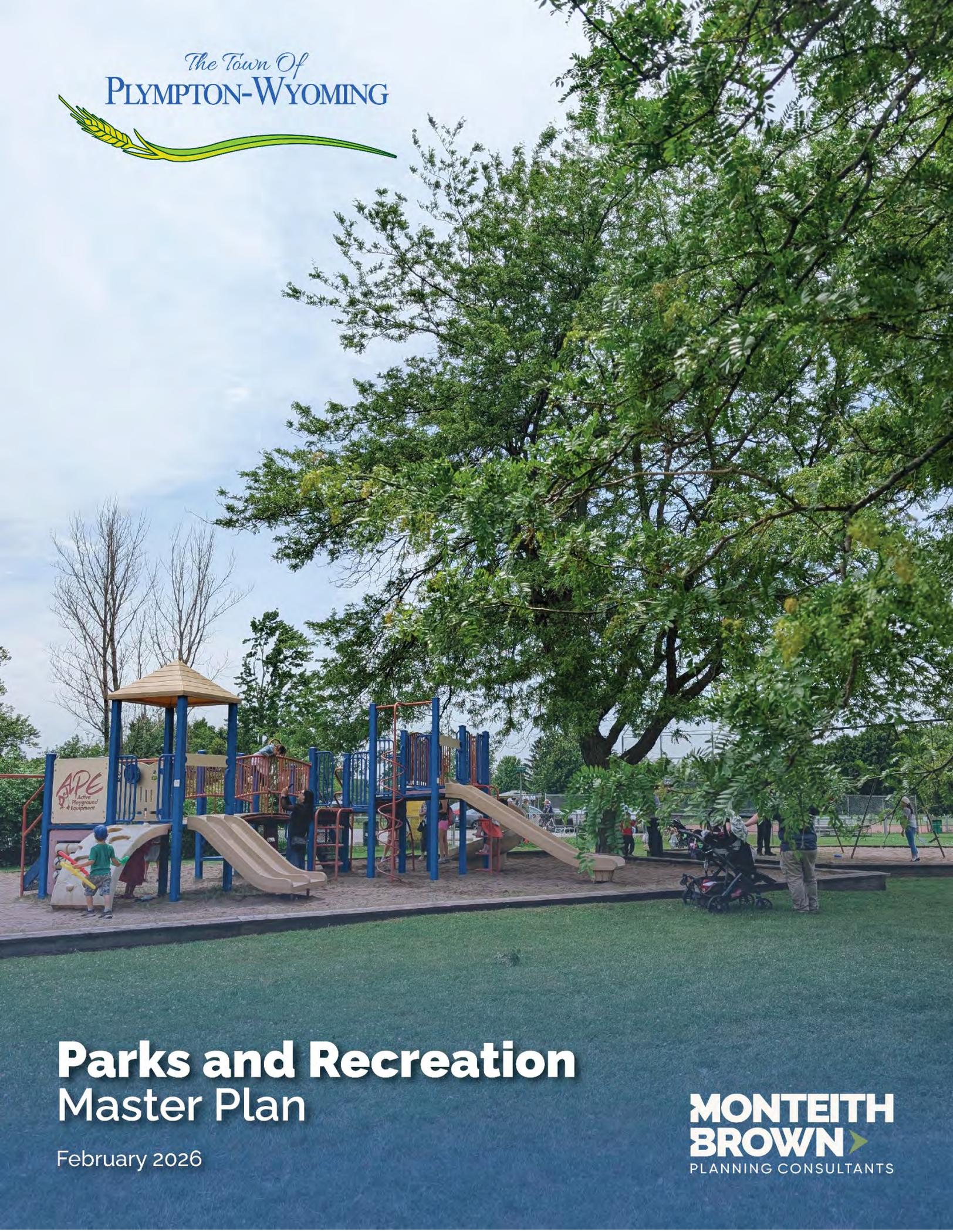


The Town Of  
**PLYMPTON-WYOMING**



# Parks and Recreation Master Plan

February 2026

**MONTEITH  
BROWN**   
PLANNING CONSULTANTS



Town of Plympton-Wyoming

# **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

February 2026



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# INTRODUCTION



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 A Master Plan for Plympton–Wyoming

Located along the south shore of Lake Huron in Lambton County, the Town of Plympton–Wyoming offers a relaxed lifestyle that combines rural and suburban living. The Town offers a mix of parks, trails and open spaces, a community centre, the waterfront and other amenities that contribute to Plympton–Wyoming’s quality of life and sense of place.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan (“the Master Plan”) provides the Town with a guide to make decisions to address community priorities towards 2035 when the Town expected to reach a population of 12,000 residents. This Master Plan will help keep the Town on track to address current and future community needs and that opportunities are welcoming, inclusive, and accessible for all, regardless of age, income, ability, background, and orientation. The scope of the Master Plan includes:

- Parks, trails and open spaces
- Indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
- Service delivery (e.g., programming, policies, etc.)

To guide this Master Plan, a vision for parks and recreation has been established. This vision describes the desired state of parks and recreation in Plympton–Wyoming that the community wants to achieve over the planning period. The mission describes the role of the Public Works Department in meeting this vision for parks and recreation in Plympton–Wyoming, recognizing that their mandate also operating and maintaining other vital infrastructure in Plympton–Wyoming including roads, water and sewer systems, waste management and more.

### **Vision Statement for Parks and Recreation in Plympton–Wyoming**

Connecting people, nature, and community recreation in Plympton–Wyoming.

### **Mission Statement for Parks and Recreation in Plympton–Wyoming**

The Plympton–Wyoming Public Works Department will strive to provide high quality parks and recreation spaces that are inclusive, accessible, and affordable. The Town will work collaboratively with community organizations and volunteers to provide activities that support healthy lifestyles and lifelong physical activity.

## 1.2 Parks and Recreation is a Council Priority

The current term of Council recognizes that Plympton–Wyoming’s parks and recreation system is highly valued and continuing to strengthen these important community amenities is a priority. The Town’s **2023–2028 Strategic Plan** identified that “Addressing Changing Recreational Needs” is a Bronze level priority with key actions including:

- Enhancing and improve existing facilities.
- Creating a community services division.
- Introducing recreational programming.
- Accommodating all ages in our recreation and related communication.

This Master Plan provides Town staff and Council with guidance on how to grow its parks and recreation system to meet current and future needs and addresses the above noted actions. Engaging the community to gather feedback on matters related to parks and recreation played an important role in informing the Master Plan and strategies to better promote the Town’s amenities and opportunities will be a key consideration.

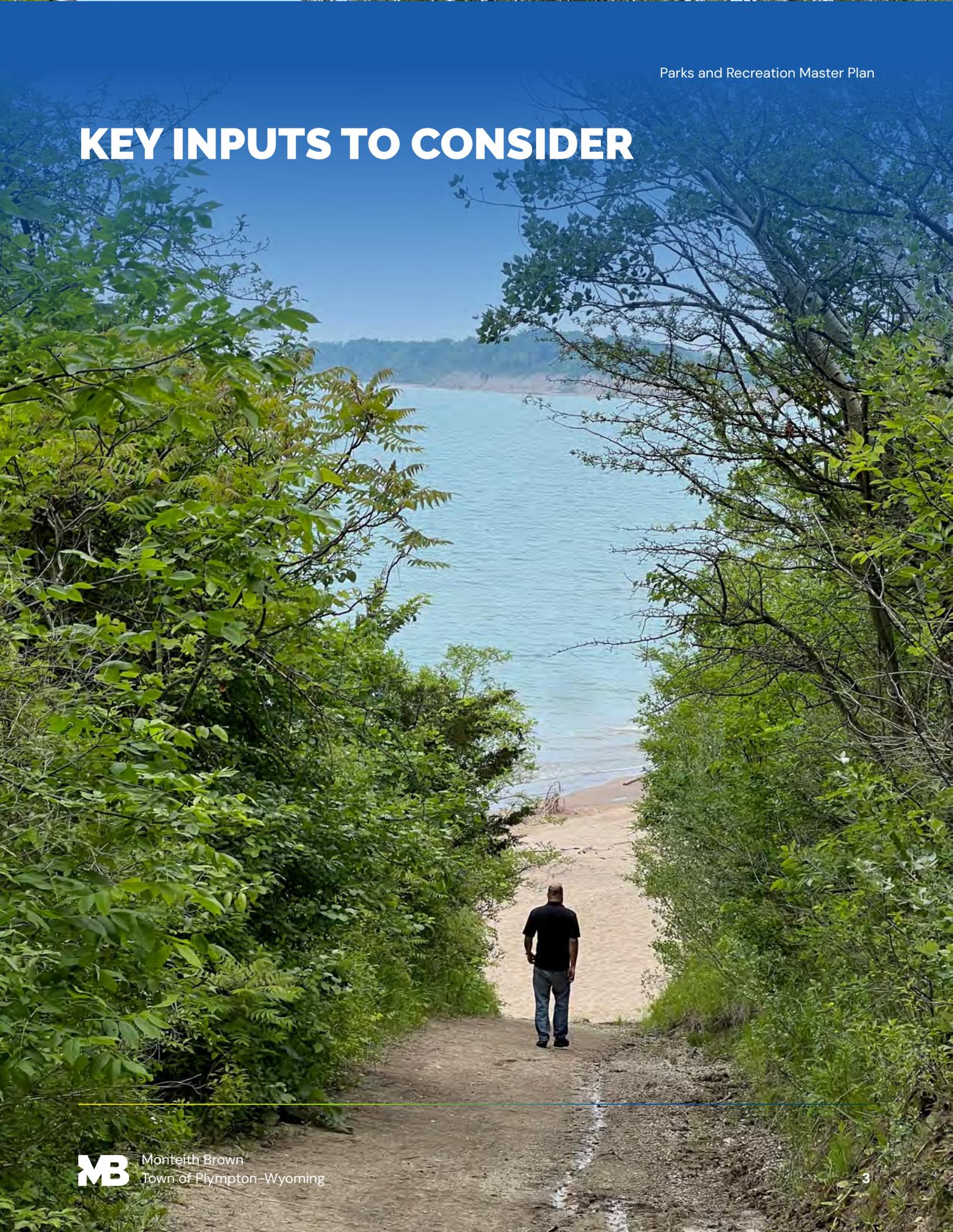
## 1.3 Planning Approach

The Master Plan was guided by a Terms of Reference and was developed through four phases, which included internal meetings and reporting. Phase 1 consisted of a background scan that included a review of background materials, socio–demographics, trends, inventory, and usage data. Phase 2 involved undertaking community engagement to solicit input from the public, stakeholders, staff, and Council, which included a range of in–person and virtual consultation tactics including public open houses, surveys, focus groups and interviews. The Draft Master Plan was developed in Phase 3 which included a needs analysis and recommendations that was informed by the inputs from Phase 1 and 2. The Master Plan was tested and finalized in Phase 4.

*Figure 1: Phasing Process of the Master Plan*



# KEY INPUTS TO CONSIDER



## 2. Key Inputs to Consider

Key inputs that influence the provision of parks and recreation opportunities in Plympton–Wyoming include the Town’s community profile to understand who lives here now and who may live here in the future, as well as parks and recreation trends. This section highlights key findings that were considered in developing the Master Plan.

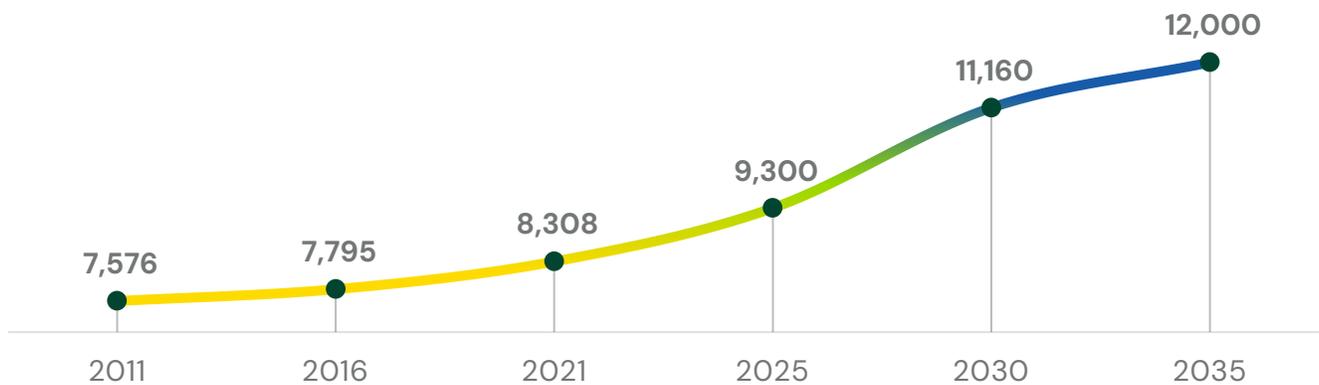
### 2.1 Plympton–Wyoming is Growing

Statistics Canada reported a 2021 Census population of 8,308 residents for the Town of Plympton–Wyoming, which was a 10% growth from the 2011 Census.<sup>1</sup> The Town’s 2021 Wastewater Servicing Master Plan reports that Plympton–Wyoming will be home to approximately 12,000 residents by 2035.<sup>2</sup> This level of growth will have implications on the Town’s parks and recreation system.

2025 Population Estimate:  
**9,300 Residents**  
 2035 Population Estimate:  
**12,000 residents (+29%)**

Based projected populations, **Plympton–Wyoming is estimated to have a current population of 9,300 residents (rounded), which will be used as the baseline for this Master Plan.** Additionally, the Town is home to a number of seasonal residents during the summer season. The majority of the Town’s residents are concentrated in Wyoming, although the Town’s Official Plan identifies that the majority of lands designated for future development are located in Camlachie and north of Lakeshore Road.

