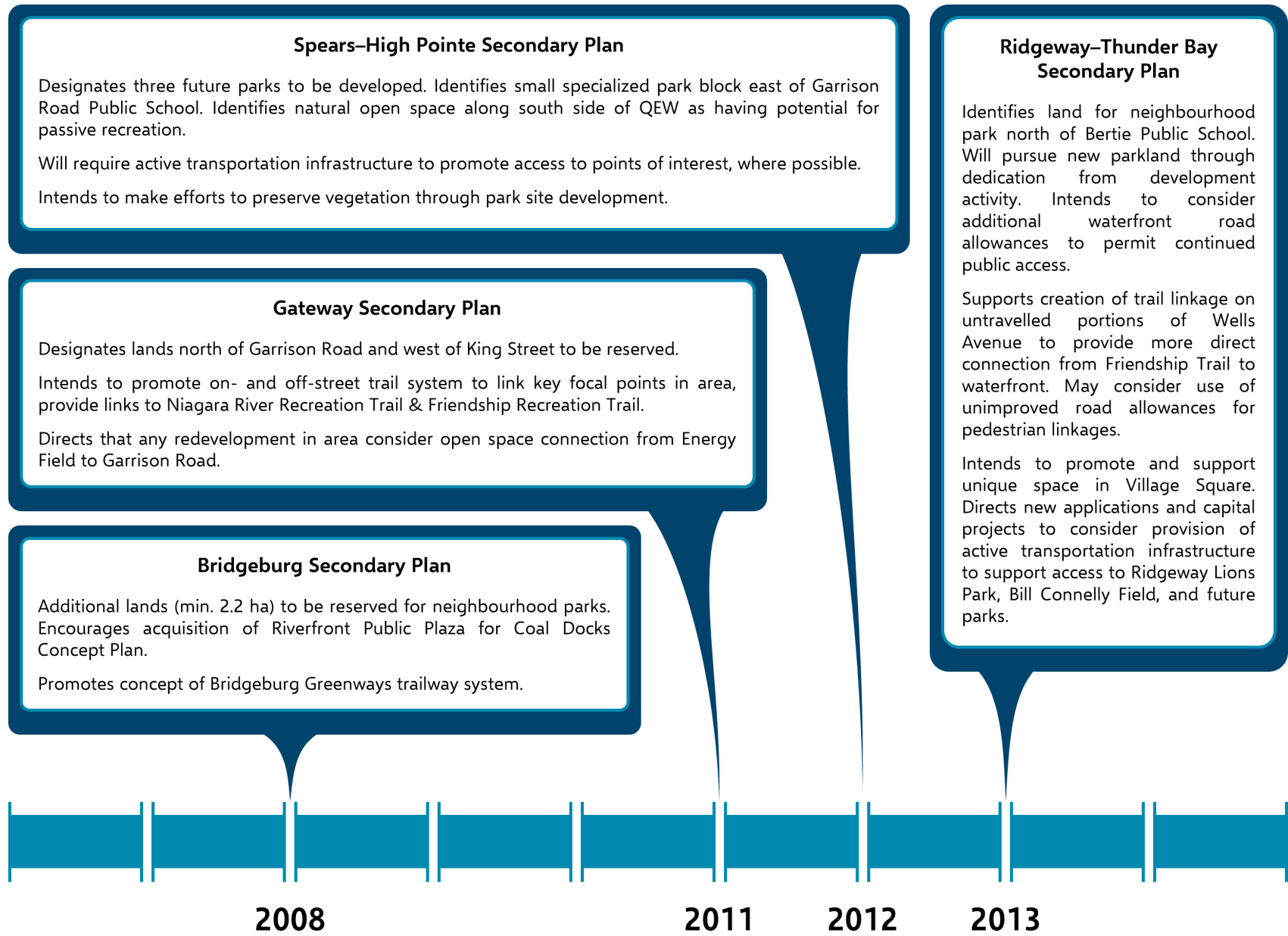
The role of the Town’s Parks & Open Space Master Plan, according to the Official Plan, is to provide direction on park development, which “will include Neighbourhood Parks, Community Parks, and Town Parks, as well as other parks related to heritage and environmental conservation”:

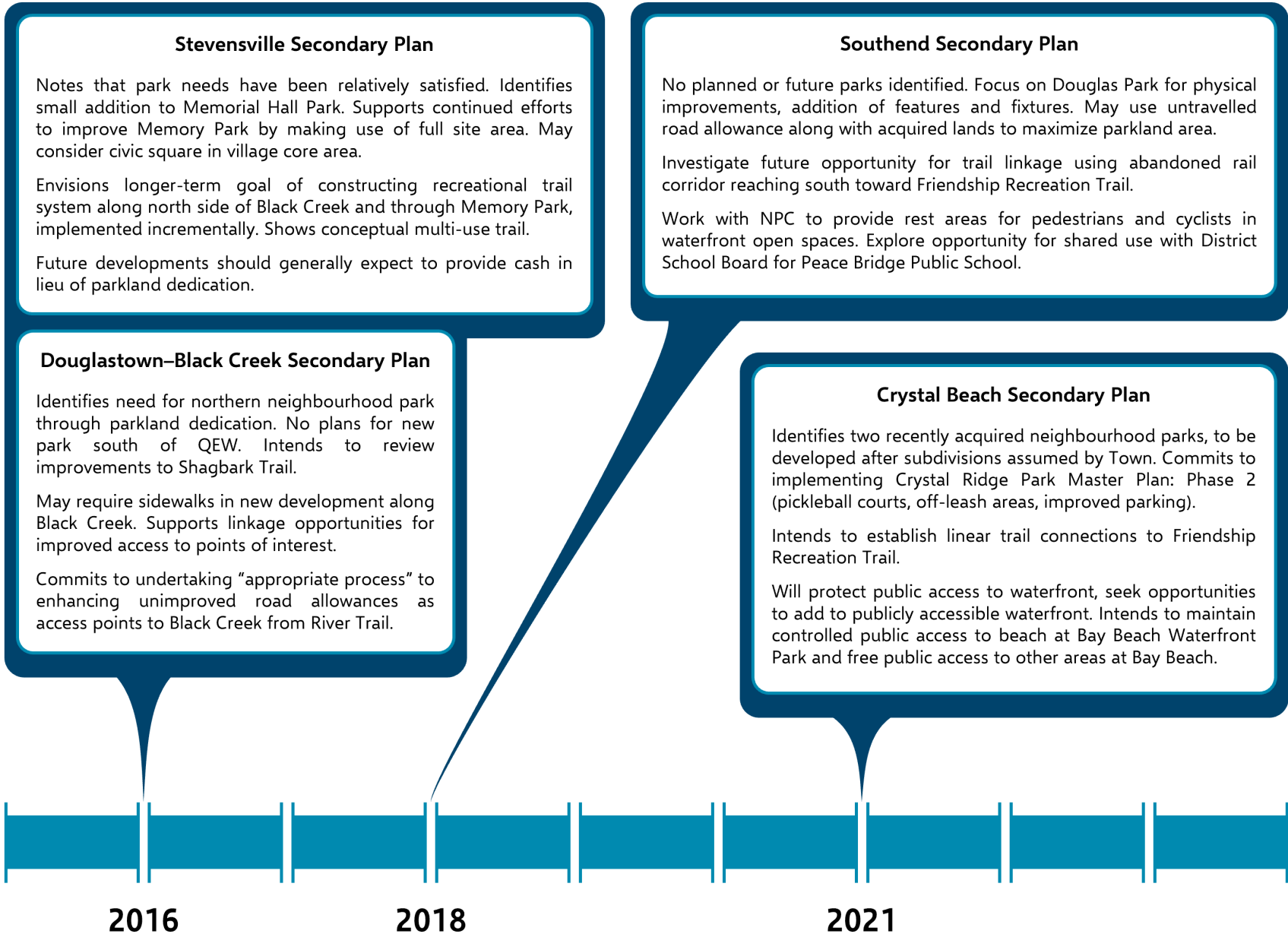
- Town Parks are meant to serve the entire population and should be “accessible from major roads and highways and by public transportation, walking and cycling.”
- Community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks should provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for people within walking distance and, where feasible, should support year-round activities.

**Secondary Plans.** The Town of Fort Erie has eight secondary plans in place for different parts of the Town, meant to provide more specific direction for land use and development within those areas. **Figure 1.1** (on the next page) lists these plans in chronological order and identifies their implications for parks, trails, and open spaces.

**Waterfront Strategy.** The Waterfront Strategy, adopted in 2017, establishes a vision, direction, and action plan for the Town’s 45 kilometres of lakeshore and riverfront. The Strategy’s recommendations encompass a range of initiatives regarding public access, conservation, tourism, cultural heritage, neighbourhood design, and wayfinding. This Master Plan has integrated the Waterfront Strategy’s recommendations, including its classification system for Waterfront Parks and Waterfront Windows.

**Figure 1.1 – Timeline of Town of Fort Erie Secondary Plans**







**Active Transportation Master Plan.** The Active Transportation Master Plan (March 2020) identifies a range of short-, medium-, and long-term projects. Short-term projects address “critical linkages” that provide access within communities and to major destinations, including linkages to the Friendship Recreation Trail. Medium-term projects are intended to establish strategic linkages that will enhance connectivity between communities and destinations. Long-term projects involve significant corridors and require planning approvals and investments prior to their implementation.

**Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.** The Town of Fort Erie’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2024–2029 (the successor to the 2019–2023 MYAP) was being presented to Council for consideration at the same time as this Master Plan. The results of the 2024–2029 MYAP’s accessibility audit indicate that improvements are needed to address wayfinding signage, universal washrooms, and accessible parking (among other things). The MYAP recommends that the Town “include long-term planning and budgeting for accessibility improvements at community parks,” a recommendation that this Master Plan endorses.

**Asset Management Plan.** The Town’s Asset Management Plan facilitates capital reserve planning and financing strategies by reporting on the current condition of municipal



infrastructure assets and identifying future funding requirements for their life-cycle renewal or replacement. One purpose of this Master Plan is to assist the Town in the process of integrating parks and open space resources into its asset management planning, as required by provincial regulation.

**Town By-laws & Policies.** The Town of Fort Erie has a number of other by-laws and municipal policies that affect the provision of park and open space facilities and services. These include the Parks and Beaches By-Law, the Dog Control By-Law, the Sign By-Law, and the Fees and Charges By-Law. Some of these by-laws and policies may need to be amended in order to implement the recommendations of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan.

### 1.4.2 Region of Niagara Plans & Policies

The Region of Niagara’s Official Plan has recently been updated through a Municipal Comprehensive Review (“MCR”) process. The updated Niagara Official Plan (“NOP”) forecasts a population of 48,050 people and employment of 18,430 for the Town of Fort Erie in 2051.





According to the Land Needs Assessment that was undertaken as part of the MCR process, the Town of Fort Erie will need an additional 105 hectares of land designated for development to accommodate future growth. This Master Plan has been prepared with the goal of providing adequate parks and open space for the growth of the community.

The NOP's policies call on local municipalities to ensure that development is integrated with, and connected to, existing and proposed parks and trails, as well as to adopt policies that “establish and undertake improvements to public access to shorelines.” The NOP further directs that any development that “will constrain ongoing or planned shoreline acquisition should not be permitted.”

With regard to active transportation, the NOP states that the Region will prioritize the implementation of its Strategic Cycling Network and will support local municipalities in implementing sections of that network.

### 1.4.3 Provincial Plans & Policies

Matters related to development and municipal planning in Ontario are governed by the *Planning Act*. Among other things, the *Planning Act* authorizes municipalities to require the dedication of land for parks or public recreational purposes as a condition for the development or redevelopment of land.



The required rates for land dedication (and for payments in lieu of dedication) are set out in the Town’s Parkland Dedication By-law.

Under the *Planning Act*, all planning decisions must be consistent with policy statements issued by the Province. The most recent of these (the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, which came into effect on October 20, 2024) calls on municipalities to facilitate active transportation and community connectivity, to provide opportunities for public access to shorelines, and to plan for “a full range and equitable distribution of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation.”

#### 1.4.4 National Strategies

The document *A Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing* was released in 2015 as part of a joint initiative by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), Provincial and Territorial Parks and Recreation Associations, and the provincial and territorial governments. The Framework is intended as “a call to action that invites leaders, practitioners and stakeholders in a variety of sectors to collaborate in the pursuit of common priorities, while respecting the uniqueness of individuals and communities across Canada.”

Implementation of the *Framework for Recreation in Canada* is an on-going process, with a Framework Leadership Team co-chaired by the CPRA and the Interprovincial Sports and Recreation Council (ISRC) providing national leadership. The recommendations made in this Master Plan are in harmony with many of the Framework’s goals and priorities.



## 1.5 Emerging Trends

In addition to the plans and policies discussed in the previous section, various emerging trends and practices are expected to influence the evolution of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities and the delivery of related services. This section of the Master Plan provides a survey of the most significant details related to emerging trends, which, broadly speaking, can be organized into three subject areas:

- changes in participation rates and interest levels in different types of recreational activity;
- trends in park and recreation service delivery, partly in response to changing interests and preferences; and
- evolving approaches to the planning, design, and development of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities.

Further details on many of these trends can be found in the Background Report that was prepared during the process of developing this new Master Plan.

**Impacts of an aging demographic profile.** An aging demographic profile influences the overall pattern of residents' recreational interests and preferences: the number of people participating in higher-impact activities (such as football or ice hockey) can be expected to decrease over time, while other activities — most notably walking and pickleball — are increasing in popularity.



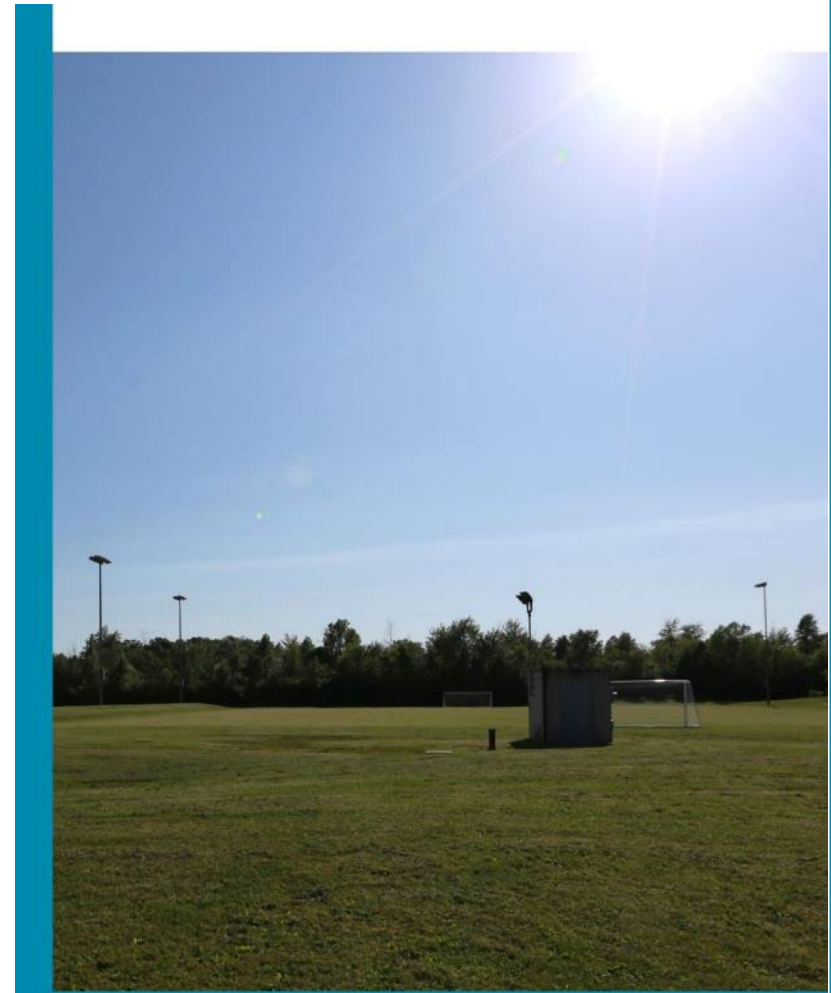


During public consultation, community members identified the Town’s trail system as the recreational facility they used the most, with the Friendship Trail being especially popular, and the most frequently engaged-in activities were trail-related (such as walking, jogging, running, as well as dog-walking and bird-watching)— though it is worth noting that these activities are becoming more popular with all age groups, not just the older segments of the Town’s population.

**Development of larger, multifunctional, more regionally oriented facilities.** As the population grows, one emerging trend has seen recreational facilities become more multifunctional to accommodate an increasingly diverse range of interests and activities. This tends to result in the development of larger facilities that can serve a broader area, drawing users at a regional scale (or even beyond).

Larger facilities have some important advantages: they are generally more flexible and adaptable, they are more prominent features of the community, and their greater size lets them take advantage of economies of scale. The trend towards larger facilities is also related to a growing tendency to merge parks and recreation with tourism strategies, justifying major investments based on capacity for “sports tourism” and the economic benefits (and the prestige) that come with hosting large-scale sporting events.

At the same time, this trend has implications for the ability to provide more localized, neighbourhood-oriented services. An appropriate balance needs to be struck between building centralized multifunctional facilities and ensuring that local residents have the opportunity to participate in recreational activities, no matter where in the Town they live.





**Sustainability and protecting the environment.** People are becoming more attuned to the need to make sustainable decisions and act as responsible stewards of the natural environment, especially as the impacts of climate change become more evident and more pronounced. This means a growing emphasis on sustainable design, incorporating native vegetation and more naturalized areas, using recycled materials, and relying more on energy-efficient features (such as solar-powered or LED lighting). There is also greater interest in offering environmental education opportunities, along with a trend towards providing more naturalized playgrounds and playscapes for children.

Through the public engagement process, residents and community members made it clear that protecting and preserving natural areas is a top priority. The popularity of activities like walking, running, and cycling also reflects a growing interest in sustainable forms of transportation and in recreational activities that are environmentally friendly. Sustainable park features and operational practices, such as composting programs, rainwater harvesting, non-chemical-based maintenance, and environmental-oriented informative features, will need to be considered and implemented in light of the growing importance of making sustainable decisions and acting as responsible stewards of the natural environment.

Furthermore, it is important now more than ever to ensure that our parks and facilities are adapted to be resilient against climate change-related impacts, such as more frequent and more intense storm events, higher probabilities of severe flooding, and increasing surface temperatures. Adaptation measures can include, for example, more opportunities for shade and tree canopy cover, enhanced shoreline protection, or engineering-related provisions, like improved drainage and the use of low-impact development strategies in parks and facilities.



**Approaches to funding and asset management.** The traditional approach to providing parks and recreation facilities in response to growth has focused on developing new spaces and facilities, although more recently there has been a shift towards balancing this with the rehabilitation and renewal of existing facilities. This has included the adoption of asset management approaches that consider life-cycle maintenance and renewal costs, anticipating the need to repair or replace major components based on life-cycle characteristics, industry standards, and municipal experience.

As fiscal pressure on operating budgets increases and as available funding from senior levels of government fluctuates, municipalities are increasingly looking for alternative sources and strategies, such as more targeted funding approaches (as opposed to relying on general tax levies) or depending on user fees and charges to cover operational and service delivery costs — although this presents challenges when it comes to the core principles of affordability and equitable access.

Additionally, there are growing concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of volunteer organizations, which have traditionally played an important and valuable role in service delivery. In general, volunteers are tending to become more project-focused with defined time commitments, rather than engaging in more open-ended or ongoing involvement.

The Town of Fort Erie has relied on community-led and community-run social and recreational programs, and different partnership models continue to evolve as the Town continues to explore alternative approaches to service delivery. One increasingly popular model is referred to as “POPS,” short for “publicly oriented private space,” which provides for public



access to privately owned property. Joint ventures and partnerships, which can involve public bodies, community groups, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, offer the potential to leverage a community’s full resources, but also require the municipality to consider factors such as risk, mutual benefit, and value for investment.

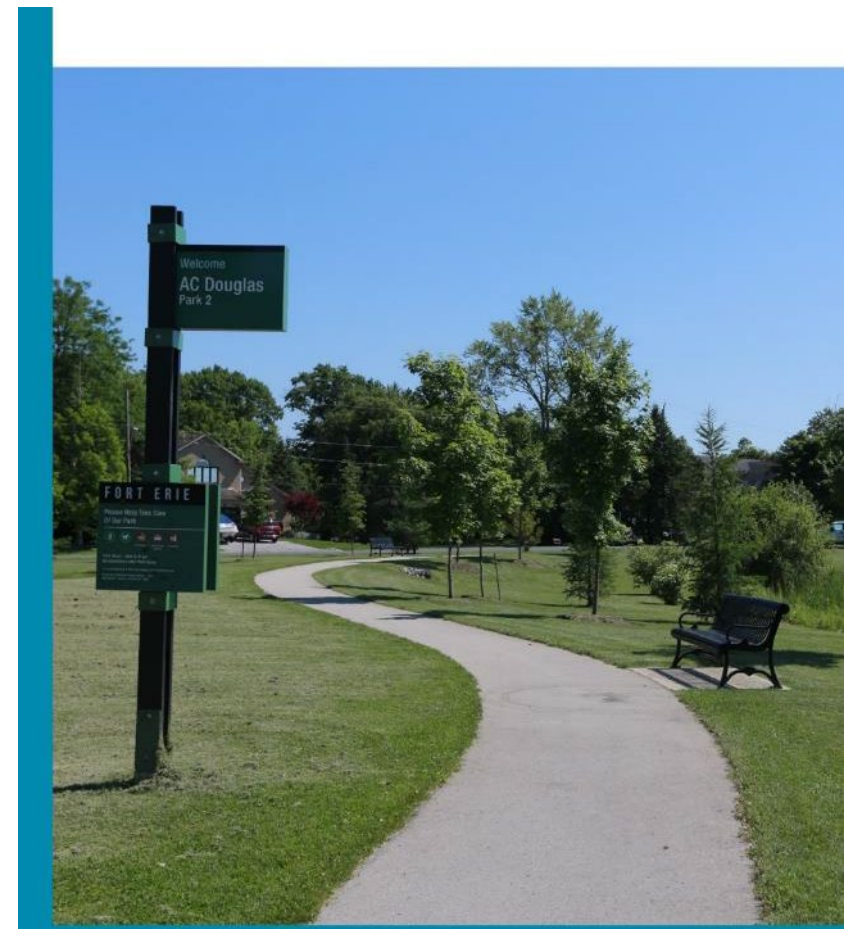
**Post-pandemic recovery.** The Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupted the operations of recreational organizations, most (if not all) of which were required to suspend operations for a period of time. Engagement with Fort Erie stakeholder groups suggests that participation levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels, and even exceed those levels in some cases, as people are generally comfortable gathering in larger groups. Even so, some organizations are still recovering from the impacts that the pandemic had on their operations.

The pandemic also underscored the importance of having readily accessible high-quality outdoor spaces — not just for recreational purposes, but also for providing social opportunities and for supporting mental health.

## 1.6 Overview of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan

This opening section (**Section 1: Introduction**) has focused on establishing the purpose, scope, and context of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan, including its relationship to the previous (2006) Master Plan and to other plans at the local, regional, and provincial levels.

The next section — **Section 2: Classifications & Standards** — provides some further background on the community and on the process of preparing the Town’s new Parks & Open Space Master Plan, with particular focus on the public consultation that has informed this Master Plan. The section



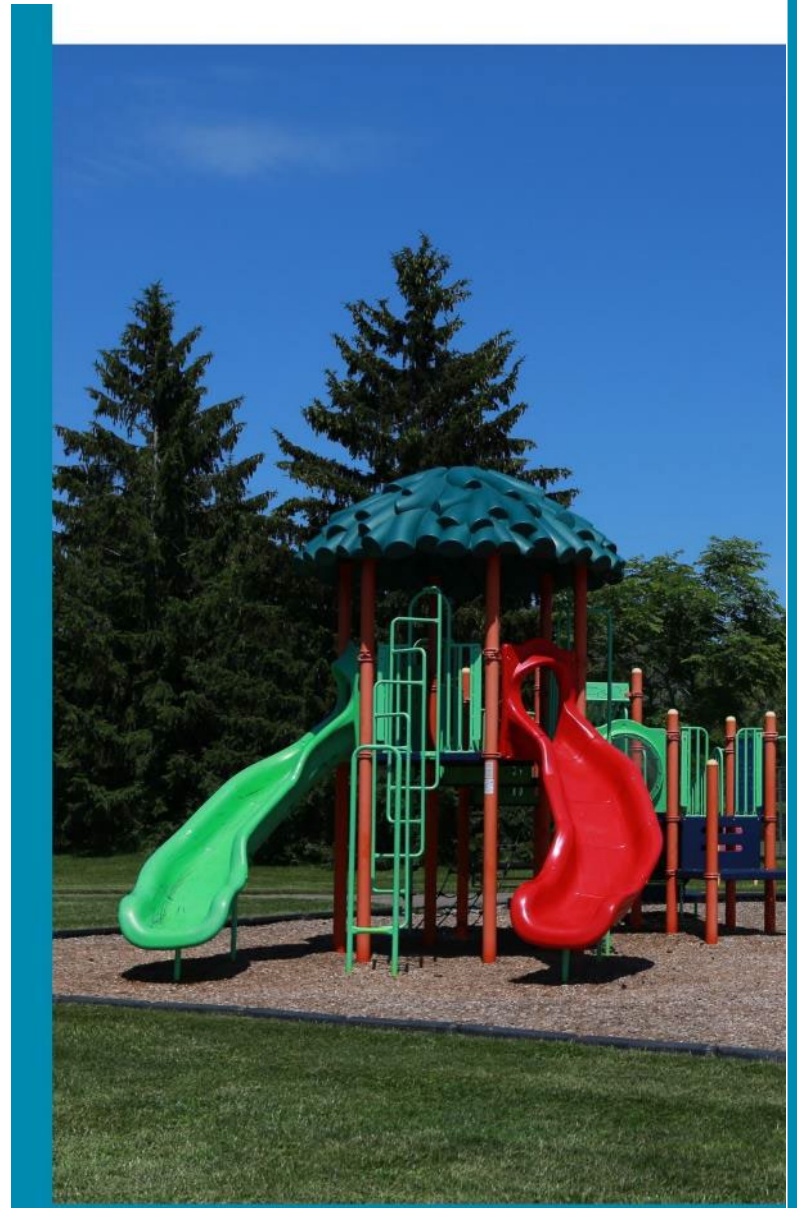


culminates in a statement of the vision that was expressed by the community through that consultation process.

**Section 3 (Classifications & Standards)** begins by describing the existing system of parks, open spaces, and outdoor facilities, with reference to the classifications used in the previous Master Plan. It then presents an updated classification system for the Town's parks and establishes standards for different park classes within that system. This section also reviews existing provision levels of various outdoor recreation facilities and recommends standards for those facilities.

**Section 4 (Parks & Facilities)** builds on the descriptions and assessments in earlier sections to make recommendations for the Town's existing parks and open spaces, in order to guide investments in renewals, renovations, improvements, expansions, and redevelopment. Following this, the section considers service gaps remaining after existing parks have been considered, making recommendations for how to address those gaps on both a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood and a Town-wide basis.

**Section 5 (Management & Operations)** makes recommendations for operating and maintaining parks and outdoor facilities, both existing and new, taking into consideration the typical life cycles of facilities and amenities. Matters addressed in this section include operational requirements, service standards, risk management, stewardship, partnerships, and public consultation.





**Section 6 (Implementation)** presents the strategy for implementing the recommendations made in earlier sections of this Master Plan, identifying short-, medium-, and long-term considerations. This section also considers funding approaches and fiscal strategies, as well as asset management and municipal policy.

**Section 7 (Summary of Recommendations)** collects the various recommendations made throughout the Master Plan and presents them in a comprehensive manner alongside the overall implementation strategy.



## 2 Community & Vision

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**Parks are vital elements of community life.** It is therefore essential that planning for parks and open spaces be focused on the needs, expectations, and aspirations of community members — of the people for whom these places are features of everyday life.

The vision expressed by the community provides the basis for the recommendations made throughout this Parks & Open Space Master Plan, with additional support from the 2006 Master Plan and from a consideration of the emerging trends discussed in the previous section. This Master Plan and its recommendations are further informed by population and demographic projections for different areas within the Town of Fort Erie.

This section of the Master Plan focuses on those foundational elements: it begins by providing a demographic profile of the Town of Fort Erie before describing the process of preparing the Town's new Master Plan and the priorities, the expectations, and ultimately the vision that emerged through that process.



## 2.1 Community Profile

The Town of Fort Erie encompasses a large municipal territory (about 166 km<sup>2</sup> in area) with five Urban Areas: **Fort Erie**, **Crystal Beach**, **Ridgeway–Thunder Bay**, **Stevensville**, and **Douglastown–Black Creek**. The Fort Erie Urban Area, the largest both geographically and in terms of population, is composed of multiple neighbourhoods, which are shown in **Figure 2.1**.

Throughout this Master Plan, the full phrase “Town of Fort Erie” is used to refer to the entire municipality (and to the Town as a corporate entity). “Fort Erie” on its own is used just to refer to the Urban Area of that name within the Town.

For the purposes of this Master Plan, the **Fort Erie Urban Area** is made up of three neighbourhoods:

**Fort Erie–Bridgeburg**, which itself consists of three “sub-neighbourhoods”: Fort Erie/Southend (the historic core of Fort Erie), Bridgeburg, and Gilmore;

**Lakeshore–Walden**, consisting of another three sub-neighbourhoods: Lakeshore, Walden, and Garrison; and

**Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft**, which comprises four sub-neighbourhoods: Crescent Park, Kraft, High Pointe, and Spears.

The other four Urban Areas — **Crystal Beach**, **Ridgeway–Thunder Bay**, **Stevensville**, and **Douglastown–Black Creek** — have not been divided into neighbourhoods for the purposes of this Master Plan.

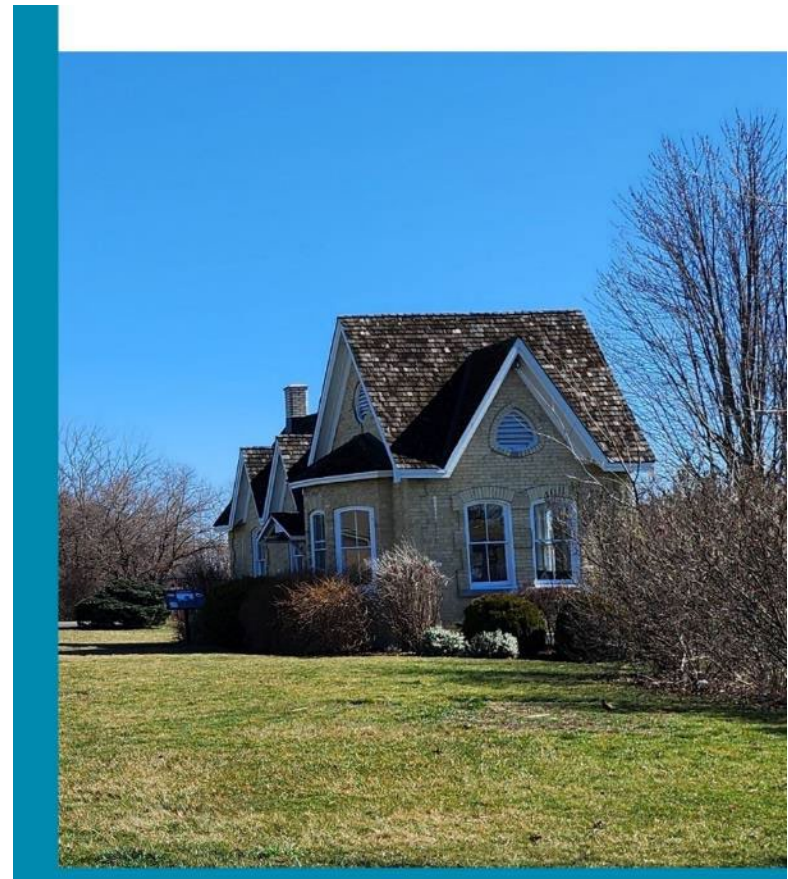
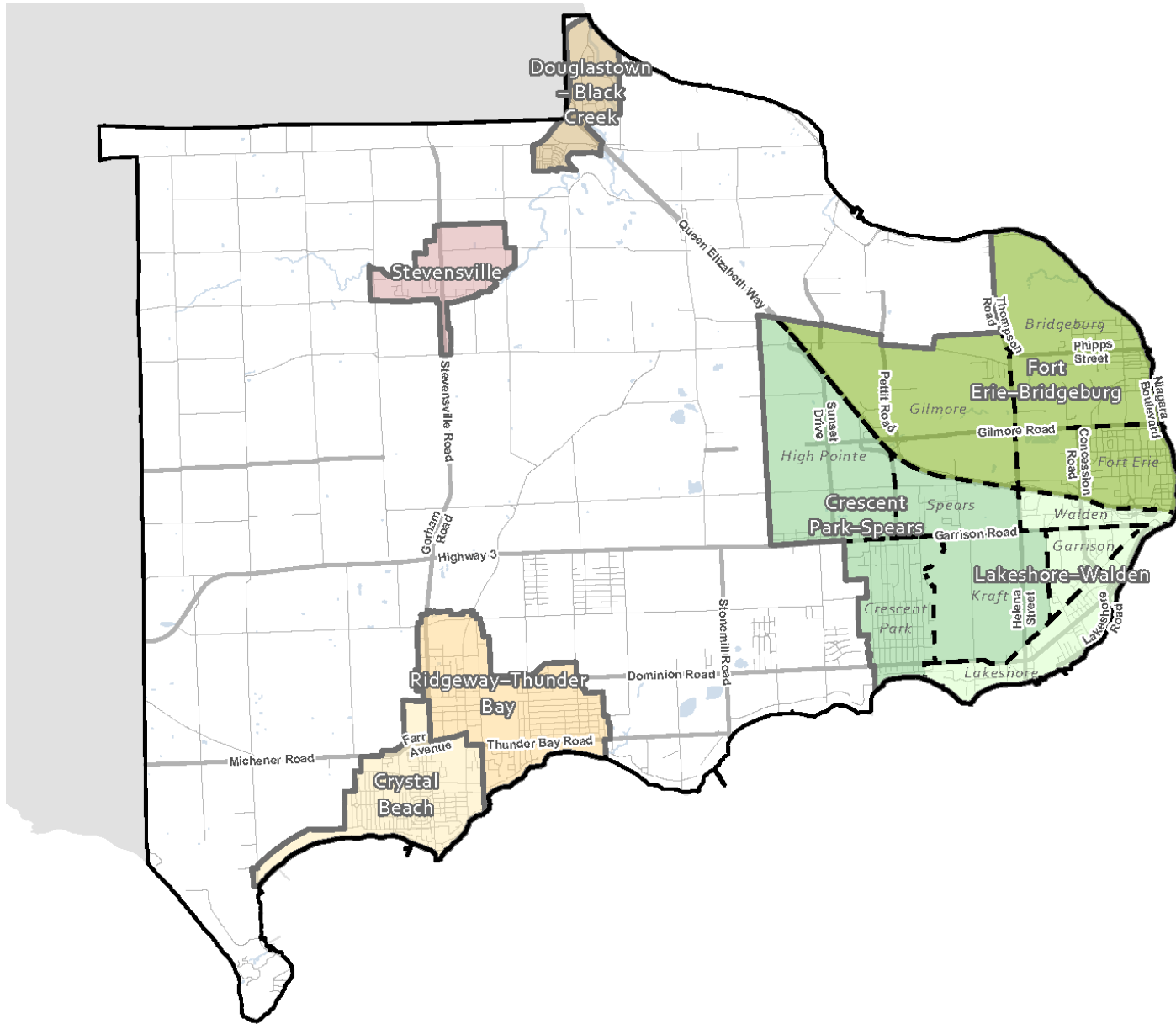




Figure 2.1 – Map of Urban Areas & Neighbourhoods



## 2.1.1 Population & Dwellings

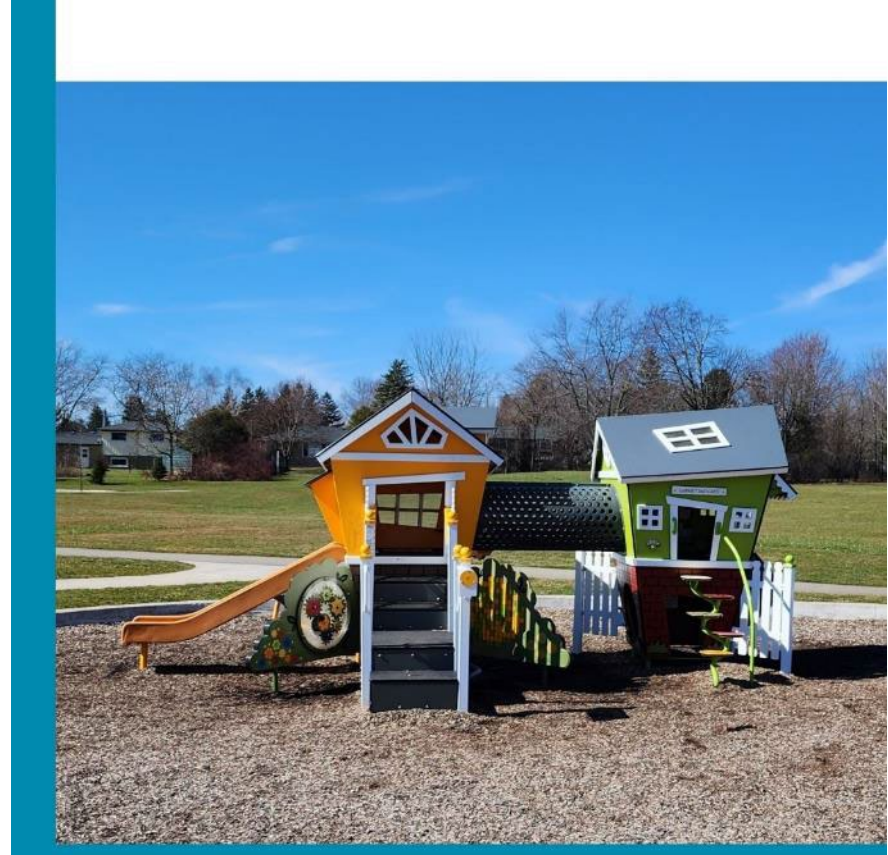
Over the past twenty years, the population of the Town of Fort Erie has grown by about 21%, from 29,930 people in 2003 to 36,209 people in 2023, according to Statistics Canada.<sup>1</sup> Most of the population (about 85% in 2021) is concentrated in the four Urban Areas, with the remaining 15% distributed across the Town’s rural area.

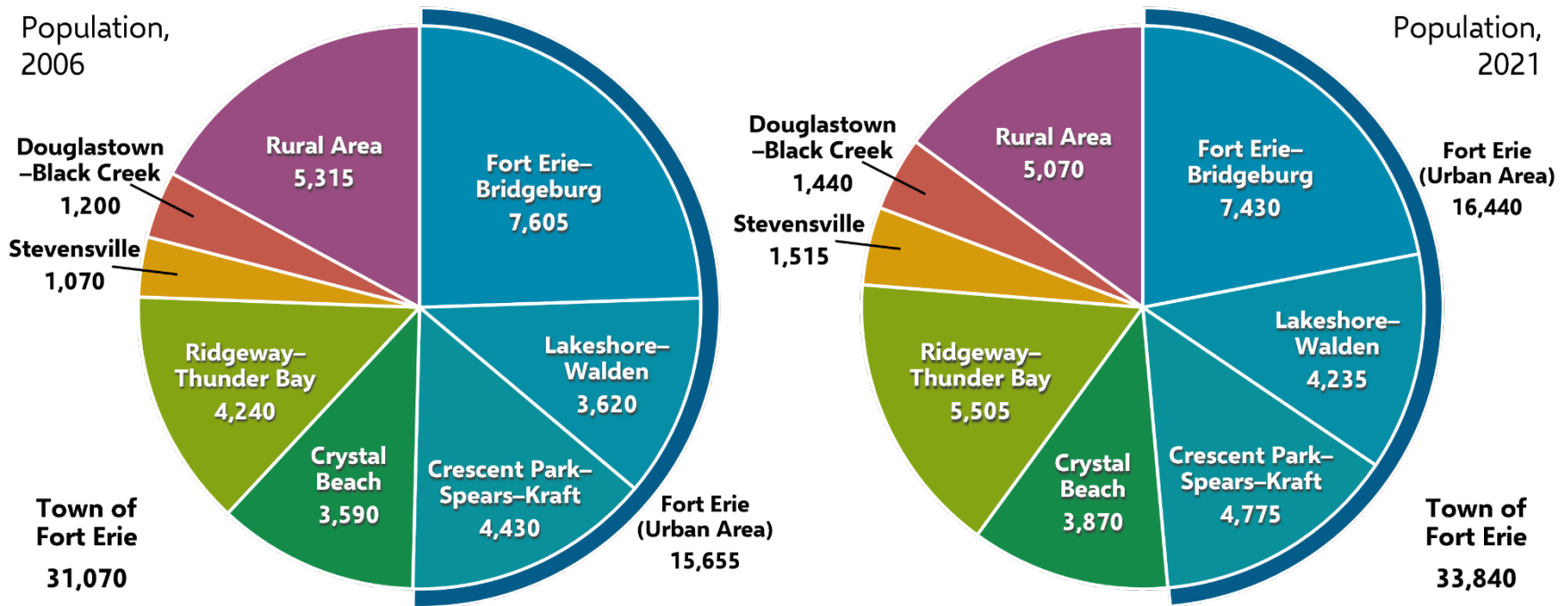
Between 2006 and 2021, the Town’s four Urban Areas have shown varying rates of growth (**Figure 2.2**), according to estimates derived from Dissemination Block data from Statistics Canada’s Census of Population. (A Dissemination Block, or “DB”, is the smallest geographic area for which Census data are available. DBs are generally defined using roads and similar features: in urban areas, a DB is usually the same as a city block.)

For instance, while the population of the Fort Erie Urban Area increased by an estimated 1,190 people between 2006 and 2021, its share of the Town’s overall population actually decreased over that period, from 50.4% to 49.8% (as illustrated in Figure 2.2). Meanwhile, the share of Town residents living in the other three Urban Areas combined has grown, from 32.5% in 2006 to 35.2% in 2021. Moving forward, it is expected that the Urban Areas will accommodate most of the Town’s population growth.

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<sup>1</sup> These population numbers are taken from Statistics Canada’s annual population estimates (“Population estimates, July 1, by census subdivision, 2021 boundaries” [Table 17-10-0155-01], 22 May 2024). Please note, however, that this Master Plan generally uses data from the 2021 Census of Population, which provide more detailed demographic information for sub-municipal geographies (Dissemination Areas and Dissemination Blocks).





**Figure 2.2 – Population growth by Urban Area and neighbourhood, 2006–2021**

The Town of Fort Erie’s population is expected to continue growing in the coming years, with a projected total of approximately 36,840 people in the year 2031, approximately 41,240 people in 2041, and a population of 48,050 people forecast for 2051. (The forecasts for 2031 and 2041 are taken from the 2023 Development Charges Background Study, prepared for the Town of Fort Erie by Hemson Consulting, rounded to the nearest multiple of ten. The projected population for 2051 is from the Region of Niagara’s Official Plan. Further details on projected population growth and its distribution among the Town’s Urban Areas can be found with the discussion of future parkland needs in Section 4.2 of this Master Plan.)

### 2.1.2 Seasonal Population

Each year, the Town of Fort Erie sees a significant influx of seasonal residents, which affects the demand for parks and open space amenities in some parts of the Town, primarily in areas along the Lake Erie shoreline. Estimates from Census data indicate that over 40% of the seasonal dwellings in the Town are found in the Crystal Beach Urban Area.

The remaining seasonal dwellings are mostly divided between the Fort Erie Urban Area (23.9% of seasonal dwellings) and the rural area (21.5%), with another 9.2% being located in the Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Area. Stevensville and Douglastown–Black Creek combined account for a very small share of the Town’s seasonal dwellings, at only 3.4%.

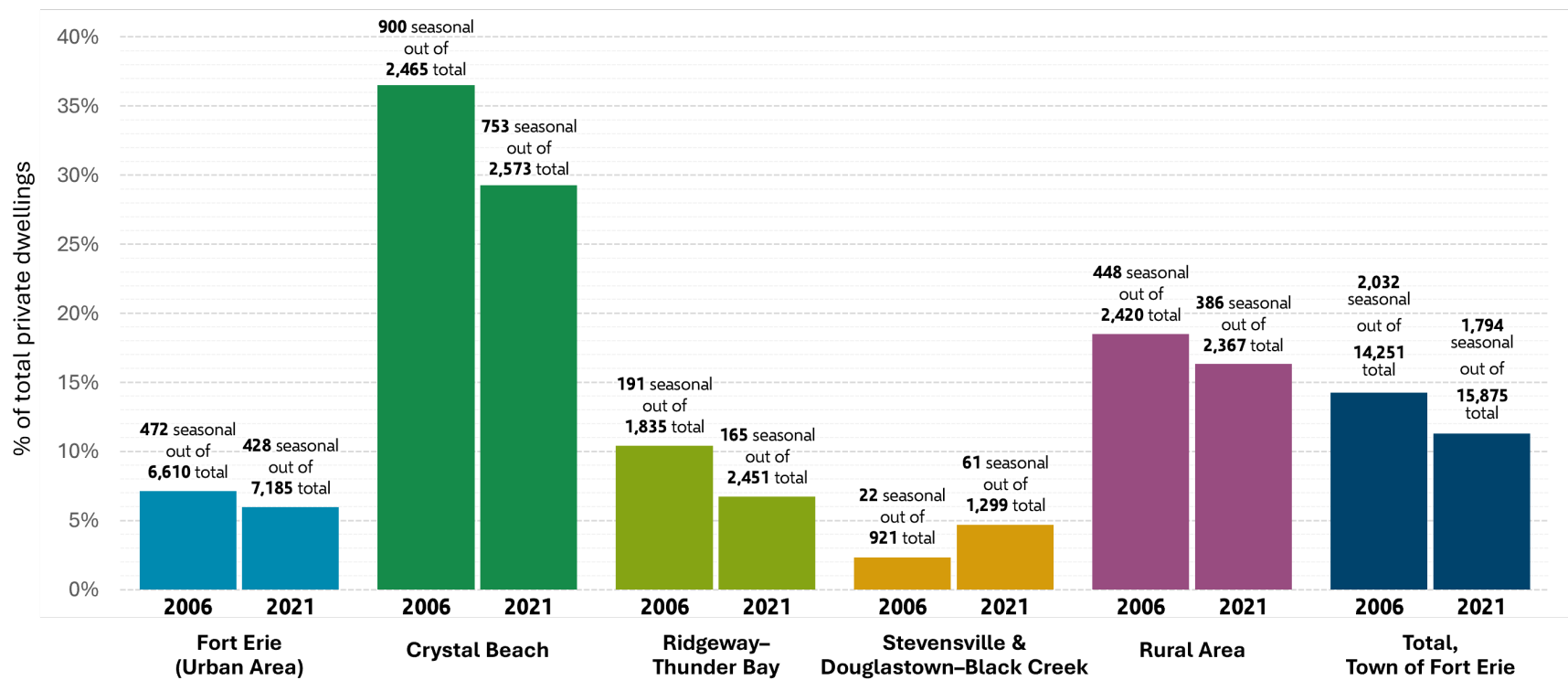
The overall number of seasonal dwellings in the Town has decreased since 2006, even as the total number of private dwellings has increased (**Figure 2.3**). (The term “seasonal dwellings” used here refers to private dwellings that are not occupied by permanent residents, as reported in the Census.) The overall decline suggests that some seasonal dwellings (such as cottages and summer homes) have been converted into permanent residences, which has implications for parkland provision:



one challenge arising from this sort of conversion, and the population increase that comes along with it, is that the Town has fewer options for acquiring additional parkland or for offsetting costs related to the greater need for parks, outdoor recreation facilities, open spaces, and trails.

At present there are no strong indications that increases to the permanent population due to cottage conversions will significantly impact park and open space needs in the short term. However, if this type of population growth does become a significant factor, the Town will likely need to track building permit data for the conversion of cottages to permanent dwellings in order to monitor and assess the potential impacts on parks and other municipal services.

**Figure 2.3 – Seasonal dwellings (as a percentage of total private dwellings) by Urban Area**





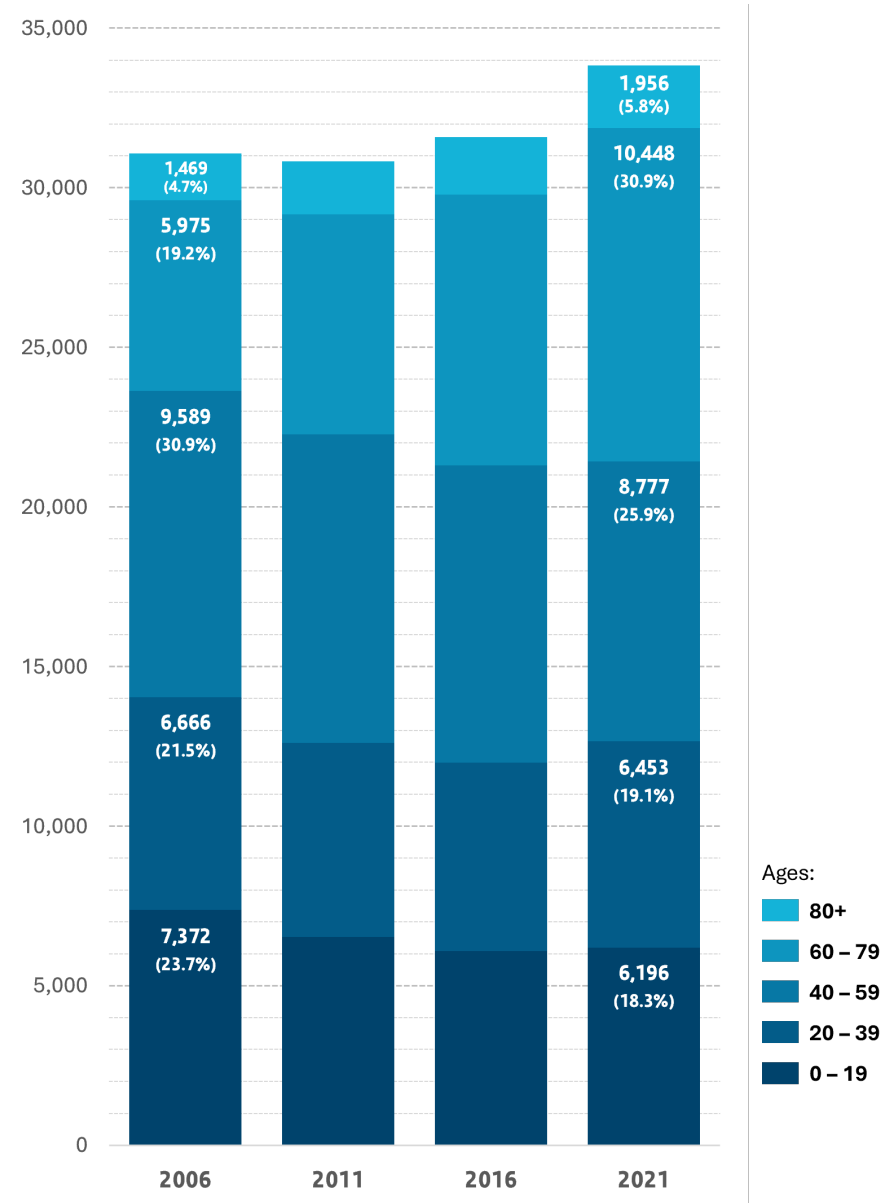
### 2.1.3 Age Profile

Like many places across Canada, the Town’s population overall has an aging demographic profile, as illustrated in **Figure 2.4**: from the 2006 Census to the 2021 Census, the median age in the Town of Fort Erie has risen from 43.1 years to 51.6 years (meaning that, in 2021, exactly half of the population was older than 51.6 years old). Over this timeframe, the Town’s median age has remained higher than that of Niagara Region (41.3 years in 2006 and 46.0 years in 2021) and that of Ontario overall (39.0 years in 2006 and 41.6 years in 2021).

In other words, the Town’s demographic profile has been aging more quickly than that of both the Region and the Province, primarily because of an influx of retirement-aged people moving into the Town, suggesting that the effects of an aging population will likely be more pronounced in the Town of Fort Erie than elsewhere in Ontario.

At the same time, this general picture doesn’t tell the whole story, as a general trend of migration towards more urban areas means that the age profile of the Town’s urban population tends to be younger that of the rural population. There is also variation among the Town’s different Urban Areas: for example, the

**Figure 2.4 – Population by 20-year age cohorts, 2006–2021**



median age of the Fort Erie Urban Area in 2021 was 49.2 years, whereas the median age of Crystal Beach and Ridgeway–Thunder Bay was significantly higher, at 54.4 years.<sup>2</sup> Stevensville, meanwhile, had a median age even lower than that of the Fort Erie Urban Area, at 46.8 years.

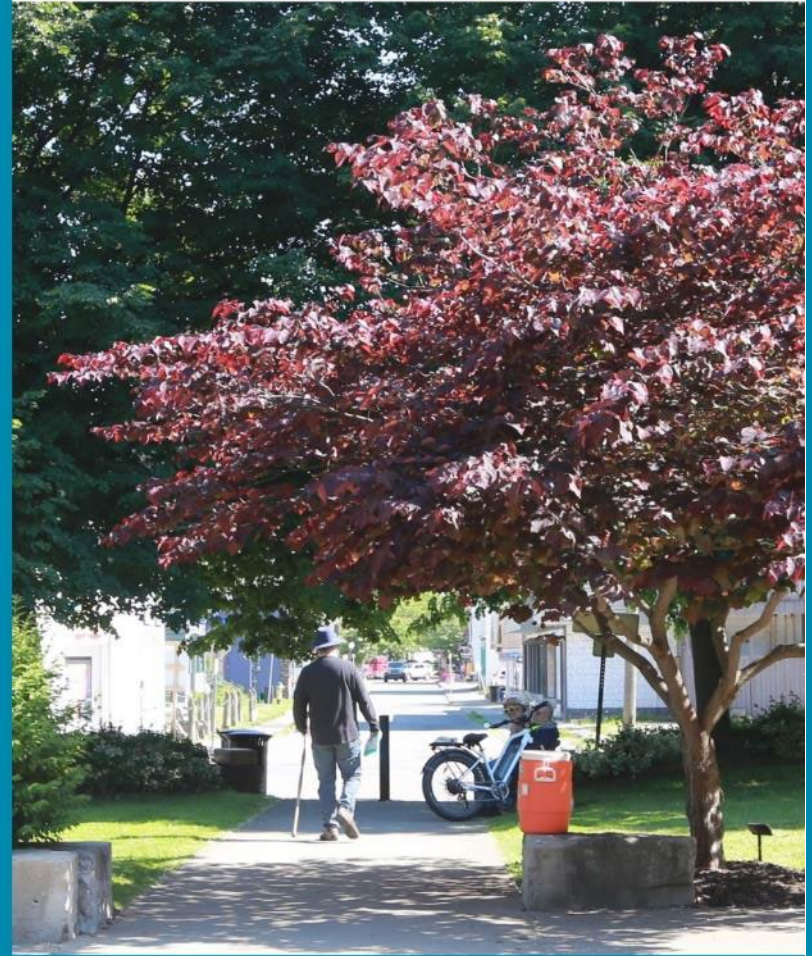
The distribution of different age groups across the Town means that different areas will have different needs when it comes to parks and open spaces, such as differing demand levels for amenities and facilities that cater to young children or to older residents.

### 2.1.4 Immigration

According to the 2021 Census, the Town of Fort Erie’s immigrant population made up about 16.6% of the total population (or about one in six people), which is much lower than the provincial average of 30.8%. Just under half of the Town’s immigrant population arrived in Canada before 1980, the majority from the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere in Europe. Since 2001, the Town has seen increased immigration from South and Southeast Asia (in particular the Philippines, China, and India), as well as Central America and the Caribbean (primarily El Salvador and Haiti).

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<sup>2</sup> The 2021 Census combines the Crystal Beach and Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Areas into a single “Population Centre”. Statistics Canada defines a “Population Centre” as a place with “a population of at least 1,000 and a population density of 400 persons or more per square kilometre.” Douglstown–Black Creek did not meet these criteria in 2021, which is why it has been omitted from this paragraph.



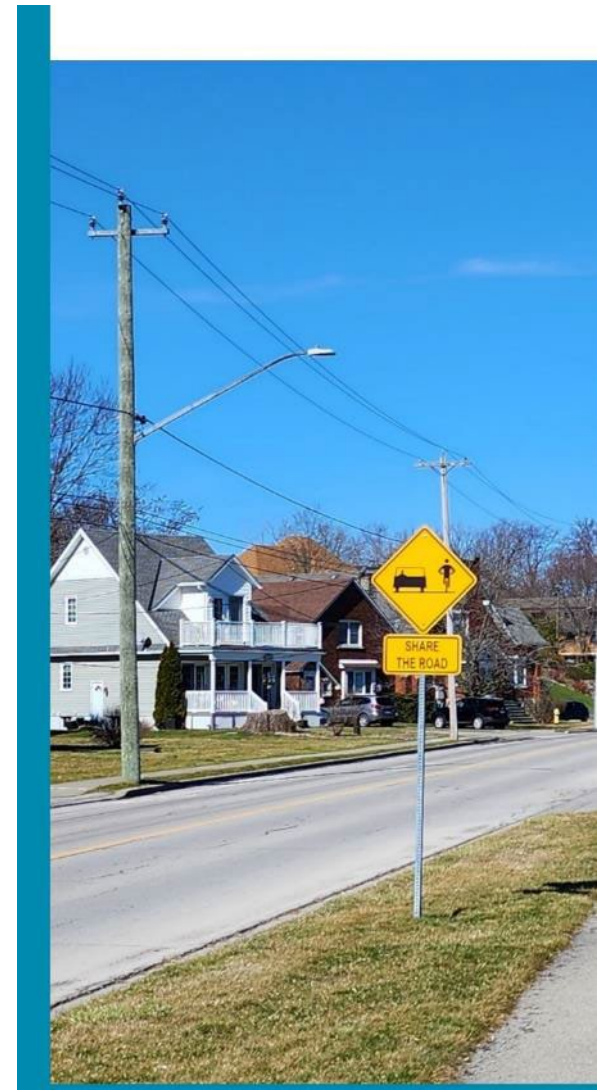
Data from the 2021 Census indicate that almost half (49.1%) of the Town's immigrant population lives in the Fort Erie Urban Area, with another 29.5% of the immigrant population living in either Crystal Beach or in Ridgeway–Thunder Bay.

An aging demographic profile means that many places in Canada, including the Town of Fort Erie, are coming to rely more and more on immigration to sustain their population and economic growth. Greater cultural diversity will continue to influence the community's overall recreational preferences and needs. One goal of this Master Plan is to provide direction for supporting enhanced flexibility and variety in the range of activities that the Town's parks and open spaces can accommodate.

### 2.1.5 Employment & Commuting

Longer commuting times generally reduce the time residents have available for leisure activities, and a higher percentage of commuters can mean greater demand for access to parks, outdoor recreation facilities, and programs at specific times, such as on weekday evenings. Conversely, greater levels of local employment and more people working from home will likely mean greater daytime use during the week, as people will have more flexibility to participate in activities throughout the day.

Census data on employment and commuting show a relatively even balance between Town residents who work locally and those who commute to another municipality. On top of this, the 2021 Census reports that about one-sixth of the employed labour force (or 2,225 out of 13,040 residents) worked from home in 2021.





Analysis from Statistics Canada indicates that, at the time of the 2021 Census, the national work-from-home rate was about 30%, down from a peak of over 40% in April 2020, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, the national work-from-home rate has stabilized at around 20%.<sup>3</sup> This would suggest, as a rough estimate, that the number of Town residents working from home post-pandemic is around 1,480 people (or two-thirds of the number reported in the 2021 Census).

Taken together, the 2021 Census data identify around 9,075 people who work in the Town of Fort Erie (including residents and those who commute from elsewhere to work in the Town), plus about 19,860 residents who were not working at the time of the Census (either because they were unemployed or were not part of the workforce, such as children and retirees). These numbers suggest there should be some balance in demand for parks, trails, and open spaces throughout the day and during the evening hours.

### 2.1.6 **Income**

The median after-tax household income in the Town of Fort Erie in 2020 was \$68,000, according to the 2021 Census, which is lower than the median for Niagara Region (\$71,000 in 2020) and for Ontario (\$79,500 in

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<sup>3</sup> See Statistics Canada, *Research to Insights: Working from home in Canada* (18 January 2024), <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-631-x/11-631-x2024001-eng.htm>



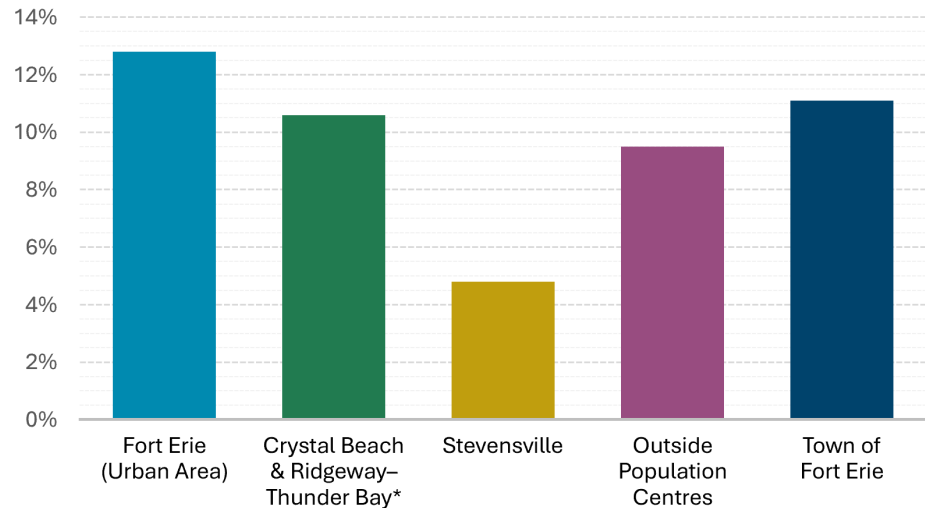


2020). Census data indicate that 11.1% of the Town’s population were in low-income circumstances in 2020 (down from 16.0% in 2015).

Low-income circumstances affect people of all ages, and the prevalence of low-income circumstances varies depending on location within the Town (see **Figure 2.5**). The Town’s Affordable Housing Strategy has identified one-person households as particularly vulnerable in terms of income, a statement that is confirmed by Census data, which show a much higher prevalence of low-income circumstances in one-person households (30.7%) as compared to all other household types (8.6%). Single-parent households, which like one-person households must generally rely on a single income, can also find themselves in vulnerable circumstances.

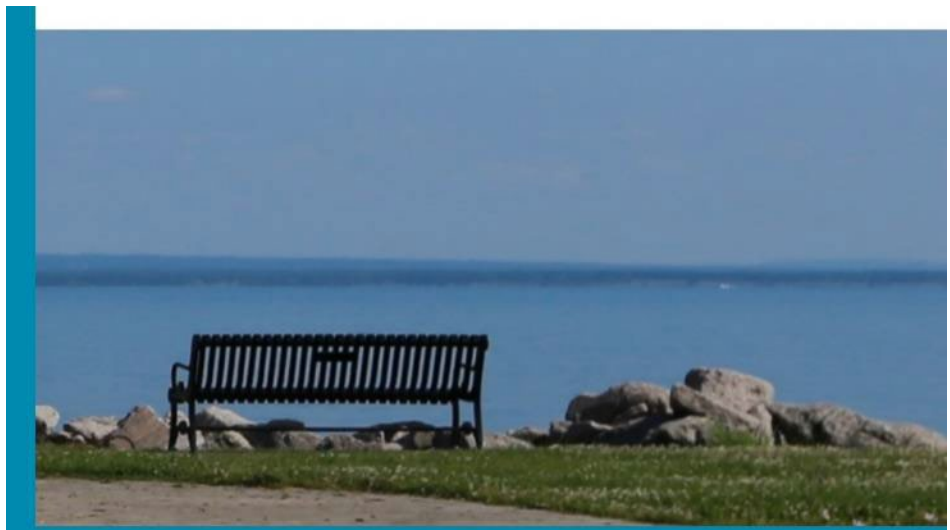
By providing low-cost or free recreational opportunities, the Town’s parks provide an essential service, assisting those residents who may not otherwise be able to afford to participate in recreational activities. It is vital that the Town continue to offer a balance of user-fee-based, low-cost, and free-to-use outdoor recreational facilities in its parks while promoting or supporting available financial assistance programs, particularly for lower-income families residing in the Town.

**Figure 2.5 – Prevalence of low-income circumstances (2021 Census)**



*\*Combined by Statistics Canada into one Population Centre for 2021 Census.*

Percentages shown are the prevalence of low-income circumstances, according to the after-tax low-income measure (LIM-AT), in 2020, as reported in the 2021 Census of Population.



## 2.2 Preparing the Town's New Master Plan

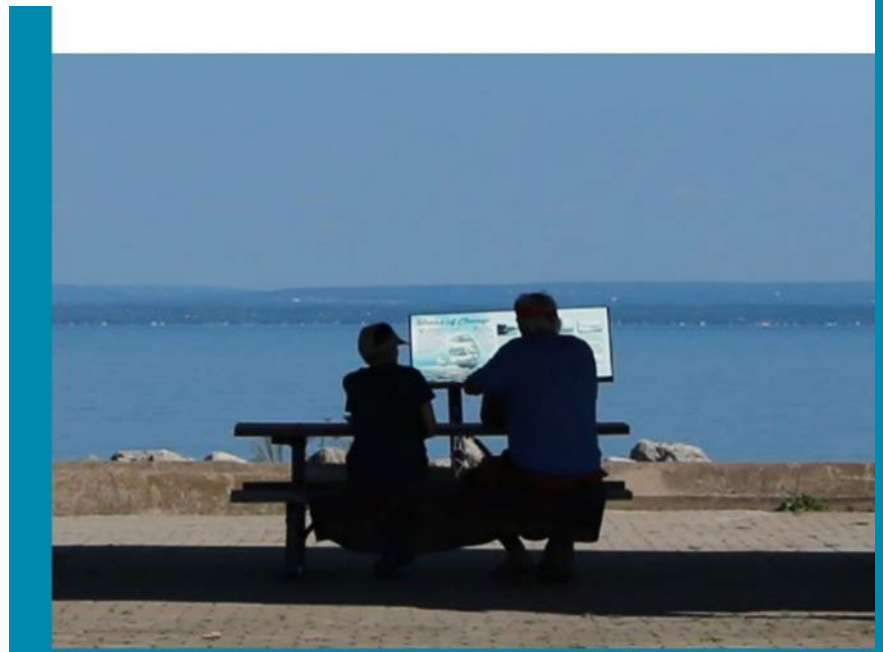
The Town of Fort Erie initiated the update of its Parks & Open Space Master Plan in 2017. The early stages of the process included community consultation, undertaken in 2017–2018, along with the preparation of a Background Study Report to inform the new Master Plan. After the preparation of this Master Plan was interrupted by a number of factors (the Covid-19 pandemic being among them), an additional phase of community consultation was included in the process. Both rounds of consultation are discussed in this section.

### 2.2.1 Background Research

Background research in support of the new Parks & Open Space Master Plan was undertaken in conjunction with the initial round of community consultation in 2017–2018, described below. The Background Study Report — which is available online at <https://letstalk.forterie.ca/parks-and-open-space-master-plan> — presents a summary of the research undertaken and a description of the findings.

Key areas of focus include the following:

- the Town's demographic profile and forecasts for population growth and demographic change;
- recent building and development activity in the Town;
- the Town's existing parks and open space resources, along with an assessment of current conditions and utilization levels;
- current parkland provision levels in the Town's Urban Areas; and



- important trends affecting participation in recreational activities, the delivery of parks and recreation services, and the planning, design, and development of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities.

Additional background research, including updates to the Town’s demographic profile and inventory of facilities, was conducted during the process of drafting this Master Plan. The principal findings from this research are presented in Section 1 above.

### 2.2.2 Community Consultation

The process of preparing a new Parks & Open Space Master Plan has involved extensive public consultation efforts in a variety of formats and settings, given the central role that parks and open spaces play in quality of life for the community. The consultation program undertaken in support of the development of this Master Plan involved multiple avenues of engagement, including public open houses, focus group discussions and interviews with different community organizations, and online surveys.

As mentioned above, the Master Plan process involved two rounds of public consultation: the first in 2017–2018 and the second in early 2024. Detailed findings from the first round of consultation are provided in the Background Report, while the results of the more recent round are presented in **Appendix A** to this Master Plan. The findings and results from both rounds of consultation have provided the basis for the priorities, vision, and guiding principles presented in this section.



## Initial Public Consultation (2017–2018)

The initial round of community consultation was undertaken towards the end of 2017 and in the early months of 2018. This round of consultation consisted of the following:

**Group discussions and interviews.** Sixteen focus group discussion sessions and interviews with a total of over 30 participants took place in August 2017. Participants included staff members from various Town departments, along with representatives from various community groups, from outdoor sports organizations, from heritage and cultural organizations, from different service clubs, and from the Niagara Parks Commission.

The discussions covered topics such as the strengths of the Town’s parks and open space system, areas for improvement, participation in recreational activities, the quality of the Town’s parks and facilities, and priorities for new parks and for the redevelopment of existing parks.

**Public open house.** A public open house and community workshop session was held on February 15, 2018, with about 30 members of the community in attendance. The open house provided an opportunity for informal discussions and for participants to provide comments and perspectives to be considered in developing this Master Plan.

The community workshop sessions saw participants assembled into three working groups to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the parks and open space system, to express their concerns with existing facilities, to describe their vision for the system overall, and to identify which elements of that system the Town should prioritize in making investments over the next ten years.





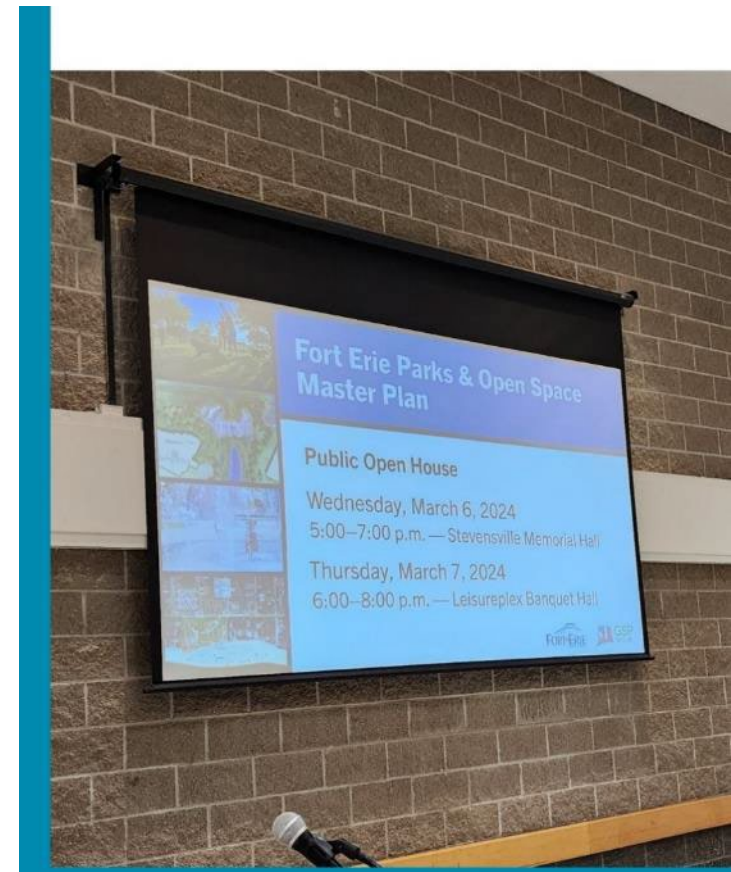
**Online community survey.** An online survey made up of 33 questions was posted on the Town of Fort Erie’s website on February 20, 2018. Questions covered topics such as residents’ participation in recreational activities and use of parks and open spaces in the Town, their satisfaction levels with current facilities and services, their views on the system’s strengths and weaknesses, and their priorities when it comes to making improvements to the parks and open space system. The survey received a total of 511 responses over a period of about 3½ weeks.

### **Additional Public Consultation (2024)**

After a lengthy interruption to the process of preparing this Master Plan, due primarily to the Covid-19 pandemic, an additional round of public consultation was undertaken in order to ensure that our understanding of the community’s needs, priorities, and expectations was up-to-date. The additional round of consultation took place in March 2024 and consisted of the following:

- in-person and virtual meetings with community members, recreational organizations, and other stakeholder groups;
- two public open houses, held on March 6, 2024, at the Stevensville Memorial Hall and on and March 7, 2024, at the Fort Erie Leisureplex Banquet Hall, which combined had an attendance of about 30–40 community members; and
- an online survey administered over a two-week window, from March 11 to March 25, 2024, which received 158 total responses.

Detailed results from the March 2024 online survey, as well as a summary of public comments received at the two open houses, are provided in Appendix A.



### 2.2.3 Review & Approval of the New Master Plan

A draft version of this Master Plan was circulated internally and reviewed by Town staff. A revised draft was subsequently released for public consultation through the “Let’s Talk Fort Erie” website. The revised draft was also presented to Town Council on September 6, 2024.

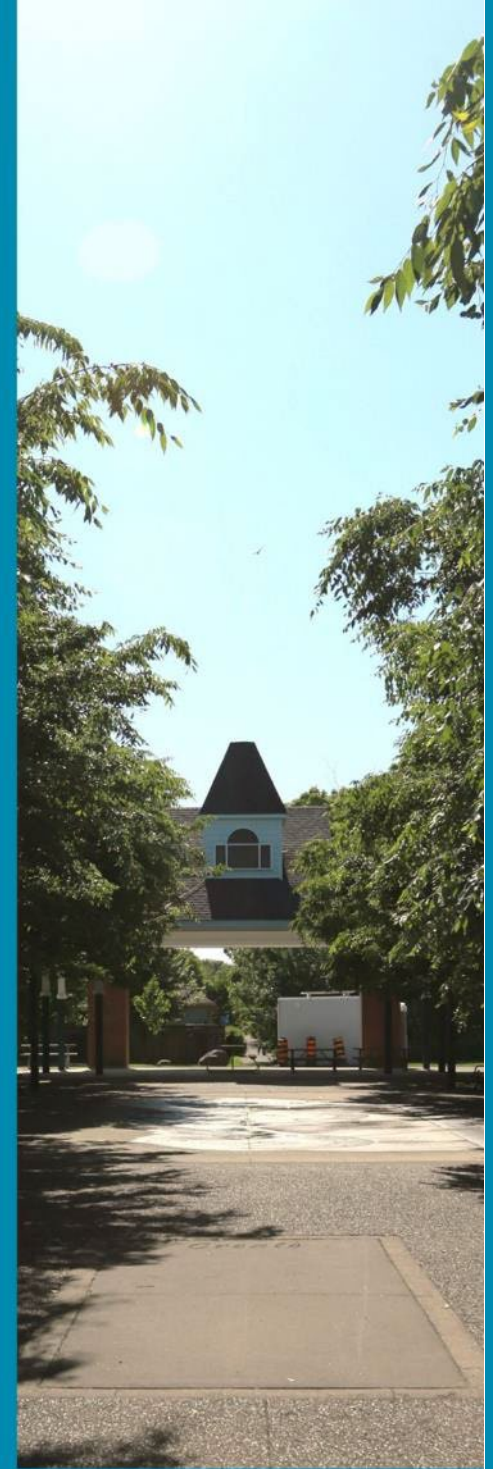
Following another round of revisions based on comments received from the public, the final version of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan was presented to Town Council and was approved and adopted on [approval date].

## 2.3 Community Priorities & Expectations

The goal of the public consultation described in the previous section was to achieve an understanding of the community’s attitude towards the existing parks and open space system, its expectations and priorities for the system, and its vision for the future of the Town’s parks and recreational amenities. This section of the Master Plan summarizes those findings.

### 2.3.1 Community Assessment & Satisfaction

In general, satisfaction with the Town’s parks and open space system is reasonably high, though there are certainly some opportunities for improvement. Key strengths identified by the community include waterfront parks and beaches, which are unique recreational and tourism assets, as well as the trail network and the overall variety of open spaces across the Town. The additional round of consultation in 2024 confirmed that the waterfront and trail system, particularly the Friendship Trail, are viewed as key assets, and that the community values the overall abundance, availability, and variety of outdoor spaces in the Town.



The most frequently visited parks (consistently identified across both surveys) are Lions Sugarbowl Park, Ferndale Park, Ridgeway Village Square, and Crystal Ridge Park, as well as the Friendship Trail. The most popular waterfront spaces (also consistent across the two surveys) are Waverly Beach, Crystal Beach, and Bay Beach.

Of course, there are also areas where improvement is possible. Respondents to the first online survey in 2018 were satisfied with many of the Town's parks and facilities, although a number expressed particular dissatisfaction with the condition and quality of beaches. Many responses to the original survey remarked on a need for improved maintenance for beaches and trails, as well as a need for more shaded areas, seating areas, and waste receptacles. Maintenance and upkeep featured prominently in responses to the 2024 survey as well, and respondents expressed a similar desire for additional in-park features, such as benches, shade structures, and washrooms.

Responses to both surveys expressed concern about the preservation of natural spaces and wooded areas, in addition to maintaining public access to beaches and issues related to over-crowding, including the availability of parking. Similar concerns arose during focus group discussions in 2017, with stakeholders calling attention to capacity issues at many of the Town's primary attractions and venues, especially those popular with tourists. The stakeholder meetings in 2024 also identified challenges related to having clear channels of communication with Town staff.

## 2024 Survey Highlights

### Most frequently visited/used:

- Friendship Trail (76.5% of respondents)
- Waverly Beach Waterfront Park (58.4% of respondents)
- Crystal Beach Waterfront Park (56.4% of respondents)
- Bay Beach Waterfront Park (51.0% of respondents)
- Ridgeway Village Square (43.0% of respondents)

### Highest satisfaction levels (park features):

- Spray pads (Average response: 3.62 / 5)
- Playgrounds (Average response: 3.56 / 5)
- Trails (Average response: 3.52 / 5)

### Highest satisfaction levels (outdoor facilities):

- Skatepark (Average response: 3.76 / 5)
- Multi-use courts (Average response: 3.59 / 5)
- Baseball diamonds (Average response: 3.54 / 5)

### Most desired features:

- Washrooms (56.4% of respondents)
- Natural areas (55.6% of respondents)
- Shaded seating areas (52.6% of respondents)

### Highest priorities:

- Providing trails for walking, cycling, etc. (Avg. rank: 2.1)
- Protecting the natural environment (Avg. rank: 2.3)
- Providing unprogrammed open spaces (Avg. rank: 3.2)

### 2.3.2 Community Priorities

The recurrence of certain themes, during both rounds of public consultation, has helped clarify the community's priorities and expectations. The overall picture that emerges is of a community that wants its parks, beaches, and trails to be clean and well-kept places that they can be proud of. Residents value the trail network and the opportunities it provides to be active. They are keen to maintain public access to the waterfront, to preserve natural areas, and to protect the natural environment from encroachment by private development. The community also recognizes that an aging demographic profile means that more attention will need to be paid to accessibility and age-friendliness.

In addition to the overall priorities discussed in the following paragraphs, the public consultation process helped identify priorities for improving different in-park facilities and features, which are presented on pp. 46–47 under seven headings: Parks & Open Spaces, Natural Areas & Nature Trails, Beaches & Waterfront, Playgrounds & Spray Pads, Sports Fields & Facilities, Trails & Active Transportation, and Park Features & Infrastructure.

**Maintenance and up-keep.** Cleanliness, garbage removal, and general maintenance (such as grass-cutting, weed removal, and trail clearance) frequently and consistently arose as priorities in responses to both surveys. Residents and tourists alike have high expectations with regard to the quality and condition of the Town's parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities. Stakeholders identified a definite need for more full-time staff resources to support upkeep, maintenance and operations.

**Improvements to existing parks, facilities, and infrastructure.** The waterfront was the item most frequently identified by respondents to the 2018 survey when it came to the need for





improvements to features and facilities, followed by playground equipment and by general improvements and upgrades.

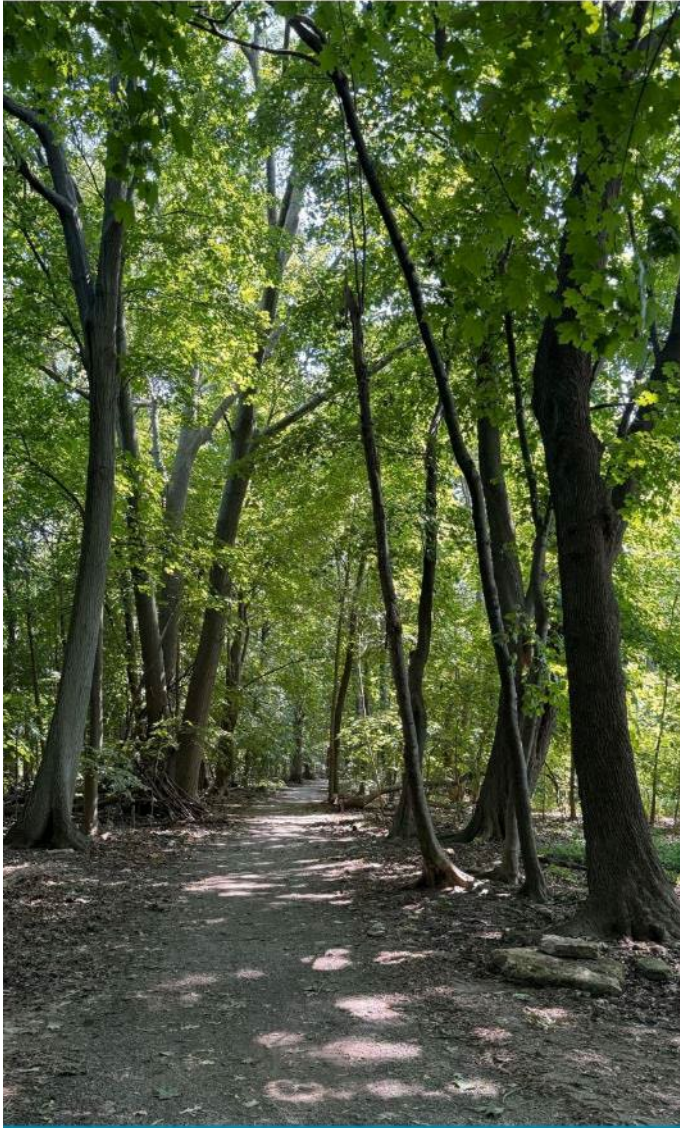
The crucial role that parks play in the Town's beautification and aesthetic appeal, and the need to recognize, support, and promote that role, arose with some regularity during early conversations with stakeholders. Another area of concern raised by the community was the usability of sports fields and outdoor facilities, and the need to repair or replace various items, such as fencing, playground equipment, and broken pavement.

**New features and facilities.** Community members frequently expressed a desire to see the Town add more parks and open spaces to the existing system, to ensure that residents across the Town have reasonably convenient access to green spaces and recreation opportunities. This is accompanied by a desire for new trails to provide improved connections to the existing network.

Consistent interest was expressed, across both surveys, for more off-leash dog areas, more pickleball courts, more spray pads, and more shaded seating areas in existing parks. Respondents to the 2024 survey added that they would like to see more washroom facilities in parks, as well as areas to support more passive recreational pursuits, such as open green spaces, natural areas, and community gardens.

**Accessibility, age-friendliness, and availability.** Many respondents to both surveys noted the importance of ensuring that parks, open spaces, and facilities remain accessible to users of all





ages and all ability levels. People who attended the 2024 open houses emphasized the role that supportive features, such as benches, lighting, and well-maintained pavement, play in providing accessible and age-friendly facilities.

At the same time, while there is a growing demand for activities oriented towards older residents, community members recognize that the Town's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities need to be multi-generational and multicultural spaces that can serve a diverse range of interests and age groups. A great deal of importance is also placed on maintaining public access to features, especially the waterfront and the trail network, and ensuring that recreation opportunities are available to everyone, regardless of where in the Town they live.

The Town is home to a diverse population of residents of varying ages, backgrounds, cultures, and lived experiences. This will mean a growing emphasis on considering the types of parks, facilities, and in-park assets that will reflect the needs and desires of this diverse community in order to ensure there is a place for everyone to enjoy. This includes prioritizing and creating spaces and facilities for youth, informed by youth-targeted public engagement to design and develop spaces that will help address the youth population's recreational needs and desire to play.

**Protection and preservation of natural areas.** There is widespread recognition in the community of the importance and inherent value of the Town's natural heritage features, and the need to preserve the natural environment was clearly expressed during both rounds of public consultation. Discussion participants and survey respondents alike expressed considerable interest in taking advantage of the Town's unique





## Parks & Open Spaces

- Ensure all residents have access to parks and open spaces across the Town.
- Ensure that parks provision keeps pace with population growth and that sufficient open space is provided with new development.
- Continue to support and promote important role parks play in community beautification.
- Explore opportunities to provide more off-leash dog areas and pet-friendly spaces.

## Natural Areas & Nature Trails

- Preserve existing natural areas (including wooded areas, wetlands, and wildlife habitat) and protect these areas from encroachment by development.
- Set aside more natural areas for the public to enjoy.
- Provide more nature trails and more opportunities for environmental education.
- Incorporate local flora and native species into landscaping and naturalized areas.



## Beaches & Waterfront



- Improve and revitalize existing beaches and waterfront parks.
- Ensure public access to the waterfront and the availability of waterfront spaces for all residents and visitors.
- Ensure beaches and waterfront parks are clean and well-maintained.
- Reduce friction between waterfront users and private land-owners.

### Playgrounds & Spray Pads

Replace or update older playground equipment, and install new equipment where necessary.  
Provide splash pads and aquatic play areas in more parts of the Town.  
Provide equipment that addresses the needs of all ages (including fitness equipment for adults).



### Sports Fields & Facilities

Address growing demand for pickleball courts.  
Ensure proper maintenance and up-keep of sports fields.  
Make necessary improvements to sports fields, including adequate lighting at larger facilities.



### Trails & Active Transportation

Improve overall connectivity by creating more secondary connections to primary trails.  
Make trails accessible and age-friendly, by providing features such as benches and lighting.  
Ensure proper maintenance and up-keep of trails, especially along the Friendship Trail.



### Park Features & Infrastructure

Provide more seating and shaded areas, including more benches and picnic tables, and more waste receptacles.  
Ensure that sufficient washroom facilities are available and well-maintained.  
Address resource constraints and the need for more full-time staffing.





natural resources while ensuring that these areas are properly protected so they can be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Respondents also emphasized that decision-makers need to be mindful of increasing pressure from development on natural areas and their ecological functions as the community continues to grow.

### 2.3.3 Opportunities & Challenges

The current state of the Town’s parks and open space system, and the community’s priorities and expectations for its future evolution, present many opportunities and challenges for the Town, such as those related to high utilization levels, demographic changes, long-term sustainability, and ongoing needs for financing and partnerships.

**Utilization, maintenance, and quality.** Many of the Town’s parks and outdoor recreation facilities are well-liked and well-used, although healthy utilization levels can pose challenges for maintenance and upkeep, especially in a municipality that covers a large geographic area.

- The community’s interest in improved maintenance and upkeep presents an opportunity for the Town to achieve some “easy wins” by investing in small-scale in-park features and infrastructure in higher-profile areas — for example, by making repairs to fencing and lighting, or by providing more waste receptacles and portable washrooms in high-use areas.
- There is an opportunity to leverage technology to help monitor the quality and conditions of parks, trails, and other facilities. For instance, the Town could take



advantage of the prevalence of smartphones by installing signage giving a number to text, or even send pictures to, to report maintenance issues or other concerns. These numbers could also be location-specific to facilitate issue tracking.

- Current technology also presents opportunities to streamline the process of booking larger sports fields and facilities. An online, “one-stop” booking system could make it easier for interested users to see what facilities are available and when, while also helping the Town track bookings and utilization more easily. Such a system could also be used to promote available facilities that users might not be aware of.
- Some stakeholders observed that some of the Town’s maintained sports fields (such as those with outdoor lighting) lack measures for controlled access, which can make it difficult to ensure facilities are indeed available when booked, as well as presenting challenges for ensuring proper maintenance and quality. Implementing solutions to improve controlled access will help the Town improve customer service and better manage its facilities.
- Ultimately, residents want to see tangible results from public expenditures. In addition to the types of “easy win” mentioned above, targeting a few high-profile beautification initiatives presents an opportunity to marshal community support for other improvements to the parks and open space system.







**Year-round recreation opportunities.** While overall utilization levels are healthy, the public consultation results indicate that park visitation is low during the winter months (about half of what it is in the summer).

- The community has an appetite for year-round outdoor activities if opportunities can be provided, including skating, ice-fishing, and tobogganing. Given the popularity of the Town's trails network, there should certainly be opportunities to promote activities like snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- Winter sporting equipment can be expensive, which can pose a barrier to participation for some members of the community. Other communities have seen success by partnering with local public libraries to lend out equipment (like skates or snowshoes), not only improving equitable access to winter activities but also generally promoting year-round active living.
- Winter weather conditions, particularly the noise-absorbing properties of snow, can lend natural areas and nature trail an incredibly peaceful, serene atmosphere. The winter season also presents unique opportunities for environmental education and teaching survival skills.



**New parks, waterfront spaces, and active transportation facilities.** The Town of Fort Erie features an active community keen on pursuing a diverse range of recreational activities. In the coming years, it will be important to recognize and plan for differences between various parts of the Town, to provide a greater variety of outdoor amenities, programs, and activities that appropriately address local needs. There is also a need to address concerns about waterfront access and over-crowding in some places.

- There is an appetite in the community for new urban parks offering multi-use, multifunctional spaces — as seen in the popularity of Ridgeway Village Square, whose pavilion has been identified as a feature that could be more effectively used to host Town-wide events.
- The popularity of the Friendship Trail across all segments of the population has only increased with time, presenting opportunities to enhance linkages and connectivity, particularly in under-served areas like Stevensville and Bridgeburg. Strategies for expanding the Town’s trail network might include the use of decommissioned rail lines or the location of trails within hydro corridors.
- Niagara Region is recognized as a recreational cycling destination, making the Town’s active transportation network an important tourism asset. The Town has an opportunity to partner with the Region to further develop the Strategic Cycling Network identified in the Niagara Official Plan.





**Natural and cultural heritage.** Members of the community highly value the health and quality of the Town’s natural areas, as well as local history and cultural heritage. These serve not just as points of community pride but also as important tourism draws. The Town of Fort Erie’s history and its wealth of heritage features and historic sites are particularly important in this regard.

- The Niagara Parks Commission (“NPC”) has observed that War of 1812 re-enactments and similar events around Old Fort Erie are a big draw for tourists.
- Shagbark Nature Park is a high-quality asset that is well-liked by the community but perhaps has not been promoted as effectively as it could be. Public consultation shows that residents appreciate Shagbark’s value and its nature trails and would like to see more natural areas created and preserved. In addition to further expansions to Shagbark Nature Park (including the addition of lands to the north), opportunities for creating additional nature parks, such as through the targeted acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and lands along the waterfront, should be explored.
- The NPC has a number of ongoing natural heritage initiatives, including programs related to urban forest management, tree planting, habitat restoration, environmental education, and active transportation. The Town has an important opportunity to cultivate its relationship with the NPC and to leverage community interest in nature to promote volunteerism.

**Tourism, revenue generation, and financial sustainability.** At present, the Town is experiencing challenges with relying on user fees to offset operating and maintenance costs. At the same time, Town staff and other stakeholders are mindful of the need to balance any fee increases with the goal of offering equitable access for all residents.

- Opportunities for revenue generation include concession stands and food trucks, which could help increase tourism-based revenue by catering to the needs of “day-trippers” (the majority of visitors to the Town), who tend not to spend much on items like accommodation.
- Fee increases should be introduced in ways that are less likely to affect underprivileged segments of the population (for example, fees for specialized facilities that have more limited participation profiles). The Town should also explore possible rebate programs or other forms of financial support for vulnerable groups and community members who need it most.
- Initiatives directed towards volunteer recruitment, either generally or in connection with specific projects (as recent trends are towards more project-focused volunteerism), would help offset some operational costs.
- The trend towards incorporating recreation into tourism strategies presents an opportunity to leverage high-profile facilities into greater tourism revenues. The Town should also explore introducing suitable amenities (such as temporary commercial uses near high-use facilities) that will generate spin-off economic benefits from recreational participation.





## 2.4 Vision & Guiding Principles

The vision statement below captures the hopes and aspirations for the Town's parks and open spaces, expressed by the community during the consultation process. The statement represents the ultimate goal towards which the parks and open space system will continue to evolve:

**The Town of Fort Erie is a place that features a high-quality, well-maintained system of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities that enhance quality of life and the aesthetic appeal of the community. It is a place where residents have access to recreation opportunities regardless of where in the Town they live and regardless of age, income status, or ability level. It is a place that welcomes tourists and visitors, while striving to ensure the needs of current and future residents are fully addressed.**

The recommendations made in this Master Plan are meant to help achieve this vision according to the four core qualities it embodies:

**Attractive** The Town's parks and open spaces are **well designed, well cared for, and well kept**. They serve as **points of pride** for the community, **enhance quality of life** for residents, and make the Town a place that people look forward to visiting. They are **safe, friendly, and inclusive** places where residents and visitors alike feel welcome to participate in a full range of recreational, cultural, and community activities.



**Accessible** The Town’s parks and open spaces are **accessible for everyone**, and everyone has a chance to take part in recreational activities and to enjoy the outdoors. Care is taken to ensure that sectors of the population that experience barriers to participation are offered **equitable and affordable opportunities**.

**Resilient** The Town’s parks and open spaces are designed to be **resilient** in response to climate change, to support the **preservation of natural areas**, and to offer amenities (like beaches and spray pads) that help residents cope with higher temperatures. Recreation facilities are **flexible** and can accommodate a **variety of activities**, and the system is **responsive to changes** in population, demographics, and preferences.

**Connected** The Town’s parks and open spaces are connected by a **safe, convenient, and well-maintained network of trails** and facilities that support the use of active transportation. They promote **environmental education** and appreciation of the outdoors, and they give residents and visitors **opportunities to connect with nature**, with the Town’s rich **history**, and with **each other**.





"GREEN" the  
rock Snake!  
Add a Painted  
rock  
to see how long  
I can get!!





# 3 Classifications & Standards

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**Parks play many different roles.** They come in a wide range of shapes and sizes, and they serve a variety of functions, from hosting large organized sports events, to providing facilities that can accommodate a variety of structured and semi-structured activities, to simply being places where people can relax and enjoy being outdoors.

A parkland classification system provides a framework for organizing the inventory of park resources based on characteristics such as size and function. These classifications can then be used as a guide for planning and managing these assets, as well as for making decisions about the location and development of future parks.

The updated parkland classification system presented in this section of the Master Plan is based on the system used in the previous (2006) Master Plan, with a focus on refining the “Specialized Park” category to better reflect the full range and variety of the Town’s parks and open space assets. The system presented here is meant to support and complement an asset management approach to the Town’s parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreation facilities.



## 3.1 Existing Parks & Facilities

This section begins by reviewing the classification system established in the previous (2006) Master Plan and the refinements introduced by the 2017 Waterfront Strategy. This is followed by a full inventory of the Town's existing parks and open spaces, including the facilities located in those parks.

### 3.1.1 Classification System from the 2006 Master Plan

The 2006 Master Plan instituted a classification system with three park categories: Neighbourhood Parks, Community Parks, and Specialized Parks.

**Neighbourhood Parks** represent the foundation of the parks and open space system, providing for the basic open space and recreation needs of residents. They generally serve one urban neighbourhood area and accommodate passive uses along with informal active recreation uses.

**Community Parks** are meant to serve two or more adjacent urban neighbourhoods, providing space for programmed and non-programmed active recreation uses, as well as for passive uses. They are larger than Neighbourhood Parks and can thus accommodate larger sports and community facilities. They are meant to be multi-purpose and where possible should offer year-round recreational opportunities.

**Specialized Parks** offer unique special-purpose facilities — such as unique recreational opportunities, natural features, or historically significant sites — that do not fit within the standard model of outdoor facilities. They generally serve a large cross-section of the population and may attract visitors from outside the Town.



### 3.1.2 Classification System from the 2017 Waterfront Strategy

The 2017 Waterfront Strategy established a refined hierarchy for the Town’s waterfront parks (which the 2006 Master Plan had subsumed under the “Specialized Parks” category). The Waterfront Strategy’s refined system allows for the more effective management of the Town’s most important natural asset.

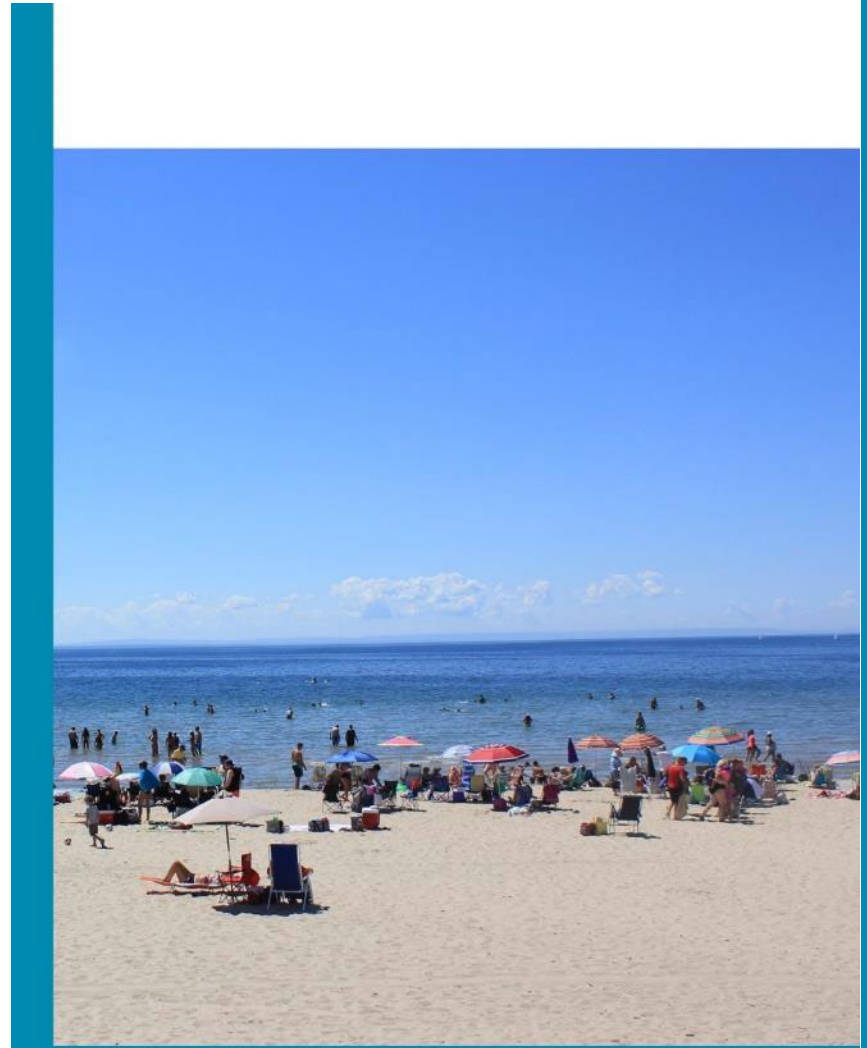
**Anchor Waterfront Parks** serve as region-wide focal points for recreational activities and cultural heritage interest.

**Urban Waterfront Parks** are meant to support mixed uses and higher-density development in urban centres.

**Waterfront Parks** provide for a wide range of recreational opportunities, both active and passive, and are meant to offer a distribution of destinations for the Town’s residents and for visitors.

**Waterfront Windows** are meant to accommodate some passive recreation and to serve as access points for the waterfront. Some Waterfront Windows include boat launch facilities.

The Waterfront Strategy also identifies the Miller’s Creek Marina & Boat Launch, owned by the Niagara Parks Commission, as a **Tourist Destination**, meant to serve as publicly accessible space on the waterfront as part of the redevelopment of Miller’s Creek.





### 3.1.3 Inventory of Parks & Facilities

At the time this Master Plan was being prepared, there were a total of 37 parks and other open spaces located within the Town of Fort Erie, with a combined total area of 158.25 hectares (see **Map 1** following p. 72 below).

The inventory on the following pages, organized by Urban Area and by neighbourhood, identifies each park's area, classification from the 2006 Master Plan (or, in the case of Waterfront Parks, its updated classification from the 2017 Waterfront Strategy), and in-park facilities.

In addition to the parks identified in the table, there are 16 Waterfront Windows across the Town:

- 5 Waterfront Windows in the Fort Erie Urban Area (Beachview, Buffalo, Kraft, Pierce, and Rose), as well as two others operated by NPC (Anger Avenue Boat Launch and Murray Street Boat Launch);
- 1 Waterfront Window in Crystal Beach (Poverty Bay), 1 Waterfront Window in Ridgeway–Thunder Bay (Burleigh), and 1 Waterfront Window on the border between the two Urban Areas (Prospect Point);
- 1 Waterfront Window in Douglastown–Black Creek (Black Creek), plus one other operated by NPC (Netherby Road Boat Launch); and
- 7 Waterfront Windows outside the Urban Areas (Abino Hills, Bertie Bay, Centralia, Holloway Bay, Rosehill, Stonemill/Thunder Bay, and Windmill Point).

#### Fort Erie (Urban Area)

##### Fort Erie–Bridgeburg



##### Bowen Road Park

761 Niagara Boulevard

Area: 1.01 ha

Classification (Waterfront Strategy):  
Anchor Waterfront Park

Facilities:

Baseball diamond (unlit), playground (swingset), pavilion, trail (gravel, approx. 110.3 m), bicycle repair station, benches, waste receptacle.