**Figure 2: Historical and Forecasted Population Growth, 2011 to 2036**



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2011–2021; Town of Plympton–Wyoming Wastewater Servicing Master Plan, 2021.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. 2011 and 2021 Census

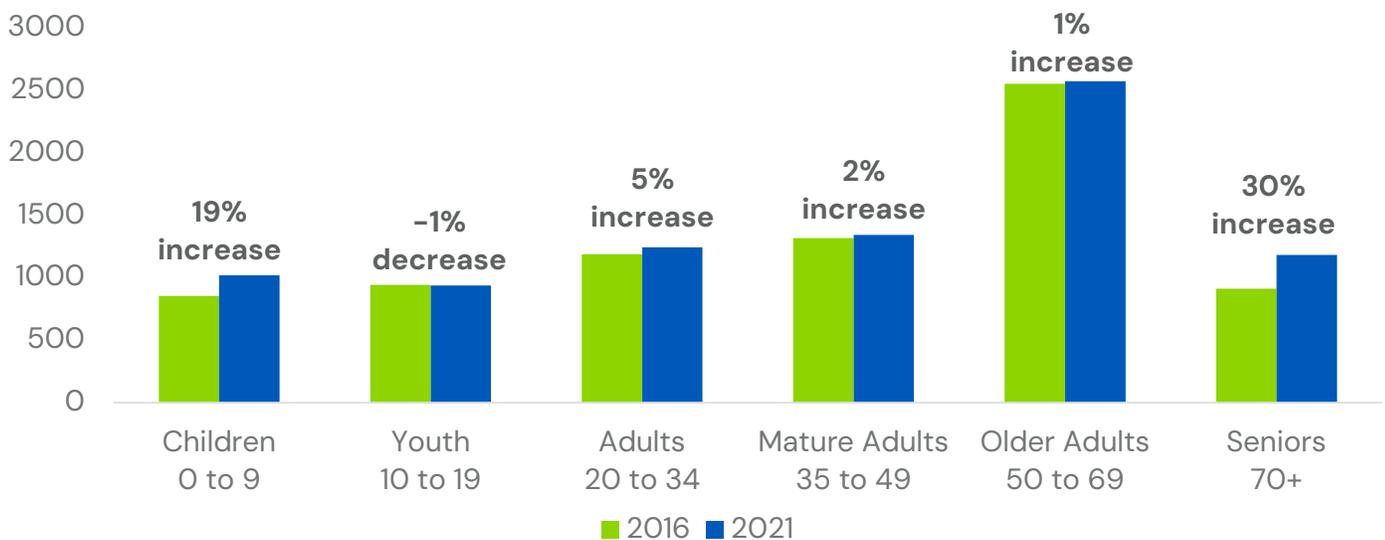
<sup>2</sup> Town of Plympton–Wyoming. Waste Water Servicing Master Plan. 2001

## 2.2 Age Influences Parks & Recreation Opportunities

Age composition plays a key role in influencing parks and recreation opportunities. For example, older residents may have an interest in low impact and passive pursuits, whereas younger residents may prefer to participate in active, neighbourhood-level recreation opportunities.

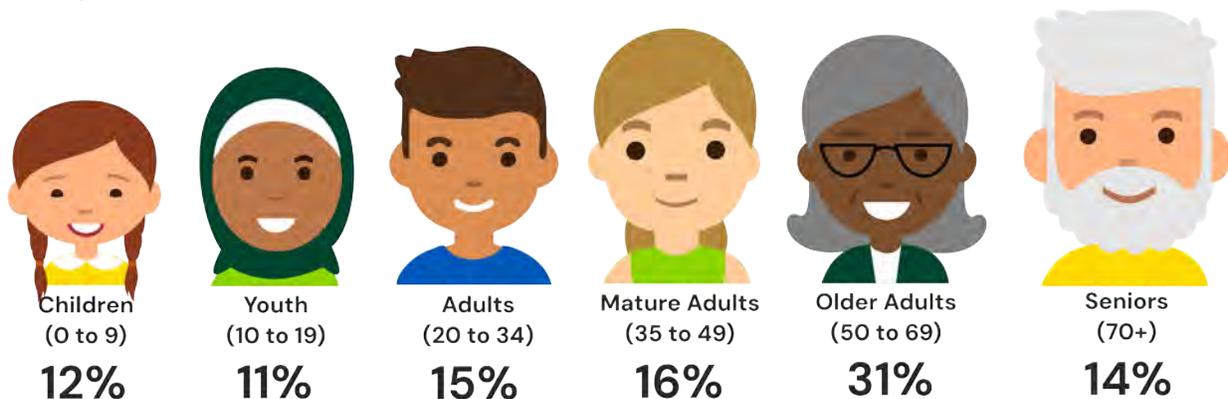
The 2021 Census reported that Plympton-Wyoming’s median age was 45.6 years, which was slightly lower compared to Lambton County (46.4 years) and remained unchanged compared to the 2016 Census. Between the 2016 and 2021 Census, seniors (ages 70+) grew the most by 30%; children (ages 0 to 9) also increased by 19%, while all other age groups remained stable. Nearly half (45%) of the Town’s residents are also over the age of 50 years.

**Figure 3: Population Growth by Age Group, 2016 & 2021**



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2016 & 2021

**Figure 4: Age Structure, 2021**



Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2021

## 2.3 Desire for Active & Healthy Lifestyles

The 2024 Framework for Recreation in Canada (FRC) is a document that provides direction to public recreation providers on how to foster active and healthy lifestyles. The FRC identifies that active living is one of the five key goals to engage residents and foster individual wellbeing. Active lifestyles not only benefit physical health but also strengthens community wellbeing. Municipalities have found that promoting physical literacy such as recreation programming and outdoor play, sedentary lifestyles can be reduced, leading to a higher quality of life.

The Town recognizes the importance of active living as its Strategic Plan identifies that addressing changing recreational needs should be a key area of focus, which should include enhancing and improving existing facilities (and improving capacity within those spaces), introducing recreation programming and more. Undertaking this Master Plan further demonstrates the Town’s commitment to prioritizing parks and recreation opportunities in Plympton–Wyoming.



## 2.4 Popularity of Unstructured & Casual Activities

The lack of free time is commonly identified as a participation barrier to parks and recreation activities, which is due to busy lifestyles and competing interests. Committing to structured activities require advanced registration, and regular attendance has become a challenge among many households. To address this, municipalities are evolving their service delivery models with more unstructured and casual activities that are flexible and fit with different schedules.

Plympton–Wyoming provides a range of unstructured parks and recreation opportunities to encourage residents and visitors to be active in the community. Such activities include public swimming and use of outdoor spaces such as sport courts, playgrounds, trails, and the waterfront. The Town’s parks also feature outdoor public gathering areas and space for festivals and events.



## 2.5 Community Activity Hubs are in Demand

There is a growing emphasis on multi-use community spaces and parks that centralize activities, amenities and features at fewer locations or at a single site. These community activity hubs offer benefits in construction, management and operations, and provides places for families to participate together; they can also support sport tourism, tournaments, and economic development opportunities.

The Camlachie Community Centre anchors a broader civic hub that includes Arnold Minielly Park and the Camlachie Library. This community focal point is used as an event venue for many of the Town's special events and festivals. The community centre contains a large hall and meeting room, while the park provides outdoor spaces including ball diamonds and playground equipment.

While these community activity hubs have many benefits, it is also important to recognize that centralization may require some residents having to travel further if they do not live nearby. This highlights the need to ensure that there is a good distribution of parks and recreation opportunities across Plympton-Wyoming.

## 2.6 Parks & Recreation Infrastructure is Aging

The 2019 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card highlighted the aging nature of sports and recreation facilities across the nation, with one-third of amenities and facilities scoring a "Fair" condition or worse.<sup>3</sup> Many of Ontario's municipal facilities were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s and since then, the budget allocated towards community infrastructure has been underfunded or deferred in favour of higher priority capital projects.

Plympton-Wyoming's 2024 Asset Management Plan echo's the national report as the Town's parks and recreation facilities are identified as a fair condition rating of 53% out of 100% with an average of 27 years of service life remaining.<sup>4</sup> The Asset Management Plan identifies a replacement value of approximately \$9 million for the Town's parks and recreation facilities, highlighting the importance of continuing to maintain these high value assets. The Town has made progress in investing in its parks system, often working in partnership with community partners (e.g., donations) through various park enhancement projects such as playground replacement and outdoor pool renewal.

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<sup>3</sup> Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, 2019

<sup>4</sup> Town of Plympton-Wyoming Asset Management Plan, 2024

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION



## 3. Community Consultation

### 3.1 How the Public Was Engaged

The perspectives of residents, stakeholders, staff and Council helped shape the Master Plan and informed strategies to address community needs and priorities. Consultation methods completed to date include the following:



An **Awareness Campaign** included a project webpage, posters distributed throughout Town buildings, email blasts, social media and radio promotions.



A meeting was held with the **Parks and Recreation Committee** to introduce the Master Plan and receive initial input.



**Public Information Centres** were held to gather initial resident input.



A self-directed **Community Survey** was completed to establish a broad picture of recreation participation, preferences, barriers, opinions, suggestions, and needs.



**Community & User Group Interviews** were held to obtain specific insights into parks and recreation services and other Town needs, explored ideas for partnerships, and to provide an opportunity for community groups to network with each other.



**Staff Workshops** were held to leverage on-the-ground knowledge and experience in the parks and recreation in Plympton-Wyoming.



**Interviews with members of Council** were held to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints related to local parks and recreation opportunities.



The Draft Master Plan was tested with the public to receive feedback from the Parks and Recreation Committee, stakeholders, and the general public, which included **online review period, in-person Public Open House, virtual presentations, and written comments.**

## 3.2 What We Heard

Common themes, ideas, opinions and suggestions that were shared through the consultation process are summarized below. Public input that was received should not be considered as recommendations. Input has been considered as part of developing the Master Plan.

- **Community Organizations are a Strength:**

Local community groups are a strength as they provide recreation programs. Greater support from the Town would be appreciated to help them raise awareness, recruit volunteers and access funding to address potential long-term operational sustainability challenges.

- **Requests for Renewal & New Amenities:**

The Town's outdoor recreation infrastructure is aging and there is a desire for reinvestment in amenities such as the outdoor pool, playgrounds, and sport courts. Public requests were also received for more facilities such as indoor space for active recreation, dedicated pickleball courts, another splash pad, trails, volleyball courts, off leash dog park, and more.

- **Requests for More Ball Diamonds & Soccer Fields:**

Sports organizations expressed the desire for more ball diamonds and soccer fields to accommodate program and participation demands. In some cases, groups report renting field time in neighbouring municipalities to meet their needs.

- **Desire for Centralized & Multi-use Spaces:**

There is community interest in developing multi-use hubs to provide enhanced access to public spaces for programs, events and rentals. Suggestions were made to reinvest in modernizing and expanding the Camlachie Community Centre and developing a sports park.

- **Communication & Collaboration:**

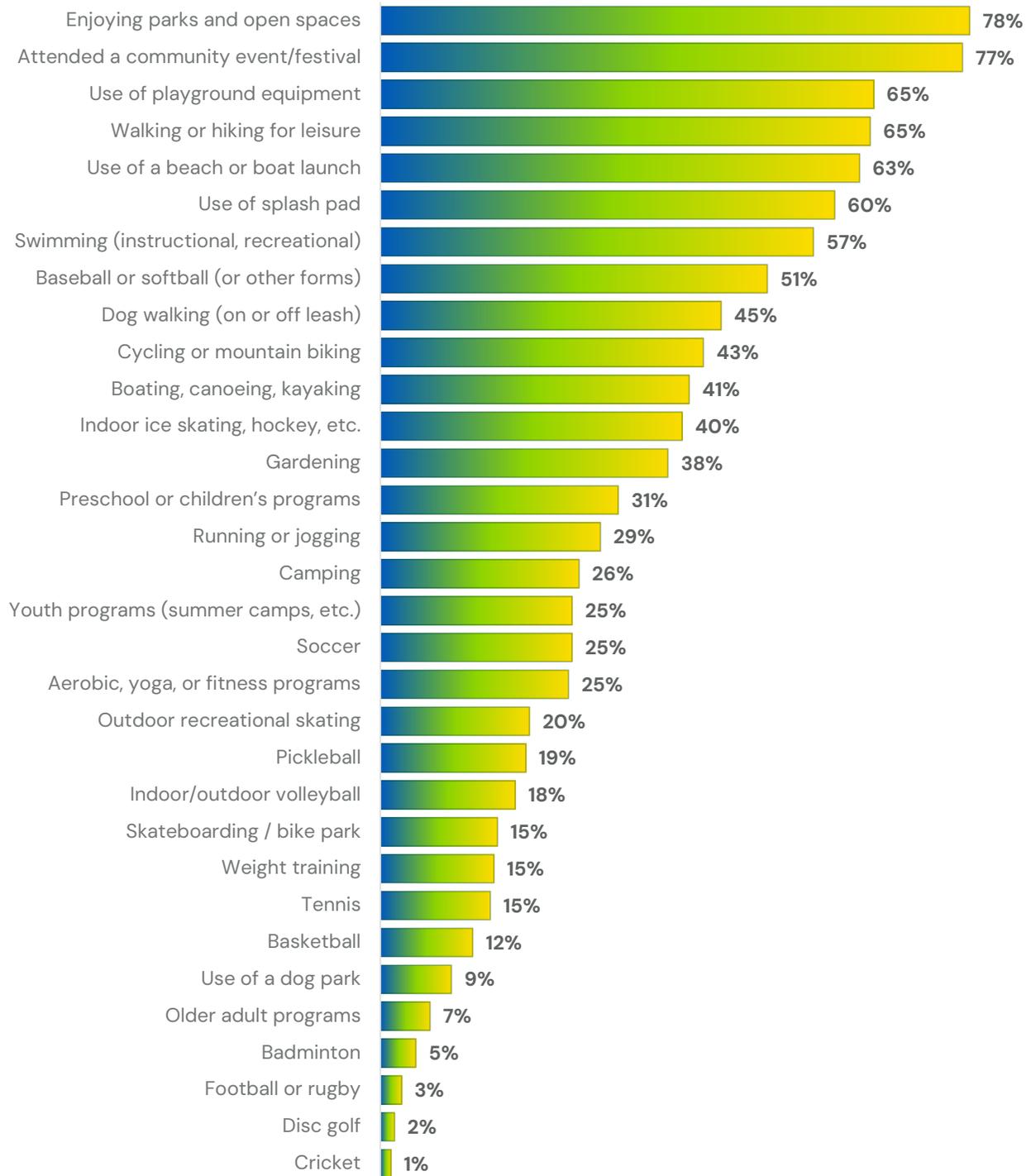
Community organization suggested that there could be opportunities to strengthen communication and collaboration with the Town to ensure long-term success such as coordinating promotion to increase visibility and having a dedicated staff person to liaise with groups.