## Fort Erie–Bridgeburg



### Douglas Park

207 Bertie Street

Area: 1.76 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

**Facilities:**

Soccer field (junior, unlit), pickleball court, basketball half-courts (3), playground (senior), spray pad, trail (paved, approx. 620.6 m), pavilion, washroom, benches, waste receptacle, parking lot.



### Goderich Street Park

22 Goderich Street

Area: 0.23 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

**Facilities:**

Playground (senior with swingset), trail (paved/cement, approx. 107.0 m), seating (stones), waste receptacle.



### Lions Sugarbowl Park




100 Gilmore Road

Area: 1.76 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Community Park

**Facilities:**

Playground (junior + senior with swingset), spray pad, off-leash dog area, trails (paved/cement, approx. 1,085.1 m; unpaved/nature, approx. 11.6 m), washroom.

Fort Erie–Bridgeburg	Lakeshore–Walden	
		
<p><b>Oakes Park</b> 373 Central Avenue</p>	<p><b>Albert Street Park</b> 56 Albert Street</p>	<p><b>Crescent Beach Waterfront Park</b> 1199 Edgemere Lane</p>
<p>Area: 5.79 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Community Park</p> <p>Facilities: Baseball diamonds (5 – 1 large hardball, lit; 1 large softball, lit; 2 small, lit; 1 T-ball/rookie, unlit), tennis courts (7 lit), pavilion, trails (paved/cement, approx. 411.5 m; unpaved/nature, approx. 157.9 m), parking lot.</p>	<p>Area: 0.83 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Neighbourhood Park</p> <p>Facilities: Playground (senior with swingset), basketball half-court, pickleball court, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 107.0 m), benches, picnic tables, waste receptacle.</p>	<p>Area: 0.26 ha</p> <p>Classification (Waterfront Strategy): Waterfront Park</p> <p>Facilities: Beach, waste receptacle.</p>



## Lakeshore–Walden



### Energy Field

970 Baron Drive

### Mather Avenue Parkette

Mather Avenue

### Snake Hill Parkette

601 Lakeshore Road

Area: 1.25 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:

Baseball diamond (backstop), multi-use court, playground (junior + senior with swingset), trail (paved/cement, approx. 397.8 m).

Area: 0.23 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Specialized Park

Facilities:

Benches, waste receptacles.

Area: 0.42 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
N/A

Facilities:

Interpretive signs (planned), benches.

Lakeshore–Walden	Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft	
		
<p><b>Waverly Beach Park</b> 280 Helena Street</p>	<p><b>Ferndale Park</b> 865 Ferndale Road</p>	<p><b>High Pointe Park</b> 1447 Sharon Drive</p>
<p>Area: 10.15 ha</p> <p>Classification (Waterfront Strategy): Anchor Waterfront Park</p> <p>Facilities: Beach, trails (paved/cement, approx. 210.6 m; unpaved/nature, through wooded area), bicycle repair station, washroom, benches, parking lot.</p>	<p>Area: 4.77 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Community Park</p> <p>Facilities: Soccer fields (4 – 2 senior, unlit; 1 intermediate, unlit; 1 junior, unlit), tennis/pickleball court (unlit), basketball court, playground (senior), spray pad, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 14.0 m), parking lot (unpaved).</p>	<p>Area: 0.60 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): N/A</p> <p>Facilities: Playground (junior + senior + other), basketball court, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 228.3 m).</p>

## Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft



### Optimist Park

1555 Gilmore Road

Area: 29.67 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Community Park

Facilities:

Soccer fields (4 – 2 senior, lit; 2 intermediate, unlit), playground (junior + senior), pavilion.

### Spears Park

1135 Meadowood Street

Area: 0.18 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:

Playgrounds (2 junior), basketball half-court, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 83.5 m), benches, waste receptacle.

### Town Hall Leisureplex Park

1 Municipal Centre Drive

Area: 7.17 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Specialized Park

Facilities:

Skatepark, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 264.3 m), benches.



## Crystal Beach



### Bay Beach Waterfront Park

4155 Erie Road

Area: 2.60 ha

Classification (Waterfront Strategy):  
Anchor Waterfront Park

Facilities:

Beach, playground (junior + senior with swingset), pavilions (2), shade structure, trails (paved/cement, approx. 192.3 m; unpaved/nature, approx. 35.1 m), washrooms, benches, parking lot (paid).



### Crystal Beach Waterfront Park

3855 Terrace Lane

Area: 2.59 ha

Classification (Waterfront Strategy):  
Waterfront Park

Facilities:

Beach, playground (junior with swingset), pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 313.3 m), boat launch, washrooms, benches, waste receptacle, parking lot.



### Crystal Ridge Park



109 Ridge Road South

Area: 11.70 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Community Park

Facilities:

Multi-use field (soccer/football, full size, unlit), tennis court (unlit), pickleball courts (4 unlit), basketball court, playgrounds (2 – 1 junior with swingset, 1 senior with swingset), spray pad, off-leash dog areas (2), pavilions (2), trail (paved/cement, approx. 382.5 m).

Crystal Beach		
		
<p><b>Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park</b> 170 Loomis Crescent</p>	<p><b>Queens Circle Park</b> 1 Queens Circle</p>	<p><b>Beaver Creek Park</b> 0-9173 Carrie Avenue</p>
<p>Area: 0.10 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Neighbourhood Park</p> <p>Facilities: Playground (senior), trail (unpaved/ nature, approx. 6.7 m).</p>	<p>Area: 0.29 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Specialized Park</p> <p>Facilities: Pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 56.4 m), benches, waste receptacle.</p>	<p>Area: 0.67 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Neighbourhood Park</p> <p>Facilities: Playground (junior), trails (paved/ cement, approx. 41.5 m; unpaved/ nature, approx. 42.1 m), benches, waste receptacle.</p>

## Ridgeway–Thunder Bay



### Bernard Ave. Beach Waterfront Park

3075 Thunder Bay Road

Area: 0.42 ha

Classification (Waterfront Strategy):  
Waterfront Park

Facilities:

Beach, trail (unpaved/nature, approx. 88.4 m), parking lot (paved).



### Bill Connelly Field

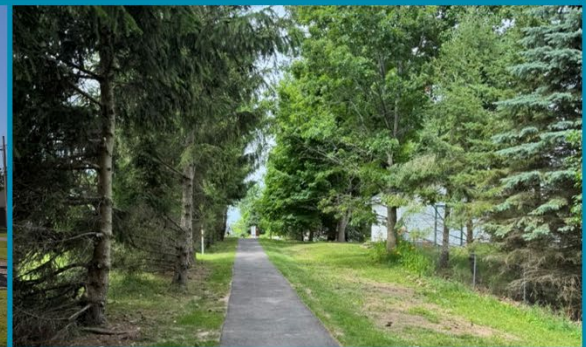
2973 Hyman Avenue

Area: 0.93 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:

Soccer field (intermediate, unlit), baseball diamond (backstop), tennis court (unlit), basketball court, playground (senior + other), benches, waste receptacle, parking lot.



### Maple Leaf Beach Park

0-7195 North Shore Drive

Area: 1.17 ha

Classification (Waterfront Strategy):  
Waterfront Park

Facilities:

Beach, trail (paved + unpaved/nature, approx. 67.1 m).



**Stevensville**

**Ridgeway–Thunder Bay**



**Ridgeway Lions Park**

200 Park Street

**Ridgeway Village Square**

275 Ridge Road North

**Stevensville Memorial Park**

2508 Stevensville Road

Area: 1.49 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:

Soccer fields (2 junior, unlit), tennis court (unlit), basketball court, playground (junior + senior with swingset), pavilion, trail (unpaved/nature, approx. 44.8 m).

Area: 0.27 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Specialized Park

Facilities:

Spray pad, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 6.1 m), washroom, benches, waste receptacle.

Area: 2.18 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:

Tennis/pickleball court (unlit), basketball court, playground (junior + senior), spray pad, pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 71.0 m).

**Douglastown–Black Creek**

**Stevensville**



**Stevensville Memory Park**

2582 Stevensville Road

**Stevensville Mini Park (UEL)**

2700 Ott Road (off West Main Street)

**A.C. Douglas Park #1**

3455 River Trail

Area: 0.33 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Specialized Park

Facilities:  
Pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 67.4 m).

Area: 1.42 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:  
Playgrounds (1 junior + senior, 1 swingset), pavilion, trails (paved/cement, approx. 144.2 m; unpaved/nature, approx. 687.0 m), benches, waste receptacle.

Area: 1.58 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Neighbourhood Park

Facilities:  
Soccer field (full/senior, unlit), baseball diamond (backstop), tennis/pickleball court (unlit), basketball court, playground (junior + senior with swingset), benches, waste receptacle.



**Rural Area**

Douglastown–Black Creek		
		
<p><b>A.C. Douglas Park #2</b> 3615 River Trail</p>	<p><b>Battle of Ridgeway Park</b> 3388 Garrison Road</p>	<p><b>Friendship Trail</b></p>
<p>Area: 0.99 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Neighbourhood Park</p> <p>Facilities: Pavilion, trail (paved/cement, approx. 435.6 m), benches, waste receptacle.</p>	<p>Area: 4.46 ha</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): Specialized Park</p> <p>Facilities: Heritage building (cabin), interpretive signs, pavilion, trail (unpaved/nature, approx. 40.5 m), benches, waste receptacles, parking lot (unpaved).</p>	<p>Area: N/A</p> <p>Classification (2006 Master Plan): N/A</p> <p>Facilities: Trail (paved/cement, approx. 14,865 m), benches, waste receptacles.</p>



## Rural Area



### Point Abino Waterfront Park

1036 Point Abino Road

Area: 3.31 ha

Classification (Waterfront Strategy):  
Waterfront Park

Facilities:

Beach, trail (unpaved/nature, approx. 87.8 m).



### Shagbark Nature Park

421 Burleigh Road

Area: 32.47 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Specialized Park

Facilities:

Trail (unpaved/nature, approx. 359.7 m), benches, waste receptacle, parking lot.



### United Empire Loyalist (Ott Rd) Park

2700 Ott Road

Area: 20.50 ha

Classification (2006 Master Plan):  
Community Park

Facilities:

Soccer field (senior, unlit), baseball diamonds (2 – 1 lit, 1 unlit), playground (junior + senior with swingset), trail (gravel, approx. 205.7 m), benches, waste receptacle, parking lot.

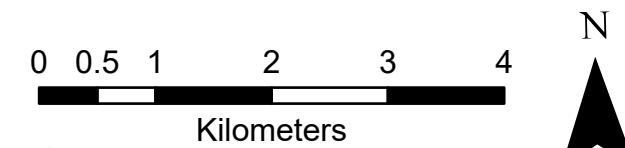
# TOWN OF FORT ERIE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

## MAP 1: EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACES

- Parks and Open Space
- Waterfront Windows
- Settlement Boundaries
- Neighbourhoods

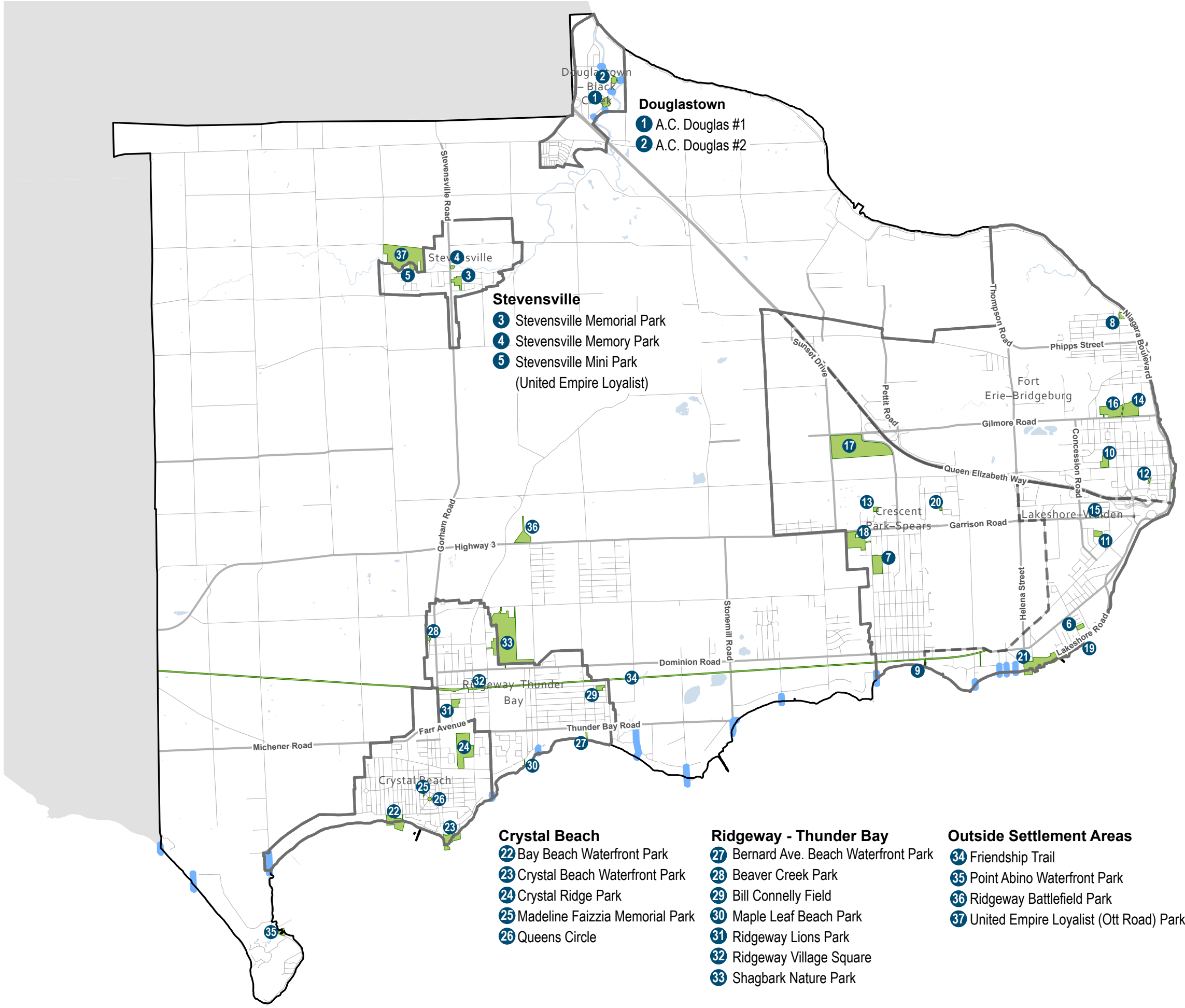
### Fort Erie

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 6 Albert Street Park                | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 14 Lions Sugarbowl Par        |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 7 Bertie (Ferndale Centennial) Park | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 15 Mather Avenue Parkette     |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 8 Bowen Road Park                   | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 16 Oakes Park                 |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 9 Crescent Beach Waterfront Park    | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 17 Optimist Park              |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 10 Douglas Park                     | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 18 Town Hall Leisureplex Park |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 11 Energy Field                     | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 19 Snake Hill Parkette        |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 12 Goderich Street Park             | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 20 Spears Park                |
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 13 High Pointe Park                 | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> 21 Waverly Beach Park         |



Scale: 1: 65,000  
November 2024

Data Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17  
Source: Town of Fort Erie (2017), GSP Group (2024),  
Land Information Ontario (2021)



- Douglastown**
- 1 A.C. Douglas #1
  - 2 A.C. Douglas #2

- Stevensville**
- 3 Stevensville Memorial Park
  - 4 Stevensville Memory Park
  - 5 Stevensville Mini Park (United Empire Loyalist)

- Crystal Beach**
- 22 Bay Beach Waterfront Park
  - 23 Crystal Beach Waterfront Park
  - 24 Crystal Ridge Park
  - 25 Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park
  - 26 Queens Circle

- Ridgeway - Thunder Bay**
- 27 Bernard Ave. Beach Waterfront Park
  - 28 Beaver Creek Park
  - 29 Bill Connelly Field
  - 30 Maple Leaf Beach Park
  - 31 Ridgeway Lions Park
  - 32 Ridgeway Village Square
  - 33 Shagbark Nature Park

- Outside Settlement Areas**
- 34 Friendship Trail
  - 35 Point Abino Waterfront Park
  - 36 Ridgeway Battlefield Park
  - 37 United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park

## 3.2 Existing Provision Levels

The parks identified in the inventory above have a combined total area of 158.25 hectares. For a 2021 population of 33,840 people, this translates to an overall provision rate of **4.68 hectares per 1,000 people**, greater than the standard of 4 hectares per 1,000 residents established in the Town’s Official Plan. There is also approximately 195 hectares of NPC parkland in the Town, which, if included along with the 49.38 hectares occupied by the Stevensville Conservation Area, results a total of 402.63 hectares available to Town residents, giving an effective provision rate of 11.90 hectares per 1,000 people.

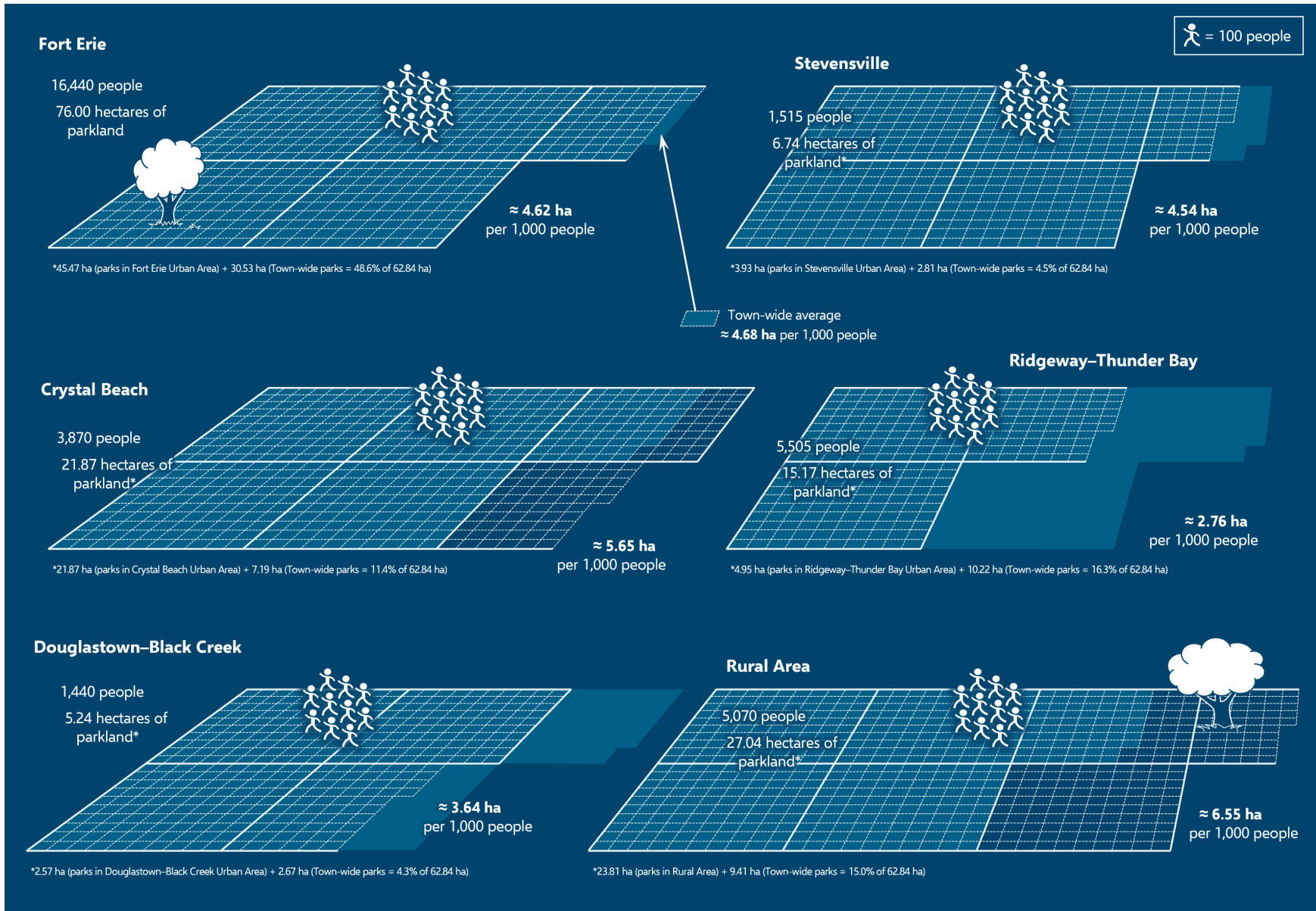
**Figure 3.1** on the following page provides a visual representation of provision rates for Town-owned parks in the five Urban Areas and in the Rural Area, as compared to the overall Town-wide average of 4.68 hectares per 1,000 people (which is represented in Figure 3.1 with light blue shading). The provision rates shown are based on a combination of the areas of “Neighbourhood-level” and “Community-level” parks plus each Urban Area’s “share” (in terms of population) of the area of parks that are considered as having a Town-wide user base (see Section 3.3.2 for more details about different park service levels).

As shown in Figure 3.1, the Crystal Beach Urban Area and the Rural Area currently provide parkland at above-average rates. The provision rate in the Fort Erie and Stevensville Urban Areas are both slightly below the Town-wide average, while Douglastown–Black Creek and Ridgeway–Thunder Bay both have rates well below the average of 4.68 ha per 1,000 people.





**Figure 3.1 – Overall Parkland Provision Rates**



Again, it should be noted that the provision rates represented in Figure 3.1 do not include the area of parks and open spaces that are not Town-owned (such as those owned and operated by the NPC).

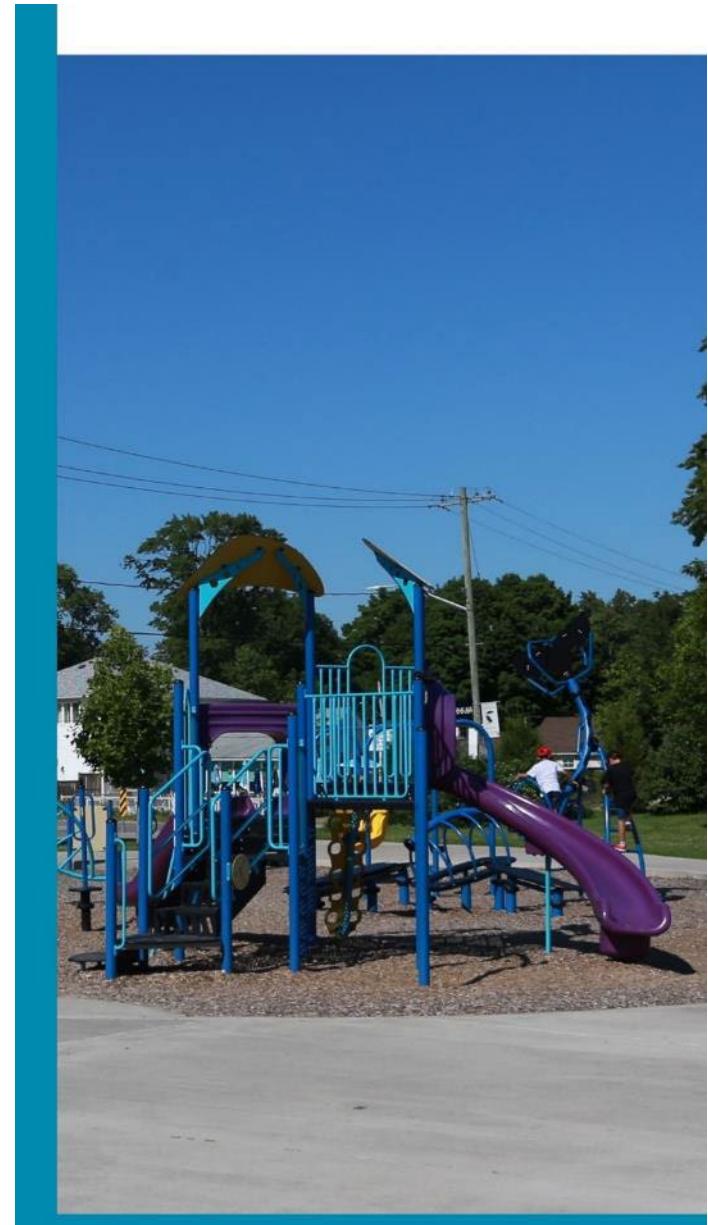
### Playgrounds & Spray Pads

At present, there are 22 playgrounds and 6 spray pads in the Town of Fort Erie’s parks, along with an estimated 3,725 children (meaning people who are age 12 or younger), for an overall provision rate of about **169.3 children per playground** and about **620.8 children per spray pad**. **Figure 3.2** (on the next page) illustrates the provision rate in each Urban Area, alongside the Town-wide average. The number of children living in each Urban Area has been estimated using Census Dissemination Area data from the 2021 Census (rounded to the nearest multiple of five).<sup>4</sup>

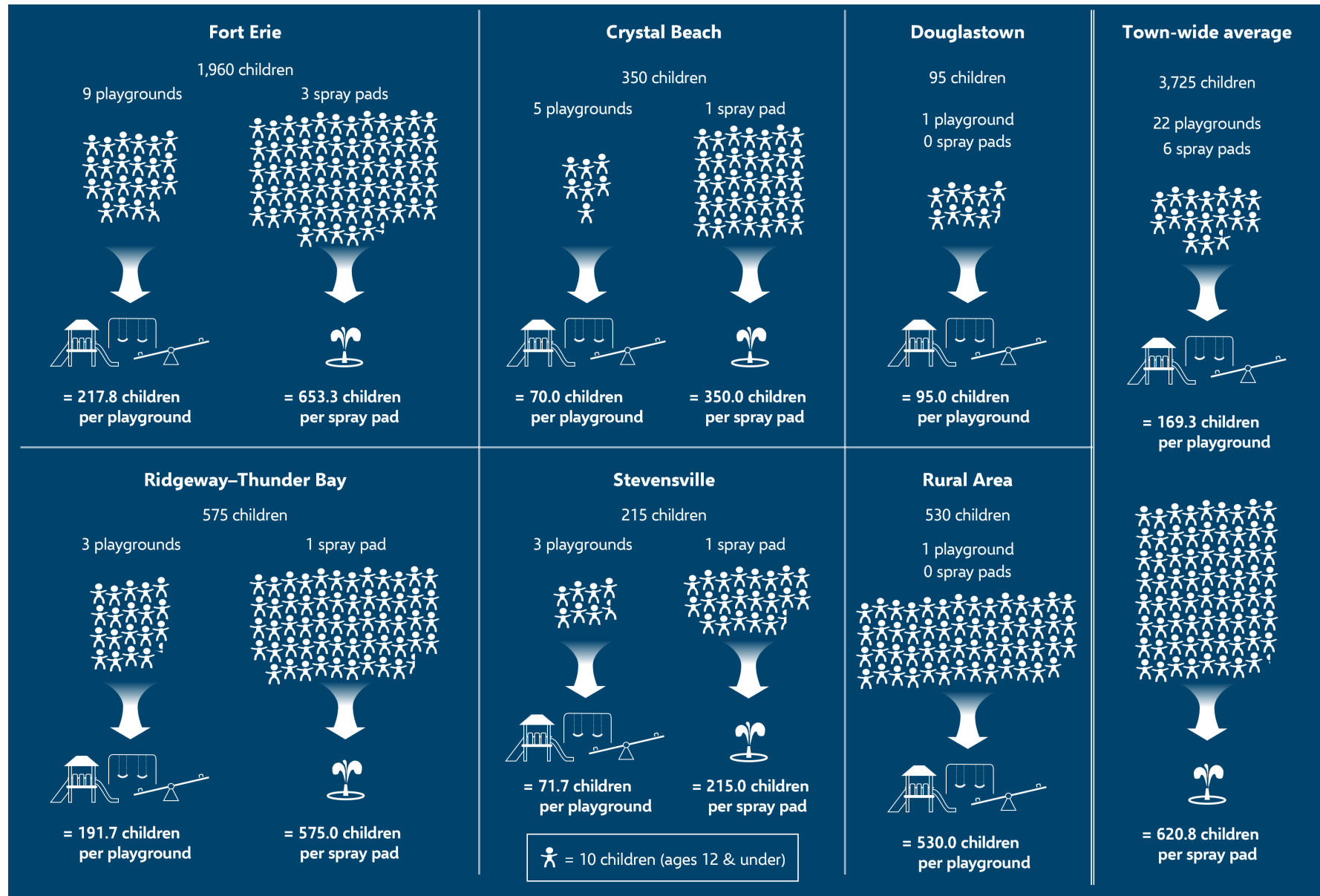
**Figure 3.3** (on p. 77, facing Figure 3.2) represents the estimated provision of junior and senior play structures across the Town, based on the intended age range for each (ages 2 to 5 for junior structures and ages 6 to 12 for senior structures). With an estimated 815 children aged 2–5 and an estimated 2,115 children aged 6–12 (again, both estimates have been rounded to the nearest multiple of five), the overall provision rate across the Town is about **54.3 children (aged 2–5) per junior play structure** and about **132.2 children (aged 6–12) per senior play structure**.

---

<sup>4</sup> Census Dissemination Areas, or “DAs”, are the next geographic level of aggregation up from Dissemination Blocks (“DBs”). For privacy reasons, DAs are the smallest areas for which most Census data are available (except for population and dwelling counts, which are available at the DB level).

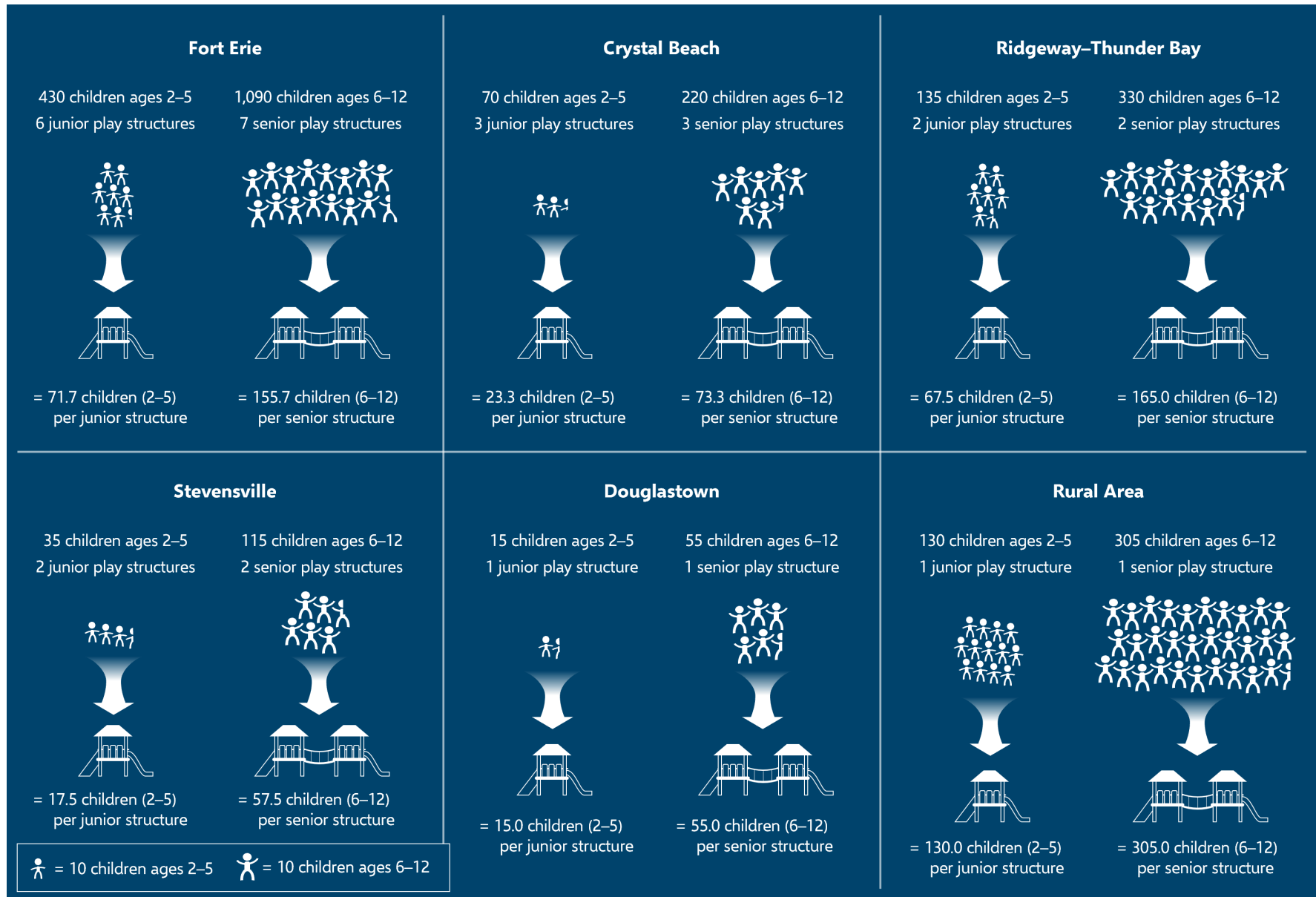


**Figure 3.2 – Existing Provision Rates for Playgrounds & Spray Pads**





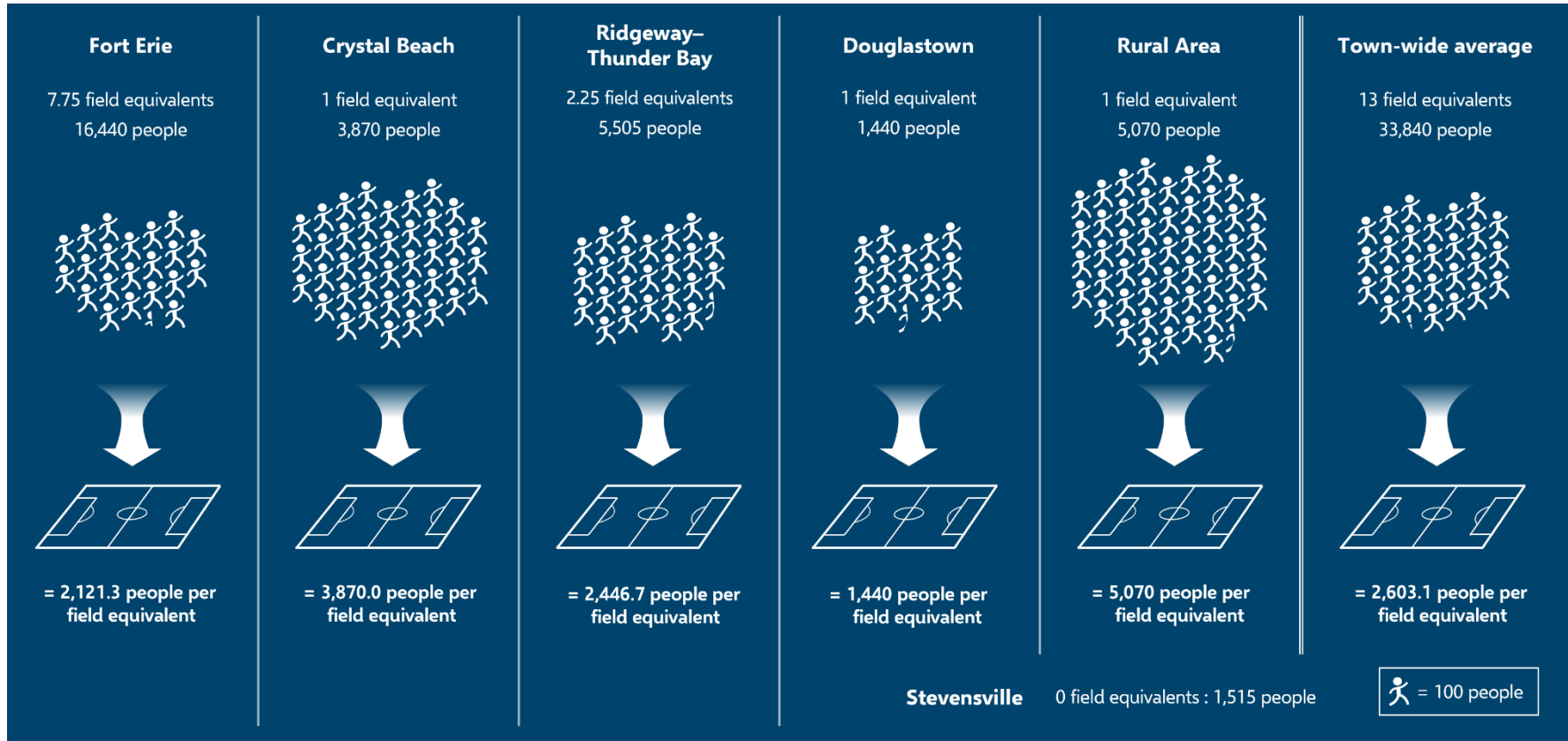
**Figure 3.3 – Existing Provision Rates for Junior & Senior Play Structures**



## Soccer Fields

There are currently 15 soccer fields in the Town of Fort Erie’s parks (*i.e.*, not including school-owned or other facilities): 4 junior fields, 4 intermediate fields, and 7 full-sized senior fields (which includes the multi-purpose soccer/football field in Crystal Ridge Park). There is another open turf area in Energy Field which serves as an informal soccer pitch, but because that field is not provided with nets, it has not been considered a “soccer field” for the purposes of the present discussion.

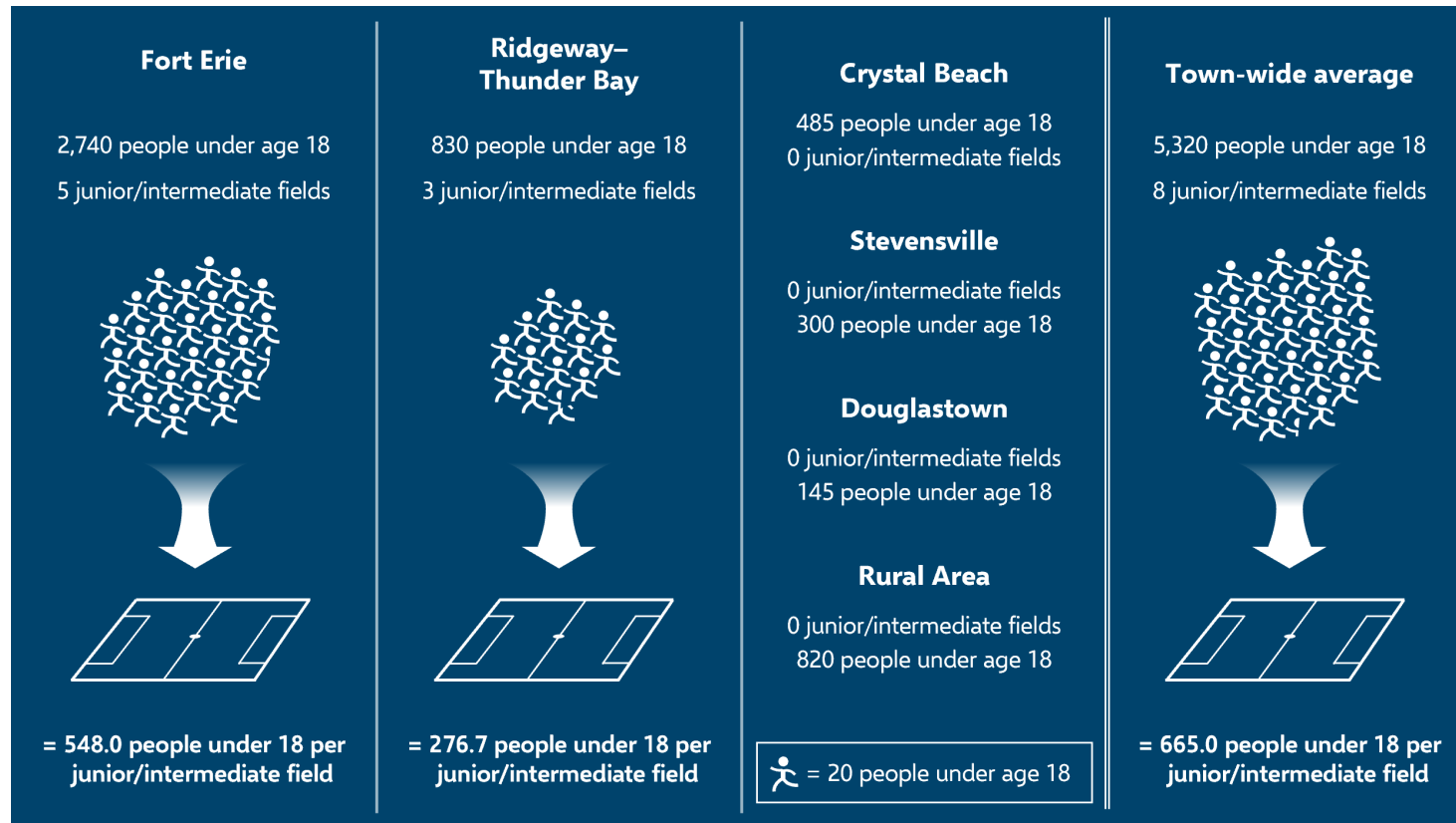
Figure 3.4 – Existing provision levels for soccer fields (field equivalents)



**Figure 3.4** on the previous page represents the distribution and provision of all soccer fields across the Town, applying a “field equivalency” rate of 0.75 for junior and intermediate fields. Applying this rate gives a total of 13 soccer field equivalents across the entire Town, which for a population of 33,840 people gives an overall provision rate of about **2,603.1 people per field equivalent**.

**Figure 3.5**, meanwhile, focuses on the provision of junior and intermediate soccer fields for the Town’s under-18 population (estimated for each Urban Area using Dissemination Area data and rounded to the nearest multiple of 5). As indicated at the bottom of that figure, with a total of 4 junior fields and 4 intermediate fields and an estimated 5,320 residents under the age of 18, the current overall provision rate is about **665.0 people under 18 per junior/intermediate soccer field**.

**Figure 3.5 – Existing provision levels for junior & intermediate soccer fields**





## Baseball Diamonds

There are 11 baseball diamonds in the Town's parks:

- five "Class A" diamonds with lighting and fencing that fully surrounds the diamond (four in Oakes Park and one in United Empire Loyalist/Ott Road Park);
- two "Class B" diamonds with full fencing but no lighting (one in UEL/Ott Road Park and a smaller one in Oakes Park), plus one more "Class B" diamond with partial fencing along the foul lines (in Bowen Road Park); and
- three "Class C" diamonds, meaning informal diamonds consisting of a backstop but no other fencing, with a grass infield and no lighting (one each in A.C. Douglas Park #1, Bill Connelly Field, and Energy Field).

As illustrated in **Figure 3.6**, baseball diamonds are currently provided at a rate of approximately **3,076.4 people per diamond** (approximately 4,230 people per diamond if we don't include the informal "Class C" diamonds).



**Figure 3.6 – Existing provision levels for baseball diamonds**

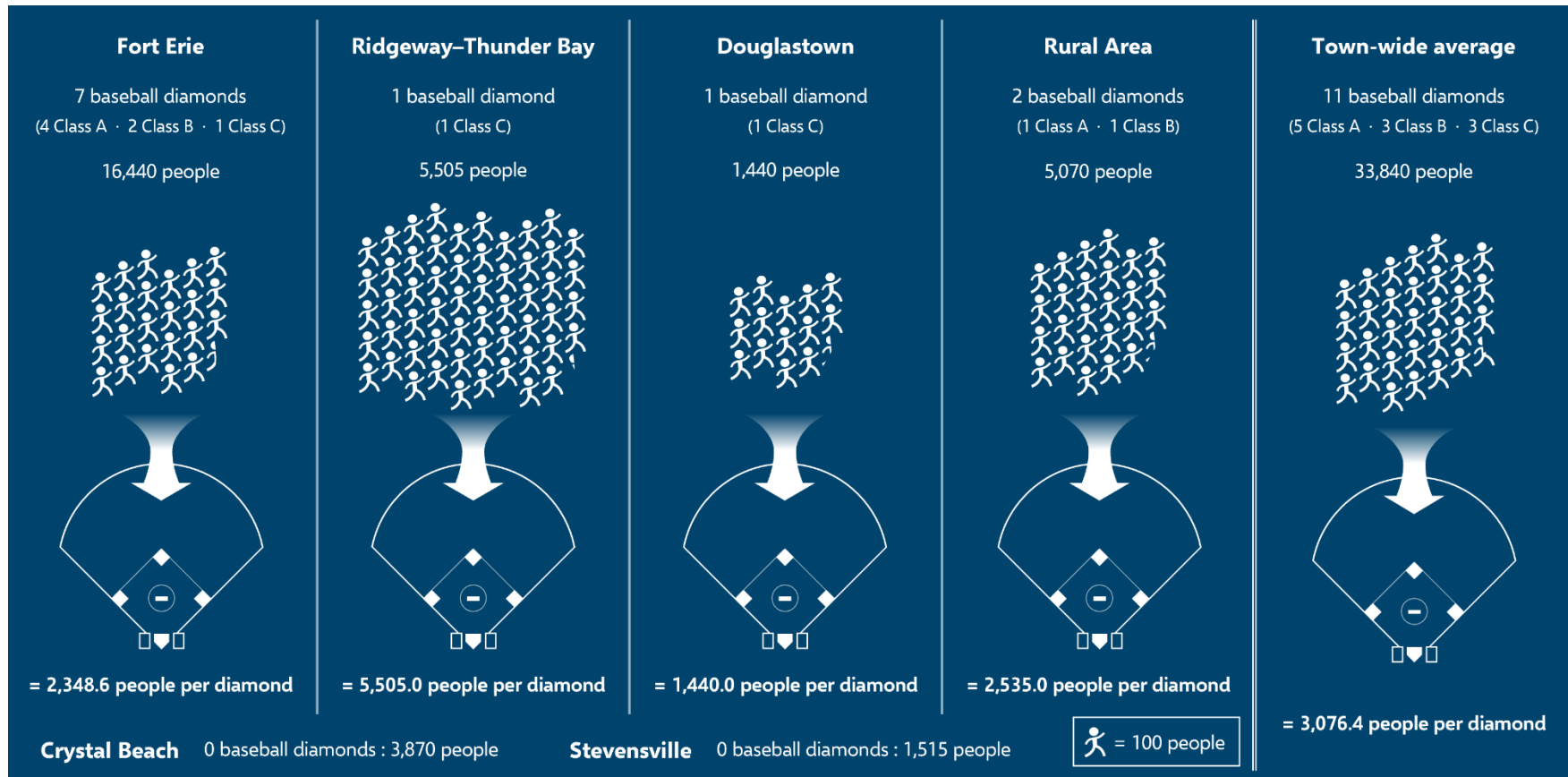
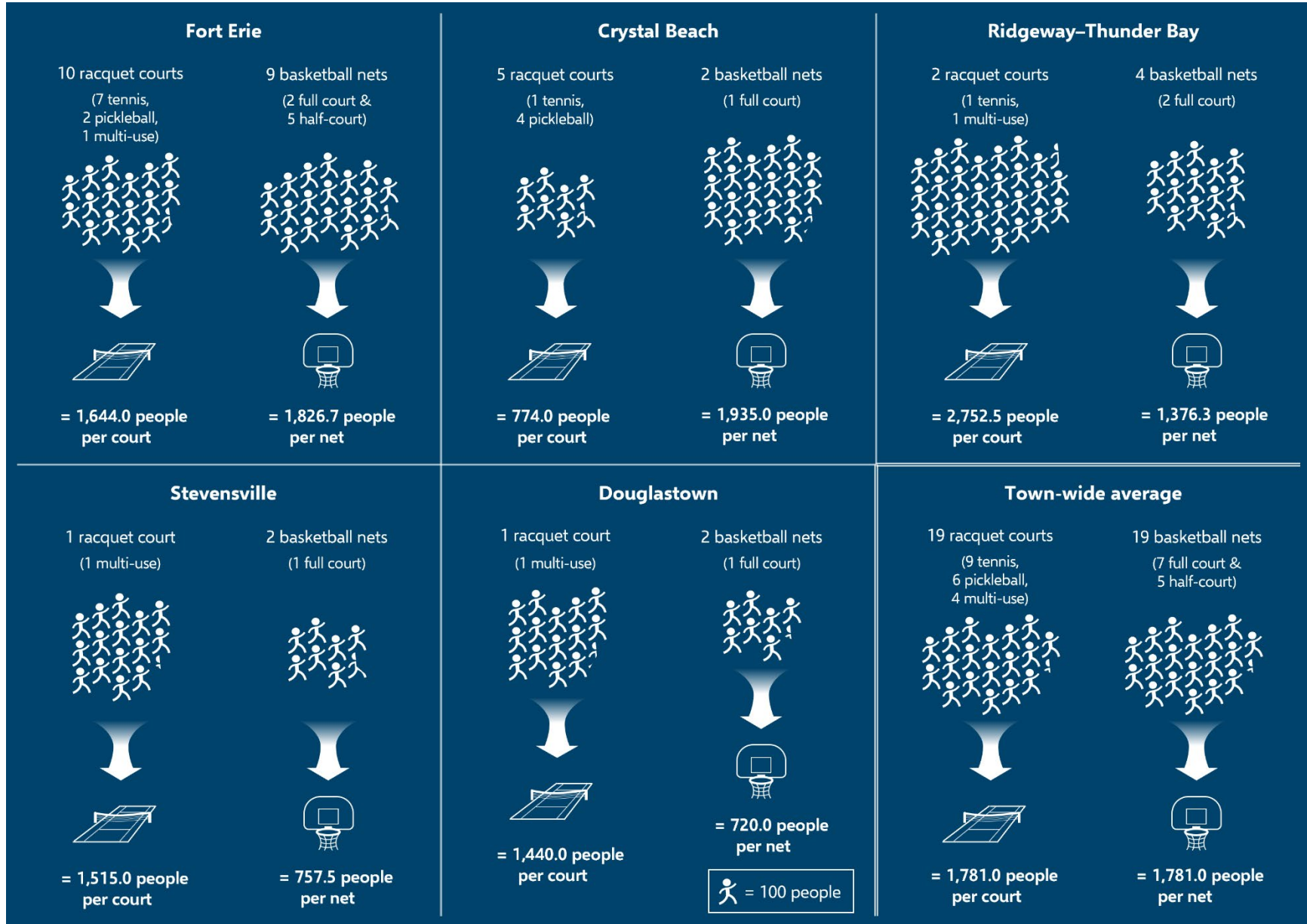


Figure 3.7 – Existing provision levels for outdoor courts





### Tennis & Pickleball Courts

The Town has a total of 19 courts for outdoor racquet sports: nine tennis courts (seven of them, in Oakes Park, operated by the Fort Erie Tennis Club), six dedicated pickleball courts, and four multi-use (tennis and pickleball courts). The seven courts in Oakes Park are illuminated, while the others are not.

As shown in **Figure 3.7**, current provision rates for tennis/pickleball courts range from one court per 774.0 people in the Crystal Beach Urban Area to one court per 2,752.5 people in the Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Area. (There are no tennis or pickleball courts in the Rural Area, which has been omitted from Figure 3.7.) The overall provision rate for tennis and pickleball courts across the Town is approximately **one court per 1,781 residents**.

### Basketball & Other Multi-Use Courts

There are another 13 hard-surfaced courts (*i.e.*, non-racquet sport courts) in the Town's parks: seven full basketball courts, five half-courts, and one ball hockey court (*i.e.*, without basketball nets). Existing provision levels for basketball courts are also represented in Figure 3.7. (Like racquet sport courts, there are no basketball or other multi-use courts in the Rural Area.) As illustrated, the Town-wide average is approximately **one basketball net per 1,781 residents**.



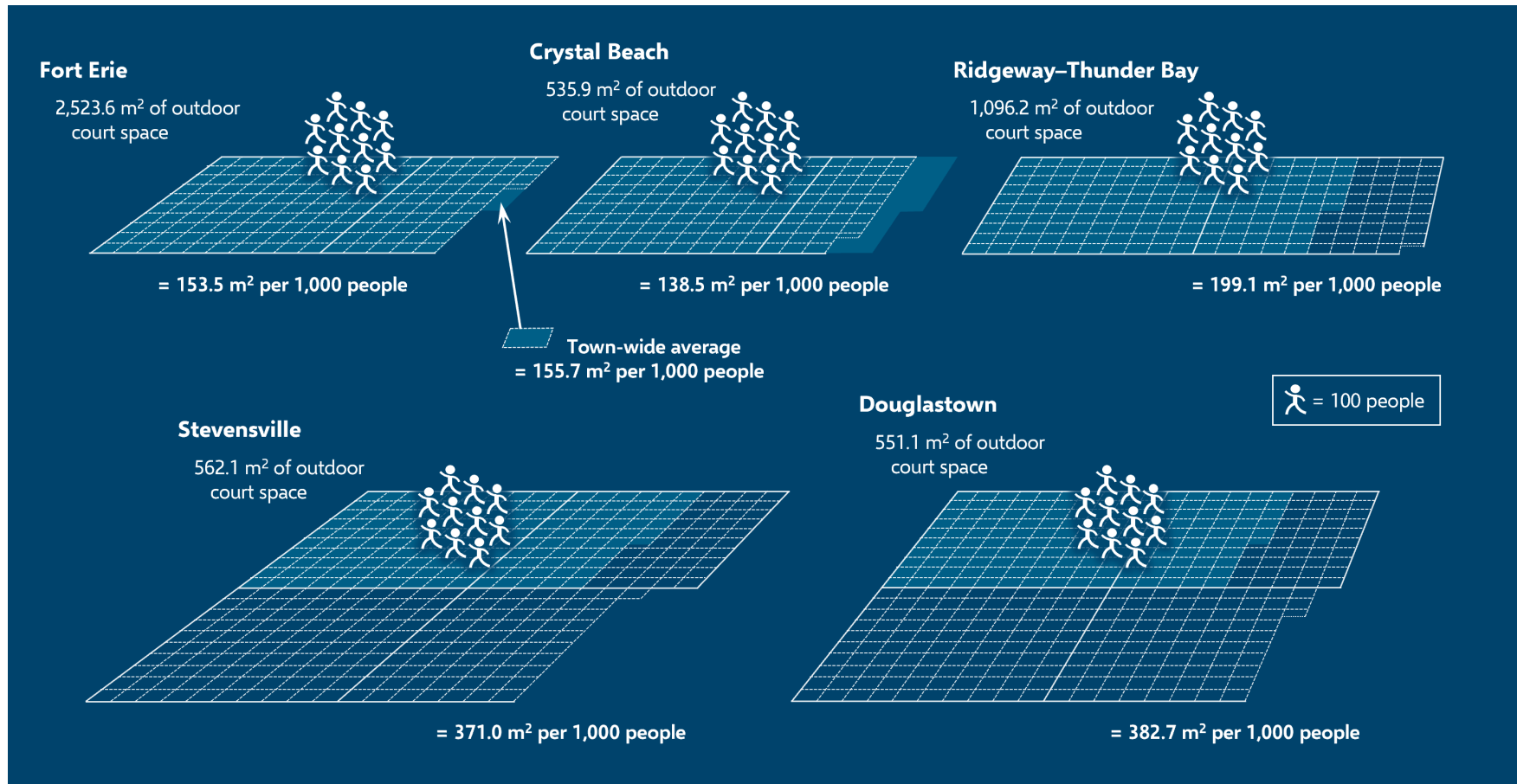
Full basketball courts in the Town's parks are generally around 60 feet by 100 feet (18.29 m × 30.48 m), although there are some variations in size and in configuration: for instance, High Pointe Park has a circular basketball court with a diameter of 60 feet (18.29 m). This makes it somewhat challenging to come up with a single meaningful measure for current provision levels: Figure 3.7 has represented provision in terms of people per basketball net, but this does not account for the ball hockey court in Energy Field.

With this in mind, **Figure 3.8** shows existing provision levels for outdoor hard-surfaced court space (for non-racquet sports, so not including tennis or pickleball courts) in the four Urban Areas (again, there are no such hard-surfaced courts in the Rural Area), expressed in terms of square metres per 1,000 people.

In total, there is about 5,270 m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 56,726 square feet) of hard-surfaced courts in the Town's parks, giving an overall provision rate of **155.7 m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 residents** (or approx. 1,676 sq. ft. per 1,000 people). For comparison, a full-sized basketball court measures 6,000 sq. ft., or about 557.4 m<sup>2</sup> (meaning that the overall provision rate corresponds to approximately 3,580 residents for each equivalent to a full basketball court).



Figure 3.8 – Existing provision levels for outdoor (non-racquet sport) court space





### 3.3 Park Classifications & Standards

The classification system from the previous Master Plan, described in Section 3.1.1, established Neighbourhood Parks as the foundation of the Town’s parks and open space system, with Community Parks serving as multi-purpose spaces capable of accommodating major sports and community facilities. These two classifications have been appropriate for categorizing many of the Town’s parks and open spaces, though there is a need to refine the “Specialized Parks” classification, which the 2006 Master Plan used as a “catch-all” category that does not adequately reflect the range and variety of the outdoor spaces and amenities that the Town of Fort Erie offers.

This section of the Town’s new Master Plan therefore presents a refined classification system that captures the full range of the Town’s parks and open space resources and that recognizes the diversity and versatility of the parks and open space system. The refined system recognizes and incorporates the classifications used in the 2017 Waterfront Strategy (see Section 3.1.2), and, for the most part, retains the “Neighbourhood Park” and “Community Park” classifications used in the previous Master Plan.

After establishing the overall classification system, this section proceeds to identify standards associated with the proposed classifications that will guide the reasonable and equitable provision of parks and recreational facilities for the Town’s residents, followed by an assessment of existing parks with respect to the recommended standards.



### 3.3.1 Park Classifications

The refined classification system is based on making functional distinctions between the different types of parks and open spaces in the Town. The refined system has four primary categories:

**Town Parks & Open Spaces** are what we normally imagine when we think of a park: an outdoor green space with features and facilities that support a range of active and passive recreational uses.

**Waterfront Parks & Open Spaces** are places that provide access to the Town's extensive shoreline, along both Lake Erie and the Niagara River, spaces that are highly valued by residents and highly sought-after by visitors. (The secondary classifications under this category are those established in the 2017 Waterfront Strategy.)

**Heritage Parks & Open Spaces** highlight, promote, and preserve natural features and areas, as well as the Town's unique cultural heritage resources.

**Linear Parks & Open Spaces** provide connections between various parks and outdoor spaces, as well as serving as important recreation facilities in their own right. They are meant to accommodate the full range of pedestrian and non-motorized vehicular traffic.

**Table 3.1** (p. 88) lists the secondary classifications under these four primary categories and identifies the function of each class. **Table 3.2** (p. 89) applies this refined system to the Town's existing parks, showing the proposed classification of each park.



**Table 3.1 – Proposed classification system for parks and open spaces**

<b>Park Class</b>	<b>Primary Function</b>
Town Parks & Open Spaces	Provide park and open space amenities for residents.
Destination Parks	Provide space, amenities, and facilities for entire Town (and beyond).
Community Parks	Provide space, amenities, and facilities for the residents of a particular Urban Area.
Neighbourhood Parks	Provide space, amenities, and facilities for residents of the local neighbourhood.
Village Greens	Provide passive recreation space and social settings for nearby residents.
Waterfront Parks & Open Spaces	Provide residents and visitors with access to the waterfront.
Anchor Waterfront Parks	Serve as Town-wide and regional focal points for waterfront activities.
Urban Waterfront Parks	Serve as community focal points for waterfront activity and support development of urban neighbourhoods.
Waterfront Parks	Provide local access to waterfront spaces and amenities.
Waterfront Windows	Provide short-term water access.
Heritage Parks & Open Spaces	Preserve and promote the Town’s natural and cultural heritage.
Nature Parks	Preserve the natural environment and provide access to nature.
Cultural Spaces	Promote the Town’s historic sites and cultural heritage.
Linear Parks & Open Spaces	Provide connections between different areas and destinations.
Regional Trails	Provide active transportation connections between destinations in Town and with neighbouring municipalities.
Community Trails	Provide connections within neighbourhoods and to Regional Trails.
Nature Trails	Serve as low-maintenance routes within natural areas.
Open Space Linkages	Provide naturalized corridors for wildlife movement.



**Table 3.2 – Proposed classifications for Town's parks**

Urban Area	Park Name	Proposed Classification	Urban Area	Park Name	Proposed Classification
<b>Fort Erie</b>	Albert Street Park	Neighbourhood Park	<b>Crystal Beach</b>	Bay Beach Waterfront Park	Anchor Waterfront Park
	Bowen Road Park	Anchor Waterfront Park		Crystal Beach Waterfront Park	Urban Waterfront Park
	Crescent Beach Waterfront Park	Waterfront Park		Crystal Ridge Park	Community Park
	Douglas Park	Neighbourhood Park		Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park	Village Green
	Energy Field	Neighbourhood Park		Point Abino Waterfront Park <sup>(a)</sup>	Waterfront Park
	Ferndale Park	Community Park		Queens Circle	Village Green
	Goderich Street Park	Neighbourhood Park		<b>Ridgeway–Thunder Bay</b>	Beaver Creek Park
	High Pointe Park	Neighbourhood Park	Bernard Avenue Beach Waterfront Park		Waterfront Park
	Lions Sugarbowl Park	Community Park	Bill Connelly Field		Neighbourhood Park
	Mather Avenue Parkette	Village Green	Maple Leaf Beach Park		Waterfront Park
	Oakes Park	Destination Park	Ridgeway Lions Park		Neighbourhood Park
	Optimist Park	Community Park	Ridgeway Village Square		Village Green
	Snake Hill Parkette	Cultural Space	Shagbark Nature Park <sup>(b)</sup>		Nature Park
	Spears Park	Neighbourhood Park	<b>Stevensville</b>	Battle of Ridgeway Park <sup>(c)</sup>	Cultural Space
Town Hall Leisureplex Park	Destination Park	Stevensville Memorial Park		Neighbourhood Park	
Waverly Beach Park	Anchor Waterfront Park	Stevensville Memory Park		Village Green	
<b>Douglastown–Black Creek</b>	A.C. Douglas Park #1	Neighbourhood Park		Stevensville Mini (UEL) Park	Neighbourhood Park
	A.C. Douglas Park #2	Neighbourhood Park		United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park <sup>(d)</sup>	Community Park

Highlighting indicates a proposed change in a park's classification (not including changes from "Specialized Park" to another classification).

<sup>(a)</sup>Located in rural area southwest of Crystal Beach neighbourhood. <sup>(b)</sup>Partially located in rural area outside Ridgeway–Thunder Bay. <sup>(c)</sup>Located in rural area south of Stevensville.

<sup>(d)</sup>Located in rural area just north of Stevensville.

## Recommendations

1

### Park Classification System

Adopt the classification system shown in Table 3.1 for the Town's parks and open spaces.

2

### Classification of Existing Parks

Classify the Town's existing parks and open spaces according to the proposed classifications shown in Table 3.2.

### 3.3.2 Park Standards

This section discusses the recommended criteria and standards for the different classes of park presented in Section 3.3.1. The recommended standards cover service levels and provision standards (intended service area, service radius, provision standards, and optimal park size) as well as facility requirements (basic and optional).

#### Service Levels & Provision Standards

The recommended standards presented here are based primarily on the intended service area of each class of park. Intended service area refers to the general geographic area that each type of park is meant to serve, which provides a useful starting point for understanding the park's intended role in the community and the user base it is expected to draw from.





Park classes are categorized using three intended service areas:

**Town-wide** parks, as the name suggests, are meant to provide facilities and amenities that will serve the entire population of the Town. These parks are also expected to serve as destinations that draw a fair number of visitors from outside the Town.

The following classes of park are considered to be “Town-wide” parks: **Destination Parks, Anchor Waterfront Parks, Nature Parks, Cultural Spaces, Regional Trails, and Nature Trails.**

**Community-level** parks are meant to serve the population of an Urban Area, providing amenities and facilities for residents of multiple neighbourhoods and serving as focal points for the local community.

**Community Parks, Urban Waterfront Parks, and Community Trails** are the park classes considered to have a community-level service area.

**Neighbourhood-level** parks (again, as the name suggests), are meant to provide outdoor space, facilities, and amenities for the residents of a single neighbourhood.

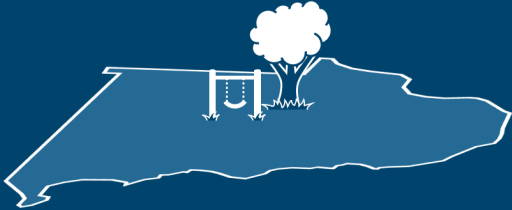
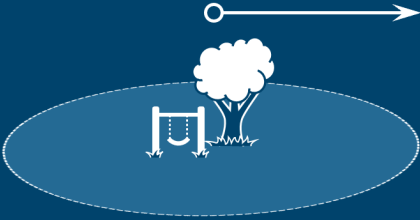
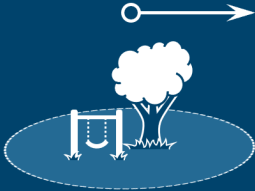
**Neighbourhood Parks, Village Greens, and Waterfront Parks** are considered to be neighbourhood-level parks.

The list above does not include Waterfront Windows or Open Space Linkages: Waterfront Windows are only intended for short-term use and temporary water access, meaning that the “service” they provide is not comparable to that provided by other park classes. Open Space Linkages, as noted in Table 3.1, are intended primarily as wildlife movement corridors, and thus do not provide the same sort of “service” that other park spaces are meant to.



**Figure 3.9** below establishes the recommended standards for different classes of parks, based on the intended service of each. The provision standards are meant to be applied collectively to the park classes included in each service area category — so, for example, the standard of 1.50 ha per 1,000 people for Town-wide parks applies to the combined area of all Destination Parks, Anchor Waterfront Parks, Nature Parks, and Cultural Spaces in the Town. (Linear Parks & Open Spaces have been omitted from Figure 3.9 because area-based provision standards do not apply to these classes of park.)

**Figure 3.9 – Recommended standards for different park classes**

	<b>Town-wide</b>	<b>Community-level</b>	<b>Neighbourhood-level</b>
<b>Park Classes*</b>	Destination Parks Anchor Waterfront Parks Nature Parks Cultural Spaces	Community Parks Urban Waterfront Parks	Neighbourhood Parks Village Greens Waterfront Parks
<b>Intended Service Area</b>	Town	1 Urban Area	1 Neighbourhood
<b>Service Radius</b>	(Entire Town) 	1,600 m 	600 m 
<b>Provision Standard</b>	1.50 ha / 1,000 people	2.50 ha / 1,000 people	1.00 ha / 1,000 people
<b>Optimal Size</b>	Varies according to specific features	> 2.0 ha	Neighbourhood Parks 0.5 – 2.0 ha Village Greens 0.2 – 0.5 ha

\*not including Linear Parks & Open Spaces

## In-Park Facility Standards

**Table 3.3** on the next page sets out recommended requirements for the types of facilities, amenities, and park infrastructure that should be provided for users of each park class. These requirements are presented in terms of general categories, which is meant to allow for some flexibility in order to account for varying interests and different demographic profiles in different parts of the Town.

Active features are divided into three categories:

**Destination features** are high-profile recreation facilities and features that are constructed and maintained to the highest standards, such as illuminated (“Class A”) outdoor sports fields, illuminated outdoor courts, large skate parks, or outdoor swimming pools. These features are usually only located in Destination Parks.

**Primary active features** provide recreation opportunities for moderate to large numbers of users (though not to the same extent as destination features). Examples include “Class B” sports facilities, tennis and pickleball courts, water play areas, and larger playgrounds. These features generally serve as centrepiece facilities in Community and Neighbourhood Parks and provide primary motivation for a large number of park visits.

**Secondary active features** are meant to provide active recreation opportunities for low to moderate numbers of users, generally serving as supporting features in Neighbourhood and Community Parks.



Passive features are categorized as either primary or secondary:

**Primary passive features** are features that attract moderate to large numbers of park visitors, such as off-leash dog areas, large pavilions, and large natural areas. Certain of these features (such as off-leash areas) can sometimes serve as more central park features, especially in Neighbourhood Parks.

**Secondary passive features** are features generally intended to support other park activities. They are features that park users appreciate — such as shade structures, seating areas, gardens, landscaping, or naturalized stormwater management ponds — but that do not usually attract a large number of visitors on their own.

Support features consist of buildings, structures, facilities, and infrastructure that support both active and passive park users. This category covers a range of features, including waste receptacles, washrooms, lighting, water fountains, and parking lots. The support features identified in Table 3.3 are meant to be illustrative, rather than as indicating absolute requirements.

**Table 3.3 – Recommended standards for in-park facilities**

Park Class	Basic Facility Requirements	Support Features
Destination Park	At least one destination feature	Washrooms (permanent), snack bar / concession stand, parking lot, bleachers / spectator seating, waste receptacles
Community Park	At least one primary active feature and multiple primary passive features	Washrooms (permanent or temporary), pavilions or shade structures, benches, waste receptacles, parking lot
Neighbourhood Park	At least one primary active feature or one primary passive feature plus one secondary active feature	Washrooms (temporary), shade structures, benches, waste receptacles
Village Green	At least one primary passive feature	Shade structures, benches, waste receptacles
Anchor Waterfront Park	Based on park’s specific focus, as defined in Waterfront Strategy	Washrooms (permanent or temporary), snack bar / concession stand, parking lot, waste receptacles
Urban Waterfront Park	At least one primary passive feature	Washrooms (temporary), waste receptacles
Waterfront Park	Generally only secondary passive features	Waste receptacles
Waterfront Window	Boat launch (optional)	Minimal
Nature Park	Natural area (defining feature)	Interpretative signage, waste receptacles, benches
Cultural Space	Historic site or other feature of cultural heritage value (defining feature)	Commemorative plaques, interpretative signage, benches, waste receptacles



In addition to what is shown in Table 3.3, it is recommended that all parks, regardless of classification, include **signage** identifying the park by name and **at least one waste receptacle** at each defined park entrance, as well as **sufficient lighting** at entrances and along pathways to ensure safety for park users.

Finally, **Table 3.4** below provides some recommendations for basic standards to apply to different classes of Linear Parks & Open Spaces. Table 3.4 includes “Pathways”, which is not itself a class of Linear Park but instead refers to walkways, trails, and similar facilities found in other classes of park, generally serving as in-park connective features. The table also includes “Open Space Linkages”, which are included in under “Linear Parks & Open Spaces” but are better understood as being part of the natural heritage system.

**Table 3.4 – Recommended standards for Linear Parks & Open Spaces**

<b>Linear Park Class</b>	<b>Functional Description</b>	<b>Surfacing &amp; Recommended Features</b>
Regional Trails	Primary features of trails network. Provide connections between destinations in Town and with neighbouring municipalities.	Usually paved or hard-surfaced to support higher levels of use. Benches and waste receptacles at frequent regular intervals.
Community Trails	Secondary features providing connections within neighbourhoods and to Regional Trails.	Usually gravel, may be hard-surfaced in higher-traffic areas. Benches and waste receptacles at regular intervals.
Nature Trails	Features within Nature Parks and other natural areas to facilitate access. Designed to be minimally intrusive with low maintenance requirements.	Minimal surface treatment, generally limited to natural materials (e.g., wood chips). Benches and waste receptacles in select locations.
Pathways	In-park connective features.	Surface treatment varies depending on park size, location, and anticipated levels of traffic.
Open Space Linkages	Naturalized corridors for wildlife movement.	Generally left in naturalized state, with little to no human interference.

## Recommendations

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**3**

### **Service Levels & Provision Standards**

Adopt the recommended service level and provision standards for different classes of parks, as shown in Figure 3.9.

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**4**

### **In-Park Facilities**

Adopt the standards for in-park facilities and support features recommended in Table 3.3.

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**5**

### **Standard Requirements for All Parks**

Ensure that all parks in the Town, regardless of classification, have the following:

- (a) signage identifying the park by name;
  - (b) at least one waste receptacle at each defined park entrance; and
  - (c) sufficient lighting at all entrances and along pathways.
- 

**6**

### **Standards for Linear Parks**

Ensure that Linear Parks & Open Spaces, as well as pathways within other types of parks, are designed according to the recommendations in Table 3.4.

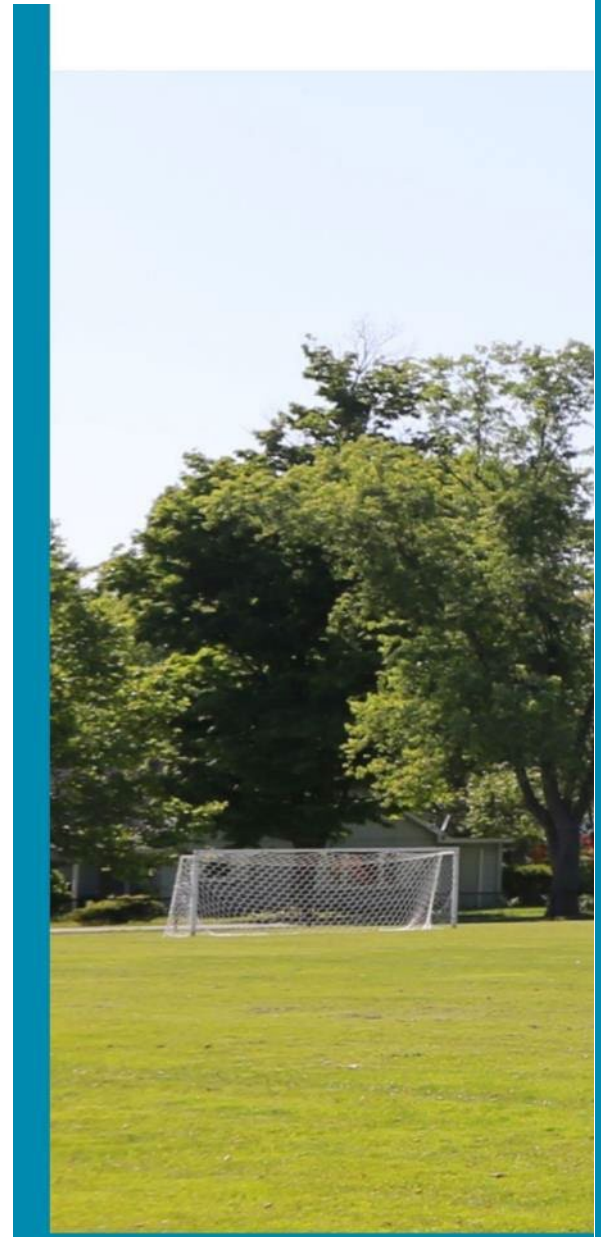
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### 3.3.3 Facility Classifications & Standards

This section sets out recommendations for the provision of sports fields and other outdoor recreational facilities in the Town’s parks system, with a focus on the preferred locations for different classes of facility and on setting target provision rates for different types of facility. The recommended targets are largely based on current provision rates, as public consultation and meetings with sports organizations have indicated that there is general satisfaction with the current level of service provided by existing outdoor facilities in the Town.

**Table 3.5** describes the different classes of various outdoor facilities (soccer and other turf fields, baseball diamonds, tennis and pickleball courts, and other hard-surfaced non-racquet sport courts). The principal points of differentiation between facility classes involve facility size, maintenance requirements, and whether or not illumination is provided. The recommended locations identified in the right-most column of Table 3.5 are consistent with the recommendations regarding the locations of different categories of active features defined in Section 3.3.2. Table 3.5 does not differentiate between different “classes” of playground. Instead, playgrounds should be designed to appropriately suit the intended age range and expected utilization levels (for example, providing rubberized surfacing in Community Parks).

The target provision levels set out in **Table 3.6** (p. 99) include targets for different facility classes, as well as for the overall provision of each facility type. (The term “court equivalent,” used with reference to tennis and pickleball courts, is meant to account for multi-use racquet courts: one multi-use court is considered as being equivalent to 0.5 tennis courts and 0.5 pickleball courts.)





**Table 3.5 – Recommended standards and locations for sports fields and facilities by class**

Facility Type	Class	Defining Features	Recommended / Preferred Location
Soccer / Football / Multi-Use Turf Fields	A	Full regulation-size field with regulation goal posts and painted lines. Natural turf, irrigated with sub-surface drainage. Field grading to recommended design standards. Illuminated, with seating for players and spectators. Regularly scheduled maintenance at frequent intervals (weekly).	Destination Parks
	B	Regulation-size field (junior, intermediate, or full-size) with goal posts; painted lines preferred but optional. Natural turf; no irrigation or sub-surface drainage. Field grading to recommended design standards. Not illuminated; seating for players provided; spectator seating optional. Regular maintenance at moderately frequent intervals (weekly or bi-weekly).	Community Parks
	C	Field size depends on available area; field has appropriate goal posts but no painted lines. Natural turf; no irrigation or sub-surface drainage. Field grading to ensure positive drainage. Not illuminated; player benches optional, spectator seating not provided. Regular maintenance at occasional intervals (bi-weekly to monthly), with supplemental maintenance on an as-needed basis.	Neighbourhood Parks & Community Parks
Baseball Diamonds	A	Regulation-size diamond with backstop, full foul-line and outfield fencing, specific infield surfacing, and players' benches. Turf is irrigated with sub-surface drainage. Field grading to recommended design standards. Illuminated, with spectator seating. Regularly scheduled maintenance at frequent intervals (weekly).	Destination Parks
	B	Regulation-size diamond with backstop and partial foul-line fencing, specific infield surfacing, and players' benches. Outfield turf not irrigated. Field grading to recommended design standards. Not illuminated; some spectator seating provided. Regular maintenance at moderately frequent intervals (weekly or bi-weekly).	Community Parks & Destination Parks
	C	Diamond size depends on available area; overlap with other diamonds acceptable. Backstop provided. Granular infield surfacing; players' benches optional. Outfield turf not irrigated. Field grading to ensure positive drainage. Not illuminated; spectator seating not provided. Regular maintenance at occasional intervals (bi-weekly to monthly), with supplemental maintenance on an as-needed basis.	Neighbourhood Parks & Community Parks
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	A	Regulation-size tennis court with coloured penetration surfacing, painted lines, and standard fencing. Illumination and spectator seating preferred but optional.	Destination Parks & Community Parks
	B	Court is approximately regulation-size (tennis) with hard surfacing and painted lines; fencing provided where necessary. Not illuminated; spectator seating not provided.	Community Parks & Neighbourhood Parks
	C	"Mini" court intended for beginners and youth play. Hard surfacing with painted lines; fencing provided where needed. Not illuminated; spectator seating not provided.	Community Parks & Neighbourhood Parks
Basketball / Multi-Use Courts	A	Full basketball court with two free-standing nets. Painted lines; fencing provided where necessary. Illumination preferred but optional. Spectator seating optional.	Destination Parks & Community Parks
	B	Court size depends on available area (may be full or half-court); net(s) either free-standing or attached to fencing or wall. Painted lines; fencing provided where necessary. Not illuminated; spectator seating not provided.	Community Parks & Neighbourhood Parks

**Table 3.6 – Target provision rates for outdoor facilities**

Facility Type	Facility Class	Provision Standard / Target	Facility Type	Facility Class	Provision Standard / Target
Soccer / Multi-Use Turf Fields	Class A	1 field per 16,000–18,000 residents	Baseball Diamonds	Class A	1 diamond per 7,000–8,000 residents
	Class B / C	1 field equivalent per 3,000 residents		Class B	1 diamond per 9,000–10,000 residents
	Class B / C (junior / intermediate)	1 field per 750 residents under age 18		Class C	1 diamond per 10,000–12,000 residents
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>1 field equivalent per 2,500 residents</b>		<b>Overall</b>	<b>1 diamond per 2,800–3,250 residents</b>
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	Class A	1 court per 5,000–6,000 residents	Basketball / Multi-Use Courts	Basketball nets	1 net per 200 youth (ages 10–19)
	Class B	1 court per 4,000–5,000 residents		Basketball court space	1,000–1,250 m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000 youth
	Class C	1 court per 6,000 residents under age 18	Playgrounds	Junior play structures	1 play structure per 60 children aged 2–5 years
	Tennis Courts (all)	1 court equivalent per 3,000 residents		Senior play structures	1 play structure per 150 children aged 6–12 years
	Pickleball Courts (all)	1 court equivalent per 5,000 residents		<b>Overall</b>	<b>1 playground per 180 children (ages 0–12)</b>
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>1 court per 1,800–2,000 residents</b>	Spray Pads	<b>Overall</b>	<b>1 spray pad per 750 children (ages 0–12)</b>

## Recommendations

### 7

#### Target Provision Levels for Soccer & Multi-Use Turf Fields

Aim to provide soccer fields (including multi-use turf fields) at the following target rates:

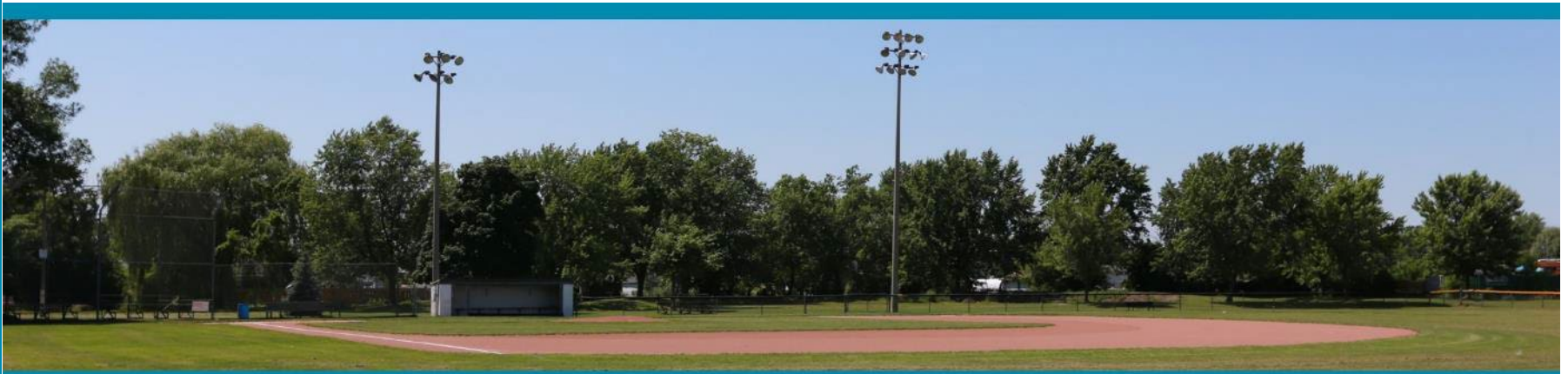
- (a) for Class A fields, 1 field for every 16,000–18,000 residents;
- (b) for Class B and Class C fields (combined), 1 field equivalent for every 3,000 residents;
- (c) for junior and intermediate Class B and Class C fields, 1 field for every 750 residents under the age of 18; and
- (d) overall, 1 field equivalent for every 2,500 residents.

### 8

#### Target Provision Levels for Baseball Diamonds

Aim to provide baseball diamonds at the following target rates:

- (a) for Class A diamonds, 1 diamond for every 7,000–8,000 residents;
- (b) for Class B diamonds, 1 diamond for every 9,000–10,000 residents;
- (c) for Class C diamonds, 1 diamond for every 10,000–12,000 residents; and
- (d) overall, 1 diamond for every 2,800–3,250 residents.



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## 9

### Target Provision Levels for Tennis & Pickleball Courts

Aim to provide tennis and pickleball courts (both dedicated and multi-use) at the following target rates:

- (a) for Class A tennis courts, 1 court for every 5,000–6,000 residents;
  - (b) for Class B tennis and pickleball courts, 1 court for every 3,000–4,000 residents;
  - (c) for Class C (junior/“mini”) tennis courts, 1 court for every 6,000 residents under the age of 18, generally as a combined pickleball/mini court;
  - (d) for tennis courts in general, 1 tennis court equivalent for every 3,000 residents;
  - (e) for pickleball courts in general, 1 pickleball court equivalent for every 5,000 residents; and
  - (f) for outdoor racquet sport courts overall, 1 court for every 1,800–2,000 residents.
- 

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## 10

### Target Provision Levels for Basketball & Multi-Use Courts

Aim to provide basketball courts (including multi-use courts that combine basketball with other sports) at a target rate of 1 basketball net for every 200 youth residents (between the ages of 10 and 19), corresponding to 1,000–1,250 m<sup>2</sup> of basketball court space for every 1,000 youth residents, while continuing to monitor utilization and demand levels for other hard-surfaced courts to determine whether additional facilities are needed.

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## 11

### Target Provision Levels for Playgrounds & Spray Pads

Aim to provide playgrounds, age-appropriate play structures, and spray pads at the following target rates:

- (a) for playgrounds overall, 1 playground for every 180 children between the ages of 0 and 12;
  - (b) for junior play structures (within playgrounds), 1 structure for every 60 children between the ages of 2 and 5;
  - (c) for senior play structures (within playgrounds), 1 structure for every 150 children between the ages of 6 and 12; and
  - (d) for spray pads overall, 1 spray pad for every 750 children between the ages of 0 and 12.
-



# 12

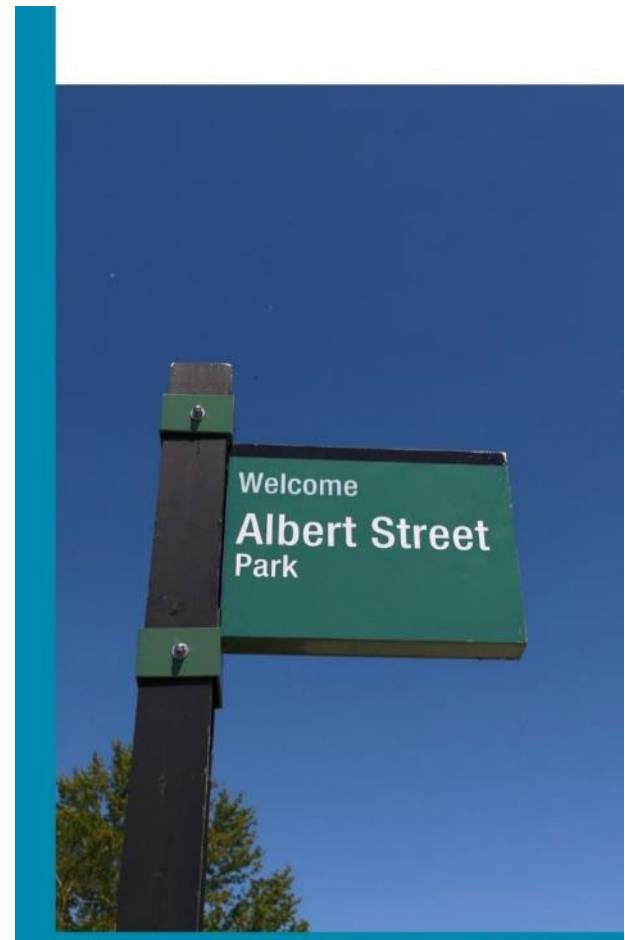
## Provision of Other Outdoor Facilities

Continue to monitor utilization and demand levels for other outdoor recreation facilities, such as off-leash dog parks and skate parks, to determine whether additional facilities are needed and, if so, where those additional facilities should be located.

### 3.4 Asset Classifications & Standards

In light of recent changes to Provincial legislation, which require municipalities to prepare asset management plans to address the lifecycle costs of significant municipal infrastructure assets, this section of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan presents a system for classifying the Town of Fort Erie's parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreational assets that can be incorporated into the Town's broader asset management strategies, as established in its 2019 Asset Management Plan.

The asset inventory compiled for the 2019 Asset Management Plan was structured according to a four-level hierarchy, to organize assets into logical categories and support decision-making about their management. Level 1 of this hierarchy consists of Roads & ROW, Bridges & Structures, Sanitary, Stormwater, Water, and Facilities — the Town's parks and recreation facilities fall under the "Facilities" category. The name of each park serves as Level 2 within the asset hierarchy. Level 3 under "Facilities" uses the Uniformat II system to categorize the elements that comprise each individual facility.



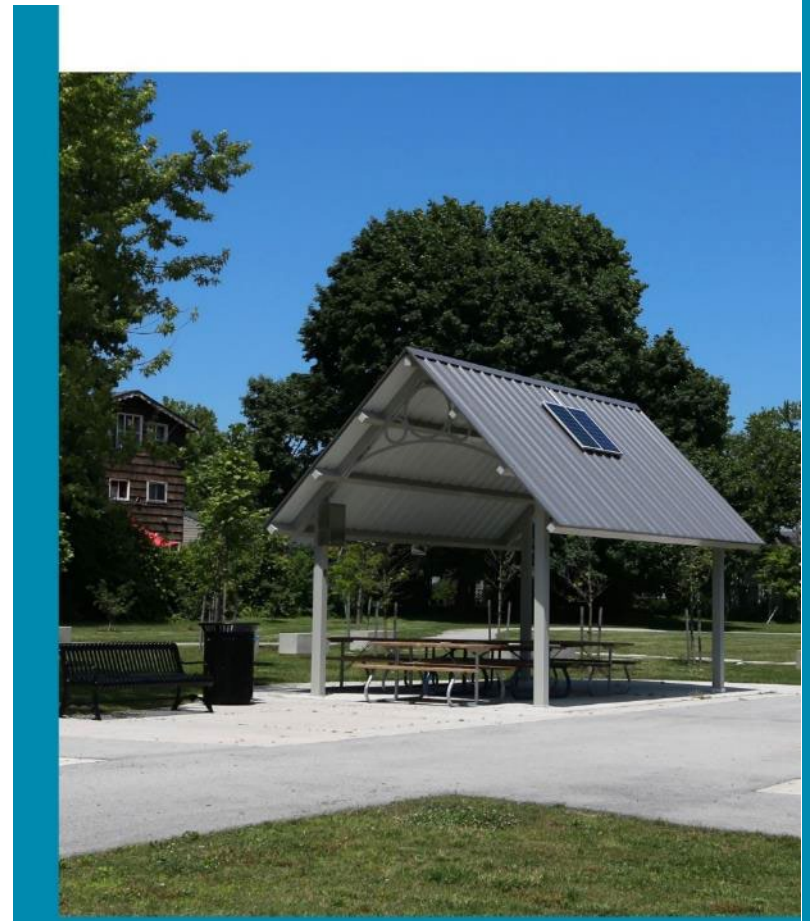
The Uniformat II system was developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) to provide a functional classification system for building elements. The top level of the Uniformat II hierarchy consists of seven “Major Group Elements,” each denoted by a capital letter (“A” through “G”). Individual elements are classified by appending a four-digit number to this letter: the first two digits identify the Level 2 “Group Element,” while the second pair of digits serve to identify Level 3 “Individual Elements.” For example, “Floor Finishes” are classified as C3020 under Major Group Element (Level 1) C: Interior Finishes and Group Element (Level 2) C30: Interior Finishes. A fourth level can be used to further differentiate between individual elements by changing the last digit of the four-digit number — in the case of C3020: Floor Finishes, Level 4 includes C3024: Flooring, C3025: Carpeting, and C3026: Bases, Curbs & Trim.<sup>5</sup>

The Uniformat II system is meant to apply to buildings, focusing on structural components, finishes, and internal systems. The classification system proposed here for the Town’s parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreation facilities extends this idea to elements not included in Uniformat II, such as sports fields, playgrounds, trails systems, and park-related infrastructure.

The proposed system mimics Uniformat II by employing a similar format to identify park elements (capital letter plus four-digit number). The purpose of using such a format is to provide a system that can be easily integrated into the Town’s existing Asset Management Plan. However, it should be emphasized that the proposed hierarchy is completely separate from the Uniformat II system, and is not in any way associated with or endorsed by the ASTM or any similar body.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Ronald P. Charette & Harold E. Marshall, *UNIFORMAT II Elemental Classification for Building Specifications* (October 1999), NIST, U.S. Department of Commerce, p. 51.



The proposed Park Element Classification System (see [Table 3.7](#)) is based on a hierarchy whose top level identifies seven Major Categories, each identified using the capital letters “P” through “W” (not including “Q”). The proposed system is meant to be somewhat intuitive — for instance, the Major Category “Sports Fields” is denoted by the letter “S”, while Transportation and Utilities are denoted by “T” and “U”, respectively. The second level of the proposed hierarchy is identified by appending two digits to the capital letter denoting the Major Category. Table 3.7 provides a functional description of each Major Category and each Park Element Category, while the full system, including the recommended categories for Park Elements (the third level of the proposed hierarchy), can be found in [Appendix B](#).

A feature’s intended function is the primary factor in determining how that feature should be categorized in the proposed system — for instance, a treed area could be categorized in different ways, depending on the area’s intended purpose:

- as **P3040: Tree Plantings**, if the area is meant to provide amenity space;
- as **U3060: Buffers**, if it is meant to provide screening or separation for abutting properties; or
- as **P1030: Woodlands & Wooded Areas**, if it is meant to be left in a natural state as a woodland.



**Table 3.7 – Proposed categorization of Major Categories and Park Element Categories**

<b>Code &amp; Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
P Outdoor Open Spaces	Outdoor spaces for unstructured recreational activities and for passive recreation.
P10 Natural Areas	Outdoor areas left in a natural or naturalized state, with minimal or no maintenance requirements.
P20 Open Spaces	Outdoor areas for unstructured use with some maintenance requirements.
P30 Landscaped Areas	Specifically planted areas with higher maintenance requirements.
P40 Special Purpose Areas	Outdoor spaces designed to serve a specific function (e.g., outdoor seating areas, picnic areas, off-leash dog areas, etc.).
R Outdoor Play Areas	Outdoor areas with equipment or features for children’s play or for exercise.
R10 Playgrounds & Play Areas	Designated outdoor play areas.
R20 Water Play Features	Outdoor play areas focused on aquatic features.
R30 Fitness / Exercise Areas	Designated areas with features or exercise equipment intended for adults.
S Sports Facilities	Outdoor areas and facilities for semi-structured activities and for organized sports.
S10 Turf Fields	Sports fields with grass or artificial turf surfaces.
S20 Multi-Surface Fields	Sports fields with combination of surfaces (e.g., turf and gravel).
S30 Outdoor Courts	Facilities with hard surfaces.
T Transportation Surfaces	Surfaced areas for the storage and conveyance of vehicles and pedestrians.
T10 Pedestrian & Cycling Trails	Trails designed for walking, cycling, or other non-motorized travel.
T20 Parking Lots	Parking areas for motorized vehicles.
T30 Boat Launches	Water access points with facilities for boat trailers.



<b>Code &amp; Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
U Site Services & Utilities	Mechanical and electrical utilities that support use of park space.
U10 Mechanical Utilities	Utilities such as water supply, outdoor plumbing, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and other mechanical systems. <sup>(a)</sup>
U20 Electrical Utilities	Utilities such as electrical power distribution, lighting, etc. <sup>(b)</sup>
U30 Siteworks	Physical park infrastructure (e.g., retaining walls, fencing, erosion control, buffers, etc.).
V Park Buildings & Structures	Buildings and structures that support use of park space and facilities.
V10 Park Buildings	Fully enclosed buildings and structures.
V20 Outdoor Structures	Unenclosed or partially enclosed structures.
W Site Furnishings	Fixed and moveable objects that support park activities.
W10 Fixed Furnishings	Equipment and furnishings permanently fixed in place.
W20 Moveable Furnishings	Moveable equipment and furnishings.

<sup>(a)</sup> Based on Uniformat II Class G30 (“Site Mechanical Utilities”). <sup>(b)</sup>Based on Uniformat II Class G40 (“Site Electrical Utilities”).

Certain categories can also be differentiated based on maintenance requirements (such as P10: Natural Areas, which are meant to be left in as natural a state as possible with minimal maintenance, if any, versus P30: Landscaped Areas, which are more manicured and high-maintenance features).

The purpose of the proposed Park Element Classification System is to provide a standardized method for identifying individual elements in a way that facilitates the incorporation of these elements into the Town’s existing Asset Management Plan. Each Park Element identified would sit at “Level 3” in the Asset Hierarchy (i.e., the hierarchy presented in the Asset Management Plan).

Once identified, each Level 3 element can be broken down into “Sub-Elements” using, if necessary, a combination of the standard Uniformat II classes and the proposed Park Element classes. These “sub-elements” would fit into Level 4 of the overall Asset Hierarchy.

## Recommendations

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**13**

### **Asset Classification System**

Adopt the classification system and hierarchy proposed in Table 3.7 (or a similar system) as a step towards integrating parks, open spaces, and recreation assets into the Town's broader asset management planning activities.

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**14**

### **Asset Inventory**

Once the proposed system has been adopted, undertake a full inventory of the Town's parks, open spaces, and recreation assets (*i.e.*, Park Elements and Sub-elements).

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# 4 Parks & Facilities

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**The Town’s parks, trails, and open spaces** are cherished by many residents, who value the ways in which these spaces and facilities enhance day-to-day life and support active, healthy lifestyles. The purpose of this section the Master Plan is to provide a basis for ensuring that these well-used and well-liked spaces continue in their role of high-quality fixtures in community life.

This section of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan begins by assessing the Town’s existing parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreation facilities against the standards and recommendations made in the previous section. Following this assessment, this section of the Master Plan turns to considering current and anticipated future need for parkland and recreation facilities.

The section closes by presenting recommendations for specific parks and facilities, taking into consideration the assessments and the more immediate needs of certain parks and outdoor spaces.





## 4.1 Assessment of Existing Parks & Facilities

The assessments presented in this section of the Master Plan use the recommendations from the previous section as a baseline: see in particular Figure 3.9 – Recommended standards for different park classes on p. 92, Table 3.3 – Recommended standards for in-park facilities on p. 94, and Table 3.6 – Target provision rates for outdoor facilities on p. 99.

### 4.1.1 Park Features & Facilities

This subsection focuses principally on in-park active and passive features, with reference to the definitions for destination features, primary active features, and secondary active features presented in Section 3.3.2.

#### Destination Parks

The recommended park classifications in Table 3.2 include the recommended re-classification of Oakes Park from a Community Park to a Destination Park. This re-classification is recommended in large part because of the nature of the facilities provided in Oakes Park (namely, Class A baseball diamonds and Class A tennis courts), as summarized in **Table 4.1** below. The location of Oakes Park is also a factor in this recommendation: because it is located adjacent to Lions Sugarbowl Park, the service areas of the two parks largely overlap (if both were to be categorized as Community Parks).

**Table 4.1 – Existing features and facilities in Destination Parks**

Park Name	Area [ha] <sup>(a)</sup>	Active features	Passive features
Oakes Park	5.79	Destination features: Baseball diamonds (Class A), tennis courts (Class A) Primary features: Baseball diamond (Class B)	Pavilion, benches
Town Hall Leisureplex Park	7.17	Destination features: Skate park	Pavilion, benches, reflecting pond

<sup>(a)</sup>The optimal size for Destination Parks (and other Town-wide parks) varies according to the features present: see Figure 3.9.

## Community Parks

The Town’s five existing Community Parks (not including Oakes Park, addressed above as a Destination Park) are listed in **Table 4.2**, which identifies the area and in-park features present in each. The optimal size range for Community Parks is between 2.0 ha and 5.0 ha. Interestingly, four of the five existing Community Parks are larger than 5 ha.

Two Community Parks contain what we are calling destination features: Class A soccer fields in Optimist Park and the Class A baseball diamond in United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park. Combined with the sizes of these two parks, the presence of destination features suggests that they might warrant future consideration for re-classification as Destination

**Table 4.2 – Existing features and facilities in Community Parks**

Park Name	Area [ha] <sup>(a)</sup>	Active features	Passive features
Crystal Ridge Park	<u>11.70</u>	Primary features: Playgrounds (junior & senior with swings), spray pad, soccer field (full/senior, Class B/C), tennis court, pickleball courts, basketball court	Off-leash dog areas, pavilions, benches, picnic tables
Ferndale Park	4.77	Primary features: Spray pad, soccer fields (full/senior, Class B/C), tennis/ pickleball court, basketball court Secondary features: Playground (senior), soccer fields (junior & intermediate, Class B/C)	Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Lions Sugarbowl Park	<u>5.87</u>	Primary features: Spray pad	Off-leash dog area, natural area, benches, picnic tables
Optimist Park	<u>29.67</u>	Destination features: Soccer fields (full/ senior, Class A) Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings) Secondary features: Soccer fields (intermediate, Class B/C)	Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park	<u>20.50</u>	Destination features: Baseball diamond (Class A) Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings), soccer field (full/senior, Class B/C), baseball diamond (Class B)	Benches, picnic tables

<sup>(a)</sup>The optimal size for Community Parks is 2.0 ha–5.0 ha (see Figure 3.9). Values that fall outside this range (all greater than 5 ha) have been underlined.

Parks. At the same time, this Master Plan recognizes that there are still some unresolved questions about ownership and usage of these parks, which is why such a re-classification is not recommended at this time.

### Neighbourhood Parks

The features and facilities in the Town's existing Neighbourhood Parks are identified in **Table 4.3**, along with the area of each park. Three Neighbourhood Parks are outside the optimal size range of 0.5 ha to 2.0 ha: two (Goderich Street Park and Spears Park) are smaller than 0.5 ha, while Stevensville Memorial Park is greater than 2.0 ha. The latter warrants consideration for re-classification as a Community Park, given that there is already another Neighbourhood Park (Stevensville Mini Park) serving this Urban Area, as well as the nature of the features and facilities that Stevensville Memorial Park currently provides.

As noted in Table 4.3, A.C. Douglas Park #2 does not currently provide any active features (either primary or secondary), though efforts have been made to provide multiple passive features in this park (including a pavilion, picnic tables, and SWM pond). It is recommended that the Town continue monitoring demand through consultation to ensure this Neighbourhood Park is meeting the needs of nearby residents.

It should further be noted that, beyond stones for informal seating, Goderich Street Park does not contain any passive features: it is worth considering the provision of additional features (such as benches or a shade structure) to increase amenity value for the users of this park.