- **Continuing to Invest in the Waterfront:**

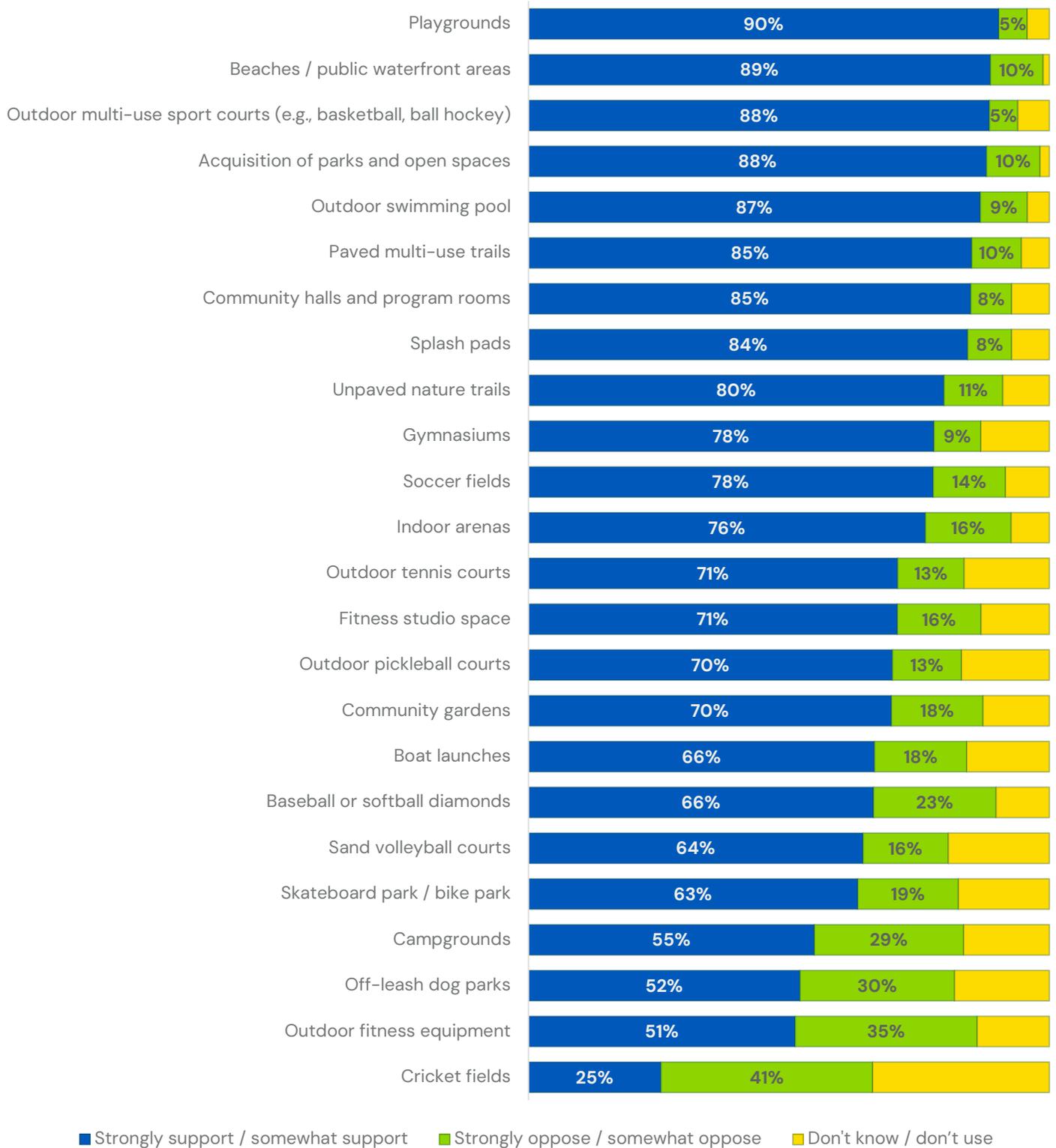
There is public support to continue investing in the Town's waterfront areas and right-of-way access points. Residents have noted that some beach access points require improvements to enhance safety and usability.

The following figures illustrates key findings from the community survey, including participation preferences in parks and recreation activities, followed by public support for investment in parks and recreation facilities.

**Figure 5: Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities in the Past 12 Months**



**Figure 6: Support for Investment in Recreation Facilities**



# PARKLAND & TRAILS



## 4. Parkland & Trails

This section summarizes the Town's parkland supply, parks classification system, provision standards, needs and distribution analysis.

### 4.1 Parkland Classification

Section 8.0 of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Official Plan establishes a parkland classification system. Three park classifications are identified for publicly owned lands including Major Parks, Community Parks, and Neighbourhood Parks, which are summarized in the table below.

**Table 1: Existing Park Classification**

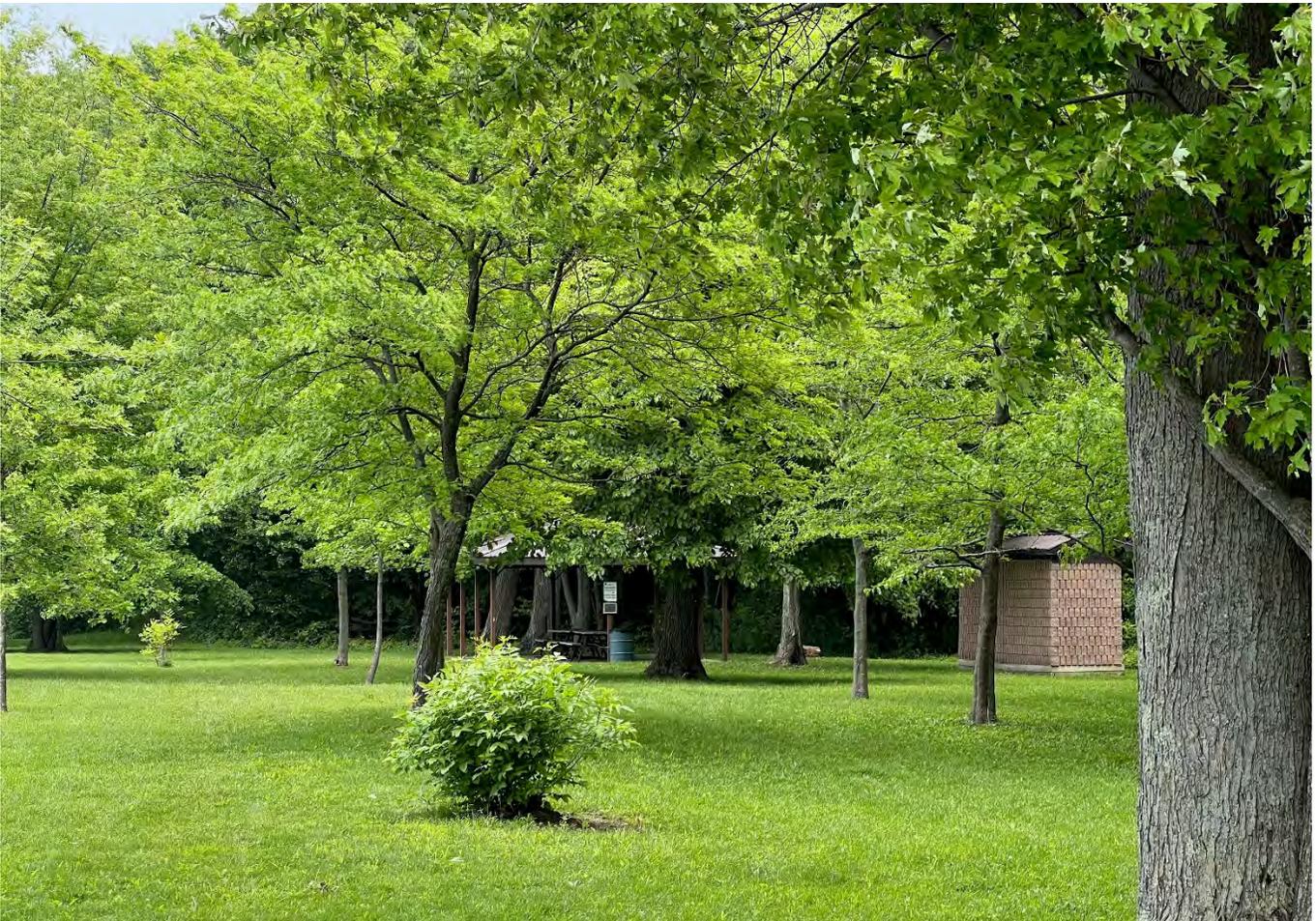
Major Parks	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Major Parks are intended to provide a broad range of active and passive recreational opportunities. More specifically, Major Parks will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Incorporate environmentally significant natural areas wherever feasible;</li> <li>b) Provide large open areas which can facilitate active sports activities;</li> <li>c) Provide for low intensity passive recreational activities easily accessible to residents throughout the Town; and</li> <li>d) Be located on or near an Arterial Road or Collector Road wherever possible.</li> </ul>
Community Park	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Community Parks are intended to serve the recreational needs of the residents at the community level. Community Parks will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities serving several residential neighbourhoods within the Town, and provide a focal point for community activities;</li> <li>b) Provide predominantly for active recreational activities;</li> <li>c) Be accessible to the neighbourhood and where possible, subdivision plans should incorporate walkways to new or existing parks;</li> <li>d) Incorporate elements of the natural environment wherever feasible; Be located on a Collector or Arterial Road; and</li> <li>e) Be integrated with a school playing field if possible, where shared use of parkland can be facilitated.</li> </ul>

## Neighbourhood Park

**Description:** Neighbourhood Parks will generally consist of small children’s play facilities at the neighbourhood level and greenbelt areas that serve individual neighbourhoods within a community. More specifically, Neighbourhood Parks will:

- a) Be centrally located within a Neighbourhood and be accessible to pedestrians;
- b) Provide opportunities for minor recreational activities; Provide opportunities for passive enjoyment of the environment;
- c) Be located in conjunction with an elementary school, where feasible, in which case no physical barriers shall be created to separate complementary facilities; and,
- d) Be located on a Collector or Local Road.

Source: Town of Plympton–Wyoming Official Plan, 2021



Refinements to the Town’s parkland classification system is recommended that includes Waterfront Destination Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Parkettes. This renewed parkland classification system is summarized below. It considers what currently exists in Plympton–Wyoming and best practices in other communities including where they should be located, preferred sizes, and other factors. This renewed classification system should be used to guide future park development and redevelopment in Plympton–Wyoming.

**Table 2: Recommended Parkland Classification System**

### Waterfront Destination Park

**Description:** Waterfront Destination Parks serve local outdoor recreation needs and draws visitors from beyond the Town’s borders. They are predominantly passive to protect, preserve and enhances natural heritage and/or cultural features. Supporting amenities may include, but not limited to, public beaches, parking, shade structures, seating, washrooms, boat launches, and accessibility features. Waterfront Destination Parks vary in size. Acquiring Waterfront Destination Parks should be explored as opportunities become available to increase public access to Lake Huron.

Existing Parks: Highland Glen and McEwen Park

Provision Target: Not Applicable

### Community Park

**Description:** Community Parks should be multi-purpose and serve a range of active and passive recreational needs for residents throughout Plympton–Wyoming. Amenities and features may include, but not be limited to, lit sports fields, sport courts, playgrounds, splash pads, trails, passive open space, waterfront connection, and more. They should be prominently located in the community, preferably adjacent to a school, co-located with a community facility. Community Parks vary in size depending on its function, but they should generally be 1.6 hectares or larger and they should ideally be located on an arterial road.

Existing Parks: McKay Park, Arnold Minielly Park, and Lakeshore Community Park.

Provision Target: 1.7 hectares per 1,000 residents

## Neighbourhood Park

**Description:** Neighbourhood Parks serve local-level needs of residents within an 800-metre walking distance, which typically represents a 10-minute walk without crossing major barriers such as arterial roads and railways. Amenities and features may include playgrounds, sport courts, an unlit sports field, trails, park seating, passive open space, waterfront connection, and more. Neighbourhood Parks should generally range from 0.8 hectares to 1.5 hectares in size and they should be located on a local road.

Existing Parks: Errol Woods Park, and Kings Square Park.

Provision Target: 1.0 hectares per 1,000 residents

## Parkettes

**Description:** Parkettes serve a small catchment of residents and provide places for small gatherings and outdoor connection points for social interaction. Parkettes should be located along local roads. A limited range of amenities and features may include playgrounds, trails, seating, signage, landscaping, waterfront connection, and passive open space. Parkettes should range in size between 0.5 hectares to 0.8 hectares. The development of new parkettes should be minimized, unless it is required to address a gap area.

Existing Parks: Maples Park, O'Brien Park, and Redick Park.

Provision Target: Combined with Neighbourhood Parks

## Recommendations – Parkland Classification

**Rec 1.** Integrate the parkland classification system in this Master Plan, consisting of Waterfront Destination Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks and Parkettes, as part of a future Official Plan Update and use it to guide parks planning initiatives, including developing and redeveloping parks.

## 4.2 Parkland Inventory

Plympton–Wyoming has 42.4 hectares of parkland that contain a range of outdoor spaces, facilities and amenities for organized and casual play, as well as special events and social gatherings. This translates into a current service level of **4.6 hectares per 1,000 residents**

The Town’s parkland inventory is complemented by outdoor spaces that are owned and operated by others such as campgrounds and schools, which have limited to no public access.

**Table 3: Summary of Parkland**

Parkland Type	Area (Ha)	Current Service Level
Waterfront Destination Park	18.9	2.0 ha per 1,000 residents
Community Park	16.2	1.7 ha per 1,000 residents
Neighbourhood Park	4.5	0.5 ha per 1,000 residents
Parkette	2.8	0.3 ha per 1,000 residents
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>4.6 ha per 1,000 residents</b>

Note: Service based on a current population of 9,300 residents



The following table summarizes the Town's parkland inventory based on the recommended classification system recommended in this Master Plan. In alignment with the new parkland classification system, some of the Town's parks have been reclassified based on their current function and locational characteristics.

**Table 4: Parkland Inventory by Classification**

<b>Waterfront Destination Parks</b>	<b>Hectares</b>		<b>Hectares</b>
Highland Glen Park	11.4	McEwen Park	5.5
Lamrecton Park	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>18.9</b>

<b>Community Parks</b>	<b>Hectares</b>		<b>Hectares</b>
Arnold Minielly Park	4.3	Lakeshore Community Park	3.6
Canton Park	1.6	McKay Park	1.6
Centennial Park	0.5	Sunset Acres Park	4.6
		<b>Total</b>	<b>16.2</b>

<b>Neighbourhood Parks</b>	<b>Hectares</b>		<b>Hectares</b>
Blue Point Park	0.9	Kings Square Park	2.3
Errol Woods Park	1.3	<b>Total</b>	<b>4.5</b>

<b>Parkette</b>	<b>Hectares</b>		<b>Hectares</b>
Bowling Green Tot Park	0.1	O'Brien Tot Park	0.2
Donkers Tot Park	0.2	Plumb Tot Park	0.1
Eton Court Park	0.2	Point View Park	0.7
Mandaumin Park	0.4	Redick Park	0.3
Maples Park	0.1	Wilpstra Tot Park	0.1
Netty's Way Park	0.1	Windcliffe Park	0.3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2.8</b>

### 4.3 Parkland Service Levels and Future Parkland Needs

The Town's current service level of 4.6 hectares per 1,000 residents is a strong level of service as municipalities across Ontario generally provide parkland in the range of 2.0 hectares per 4.0 hectares. Plympton-Wyoming's high level of service for parkland is partly due to the fact that the Town was able to acquire two Waterfront Destination Parks – Highland Glen Park and McEwen Park – which were former conservation area properties from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. It can be expected that there will be limited opportunities to acquire future Waterfront Destination Parks similar to Highland Glen Park and McEwen Park, although opportunities should be pursued as properties become available, particularly as 89% of community survey respondents supported future public investment in beaches and public waterfront areas, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 24 facility types.

Over the planning period, it is recommended that the Town aim to provide a parkland service level of **2.6 hectares per 1,000 residents** for Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Parkettes. This includes a combined target of 1.7 hectares per 1,000 residents for Community Parks and 0.9 hectare per 1,000 residents for Neighbourhood Parks and Parkettes. This combined target matches the Town's current level of service for each type of park, which continues to be within the range of parkland service levels in other communities and will be sufficient to meet the Town's park needs by 2035. Based on these targets, the Town will require 7.7 hectares of additional parkland, including 4.7 hectares of Community Park and 3.0 hectares of Neighbourhood Parks and/or Parkettes.

**Table 5: Future Parkland Needs Based on Recommended Targets**

Recommended Parkland Target by Type	Projected 2035 Parkland Requirements (ha)	Existing Park Supply (ha)	Additional Parkland Needs (ha)
<b>Waterfront Destination Park</b> Acquire where opportunities exist	18.9*	18.9	<b>+0</b>
<b>Community Park</b> @ 1.7 ha per 1,000 residents	20.4	16.2	<b>+4.7</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Park and Parkettes</b> @ 0.9 ha per 1,000 residents	10.8	7.3	<b>+3.0</b>
<b>Total</b> @ 2.6 ha per 1,000 residents for Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks and Parkettes	<b>50.1</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>+7.7</b>

\*Assumes that no new Waterfront Destination Parks are added to the Town's supply.

Note: Projected 2035 parkland requirements based on a forecasted population of 12,000 residents.

## Addressing Future Park Needs

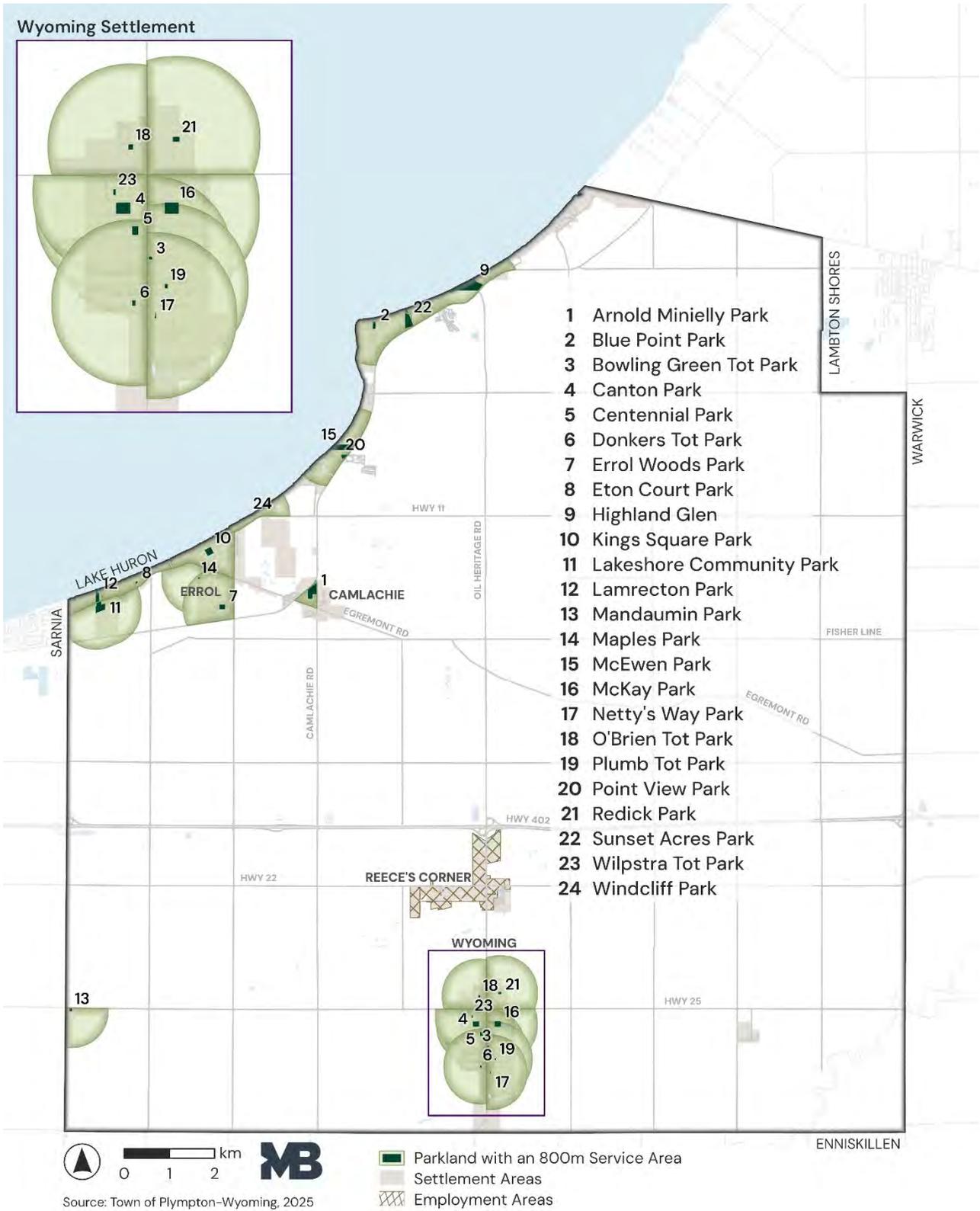
A geographic analysis was undertaken to identify parkland distribution and gap areas. Plympton-Wyoming's Official Plan identifies that the Town should provide at least one neighbourhood park within a 10-minute walk of residential areas without crossing major barriers such as arterial and collector roads.

Applying this service area to the Town's existing parks revealed strong geographic coverage in most of the Town's settlement areas. The largest gap area exists in the Camlachie area, including between this settlement area and Errol Village. Parts of this area is undeveloped, although the Town's Official Plan identifies these lands are designated for future residential development. Smaller geographic gaps exist elsewhere including in the north end of Plympton-Wyoming and other rural hamlets.

As development applications in these gap areas are reviewed, the Town should adopt a **"parkland first"** approach to prioritize the conveyance of physical land to ensure that current and future residents have reasonable access to walkable parks in their neighbourhoods. This practice will align with public expectations for parkland given that the consultation process found that **88% of respondents supported additional public spending for acquiring new parks and open spaces**, which ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 24 facility types.



Figure 7: Parkland Distribution Map



## Provide Neighbourhood Parks within Growth and Gap Areas

Due to changing Provincial legislation, changes to the Planning Act have resulted in municipalities receiving less parkland in relation to population growth as part of the development process. Generally speaking, municipalities are typically eligible to receive about 1.0 to 1.2 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents from new development at suburban densities. With forecasted population growth of approximately 2,700 new residents in Plympton-Wyoming, this could generate between 2.7 and 3.2 hectares of neighbourhood-level parkland through the subdivision process. An emphasis should be placed on acquiring sufficiently sized Neighbourhood Parks, as defined in the recommended parkland classification system to ensure that they can accommodate recreation a range of recreation amenities that to serve surrounding residents.

## A Future Community Park in Wyoming

As noted above, it is difficult for municipalities to secure large size parks solely through parkland dedication. Alternative acquisition strategies will need to be explored to address community park level needs such as land purchase, land swaps, partnerships, donations, reallocated surplus lands, and other creative approaches. Sale of proposed sale of existing parkland, with funds to be used for purchase and/or enhancement of parkland may also be considered.

Over the planning period, it is anticipated that there will be a need for a new Community Park in Wyoming to meet its service level requirements and address higher order recreation needs as identified in this Master Plan. There are two lit ball diamonds at separate parks that would be better suited together at a consolidated location such as a community park, which would align with the parkland classification system recommended in this Master Plan.

Additionally, this community park could also meet soccer needs in Wyoming given that the local organization is currently using non-Town lands and there is a need for additional and higher-quality fields. While Wyoming is currently well served from a geographic distribution perspective, it is recognized that many of the parks in this area are small parkettes with a narrow range of amenities (e.g., playgrounds). A minimum target of four hectares for a Community Park in the Wyoming area should be explored, although a larger size may be considered to accommodate future expansion potential.

## Rethinking Parkland

Continued investment in Plympton-Wyoming's park system will be critical as they provide places for outdoor recreation and they contribute to making the Town a unique place to live. Parks also play an important role in attracting future residents. Opportunities to enhance parks have been identified throughout this Master Plan to add or replace infrastructure to address community needs, serve future residents, and reconcile gap areas. Park renewal can also be important to modernize parks and bolstering use.

Additionally, it is important that parks are located in the appropriate places to maximize impact and ensure that municipal resources are being used effectively and efficiently. This Master Plan process identified that some neighbourhoods are being served by more than one park. Some parks may also be underutilized, or they are located in areas that are not welcoming to the general public.

The following is a summary of strategic opportunities that could be achieved through park-specific renewal projects or there may be opportunities to be repurposes parks for alternative uses. Community engagement should form part of future park planning processes. Should it be determined that there be no viable alternatives, consideration could be given to declaring parks as being surplus and divested from the Town supply. Funds raised should be reinvested back into the parks system.

### Wyoming

**Bowling Green Tot Park** is located on the east side of Broadway Street, north of Front Street and south of the rail line. This parkette contains a small playground that consists of a slide, swing set, climbing structure, and open space. There is no signage designating this space as a public park and access is constrained as there is a fence along Broadway Street. The site is undersized at approximately 0.1 hectare in area with limited development opportunity. It is also serving the same neighbourhood as Plumb Park, resulting in a service duplication. Given these factors, an alternative use should be considered. Removing the playground structure is recommended in this Master Plan.

**Centennial Park** is located on the west side of Broadway Street, south of Confederation Line in Wyoming. It contains a lit ball diamond with supporting amenities including seating, dug outs, and other built structures.

This Master Plan recommends relocating this ball diamond to a future community park in Wyoming where it could be co-located with other new ball diamonds and shared amenities. Should the Town pursue this opportunity, the future of Centennial Park could be contemplated after the ball diamond is relocated. This could include consideration of other facility needs identified in the Master Plan including a soccer field and pathway development. The community should be engaged to explore alternative uses for one of these parks.

**McKay Park** is one of the Town's main community parks that serves as a major gathering space in Wyoming on the east side of Toronto Street, north of Ontario Street and south of Erie Street. Amenities include an outdoor pool and support building, splash pad, lit multi-use sport courts for tennis, basketball and ball hockey, skate park, playground, pavilion, open space, cenotaph, and parking. The Town recently completed renewal of the outdoor pool to extend its life over the next 10 years.

This Master Plan recommends reinvesting in the multi-use sport courts through resurfacing and replacing the sport court lighting. Enhancing pedestrian circulation should be considered including creating a designated pathway to increase accessibility through the park. Other opportunities include undertaking a major redevelopment of the outdoor pool and washroom building, which may be required beyond the planning period.

### **Camlachie**

**Arnold Minielly Park** is the main park in Camlachie, which is in the southwest corner of Camlachie Road and Lakeshore Road. This park includes three lit ball diamonds, a playground, parking, and built structures including a washroom building, pavilion, and the Camlachie Community Centre. The park is also adjacent to the Camlachie Library and Plympton-Wyoming Museum. This Master Plan recommends an outdoor hard surface racquet court with lights for tennis and pickleball, replacing the playground, and adding a splash pad.

This Master Plan also recommends redeveloping the Camlachie Community Centre to create a new community centre to programs, gatherings and events. This facility could also consolidate existing park buildings at Arnold Minielly Park, as well as the library and museum. As part of this process, opportunities to reconfigure park amenities should be explored to improve overall site functionality.

### **Rural Area**

**Blue Point Park** is located in the Blue Point Area on the northwest corner of Collingwood Street and Thomas Street. It contains one multi-use tennis and pickleball court and a playground. No new opportunities are recommended at this location, although given the small footprint of Blue Point Park, long-term consideration may be given to relocating these amenities to Sunset Acres Park, where there is greater development potential, as they serve the same area.

**Lakeshore Community Park** is located in the Huron Heights area on the south side of Egremont Road. It is a community park that offers a range of amenities including a playground, three volleyball courts, ball diamond, soccer field, pavilion, and washroom. This Master Plan recommends relocating the sand volleyball courts to replace the non-programmed soccer field to accommodate an expanded parking area, as well as undertaking ball diamond enhancements including installing outfield fencing and safety netting. Incorporating designated pathways to improve site accessibility and circulation is also recommended.

**McEwen Park** is one of the Town's largest parks. Located in the Bonnie Doon area on the west side of Lakeshore Road, McEwen Park offers approximately 150 metres of public beach along Lake Huron. This park was previously owned by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority until it was acquired by the Town in 2023. This park is primarily passive consisting of a woodlot, open space, washroom building, and access to the waterfront. Opportunities to enhance the use of the site could include improving access to the beach and waterfront area, exploring the feasibility of rehabilitating the washroom building, constructing a pavilion, and trail development. Other modest investment may be undertaken to bolster the site for passive use.

**Mandaumin Park** is located in the southwest corner of Plympton-Wyoming on the south side of Confederation Line, east of Mandaumin Road. This park contains a multi-sport court for tennis, pickleball and basketball, as well as a playground, parking, open space, and other amenities. The site was previously the location of the Mandaumin Public Library, although the building no longer exists.

This neighbourhood park serves a small portion of residents (and non-residents) of approximately 20 to 30 dwellings, although it is not located within a designated settlement area. Prior to reinvesting in the amenities that currently exist, which are aging, the Town should engage local residents to determine what the future of this park should look like.

**Point View Park** is located on the north side of Lakeshore Road and Hillcrest Road. It has a fenced perimeter and is primarily open space with mature trees and a small aging playground. This Master Plan did not identify any suitable uses for this park. Through the consultation process, suggestions were made to establish an off-leash dog park at this location, although this is not recommended given the proximity to adjacent residential areas and the lack of parking. This Master Plan also does not recommend an off-leash dog park at this time due to low community support. The Town should engage local residents to establish a future vision for this park, including decisions to replace or remove the aging playground structure.

**Sunset Acres Park** is in the Blue Point Area, located on the north side of Lakeshore Road, east of Harris Point Drive. This park is split into two portions. One portion is on the north side of Blue Point Drive and is maintained for passive enjoyment with views of Lake Huron. The second portion on the south side of Blue Point Drive is undeveloped and underutilized. It is mainly naturalized and overtime, it has been used informally for walking and hiking.

Limited residential development is currently planned/underway in this area, which will attract more residents and may create more pressure for park amenities. There may be opportunities to develop Sunset Acres Park for more active uses, including potentially serving as a long-term replacement for Blue Point Park given that they serve the same area.

## Recommendations – Parkland Service Levels and Future Parkland Needs

- Rec 2.** Target a parkland service level of 2.6 hectares per 1,000 residents, including:
- a. 1.7 hectares per 1,000 residents for Community Parks, and
  - b. 0.9 hectares per 1,000 residents for Neighbourhood Parks and Parkettes.
- Rec 3.** Acquire 7.7 hectares of parkland to achieve the recommended parkland service target, including:
- a. 4.7 hectares of Community Parks; and
  - b. 3.0 hectares of Neighbourhood Parks and/or Parkettes.
- Rec 4.** Opportunities to acquire or expand Waterfront Destination Parks should be pursued on a case-by-case basis to strengthen public access to the waterfront.
- Rec 5.** Adopt a parkland first approach to prioritize the conveyance of physical parkland to address park needs in future growth areas and existing gaps. Alternative parkland acquisition strategies should also be considered including land purchase, exchanges or swaps, off-site conveyance, donations, partnerships, and reallocating surplus Town-owned land.
- Rec 6.** Consider the park-specific development strategies identified in this Master Plan to maximize community impact and ensure that municipal resources are being used efficiently and effectively. This may result redevelopment and renewal of existing parks, expanding existing parks, repurposing underutilized parks, or eliminating park service duplication. Should there be no viable alternative use, consideration should be given to divesting surplus parkland, with funds raised being reinvested back into the park system. Public consultation should form part of the park planning process.

## 4.4 Policy Development

In accordance with the Planning Act, Plympton–Wyoming can require conveyance of parkland as a condition of development. Official Plan policies related to parkland dedication are summarized in Appendix B of this Master Plan. Since the Town’s Official Plan was approved, there have been several changes to parkland dedication requirements under the Planning Act, most notably through Bill 23 (More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022).