**Table 4.3 – Existing features and facilities in Neighbourhood Parks**

Park Name	Area [ha] <sup>(a)</sup>	Active features	Passive features
A.C. Douglas Park #1	1.58	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings), soccer field (full/senior, Class B/C), tennis/pickleball court, basketball court Secondary features: Baseball diamond (Class C)	Benches, picnic tables
A.C. Douglas Park #2	0.99	(None)	Pavilion, benches, SWM pond
Albert Street Park	0.83	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings), pickleball court, basketball court	Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Beaver Creek Park	0.67	Secondary features: Playground (junior)	Benches
Bill Connelly Field	0.93	Primary features: Tennis court, basketball court Secondary features: Playground (senior), soccer field (intermediate, Class B/C), baseball diamond (Class C)	Benches, picnic tables
Douglas Park	1.76	Secondary features: Soccer field (junior, Class B/C)	Benches
Energy Field	1.25	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings) Secondary features: Baseball diamond (Class C), hard-surfaced (non-racquet) court	Benches, picnic tables
Goderich Street Park	<u>0.23</u>	Secondary features: Playground (senior with swings)	Seating (stones).
High Pointe Park	0.60	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings) Secondary features: Basketball court (small)	Pavilion
Ridgeway Lions Park	1.49	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings), tennis court, basketball court Secondary features: Soccer fields (junior, Class B/C)	Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Spears Park	<u>0.18</u>	Secondary features: Playgrounds (junior), basketball half-court	Pavilion, benches
Stevensville Memorial Park	<u>2.18</u>	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings), spray pad, tennis/pickleball court, basketball court	Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Stevensville Mini (UEL) Park	1.42	Primary features: Playground (junior & senior with swings)	Pavilion, benches, picnic tables

<sup>(a)</sup>The optimal size for Neighbourhood Parks is 0.5 ha–2.0 ha (see Figure 3.9). Values that fall outside this range have been underlined.



## Village Greens

The five existing Village Greens are listed in **Table 4.4** below: as indicated, all five provide at least one passive feature (although this is limited to benches in Mather Avenue Parkette, whose small size might not be able of accommodating additional features). Two of the five Village Greens (Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park and Mather Avenue Parkette) are smaller than the lower end of the optimal size range.

**Table 4.4 – Existing features in Village Greens**

Park Name	Area [ha] <sup>(a)</sup>	Features
Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park	<u>0.10</u>	Secondary active features: Playground (senior) Passive features: Benches, picnic tables
Mather Avenue Parkette	<u>0.05</u>	Passive features: Benches
Queens Circle Park	0.29	Passive features: Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Ridgeway Village Square	0.27	Primary active features: Spray pad Passive features: Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Stevensville Memory Park	0.33	Passive features: Pavilion, benches, picnic tables

<sup>(a)</sup>The optimal size for Village Greens is 0.2 ha–0.5 ha (see Figure 3.9). Values that fall outside this range have been underlined.



## Waterfront Parks & Open Spaces

**Table 4.5** lists the existing active and passive features in the various classes of Waterfront Parks & Open Spaces in the Town (with the exception of “beach”, which is a defining feature of this category and has therefore been omitted from the table as redundant).

**Table 4.5 – Existing features in Waterfront Parks & Open Spaces**

Park Name	Area [ha]	Features
<i>Anchor Waterfront Parks</i>		
Bay Beach Waterfront Park	2.60	Primary active features: Playground (junior & senior with swings) Passive features: Pavilions, benches, picnic tables, shade structure
Bowen Road Park	1.01	Primary active features: Baseball diamond (Class B) Secondary active features: Playground (swings) Passive features: Pavilion, benches, picnic tables
Waverly Beach Park	10.15	Passive features: Benches, picnic tables
<i>Urban Waterfront Parks</i>		
Crystal Beach Waterfront Park <sup>(a)</sup>	2.59	Secondary active features: Playground (junior with swings) Passive features: Pavilion, benches, picnic tables, interpretive signage
<i>Waterfront Parks</i>		
Bernard Avenue Beach Waterfront Park	0.42	
Crescent Beach Waterfront Park	0.26	
Maple Leaf Beach Park	1.17	
Point Abino Waterfront Park	3.31	

<sup>(a)</sup>Categorized as “Waterfront Park” in 2017 Waterfront Strategy.

One item worth noting here is the recommended re-classification of Crystal Beach Waterfront Park from “Waterfront Park” (as recommended in the 2017 Waterfront Strategy) to “Urban Waterfront Park”. According to the Waterfront Strategy, Urban Waterfront Parks are intended to serve as community focal points and to support mixed-use development at higher densities in urban centres. Recent development in the vicinity suggests that Crystal Beach Waterfront Park is playing this type of role, and therefore warrants consideration for re-classification.

The recommended re-classification is further supported by the size of the park and by the nature of the features and amenities that Crystal Beach Waterfront Park provides, particularly in comparison to other Waterfront Parks (none of which contain any active or passive features, as indicated in Table 4.5.

### **Heritage Parks & Open Spaces**

Two of the three existing parks in the category of Heritage Parks & Open Spaces — Shagbark Nature Park (Nature Park) and Battle of Ridgeway Park (Natural Historic Site, Cultural Space) — contain the type of features that define their respective categories (Battle of Ridgeway Park contains a cabin, which is a designated heritage building), while the third park, Snake Hill Parkette, is planned to include interpretive signage in support of its classification as a Cultural Space.

### **Linear Parks & Open Spaces**

The Friendship Trail is the only park in the category of Linear Parks & Open Spaces that is identified in the inventory in Section 3.1.3 above. As a hard-surfaced trail that can support high levels of non-motorized traffic and that provides connections to adjacent municipalities, the Friendship Trail meets the description and fulfills the intended function of a Regional Trail.



It is recommended that the Town develop its network of Community Trails using the “spine” provided by the Friendship Trail, thereby providing enhanced connectivity between individual neighbourhoods and the overall active transportation network.

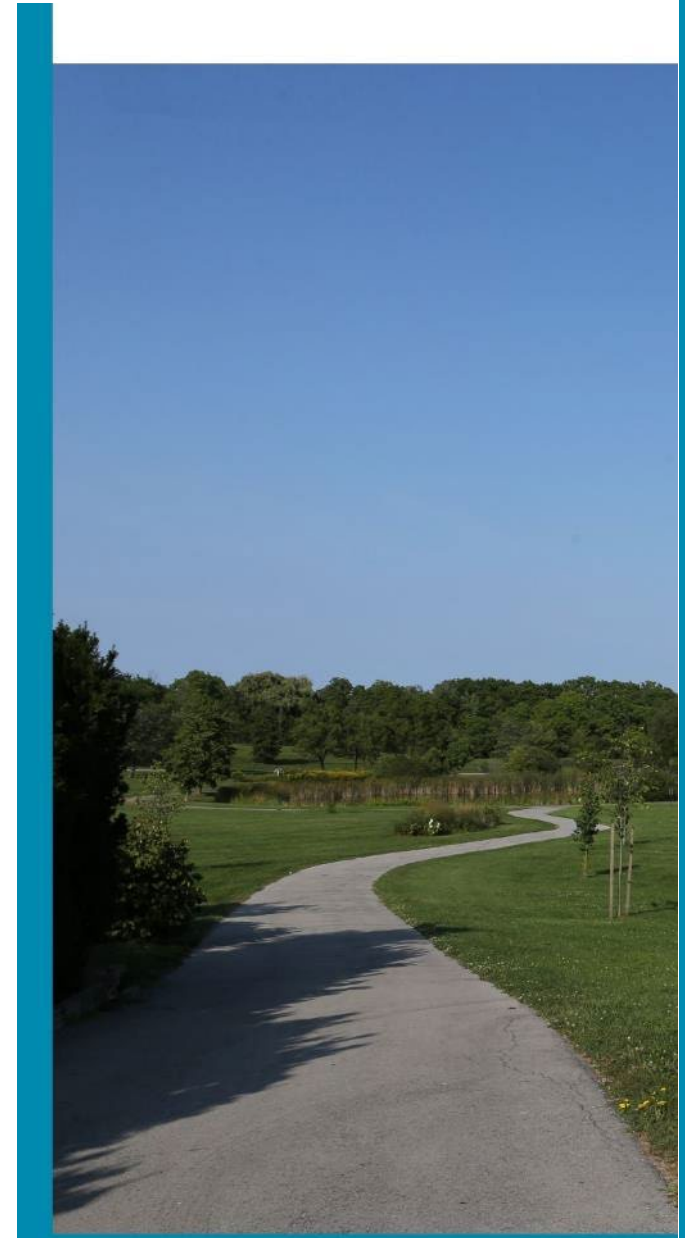
It is further recommended that Community Trails be identified more formally — indeed, the naming process presents an opportunity for public engagement and for consultation with community groups and organizations, including the Native Friendship Centre.

#### 4.1.2 Parkland Provision Levels

Figure 3.1 (on p. 74) illustrates the overall provision of parkland in the Town, based on the total area of all parks and using the location of each park to identify the provision rate for each Urban Area and for the Town’s Rural Area. This section of the Master Plan looks in greater detail at the provision of different park classes.

##### Town-Wide Parks

Figure 3.9 (p. 92) identifies four classes of park considered as having a Town-wide service area: Destination Parks, Anchor Waterfront Parks, Nature Parks, and Cultural Spaces. Combined, existing parks in these classes have a total area of 62.84 ha, which for a total Town population of 33,840 people equates to a provision rate of 1.86 ha per 1,000 residents (see **Table 4.6** on the next page) — above the provision target recommended in Figure 3.9.





**Table 4.6 – Existing provision rate of Town-wide park classes**

Park Class	Park Name	Area [ha]	Provision Rate
Destination Parks	Oakes Park	5.79	
	Town Hall Leisureplex Park	7.17	
	Subtotal	12.96	0.38 ha / 1,000 residents
Anchor Waterfront Parks	Bay Beach Waterfront Park	2.60	
	Bowen Road Park	1.01	
	Waverly Beach Park	10.15	
	Subtotal	13.76	0.41 ha / 1,000 residents
Nature Parks	Shagbark Nature Park	32.47	
	Subtotal	32.47	0.96 ha / 1,000 residents
Cultural Spaces	Battle of Ridgeway Park	3.23	
	Snake Hill Parkette	0.42	
	Subtotal	3.65	0.11 ha / 1,000 residents
<b>Total</b>		<b>62.84</b>	<b>1.86 ha / 1,000 residents</b>

**Table 4.7 – Estimated provision rates of community-level park classes**

Urban Area	Estimated popul'n, 2021	Area of community-level parks [ha]	Provision rate [ha / 1,000 ppl]
Fort Erie	16,440	40.31	2.45
Crystal Beach	3,870	14.29	3.69
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	5,505	0.00	0.00
Stevensville	1,515	0.00	0.00
Douglastown	1,440	0.00	0.00
Rural Area	5,070	20.50	4.04
<b>Total, Town of Fort Erie</b>	<b>33,840</b>	<b>75.10</b>	<b>2.22</b>

## Community-Level Parks

As noted in the discussion associated with Figure 3.9, the Community-level park classes (Community Parks and Urban Waterfront Parks) are intended to serve the population of the Urban Area in which they are located. Therefore, **Table 4.7** shows the estimated current provision rates for the four Urban Areas, as well as for the Rural Area. (Once again, to clarify, the 40.31 ha of Community Parks in the Fort Erie Urban Area does not include the re-classified Oakes Park.)

Existing Community Parks and their associated service areas are shown in **Map 2**. There are currently no Community Parks within the Ridgeway–Thunder Bay, Stevensville, or Douglastown–Black Creek Urban Areas. However, the resulting provision rate of 0.0 ha per 1,000 residents shown in Table 4.7 does not reflect the fact that there is one Community Park, UEL (Ott Road) Park, located directly adjacent to the boundary of the Stevensville Urban Area. (The discussion of service area populations in Section 4.1.3 below does take this into account.)



## Neighbourhood-Level Parks

The neighbourhood-level park classes (Neighbourhood Parks, Village Greens, and Waterfront Parks) are intended to serve a more localized user base (as illustrated in the service areas shown on **Map 3**). **Table 4.8** shows estimated provision rates for individual neighbourhoods (based on the boundaries delineated in Figure 2.1 on p. 27 above). As shown in the table below, both Stevensville and Douglastown–Black Creek are well provided with neighbourhood-level parks (above the target provision rate of 1.0 ha per 1,000 residents recommended in Figure 3.9), whereas the neighbourhoods in the Fort Erie, Crystal Beach, and Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Areas have rates below the target threshold of 1.0 ha per 1,000 residents.

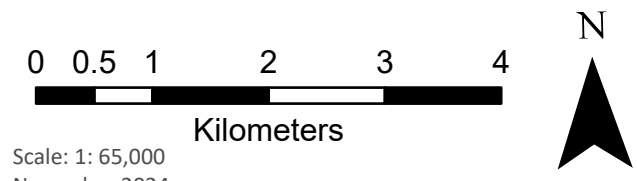
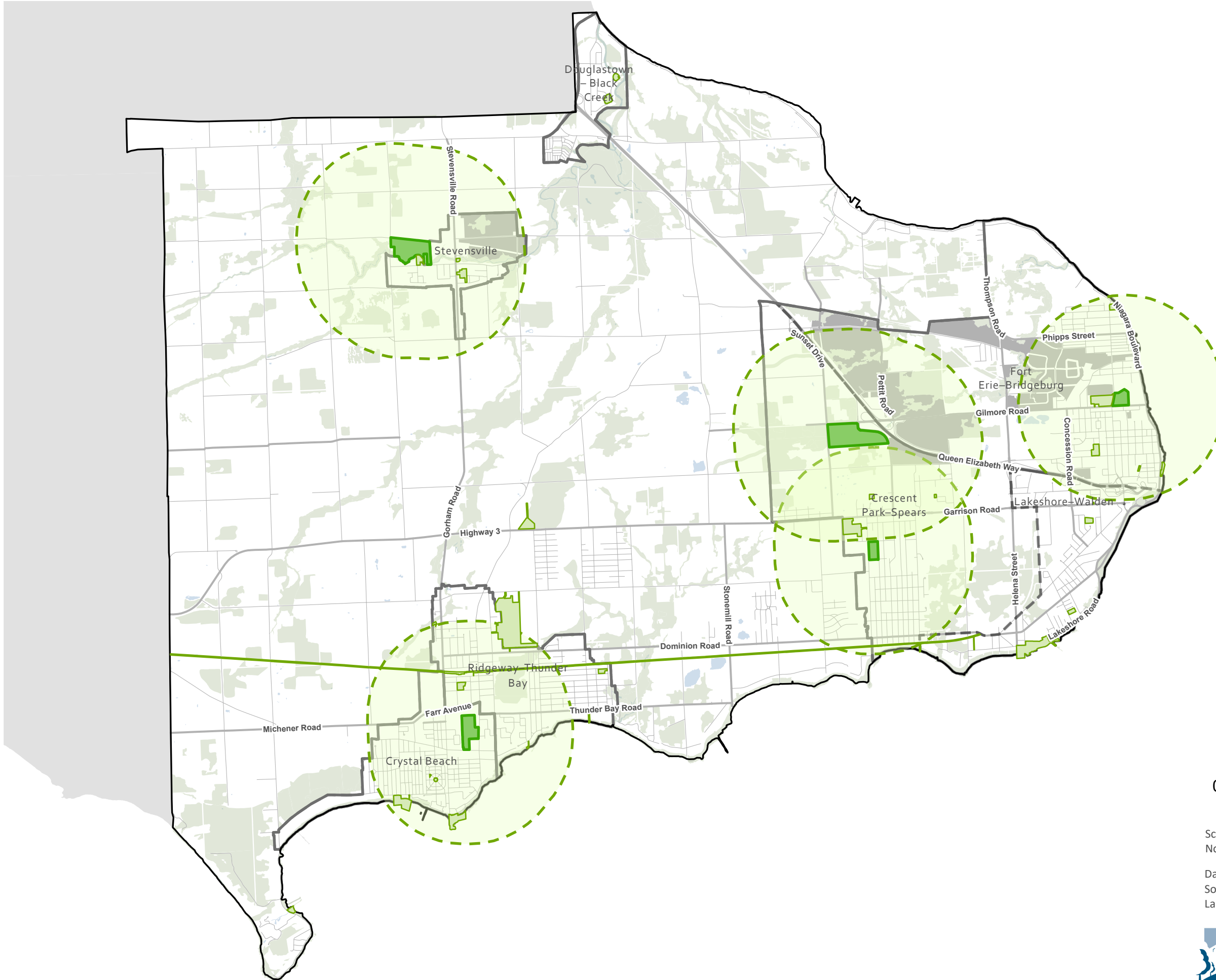
**Table 4.8 – Estimated provision rates of neighbourhood-level park classes**

Neighbourhood	Estimated popul'n, 2021	Neighbourhood Parks	Village Greens	Waterfront Parks	Total area [ha]	Provision rate [ha / 1,000 ppl]
Fort Erie–Bridgeburg	7,430	1.99	0.00	0.00	1.99	0.27
Lakeshore–Walden	4,235	2.08	0.05	0.26	2.39	0.56
Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft	4,775	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.16
Fort Erie	16,440	4.85	0.05	0.26	5.16	0.31
Crystal Beach	3,870	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.39	0.10
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	5,505	3.09	0.27	1.59	4.95	0.90
Stevensville	1,515	3.60	0.33	0.00	3.93	2.59
Douglastown–Black Creek	1,440	2.57	0.00	0.00	2.57	1.78
Rural Area	5,070	0.00	0.00	3.31	3.31	0.65
<b>Total, Town of Fort Erie</b>	<b>33,840</b>	<b>14.11</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>5.16</b>	<b>20.31</b>	<b>0.60</b>

# TOWN OF FORT ERIE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

## MAP 2: COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS

- Community Park
- Other Parks
- Community Park Service Area
- Industrial & Employment Areas
- Woodlots
- Settlement Areas
- Neighbourhoods



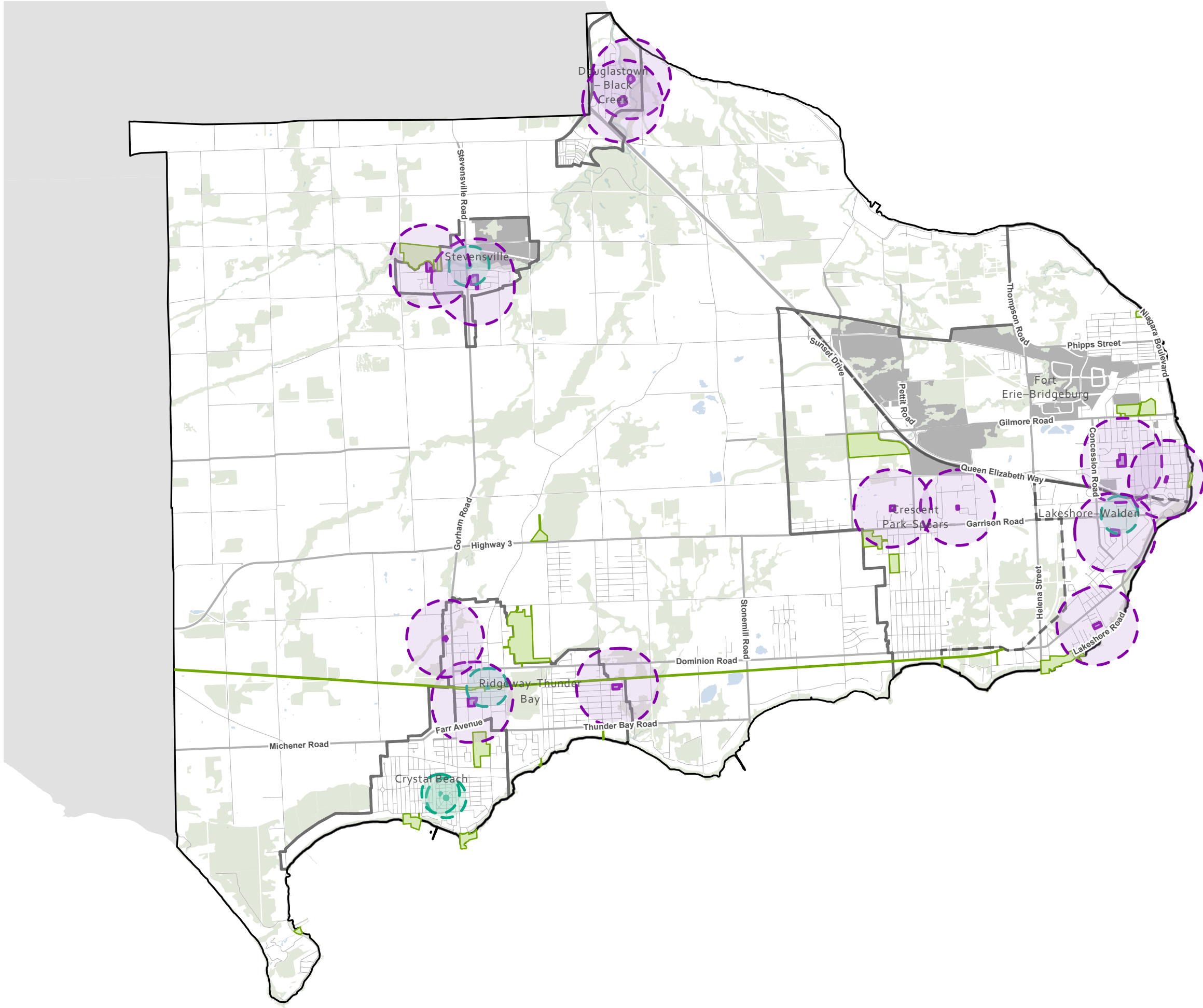
Scale: 1: 65,000  
November 2024

Data Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17  
Source: Town of Fort Erie (2017), GSP Group (2024),  
Land Information Ontario (2021)

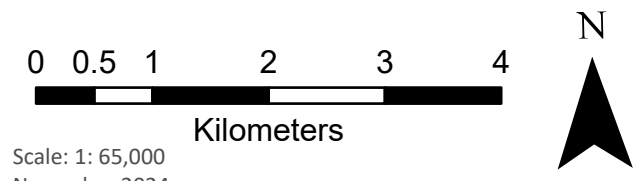


# TOWN OF FORT ERIE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

## MAP 3: NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK & VILLAGE GREEN SERVICE AREAS



- Neighbourhood Park
- Village Green
- Other Parks
- Neighbourhood Service Areas
- Village Green Service Areas
- Industrial & Employment Lands
- Woodlots
- Settlement Boundaries
- Neighbourhoods



Scale: 1: 65,000  
November 2024

Data Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17  
Source: Town of Fort Erie (2017), GSP Group (2024),  
Land Information Ontario (2021)

### 4.1.3 Estimated Service Area Populations & Demand Levels

The provision rates discussed in the previous subsection serve as a useful starting point for understanding the provision of parkland for residents in different areas of the Town, although they do not necessarily reflect the amount of park space that residents actually have access to. For example, residents are more likely to use parks based on proximity and convenience, rather than concerning themselves about whether the park is located within the same delineated boundaries as the neighbourhood they live in.

With this in mind, we have used GIS data for population at the Census Dissemination Block (“DB”) level from Statistics Canada, as well as GIS mapping of existing park boundaries, to arrive at a more accurate estimate of the number of residents who live within the service area of the Town’s Neighbourhood Park, Community Parks, and Village Greens. Here, the term “service area” is used to refer to the area that falls within the park’s recommended service radius, as shown in Figure 3.9.

The “service area population” for each park has been estimated by applying a buffer to the park boundaries (1,600m for Community Parks, 600m for Neighbourhood Parks, and 300m for Village Greens) and estimating the number of people living within that buffer using DB population data. For DBs that lie only partially within the buffer area, the number of people has been estimated using parcel fabric as a proxy for the distribution of population within a single DB.



**Table 4.9 – Estimated service area population and demand rates for community-level parks**

Park Name	Park area [ha]	Total service area popul'n	Service area overlap	Effective service area popul'n	Expected demand rate [ppl/ha]
<i>Community Parks</i>					
Crystal Ridge Park	11.70	7,310	None	7,310	653.1
Ferndale Park	4.77	4,905	With Optimist Park (approx. 1,515 ppl)	4,150	870.0
Lions Sugarbowl Park	5.87	7,180	None	7,180	1,223.2
Optimist Park	29.67	1,640	With Ferndale Park (approx. 1,515 ppl)	885	29.8
UEL (Ott Road) Park	20.50	1,640	None	1,640	80.1
<i>Urban Waterfront Parks</i>					
Crystal Beach Waterfront Park	2.59	3,830	None	3,830	1,478.8

Note: All population values have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

Where park buffers/service areas overlap, the estimated number of people living within the overlap area has been divided evenly between parks. Once the service area population has been adjusted to account for any overlap, the resulting value is referred to in the present discussion as the “effective service area population.” (It should be noted that overlap has only been considered where the parks are in the same class). The “expected demand rate” shown in the right-most columns of **Table 4.9** and **Table 4.10** has been calculated using the effective service area population and the park area. Expected demand rates are intended as proxy indicators for park usage, which should be confirmed through monitoring of maintenance and upkeep requirements.

**Table 4.10 – Estimated service area population and demand rates for neighbourhood-level parks**

Park Name	Park area [ha]	Effective service area popul'n	Expected demand rate [ppl/ha]	Park Name	Park area [ha]	Effective service area popul'n	Expected demand rate [ppl/ha]
<i>Neighbourhood Parks</i>				<i>Village Greens</i>			
A.C. Douglas Park #1	1.58	325	205.7	Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park	0.10	430	4,300.0
A.C. Douglas Park #2	0.99	485	489.9	Mather Avenue Parkette	0.05	365	7,300.0
Albert Street Park	0.83	985	1,186.7	Queens Circle Park	0.29	410	1,413.8
Beaver Creek Park	0.67	710	1,059.7	Ridgeway Village Square	0.27	620	2,296.3
Bill Connelly Field	0.93	965	1,037.6	Stevensville Memory Park	0.33	315	954.5
Douglas Park	1.76	2,145	1,218.8				
Energy Field	1.25	1,875	1,500.0				
Goderich Street Park	0.23	1,195	5,195.7				
High Pointe Park	0.60	660	1,100.0				
Ridgeway Lions Park	1.49	1,375	922.8				
Spears Park	0.18	550	3,055.6				
Stevensville Memorial Park	2.18	725	332.6				
Stevensville Mini (UEL) Park	1.42	660	464.8				
				<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Park area [ha]</b>	<b>Effective service area popul'n</b>	<b>Expected demand rate [ppl/ha]</b>
				<i>Waterfront Parks</i>			
				Bernard Avenue Beach	0.42	805	1,916.7
				Crescent Beach	0.26	720	2,769.2
				Maple Leaf Beach	1.17	760	649.6
				Point Abino Waterfront Park	3.31	80	24.2

Note: All population values have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.



Overall, it is estimated that about 74% of the Town's total urban population lives within the service area (*i.e.*, within 1,600 m) of at least one Community Park, while about 44% of the urban population lives within the service area (600 m) of at least one Neighbourhood Park.

The findings presented in this section suggest that the Town of Fort Erie is well provisioned with larger parks and outdoor spaces that serve the entire population. Existing Community Parks are spacious and accommodate a number of both active and passive features, and appear to be reasonably well distributed with respect to the distribution of the Town's population. The greatest area of need appears to be in the provision of small parks, particularly Neighbourhood Parks, as there are some areas that do not appear to have convenient access to the smaller classes of park.

The purpose of this analysis has been to identify the areas of the Town in which residents are well provided by different classes of existing parks, in order to identify existing gaps in the parks and open space system. The findings presented here have informed the recommendations regarding the locations of new parks in Section 4.2 below.



## 4.2 Existing & Projected Needs

Using the analysis from the previous section, **Table 4.11** (p. 126) presents an overview of the existing need for additional neighbourhood-level and community-level parkland, based on the target provision levels from Figure 3.9. The immediate need for neighbourhood-level parks is generally limited to the Fort Erie and Crystal Beach Urban Areas, as both Stevensville and Douglastown–Black Creek are well provided with Neighbourhood Parks to serve current residents. (Ridgeway–Thunder Bay is slightly underserved at the neighbourhood level.)

The Douglastown–Black Creek Urban Area does not fall within the 1,600-metre service radius of any existing Community Park in the Town (as indicated by the value of 0.00 under “Existing area” in Table 4.11). This would seem to imply a need for another Community Park to serve Douglastown–Black Creek, although an alternative would be to enhance connections with Stevensville to take advantage of existing Community Park area there. Table 4.11 further indicates a need for community-level park space in Ridgeway–Thunder Bay, and, to a lesser extent, in the Fort Erie Urban Area.

### 4.2.1 Parkland Needs

Between now and 2051, it is expected that population growth in the Town’s five Urban Areas, combined with existing gaps in the current parks and open space system, will result in a need for an additional 27.97 ha of neighbourhood-level parkland and an additional 46.76 ha of community-level parkland to service the current and future urban population.



**Table 4.11 – Estimated existing need for neighbourhood- and community-level parks**

Urban Area	Neighbourhood-level parks			Community-level parks		
	Existing area	Total required <sup>(a)</sup>	Area needed	Existing area	Total required <sup>(b)</sup>	Area needed
Fort Erie	5.16	16.44	11.28	40.31	41.10	0.79
Crystal Beach	0.39	3.87	3.48	14.29	9.68	--
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	4.95	5.51	0.56	0.00	13.76	13.76
Stevensville	3.93	1.52	--	20.50	3.79	--
Douglastown–Black Creek	2.57	1.44	--	0.00	3.60	3.60
<b>Total, Urban Areas</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>15.32</b>	<b>75.10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>18.15</b>

Note: All area measurements are given in hectares.

<sup>(a)</sup>Total area of neighbourhood-level parks required to reach target provision rate of 1.0 ha per 1,000 population.

<sup>(b)</sup>Total area of community-level parks required to reach target provision rate of 2.50 ha per 1,000 population.

**Table 4.12** (p. 127) shows how the population is projected to grow in the Town’s five Urban Areas and the rural area between 2021 and 2051. The total projected population for 2021–2041 has been taken from the 2023 Development Charges Background Study prepared for the Town of Fort Erie by Hemson Consulting (November 2023), while the projections for 2046 and 2051 are from the Niagara Official Plan Consolidated Policy Report (May 2021), prepared as part of Niagara Region’s recent Official Plan update. (It should be noted that the population figures in the DCBS have not been adjusted for net Census undercoverage, which is why they differ from population numbers presented elsewhere in this Master Plan.)

**Table 4.12 – Projected population by Urban Area, 2021–2051**

Urban Area / Neighbourhood	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	2046	2051
Fort Erie	15,985	17,255	18,601	20,028	21,541	24,437	26,175
Fort Erie–Bridgeburg	7,230	7,658	8,112	8,593	9,103	10,080	10,666
Lakeshore–Walden	4,115	4,541	4,994	5,473	5,981	6,953	7,537
Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft	4,640	5,055	5,495	5,962	6,457	7,403	7,972
Crystal Beach	3,765	4,005	4,260	4,531	4,817	5,365	5,695
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	5,355	5,513	5,680	5,858	6,046	6,406	6,622
Stevensville	1,470	1,501	1,534	1,568	1,605	1,676	1,718
Douglastown–Black Creek	1,400	1,490	1,585	1,686	1,793	1,997	2,120
Rural Area	4,925	5,049	5,177	5,308	5,442	5,579	5,720
Total, Urban Areas	27,975	29,764	31,660	33,670	35,802	39,881	42,330
<b>Total, Town of Fort Erie</b>	<b>32,900</b>	<b>34,813</b>	<b>36,837</b>	<b>38,978</b>	<b>41,244</b>	<b>45,460</b>	<b>48,050</b>

Note: Population numbers in this table have not been adjusted for net Census undercoverage.

Between 2006 and 2021, the population of the Town’s rural area grew at an average rate between 0.5% and 0.6% per year. To estimate the distribution of projected population growth, we have assumed that the rural population will continue to grow at an average annual rate of 0.5% (resulting in the population numbers shown in the corresponding row of Table 4.12). The urban population (*i.e.*, the projected population remaining after the rural population has been subtracted from the projected total) has been distributed among the five Urban Areas based on information about the distribution of planned and potential future dwelling units, provided by the Town (see [Figure 4.1](#) on p. 128).

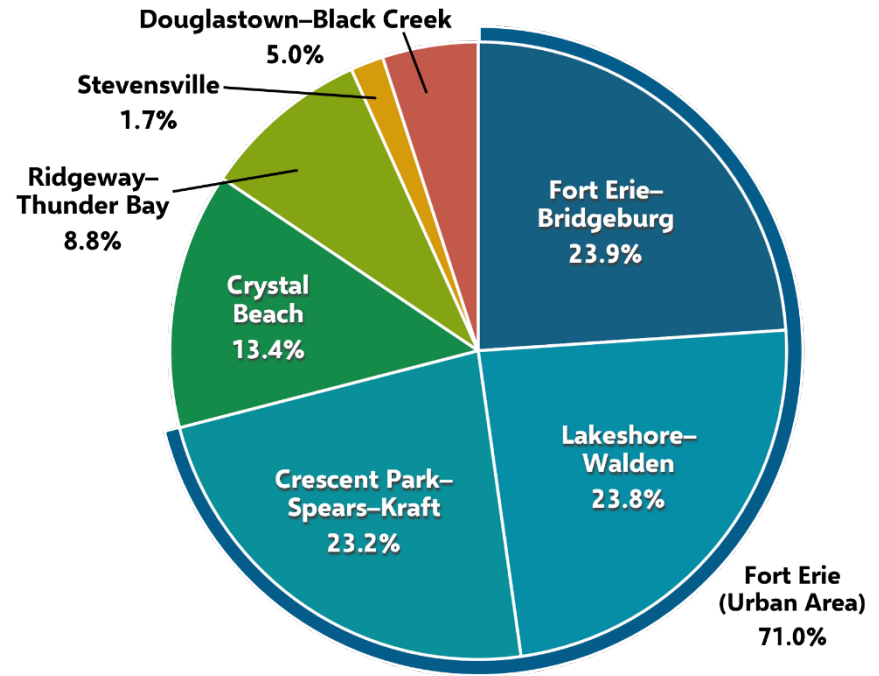


As summarized in Table 4.6 above (see p. 118), existing parks in Town-wide park classes have a combined total area of 62.84 ha, which, at the target provision rate of 1.5 ha per 1,000 people, would be sufficient area to provide Town-wide parks for a population of 41,893 people. Based on the projected population growth in Table 4.12, this means that the Town should be sufficiently provided with Town-wide parks until 2041, after which an **additional 9.23 ha** will be needed to serve the forecast 2051 population of 48,050 people (**5.35 ha by 2046** and another **3.89 ha from 2046–2051**).

**Table 4.13** (p. 129) shows the estimated amount of additional land that will be required for community-level parks (Community Parks and Urban Waterfront Parks), based on the projected distribution of population among the five Urban Areas shown in Table 4.12 and a recommended target provision rate of 2.50 ha per 1,000 people. The additional area needed between now and 2026 includes the amount required to address existing need for community-level park space. (The population numbers used to estimate existing need in Table 4.11 have been adjusted for net Census undercoverage, which accounts for the slight differences between the two tables.)

The Crystal Beach and Stevensville Urban Areas are already well-served by community-level park space, as

**Figure 4.1 – Distribution of planned & potential future dwelling units**



**Table 4.13 – Projected need for additional community-level park area to 2051**

Urban Area	Existing area	Add'l area needed to 2026 <sup>(a)</sup>	Add'l area needed, 2026–2031	Add'l area needed, 2031–2036	Add'l area needed, 2036–2041	Add'l area needed, 2041–2046	Add'l area needed, 2046–2051	Total add'l area, 2026–2051
Fort Erie	40.31	0.00	3.37	3.57	3.78	7.24	4.35	24.91
Crystal Beach	14.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	0.00	13.78	0.42	0.44	0.47	0.90	0.54	16.56
Stevensville	20.50 <sup>(b)</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Douglastown–Black Creek	0.00	3.72	0.24	0.25	0.27	0.51	0.31	5.30
<b>Total, Urban Areas</b>	<b>75.10</b>	<b>20.33</b>	<b>4.02</b>	<b>4.26</b>	<b>4.52</b>	<b>8.65</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>46.76</b>

Note: All area measurements given in hectares. Values are based on a target provision rate of 2.50 ha per 1,000 people.

<sup>(a)</sup>Includes area needed to address existing need. <sup>(b)</sup>For the purposes of this table, UEL (Ott Road) Park is considered to be located in the Stevensville Urban Area.

reflected in the fact that no additional land is required in these two Urban Areas to accommodate projected population growth to 2051. The apparent lack of community-level parkland in Ridgeway–Thunder Bay is mitigated somewhat by the proximity of community-level parks in Crystal Beach.

Finally, **Table 4.14** (p. 130) shows the amount of land needed for neighbourhood-level parks (Neighbourhood Parks, Village Greens, and Waterfront Parks), broken down by neighbourhood. (The existing park area in the second column of the table does not include the 3.31 ha occupied by Point Abino Waterfront Park, which is located in the rural area.) Like Table 4.13 above, the area needed between now and 2026 includes what is required to address existing need.

As shown in Table 4.14, both Stevensville and Douglastown–Black Creek are well-provided with neighbourhood-level park space. This means that future development proposed in these two Urban Areas should, in most cases, be required to provide a payment in lieu of the dedication of parkland.

**Table 4.14 – Projected need for additional neighbourhood-level park area to 2051**

Neighbourhood	Existing area	Add'l area needed to 2026 <sup>(a)</sup>	Add'l area needed, 2026–2031	Add'l area needed, 2031–2036	Add'l area needed, 2036–2041	Add'l area needed, 2041–2046	Add'l area needed, 2046–2051	Total add'l area, 2026–2051
Fort Erie–Bridgeburg	1.99	5.67	0.45	0.48	0.51	0.98	0.59	8.68
Lakeshore–Walden	2.39	2.15	0.45	0.48	0.51	0.97	0.58	5.15
Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft	0.78	4.28	0.44	0.47	0.49	0.95	0.57	7.19
Crystal Beach	0.39	3.62	0.25	0.27	0.29	0.55	0.33	5.30
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	4.95	0.56	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.36	0.22	1.67
Stevensville	3.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Douglastown–Black Creek	2.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total, Urban Areas</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>16.27</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>27.99</b>

Note: All area measurements given in ha. Values are based on a target provision rate of 1.0 ha per 1,000 people.

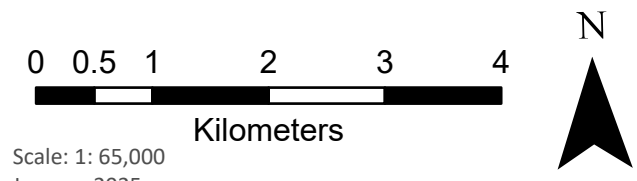
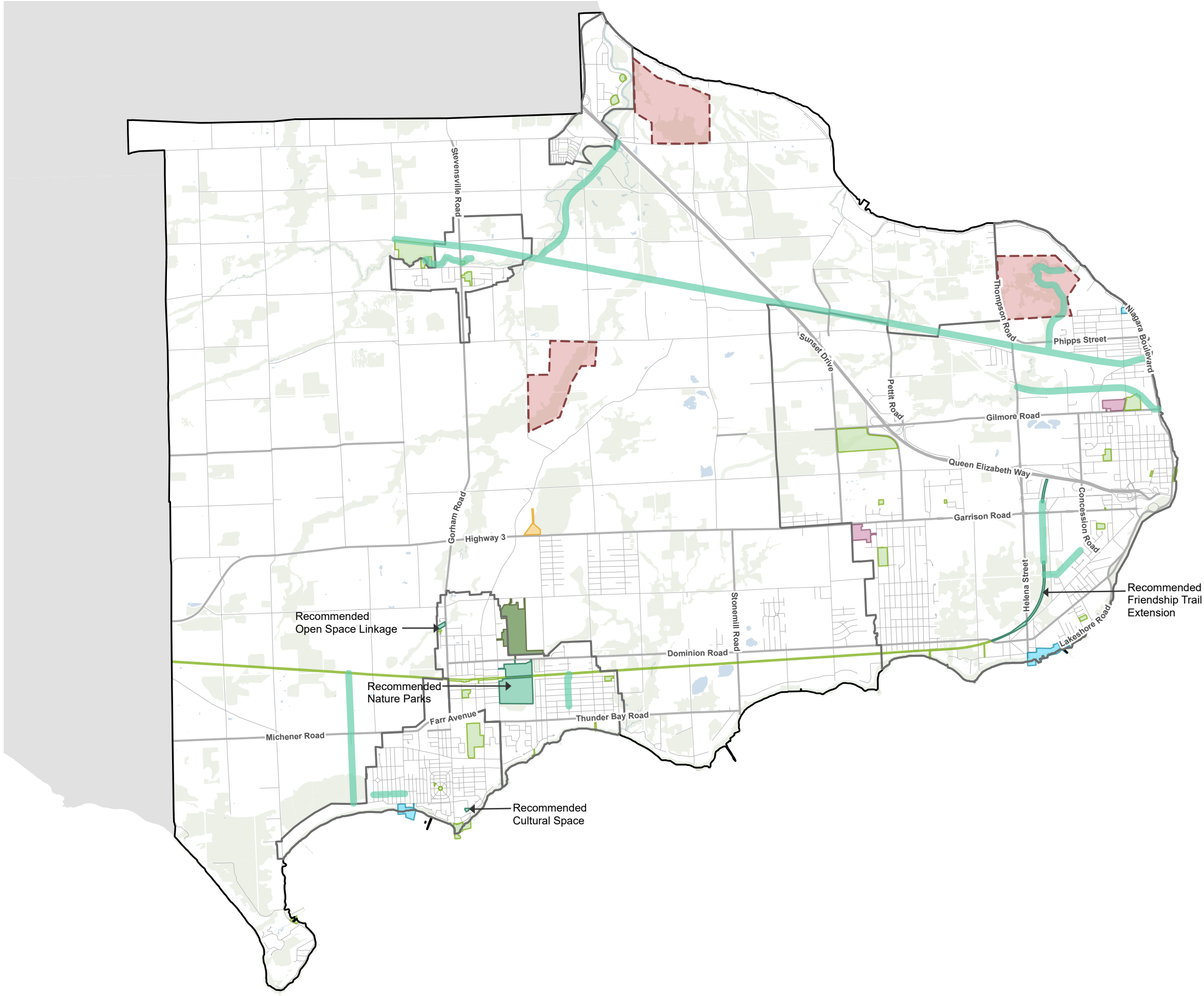
<sup>(a)</sup>Includes area needed to address existing need.

An analysis of opportunities and existing gaps in the Town’s parks and open space system has produced a number of potential locations that should be explored for the development of new Town-wide parks and Linear Parks, as well as potential Community Parks and Neighbourhood Parks. Those locations are identified or described in Recommendation 15 (for Town-wide and Linear Parks: see **Map 4**), Recommendation 16 (for possible Community Park locations: see **Map 5**), and Recommendation 18 (for possible Neighbourhood Park locations: see **Map 6**). It should be emphasized, however, that **these recommendations confer absolutely no obligation to the Town to acquire or develop parkland in the areas identified**. The operative phrase in each recommendation is “Explore opportunities”: if the results of that exploration indicate that no opportunities exist, or that, upon further consideration, the existence of additional factors makes the creation of a new park in the area undesirable or infeasible, then the recommendation in question should be considered fulfilled. Where this is the case, alternatives, such as the provision of other park types (e.g., Nature Parks) or enhanced active transportation connections to areas where opportunities do exist, should be considered.

# TOWN OF FORT ERIE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

## MAP 4: RECOMMENDED TOWN-WIDE & LINEAR PARKS

- Recommended Linear Parks
- Recommended Town-wide Parks
- Potential Nature Parks
- Existing Parks and Open Space**
- Anchor Waterfront Park
- Cultural Space
- Destination Park
- Nature Park
- Other Existing Parks and Open Space
- FortErie\_BoundaryDissolve
- Settlement Boundaries



Scale: 1: 65,000  
January 2025

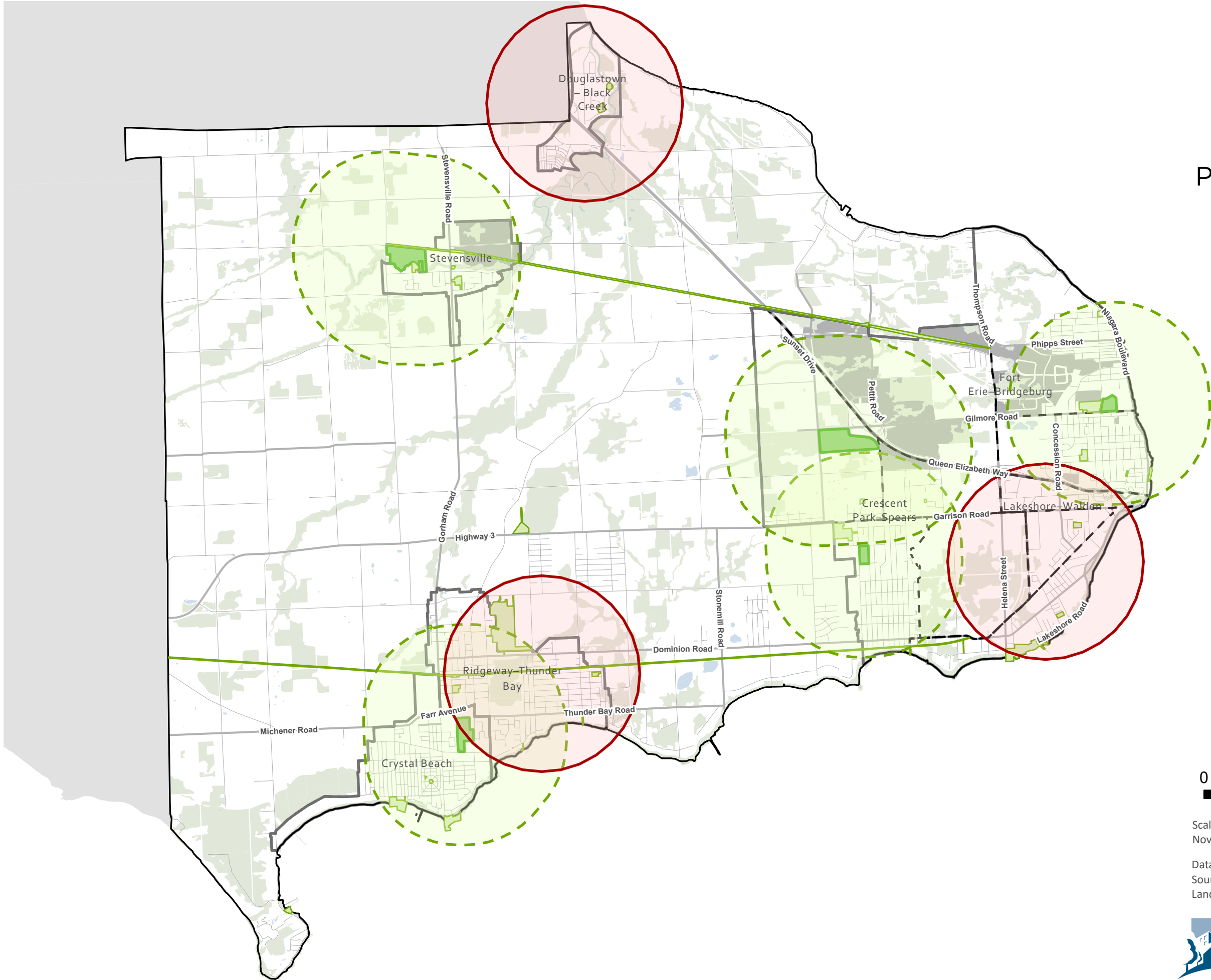
Data Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17  
Source: Town of Fort Erie (2017), GSP Group (2024),  
Land Information Ontario (2021)



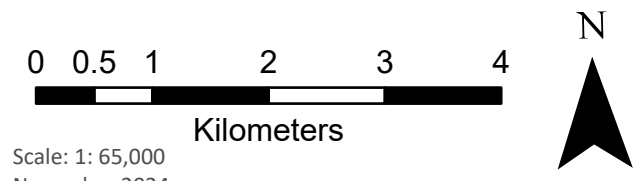


# TOWN OF FORT ERIE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

## MAP 5: POTENTIAL COMMUNITY PARK LOCATIONS



- Potential Community Park Service Area
- Existing Community Park Service Areas
- Community Park
- Other Parks
- Industrial & Employment Lands
- Woodlots
- Settlement Boundary
- Neighbourhoods

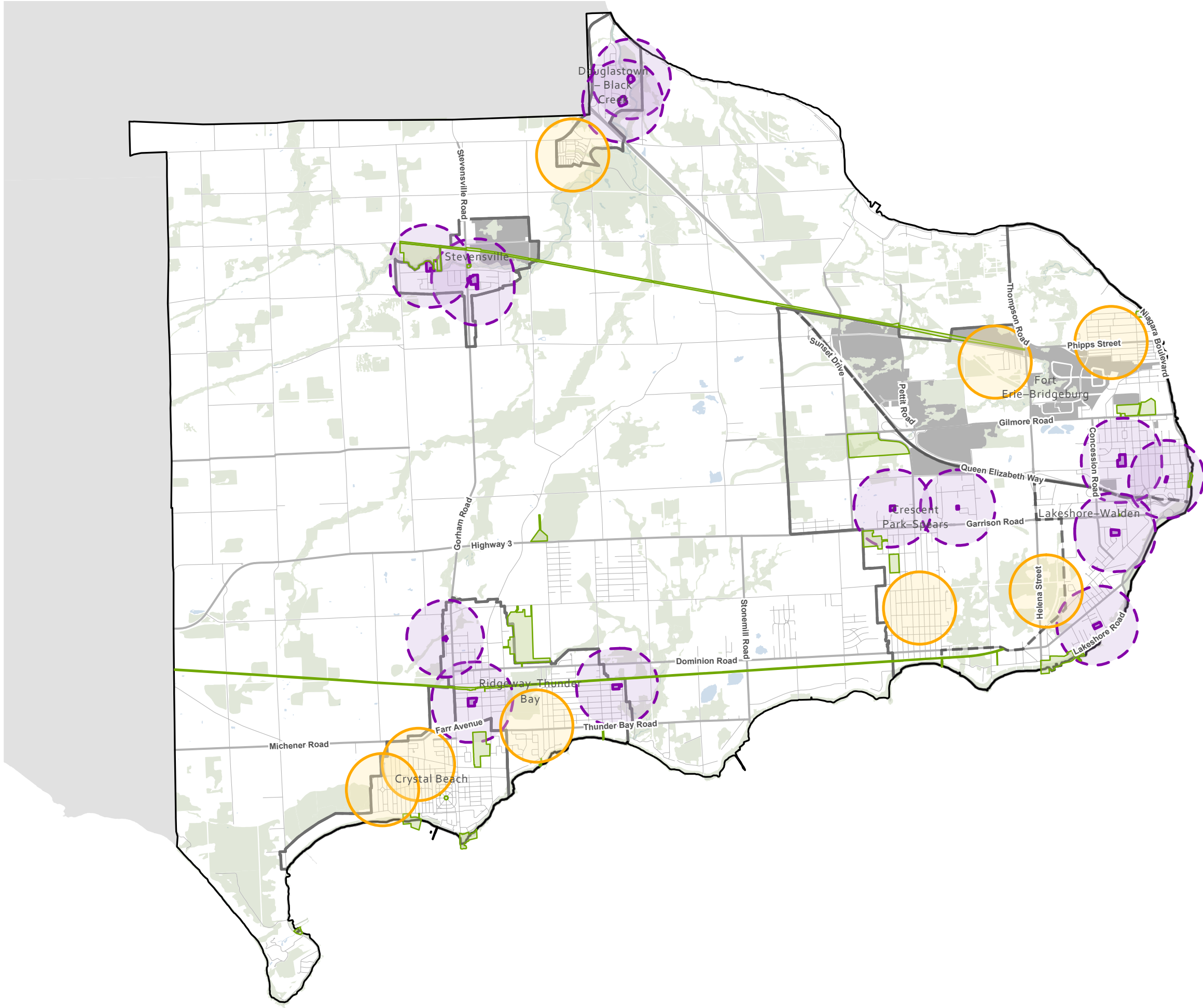


Scale: 1: 65,000  
November 2024

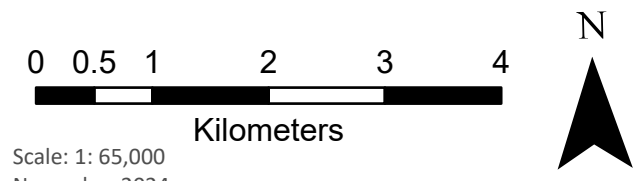
Data Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17  
Source: Town of Fort Erie (2017), GSP Group (2024),  
Land Information Ontario (2021)

# TOWN OF FORT ERIE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

## MAP 6: POTENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK LOCATIONS



-  Potential Neighbourhood Park Service Area
-  Neighbourhood Park
-  Other Parks
-  Neighbourhood Park Buffers
-  Industrial & Employment Lands
-  Woodlots
-  Settlement Area
-  Neighbourhoods



Scale: 1: 65,000  
November 2024

Data Coordinate System: UTM Zone 17  
Source: Town of Fort Erie (2017), GSP Group (2024),  
Land Information Ontario (2021)

## Recommendations

### 15

#### Recommended Future Nature Parks, Cultural Spaces & Linear Parks

Explore opportunities in the following areas for potential locations for future Nature Parks, Cultural Spaces, and Linear Parks:

- (a) Town-owned lands on the south side of Dominion Road as a future Nature Park, thus providing a connection from the Friendship Trail to Shagbark Nature Park (directly to the north);
- (b) Town-owned lands directly north of Beaver Creek Park, as an Open Space Linkage;
- (c) Town-owned lands on the site of the former Crystal Beach Stadium, as a future Cultural Space;
- (d) Town-owned lands in the Lakeshore–Walden neighbourhood (shown on Map 4), as an extension of the Friendship Trail; and
- (e) additional locations shown on Map 4 as potential locations for future Nature Parks and Linear Parks, including extensions of, or connections to, the Friendship Trail.