The Official Plan identifies that parkland may be required at a rate of 5% for residential uses, or at an alternative rate of one hectare per 300 dwelling units. As per Bill 23, the alternative rate is now one hectare per 600 dwelling units (or a cash-in-lieu equivalent of one hectare per 1,000 dwelling units), which is not reflected in the Town’s Official Plan. Further, the new legislation caps the maximum alternative dedication rates at 10% of land for sites five hectares or less and 15% for sites larger than five hectares.

The Official Plan also identifies what lands the Town would not accept as part of dedication such as hazardous land or land that is not suitable for development. To come into effect at a future date, Bill 23 also identifies that developers will be able to identify the land they intend to convey to the municipality for parkland, which may include encumbered land. If an agreement cannot be reached, the municipality or landowner may appeal the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal. This may result in less suitable land being provided as parkland dedication, which can impact the Town’s ability to provide necessary outdoor recreation infrastructure to meet community needs. At the time of an Official Plan update, the Town should update its Official Plan at the appropriate time to ensure that its parkland policies align with current provincial planning policies.

### Recommendations – Policy Development

**Rec 7.** As part of a future update to the Official Plan, review and update parkland policies to ensure that they align with changes to the Planning Act.

## 4.5 Recreational Trail Development

Plympton–Wyoming’s trails are important community amenities as they provide both utilitarian and recreational functions. A connected trail system connects users within neighbourhoods as well as to key destinations such as commercial areas and public parks and facilities. Recreational trails also provide users with designated routes to minimizing impacts to the natural surroundings. The Town’s recreational trail system is made up of various types including park pathways, natural and gravel trails, paved multi-use trails, and paved and unpaved shoulders.

There are approximately 60 kilometres of trails in Plympton–Wyoming. This includes approximately 49 kilometres of trail in the Town that make up part of the Lambton County Regional Trail system that run alongside County roads to provide active transportation connections to adjacent municipalities including Sarnia, Lambton Shores, Warwick and Enniskillen. In addition, the Town’s trails are complemented by approximately 20 kilometres of sidewalks, the majority of which are in Wyoming.



**Table 6: Recreational Trails in Plympton–Wyoming**

Town Maintained Trails	Length	Type
Plympton–Wyoming Trail (including recent projects)	5.8 km	On-Road
Highland Glen Trail*	1.9 km	Nature Trail
Wyoming to Reece’s Corner Community Trail	2.2 km	Multi-use Path
<b>Total (Municipal Trails):</b>	<b>9.9 km</b>	
Lambton County Trails in Plympton–Wyoming**	Length	Type
Lakeshore Road Trail	4.6 km	Nature Trail
Aberarder Line	16.6 km	On-Road
Broadway Street	3.9 km	On-Road
Forest Road	5.4 km	On-Road
Lakeshore Road	1.9 km	On-Road
London Line	5.3 km	On-Road
Oil Heritage Road	10.9 km	On-Road
<b>Total (Non-Municipal Trails):</b>	<b>48.6 km</b>	

\*Highland Glen Trail is estimated based on the Town’s current and proposed trail route.

\*\*Some Lambton County trail routes include sidewalks and paved shoulders.

Recreational trails are highly valued amenities in Plympton-Wyoming as the consultation process found that 94% of respondents felt that they are very important to their household. This aligns with broader trends as trail infrastructure can facilitate no-cost active living activities, and they can be used by people of all ages and abilities. There is a general desire to expand trail infrastructure in many communities that experienced an increase in active transportation use since the COVID-19 pandemic, as people rediscovered the outdoors and connecting with nature.

Approximately three-quarters (75%) of survey respondents were satisfied with the Town's trails and pathways. Public interest in trail development in Plympton-Wyoming is strong, which can bolster satisfaction levels. The survey found that 85% of respondents supported additional investment in paved multi-use trails, while 80% supported additional spending in unpaved nature trails. Investment in these areas ranked 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> out of 24 facility types, suggesting that this is a high priority for survey respondents.

The Town recognizes the importance of trail development and has been recently making progress on expanding active transportation infrastructure such as the completion of the Highland Glen Trail and other trail development projects. Building upon this, adding walking pathways within the Town's parks is encouraged to provide accessible circulation areas and linkages to internal amenities (e.g., playgrounds, sport courts, sports fields, etc.). Site visits to the Town's parks found that some locations have basic walkways such as at O'Brien Park, McKay Park, Kings Square Park, and Lamrecton Family Park. Other parks do not, which may be a physical barrier for some users that would limit their enjoyment of the Town's public spaces or prevent them from using them entirely. Potential locations of focus in the short term may include parks that generally have a higher level of use, such as at Lakeshore Community Park, McEwen Park, McKay Park, and Arnold Minielly Park.



In addition, opportunities exist to strengthen the trail network are highlighted below (Figure 8).

- Extend the Wyoming to Reece’s Corner Community Trail north along Oil Heritage Road and to Camlachie.
- Extend the Lakeshore Road Trail to Camlachie.
- Extend the on-road trail along Queen Street between Fleming Road to Lakeshore Road.
- Construct a trail along Mandaumin Road between Lakeshore Road and Egremont Road.
- Address the gap along Egremont Road between O’Brien Road and Old Mill Road.
- Construct trails and sidewalks within future residential areas and connecting them to the existing network. Where opportunities exist, acquiring land for active transportation infrastructure through the subdivision approval process is recommended, as permitted in the Town’s Official Plan.

To guide future trail development, the Town may benefit from establishing of a hierarchy system that defines trail types, permitted uses, design characteristics. For example, multi-use trails along roads may be designed to a certain standard and width to support walking and cycling, while park pathways and sidewalks may be designed in a manner for pedestrian use only. Supporting amenities may also vary based on the trail type.

### Recommendations – Recreational Trail Development

- Rec 8.** Establish a hierarchy to define trail types, permitted uses, design characteristics, and supporting amenities.
- Rec 9.** Create a strategy to strengthen the trail network, which may require working with others including Lambton County and other landowners. Consideration should be given to the recommendations in this Master Plan including the following:
- a. Expand the Wyoming to Reece’s Corner Community Trail to connect to Camlachie.
  - b. Address gaps along existing trail routes along Lakeshore Road, Egremont Road, Mandaumin Road, Fleming Street, and Queen Street.
  - c. Construct trails and sidewalks within future residential areas and connect them to the existing trail network. Where opportunities exist, acquire land for active transportation infrastructure through the subdivision approval process, as permitted in the Town’s Official Plan.

Figure 8: Recreational Trail Development Concept

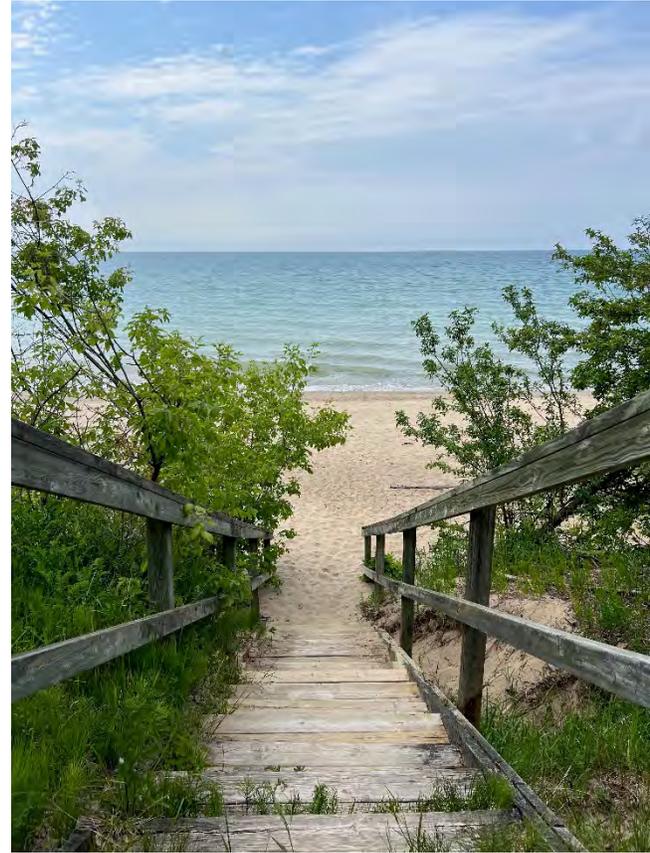


## 4.6 Road Ends and Lake Access Points

There are nine road ends and lake access points, also known as public rights-of-way, that terminate at Lake Huron and are under the ownership of Plympton-Wyoming. These properties are characterized as small, narrow-shaped parcels. Road ends and lake access points are used in a manner similar to parks, although they are not classified under the municipal supply of parkland as they are part of the transportation infrastructure network. These locations provide public lakefront and beach access, which complements the Town's parks that have water access including Lamrecton Park, Highland Glen Park, and McEwen Park. Road ends and lake access points are found at the following locations:

- Blue Point Drive
- Dalrymple Street
- Devonshire Road (and Eton Court)
- Ferne Avenue
- Fleming Road
- Francis Street
- Hyde Street
- James Street
- Maitland Street

With the exception of the Ferne Avenue road end, which provides an elevated view of Lake Huron, each property has limited parking, signage, and a wooden staircase that connects people to a narrow portion of public beach. Despite the small size of these road ends and lake access points, they are highly valued by the community since much of the shoreline is under private ownership and opportunities for direct access to the water is limited.



The community survey found that 94% of respondents felt that beaches and public waterfront areas are important to their households, although 84% identified that they are satisfied with these amenities in Plympton-Wyoming. This suggests that there is room for improvement in this area. Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) of community survey respondents supported additional public investment in the Town’s beaches and waterfront areas.

While it is recognized that there are a number of road ends and lake access points within a short distance of each other, retaining them in their current form is recommended due to the high degree of value that residents place on walkable access to the waterfront. Maintaining them is particularly important given that there will likely be limited options to acquire additional public waterfront properties, although future opportunities to expand existing road ends and lake access points should be explored where feasible. Given their small size, the Town’s road ends and lake access points should continue to function as passive spaces. A focus should be given to public safety and ensuring that circulation areas are well kept and free of vegetation and debris, and that staircases are maintained in a state of good repair, particularly with respect to staircases. Visual observations revealed that some locations had overgrown vegetation, lacked handrails, or staircases needed repairs, including at Delrymple Street and Devonshire Street.



Given the small size of the Town’s road ends and lake access points, these locations should not be promoted for broader public use (e.g., non-resident use). Instead, this level of use should be directed to the Town’s more established public waterfront areas such as Lamrecton Park and Highland Glen Park.

### Recommendations – Road Ends and Lake Access Points

- Rec 10.** Continue to maintain the Town’s publicly owned road ends and lake access points and undertake strategic vegetation maintenance to ensure that walking pathways are clear and repair staircases, including at Delrymple Street and Devonshire Street.
- Rec 11.** Expand existing road ends and lake access points as opportunities become available to increase public access to Lake Huron.

# RECREATION FACILITIES



## 5. Recreation Facilities

This section summarizes the Town's indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and assesses future community needs.

### 5.1 Recreation Facility Inventory

*Table 7: Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory*

Facility Type	Supply	Location(s)
<b>Community Halls and Meeting Spaces</b>	<b>2</b>	Camlachie Community Centre (Napper Hall and Boardroom)
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>	<b>6</b>	
Lit	3	Arnold Minielly Park, Canton Park, Centennial Park
Unlit	3	Arnold Minielly Park (2), Lakeshore Community Park
<b>Outdoor Aquatics</b>	<b>2</b>	
Outdoor Pool	1	McKay Park
Splash Pad	1	McKay Park
<b>Hard Surface Courts</b>	<b>6</b>	
Multi-Sport**	5	Blue Point Park (1 lit), McKay Park (3 lit), Mandaumin Park (1 unlit)
Ball Hockey	1	McKay Park (1 lit)
<b>Skateboard Parks</b>	<b>1</b>	McKay Park
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>18</b>	Arnold Minielly Park, Blue Point Park, Bowling Green Tot Park, Canton Park, Donkers Tot Park, Errol Woods Park, Eton Court Park, Kings Square Park, Lakeshore Community Park, Mandaumin Park, Maples Park, McKay Park, Netty's Way Park, O'Brien Tot Park, Plumb Tot Park, Point View Park, Redick Park, Wilpstra Tot Park
<b>Sand Volleyball Courts</b>	<b>3</b>	Lakeshore Community Park (3)

Inventory excludes non-programmed soccer field at Lakeshore Community Park and soccer fields at the Wyoming Fairgrounds

\*\*Multi-sport courts are lined for tennis, pickleball, basketball, and ball hockey and vary by location.

## 5.2 Arenas and Outdoor Ice Rinks

### Supply

The Town does not currently provide an arena or outdoor ice rink. The Town provides grant funding towards the operation and use of arenas in adjacent municipalities.

### Market Conditions

Ice sports such as hockey and figure skating, as well as recreational skating are widely viewed as Canada's most popular activities; however, there are signs that participation is waning. Hockey Canada reported that registration in minor hockey, which are generally the primary users of municipal arenas, have been steadily declining over the past decade. For the 2023/24 season, there were nearly 590,000 registered minor players, which was an 8% decline from the 2014/15 season.<sup>5</sup> This decline is due to a variety of factors including the rising cost to participate, increased cultural diversity, competing interests, safety concerns, and more. By contrast, participation in figure skating has increased by 14% between 2014 and 2024 to 207,000 due to skating organizations promoting grassroots programming.

Complementing indoor arenas are outdoor ice rinks that offer informal opportunities for people to participate in skating. However, outdoor ice rinks can be a challenge to provide and maintain, particularly natural surfaces that require consistently cold temperatures to provide suitable skating surfaces. As an alternative, there some municipalities provide refrigerated outdoor skating rinks. While they can provide stable skating conditions, they can also be costly to construct and operate.

### Analysis

It is common for municipalities to have at least one indoor arena, although the Town is one of the communities that do not. Instead, it relies on adjacent municipalities to meet this need including Lambton Shores, Petrolia and Warwick. Community input received through the Master Plan process revealed views on arenas was mixed. Some public requests were received for an arena. More than three-in-four (76%) of survey respondents supported investment in an arena (16% opposed), which ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of 24 facility types in order of priority.

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<sup>5</sup> Hockey Canada Annual General Meeting Reports.

Participant-based metrics are typically used to evaluate arena needs. As a general rule, municipalities tend to provide one ice pad per 450 to 500 minor participants. Given that the Town does not have an indoor arena, there is no local minor organization, and the number of local players is not quantified. Local players are likely registered with ice organizations in adjacent municipalities and the Town estimates that approximately 100 youth use the arena in Petrolia. This alone would not trigger the need for an arena and limited public requests for an arena was received from the consultation process. There is currently insufficient rationale to justify an arena at this time. Encouraging the use of arenas in adjacent municipalities is recommended. Decisions to provide funding support for the use of these arenas should continue to be considered on an as needed basis.

With respect to outdoor ice rinks, there is no service level target guiding the provision of this type of amenity. Outdoor ice rinks tend to be provided as part of a broader community building initiative to promote placemaking. It is recognized that the Town was approached by a community organization in 2021 with a proposal to construct an outdoor skating rink in Camlachie through various funding sources including fundraising, grants and Town-funding. The proposal was originally supported but over time, costs increased from \$400,000 to over \$2 million. This was primarily due to cost escalations that has impacted facility development projects across Ontario since the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the proposal is no longer being pursued. Through this Master Plan process, no requests were received for an outdoor ice rink suggesting that it is not a community priority and as a result, it is not recommended at this time.

### Recommendations – Arenas and Outdoor Skating Rinks

An arena or outdoor skating rink is not recommended at this time.

## 5.3 Community Halls and Meeting Spaces

### Supply

The Town provides two rooms available to rent at the Camlachie Community Centre consisting of Napper Hall and a small boardroom, the latter of which is suited for meetings and other small-scale uses. Napper Hall is a multi-purpose space that can be used for large gatherings and special events. Depending on the configuration with tables and chairs, it can support functions with up to 350 people. Supporting amenities include a full kitchen, bar, stage, and audio equipment.

### Market Conditions

Community halls and meeting rooms are core community spaces as they function as affordable, indoor venues that bring people together to participate in programs, meetings, events, and other gatherings. The size, capacity, configuration, and range of functions can vary widely and when paired with other facility components such as a library or gymnasium, usage opportunities can increase due to cross-programming activities. For this reason, a preference is typically given to the provision of multi-use facilities that co-locate multiple components that can achieve economies in construction and operations.

The development of stand-alone community centres, such as the Camlachie Community Centre, is generally not recommended as they tend to have lower usage levels compared to multi-use facilities. Utilization levels can vary year to year. The Town's booking schedules reported that Napper Hall was booked for 446 hours in 2024 for birthdays, weddings and community programs, which was a decline from 578 hours in 2023. This equated to an average of nine hours per week, suggesting that usage is low. One of the main users of Napper Hall is the North Lambton Community Health Centre (NLCHC) that provides free health, education and wellness programs to the community. NLCHC also offers low impact exercise classes three times a week with an anticipated attendance of 65 participants.

The boardroom was used for 27 hours in 2024, equating to an average of 30 minutes per week. It is noted that use of this space is limited due to its small size and the fact that it is only accessible through Napper Hall. As a result, the boardroom can not be rented when Napper Hall is in use. It is common for these types of spaces to have low usage levels as they are not intensely used spaces. Halls and meeting spaces are typically viewed as affordable and publicly accessible community amenities to be used and enjoyed.



## Analysis

### Short-Term Enhancements to the Camlachie Community Centre

The Camlachie Community Centre is the Town's only indoor community gathering space and maximizing its use will be important for optimizing the Town's resources and assets. As the Town continues to grow and attract new residents, there will be increased expectations for quality indoor spaces and programming. The Camlachie Community Centre was constructed in 1986 (39 years old) and visual observations revealed that the facility appears to be in good condition, although there may be opportunities for enhancement to bolster use. Trends in facility provision point to multi-use designs to provide space that are flexible to accommodate a wide variety of uses, including active indoor recreation activities.

Modern spaces have multi-use flooring (some feature sport lining) and durable wall finishes. By comparison, the design of Napper Hall is dated, which has a mix of flooring surfaces, including raised parquet wood flooring, mirrored walls, and a stage. Creating a plan to enhance Napper Hall is recommended, which should include replacing the flooring with one durable flooring surface (with sport lining), removing the mirrored walls, removing the stage (or consider replacing it with a portable and removable stage), and improving the audio and visual equipment.

Undertaking these improvements could create a more usable space to accommodate more indoor programming and activities. This would align with the Town's vision to increase recreation programming, which is identified in the current Corporate Strategic Plan. Through the consultation process, suggestions were made for more indoor programs such as pickleball and low impact fitness, camps, and other indoor sports, which could be held at Napper Hall if the recommended enhancements are made. The community survey also found that 85% of respondents were in favour for additional investment in community halls and meeting rooms, which ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 24 facility types and suggests that it is a priority.

## A Long-Term Vision for the Camlachie Community Centre

Over the long-term, there is an opportunity to undertake a more comprehensive redevelopment of Camlachie Community Centre to address growing programming needs and expectations for public space. The Camlachie Community Centre is co-located with a number of recreation amenities at Arnold Minielly Park and is adjacent to the Camlachie Library and Plympton-Wyoming Museum. An opportunity exists to re-envision the entire property with a new multi-use community centre with enhanced outdoor space to better position the site as a gathering hub for a growing community.

At a high level, the new Camlachie Community Centre and Arnold Minielly Park could include:

- A new large and flexible multi-use space with durable flooring and high ceilings and complementary spaces including a kitchen and storage space to support active recreation, sports, community events and rentals. This would respond to community requests for a gymnasium as the Town does not currently provide this facility.
- A multi-purpose program room that can be used for programs and rentals.
- Space for a library branch and museum to replace the existing, standalone building (which is owned by the Town). The 2023 Lambton County Joint Library Facilities Review recommended that the existing space be expanded or reconstructed. There may be an opportunity to work collaboratively with Lambton County Library and the Museum to create integrated space as part of a new community centre. This could also strengthen community program opportunities delivered by these partners.
- Reconfiguration of existing outdoor recreation amenities and support spaces including park buildings and parking at Arnold Minielly Park.

It is recommended that the Town prepare a facility fit design to reconfigure the site to accommodate the above noted components to establish a new community centre and park. Additional consultation with the public and local community partners should be undertaken to refine the vision for this site. A future feasibility study, or an update to this Master Plan, should also be undertaken to confirm facility components.

## Recommendations – Community Halls and Meeting Spaces

- Rec 12.** Undertake enhancements to the Camlachie Community Centre to create a more flexible and multi-use space for community programs and rentals. This includes renovating Napper Hall to replace the floor with a durable and hard surface (with sport lining), removing the mirrored walls, removing the stage (and consider replacing it with a portable and removable stage), and upgrading audio and visual equipment.
- Rec 13.** Prepare a facility fit design to re-imagine the Camlachie Community Centre to strengthen the site as a place for community gatherings and programming. Consultation with the public and community partners should be undertaken to establish a vision for this site. A feasibility study or update to this Master Plan should be completed to confirm site components. The re-imagined community centre may include:
- a. A new large and flexible multi-use space with durable flooring and high ceilings and complementary spaces including a kitchen and storage space.
  - b. A multi-purpose program room.
  - c. Space for a library branch and museum to replace the existing, standalone building.
  - d. Reconfiguration of existing outdoor recreation amenities and support spaces including park buildings and parking at Arnold Minielly Park.

## 5.4 Ball Diamonds

### Supply

The Town has six ball diamonds including three at Arnold Minielly Park and one each at Canton Park, Centennial Park, and Lakeshore Community Park. This supply includes three lit diamonds. As a best practice, lit diamonds are generally equivalent to 1.5 unlit ball diamonds due account for the fact that they can accommodate extended periods of play during the evening. As a result, the Town has an adjusted supply of 7.5 unlit equivalent diamonds.

### Market Conditions

Participation in baseball is a cyclical sport that is currently experiencing a resurgence. Baseball Ontario reported that there were approximately 18,821 participants in 2024, which was a growth of 20% compared to 2019 (pre-pandemic), although figures reported by the organization exclude recreational/house league and non-affiliated ball groups and as a result, actual participation figures are greater. The Western Counties Baseball Association is the regional affiliate that includes Plympton-Wyoming and over the past 10 years, the Association has grown by 10% to 832 members, which matches pre-pandemic levels.

The two local minor ball organizations in Plympton-Wyoming include the Camlachie Athletic Association and Wyoming Minor Baseball Association, which are the primary users of the Town's ball diamonds. These groups collectively have approximately 620 youth players, which includes non-resident players. The Town's ball diamonds are also used by about 22 adult teams and based on a general assumption of 12 players per team, this translates into approximately 260 adult players. As a result, it is estimated that there are 880 minor and adult players using the Town's diamonds (it is estimated that approximately 15% of the total membership are non-residents). Assuming that participation capture rates remain during the planning period, it is estimated that there could be up to 1,100 minor and adult players by the year 2035.

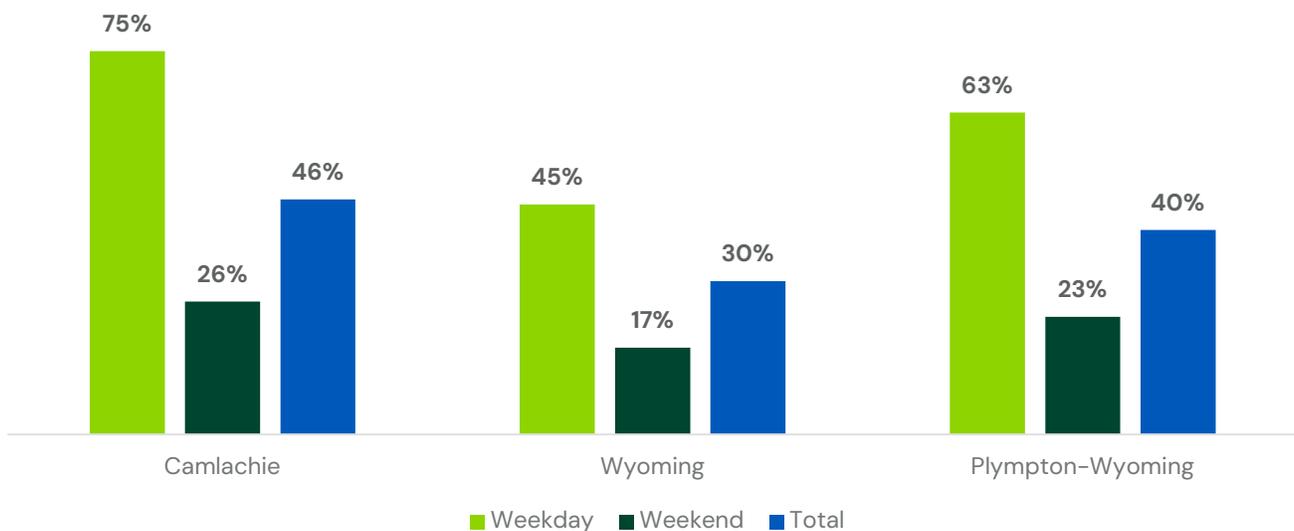


Consultation with ball organizations found that there is a desire for more diamond time as groups are renting time in adjacent municipalities including in Petrolia where a portion of minor ball players reside. General enhancements to the Town’s ball diamonds were also suggested to improve functionality and the experience for players and spectators including having safety netting and fencing at all diamonds, upgrading seating areas, and accessible washrooms.

The Town does not track use of its ball diamonds. Instead, booking time is done through the Camlachie Athletic Association and Wyoming Minor Baseball Association. A scan of online booking schedules for the was undertaken to provide a cursory review of how the Town’s diamonds are being used, which found that they have a moderate level of use during prime-time hours for the 2025 season.<sup>6</sup>

Based on these schedules, the Town’s diamonds had a total prime time usage rate of 40%, including 63% during the weekday and 23% on the weekend. It is common for ball diamonds to have higher usage levels during the weekday evenings as groups tend to prefer to play during this period compared to the weekend. Ball diamonds in Camlachie had higher usage levels with a weekly usage rate of 46% (75% during the weekday and 26% during the weekend). By comparison, the ball diamonds in Wyoming had a collective usage rate of 40% during the week (45% during the weekday and 17% on the weekend). Due to the limitations of the ball diamond usage statistics, they should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 9: Overall Prime Time Ball Diamond Utilization, 2025**



<sup>6</sup> Prime time hours are defined as Monday to Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm for unlit diamonds or 11:00 pm for lit diamonds, and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am to 8:30 pm for unlit diamonds and 11:00 pm for lit diamonds.

## Analysis

As a general best practice, municipalities generally provide ball diamonds at a rate of one per 80 to 100 participants. A target on the lower end of the spectrum (one diamond per 100 participants) is recommended for the Town as it aligns closer to what is currently being provided (one diamond per 125 players).

**Table 8: Projected Ball Diamond Needs**

	2026	2031	2035
Estimated Number of Minor and Adult Players*	880	1,050	1,100
Existing Ball Diamond Supply (ULE)**	7.5	7.5	7.5
Ball Diamond Requirements @ 1 Diamond Per 100 Participants	9.5	10.5	11.0
<b>Ball Diamond Needs</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>

\*Participation includes non-resident players.

\*\*Unlit equivalent ball diamonds recognizes that lit diamonds are equivalent to 1.5 unlit equivalent diamonds to account for extended playing periods.

The recommended target would suggest that there is currently a deficit of ball diamonds, which is expected to grow over the planning period. However, the usage data suggests that there is ample time available within the existing ball diamond supply. This is partly due to the fact that the Town does not have a full understanding of total ball diamond use, as time is currently being permitted through Camlachie Athletic Association and Wyoming Minor Baseball Association. As a first step, it is recommended that the Town improve tracking of how its ball diamonds are utilized, including time used for games, practices, and tournaments. Tracking detailed participation rates for minor and adult user groups is also recommended, including residents and non-residents. Once this data has been collected and the Town understands usage trends, re-evaluating ball diamond needs is recommended.

During the short-term, it is recommended that the Town work with its user groups to promote the use of its existing ball diamonds to maximize the use of available time during the weekday evenings and weekends to maximize the use of the currently supply. Encouraging the use of diamonds in adjacent municipalities is also recommended.

Opportunities also exist to enhance its currently supply, particularly at the ball diamond at Centennial Park in Wyoming. This lit ball diamond has a limited separation distance from adjacent land uses, which can cause conflicts with the surrounding area. As a general best practice, lit diamonds typically have a setback distance of 30 metres from adjacent residential uses. The ball diamond also lacks sufficient space for amenities, particularly spectator areas and parking and as a result, the surrounding area can become crowded with vehicles and people when the diamonds are in use.

Due to the constraints at Centennial Park and limited expansion potential, it is recommended that the Town explore long-term opportunities to relocate this ball diamond, with a preference given to a future community park in Wyoming. This future community park could also support future ball diamond development along with supporting amenities, subject to confirmation of long-term ball diamond needs based on a review of usage data once it has been collected by the Town. Creating a multi-diamond site would achieve the benefits in operations and maintenance, as well as programming and scheduling, similar to Arnold Minielly Park. The ball diamond at Canton Park should remain given the past upgrades made at this location and its historical connection in Wyoming.

In Camlachie, renewal of the ball diamonds at Arnold Minielly Park is also recommended as part of a broader redevelopment strategy to improve functionality of the park and accommodate a re-imagined Camlachie Community Centre.

While future redevelopment of the Wyoming and Camlachie ball diamonds are long-term strategies, opportunities exist to undertake enhancements to address short-term needs to review aging infrastructure. The Camlachie Athletic Association is current in the process of converting a ball diamond at Arnold Minielly Park for hardball. The Town should work with local ball diamond organizations to identify and prioritize ball diamond improvements. This includes renewing seating areas (for spectators and users), batting cages, and ensuring that washrooms are accessible. Adding/replacing fencing and netting to improve safety is also recommended. It is noted that the ball diamond at Lakeshore Community Park does not have outfield fencing or netting, which is recommended to allow the abutting soccer field to be used.