### 16

#### Potential Locations for Community Parks

Explore opportunities in the following areas for potential locations for future Community Parks, in order of descending preference:

- (a) the south end of the area between Albert Street and Helena Street in the Lakeshore–Walden neighbourhood, north of Albany Street;
- (b) the area surrounding the intersection of Dominion Road and Bernard Avenue, in the Thunder Bay neighbourhood, or, if that area is not feasible, the area north of Thunder Bay Road and west of Maple Leaf Avenue North; and
- (c) the south end of Douglastown–Black Creek, preferably southwest of the QEW and south of Netherby Road / Townline Road (although see Recommendation 17 below).

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## 17

### Douglastown–Black Creek Community Park Access

As an alternative to the acquisition of land in the area identified in Recommendation 16(c), explore opportunities to enhance active transportation connections between Douglastown–Black Creek and Stevensville, to allow residents of the former to take advantage of community-level parkland available in the latter.

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## 18

### Potential Locations for Neighbourhood Parks

Explore opportunities in the following areas for potential locations for future Neighbourhood Parks, in order of descending preference:

- (a) the north end of the Fort Erie–Bridgeburg neighbourhood, in the vicinity of the intersection of Phipps Street and Robinson Street;
  - (b) the Crescent Park neighbourhood, south of Hollywood Street;
  - (c) the area described in Recommendation 16 (a), if that area is not feasible for the location of a Community Park;
  - (d) one of the areas described in Recommendation 16 (b), if neither of those areas is feasible as the location for a Community Park;
  - (e) the area described in Recommendation 16 (c), if that area is not feasible for the location of a Community Park;  
and
  - (f) the area around Victoria Road and Devon Place in the Crystal Beach neighbourhood.
- 

#### 4.2.2 Facility Needs

This subsection focuses on sports fields and other outdoor facilities that the Town will likely need to add to its existing inventory in order to accommodate increased demand due to anticipated population growth, according to the recommended provision standards and targets presented in earlier sections of this Master Plan (see in particular Table 3.6 on p. 99).



Some of the provision standards and targets refer to specific age groups: in the absence of detailed demographic forecasts, this Master Plan assumes that those age groups' share of the total population (expressed as a percentage) will remain relatively stable over time. Note that any addition of new assets will include associated operating implications, which include (but are not limited to) special tools, person-hour maintenance requirements, and life-cycle replacement costs.

**Soccer & Multi-Use Turf Fields** — To continue providing facilities at the provision standards recommended in Table 3.6, the Town will need to add:

- 0 Class A fields by 2031 and 1 Class A field by 2051;
- 1 Class B/C junior/intermediate field by 2031 and an additional 2 Class B/C junior/intermediate fields by 2051 (for a total of 3 additional fields); and
- 2 Class B/C senior fields by 2031 and one additional Class B/C senior field by 2051 (for a total of 3 additional fields).

Soccer fields and multi-use turf fields generally have an **expected service life of 20–30 years**.

**Baseball Diamonds** — To continue providing facilities at the provision standards recommended in Table 3.6, the Town will need to add:

- 0 Class A diamonds by 2031 and 1 or 2 Class A diamonds by 2051;
- 1 Class B diamond by 2031 and 1 additional Class B diamond by 2051 (for a total of 2 additional Class B diamonds); and
- 0 or 1 Class C diamonds by 2031 and 0 or 1 additional Class C diamonds by 2051 (for a total of 1 or 2 additional Class C diamonds).

Baseball diamonds generally have an **expected service life of 20–30 years**.



**Tennis & Pickleball Courts** — To continue providing facilities at the provision standards recommended in Table 3.6, the Town will need to add:

- 0 Class A (lit) tennis courts by 2031 and 2 Class A tennis courts by 2051;
  - 3 non-Class A tennis court equivalents by 2031 and an additional 2 non-Class A tennis court equivalents by 2051 (for a total of 5 additional non-Class A tennis court equivalents); and
- 1 pickleball court equivalent by 2031 and 2 additional pickleball court equivalents by 2051 (for a total of 3 additional pickleball court equivalents).

Tennis and pickleball courts generally have an **expected service life of 20 years**.

**Basketball & Multi-Use Hard-Surfaced Courts** — To continue providing facilities at the provision standards recommended in Table 3.6, the Town will need to add 2 additional basketball nets (approx. 440 m<sup>2</sup> of court space) by 2031 and another 5 basketball nets (approx. 1,090 additional m<sup>2</sup> of court space) by 2051 (for a total of 7 additional nets or approx. 1530 m<sup>2</sup> of court space). These facilities generally have an **expected service life of 20 years**.

**Playgrounds and Spray Pads** — To continue providing facilities at the provision standards recommended in Table 3.6, the Town will need to add:

- 1 junior playground by 2031 and 4 additional junior playgrounds by 2051 (for a total of 5 additional junior playgrounds);
- 2 senior playgrounds by 2031 and 4 additional senior playgrounds by 2051 (for a total of 6 additional senior playgrounds); and
- 0 spray pads by 2031 and 1 spray pad by 2051.

Playgrounds and spray pads both generally have an **expected service life of 15 years**.



## Recommendations

### 19

#### Facility Needs to 2031

Plan to add the following facilities in Town parks by 2031:

- (a) 1 Class B/C junior/intermediate soccer field and 2 Class B/C senior fields;
- (b) 1 Class B baseball diamond and possibly 1 Class C baseball diamond;
- (c) 3 non-Class A tennis court equivalents and 1 pickleball court equivalent;
- (d) 2 basketball nets (approximately 440 m<sup>2</sup> of court space); and
- (e) 1 junior playground and 2 senior playgrounds.

### 20

#### Facility Needs to 2051

Plan to add the following facilities in Town parks between 2031 and 2051:

- (a) 2 Class B/C junior/intermediate soccer fields and 1 Class B/C senior field;
- (b) 1 Class B baseball diamond and at least 1 Class C baseball diamond;
- (c) 2 Class A (lit) tennis courts, 2 non-Class A tennis court equivalents, and 2 pickleball court equivalents;
- (d) 5 basketball nets (approximately 1,090 m<sup>2</sup> of court space); and
- (e) 4 junior playgrounds, 4 senior playgrounds, and 1 spray pad.

## 4.3 Recommendations for Existing Parks & Facilities

The recommendations presented below focus on the needs of individual parks, taking into consideration the assessment of in-park features and facilities from Sections 4.1 and 4.2 above. These park-by-park recommendations are not exhaustive — that is to say, they do not include specific recommendations for every park in the Town — but are intended to identify more

immediate needs at the individual park level. Again, the addition of new assets comes with associated operating implications, which include (but are not limited to) special tools, person-hour maintenance requirements, and life-cycle replacement costs.

## Recommendations

**21**

### A.C. Douglas Park #1

- (a) Consider renaming from “A.C. Douglas Park #1” to “A.C. Douglas Park (South)”, with a corresponding renaming of A.C. Douglas Park #2 as “A.C. Douglas Park (North)”, to establish a more intuitive naming system for these two parks, making it easier for residents, visitors, Town staff, and emergency services (among others) to know which park is being referred to.
- (b) Undertake the replacement of the existing playground, as provided for in the Town’s 2025 capital budget.

**22**

### A.C. Douglas Park #2

Explore the possibility of additional primary or secondary passive recreation features to A.C. Douglas Park #2 to support its role as a Neighbourhood Park.

**23**

### Beaver Creek Park

Monitor utilization of Beaver Creek Park and consult nearby residents to determine whether the addition of another active feature or of additional passive features to this Neighbourhood Park is warranted (or whether the expansion of this park onto adjacent lands owned by the Town might be worth considering in the future).



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**24****Bowen Road Park**

Undertake the process of preparing a formal park plan for Bowen Road Park with the goal of designing this space to be more clearly oriented towards the waterfront, as befits its classification as an Anchor Waterfront Park (with an active recreation focus, as recommended in the Waterfront Strategy).

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**25****Crystal Beach Waterfront Park**

- (a) Reclassify Crystal Beach Waterfront Park as an “Urban Waterfront Park” to recognize existing in-park features and its role in the Crystal Beach–Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Area.
  - (b) Undertake the replacement of the existing playground, as provided for in the Town’s 2025 capital budget.
- 

**26****Energy Field**

Undertake the replacement of the existing hard-surfaced ball hockey court, as provided for in the Town’s 2025 capital budget.

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**27****Erie Beach (Waverly Beach) Waterfront Park**

- (a) Undertake the preparation of a formal park plan for Erie Beach (Waverly Beach) Waterfront Park, including the recently acquired waterfront lands at the east end of the park, with the goal of its intended classification and role as an Anchor Waterfront Park with a cultural heritage focus (as recommended in the Waterfront Strategy).
  - (b) As part of the cultural heritage focus for this park, consider the installation of additional interpretative signage, plaques, or similar features that draw attention to former features of the Erie Beach Amusement Park.
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**28**

**Goderich Street Park**

Explore whether any opportunity exists for the expansion of Goderich Street Park, possibly in cooperation with neighbouring land uses (such as the adjacent seniors' centre).

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**29**

**Oakes Park**

- (a) Reclassify Oakes Park as a “Destination Park,” in consideration of the park’s size, location, and existing in-park facilities.
  - (b) Undertake the replacements and improvements to existing facilities, as provided for in the Town’s capital budget.
- 

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**30**

**Town Hall Leisureplex Park**

Consider the addition of another high-profile active or passive feature to support this park’s classification and role as a Destination Park, possibly through the addition of features or facilities that would provide an opportunity for winter recreation (such as a skating pad), and through the addition of features that reflect the cultural heritage of the community.

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## 4.4 Recommendations for Supplementary Features

One area of interest that has emerged from consultation with community members and with Town staff is the use of stormwater management (“SWM”) ponds as supplementary passive features in parks. SWM ponds are a commonly used form of development infrastructure that help match post-development drainage characteristics to predevelopment conditions. SWM ponds are usually more aesthetically pleasing when they are designed to appear as natural features that blend into the landscape, which means there is an opportunity to leverage these infrastructural features as supplementary elements in the parks and open space system.

The term “supplementary” is used here to emphasize the fact that SWM ponds are **not** recreational facilities, and should be used to support adjacent park space, not as park space themselves. For instance, SWM ponds are usually included on their own block in plans of subdivision, which should continue to be the case for future development. Where possible, however, development should strive for a design that places SWM blocks adjacent to parks and other open space blocks, which will allow these features to play an appropriate supplementary role.

Because they are not recreational facilities, SWM ponds should be designed to discourage human interference, preferably by incorporating native plant species as a vegetative buffer (as opposed to fencing, which would disrupt the feature’s naturalized



appearance). SWM ponds also present an opportunity to incorporate active transportation facilities, such as footpaths, trails, or sidewalks. These too should be designed to discourage human interference with the feature itself, although these facilities could incorporate “look-out” points or similar rest areas. Where possible, SWM ponds should be located strategically to serve as connective features (for example, by placing the SWM pond between a park and a public street).

Finally, it is worth noting that SWM facilities should continue to be designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner that adheres to the Town’s SWM guidelines (as may be updated from time to time).

## Recommendations

### 31

#### Stormwater Management Facilities

- (a) Wherever practical, ensure that new development is designed to use SWM ponds as supplementary features, by placing SWM ponds adjacent to parks and open spaces (while ensuring that SWM blocks in plans of subdivision are maintained as separate blocks).
- (b) Ensure that new SWM ponds are designed to appear as naturalized features, using plantings of native species to stabilize the banks of the pond and to provide a vegetative buffer that discourages human interference with the feature.
- (c) Incorporate appropriate active transportation facilities alongside SWM ponds and, where possible, locate these features strategically to enhance the connectivity of new development.



# 5 Management & Operations

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**Parks require care and dedication.** It takes a lot of work, by many different people, to make sure that the wide variety of outdoor spaces and facilities across the Town remain well-maintained and continue to function as intended. More than that, extensive care and maintenance are required to ensure the Town’s parks and open space remain a point of pride for community members, who incorporate these places into their daily lives.

This section of the Parks & Open Space Master Plan further addresses the recommended incorporation of the Town’s park assets into its overall asset management strategy, as well as recommendations regarding management and operations, stewardship and partnerships, and public engagement.

## 5.1 Asset Management

The recommendations made in this section are predicated upon the completion of the asset inventory and classification recommended in Section 3.4 of this Master Plan (specifically Recommendation 13 and Recommendation 14: see p. 107).



### 5.1.1 Classification & Assessment

As part of the process of creating a full asset inventory of the Town of Fort Erie’s parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreation facilities, in accordance with Recommendation 14 in this Master Plan (see p. 107), the Town should ensure that the condition of each asset is assessed, at least for Level 3 (Park Element) assets and, if possible, for Level 4 (Sub-elements) assets as well (see Table 3.7 and the accompanying discussion at the end of Section 3.4 for an explanation of these asset classification levels). The condition of each asset, rated on a scale from 1 (poorest condition) to 5 (best condition), will facilitate the prioritization of repairs, improvements, and replacements to different assets as they age.

Park assets should be assessed on an on-going regular basis, no less frequently than once a year, and their condition should be compared against the typical life-cycle of the asset and the expected recurrence of life-cycle “events” (such as the replacement or repair of important sub-elements). Renewals, repairs, and replacements should be monitored and recorded as they occur, which will provide a knowledge base on which the need for future repairs and replacements can be projected. Repairs and replacements will generally fall into one of two categories: periodic (for instance, replacing a burnt-out lightbulb) and incidental (for example, replacing a section of fence destroyed by a tree that fell during a storm).

Periodic repairs and replacements will generally occur on a predictably regular basis, based on the asset’s typical life-cycle and on typical patterns of wear and tear from regular use. If monitoring indicates that the periodic repair or replacement of an asset is consistently needed before expected, it likely means that the actual utilization of that asset is higher than expected, and that the estimated recurrence of the repair or replacement should be adjusted accordingly (for instance, by expressing actual utilization as a percentage of expected demand, which can be greater than 100% if actual use exceeds expectations).

Incidental repairs and replacements cannot be predicted, but with a large enough sample size, it should be possible to arrive at a reasonable estimate for how often different incidents are likely to occur and, on that basis, to estimate the expected costs associated with repairs and replacements necessitated by different incidents.

### 5.1.2 Strategies for Renewals & Repairs

Once the conditions of the Town's various park assets are known (either through the recommended asset classification and assessment process or, prior to the completion of that process, through a less formal assessment), the results of that assessment can be used to prioritize the repair, renewal, and replacement of facilities, features, and other park assets.

The following represents the general strategy according to which repairs and replacements should be prioritized:

- Above all, prioritize the repair or replacement of any item whose current condition represents a potential threat to the safety or health of park users.
- Prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements based on the most recent assessment of the condition of the asset in question, using a rating system from 1 to 5 (with "1" representing poorest condition and "5" representing best condition).
- Where multiple assets are assessed as having the same condition rating, further prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements based on the intended user base of the park in which the asset is located, giving Town-wide park classes (Destination Parks, Anchor Waterfront Parks, Nature Parks, and Cultural Spaces) first priority, park classes that serve Urban Areas (Community Parks and Urban Waterfront Parks) second priority, and more localized parks (Neighbourhood Parks, Village Greens, and Waterfront Parks) third priority.

- Further prioritize repairs and replacements based on considerations such as the following:

**Geographic equity** — In general terms, where multiple assets are considered as having the same level of priority based on condition rating and park class, a second park in a given Urban Area should not be prioritized above the first park in a different Urban Area. Similarly, a second park in a given neighbourhood should not be prioritized above the first park in a different neighbourhood.

**Effects on usability** — Where the need for a repair or replacement of an asset affects the usability of a park element (for example, where a playground cannot be used because there is a rung on a piece of climbing equipment that needs to be replaced), the repair or replacement of that asset should be prioritized.

**Expected demand** — Higher-profile assets (such as destination features and primary active features) are more likely to attract greater levels of demand than lower-profile park assets, and should therefore be prioritized. Similarly, assets that have demonstrated high utilization rates should be prioritized over those that are used less frequently.

**Uniqueness** — Where a park feature or facility is unique or relatively rare within the Town (for instance, off-leash dog areas, spray pads, or the skate park in the Town Hall Leisureplex Park), it should be given a higher priority, as users have fewer options available.

**Funding opportunities** — Repairs or replacements that depend on a specific funding opportunity (which may have requirements regarding eligible facilities) should be given higher priority, especially where the opportunity is time-sensitive.



**Community involvement** — If a community group or volunteer organization has indicated a willingness to contribute to the repair, renewal, or replacement of an asset, the repair, renewal, or replacement of that asset should be given higher priority.

**Duration of need** — If an asset has been in need of repair or replacement for multiple years, and has previously been considered lower in priority due to other factors and therefore not been repaired or replaced, the repair or replacement of that asset should be given higher priority.

Applying the principle of geographic equity will help ensure that the necessary repairs and renewals to parks and open spaces are distributed fairly across the entire Town, but it should be emphasized here that this principle should be applied alongside the consideration of other important factors, such as effects on the usability of facilities and features, funding opportunities, opportunities for community involvement, and the length of time the asset in question has been in need of repair or replacement.

## Recommendations

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### 32

#### Asset Condition Assessment

As part of the classification and inventorying process recommended in Recommendation 14, perform an assessment of the condition of each park asset (rated on a scale from 1 to 5), and undertake similar assessments at regular intervals (no less frequently than once per year).

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### 33

#### Monitoring of Repairs, Renewals & Replacements

- (a) Record the repair, renewal, and replacement of in-park assets as they occur to provide a knowledge base for projecting the need for future repairs and replacements.
  - (b) As part of this monitoring program, categorize each repair, renewal, and replacement as “periodic” (*i.e.*, needed to address normal wear and tear and typical life-cycle events) or “incidental” (*i.e.*, required because of unforeseen incidents or events).
-

## 34

### Prioritization of Repairs, Renewals & Replacements

Prioritize the repair, renewal, and replacement of in-park facilities, features, and other park assets according to the following general guidelines:

- (a) Prioritize above all others the repair or replacement of any item whose condition represents a potential threat to health or safety.
- (b) Prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements based on the most recent assessment of condition (as described in Recommendation 32), with items rated “1” (poorest condition) receiving highest priority.
- (c) Where multiple items are assessed as being in the same condition, prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements based on the intended user base of the park in which the asset is located.
- (d) Further prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements using the principle of geographic equity, taking also into consideration the expected demand level for the asset in question and other factors, such as effects on usability, uniqueness, duration of need, community involvement, and potential funding opportunities.

## 5.2 Management & Operational Requirements

The previous section has already set out some recommendations regarding the management of the Town’s park and open space assets: maintaining an up-to-date inventory that includes regular assessments of asset conditions; recording life-cycle data for assets and monitoring repairs, renewals, and replacements as they occur, classifying each as “periodic” or “incidental”; projecting the need for repairs and replacements based the results of this monitoring, and adjusting forecasts for expected costs based on observed utilization and the probability of incidental repairs and replacements being needed.

As mentioned earlier, the Town of Fort Erie has already begun to implement some of this Master Plan’s recommendations regarding the categorization and inventorying of its park assets, based on earlier drafts of this document. As a result, many of the Town’s existing in-park facilities and features have already been assessed as recommended in Recommendation 32 above. The results of this assessment have been compared against the

Town's current capital budget for 2024–2034, and a small number of renewals or potential replacements have been identified that are not already accounted for in the capital budget between now and 2031. The items in question are identified and discussed alongside the current capital budget in Section 6.1 of this Master Plan.

Previous sections of this Master Plan have also made extensive reference to the use of Census data and of GIS software to estimate the service level of existing parks and open spaces (*i.e.*, the number of people living within the defined service radius of each park) and to estimate the demand level for individual parks (taking into account overlapping service radii). It is recommended that the Town support its parks planning by maintaining an up-to-date inventory of existing parks in the form of a GIS data feature layer, along with similar data layers for in-park facilities and features. The process of preparing this Master Plan has also resulted in the creation of a data layer containing the Census Dissemination Blocks from the 2021 Census within the Town, including feature attributes that indicate the number of parcels located in each Census DB (which can be used to estimate the number of people living within park service radii when those radii only include parts of Census DBs), as well as projected percentages of the overall population that can be used to estimate the distribution of the Town's population using annual population estimates issued by Statistics Canada (Table 17-10-0155-01: Population estimates, July 1, by census subdivision, 2021 boundaries). Of course, population data at the individual DB level should be updated after the 2026 Census has taken place and its results have been made publicly available.

The recommendations in the previous paragraph are encapsulated in Recommendation 35 below under the heading “Data-Supported Parks Planning” (see p. 149). The term “data-supported” has been deliberately chosen instead of the term “data-driven” to indicate the appropriate role of data in the decision-making process. Data can help suggest areas that are likely in greater need with respect to the provision of parks and outdoor recreation facilities, and can help identify items that should likely be prioritized. However, raw data should not be used as the sole basis for decision-making (as tempting as it can be to point to the numbers as justification). Quantitative measurements, such as the number of people in a given area who live more than a specified distance from the nearest park, likely correlate to some extent with real-world, on-the-ground needs, but the existence and urgency of that need must be confirmed by engaging with the people living in the area in question. This is especially true in a geographically diverse municipality like the Town of Fort Erie, where the more immediate context in different parts of the Town needs to be taken into account as part of the decision-making process.

According to the Town's Parks & Facilities Department, operational and maintenance costs for the Town's parks and open spaces average \$74,948 per hectare per year, which for the purposes of the present discussion has been rounded up to \$75,000 per hectare per year.

According to the analysis presented in Section 4.2 above, the projected 2031 population of 36,837 people living in the Town, distributed as projected among the Town's five Urban Areas, will require an additional 42.39 ha of parkland overall to provide parks at the recommended target provision rates: an additional 24.35 ha for community-level parks (Table 4.13), and an additional 18.04 ha for Neighbourhood-level Parks (Table 4.14). (Again, these projected additional areas include the area needed to address existing need with reference to recommended targets.) At an average operational cost of \$75,000 per hectare, this additional park space would require an increase of approximately \$3,180,000 to the annual operations budget by 2031 (not accounting for inflation).

Because the estimate in the previous paragraph is based on a simple average cost per hectare, it does not reflect the fact that some parks will have higher operational costs than others, due to the number of people who visit the park and the nature of in-park amenities and facilities, among other factors. It is therefore recommended that more specific operational requirements and the associated financial implications be considered in greater detail when the development of a new park is being considered and when more specific information regarding location and in-park features is known.

Section 4.1.3 of this Master Plan refers to the "expected demand level" for various parks, expressed in people per hectare. The expected demand level, calculated using the estimated number of people living within the park's service radius (taking into account any overlap with other parks of the same class) and the total area of the park, is intended to provide a reasonably accurate quantitative indicator of the anticipated utilization of each park. As currently calculated, the expected demand level for each park attempts to account for the number of park users based on the estimated service area population (with the "service area population" for Destination Parks, Anchor Waterfront Parks,



and other parks intended to serve a Town-wide function being the population of the entire Town). Presumably this provides a greater degree of accuracy than just the park area, as it takes the park's location with respect to the population into account, but it still does not account for the fact that some in-park features and amenities will be more attractive than others.

To achieve a better understanding of the operational needs of different parks and different in-park features and facilities, it is recommended that the Town track operational expenditures on an appropriate basis, either by tracking dollars spent or by tracking person-hours of labour (which can then be translated into an estimated dollar amount). Even relatively simple tracking of operational expenditures can help the Town arrive at a more accurate assessment of actual utilization levels of different parks and different facilities, which can inform future parks planning by allowing for a more detailed projection of operational implications that the order-of-magnitude estimate calculated above provides.

This is especially important in light of the emphasis that participants in public consultation sessions placed on the need for the Town's parks and open spaces to be well-cared for and well-maintained. A number of the points for improvement identified related to operational considerations, such as waste collection and regular maintenance of features. A better understanding of which parks and facilities are used more than others will also help prioritize expenditures to benefit a greater number of users and increase overall satisfaction by increasing the "visibility" of the expenditures that are made.

## Recommendations

**35**

### Data-Supported Parks Planning

Maintain an up-to-date GIS-based inventory of existing parks and of in-park facilities and features, along with regularly updated population data at the Census Dissemination Block level, to assess the distribution of parks and outdoor facilities and to identify potential areas in need of greater park coverage.

## 36

### Monitoring of Operational Requirements

Track operational expenditures (in terms of dollars spent or person-hours of labour expended) on an appropriate basis (such as by Urban Area) to achieve a better understanding of the operational needs of different types of parks and facilities and the operational implications of parks and facilities located in different parts of the Town.

## 5.3 Stewardship & Partnerships

The Town of Fort Erie contains a number of outdoor spaces and facilities that are owned, operated, and maintained by other agencies and public bodies. Those agencies and bodies include the Niagara Parks Commission (“NPC”), the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (“NPCA”), and Parks Canada (which operates the National Historic Sites in the Town). This presents opportunities for collaboration and cooperation that can enhance the benefits that parks and open spaces have for the Town’s residents. Community members have also indicated a keen interest in the quality and maintenance of the Town’s parks and open spaces, which suggests a potential appetite for stewardship and volunteer opportunities.

The NPC plays an important role in promoting the preservation and appreciation of natural heritage, as well as in promoting appreciation of cultural heritage and local history, both of which are priority items for the community. The Town should cultivate a closer partnership with the NPC by identifying opportunities to support and contribute to NPC initiatives, such as tree planting and urban forest management, and habitat protection, and to support the more seamless integration of public spaces along the riverfront. The Town could further support the NPC by offering to amplify volunteer opportunities among Town residents. Similarly, the Town should work with the NPCA to identify opportunities to promote outdoor environmental education in local conservation areas, another item of interest to Town residents identified during public consultation.

The active transportation network, including the Friendship Trail, is an area of regional interest, and the Town should continue to seek out opportunities to work in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities and with Niagara Region in improving, expanding, and promoting the Town’s trails network.

Discussions with school boards, undertaken as part of the consultation process of preparing this Master Plan, has confirmed that there is a willingness on the part of the school boards to work with the Town in enhancing the outdoor recreation opportunities available to Town residents. The Town should capitalize on this opportunity by entering into more formal partnerships and agreements with school boards regarding the shared use of both school and municipally owned facilities.

Meetings with local sports organizations have indicated that the channels of communication between organizations and the Town are not entirely clear. The Town should improve this situation by reaching out to existing organizations, which could possibly include maintaining an internal directory of sports organizations, and maintaining relationships with these organizations by arranging regular meetings between the Town's Parks Department and local sports organizations (likely on an annual or semi-annual basis, although the optimal frequency will likely depend on the specific organization).

The Town should also consider facilitating the establishment of Community Liaison Committees, one for each Urban Area (similar to the "Bay Ambassador" program recommended in the Waterfront Strategy), with each Liaison Committee being composed of local residents who can help provide information about their community's park-related needs. The Town would play a facilitating role in the establishment of these committees, but once formed these volunteer-based committees would be mostly self-managed, providing a point of contact both for local residents and for the Town. In addition to identifying park-related needs, these Liaison Committees could also promote stewardship of parks and open spaces in their respective Urban Areas.

As mentioned in Section 1.5, recent trends include the growing popularity of publicly oriented private spaces, or "POPS", as a model for parkland provision. POPS can represent a pragmatic alternative to the traditional model of publicly owned parks, especially in areas of existing development, and the Town should seek out opportunities to collaborate with proponents to secure the provision of POPS. (Furthermore, accepting POPS as part of a parkland dedication is provided for in amendments to Section 42 of the *Planning Act* that have received Royal Assent but have not yet been proclaimed into law.)

Finally, another challenge identified during the public consultation process for this Master Plan was the ongoing friction between private landowners and the users of public waterfront spaces. (The Waterfront Strategy, for instance, emphasizes the difference between the "almost entirely private edge of development along Lake Erie," on the one hand, and the "almost entirely public edge along the Niagara River," on the other, the latter mainly attributed to the presence of the Niagara River Parkway marking the edge

of private development.) The Town should work with the owners of private lands adjacent to public waterfront parks to identify acceptable ways to accurately demarcate the boundaries between public and private lands, perhaps by using boardwalks, walking trails, or other minimally intrusive means that are sensitive to, and minimize impacts on, the waterfront environment.

## Recommendations

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### 37

#### Partnerships & Collaboration

- (a) Cultivate a closer partnership with the NPC by supporting and contributing to NPC initiatives and by amplifying volunteer opportunities among Town residents.
  - (b) Work with the NPCA to identify opportunities to promote outdoor environmental education in local conservation areas and other activities that promote the appreciation of the natural environment.
  - (c) Continue to seek out opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring municipalities and with Niagara Region to expand, improve, and promote the active transportation and trails network.
  - (d) Establish more formal partnerships and agreements with local school boards, including agreements regarding the shared use of facilities (both school and municipally owned).
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### 38

#### Community Liaison Committees

Facilitate the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee for each Urban Area to provide information about the community's park-related needs and to promote stewardship.

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## 39

### Coordination with Private Waterfront Landowners

Work with the owners of private lands adjacent to Waterfront Parks to identify acceptable (and ideally minimally intrusive) means of accurately demarcating public and private lands.

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## 5.4 Public Engagement & Consultation

The establishment of Community Liaison Committees (Recommendation 38) will provide a helpful point of regular contact for consultation and engagement with the public regarding the Town's parks and open spaces. In addition, the Town should engage in regular public consultation regarding the programs and services offered in Town parks, to ensure that the community's needs are being met and to identify desired options that are not currently being offered. Public consultation should continue to be an integral component in the process of preparing individual Park Master Plans and in the process of planning for park renovations and for new parks.

One point of improvement identified during public consultation for this Master Plan involved greater clarity for members of the public about how to communicate with the Town regarding its parks and open spaces. To that end, it is recommended that signage at each park include clear contact information for, at least, maintenance or repair requests, and possibly Town contacts for by-law enforcement or facility bookings.

As well, the Town's "Parks, Trails and Sports Fields" webpage should include a full list of the Town's parks and open spaces, which can then link to sub-lists for parks that include features such as playgrounds, spray pads, and different sports facilities.

## Recommendations

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**40**

### **Public Consultation & Communications**

Improve public engagement and overall communications between members of the public and the Town:

- (a) by engaging in regular public consultation regarding programs and services offered in Town parks and open spaces;
  - (b) by ensuring that each park has signage with contact information for maintenance and repair requests, and possibly for by-law enforcement and facility bookings; and
  - (c) by adding a full list of the Town's parks and open spaces to the "Parks, Trails & Sports Fields" page of the Town's website.
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# 6 Implementation

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**The success of a plan is defined by how it's implemented.** Perhaps the greatest challenge, for any plan, is translating the overall vision into tangible results, finding ways to realize and measure abstract qualities like equity, accessibility, resilience, and quality of life.

The recommendations made throughout this Master Plan are meant to serve as a guide on the journey from vision to reality: they represent recommended indicators and specific courses of action, to be taken over varying timeframes, that will help the Town's parks and open spaces achieve the aspirations expressed by the community.

Successful implementation depends upon informed and well-considered decision-making. With that in mind, this section of the Master Plan presents an overall strategy to help decision-makers put this plan and its recommendations into action (recognizing also the evolving nature of the decision-making environment and the fact that important factors and considerations can change, sometimes dramatically, between now and the point in time at which future decisions are made).



## 6.1 Fiscal Strategy

The Town of Fort Erie’s current capital budget for 2024–2034 includes a total of \$41,509,440 for parks-related capital projects. **Table 6.1** below summarizes the budget for the period from 2024 to 2031, organized into general categories. As shown in the table, of the total \$29,009,440 budgeted for parks-related capital projects over this period, approximately 47.3% has been allocated to improvements and replacements in existing parks and approximately 52.7% has been allocated to costs related to new parks.

**Table 6.1 – Summary of Parks Capital Budget, 2024–2031**

Item	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Totals
<i>Improvements to existing parks &amp; facilities</i>									
General improvements & renewals	450,000	350,000	230,000	700,000	1,050,000	350,000	80,000	50,000	3,260,000
Playgrounds	440,000	190,000	0	190,000	380,000	390,000	190,000	0	1,780,000
Spray pads	0	400,000	0	0	400,000	0	920,000	0	1,720,000
Baseball diamonds	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	250,000
Outdoor courts	795,000	0	450,000	0	0	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,845,000
Trails	100,000	450,000	50,000	1,075,000	0	500,000	0	500,000	2,575,000
Waterfront Windows	0	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	250,000
Other in-park features	150,000	100,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	700,000
Infrastructure	0	550,000	0	0	400,000	0	0	250,000	1,200,000
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>1,935,000</b>	<b>2,040,000</b>	<b>1,080,000</b>	<b>2,065,000</b>	<b>2,580,000</b>	<b>1,540,000</b>	<b>1,390,000</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>13,730,000</b>
<i>New parks</i>									
Land acquisition	0	150,000	0	150,000	0	0	250,000	0	550,000
Park development	175,000	2,070,000	1,080,000	1,375,000	1,389,800	3,012,640	3,787,000	1,840,000	14,729,440
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>2,220,000</b>	<b>1,080,000</b>	<b>1,525,000</b>	<b>1,389,800</b>	<b>3,012,640</b>	<b>4,037,000</b>	<b>1,840,000</b>	<b>15,279,440</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,110,000</b>	<b>4,260,000</b>	<b>2,160,000</b>	<b>3,590,000</b>	<b>3,969,800</b>	<b>4,552,640</b>	<b>5,427,000</b>	<b>2,940,000</b>	<b>29,009,440</b>



Based on the information available about the locations of future parks (*i.e.*, those associated with the “Land acquisition” and “Park development” rows in Table 6.1, but including items from the capital budget for 2031–2034), it is estimated that the average capital costs associated with these items is about \$930,000 per hectare for land acquisition and about \$980,000 per hectare for park development. (The former is funded through the special account set up for payments in lieu of parkland dedication, while the latter is funded through development charges.) These two estimated costs combine for a total of about \$1,910,000 per hectare as the average cost of acquiring and developing a new park, which for the purposes of the present discussion we will round up to \$2,000,000 per hectare.

This estimated average cost allows us to arrive at an order-of-magnitude estimate for the capital costs associated with the Town’s existing and projected need for additional parkland, which is discussed in Section 4.2 of this Master Plan. **Table 6.2** on the next page sets out the estimated amounts in ten-year increments, along with estimated amounts associated with park area required to address existing need. The area measurements identified in the table are based on the population projections presented in Table 4.12 (which, it is worth repeating, have not been adjusted for net Census undercoverage and therefore differ slightly from the estimated existing need identified in Table 4.11).

The estimates in Table 6.2 suggest that the capital costs associated with acquiring and developing the land needed to address park needs between now and 2031 is on the order of \$84,794,000 (\$62,985,000 to address existing need plus \$21,809,000 to address need associated with projected population growth). In comparison, the Town’s capital budget for 2024–2031 includes a total of \$15,279,400 for land acquisition and park development (see Table 6.1), with an additional \$7,580,000 identified for 2031–2034. It should be noted, however, that the amounts identified in the capital budget include planned and future parks for which either the location or the land area (or both) were not known at the time that Table 6.2 was compiled. It is therefore likely that the estimated average cost on which Table 6.2 is based (\$2 million per hectare) will need to be adjusted once more detailed information becomes available, and the estimated costs in the table adjusted accordingly.

**Table 6.2 – Estimated capital costs associated with projected parkland needs, 2021–2051**

Urban Area	Park service level	Existing need [ha]	Assoc'd cost	Add'l area, 2021–2031	Assoc'd cost	Total cost	Add'l area, 2031–2041	Assoc'd cost	Total cost	Add'l area, 2041–2051	Assoc'd cost	Total cost
Fort Erie–Bridgeburg	Neighbourhood-level	5.240	10.480	0.882	1.764	12.224	0.991	1.983	14.227	1.562	3.125	17.352
Lakeshore–Walden	Neighbourhood-level	1.725	3.450	0.879	1.757	5.207	0.988	1.975	7.142	1.556	3.113	10.255
Crescent Park–Spears–Kraft	Neighbourhood-level	3.860	7.720	0.855	1.711	9.431	0.961	1.923	11.354	1.515	3.030	14.384
Fort Erie	Neighbourhood-level	10.825	21.650	2.616	5.232	26.882	2.940	5.881	32.723	4.634	9.267	41.990
	Community-level	0.000	0.000	6.192	12.385	12.385	7.351	14.702	27.087	11.584	23.169	50.255
Crystal Beach	Neighbourhood-level	3.375	6.750	0.495	0.991	7.741	0.557	1.114	8.344	0.877	1.755	10.099
	Community-level	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	Neighbourhood-level	0.405	0.810	0.325	0.651	1.461	0.366	0.731	2.192	0.576	1.153	3.345
	Community-level	13.388	26.775	0.813	1.627	28.402	0.914	1.829	30.230	1.441	2.882	33.112
Stevensville	Neighbourhood-level	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Community-level	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Douglastown–Black Creek	Neighbourhood-level	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Community-level	3.500	7.000	0.462	0.924	7.924	0.519	1.039	8.963	0.819	1.637	10.600
Town of Fort Erie	Neighbourhood-level	14.605	29.210	3.437	6.873	36.083	3.863	7.726	43.809	6.087	12.175	55.984
	Community-level	16.888	33.775	7.468	14.936	48.711	8.785	17.569	66.280	13.844	27.687	93.967
	Town-wide	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.235	18.470	18.470
<b>Total, Town</b>		<b>31.493</b>	<b>62.985</b>	<b>10.904</b>	<b>21.809</b>	<b>84.794</b>	<b>12.648</b>	<b>25.295</b>	<b>110.089</b>	<b>29.166</b>	<b>58.332</b>	<b>168.421</b>

Note: All area measurements are given in hectares. Dollar amounts are expressed as millions of dollars (i.e., 1.000 = \$1M).

The assessment of the Town’s park assets that has already been performed has identified a small number of items that, according to their year of installation and expected service life, are either due for renewal or replacement now, or will be at some point between now and 2031, that are not already accounted for in the current capital budget. Those items, identified in **Table 6.3** below, consist of eight baseball diamonds (counting the five diamonds in Oakes Park as separate items), five playgrounds, two soccer fields, and one spray pad.

**Table 6.3 – Additional assets in need of renewal or replacement to 2031**

Park Name	Facility Type	Year installed	Condition rating	Estimated cost <sup>(a)</sup>	Year needed <sup>(b)</sup>
Oakes Park	Baseball diamonds (Class A & B)	1990–94	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	\$525,000	2025
Ferndale Park	Playground	2000	1	\$150,000	2025
Bill Connelly Field	Baseball diamond (Class C)	1980	1	\$15,000	2025
Bowen Road Park	Baseball diamond (Class B)	1990	1	\$32,620	2025
UEL (Ott Road) Park	Soccer field (Class B/C, senior)	1980	2	\$10,000	2025
Ridgeway Lions Park	Playground	2009	2	\$200,000	2025
Energy Field	Baseball diamond (Class C)	1999	2	\$15,000	2025
Goderich Street Park	Playground	2009	2	\$150,000	2025
A.C. Douglas Park #1	Soccer field (Class B/C, senior)	2000	3	\$5,000	2030
Bowen Road Park	Playground	2015	3	\$100,000	2030
Bill Connelly Field	Playground	2015	3	\$150,000	2030
Ridgeway Village Square	Spray pad	2009	5	\$200,000	2029

<sup>(a)</sup>Replacement value cited in most recent assessment. <sup>(b)</sup>Based on year installed and expected service life; “2025” includes items that are already due for replacement. <sup>(c)</sup>Includes one Class A diamond with an assessed condition rating of 2.

The items in Table 6.3 are listed in order of descending priority, which has employed the principles and considerations recommended in Recommendation 34 above. Those items that have a condition rating of 1 are listed first, followed by items rated at 2, 3, and 5, with one exception: of the five baseball diamonds in Oakes Park, one was rated at a condition rating of 2, but has been included with the other four diamonds (all rated at 1) because it seems more practical to address all five at once. It should also be noted that the current capital budget does include renewals and renovations at Oakes Park that could potentially account for some of the need identified in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3 lists the baseball diamonds in Oakes Park first because, as a Destination Park, Oakes Park is considered as having the largest intended user base (as recommended in Recommendation 34). However, it is followed in Table 6.3 by the playground in Ferndale Park (a Community Park) rather than the baseball diamond in Bowen Road Park (an Anchor Waterfront Park) in part to address geographic equity (as Bowen Road Park is located in the same neighbourhood as Oakes Park) and in part because Ferndale Park is the only playground with a condition rating of 1, making it somewhat unique among those items (also as recommended in Recommendation 34). The baseball diamond at Bill Connelly Field also appears above Bowen Road Park in Table 6.3 to address geographic equity.

Of the four items in Table 6.3 with a condition rating of 2 (two playgrounds, a soccer field, and a baseball diamond), the soccer field in Ott Road (UEL) Park appears first because of the park's intended user base (Community Park, whereas the other three are all Neighbourhood Parks). Ridgeway Lions Park appears next to address geographic equity, as does Energy Field (being the first park in the list in the Lakeshore–Walden neighbourhood). Likewise, A.C. Douglas Park #1 appears first out of the items with condition ratings of 3 to address the principle of geographic equity.

Overall, it is recommended that the items in Table 6.3 be considered as additions to the capital budget for the period 2024–2031, prioritized in the order in which they are listed in the table.



Section 4.2.2 identifies additional outdoor facilities that will likely be needed to meet provision level targets to the years 2031 and 2051. For 2031 (see Recommendation 19), the required facilities comprise three soccer fields (one Class B/C junior/intermediate field and two Class B/C senior fields), one or two baseball diamonds (one Class B diamond and possibly one Class C diamond, although the renewals in Table 6.3 include a number of Class C diamonds that will likely address this need), three tennis court equivalents and one pickleball court equivalent, two basketball nets, and two playgrounds (one senior playground and one junior + senior playground). The current capital budget to 2031 (Table 6.1) includes two new playgrounds, which should address the projected need in that respect. The remaining items should be incorporated into the development of new parks, taking into consideration available space and local need (among other factors).

The current capital budget does not identify the exact location of all new parks. These should be compared against the areas of need (identified in Section 4.2: see Recommendation 15, Recommendation 16, and Recommendation 18, as well as Map 4, Map 5, and Map 6) to determine where gaps might remain following the acquisition and development of these future parks.

## Recommendations

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### **Additional Assets in Need of Renewal & Replacement**

Consider incorporating the items listed in Table 6.3 into the Town's capital budget for 2024–2031, prioritized in the order in which they are listed in that table.

# 42

## Overall Fiscal Strategy

Adopt the following strategy for decisions regarding whether to require the dedication of land for park purposes or a payment in lieu of dedication when new development is proposed:

- (a) In general, require the dedication of land when an opportunity to acquire land for a Town-wide park class (such as a Nature Park or Cultural Space) presents itself.
- (b) In general, require a payment in lieu of dedication for proposed development that does not include a residential component, unless an opportunity to acquire land for a Town-wide park or an opportunity to address an identified area of need presents itself.
- (c) In the Fort Erie, Crystal Beach, and Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Areas, require the dedication of land when an opportunity to address an identified area of need (such as those shown in Map 5 and Map 6) or an opportunity to acquire land along or near the waterfront presents itself.
- (d) In the Stevensville Urban Area, prioritize the provision of payments in lieu of land dedication (unless the opportunity to acquire land for a Town-wide park class presents itself).
- (e) In the Douglastown–Black Creek Urban Area, prioritize the provision of payments in lieu of land dedication, unless an opportunity to address the need for a Community Park or an opportunity to acquire land near or along the waterfront presents itself.

## 6.2 Implementation Strategy

In terms of the timeframe for implementation, many of the recommendations made in this Master Plan can be considered “immediate” and ongoing — that is, they involve classifications and standards, provision level targets, and practices and procedures that do not have specific timing requirements but that can be implemented right away and maintained on an ongoing basis. The other recommendations can be categorized either as short-term (i.e., should be implemented between 2024–2027) and medium-term (i.e., should be implemented between 2028–2031), with a few straddling those two categories. The timeframes for these recommendations are identified in [Table 6.4](#).

**Table 6.4 – Timeframes for Recommendations**

Immediate (2024) / Ongoing		Short-Term (2025–2027)		Medium-Term (2028–2031)	
1	Park Classification System	14	Asset Inventory	15	Recommended Future Nature Parks, Cultural Spaces & Linear Parks
2	Classification of Existing Parks	21	A.C. Douglas Park #1	16	Potential Locations for Community Parks
3	Service Levels & Provision Standards	23	Beaver Creek Park	17	Douglastown–Black Creek Community Park Access
4	In-Park Facilities	24	Bowen Road Park	18	Potential Locations for Neighbourhood Parks
5	Standard Requirements for All Parks	25	Crystal Beach Waterfront Park	19	Facility Needs to 2031
6	Standards for Linear Parks	26	Energy Field	22	A.C. Douglas Park #2
7	Target Provision Levels for Soccer & Multi-Use Turf Fields	27	Erie Beach (Waverly Beach) Waterfront Park	28	Goderich Street Park
8	Target Provision Levels for Baseball Diamonds	29	Oakes Park	30	Town Hall Leisureplex Park
9	Target Provision Levels for Tennis & Pickleball Courts	31	Stormwater Management Facilities	41	Additional Assets in Need of Renewal & Replacement
10	Target Provision Levels for Basketball & Multi-Use Courts	32	Asset Condition Assessment		
11	Target Provision Levels for Playgrounds & Spray Pads	35	Data-Supported Parks Planning		
12	Provision of Other Outdoor Facilities	36	Monitoring of Operational Requirements		
13	Asset Classification System	37	Partnerships & Collaboration		
33	Monitoring of Repairs, Renewals & Replacements	38	Community Liaison Committees		
34	Prioritization of Repairs, Renewals & Replacements	39	Coordination with Private Waterfront Landowners		
42	Overall Fiscal Strategy	40	Public Consultation & Communications		
				Long-Term (beyond 2031)	
				20	Facility Needs to 2051

**Table 6.5** on the following pages is meant to provide a comprehensive overview of the projects, parks, renovations, renewals, and replacements recommended throughout this Master Plan, including those accounted for in the Town’s existing capital budget for 2024–2034. It must be noted that, because the location and size of the majority of planned future parks are not specified in the Town’s capital budget, there is likely significant overlap between different land acquisition and park development items in Table 6.5. The overview is presented in five-year increments, representing near-term (one to five years), mid-term (six to ten years), and long-term (11 to 15 years) projects.

**Table 6.5 – Overview of park and recreation facility projects, 2025–2040**

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
1–5 years	Adopt park classifications, standards, and target provision levels.	2025	None	None
	Adopt asset management classifications.	2025	None	None
	A.C. Douglas Park #1 playground replacement.	2025	\$190,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Crystal Beach Waterfront Park playground replacement.	2025	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Energy Field multi-use court replacement.	2025	\$195,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Oakes Park renovations.	2025	\$400,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facilities
	Waverly Beach Waterfront Park Healing Garden.	2025	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	New off-leash dog area	2025	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Erie Beach Subdivision Park (Waverly Beach) development (6.60 ha).	2025	\$75,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$495,000/year)
	Ridgeway Shores Park development (1.268 ha).	2025	\$100,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$95,100/year)
	Undertake asset inventory and assessment.	2025	None	Labour costs (time required to compile inventory and assess assets)



Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
1-5 years	Rename A.C. Douglas Parks #1 and #2 as A.C. Douglas Park (South) and A.C. Douglas Park (North).	2025	Updated signage	Installation of signage, updating of materials that refer to parks by previous names
	Friendship Trail asphalt replacement.	2025	\$450,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Oakes Park bleacher replacement.	2025	\$100,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Oakes Park lighting replacement.	2025	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	UEL (Ott Road) Park playground replacement	2025	\$190,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Ferndale spray pad installation.	2025	\$600,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2025	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Parking lot resurfacing.	2025	\$200,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Royal Ridge Park land acquisition (0.161 ha).	2025	\$150,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$12,075/year)
	Coal Docks Waterfront Park development (park area not specified).	2025	\$650,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Waterfront landscape guidelines.	2025	\$90,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs
	Ridgeway Shores Park development (1.268 ha).	2025	\$695,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$95,100/year)
	Oakes Park baseball diamonds (Class A & B) renewal or replacement.	2025	\$525,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Ferndale Park playground renewal or replacement.	2025	\$150,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
Bill Connelly Field baseball diamond (Class C) renewal or replacement.	2025	\$15,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility	
Bowen Road Park baseball diamond (Class B) renewal or replacement.	2025	\$32,620	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility	

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
1–5 years	Ridgeway Lions Park playground renewal or replacement.	2025	\$200,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Accessibility improvements.	2025	\$30,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Bowen Road Park playground replacement.	2025	\$100,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Crystal Beach East Park development (park area not specified).	2026	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Erie Beach Subdivision Park (Waverly Beach) development (6.60 ha).	2026	\$225,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$495,000/year)
	Energy Field baseball diamond (Class C) renewal or replacement.	2026	\$15,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	UEL (Ott Road) Park soccer field (Class B/C, senior) renewal or replacement.	2026	\$10,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Oakes Park tennis court replacements.	2026	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	UEL (Ott Road) Park baseball diamond improvements.	2026	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	UEL (Ott Road) Park nature trails.	2026	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Ridgeway Lions Park outdoor court replacement.	2026	\$200,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Shagbark Nature Park Master Plan.	2026	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; costs associated with any public meetings needed
	Fitness equipment installation.	2026	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2026	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
Lakeshore Road Parkette development (park area not specified).	2026	\$100,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations	

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
1-5 years	Schooley Road Subdivision Park development (park area not specified).	2026	\$680,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Thunder Bay Waterfront Park development (0.594 ha).	2026	\$300,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$44,550/year)
	Waterfront landscapes implementation	2026	\$200,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Maple Leaf Beach Park improvements.	2027	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Update Town population using Census Dissemination Block data.	2027	None	Labour costs
	Crystal Ridge Park improvements.	2027	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Friendship Trail asphalt replacement.	2027	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Riverwalk Park connections.	2027	\$550,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Shagbark Nature Park renewals.	2027	\$100,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Waverly Beach Waterfront Park playground.	2027	\$190,00 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Fitness equipment installation.	2027	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2027	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Spears Gardens Park land acquisition (park area not specified).	2027	\$150,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Alliston Woods Park development (park area not specified).	2027	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
Buffalo Road West Park development (park area not specified).	2027	\$875,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations	
Bill Connelly Field outdoor court replacement and field improvements and playground replacement	2027	\$650,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility	

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
1-5 years	Active Transportation Master Plan: Crystal Beach off-road trail Evadere Avenue to Friendship Trail	2028	\$175,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Energy Field bridge replacement.	2028	\$150,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Oakes Park lighting replacement.	2028	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Point Abino Waterfront Park.	2028	\$1,000,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2028	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Hospitality Drive Park development (park area not specified).	2028	\$277,400 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Thompson Road West Park development (park area not specified).	2028	\$1,112,400 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Energy Field playground replacement.	2029	\$240,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Friendship Trail asphalt replacement.	2029	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Oakes Park playground installation.	2029	\$150,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2029	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Fort Erie Hills Subdivision Park development (park area not specified).	2029	\$1,000,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Helena Street Park development (0.19 ha).	2029	\$262,640 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$14,250/year)
	Sunset Park development (park area not specified).	2029	\$1,750,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Crystal Ridge Park spray pad replacement.	2030	\$520,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park playground.	2030	\$190,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations	
Optimist Park playground replacement.	2030	\$190,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations	



Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
1–5 years	Stevensville Memorial Park spray pad and outdoor court replacement.	2030	\$775,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Accessibility improvements.	2030	\$30,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2030	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	A.C. Douglas Park #1 soccer field (Class B/C, senior) renewal or replacement.	2030	\$5,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Ridgeway Village Square spray pad renewal or replacement.	2030	\$200,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Arthur/Louisa Park land acquisition (park area not specified).	2030	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Gorham Road Park development (park area not specified).	2030	\$1,456,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	North Bridgeburg Park development (park area not specified).	2030	\$1,456,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Spears Gardens Subdivision Park development (park area not specified).	2030	\$875,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
6–10 years	A.C. Douglas Park #1 outdoor court replacement.	2031	\$200,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Friendship Trail asphalt replacement.	2031	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Oakes Park lighting replacement.	2031	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2031	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Waterfront landscapes.	2031	\$100,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Soccer fields: 1 Class B/C junior/intermediate and 2 Class B/C senior.	2031	\$30,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Baseball diamond: 1 Class B.	2031	\$75,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
6–10 years	Racquet courts: 3 non-Class A tennis court equivalents and 1 pickleball court equivalent.	2031	\$300,000–\$400,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Outdoor courts: 2 basketball nets (1 full court or 2 half-courts) full basketball with energy field and ball hockey court	2031	\$75,000–\$100,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Playgrounds: 1 junior and 2 senior.	2031	\$150,000–\$200,000	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Garrison Green Park development (park area not specified).	2031	\$1,840,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Fort Erie Urban Area Neighbourhood Parks land acquisition and development (target area 12–14 ha combined).	2031	\$24,000,000–\$28,000,000 (minus lands acquired through parkland dedication)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$900,000–\$1,050,000/year)
	Crystal Beach Neighbourhood Parks land acquisition and development (target area 3.5–4.0 ha combined, approx. 1.3 ha already owned by Town).	2031	\$4,400,000–\$5,400,000 (minus lands acquired through parkland dedication)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$262,500–\$300,000/year)
	Douglastown–Black Creek Community Park land acquisition and development (target size 4–6 ha) OR Enhancement of active transportation connections (see Recommendation 17).	2031	(Depends on alternative selected)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (amount will depend on alternative selected)
	Update Town population using Census Dissemination Block data.	2032	None	Labour costs
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2032	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Waterfront pedestrian / cycling routes.	2032	\$1,000,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Lakeshore shorewall replacement.	2032	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Black Creek Subdivision Park development (0.692 ha).	2032	\$780,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$51,900/year)

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
6–10 years	Crystal Ridge Park playground replacement.	2033	\$400,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Friendship Trail asphalt replacement.	2033	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	UEL (Ott Road) Park lighting replacement.	2033	\$300,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2033	\$60,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	General park renewals.	2033	\$1,000,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Ridgeway North Park development (0.409 ha).	2033	\$800,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$30,675/year)
	Bay Beach Waterfront Park play equipment replacement.	2034	\$300,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Oakes Park tennis court lighting.	2034	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Accessibility improvements.	2034	\$50,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Neighbourhood Park enhancements.	2034	\$60,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Recreational Trail land acquisition.	2034	\$4,500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs, maintenance of new facility
	Creekside Subdivision Park development (0.255 ha).	2034	\$500,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$19,125/year)
	New Neighbourhood Park development (park area not specified).	2034	\$1,000,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations
	Holloway Bay Waterfront Window.	2035	\$250,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance of new facility
Stevensville Mini (UEL) Park improvements.	2035	\$300,000 (Capital Budget)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations	
11–15 years	Fort Erie Urban Area Neighbourhood Parks land acquisition and development (target area 1.427 ha combined).	2036	\$2,854,000 (minus lands acquired through parkland dedication)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$107,025/year)
	Baseball diamond: 1 Class C.	2036	\$15,000	Labour costs; maintenance of new facility

Priority	Park / Facility / Project	Target Date	Capital Budget Implications	Operating Budget Implications
11–15 years	Crystal Beach Neighbourhood Park land acquisition and development (target area 0.25–0.30 ha).	2036	\$500,000–\$600,000 (minus lands acquired through parkland dedication)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$22,500/year)
	Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Neighbourhood Park land acquisition and development (target area 0.20 ha).	2036	\$400,000 (minus lands acquired through parkland dedication)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$15,000/year)
	Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Community Parks land acquisition and development (target area 15 ha combined).	2036	\$30,000,000 (minus any lands acquired through parkland dedication)	Labour costs; maintenance and operations (\$1,125,000/year)
	Update Town population using Census Dissemination Block data.	2037	None	Labour costs
	Undertake Bowen Road Park Plan.	2040	\$50,000	Labour costs; costs associated with any public meetings needed



# 7 Summary of Recommendations

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## 7.1 Classifications & Standards

### 7.1.1 Park Classifications

**Recommendation 1: Park Classification System** — Adopt the classification system shown in Table 3.1 for the Town’s parks and open spaces.

**Recommendation 2: Classification of Existing Parks** — Classify the Town’s existing parks and open spaces according to the proposed classifications shown in Table 3.2.

### 7.1.2 Park Standards

**Recommendation 3: Service Levels & Provision Standards** — Adopt the recommended service level and provision standards for different classes of parks, as shown in Figure 3.9.

**Recommendation 4: In-Park Facilities** — Adopt the standards for in-park facilities and support features recommended in Table 3.3.

**Recommendation 5: Standard Requirements for All Parks** — Ensure that all parks in the Town, regardless of classification, have the following:

- (a) signage identifying the park by name;

- (b) at least one waste receptacle at each defined park entrance; and
- (c) sufficient lighting at all entrances and along pathways.

**Recommendation 6: Standards for Linear Parks** — Ensure that Linear Parks & Open Spaces, as well as pathways within other types of parks, are designed according to the recommendations in Table 3.4.

### 7.1.3 Facility Classifications & Standards

**Recommendation 7: Target Provision Levels for Soccer & Multi-Use Turf Fields** — Aim to provide soccer fields (including multi-use turf fields) at the following target rates:

- (a) for Class A fields, 1 field for every 16,000–18,000 residents;
- (b) for Class B and Class C fields (combined), 1 field equivalent for every 3,000 residents;
- (c) for junior and intermediate Class B and Class C fields, 1 field for every 750 residents under the age of 18; and
- (d) overall, 1 field equivalent for every 2,500 residents.

**Recommendation 8: Target Provision Levels for Baseball Diamonds** — Aim to provide baseball diamonds at the following target rates:

- (a) for Class A diamonds, 1 diamond for every 7,000–8,000 residents;
- (b) for Class B diamonds, 1 diamond for every 9,000–10,000 residents;
- (c) for Class C diamonds, 1 diamond for every 10,000–12,000 residents; and
- (d) overall, 1 diamond for every 2,800–3,250 residents.

**Recommendation 9: Target Provision Levels for Tennis & Pickleball Courts** — Aim to provide tennis and pickleball courts (both dedicated and multi-use) at the following target rates:

- (a) for Class A tennis courts, 1 court for every 5,000–6,000 residents;
- (b) for Class B tennis and pickleball courts, 1 court for every 3,000–4,000 residents;
- (c) for Class C (junior/“mini”) tennis courts, 1 court for every 6,000 residents under the age of 18, generally as a combined pickleball/mini court;

- (d) for tennis courts in general, 1 tennis court equivalent for every 3,000 residents;
- (e) for pickleball courts in general, 1 pickleball court equivalent for every 5,000 residents; and
- (f) for outdoor racquet sport courts overall, 1 court for every 1,800–2,000 residents.

**Recommendation 10: Target Provision Levels for Basketball & Multi-Use Courts** — Aim to provide basketball courts (including multi-use courts that combine basketball with other sports) at a target rate of 1 basketball net for every 200 youth residents (between the ages of 10 and 19), corresponding to 1,000–1,250 m<sup>2</sup> of basketball court space for every 1,000 youth residents, while continuing to monitor utilization and demand levels for other hard-surfaced courts to determine whether additional facilities are needed.

**Recommendation 11: Target Provision Levels for Playgrounds & Spray Pads** — Aim to provide playgrounds, age-appropriate play structures, and spray pads at the following target rates:

- (a) for playgrounds overall, 1 playground for every 180 children between the ages of 0 and 12;
- (b) for junior play structures (within playgrounds), 1 structure for every 60 children between the ages of 2 and 5;
- (c) for senior play structures (within playgrounds), 1 structure for every 150 children between the ages of 6 and 12; and
- (d) for spray pads overall, 1 spray pad for every 750 children between the ages of 0 and 12.

**Recommendation 12: Provision of Other Outdoor Facilities** — Continue to monitor utilization and demand levels for other outdoor recreation facilities, such as off-leash dog parks, skate parks, and fitness equipment for adults to determine whether additional facilities are needed and, if so, where those additional facilities should be located.

#### 7.1.4 **Asset Classifications & Standards**

**Recommendation 13: Asset Classification System** — Adopt the classification system and hierarchy proposed in Table 3.7 (or a similar system) as a step towards integrating parks, open spaces, and recreation assets into the Town’s broader asset management planning activities.

**Recommendation 14: Asset Inventory** — Once the proposed system has been adopted, undertake a full inventory of the Town’s parks, open spaces, and recreation assets (*i.e.*, Park Elements and Sub-elements).

## 7.2 Parks & Facilities

### 7.2.1 Parkland Needs

**Recommendation 15: Recommended Future Nature Parks, Cultural Spaces & Linear Parks** — Explore opportunities in the following areas for potential locations for future Nature Parks, Cultural Spaces, and Linear Parks:

- (a) Town-owned lands on the south side of Dominion Road as a future Nature Park, thus providing a connection from the Friendship Trail to Shagbark Nature Park (directly to the north);
- (b) Town-owned lands directly north of Beaver Creek Park, as an Open Space Linkage;
- (c) Town-owned lands on the site of the former Crystal Beach Stadium, as a future Cultural Space;
- (d) Town-owned lands in the Lakeshore–Walden neighbourhood (shown on Map 4), as an extension of the Friendship Trail; and
- (e) additional locations shown on Map 4 as potential locations for future Nature Parks and Linear Parks, including extensions of, or connections to, the Friendship Trail.

**Recommendation 16: Potential Locations for Community Parks** — Explore opportunities in the following areas for potential locations for future Community Parks, in order of descending preference:

- (a) the south end of the area between Albert Street and Helena Street in the Lakeshore–Walden neighbourhood, north of Albany Street;
- (b) the area surrounding the intersection of Dominion Road and Bernard Avenue, in the Thunder Bay neighbourhood, or, if that area is not feasible, the area north of Thunder Bay Road and west of Maple Leaf Avenue North; and
- (c) the south end of Douglastown–Black Creek, preferably southwest of the QEW and south of Netherby Road / Townline Road (although see Recommendation 17 below).



**Recommendation 17: Douglastown–Black Creek Community Park Access** — As an alternative to the acquisition of land in the area identified in Recommendation 16(c), explore opportunities to enhance active transportation connections between Douglastown–Black Creek and Stevensville, to allow residents of the former to take advantage of community-level parkland available in the latter.

**Recommendation 18: Potential Locations for Neighbourhood Parks** — Explore opportunities in the following areas for potential locations for future Neighbourhood Parks, in order of descending preference:

- (a) the north end of the Fort Erie–Bridgeburg neighbourhood, in the vicinity of the intersection of Phipps Street and Robinson Street;
- (b) the Crescent Park neighbourhood, south of Hollywood Street;
- (c) the area described in Recommendation 16 (a), if that area is not feasible for the location of a Community Park;
- (d) one of the areas described in Recommendation 16 (b), if neither of those areas is feasible as the location for a Community Park;
- (e) the area described in Recommendation 16 (c), if that area is not feasible for the location of a Community Park; and
- (f) the area around Victoria Road and Devon Place in the Crystal Beach neighbourhood.

## 7.2.2 Facility Needs

**Recommendation 19: Facility Needs to 2031** — Plan to add the following facilities in Town parks by 2031:

- (a) 1 Class B/C junior/intermediate soccer field and 2 Class B/C senior fields;
- (b) 1 Class B baseball diamond and possibly 1 Class C baseball diamond;
- (c) 3 non-Class A tennis court equivalents and 1 pickleball court equivalent;
- (d) 2 basketball nets (approximately 440 m<sup>2</sup> of court space); and
- (e) 1 junior playground and 2 senior playgrounds.

**Recommendation 20: Facility Needs to 2051** — Plan to add the following facilities in Town parks between 2031 and 2051:

- (a) 2 Class B/C junior/intermediate soccer fields and 1 Class B/C senior field;
- (b) 1 Class B baseball diamond and at least 1 Class C baseball diamond;
- (c) 2 Class A (lit) tennis courts, 2 non-Class A tennis court equivalents, and 2 pickleball court equivalents;
- (d) 5 basketball nets (approximately 1,090 m<sup>2</sup> of court space); and
- (e) 4 junior playgrounds, 4 senior playgrounds, and 1 spray pad.

### 7.2.3 Recommendations for Existing Parks & Facilities

**Recommendation 21: A.C. Douglas Park #1** —

- (a) Consider renaming from “A.C. Douglas Park #1” to “A.C. Douglas Park (South)”, with a corresponding renaming of A.C. Douglas Park #2 as “A.C. Douglas Park (North)”, to establish a more intuitive naming system for these two parks, making it easier for residents, visitors, Town staff, and emergency services (among others) to know which park is being referred to.
- (b) Undertake the replacement of the existing playground, as provided for in the Town’s 2025 capital budget.

**Recommendation 22: A.C. Douglas Park #2** — Explore the possibility of additional primary or secondary passive recreation features to A.C. Douglas Park #2 to support its role as a Neighbourhood Park.

**Recommendation 23: Beaver Creek Park** — Monitor utilization of Beaver Creek Park and consult nearby residents to determine whether the addition of another active feature or of additional passive features to this Neighbourhood Park is warranted (or whether the expansion of this park onto adjacent lands owned by the Town might be worth considering in the future).

**Recommendation 24: Bowen Road Park** — Undertake the process of preparing a formal park plan for Bowen Road Park with the goal of designing this space to be more clearly oriented towards the waterfront, as befits its classification as an Anchor Waterfront Park (with an active recreation focus, as recommended in the Waterfront Strategy).

**Recommendation 25: Crystal Beach Waterfront Park** —

- (a) Reclassify Crystal Beach Waterfront Park as an “Urban Waterfront Park” to recognize existing in-park features and its role in the Crystal Beach–Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Area.
- (b) Undertake the replacement of the existing playground, as provided for in the Town’s 2025 capital budget.

**Recommendation 26: Energy Field** — Undertake the replacement of the existing hard-surfaced ball hockey court, as provided for in the Town’s 2025 capital budget.

**Recommendation 27: Erie Beach (Waverly Beach) Waterfront Park** —

- (a) Undertake the preparation of a formal park plan for Erie Beach (Waverly Beach) Waterfront Park, including the recently acquired waterfront lands at the east end of the park, with the goal of its intended classification and role as an Anchor Waterfront Park with a cultural heritage focus (as recommended in the Waterfront Strategy).
- (b) As part of the cultural heritage focus for this park, consider the installation of additional interpretative signage, plaques, or similar features that draw attention to former features of the Erie Beach Amusement Park.

**Recommendation 28: Goderich Street Park** — Explore whether any opportunity exists for the expansion of Goderich Street Park, possibly in cooperation with neighbouring land uses (such as the adjacent seniors’ centre).

**Recommendation 29: Oakes Park** —

- (a) Reclassify Oakes Park as a “Destination Park,” in consideration of the park’s size, location, and existing in-park facilities.
- (b) Undertake the replacements and improvements to existing facilities, as provided for in the Town’s capital budget.

**Recommendation 30: Town Hall Leisureplex Park** — Consider the addition of another high-profile active or passive feature to support this park’s classification and role as a Destination Park, possibly through the addition of features or facilities that would provide an opportunity for winter recreation (such as a skating pad), and through the addition of features that reflect the cultural heritage of the community.

## 7.2.4 Recommendations for Supplementary Features

### Recommendation 31: Stormwater Management Facilities —

- (a) Wherever practical, ensure that new development is designed to use SWM ponds as supplementary features, by placing SWM ponds adjacent to parks and open spaces (while ensuring that SWM blocks in plans of subdivision are maintained as separate blocks).
- (b) Ensure that new SWM ponds are designed to appear as naturalized features, using plantings of native species to stabilize the banks of the pond and to provide a vegetative buffer that discourages human interference with the feature.
- (c) Incorporate appropriate active transportation facilities alongside SWM ponds and, where possible, locate these features strategically to enhance the connectivity of new development.

## 7.3 Management & Operations

### 7.3.1 Asset Management

**Recommendation 32: Asset Condition Assessment** — As part of the classification and inventorying process recommended in Recommendation 14, perform an assessment of the condition of each park asset (rated on a scale from 1 to 5), and undertake similar assessments at regular intervals (no less frequently than once per year).

### Recommendation 33: Monitoring of Repairs, Renewals & Replacements —

- (a) Record the repair, renewal, and replacement of in-park assets as they occur to provide a knowledge base for projecting the need for future repairs and replacements.
- (b) As part of this monitoring program, categorize each repair, renewal, and replacement as “periodic” (*i.e.*, needed to address normal wear and tear and typical life-cycle events) or “incidental” (*i.e.*, required because of unforeseen incidents or events).



**Recommendation 34: Prioritization of Repairs, Renewals & Replacements** — Prioritize the repair, renewal, and replacement of in-park facilities, features, and other park assets according to the following general guidelines:

- (a) Prioritize above all others the repair or replacement of any item whose condition represents a potential threat to health or safety.
- (b) Prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements based on the most recent assessment of condition (as described in Recommendation 32), with items rated “1” (poorest condition) receiving highest priority.
- (c) Where multiple items are assessed as being in the same condition, prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements based on the intended user base of the park in which the asset is located.
- (d) Further prioritize repairs, renewals, and replacements using the principle of geographic equity, taking also into consideration the expected demand level for the asset in question and other factors, such as effects on usability, uniqueness, duration of need, community involvement, and potential funding opportunities.

### 7.3.2 **Management & Operational Requirements**

**Recommendation 35: Data-Supported Parks Planning** — Maintain an up-to-date GIS-based inventory of existing parks and of in-park facilities and features, along with regularly updated population data at the Census Dissemination Block level, to assess the distribution of parks and outdoor facilities and to identify potential areas in need of greater park coverage.

**Recommendation 36: Monitoring of Operational Requirements** — Track operational expenditures (in terms of dollars spent or person-hours of labour expended) on an appropriate basis (such as by Urban Area) to achieve a better understanding of the operational needs of different types of parks and facilities and the operational implications of parks and facilities located in different parts of the Town.

### 7.3.3 Stewardship & Partnerships

Recommendation 37: Partnerships & Collaboration —

- (a) Cultivate a closer partnership with the NPC by supporting and contributing to NPC initiatives and by amplifying volunteer opportunities among Town residents.
- (b) Work with the NPCA to identify opportunities to promote outdoor environmental education in local conservation areas and other activities that promote the appreciation of the natural environment.
- (c) Continue to seek out opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring municipalities and with Niagara Region to expand, improve, and promote the active transportation and trails network.
- (d) Establish more formal partnerships and agreements with local school boards, including agreements regarding the shared use of facilities (both school and municipally owned).

Recommendation 38: Community Liaison Committees — Facilitate the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee for each Urban Area to provide information about the community’s park-related needs and to promote stewardship.

Recommendation 39: Coordination with Private Waterfront Landowners — Work with the owners of private lands adjacent to Waterfront Parks to identify acceptable (and ideally minimally intrusive) means of accurately demarcating public and private lands.

### 7.3.4 Public Engagement & Consultation

Recommendation 40: Public Consultation & Communications — Improve public engagement and overall communications between members of the public and the Town:

- (a) by engaging in regular public consultation regarding programs and services offered in Town parks and open spaces;
- (b) by ensuring that each park has signage with contact information for maintenance and repair requests, and possibly for by-law enforcement and facility bookings; and

- (c) by adding a full list of the Town’s parks and open spaces to the “Parks, Trails & Sports Fields” page of the Town’s website.

## 7.4 Implementation

**Recommendation 41: Additional Assets in Need of Renewal & Replacement** — Consider incorporating the items listed in Table 6.3 into the Town’s capital budget for 2024–2031, prioritized in the order in which they are listed in that table.

**Recommendation 42: Overall Fiscal Strategy** — Adopt the following strategy for decisions regarding whether to require the dedication of land for park purposes or a payment in lieu of dedication when new development is proposed:

- (a) In general, require the dedication of land when an opportunity to acquire land for a Town-wide park class (such as a Nature Park or Cultural Space) presents itself.
- (b) In general, require a payment in lieu of dedication for proposed development that does not include a residential component, unless an opportunity to acquire land for a Town-wide park or an opportunity to address an identified area of need presents itself.
- (c) In the Fort Erie, Crystal Beach, and Ridgeway–Thunder Bay Urban Areas, require the dedication of land when an opportunity to address an identified area of need (such as those shown in Map 5 and Map 6) or an opportunity to acquire land along or near the waterfront presents itself.
- (d) In the Stevensville Urban Area, prioritize the provision of payments in lieu of land dedication (unless the opportunity to acquire land for a Town-wide park class presents itself).
- (e) In the Douglastown–Black Creek Urban Area, prioritize the provision of payments in lieu of land dedication, unless an opportunity to address the need for a Community Park or an opportunity to acquire land near or along the waterfront presents itself.







# Appendices



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## Appendix A

# Public Consultation (2024)

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This appendix contains the responses received to the public survey, which was administered over a two-week window, from March 11 to March 25, 2024, and received a total of 158 responses (although not all respondents answered every survey question). There were also two public open houses, hosted on March 6 at the Stevensville Memorial Hall and on March 7 at the Fort Erie Leisureplex Banquet Hall, with a combined attendance of about 30–40 people.

The percentages shown next to the number of responses for each survey question indicate the percentage of people who provided a response to the question (i.e., those who did not skip the question). For questions that accept more than one answer (indicated by the inclusion of “Check all that apply” in the question itself), these percentages may add to more than 100%.

The percentages next to the numbers for “Total Responses” and “Skipped” for each question represent the percentage of the 158 respondents who either answered or skipped the question.

## Survey Responses

### Q1: What is the postal code of your home address?

Fort Erie (Urban Area)	60	40.0%
Crystal Beach–Ridgeway–Thunder Bay	64	40.5%
Stevensville / Douglastown	28	17.7%
Rural Area (Town of Fort Erie)	2	1.3%
Outside Town of Fort Erie	3	1.9%
Invalid (Postal code does not exist)	1	0.6%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Skipped	0	0.0%

### Q2: Are you a resident of Fort Erie?

Yes, I live here year-round (permanent resident)	145	91.8%
Yes, but only during part of the year (seasonal resident)	13	8.2%
No	0	0.0%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Skipped	0	0.0%

**Q3: What age group are you in?**

Under 20 years old	7	4.4%
20 to 29 years old	3	1.9%
30 to 39 years old	26	16.5%
40 to 49 years old	37	23.4%
50 to 59 years old	28	17.7%
60 to 69 years old	36	22.8%
70 to 79 years old	19	12.0%
80 years or older	2	1.3%
Total Responses	158	100.0%
Skipped	0	0.0%

**Q4: Please describe your household.**

Couple with no dependent children	60	38.0%
Couple with one or more dependent children	63	39.9%
Single parent	7	4.4%
Multi-generational (extended family)	8	5.1%
More than one adult sharing a residence	11	7.0%
Adult living alone	9	5.7%
Total Responses	158	100.0%
Skipped	0	0.0%

**Q5: How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?**

None	89	56.3%
1	21	13.3%
2	35	22.2%
3	11	7.0%
4	2	1.3%
5 or more	0	0.0%
Total Responses	158	100.0%
Skipped	0	0.0%

**Q6: When do you or other people in your household visit/use Fort Erie's parks and open space system? (Check all that apply.)**

Spring (March, April, May)	128	85.3%
Summer (June, July, August)	142	94.7%
Fall (September, October, November)	133	88.7%
Winter (December, January, February)	88	58.7%
None of the above	4	2.7%
Total Responses	150	94.9%
Skipped	8	5.1%



**Q7: How often do you or someone else in your household visit one of Fort Erie’s parks or open spaces (not including sports field use)?**

More than twice per week	74	49.3%
Twice per week	25	16.7%
Once per week	25	16.7%
Once per month	14	9.3%
Two or three times per year	6	4.0%
Once per year	0	0.0%
Less than once per year	1	0.7%
Never	2	1.3%
Don't know / Not sure	3	2.0%
Total Responses	150	94.9%
Skipped	8	5.1%

**Q8: What park features and facilities do you or others in your household use most frequently? (Check all that apply.)**

Open spaces (walking, picnicking, etc.)	98	65.3%
Trails (walking, cycling, etc.)	123	82.0%
Beaches and waterfront	109	72.7%
Playgrounds	62	41.3%
Splash pads	43	28.7%
Sports fields and facilities (soccer, baseball, tennis, basketball, skate park, etc.)	46	30.7%
Dog parks	26	17.3%
Benches, picnic areas, or pavilions	58	38.7%

**Q8: What park features and facilities do you or others in your household use most frequently? (Check all that apply.)**

Other (please specify):	9	6.0%
We live in the Nigh and Centralia area. It would be nice to have a park nearby for the children in this area.		
Boat ramp		
For Markets/Fairs/events		
Pond		
Parking places along the river		
none		
Pickleball Courts		
Skate parks		
Sports		
Total Responses	150	94.9%
Skipped	8	5.1%

**Q9: In general, how satisfied are you with the overall quality of the Town's parks and open space system?**

Very satisfied (5)	14	9.5%
Satisfied (4)	72	48.7%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	39	26.4%
Unsatisfied (2)	13	8.8%
Very unsatisfied (1)	10	6.8%
N/A	0	0.0%
Weighted average	3.45	
Total Responses	148	93.7%
Skipped	10	6.3%

**Q10: Generally, how satisfied are you with the following elements of the Town of Fort Erie’s parks and open space system?**

<b>Open spaces / Green spaces</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	13	8.7%
Satisfied (4)	70	46.7%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	36	24.0%
Unsatisfied (2)	23	15.3%
Very unsatisfied (1)	8	5.3%
N/A	0	0.0%
Weighted average	3.38	
Total Responses	150	94.9%
Skipped	8	5.1%
<b>Trees and landscaping</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	11	7.4%
Satisfied (4)	59	39.6%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	41	27.5%
Unsatisfied (2)	27	18.1%
Very unsatisfied (1)	11	7.4%
N/A	0	0.0%
Weighted average	3.21	
Total Responses	149	94.3%
Skipped	9	5.7%

**Q10: Generally, how satisfied are you with the following elements of the Town of Fort Erie’s parks and open space system?**

<b>Pavilions and gazebos</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	5	3.4%
Satisfied (4)	50	33.8%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	59	39.9%
Unsatisfied (2)	19	12.8%
Very unsatisfied (1)	6	4.1%
N/A	9	6.1%
Weighted average	3.21	
Total Responses	148	93.7%
Skipped	10	6.3%
<b>Seating</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	9	6.0%
Satisfied (4)	42	28.2%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	50	33.6%
Unsatisfied (2)	34	22.8%
Very unsatisfied (1)	9	6.0%
N/A	5	3.4%
Weighted average	3.06	
Total Responses	149	94.3%
Skipped	9	5.7%



**Q10: Generally, how satisfied are you with the following elements of the Town of Fort Erie’s parks and open space system?**

<b>Signage and wayfinding</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	13	8.8%
Satisfied (4)	60	40.8%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	41	27.9%
Unsatisfied (2)	19	12.9%
Very unsatisfied (1)	8	5.4%
N/A	6	4.1%
Weighted average	3.36	
Total Responses	147	93.0%
Skipped	11	7.0%

**Q11: Which parks have you or someone else in your household visited in the past year? (Check all that apply. For reference, please see the Town’s “Parks, Trails and Sports Fields” page.)**

A. C. Douglas #1 Park	28	18.8%
A. C. Douglas #2 Park	24	16.1%
Albert Street Park	29	19.5%
Battle of Ridgeway Park	33	22.1%
Bay Beach Waterfront Park	76	51.0%
Beaver Creek Parkette	6	4.0%
Bernard Avenue Beach	56	37.6%
Bill Connelly Field	11	7.4%

**Q11: Which parks have you or someone else in your household visited in the past year? (Check all that apply. For reference, please see the Town’s “Parks, Trails and Sports Fields” page.)**

Bowen Road Park	19	12.8%
Cherryhill Park	8	5.4%
Crescent Beach Waterfront Park	57	38.3%
Crystal Beach Waterfront Park	84	56.4%
Crystal Ridge Park	60	40.3%
Douglas Park (Fort Erie)	34	22.8%
Energy Field	18	12.1%
Ferndale (Bertie Centennial) Park	48	32.2%
Friendship Trail	114	76.5%
Goderich Street Park	6	4.0%
Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park	7	4.7%
Maple Leaf Beach Park	16	10.7%
Mather Avenue Parkette	23	15.4%
Oakes Park	24	16.1%
Optimist Youth Park	25	16.8%
Point Abino Waterfront Park	32	21.5%
Queens Circle	35	23.5%
Ridgeway Lions Park	44	29.5%
Ridgeway Village Square	64	43.0%
Riverwalk Park	16	10.7%

**Q11: Which parks have you or someone else in your household visited in the past year? (Check all that apply. For reference, please see the Town’s “Parks, Trails and Sports Fields” page.)**

Shagbark Nature Park	44	29.5%
Shannon Road North Park	2	1.3%
Shannon Road South Park	3	2.0%
Spears Park	8	5.4%
Stevensville Memorial Park	42	28.2%
Stevensville Memory Park	18	12.1%
Stevensville Mini Park (UJEL)	17	11.4%
Sugarbowl Park	60	40.3%
Town Hall Leisureplex / Skatepark	50	33.6%
United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park	19	12.8%
Waverly Beach & Park	87	58.4%
Other (please specify):	11	7.4%
Beach at end of Stonemill Rd.		
Stevensville conservation area		
Centralia park & beach		
The playground on Sharon drive in high pointe meadows		
The trail along the QEW connecting black creek road to shagbark lane		
All the beach entrances		
none		
Old Fort area		
The park behind Stevensville library		
Centralia trail		
Upper Niagara parkway trail (Yup not owned by Town)		
Total Responses	149	94.3%
Skipped	11	5.7%

**Q12: In the past year, what activities (formal or informal) have you or someone else in your household participated in using the parks and open space system? (Check all that apply.)**

Ball hockey	18	12.2%
Baseball	20	13.6%
Basketball	28	19.0%
Bird-watching	42	28.6%
Boating / boat launches	36	24.5%
Cross-country skiing	4	2.7%
Cycling	69	46.9%
Dog-walking	76	51.7%
Football	13	8.8%
Pickleball	19	12.9%
Picnicking	46	31.3%
Playgrounds	58	39.5%
Skateboarding	10	6.8%
Soccer	31	21.1%
Tennis	19	12.9%
Tobogganing / sledding	41	27.9%
Walking or running	119	81.0%
Water play / splash pads	57	38.8%
Other (please specify):	9	6.1%
Easter egg hunt		
Suntanning		
Atv and Snowmobiling		

**Q12: In the past year, what activities (formal or informal) have you or someone else in your household participated in using the parks and open space system? (Check all that apply.)**

Other (please specify):		
Just parking and enjoying waterfront views		
none		
To access lake for kayaking		
We help with the gardening at Stevensville Memory Park.		
Badminton, Scotter (riding)		
Kayaking		
Total Responses	147	93.0%
Skipped	11	7.0%

**Q13: In the past year, which recreational trails have you or someone else in your household used? (Check all that apply.)**

Crystal Ridge Park Nature Trail	34	23.6%
Friendship Trail	131	91.0%
Riverwalk Park	35	24.3%
Shagbark Nature Trail	43	29.9%
United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park Nature Trail	26	18.1%
Other (please specify):	6	4.2%
Niagara boulevard trail		
Centralia trail & beach		
Niagara parkway		
Stevensville conservation area		
Centralia trail		
Upper Niagara Parkway trail (NPS owned)		
None / Not applicable	6	4.2%



**Q13: In the past year, which recreational trails have you or someone else in your household used? (Check all that apply.)**

Total Responses	144	91.1%
Skipped	14	8.9%

**Q14: In the past year, which beaches have you or someone else in your household visited? (Check all that apply.)**

Bay Beach Waterfront Park	79	54.5%
Bernard Avenue Beach	62	42.8%
Crescent Beach Waterfront Park	54	37.2%
Crystal Beach Waterfront Park	80	55.2%
Maple Leaf Beach Park	20	13.8%
Waverly Beach Park	78	53.8%
Other (please specify): Stonemill rd Pleasant beach Centralia Ave Centralia Beach	4	2.8%
None / Not applicable	16	11.0%
Total Responses	145	91.8%
Skipped	13	8.2%

**Q15: In the past year, which playgrounds have you or someone else in your household used/visited? (Check all that apply.)**

A. C. Douglas #1 Park	21	14.9%
Albert Street Park	21	14.9%
Bill Connelly Field	11	7.8%
Bowen Road Park	12	8.5%
Crystal Beach Waterfront Park	56	39.7%
Douglas Park (Fort Erie)	21	14.9%
Energy Field	17	12.1%
Ferndale (Bertie Centennial) Park	39	27.7%
Goderich Street Park	3	2.1%
Madeline Faizzia Memorial Park	6	4.3%
Ridgeway Lions Park	31	22.0%
Sugarbowl Park	38	27.0%
United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park	18	12.8%
Other (please specify):	14	9.9%
The one with the splash pad behind the Stevensville library, mini park at west main and old mill in Stevensville Sharon drive Ott Rd. Ballpark and Stevensville Memory Park. Did you forget these Parks for your survey? Stevensville memorial park Stevensville Memorial Crystal Ridge, lions park, Stevensville memorial park Stevensville parks (West Main and Stevensville Road) The one on the blvd Park on corner of Hyman and Neva Crystal Ridge Stevensville mini park Spears Park Spears Estate Playground Crystal Ridge		

**Q15: In the past year, which playgrounds have you or someone else in your household used/visited? (Check all that apply.)**

None / Not applicable	44	31.2%
Total Responses	141	89.2%
Skipped	17	10.8%

**Q16: In the past year, which splash pads have you or someone else in your household used/visited? (Check all that apply.)**

Crystal Ridge Park	31	22.5%
Ferndale (Bertie Centennial) Park	31	22.5%
Ridgeway Village Square	36	26.1%
Stevensville Memorial Park	26	18.8%
None / Not applicable	67	48.6%
Total Responses	138	87.3%
Skipped	20	12.7%

**Q17: In general, how satisfied are you with the following elements in the Town's parks and open space system?**

<b>Trails</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	19	13.1%
Satisfied (4)	67	46.2%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	33	22.8%
Unsatisfied (2)	18	12.4%
Very unsatisfied (1)	6	4.1%
N/A	2	1.4%
Weighted average	3.52	
Total Responses	145	91.8%
Skipped	13	8.2%
<b>Beaches</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	14	9.6%
Satisfied (4)	55	37.7%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	39	26.7%
Unsatisfied (2)	25	17.1%
Very unsatisfied (1)	8	5.5%
N/A	5	3.4%
Weighted average	3.30	
Total Responses	146	92.4%
Skipped	12	7.6%

**Q17: In general, how satisfied are you with the following elements in the Town’s parks and open space system?**

<b>Playgrounds</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	12	8.4%
Satisfied (4)	58	40.6%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	35	24.5%
Unsatisfied (2)	7	4.9%
Very unsatisfied (1)	4	2.8%
N/A	27	18.9%
Weighted average	3.58	
Total Responses	143	90.5%
Skipped	15	9.5%
<b>Splash pads</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	14	9.7%
Satisfied (4)	50	34.7%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	33	22.9%
Unsatisfied (2)	8	5.6%
Very unsatisfied (1)	2	1.4%
N/A	37	25.7%
Weighted average	3.62	
Total Responses	144	91.1%
Skipped	14	8.9%



**Q18: In the past year, which tennis or pickleball courts have you or someone else in your household used? (Check all that apply.)**

A. C. Douglas #1 Park	7	5.0%
Albert Street Park	7	5.0%
Bill Connelly Field	4	2.8%
Ferndale (Bertie Centennial) Park	10	7.1%
Oakes Park	3	2.1%
Ridgeway Lions Park	18	12.8%
Stevensville Memorial Park	7	5.0%
None / Not applicable	99	70.2%
Total Responses	141	89.2%
Skipped	17	10.8%

**Q19: In the past year, which multi-use courts (basketball, ball hockey, etc.) have you or someone else in your household used?**

A. C. Douglas #1 Park	8	5.9%
Albert Street Park	7	5.1%
Bill Connelly Field	4	2.9%
Energy Field	6	4.4%
Ridgeway Lions Park	22	16.2%
Stevensville Memorial Park	11	8.1%
None / Not applicable	89	65.4%
Total Responses	136	86.1%
Skipped	22	13.9%

**Q20: Did you or someone else in your household use the Town Hall Leisureplex Skatepark in the past year?**

Yes	23	16.3%
No	118	83.7%
Total Responses	141	89.2%
Skipped	17	10.8%

**Q21: In the past year, have you taken your dog to any of the following parks? (Check all that apply.)**

Battle of Ridgeway Park (on-leash only)	9	6.3%
Crystal Ridge Park Sugarbowl Park Dog Off-Leash Area [ <i>sic</i> : typo in response option]	19	13.2%
Friendship Trail (on-leash only)	48	33.3%
Sugarbowl Park Dog Off-Leash Area	15	10.4%
Other (please specify): Bay beach, private areas, would like to see all parks and beaches dog friendly. Walked my dog around the path in Douglas park by the pump house on River Trail in Stevensville My dog comes to most parks (on leash) while my children play at the parks/fields. We ALWAYS pick up after our dog.	3	2.1%
None of the above	29	20.1%
I'm not a dog owner	56	38.9%
Total Responses	144	91.1%
Skipped	14	8.9%

**Q22: In general, how satisfied are you with the quality of the following elements in the Town's parks and open space system?**

<b>Tennis / pickleball courts</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	7	4.9%
Satisfied (4)	34	23.9%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	31	21.8%
Unsatisfied (2)	5	3.5%
Very unsatisfied (1)	3	2.1%
N/A	62	43.7%
Weighted Average	3.46	
Total Responses	142	89.9%
Skipped	16	10.1%
<b>Multi-use courts (basketball, ball hockey, etc.)</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	11	7.9%
Satisfied (4)	32	23.0%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	30	21.6%
Unsatisfied (2)	1	0.7%
Very unsatisfied (1)	2	1.4%
N/A	63	45.3%
Weighted Average	3.64	
Total Responses	139	88.0%
Skipped	19	12.0%

**Q22: In general, how satisfied are you with the quality of the following elements in the Town’s parks and open space system?**

<b>Skatepark</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	10	7.0%
Satisfied (4)	15	10.6%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	24	16.9%
Unsatisfied (2)	2	1.4%
Very unsatisfied (1)	0	0.0%
N/A	91	64.1%
Weighted Average	3.65	
Total Responses	142	89.9%
Skipped	16	10.1%
<b>Dog parks</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	9	6.3%
Satisfied (4)	21	14.7%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	33	23.1%
Unsatisfied (2)	11	7.7%
Very unsatisfied (1)	2	1.4%
N/A	67	46.9%
Weighted Average	3.32	
Total Responses	143	90.5%
Skipped	15	9.5%

**Q23: How often do you or someone else in your household use one of the Town's sports fields (including for organized sports)?**

More than once per week	21	14.9%
Once per week	16	11.3%
Once per month	4	2.8%
Two or three times per year	16	11.3%
Once per year	3	2.1%
Less than once per year	11	7.8%
Never / Not sure	70	49.6%
Total Responses	141	89.2%
Skipped	17	10.8%

**Q24: In the past year, which baseball diamonds have you or someone else in your household used? (Check all that apply.)**

A. C. Douglas #1 Park	5	3.5%
Bowen Road Park	3	2.1%
Energy Field	5	3.5%
Oakes Park	18	12.8%
United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park	7	5.0%
None / Not applicable	109	77.3%
Total Responses	141	89.2%
Skipped	17	10.8%



**Q25: In the past year, which soccer fields have you or someone else in your household used? (Check all that apply.)**

A. C. Douglas #1 Park	6	4.3%
Albert Street Park	3	2.2%
Bill Connelly Field	5	3.6%
Douglas Park (Fort Erie)	4	2.9%
Ferndale (Bertie Centennial) Park	29	20.9%
Optimist Youth Park	18	12.9%
Ridgeway Lions Park	23	16.5%
United Empire Loyalist (Ott Road) Park	5	3.6%
None / Not applicable	93	66.9%
Total Responses	139	88.0%
Skipped	19	12.0%

**Q26: Did you or someone else in your household use the football field at Crystal Ridge Park in the past year?**

Yes	16	11.4%
No	124	88.6%
Total Responses	140	88.6%
Skipped	18	11.4%

**Q27: In general, how satisfied are you with the quality of the following outdoor sports fields that you've used?**

<b>Baseball diamonds</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	5	3.6%
Satisfied (4)	25	18.0%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	23	16.5%
Unsatisfied (2)	2	1.4%
Very unsatisfied (1)	3	2.2%
N/A	81	58.3%
Weighted Average	3.47	
Total Responses	139	88.0%
Skipped	19	12.0%
<b>Soccer fields</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	4	2.9%
Satisfied (4)	26	18.7%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	24	17.3%
Unsatisfied (2)	4	2.9%
Very unsatisfied (1)	6	4.3%
N/A	75	54.0%
Weighted Average	3.28	
Total Responses	139	88.0%
Skipped	19	12.0%

**Q27: In general, how satisfied are you with the quality of the following outdoor sports fields that you've used?**

<b>Football field</b>		
Very satisfied (5)	4	2.9%
Satisfied (4)	16	11.6%
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied (3)	22	15.9%
Unsatisfied (2)	1	0.7%
Very unsatisfied (1)	2	1.4%
N/A	93	67.4%
Weighted Average	3.42	
Total Responses	138	87.3%
Skipped	20	12.7%

**Q28: How important is each of the following when it comes to the Town's parks and open space system? (Please rank from most to least important.)**

<b>Promoting the Town's history and cultural heritage</b>		
(1) Most important	5	4.7%
(2)	15	14.0%
(3)	23	21.5%
(4)	14	13.1%
(5)	23	21.5%
(6) Least important	27	25.2%
Weighted Average	2.92	

**Q28: How important is each of the following when it comes to the Town’s parks and open space system? (Please rank from most to least important.)**

<b>Promoting the Town’s history and cultural heritage</b>		
Total Responses	107	67.7%
Skipped	51	32.3%
<b>Protecting the natural environment</b>		
(1) Most important	48	45.7%
(2)	24	22.9%
(3)	7	6.7%
(4)	12	11.4%
(5)	10	9.5%
(6) Least important	4	3.8%
Weighted Average	4.72	
Total Responses	105	66.5%
Skipped	53	33.5%
<b>Providing fields and facilities for outdoor sports</b>		
(1) Most important	17	17.3%
(2)	11	11.2%
(3)	19	19.4%
(4)	17	17.3%
(5)	16	16.3%
(6) Least important	18	18.4%

**Q28: How important is each of the following when it comes to the Town's parks and open space system? (Please rank from most to least important.)**

<b>Providing fields and facilities for outdoor sports</b>		
Weighted Average	3.41	
Total Responses	98	62.0%
Skipped	60	38.0%
<b>Providing spaces for social gatherings</b>		
(1) Most important	3	3.1%
(2)	14	14.3%
(3)	20	20.4%
(4)	15	15.3%
(5)	20	20.4%
(6) Least important	26	26.5%
Weighted Average	2.85	
Total Responses	98	62.0%
Skipped	60	38.0%



**Q28: How important is each of the following when it comes to the Town’s parks and open space system? (Please rank from most to least important.)**

<b>Providing trails for walking, running, cycling, etc.</b>		
(1) Most important	42	40.4%
(2)	32	30.8%
(3)	14	13.5%
(4)	10	9.6%
(5)	5	4.8%
(6) Least important	1	1.0%
Weighted Average	4.89	
Total Responses	104	65.8%
Skipped	54	34.2%
<b>Providing unprogrammed open spaces for people to enjoy</b>		
(1) Most important	10	9.9%
(2)	24	23.8%
(3)	32	31.7%
(4)	16	15.8%
(5)	11	10.9%
(6) Least important	8	7.9%
Weighted Average	3.82	
Total Responses	101	63.9%
Skipped	57	36.1%

**Q29: If the Town was developing a new park near your home, what features would you like it to include? (Choose up to 7 items.)**

Baseball diamond	7	5.3%
Basketball court	12	9.0%
Community garden	50	37.6%
Concession stand	17	12.8%
Cultural space (e.g., amphitheater or bandshell)	26	19.5%
Fitness equipment	33	24.8%
Gazebo or pavilion	40	30.1%
Heritage plaques / memorials	25	18.8%
Interpretative signage	10	7.5%
Natural area	74	55.6%
Off-leash dog area	21	15.8%
Open green space	58	43.6%
Outdoor sports field (soccer, football, etc.)	18	13.5%
Parking lot	40	30.1%
Pickleball court	17	12.8%
Picnic area	28	21.1%
Playground	39	29.3%
Running track	23	17.3%
Shaded seating area	70	52.6%
Skatepark	5	3.8%
Splash pad	24	18.0%

**Q29: If the Town was developing a new park near your home, what features would you like it to include? (Choose up to 7 items.)**

Tennis court	6	4.5%
Washrooms	75	56.4%
Other (please specify):	23	17.3%
Lighting at Pickball courts in Ridgeway		
off road cycling trail		
Atv park and/or trails		
reduce my sky high taxes		
walking paths		
More access for leashed dogs		
indoor Roller skating rink		
none		
Pollinator gardens		
outdoor Pool, theres no where clean to swim outdoors the lake is disgusting		
Swimming pool		
Outdoor Pool.		
Washroom with breastfeeding section/couch		
Please: Landscape and update Bowen park		
Water fountain to drink		
Pool needs to become a priority.....not splash pads!!		
Outdoor swimming pool		
Landscaping, shade trees, paths, accessibility		
Cameras		
Swings at the playground		
Indoor pool and indoor soccer and ball hockey		
Butterfly garden		
None		
Total Responses	133	84.2%
Skipped	25	15.8%

**Q30: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some of the strengths, and what is working well, from your perspective?**

Responses:

Happy with the playgrounds available across fort Erie and cleanliness of parks. Well done  
The few parks we have are well maintained  
It's beautiful  
The uniqueness of the playground structures. Ability to find a splash pad and ample green space.  
The Friendship Trail is amazing! New to the are so a lot more exploring to do.  
...  
Well maintained  
Friendship trail is best. Most accessible, clean signage, dog friendly  
Playgrounds are in good shape  
The town does a nice job at maintaining the Friendship Trail  
Lots of room  
Generally well maintained  
Lots of activities to be done outdoors in the summer.  
Most are not too intrusive or over-controlled at the moment.  
Weekly grass cutting & maintenance  
Lots of wooded and natural areas. Well maintained trails.  
Open spaces  
Lots of area's to do lots of things.  
friendship trail is great. do not agree with new parking fees for boat launch on Niagara blvd.  
Well kept, happy to get a big splash pad, decent variety  
There are some great walking trails and areas for people to enjoy. I wish there was some more connectivity between paths, I.e. a sidewalk down switch road to connect the trail beside the qew to the parkway trail.  
Lots a play equipment for children. Plus the multi use courts are great.  
Transition to splash pads is a great solution. Wish we hadn't wasted so much money on fixing the pool  
\* variety of parks to choose from \* garbage collection has been good lately  
Too restrictive...need more vendors/food offerings/entertainment options (pop up retail/craft/antique/artist/kayaking/cycling/paddle board/spa service businesses)  
They are well maintained and garbage is removed frequently  
Friendship Trail works foir getting excercise and fresh air  
Generally well-maintained.  
The quantity of parks and the variety are excellent. The Friendship Trail is a wonderful asset, as are the beaches. The Waterfront Windows are great. Overall the parks are well maintained except for comment below.  
I think the parks in Ridgeway/Crystal Beach are great. We enjoy riding our bikes, walking the dog and visiting our beaches.  
Upgrade of Sugar Bowl park is really coming along great!  
I think it will be a bit better when the new parks are finished. There needs to be more trees and benches and garbage cans as the few they have fill up so fast.  
Access and maintenance generally

**Q30: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some of the strengths, and what is working well, from your perspective?**

Responses (*continued*):

Each area of town seems to have at least one or more park.

frsesh air

Open space free from over development

beaches and trails are the main strengths

No comment

Walkways around and through landscaped and natural gardens and ponds. Benches to take in views.