## Recommendations – Ball Diamonds

- Rec 14.** Monitor total ball diamond usage including games, practices and tournaments, as well as participation data and reassess ball diamond needs as part of a five-year update to the Master Plan. New ball diamonds should be directed to a future community park in Wyoming. To assist with monitoring and understanding usage, the Town should request or update its agreements with user groups to require annual reporting that includes schedules and participation data.
- Rec 15.** Relocate the ball diamond at Centennial Park to a new community park in Wyoming.
- Rec 16.** Reconfigure the ball diamonds at Arnold Minielly Park to improve site functionality, which should be done as part of a broader park and community centre redevelopment.
- Rec 17.** Work with user groups to identify and undertake enhancements to ball diamonds including hardball conversion, updating supporting amenities such as seating and washrooms, and accessibility retrofits. Installing fencing and safety netting at Lakeshore Community Park is recommended.



## 5.5 Soccer Fields

### Supply

The Town does not provide any permitted soccer fields. There is a non-programmed soccer and football field at Lakeshore Community Park, although it is not currently used as such due to the close proximity of the abutting ball diamond and concerns over player safety.

There are also seven unlit soccer fields located at the Wyoming Fairgrounds, which are owned by the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society. There are three 7v7 fields and four 5v5 fields, along with supporting amenities including seating for players and spectators, washrooms, and on-site parking. Rectangular fields are also located at the Plympton-Wyoming Public School.

### Market Conditions

Soccer is one of the most popular organized sports in Ontario due to its global appeal, high fitness quotient, and the relatively low cost to participate. Ontario Soccer reported in 2024, there were nearly 290,000 soccer players, which is a 6% increase from 2019 where registration levels were approximately 273,000 players.<sup>7</sup> These findings suggest that participation in the sport has recovered and exceeded pre-pandemic levels, which is a strong sign of continued interest in the sport. These participation trends are also reflected at the local level. The Wyoming & District Soccer Club is the local organization that reported a 2025 membership of 211 players between the ages of four and 14, which was an increase from 183 participants from 2019.

### Analysis

The Wyoming & District Soccer Club exclusively uses the soccer fields at the Wyoming Fairgrounds. Use of these fields comes at no cost to the organization; however, the organization is responsible for field lining, as well as volunteer duties with the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society during events.

The group states that this arrangement has generally worked well, although there are challenges with the Fairgrounds' fields such as turf quality and grading. The location of the soccer fields is also used by the Agricultural Society for tractor pull events and as a result, the fields can become damaged. Scheduling can also be a challenge as the group must plan their playing times around events that are held on site.

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<sup>7</sup> Ontario Soccer Annual Reports.

The soccer club and Agricultural Society have worked well together to provide recreational soccer in the community and there is no indication that this agreement would end. Based on best practices, municipalities generally target the provision of soccer fields at a rate of one field per 70 to 90 players. Based on current registration levels and supplies, it is anticipated at the existing non-Town owned fields would be sufficient. However, the soccer club expressed the desire for a higher quality, full-size field to improve the playing experience, as well as to offer adult soccer, which is a level of play that does not currently exist due to the lack of a suitably sized field; there is currently no additional space at the Fairgrounds site to accommodate another field.

The Town currently has a non-programmed soccer field at Lakeshore Community Park. Using this field for soccer is not recommended at this time given the proximity between Lakeshore Community Park and Wyoming Fairgrounds, which is a 20-minute drive, would be a challenge to offer programming given the organization's limited volunteer base and participants are largely from the Wyoming area. It is recognized that established minor soccer programs in adjacent municipalities (e.g., Sarnia) already serve the Camlachie area. This Master Plan also recommends repurposing the non-programmed soccer field at Lakeshore Community Park to relocate the sand volleyball courts and accommodate additional parking.

Over the medium to long-term, the Town should pursue opportunities to provide a full-size (11v11) soccer field. Centralizing soccer activities in and around Wyoming would be the preferred strategy, although there are currently no opportunities available at this time. Two potential locations exist including at a new community park in the Wyoming area, or at Centennial Park once the ball diamond has been relocated.

### Recommendations – Soccer Fields

**Rec 18.** Pursue opportunities to provide a full-size soccer field (11v11) at a new community park in Wyoming or at Centennial Park once the ball diamond has been relocated.

## 5.6 Outdoor Aquatics

### Supply

There is one outdoor pool at McKay Park, which is known as Wyoming Pool, features a 40' by 80' rectangular tank with an accessibility lift and support building with staff space and change rooms. Weather permitting, the outdoor pool is typically open between mid-June to the end of August.

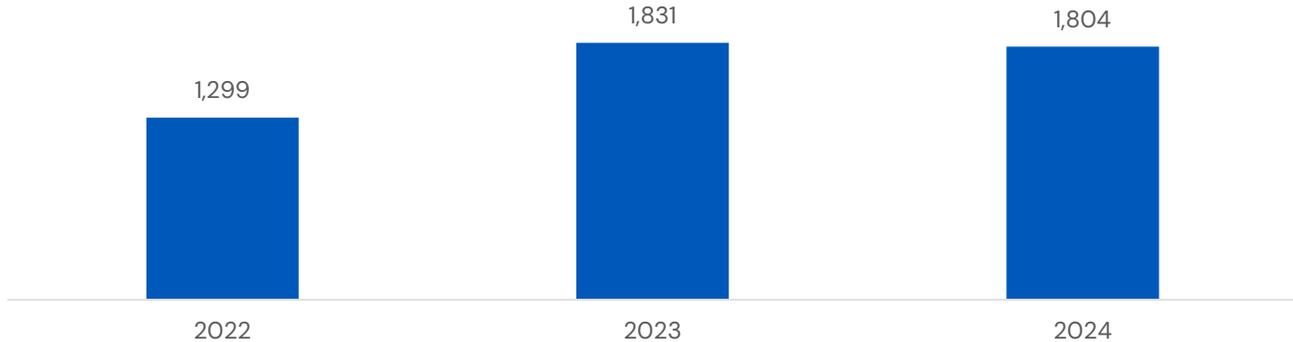
A splash pad is co-located with the outdoor pool. Known as the Wyoming Splash Pad, this amenity features a range of water play and spray components and is one of the Town's newest outdoor recreation amenities that was completed in May 2025 with the support of various local donors.

### Market Conditions

Outdoor pools are popular amenities as they support learn to swim programs and casual swims to help keep residents cool during hot summer days. Outdoor pools are highly desirable recreation facilities as they can be used by residents (and visitors) of all ages and abilities. The community survey for the Master Plan found that 57% of respondent households went swimming in the past 12 months. Learning to swim is also a vital life skill, particularly in waterfront communities.

The Town's outdoor pool is used for private/semi-private lessons, group lessons, and the Wyoming Waves Swim Team. In 2024, there were approximately 1,800 participants in the Town's registered programs, which was generally on par with 2023 figures. Public swim programs are also offered. While the number of drop-in visits is not tracked, the Town estimates that their casual swim times draw approximately 300 participants per week.



**Figure 10: Swimming Programs at Wyoming Pool, 2022 – 2024**

Source: Town of Plympton-Wyoming, 2025

While they are popular amenities, outdoor pools can also be a challenge to operate due to their short operating season, challenges to hiring and retaining qualified staff, varied weather conditions that may impact open times, and other factors. Many outdoor pools across the Province are also aging and in need of investment; depending on the design and configuration, new outdoor doors could cost up to \$10 million or more. As a result, municipalities are being faced with decisions to reinvest, replace, repurpose or divest these community amenities.

The Town's pool is also aging and in need of renewal. Constructed in 1972, the pool has served the community for 53 years. In 2025, staff discovered a leak in the pool system and while the issue was temporarily rectified, a more permanent solution was needed. Staff engaged a third-party contractor that assessed and identified required repairs including replacing pool liner and filtration systems, repairing plumbing systems, and reconstruction of the concrete deck.<sup>8</sup> The Town is currently undertaking this work, with plans to reopen the pool for the 2026 season.

Some municipalities are replacing aging outdoor pools with splash pads. While they are more cost effective to build and operate compared to outdoor pools, they do not provide the same aquatic experience including the ability to learn to swim. Nevertheless, they are popular amenities among young families. They can fit any park setting and be flexibly designed to come in a range of colours, themes and components.

<sup>8</sup> Town of Plympton-Wyoming. June 11 2025. Wyoming Pool Rehabilitation Update Staff Report.

## Analysis

The Wyoming Pool is a highly valued community facility and there is a strong desire to continuing maintaining this asset as 87% supported additional public investment in the outdoor pool, which ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of 24 facility types. Barring any unforeseen failures, renewal of the Wyoming Pool is expected to continue to serve local residents and visitors over the next 10 years. The current rehabilitation work excludes renewal of the changeroom building and should be a focus for the Town once the current pool updates are completed. This should include undertaking cosmetic enhancements to interior and exterior finishes, accessibility retrofits, etc. No additional outdoor pools are recommended over the planning period.

It is also common in small municipalities to provide a minimum of one splash pad, which is what the Town is currently providing. In communities with large geographies, a higher level of service may be provided where there is one splash pad for each major settlement area. The Town's existing splash pad is located in Wyoming, which is expected to continue serving this general area. Plympton-Wyoming's Development Charges Background Study identified a splash pad in Camlachie., which is the Town's second settlement area. Over the planning period, the majority of future population growth is expected to occur in this surrounding area, which may include families with small children. On this basis, a splash pad in Camlachie should be provided.

A cursory scan of potential sites suggests that Arnold Minielly Park would be the most suitable location. Splash pads are typically located at major community parks that serve a large catchment area. Supporting amenities are also typically provided such as parking and a pavilion, which currently exist on site. Complementary amenities also need to be considered and given that a playground is located at Arnold Minielly Park, co-locating these two features would strengthen this location as a hub and gathering space for children and young families and caregivers. This Master Plan recommends reconfiguring this park to improve functionality and layout. Placement of the splash pad could be explored through this process.

### Recommendations – Outdoor Aquatics

- Rec 19.** Create a plan to rehabilitate the Wyoming Pool's support building, including undertaking cosmetic enhancements to interior and exterior finishes to the changerooms and staff spaces, accessibility retrofits, etc.
- Rec 20.** Construct a splash pad in the Camlachie area, preferably at Arnold Minielly Park. The placement of the splash pad should be identified as part of a broader site reconfiguration, as recommended in this Master Plan.

## 5.7 Hard Surface Racquet Sport Courts

### Supply

There are four hard surface racquet courts that are lined for tennis and pickleball including two lit courts at McKay Park, one lit court at Blue Point Park, and one unlit court at Mandaumin Park.



### Market Conditions

Tennis has been growing in popularity over the past 10 years as Tennis Canada reports that people are playing more frequently than ever before. This trend is being driven by the aging baby boomer population as people are looking to stay active and social later in life, and are turning to tennis, which can be a low-impact form of exercise. Tennis Canada also reports that the sport is working towards growing grassroots programs to engage younger populations to encourage lifelong interest in the sport.<sup>9</sup>

The aging baby boomer population has also been driving the popularity for pickleball courts, which is an accessible, affordable, and social sport played outdoors on a badminton size court with a whiffle ball and a short-handled paddle. The popularity of the sport has been increasing over the past 10 years as an increasing number of older adults desire to remain physical active later in life. Interest in the sport continues to increase and it is widely recognized as one of the fastest growing sports in Canada. Research undertaken by Pickleball Canada found that youth and young adults are now among the fastest growing segment of players, which is the result of pickleball being played in schools as part of the curriculum, social clubs and summer camps, as well as municipalities constructing more court to alleviate demand.<sup>10</sup>

### Analysis

Municipalities generally target tennis courts at a rate of one per 4,000 to 6,000 residents, although communities with a large geographic area and dispersed population such as Plympton-Wyoming, a higher level of service is provided to achieve a good distribution of courts. With four hard surface racquet courts, the Town is providing a service level of one court per 2,300 residents. With future growth expected to occur in the Camlachie area, it is recommended that the Town provide multi-sport racquet courts for tennis and pickleball to serve this area given that they do not currently exist. This is supported by community survey where 71% and 70% of respondents identified that investing in outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should be a priority, respectively.

<sup>9</sup> Tennis Canada. 2024 Annual Report

<sup>10</sup> Pickleball Canada. <https://pickleballcanada.org>

In terms of potential locations, Arnold Minielly Park is the most logical site to provide the new courts with lights as it is a community park that could accommodate new courts and meet appropriate setback distances. A court configuration of one dedicated tennis court and two dedicated pickleball courts are recommended to avoid conflicts between users. As a best practice, municipalities have been constructing pickleball courts with a minimum setback of 50 metres from residential areas to address noise concerns. A cursory site review found that a suitable site may exist in the northwest area of the park along Lakeshore Road that would meet this setback requirement. An alternative location within the park may be considered, having regard for the potential site redevelopment as recommended in this Master Plan.

Future enhancements should also be undertaken to the existing courts at McKay Park. Visually, the surface appeared to be in good condition overall with some minor surface cracks. Resurfacing should be undertaken during the medium-term and consideration should also be given to replacing and upgrading the lighting system.

The court at Blue Point Park also appears to be in good condition and should continue serving the neighbourhood until at least the short term. At the time of resurfacing or replacement, consideration may be given to relocating the court to Sunset Acres Park, where there may be greater development potential, including adding a second racquet court over the long term.

During a site visit to Mandaumin Park, visual observations found that the hard surface racquet court is aging with surface cracks, overgrown vegetation, and fading paint markings. Engaging local residents to determine its level of use is recommended to determine if reinvesting in this amenity is needed, or it should be removed from the Town's supply.

### Recommendations – Hard Surface Racquet Sport Courts

- Rec 21.** Construct a lit hard surface racquet court with one dedicated tennis court and two dedicated pickleball courts at Arnold Minielly Park. Site design and location may be considered as part of a future reconfiguration of the park, as recommended in this Master Plan.
- Rec 22.** Undertake enhancements to the hard surface racquet sport courts at McKay Park including resurfacing and replacing and upgrading the lighting system.
- Rec 23.** At the time of redeveloping the hard surface racquet sport court at Blue Point Park, explore opportunities to relocate the court to Sunset Acres Park (south side) and consider adding a second court over the long term.
- Rec 24.** Engage local residents surrounding Mandaumin Park to determine the level of use of the hard surface racquet sport court to determine if reinvesting in this amenity is needed (including basketball), or it should be removed from the Town's supply.

## 5.8 Basketball and Ball Hockey Courts

### Supply

Outdoor basketball and ball hockey can be played at a number of courts in Plympton–Wyoming. McKay Park has one multi-use court for basketball and ball hockey and one dedicated ball hockey court. Two ball hockey courts can also be played on the McKay Park tennis courts. All of these courts are lit. In addition, an unlit basketball court is located at Mandaumin Park.



### Market Conditions

Basketball courts are popular park amenities, which is due to factors such as its worldwide appeal, it's easy to learn and it does not require advanced skills, and it is an affordable activity to play, and it has low barriers to entry. Basketball courts provide places for people to participate in casual and unstructured physical activity and promote healthy and active lifestyles. They are also commonly used as multi-use pads for other sports such as ball hockey.

While Plympton–Wyoming's basketball courts are used informally, local volunteers provide organized ball hockey at McKay Park. This activity has been very popular among residents as participation has grown from 50 to 190 players between 2019 and 2025.