Thanks for keeping the parks and open spaces neat and tidy.

I do not think the parks are working well.

The current park I use daily, Waverly Park, is in a great location, fairly nice beach

Cleanliness

Number of parks

Trails are great. Parks are generally clean. There is more variety available now than there was 5 years ago.

There are many small parks/trails within my area.

Signage of significant features (including historical) is good.

Cleanliness and everything operational; playgrounds that are here are very nice.

Lovely areas

The number and distribution of public parks and areas is overall positive in allowing access across the city, and reducing any over crowding etc. The nature parks (Shagpark) and friendship trail are especially working well in maintaining some natural environment within new surrounding development and community-friendly bike/walking/ jogging that does not interfere with traffic.

Need winter activities Toboggan hill or slaging

The revamping if the parks in Fort Erie are working well such as revamping Crystal Ridge, such as making a more interesting playground for younger and older ages, making two new pavillions and adding sports areas.

Have taken advantage of waterfront to make parks!

Clean, well maintained. Well planned in terms of ammenities provided for all ages in each area.

Trees and landscaping

Green spaces for the public to enjoy on the water!!! Waverly Beach is a great example of a place where the public can enjoy a space we are lucky to have in Fort Erie!!

Walking track around parks

Upgrades splash pads and upgraded play ground, walking paths around park

Not overcrowded has a small town feel and should stay that way but have more space to hold birthday parties or get togethers with the community such as gazeebos for all weather or an indoor rental hall option with a kids park nearby.

We need more green space, Forests and trees. Places for wildlife to live

maintenance of public areas and parks and development of new spaces

Lots of seating, and washrooms.

Location of parks

Development and addition of summer (splash pads)



**Q30: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some of the strengths, and what is working well, from your perspective?**

Responses (*continued*):

Strengths; So many parks and playgrounds to choose from, it's spread out all over this Town. So many splash pads to use. Working well; Walking trails goes for miles.  
 Waterfront trails are wonderful for everyone, socially and for exercise.  
 The current playgrounds are excellent, with so much activities to keep my kids playing for hours. Enjoy the free parking lots close to the fields and playgrounds.  
 Open spaces, friendship trail  
 Upgrading old equipment. Abundance of existing land owned and mature trees/plants  
 Generally working well. I wish all users were respectful of the environment, e.g. garbage, dog poop/bags  
 Clean / clear walking paths. Landscaping and tree planting. Open layout and use of field space.  
 Some of the parks are being updated with lots of nice looking features and attractive playground.  
 Total park over hauls. Like Douglas park  
 Locations are fairly well spread  
 Access  
 Walking and biking the trails (friendship)  
 Beaches are being well utilized.  
 Close to my house, big, serves multiple generations  
 Glad to see a washroom at Douglas Park. Changes at sugarbowl look great  
 Room for improvement  
 The town employees try very hard to keep the areas tidy and free from garbage/destruction. We absolutely love the new park by Peace Bridge Public School.  
 Lots of different things are being provided at the parks that have recently been updated - courts, playground, splash pad.  
 The number of parkettes in each community within Fort Erie  
 Quiet and peaceful  
 Natural habitat for animals  
 Lots of upgrades to parks. Lots of locations to pick from. I like that there are places to fix your bike  
 Just keep workin  
 The Friendship Trail is great. So is Shagbark.

Total Responses	88	55.7%
Skipped	70	44.3%

**Q31: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some weaknesses and important areas for improvement, in your opinion?**

Responses:

Soccer fields are in horrible conditions. Very little maintenance and repair. Please see Port Colborne. Need an indoor multipurpose sports complex like Welland

More access to beaches

some of them just aren't big enough

A lot of vandalism and stuff spray painting or knocking down the brand new signs that were put up we need more picnic tables and parks and stuff

Play structures geared to the younger children or children with physical special needs. And benches along with barely any swing sets!

Bigger stretches of beachfront access.

Garbage everywhere, used needles and drug paraphernalia litters parks

I absolutely hate how the town and hydro mow down all the vegetation along the Friendship Trail and then leave a huge mess. It looks ugly and it opens the

environment for invasive species to take over. The Friendship Trail is going to be taken over by Japanese knotweed in a short time because of this. It is also unsightly.

Need natural areas, untouched except natural trails. Not landscaped.

Many areas the on leash is not enforced for dog owners

Make waterfront accessible to all local residents without confinement of beach areas, like fence at Bernard Beach :(

Baseball diamonds are run down.

Stop clear cutting trees. Protect the natural habitat of our wildlife. Protect their homes. Once trees, meadows etc are destroyed, they don't return. Our wildlife are also destroyed and don't return

Better drainage needed. Park is like a swamp for much of the warmer weather

Waverly beach needs a clean up with better sand for sitting and swimming and improved bike path

Locals only beach

More nature trails would be nice. The beaches are The Worst: costs for residents is ridiculous, the tiny size allotted to the public for free beaches is insulting, and there should be clear verbiage on just how far out the beachfront properties own of the beaches that their properties back onto. There are people who make their own rules and let their dogs accost others walking the shoreline. Fix the breakwall by the fort and Mather's arch. It's shoddy work, unsafe, and looks like the town gave up or doesn't care about the residents who frequent the area.

Asking tax paying residence to pay to use Bay Beach completely ridiculous. We already pay for it!!!

Polluted waters not great for swimming. Privately owned beach fronts make it difficult to use the beaches by residents and visitors.

No seating and trees

Needs a dog leash free in Stevensville.

sometimes trash bins in various public areas are overflowing. It seems like everything has a charge or a fee now, People on a budget (most of Fort Erie) cannot afford it.

Not enough garbage containers.

More sitting areas. Our park on Sharon drive in high pointe meadows doesn't have 1 bench or table for adults to sit while the kids play. And it's full of kids, which is great to see.

Some spaces are underutilized, for example one of the parks in Douglas town has a HUGE grass field that could be used for a number of things like a community garden or natural area.

Shaded areas for Sitting.

You keep adding parks when subdivisions are built which is necessary and needed but never add new staff to address maintenance needs. Stop wasting money on people and time to design parks when you don't hire people to maintain them

**Q31: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some weaknesses and important areas for improvement, in your opinion?**

Responses (*continued*):

\* upkeep of trails \* needing a shaded area at Stevensville Park on Main Street that parents can sit at close to play equipment to watch their children. \* put something in place to stop atv's/dirt bikes from going on trails/bridges bc they ruin/break them and tend to use trails while children are running around. \* maintenance of play equipment/ courts

More historical attributes, support of businesses in open spaces for locals and tourists to fully appreciate vacationing and enjoying the seasons. Need to support as much business all year to boost economy.

Updated playground and sports area in Black Creek. We pay a lot in taxes and get little in return given the location outside of town proper.

no matter what you build if you dont control and maintain the property its all for nothing

Friendship Trail needs repaving and along the river goose crap needs to be cleaned up regularly

Lack of hard infrastructure (e.g. lighting, access to water, washrooms open year-round). Existing infrastructure facilities are not considered part of this Master Plan process. Size of dog parks (should be at least 3 acres to permit human exercise and positive canine play). Should also have lighting, access to water, washrooms, sturdier gates, 5' fencing).

Garbage collection is not good. Garbage cans are not conveniently placed during the winter months (Waverly, Waterfront Park) and people throw it all over. The Friendship Trail should have the vegetation cut back more frequently and the asphalt needs repairs in places. These are hazardous.

Sidewalks connected neighbourhoods to parks and trails could be improved, for example Prospect Point from Whispering Woods to the Friendship Trail.

We need public volleyball and badminton courts

I already wrote most things above.

Bay Beach un-repaired damage, Bay Beach could use a chip wagon or two, wasn't it designed for that? Limited dog walking would be nice as well, especially off season and sunrise /sunset times before/after crowded times.

I mentioned Roller rink as my generation was lucky enough to have one, and I realize now that it was likely the most memorable and beneficial of all sporting/ social activities for all ages. Ask anyone who attended Crystal beach Roller skating in 70/80's and they will tell you what a lasting positive impact it had on fitness, activity, social interaction, music appreciation - all helping give people from 6 to 86 something to do. Positive experiences like this really help improve lifestyles and reduce crime in our neighborhoods while promoting cross cultural interactions. We are a natural for this as Crystal Beach has a roller skating history and there are very few rinks across southern Ontario.

garbage and glass everywhere

Bill Connolly Field needs a splash pad

not well maintained, no public washrooms, not enough natural areas, no dog stations

We need more trees. We need pollinator gardens in the parks. We need more seating for those who like to sit and enjoy the spaces. We need washrooms.

Waverly Woods needs help, it is looking very neglected. Too many trees have been cut down and abandoned and not all can provide future nourishment.

Sometimes the weeds become over active and an eyesore.

The parks have serious issues with off leash dogs and crystal beach has an uptick of pit bulls. The wide open spaces at the parks mix people with their offleash dogs in the open fields with small children and families in the splash pads and playgrounds which is unsafe. The dog parks only add to the volume of dogs in the parks with a mix of dog owners who purposefully let their dogs off leash. After dealing with too many off leash pit bulls at the parks we now seldomly go to the parks here and use parks in Niagara Falls that are safer. As well there needs to be more signs telling people to leash their dogs and as well there needs fencing or to have some parks attached to community centres that are clearly fenced off or marked as being leashed dogs only or dog free. If our local humane society is going to put hundreds of pit bulls they rehome into the community that are banned but they have changed the dogs breed, I shouldnt be putting up with them loose in the parks and risking my families safety.

**Q31: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some weaknesses and important areas for improvement, in your opinion?**

Responses (*continued*):

Waverly Park is not used that much anymore in the summer because of the algae problem, which is dangerous when it's wet and on the beach, and stinks when it's dry. The town will not clean it. The woods that butt onto the park are dangerous with falling trees. There's also a pile of concrete from the broken trail sitting at the side of the beach, where children climb on it. This definitely needs improvement.

Seating beach algae

More walking areas and markings. Outdoor fitness setups

Loosing Crystal Ridge HS track so making the Crystal Ridge Phase 3 updates is a priority. The washed up trail in Waverly has taken far too long (with no signage updates) which is a disappointment.

Lack of parking at many, especially when there are scheduled games or concerts. Cannot allow new housing without enforcing required parks AND sidewalks...there have been too many developments allowed without forcing developers to put in sidewalks.

The bicycle maintenance points could be more useful, it is difficult to use the air pumps the way they are mounted. The painted pavement lines directing traffic at Waterfront Park could be more intuitive.

Need more parks and open space; there is not enough. Don't think the Town pushes all these developers to contribute space and or funds for parks and recreation; they are the ones bringing in all the new people.

Washrooms and collecting of litter

One of the drivers to move to Fort Erie (Ridgeway) were the nature trails and green space (2020 move). This was a major differentiator vs. other options that were more convenient. However, a concern is that this seems to be on the path to reduction and elimination. In addition to the real time reduction in enjoyment of space, this is short sighted in terms of long term impact on property values and resulting economic development. The loss of green space combined with the apparent # of exceptions for builders (e.g. green space to curb) is amplifying this risk.

Making more off leash dog areas designated to dogs and make them farther away from areas where human without dogs would be, such as play grounds, splash pads, places people would eat and sports areas. Places that need a dog park are Stevensville Memorial Park and Bertie Cenntenial Park.

Seating, shade.

A lot of new residents want a fitness class in Blackcreek and Pickleball.. we need a community centre that welcomes all the new residents

Seating and dog parks

Lack of on-road cycling infrastructure, lack of clarity around public beach access and landowners rights, there is limited access due to a lack of sidewalks/designated cycle lanes

Need more pickelball courts

Better maintenance of these spaces! Improved access to these spaces, timely repairs when needed.

The wood chips in the playground is disgusting, get the fake grass and the playground deigns are horrible. Do the planners even have kids or know what kids do at playgrounds?

Not having exercise machine/ apparatus that seniors can use , not having enough shaded areas with benches , walking pathes around park

Something like a playground for small children with the soft plastic fake grass or black soft ground for small kids similar to park on millenium trail park

Allowed far too much development No place for nature

access to the parks and public spaces. near universally are public spaces only commutable by car while walking/cycling routes are not feasible or outright hazardous.

More natural areas with native plants, get rid of invasive and non native species on public lands.

Maintenance of parks is lacking.

Up keep of older grounds/ play areas. Landscaping in the north end is lacking and minimal.

**Q31: Thinking about the Town's current parks and open space system, what are some weaknesses and important areas for improvement, in your opinion?**

Responses (*continued*):

Cut back on the park areas, it must be so much maintenance to keep clean and grass cutting. No improvement needed, all is great.

Lighting & Shelter. Bring byvyhd lake, weather can change fast and there is no where to shelter along the greater friendship trail. \*\*\*lighting\*\*\* All public spaces and trails should have 24 hour lighting. Washrooms, every park should offer one. People are relieving themselves all over the place It's a health Hazzard.

Having to pay for parking in Crystal Beach to use the park and beach, so no one I know goes there. More parking spots in fields that have large sports events Trails and some parks have poison ivy and ticks, improve by pesticides it's the only way to remove.

POOLS People with knowledge of sports, environment, natural habitats.....or seek out those who do. Even the name " parks and cemeteries " rather than " parks and leisure or parks and recreation "

Priority needs to be quickly repairing the Waverly beach connecting trail system and community space. Such a great gathering space that can be improved. Also need an outdoor swimming pool option (unless most prefer to use beaches).

Repair path at Waverly

Overflowing garbages. Broken playground equipment. Lack of benches or seating (specifically spears park). Need for more swings at parks.

Lack of upkeep at the smaller beaches and waterfront windows. Monitoring for illegal disposal of garbage at beaches and along the trail.

Stop allowing the clear cutting of land. Replace whats been lost. Start protecting the old growth trees from being destroyed. Protect the natural habitat of the wildlife and be more conscientious of their needs. Allow more access to the Waterfront for FE citizens.

Quality of new playground equipment. They are junk and this is the most used equipment in most parks

Upgrades are happening in high disproportion with millions spent at some and nothing at all at others. Accessibility (parking and paths) and drainage (inside the playground and on the field/open space) as well as shade/landscaping (no gazebo or trees etc) are a definite issue, especially at Bill Connelly Park. The clubhouse is an eyesore and the parking lot is overgrown.

afety

The waverly beach area. The walkway along the lake should be replaced and made to withstand the ice and waves. Just look at the crystal beach sea wall to make one there.

It is an embarrassment that we have no town run outdoor or indoor swimming pools.

We need more shaded seating areas. There should be more spaces for the community to connect, also over demographic boundaries or age barriers. The educational component is missing (Apart from history/heritage). For example, animal migrations, such as monarch butterfly or the significance of the Niagara peninsula for migrating birds

Protecting adjacent private property

Not enough shade or seating. Not enough washrooms.

Few to no garbage bins or recycling. Benches are in terrible shape. Maintenance is replace when it rots

People drive their cars and quad bikes across Ferndale Avenue park a lot. This often causes huge ditches/rivets, making the soccer fields unusable. There should be some more trees surrounding the parking areas so that this cannot happen. Also the Ferndale Avenue play structure is looking very dated as well as the splash pad.

There seem to be issues with the splash pad not working in the past couple of years too.

Some parks seem to be neglected and are in need of major updates (Bowen Rd, Park). Also very disappointing to see the one and only outdoor public pool has been removed.

Maintenance in winter months with snow removal so walking on trails can continue

Trash cans are overflowing

Not enough parking



**Q31: Thinking about the Town’s current parks and open space system, what are some weaknesses and important areas for improvement, in your opinion?**

Responses (*continued*):

More teeter totters :D Sad to see nature go for houses  
 Fix the waverly part of the cycle trail  
 NMot working hard enough and looking at your phone  
 More natural areas. We only have 2 good size areas, most municipalities have many more.

Total Responses	97	61.4%
Skipped	61	38.6%

**Q32: What other considerations would improve your experience with the Town of Fort Erie’s parks and open space system?**

Responses:

Lighting at pickball courts (Ridgeway) as weather is warm into October and darkness prevents playing longer after work  
 Effort  
 I personally think we need to promote more wilderness space and preservation. Way to much is going into development.  
 More open space for everyone  
 Adding bathrooms to the most popular playgrounds would do wonders.  
 New to the are and find it unclear what access we have to waterfront. le can I stroll on the beach in front of private homes?  
 ..  
 Cut less forest/trees down. Yes, I know about emerald ash borer, but the planning department is letting developers run rampant over our forest inventory in Fort Erie, so perhaps the parks department needs to offset these loses in areas under their jurisdiction.  
 More dog friendly trails  
 Keep smaller waterfront area’s available to local residents. Especially during peak season when busier public beaches are over run by tourists  
 Increased maintenance. More garbage collection, flower beds, etc  
 Please protect our trees and natural habitat. The building of homes/condos is destroying our natural habitat and the homes of our wildlife friends. The beauty of Fort Erie is it's greenspace, trees, wildlife breeding grounds etc  
 Side walks - more walking, running tracks  
 Clear guidelines on the amount of beach that beach-front property owners own. Allowance for greater public use of beaches without charging them. It doesn't seem right.  
 More seating areas at all parks especially for the summer concerts at Crystal Beach.  
 Repatriate the beaches to the town so they can be used by residents and visitors. Work on improving the cleanliness of the water.  
 Washrooms  
 More places for dogs. All kinds of people have dogs.

**Q32: What other considerations would improve your experience with the Town of Fort Erie's parks and open space system?**

Responses (*continued*):

reduced fees for town residents at town events and fee based areas.

More groomed walking trails for people and leashed dogs

More shaded areas, more washrooms

No other considerations, really appreciate the town's park and open space system and the effort the town puts into it.

Park needs to be placed near Walden Blvd / Mathers / Rice st. Area. We just moved from that area and there are no close parks for kids.

Safety and cleanliness via lighting cameras and frequent monitoring.

Residents need a strong reminder about the use of artificial lighting as it negatively affects the environment. Owners not scooping poop should be fined. Monitoring to reduce vandalism

have leash bylaw and motorized vehicle bylaw enforced on the friendship trail

Need clarity re park standards and sizes compared with population of specific areas. For example, Shagbark Park, which is a naturalized conservation-type area, is included in planning analyses of new developments as a "park". In no way should Shagbark be considered as a "park" measured as proximate to residential development. "Nature Park" perhaps but not what families generally consider as a park for children.

There is an empty piece of parkland at the corner of Thunder Bay and Butler Rd North. Local residents would like to provide input into the development of that park area.

I would like to see a sidewalk along Thunder Bay Road so that it is safer to ride bikes and walk dogs.

Flowers

Some kind of water system that could be used for humans as well as dogs.

More dog friendly waste disposal areas

Promoting eco- tourism / paddle tours/ lessons to pt abino lighthouse. I live close to Bay Beach. Unlike large coolers and tents, Kayak launching was never officially prohibited by council, but town staff have somehow made it prohibited by prohibiting "paddles". Bay Beach is among the safest waters to paddle and the new paved pathway from Schooley rd to the water is a perfect launch area for a kayak, paddle board or canoe, and contrary to current rules there is pretty much zero chance a swimmer might be injured by an out of control paddle boarder. This is an easy common sense fix that should be not only made for us residents, but promoted so that local business could benefit from water based tours and activities

nothing

Sidewalks surrounding parks to allow people using parks especially children to not have to walk on busy streets

training for staff to understand that a 'park' is actually a right for residents to enjoy for

No comment

Waverly Beach was once wonderful but often stinks of rotting toxic algae. Huge hill of cement slabs have sat now for years along with fallen trees. This is a public area that so desperately needs attention to be safe and beautiful again!

More signage on the main streets for visitors to the area.

The open space model is the problem. Your throwing everyone with different reasons and preferences for the parks all in one place. You have large open fields with german shepherds and pit bulls running around entering the playgrounds and splashpads near very small children. Its a nightmare using the parks here and the open spaces are being taken advantage of by the dog owners. As well there is lots of space for a pool, Fort Erie should get one pool for the whole city that is in the same model as the accessible Thorold Community Pool. Port Colborne has no pool and we could also work with port colborne to have an intermunicipal or regional pool in this area. A shared funded pool.

Spend some money Town on Fort Erie and stop concentrating your funding on Ridgeway and Crystal Beach. Why can't Waverly Park/Beach be cleaned up like Bay Beach???

Summer public swimming pool

**Q32: What other considerations would improve your experience with the Town of Fort Erie's parks and open space system?**

Responses (*continued*):

Don't need much just keep things clean and available. More interactive items would be nice.

Graffiti removal on equipment for children. There is just too much bad graffiti that a 5 year old who is hooked on phonics should be seeing at a playground.

Repair of the storm damaged deck area at Bay Beach needs to be done.

Improve grass mowing and edging; often grass is too high to enjoy

It would be great to understand the longer term strategy and how this will address the increasing population.

I would like at least one swimming pool. You have more than enough space to build small pool. Even if you are cheap just build a wading pool. It's better than nothing.

I would like a regular pool more because I enjoy diving boards and slides. I would also want a baseball diamond in Crystal Beach. If you want to go to a baseball diamond to play baseball or watch a baseball game, I would have to take the unreliable Fort Erie On Demand Transit to go to Fort Erie or Stevensville. The biggest problem is that you lock up the diamonds so I cannot even go into them. That was disappointing and wasted so much time, almost two hours.

Town has done a great job with park system.

Consider lighting and snow clearing along friendship and other trails.

The planner should leave the computer/office and go talk to the public at a park or talk to the park/rec staff that have to take care of the parks. I'm sure they have years of experience and knowledge compared to someone sitting in an office. Public meetings are a waste of time because even if you have a suggestion it really doesn't matter. The Town will do whatever it wants and the public and park staff are stuck with the horrible park. Just because it looks good on paper, doesn't mean it will be a good functional playground/open space.

Parks being geared for seniors and kids , having shaded areas with benches

Washrooms for kids so we dont have to walk back home everytime

Protect wooded lots

More trees and greenery. I always found it odd just how barren a lot of the local parks and spaces feel even after some time for the planted flora to grow. It seems nearly all public spaces in the ridgeway area (with the exception of the town square) could comfortably accommodate many more trees and other plants.

More natural areas to be protected for our native flora and fauna.

More public entertainment

Water fountains (for drinking), natural looking playgrounds , and more frequent maintenance

Add more garbage cans as garbage cans are always full. Spray for ticks, mosquitoes, and flies on the fields and park area.

The Friendship Trail should be maintained year round and well lit. The public beach "window's" should be better monitored and the ballistics secured so private beach owners don't use them as private driveways and entrances for large machinery and personal tractors to fluff thuer sand, asking people to get up and out of thier way for them. Like everyone who lives in a community, you can't go through someone else's back yard to build yourself a swimming pool. You gadvyo provide access from your own property. The beach window's have Bern destroyed, ripped up, tractor marks snd oil sludge... just left there, as they scream at people from thier verandahs "Private Beach". I understand maintenance is required, then there should be specific dates and a fee charged for clean up & maintenance to use the "windows". They took down trees ladt year, so thier big CAT machine could get through... that's not right.

Trails and some parks have a lot of poison ivy and ticks, that need to be removed, very dangerous for all kids especially the very young. Otherwise all parks and open spaces are excellent.

POOLS Protecting natural environment by having knowledgeable people on staff Please be sure parks are mobility friendly

Bowen road park has a beautiful piece of land but needs equipment upgrading. Not sure if the parkette south of Southsides bar is town owned or Niagara Parks but this small parcel needs a better paved trail connection to the adjacent parking lot (currently gravel)

NA

As new houses are built add more open spaces mostly for kids to play close to home.

**Q32: What other considerations would improve your experience with the Town of Fort Erie’s parks and open space system?**

Responses (*continued*):

- I’ve always wished that Fort Erie had an outdoor skating rink. Our community is filled with aspiring hockey & figure skaters, but no outdoor space / flooding for kids to skate.
- Allow the trees and plants to grow along side the trail rather than clear cutting a couple times a year and leaving all the cut brush laying there.
- Too little, too late
- Ac Douglas 1 and 2 overhaul. Ac 2 is useless and has been destroyed for use of contractors to build homes. Make them pay and build nice things. Not shrubs and plants that town can’t care for
- Accessibility, drainage and landscaping
- Cameras
- Cleaning the brush up long the friendship trail and fixing the the fences too
- Turn unused railroad tracks in Stevensville into walking trail.
- They should also be used for free events and concerts, etc. anything that connects the community, promotes the arts, education and healthy living
- Drinking fountain, shade, washrooms open earlier and later in the seasons.
- The town needs a artificial turf field
- Dog parks - it would be great to see some small or basic obstacle courses or items for dogs to climb on.
- Regular maintenance and inspection.
- Pickleball courts
- No loitering after sundown Increased police patrol coverage
- Ensuring washrooms are accessible
- work harder
- More native trees. Restore natural area.

Total Responses	83	52.5%
Skipped	75	47.5%

**Q33: If you would like to receive updates about the Town of Fort Erie’s Parks & Open Space Master Plan, please provide your e-mail address below. (Please note that this is entirely optional.)**

*(Responses suppressed to maintain privacy.)*

**Q34: If there's anything else you'd like us to know about your experiences with the Town's parks and open spaces, please use the space below to tell us.**

Responses:

More bike trails and paths and stuff I need a way to be able to ride my bike from Crescent Park to Stevensville without having to share the road with all the scary cars! We recently moved to Ridgeway from Calgary where all new developments were required to include significant green spaces. You can walk the entire city on a series of pathways. The Friendship trail is fantastic but it can be hard to walk elsewhere with a lack of sidewalks and other trail options. Thanks for the opportunity to voice opinions!

Stop cutting all the trees and vegetation down!

The gravel parking space across from the old Fort needs work and looks terrible, as does the breakwall. There needs to be better and bigger signage for people to not drive over the path and park on the grass by the big tree on the shoreline across from the fort. In the spring/summer/fall people park there Every Single Day. At least three park trees have been run over and are now gone because of the ignorant people who insist on driving over that area.

Would be nice to see more things to promote tourism to this area. Maybe an huge atv park (fast growing business/industry/employment lots of green space) or more concerts/festivals on the beach?

Love this town!!!! But..... don't feel as safe as we used to around town. It seems like crime rate is increasing. We need more of a permanent police presence.

Please put a picnic table in the park on Sharon drive. We have a gazebo but nowhere to sit

Fort Erie has unique natural and forested areas and we need to protect these from runaway development. More protected land is needed. Once the its paved over it will never be returned to its natural state.

I'm grateful that Ft Erie has set aside several properties for parkland. Many of these parks are just that, an open space, some grass etc. Even when they are not fancy they are important, of for no other reason to save for the future. As a bedroom community, it is critically important to provide something at a higher level than baseball, soccer or ice skating for our youth, and it appears some Ontario municipalities do operate roller skating rinks. ( not an arena cement floor vacated in summer months.) Because I benefitted from this as a youth, as an adult who feels we need to do more to support our youth I've done a fair bit of research on this and would offer to help build a business case.

What is the plan for restoring the Friendship Trail at Waverly Woods? Is there a plan for restoring Waverly Beach to be used both recreational and for public enjoyment?

Most visitors to the Town only see the attractions that are on that main road. Perhaps on those main road there should be signs directing visitors to the sites in various areas of the Town. The booklet that is distributed to all homes in the area and put out by the Town is very well done, however people just driving through have no idea about what is actually available. For example, coming off the QEW there are signs for Stevensville, Ridgeway and Crystal Beach. There are also signs about Safari Niagara but what about The Fort Erie Conservation area and the Ott Road Ballpark and the Minipark on West Main street. Some times people just want to get out and stretch or perhaps to have a picnic lunch. They don't have to be huge, but perhaps smaller signs on 1 post with arrows for dirction.

Aside from the terrible experience with dogs at your parks, half the time the splash pad washrooms are closed or there are no washrooms and there is no where to change and that is a nightmare. As well your survey should be mentioning residents desire for a pool.

Note that addresses on the park names in the survey would help with your results. I know I've been to other parks but don't know their name, only location.

i would like a community cener in Crystal Beach. The Lions club is not made for kids and youth.

Too many people letting their dog off their leashes, peeing and pooping all over the place making the boulevards and park area terrible looking. Their thought is that the City will take care of it. I live in an adult lifestyle area and most of the dog owners have this attitude.

I attended the meeting at the Leisure Plex and was glad to hear that AC Douglas Park #1 is getting an upgrade that is very long overdue . The remake should include things for seniors to be able to use , shaded areas with benches and path around the park . A splash pad would be great also as there are quite a few new subdivisions that have been built and are being built in the area with young families with children moving into the area.



**Q34: If there's anything else you'd like us to know about your experiences with the Town's parks and open spaces, please use the space below to tell us.**

Responses (*continued*):

The Town has more than enough playgrounds and open space for our kids to use. We haven't even heard or used most that was listed. Keep only a few playgrounds opened, they must be expensive to keep clean and fixed.

I very much like the new green signage appearing at the parks. Need more washrooms. I do realize the problems associated with that. Not a problem with parks.....but would have liked the opportunity to fill out this survey as a grandparent who spends much time at parks with boys.....all questions were household. Please consider adding benches to Spears Park.

More parks like Douglas but stop cheaping out on the good stuff for the "pretty" stuff that looks terrible in few years

The town does a great job collecting garbage at the Bill Connelly consistently. And the local trail bins. The grass could be cut/ditches weed-whipped more consistently throughout the season - though lack of drainage probably makes it problematic!

Keep the beaches clean; Remove artificial walls that prohibit the natural lake flow that cleans the water!.....The outdoor pool at Waverly is a danger and eye sore.

Thank you

Should be water station along the friendship trail too

Crystal Beach has really improved in the last few years which is beautiful to see. However, I feel it would be a good idea for Fort Erie residents to have free parking and entry to Crystal beach. Possibly even a 'local's' day that residents can have a tour of historical places for free e.g the old Fort.

Total Responses	24	15.2%
Skipped	134	84.8%

## Open House Comments

The public open houses hosted on March 6–7, 2024, sought feedback from participants through Roundtable Conversations, small group discussions that used different “conversation starters” as prompts. (There were two groups at the March 6 open house and five groups at the March 7 open house.) Each group was asked to designate a note-taker, who wrote down points that were raised in the group discussions, which were shared with the larger group for each “conversation starter.” The responses compiled below have been transcribed exactly (misspellings included).

### Wednesday, March 6, 2024 — Stevensville Memorial Hall

#### Q1: What do you like best about the parks you visit? What are the strengths of the current parks and open space system?

Group 1	<p>Like Best:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location / easy to access by foot, bike</li> <li>- Amenities, play areas adequate</li> <li>- Flexible use of space</li> <li>- Shade pavillions in two parks of five</li> </ul> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sports</li> <li>- green space is well-manicured</li> <li>- esthetically appealing</li> <li>- seating</li> <li>- good blend of uses / passive + active</li> <li>- connects to Conservation area</li> </ul>	Group 2	<p>What do you like best about the parks you visit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- YMCA Splash pad</li> <li>- Porta Johns in parks</li> <li>- Skate park</li> <li>- Well maintained parks</li> <li>- Garbage cans in parks</li> <li>- Multi-functional courts</li> <li>- Close to house – Accessible by foot</li> <li>- Variety of features in Parks</li> <li>- Favourite Parks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Waverly Beach</li> <li>· Friendship Trail</li> <li>· YMCA Skate Park</li> <li>· Crystal Ridge Fields (Bleachers)</li> <li>· Douglas St. Park</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>What are the strengths of the current parks and open space system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large size of parks (see above)</li> </ul>
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**Q2: How does the current parks and open space system need to improve? What are the most important improvements that need to be made?**

<p>Group 1</p>	<p>Need to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- garbage receptacles (Douglas Park #1)</li> <li>- need a splash pad + washroom (DP#1)</li> <li>- need pavilion in DP#1 (shade)</li> <li>- lighting on “tennis” courts</li> <li>- accessibility – for better mobility</li> <li>- (Stevensville) dog park</li> <li>- parking on West Main + crosswalk</li> </ul>	<p>Group 2</p>	<p>How does the current parks and open space system need to improve?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update Douglas Park #1 playground</li> <li>- Ferndale Park has very few Bleachers (Aka Centennial Park)</li> <li>- More lighting</li> <li>- Better storage for equipment for sports teams</li> <li>- Outdoor fitness equipment</li> <li>- Need Porta Johns in Stevensville Memorial Hall Park (or washrooms), eg. same as Waverly Beach Park or New Douglas Park new Hospital</li> </ul> <p>What are the most important improvements that need to be made?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to Black Creek on Waterfront Windows</li> <li>- Signage for access to Black Creek</li> <li>- Lighting to keep parks open later</li> <li>- More seating and maintenance free picnic tables in Gazebo (Ref. A.C. Douglas Park #2)</li> <li>- Fort Erie has (3) Douglas Parks and they get confused</li> </ul>
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**Q3: How can the Town’s parks help us ...**  
**... take part in more outdoor activities?**  
**... preserve the natural environment?**

**... enjoy being social with one another?**  
**... appreciate the Town’s history and culture?**

<p>Group 1</p>	<p>... outdoor activities + events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- access to hydro (market)</li> <li>- more \$\$ help with advertising + promotion of existing community initiatives</li> <li>- increase awareness</li> </ul> <p>... recognition of “founding fathers” of the parks + open spaces</p>	<p>Group 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent seating in parks creates a gathering space</li> <li>- Fitness circuit helps people congregate</li> <li>- Walking Track in Ferndale Park</li> <li>- Wellness path with distance markers, for Health</li> <li>- Replace dead trees in parks</li> <li>- Shade Trees for Trails</li> <li>- Add Historic Markers to parks</li> <li>- Add Nature Markers to parks, to explain to visitors</li> </ul>
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**Q3: How can the Town's parks help us ...**  
 ... take part in more outdoor activities?  
 ... preserve the natural environment?

... enjoy being social with one another?  
 ... appreciate the Town's history and culture?

- Group 2  
 (cont'd)
- Install Birdhouses in parks, to attract birds
  - Plant Native food sources for animals

**Q4: What do you hope the parks and open space system will look like 10 years from now?**

- Group 1
- 10 years ] storm water ponds to be passive park not eyesore
  - smaller passive / Active parks for large new subdivisions

- Group 2
- A.C. Douglas Park #2 (on River Trail), path & gazebo should be the model for future SWM ponds/parks in Fort Erie
  - We need a diversity of parks:
    - a) Manicured & Maintained
    - b) Natural Heritage / Wild
    - c) Sports
  - Connectivity between parks is important for people & wildlife

**Thursday, March 7, 2024 — Fort Erie Leisureplex Banquet Hall**

**Q1: What do you like best about the parks you visit? What are the strengths of the current parks and open space system?**

- Group 1
- [Likes]
- Benches
  - \*Trees, lots of trees
  - Pathways (maintain these parks)
  - Like garbage cans, lighting
  - Walkable
  - Friendship trail
  - like multiple access points to lake
  - like plank area, like the rubber mat at Bay Beach (need more)

- Group 2
1. Natural canopy
  2. Water (Lake Erie)
  3. Splash pads, Fountains, Pools etc.
  4. Friendship Trail
  5. Public restrooms
  6. Pavillions, park benches
  7. Bicycle lock ups
  8. Free parking = Access for all
  9. Trash & recycling recepticles
  10. Shagbark (Burleigh Rd.)

**Q1: What do you like best about the parks you visit? What are the strengths of the current parks and open space system?**

<p>Group 1 (cont'd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Friendship Trail plowed for year round use</li> </ul> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- open to most people</li> <li>- lots of water</li> <li>- Trail system is quite good, clean</li> </ul>		
<p>Group 3</p>	<p>Like Best</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green space – variety of landscapes</li> <li>- Seating viewing areas – Rest &amp; enjoy landscape (more in Crystal Beach)</li> <li>- Playgrounds for families especially 2 on waterfront</li> </ul> <p>Current Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amount of green space</li> <li>- Options – hiking/walking trails, playgrounds, cycling trails, connection between spaces</li> <li>- Belief that green space is important to a community, value of recreational space</li> </ul>		<p>Group 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fort Erie is special – history, nature, wellness</li> <li>- We used to like access to natural, accessible areas, but they were destroyed @ Waverly Woods / Erie Beach</li> <li>- Place to walk, place to pause – sitting potentials</li> <li>- Tree canopy – shade – esp. for older people, esp. with climate change</li> <li>- all existing treed town property needs to be protected</li> <li>- trees → birds → birdswatching</li> </ul>
<p>Group 5</p>	<p>Like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Being on the water (CB Waterfront Park)</li> <li>- Shaded areas / trees</li> <li>- Sitting areas / tables</li> <li>- Neighbourhood locations</li> <li>- The trails</li> <li>- Dog parks</li> <li>- Park amenities / Pickelball</li> <li>- Splash pads</li> <li>- Crystal Beach Info Booth</li> </ul>		



**Q2: How does the current parks and open space system need to improve? What are the most important improvements that need to be made?**

<p>Group 1</p>	<p>Need to Improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ***Define access rules to get to beaches, access points, post them</li> <li>- more fishing points</li> <li>- better beach maintenance</li> <li>- Need more pools in municipality</li> <li>- Connect Friendship trail to Crystal Beach + residential areas (various points) (wildlife corridors)</li> <li>- Remove concrete blocks near Waverly on Friendship trail – for better access</li> <li>- improve maintenance on F.T. (cutting rose bushes sticking out etc.)</li> <li>- more Johnny on the Sports</li> <li>- Plough Friendship Trail in winter</li> <li>- more boat launches and affordable parking</li> <li>- more trees!!</li> <li>- community gardens</li> <li>- *communication from town needs to improve (town website)</li> </ul>	<p>Group 2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural play experiences</li> <li>2. Dog poop receptacle</li> <li>3. Wildlife linkages via green corridors (Communication between developers and municipality)</li> <li>4. Indigenous tree planting (carbon capture)</li> <li>5. Beach grooming program</li> <li>6. Implementation of additional public restrooms along bicycle roots</li> <li>7. Waterfront “Windows” should be improved</li> <li>8. Historical markers</li> <li>9. Protect natural wetlands!</li> </ol>
<p>Group 3</p>	<p>Need to Improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signs – Let us know about the parks, trails, parking</li> <li>- Clarify beach access, where we can &amp; can’t go</li> <li>- Boat launch</li> <li>- Benches, amphitheater, BBQ areas, picnic tables / areas</li> <li>- Communication – plaques, directional signs, information</li> <li>- Appeal to all ages, not just hikers, nature lovers</li> <li>- Want skating, ski, need winter all season space and trails, + bathrooms</li> <li>- remote control cars/tows, parkettes</li> </ul>	<p>Group 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where appropriate historical events need to be plaqued – people like plaques to explain history &amp;/or natural heritage features</li> <li>- potential for historical trails (shaded)</li> <li>- volunteers need to continue to be encouraged / engaged</li> <li>- connectivity potential from one area to another to extend activities</li> <li>- I’m told the pickleball courts @ Crystal Ridge are not well surfaced &amp; therefore not used to full potential</li> <li>- trees are good!! essential</li> <li>- lake access @ windows, etc.</li> <li>- special</li> </ul>

**Q2: How does the current parks and open space system need to improve? What are the most important improvements that need to be made?**

<p>Group 3 <i>(cont'd)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect trails to something, another park, service area, kiosk, other trails, a system</li> <li>- Garbage pickup</li> <li>- Parking</li> <li>- Work with Niagara Parks to add to waterfront in Ft Erie</li> <li>- Skating / Amphitheatre, benches</li> </ul>	<p>Group 4 <i>(cont'd)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- replace loss of ash trees &amp; plant native plants</li> <li>- increase canopy to counter climate change</li> <li>- continue beach access from waterfront strategy to increase shorewalking</li> <li>- increase # of garbage cans, monitor regularly &amp; keep clean</li> <li>- keep ATVs off beaches (leads to erosion), more enforcement</li> <li>- incorporate Indigenous knowledge in development of natural heritage areas</li> <li>- polinator gdns.</li> <li>- recognize that storm mgmt ponds are not natural or healthy habitats &amp; protect those that are natural &amp; healthy (eg. sugarbowl disaster)</li> <li>- document maintenance programmes</li> <li>- Erie Beach / Harbourtown Pond is supposed to have a Nature Trail &amp; Vernal Pools – now – there is a road &amp; fence</li> <li>- beach plantings to protect against erosion</li> <li>- adult playgrounds, exercise equipment circuits</li> </ul>
<p>Group 5</p>	<p>Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More trees &amp; shrubs</li> <li>- Ramps / Accessibility</li> <li>- Mobi Mats, more needed</li> <li>- Need more splash pads</li> </ul> <p>Need to Improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plant more trees / flowering shrubs</li> <li>- Maintenance of parks all year</li> <li>- (2) Access to washrooms all year!</li> <li>- (2) More Mobi Mats, ramps</li> <li>- (3) Need more eco-diverse gardens (bees / butterflies)</li> </ul>	<p>Group 5 <i>(cont'd)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need more benches in parks &amp; tables</li> <li>- Outdoor exercise equipment along trail &amp; lg. parks</li> <li>- Lack of dog control in parks</li> <li>- (1) Saturate the Town w greenery / flowers / urban forestry</li> <li>- Only do, what you can maintain</li> </ul>

**Q3: How can the Town’s parks help us ...**

... take part in more outdoor activities?

... preserve the natural environment?

... enjoy being social with one another?

... appreciate the Town’s history and culture?

*Note: Due to time constraints, participants in the March 7 open house were asked to skip the third “conversation starter.”*

**Q4: What do you hope the parks and open space system will look like 10 years from now?**

Group 1	10 years from now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- plaques, exercise equipment</li> <li>- community gardens, lots of trees</li> <li>- greater appreciation of Nature, in City plans</li> <li>- good connectivity from trails to other spaces</li> <li>- more water access, and accessible</li> <li>- more pools, good paved boat launches</li> <li>- weekly scheduled maintenance + garbage pick up</li> <li>- Great communication – All on Town Website</li> </ul>	Group 2	Hopes & Dreams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addition of amenities to engage the public</li> <li>- Enhancement – natural &amp; manmade elements</li> <li>- Enhance the beaches</li> <li>- Fix up the “Waverly” Beach</li> <li>- “Community Pride!”</li> </ul>
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated elements well planned</li> <li>- Make parks &amp; recreational areas a robust department within Town of Ft. Erie</li> <li>- Park[s] are one of the most important aspects of Lake Erie communities</li> <li>- See lots of people using parks</li> </ul>	Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community gardens will be increasingly necessary as backyards disappear</li> <li>- work with Bert Miller Nature Club &amp; other local groups for programming, eg birdwatching, history tours, gardening</li> <li>- use more volunteers</li> <li>- discourage gated communities → isolated</li> </ul>
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Utopia (Maintain what we already have!)</li> </ul>		



## Appendix B

# Asset Classification Hierarchy

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This appendix sets out the full hierarchy for classifying park assets recommended in Section 3.4 of this Master Plan.

Items in the “Level 3” column whose classification codes do not end in zeros can be considered sub-categorizations providing further distinction within the Level 3 categories. For example, R1011 (Toddler Playgrounds), R1012 (Junior Children’s Playgrounds), and R1013 (Senior Children’s Playgrounds) are all sub-categories under the more general R1010 (Playgrounds) category; either the general category or the more specific sub-categorizations can be used as Level 3 (Park Element) in the classification hierarchy.

The proposed hierarchy is intended to provide the Town with some flexibility in categorizing its park assets, and can be further refined or modified if necessary.



[Level 1] Major Categories	[Level 2] Park Element Categories	[Level 3] Park Elements
P Outdoor Open Spaces  Outdoor spaces for unstructured recreational activities and passive recreation.	P10 Natural Areas  Outdoor areas left in a natural or naturalized state with minimal or no maintenance requirements.	P1010 Woodlands & Wooded Areas  P1020 Grasslands  P1030 Wetlands  P1040 Natural Shorelines  P1050 Watercourses & Waterbodies
	P20 Open Spaces  Outdoor areas for unstructured use with some maintenance requirements.	P2010 Open Turf Areas  P2020 Hills & Slopes  P2030 Beaches  P2090 Other Open Spaces
	P30 Landscaped Areas  Specifically planted areas with higher maintenance requirements.	P3010 Lawns  P3020 Gardens & Flowerbeds  P3030 Hedgerows & Shrubberies  P3040 Tree Plantings  P3090 Other Landscaping
	P40 Special Purpose Areas  Outdoor spaces designed to serve a particular (passive) function.	P4010 Off-Leash Dog Areas  P4020 Picnic Areas  P4030 Seating Areas  P4040 Concourses / Surfaced Open Areas  P4050 Outdoor Performance Areas / Amphitheatres

[Level 1] Major Categories	[Level 2] Park Element Categories	[Level 3] Park Elements	
<b>R Outdoor Play Areas</b>  Outdoor areas dedicated to children’s play (or other play activities).	<b>R10 Playgrounds &amp; Play Areas</b>  Designated outdoor play areas.	<b>R1010 Playgrounds</b>  R1011 — Toddler Playgrounds R1012 — Junior Playgrounds R1013 — Senior Playgrounds  <b>R1020 Nature Play / Adventure Play Areas</b>  <b>R1030 Exercise / Fitness Areas</b>	
	<b>R20 Aquatic / Water Play Features</b>  Play areas centred on aquatic features.	<b>R2010 Spray Pads</b>  <b>R2020 Wading Pools</b>  <b>R2030 Outdoor Swimming Pools</b>  <b>R2040 Open-Water Swimming Areas</b>	
	<b>R30 Fitness / Exercise Areas</b>  Outdoor areas with features or exercise equipment intended for adults.	<b>R3010 Exercise Areas</b>  <b>R3020 Obstacle Courses</b>	
	<b>S Sports Facilities</b>  Outdoor areas and facilities for semi-structured activities and for organized sports.	<b>S10 Turf Fields</b>  Outdoor sports fields with grass or artificial turf surfaces.	<b>S1010 Multi-Use Fields</b>  <b>S1020 Soccer Fields</b>  S1021 — Class A Fields S1022 — Class B Fields S1023 — Class C Fields
			<b>S1030 Football Fields</b>
			<b>S1040 Rugby Pitches</b>
			<b>S1090 Other Turf Fields</b>

[Level 1] Major Categories	[Level 2] Park Element Categories	[Level 3] Park Elements
S Sports Facilities	S20 Mixed-Surface Fields Sports fields with a combination of surfaces (e.g., grass and gravel).	S2010 Baseball Diamonds S2011 — Class A Diamonds S2012 — Class B Diamonds S2013 — Class C Diamonds
	S30 Hard-Surfaced Areas Outdoor sports facilities with paved or hard surfaces.	S3010 Outdoor Multi-Use Courts S3011 — Tennis Courts S3012 — Pickleball Courts S3013 — Multi-Use Racquet Courts S3014 — Basketball Courts S3015 — Ball Hockey Courts S3019 — Other Outdoor Courts S3020 Skate Parks
T Transportation Surfaces	T10 Pedestrian & Cycling Trails Trails for pedestrians and/or non-motorized vehicles.	T1010 Paved / Hard-Surfaced Trails T1020 Maintained Unpaved Trails T1030 Nature Trails (semi-maintained) T1040 Hiking Trails (minimally maintained) T1050 Mountain Biking Trails
	T20 Parking Lots	T2010 Paved Parking Lots T2020 Gravel / Unpaved Parking Lots
	T30 Boat Launches	T3010 Paved / Hard-Surfaced Launches T3020 Unpaved Launches T3030 Informal Water Access Points

[Level 1] Major Categories	[Level 2] Park Element Categories	[Level 3] Park Elements	
U Site Services & Utilities  Utilities, services, and siteworks that support use of park space.	U10 Mechanical Utilities  (Level 3 categories based on Uniformat II Class G30: Site Mechanical Utilities.)	U1010 Water Supply & Outdoor Plumbing	
		U1020 Sanitary Sewers	
		U1030 Storm Sewers	
		U1040 Heating Distribution	
		U1050 Cooling Distribution	
		U1060 Fuel Distribution	
		U1090 Other Mechanical Utilities	
		U20 Electrical Utilities  (Level 3 categories based on Uniformat II Class G40: Site Electrical Utilities.)	U2010 Electrical Distribution
			U2020 Exterior Lighting
			U2030 Site Communications & Security
U2090 Other Electrical Utilities			
U30 Siteworks  Physical park infrastructure.	U3010 Grading & Fill		
	U3020 Berms & Embankments		
	U3030 Retaining Walls		
	U3040 Drainage / SWM Facilities		
	U3050 Erosion Control		
	U3060 Buffers		
	U3070 Fencing & Gates		
	U3080 Steps & Staircases		

[Level 1] Major Categories	[Level 2] Park Element Categories	[Level 3] Park Elements
V Park Buildings & Structures  Buildings and outdoor structures that support park activities.	V10 Park Buildings  Fully enclosed buildings and structures.	V1010 Washrooms
		V1020 Snack Bars
		V1030 Storage Sheds
		V1080 Historic / Heritage Buildings
		V1090 Other Park Buildings
	V20 Outdoor Structures  Unenclosed or partially enclosed structures.	V2010 Pavilions
		V2020 Shade Structures
		V2030 Trellises & Pergolas
		V2040 Tree Houses
		V2080 Historic / Heritage Structures
V2090 Other Outdoor Structures		
W Site Furnishings  Fixed and moveable objects that support park activities.	W10 Fixed Furnishings	W1010 Fixed Seating & Surfaces
		W1011 — Benches
		W1012 — Bleachers
		W1013 — Fixed Tables
		W1020 Fixed Equipment
		W1021 — Playground Equipment
		W1022 — Swings
		W1023 — Adult Fitness Equipment
		W1024 — Fixed Soccer Nets
		W1025 — Baseball Backstops
W1026 — Tennis & Pickleball Nets		
W1027 — Basketball Nets		
W1028 — Fixed Bicycle Racks		



[Level 1] Major Categories	[Level 2] Park Element Categories	[Level 3] Park Elements
W Site Furnishings	W10 Fixed Furnishings	W1030 Fixed Waste Receptacles
		W1040 Art Installations & Fixed Artifacts
		W1050 Signage & Plaques
		W1080 Historic Features & Artifacts
		W1090 Other Fixed Items
	W20 Moveable Furnishings	W2010 Moveable Seating & Surfaces
		W2011 — Moveable Benches
		W2012 — Moveable Bleachers
		W2013 — Picnic Tables
		W2020 Moveable Equipment
W2023 — Fitness Equipment		
W2024 — Moveable Soccer Nets		
W2028 — Bicycle Racks		
W2030 Moveable Waste Receptacles		
W2040 Moveable Art & Artifacts		
W2050 Portable Washrooms		
W2090 Other Moveable Items		