Basketball and ball hockey courts are typically found in neighbourhood-level parks as they require a small footprint and their target market generally includes youth and young adults, many of whom may not or can not drive and thus, they should be accessible by walking. Interest in basketball also increased during the pandemic as it was one of the few outdoor recreation activities that could be played while maintaining social distancing. The Ontario Basketball League noted that following the pandemic, participation in the sport grew by 58% compared to pre-pandemic levels figures.

### Analysis

In rural municipalities with a large geographic area and disbursed population, multi-use courts for basketball and ball hockey are provided on the basis on ensuring that there is a good distribution of locations to play, with a focus on serving settlement areas. Increasing the supply of basketball and ball hockey courts to address gap areas; 88% of community survey respondents supported additional public spending on multi-use sport courts for basketball and ball hockey, which ranked third out of 24 facility types. Opportunities for a new multi-use outdoor court lined for basketball and ball hockey should be explored in the Camlachie area. This Master Plan also recommends engaging residents in the Mandaumin area to determine the future of the sport court at Mandaumin Park.

### Recommendations – Basketball and Ball Hockey Courts

- Rec 25.** Provide a multi-use court lined for basketball and ball hockey to address a service gap in the Camlachie area.
- Rec 26.** Prepare a plan to replace the basketball and ball hockey courts at McKay Park, which should include resurfacing, lining, and replacing lighting.

## 5.9 Skateboard Parks

### Supply

Plympton–Wyoming’s skate park at McKay Park features a concrete pad with modular skate components including ramps, a rail and stairs.

### Market Conditions

While skate parks were once considered a fad, they have been embraced by many municipalities, including Plympton–Wyoming as a core level of service. They provide meaningful spaces for youth and young adults to gather and engage in wheeled action sports including skateboarding, BMX biking, roller blading and scootering. Skate parks were historically viewed as spaces for negative behaviour, but this mindset has evolved into popular spots where likeminded individuals can gather and socialize in a safe and positive setting. Skateboarding and wheeled sports have a strong stigma among certain populations, which can dampen levels of support even though they are unstructured low-cost activities that support physical activity for many age groups.

### Analysis

One skate park is typically deemed to be sufficient to meet community needs in small municipalities such as Plympton–Wyoming. However, geographic distribution must also be considered given that youth and young adults have limited mobility. With the McKay Park skate park serving the Wyoming area, a gap exists in the Camlachie area. A new skate park should be located in this area and consideration should be given to co-location opportunities with a future multi-use basketball and ball hockey court, as these amenities are generally used by the same target market.

### Recommendations – Skateboard Parks

- Rec 27.** Construct a new skate park in the Camlachie area, potentially co-located with a new basketball court.

## 5.10 Playgrounds

### Supply

Plympton–Wyoming provides 18 playgrounds across 18 parks. Each location varies in design, size, and range of components. The Town’s playgrounds are complemented by non-municipal providers such as at the Plympton–Wyoming Public School and campgrounds.

### Market Conditions

Playground structures are generally considered to be one of the most basic park features and tend to be found in most public parks. Playgrounds are highly sought after park features, especially by young families and caregivers with children as they support early childhood development, enhance cognitive and social development, and physical activity.



Playgrounds have evolved over time from basic equipment like slides and swings to more imaginative structures that inspire creatively and unique play experiences. Both of these types of play structures exist in Plympton–Wyoming. Modern designs feature bright colours, interactive elements, themes, sensory components, and accessible surfaces made from materials such as engineered wood fibre and rubber (sand is not considered to be an accessible surface). Playgrounds also tend to be developed with supporting amenities such as seating, pathways, and shade areas for parents and caregivers.

Natural playgrounds are also becoming more popular across Ontario. Sustainable materials are used such as wood and logs, ropes, rocks and boulders, and natural terrain. Natural playgrounds encourage nature-based play and encourages users to explore, be creative, take risks, and use their imagination. While they are beneficial in creating new and unique experiences, they may not be as durable as creative play structures, need more frequent maintenance, and thus require a greater level of investment, although this varies depending on its location and level of use.

According to the community survey, 65% of households have used a playground, with 90% of all respondents indicating that playgrounds are the highest priority for additional investment (ranking 1<sup>st</sup> out of 24 facility types).

## Analysis

As a best practice, playgrounds are provided within 800 metres (or a 10-minute walk) of residential area, taking into consideration barriers such as major roads and railways. This approach ensures that users can reasonably walk to playgrounds without crossing major obstacles. Applying this service area to existing playgrounds found that there is a strong geographic distribution in the majority of the Town's settlement areas. Notable gap areas are identified below. An emphasis should be placed on reconciling these gaps as future parkland opportunities become available.

- A gap area exists between Errol Village and Camlachie, east of Fleming Road, South of Queen Street, and north and west of Lakeshore Road. The Town's Official Plan identifies this area for future residential development, and this Master Plan supports the acquiring parkland in this area as development occurs. Should the Town be successful in securing parkland, a playground should be considered to address this gap.
- A gap is located along the Lakeshore area in the north end of Plympton-Wyoming in the Blue Point/Highland Glen area, as well as the Hillcrest area. A playground may potentially be accommodated on the southside of Sunset Acres Park, which is largely undeveloped. Given that this area is largely well established with limited future development, providing a playground in this area is a low priority.

The spatial analysis also revealed that some areas may be overserved with playgrounds, meaning that there are two or more playgrounds serving the same area, particularly in Wyoming. This duplication of service can be an inefficient use of Town resources when it comes to capital expenditures (which could equate to \$75,000 per installation or more) and ongoing maintenance. As playground structures reach the end of their lifespan, consideration should be given to removing its removal from the Town's supply, such as at Wilpstra Tot Park and Bowling Green Tot Park. Consideration may be given to reallocating funds that would have been required to these locations to reinvest in the remaining playground supply to provide an enhanced user experience. Removing the playground at Point View Park is also recommended and the surrounding neighbourhood should be engaged to determine if a replacement is required, which could be done as part of a broader site renewal exercise.

Site observations also revealed that some of the Town's playgrounds are aging and need renewal. The Town generally aims to replace one playground on an annual basis, although it can be up to two play structures if there is a new park. In 2025, the playground at Blue Point Park was replaced and a second installation was completed at Errol Woods Park, which is the Town's newest park location.

As a best practice, all new and replacement playgrounds should feature accessible play features. The level of accessibility should vary based on the type of park. For example, playgrounds at Neighbourhood Parks could include ground-level play features and adaptive swing seat, while Community Park play structures may feature ramps, musical instruments, and other sensory

components. As part of future playground development or redevelopment, consideration should be given to ensure that there are a range of playground components for young and older children.

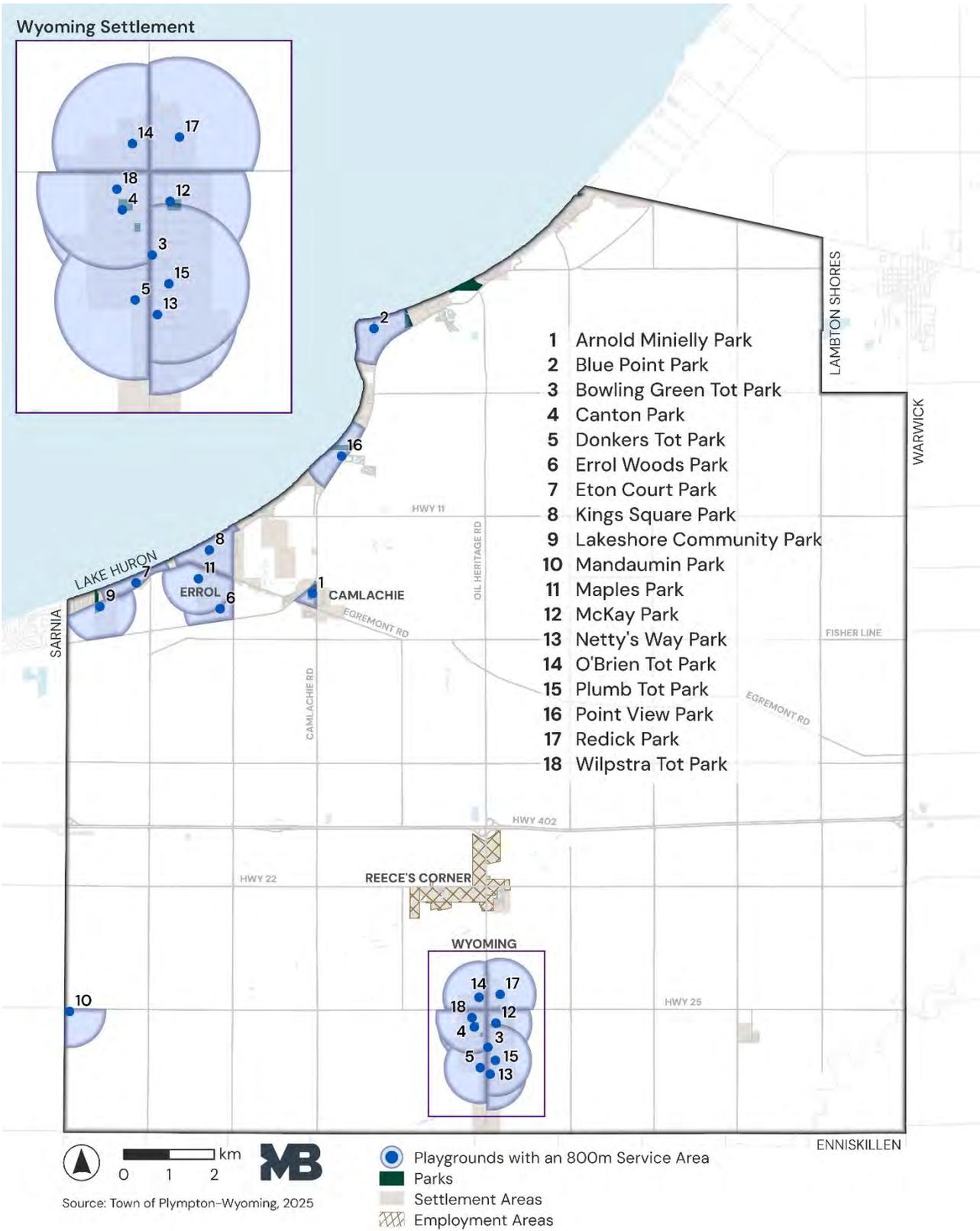
It is recommended that the Town create a playground replacement plan to renew aging play structures. Over the next five years, the Town should focus on replacing Arnold Minielly Park, Lakeshore Community Park, Kings Square Park, and Maples Park (one per year). This order may be adjusted based on any playground inspection/audit undertaken by the Town. As part of a five-year Master Plan Update, additional playground replacement should be assessed.

### Recommendations – Playgrounds

- Rec 28.** Address playground gap areas through future park development opportunities to serve growth areas, particularly in Lakeshore, between Camlachie and Errol. Supporting playground amenities should be considered as part of future playground development including pathways, seating and shade.
- Rec 29.** At the end of their lifespan, remove aging playgrounds at key parks to minimize service duplication or to address other needs including at Wilpstra Tot Park, Bowling Green Tot Park, and Point View Park.
- Rec 30.** Create a playground replacement plan to renew aging playgrounds at Arnold Minielly Park, Lakeshore Community Park, Kings Square Park, Maples Park.



Figure 11: Playground Distribution Map



## 5.11 Sand Volleyball Courts

### Supply

The Town operates three sand volleyball courts located at Lakeshore Community Park. The Town allows groups and residents to rent the three courts. The volleyball courts had a total booked utilization of 59 hours in 2024, which was an increase from 41 hours in 2023.

### Market Conditions

Sand volleyball courts are popular amenities and many waterfront communities such as Plympton–Wyoming include them as part of their recreation facility inventories. They are particularly popular among teens and young adults seeking casual, social, outdoor activities. In some cases, organizations may rent these facilities to provide league and/or tournament play. In Plympton–Wyoming, the sand volleyball courts are available for rental; however, when not reserved, they operate on a first come first served basis.



Sand volleyball courts are a lower priority for additional investment (64%) according to survey respondents (ranking 19<sup>th</sup> out of 24 facility types).

### Analysis

As the community grows, there may be a growing demand for social sports like outdoor volleyball. And these types of amenities are important for keeping youth and young adults in the community. Sand volleyball courts are generally provided in response to community requests. This occurred recently in Plympton–Wyoming as the Town recently added a third sand volleyball court to respond to local demand.

This Master Plan recommends expanding parking at Lakeshore Community Park to address ongoing pressure at this location. The three sand volleyball courts would likely need to be relocated to accommodate this expansion. This could be accommodated within the site by relocating the courts to the non-programmed soccer field. The potential to add additional sand volleyball courts could be accommodated at this time based on demand.

## Recommendations – Sand Volleyball Courts

**Rec 31.** Relocate the sand volleyball courts to the non-programmed soccer field at Lakeshore Community Park to accommodate a parking lot expansion. Consideration for additional sand volleyball courts could be considered at this time based on demand.

## 5.12 Off-Leash Dog Parks

### Supply

The Town does not provide an off-leash dog park.

### Market Conditions

Dog ownership across Canada is on the rise. In 2024, research indicated that there were 8.3 million dogs living in households across Canada, which was an 8% increase from 2020.<sup>11</sup> This growth is driving demand and requests for more off-leash dog parks in many municipalities. Nearly half (45%) of community survey respondents to this Master Plan reported walking their dog in the past five years, which was the ninth most popular activity.

Off-leash dog parks are places where dogs can run, play and socialize freely and without restrictions of leashes. These parks offer opportunities to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of dogs which aids in improving their behaviour. Off-leash dog parks also have benefits to the owners to socialize with other dog owners, which can be helpful to combat social isolation. They can also be beneficial from a municipal perspective by providing a designated enclosed open space where they can run freely, thereby reducing conflicts with using other locations, such as sports fields and cemeteries.

### Analysis

It is a common best practice in small communities to provide one off-leash dog park to serve the entire municipality as they are considered to be drive-to amenities. The Town's 2021 Service Delivery Review identified the creation of a designated dog park. The Service Delivery Review does not identify supporting rationale for this initiative, although it recognizes that more than one-third of Canadian households have a dog. Some requests were made through the consultation process for an off-leash dog park, although only 52% of community survey respondents supported public

<sup>11</sup> Statista. 2025. Number of cats and dogs in households in Canada from 2020 to 2024. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1015882/number-of-pet-cats-and-dogs-canada/>

investment in this park amenity, which ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 24<sup>th</sup> facility types. This suggests that it was not a high priority among survey respondents.

Through the consultation process, some suggestions were made to establish an off-leash dog park at Point View Park, although a cursory review of the site suggests that this would not be a suitable site given its proximity to adjacent residential areas. As a best practice, off-leash dog parks should be located a minimum of 20 metres from residential areas to minimize noise impacts. Point View Park also has limited parking and off-leash dog parks are considered to be “drive to” locations and generate increased levels of traffic. It is also located in the north end of the Town and while it may draw users from Camlachie and Errol, which is approximately a 5-minute drive, it may not attract users from Wyoming, which is a 15-minute drive. In the same travel distance, Wyoming residents could also travel to the existing off-leash dog park in Warwick, which is also connected to a walking trail, and the Town of Petrolia is also potentially planning an off-leash dog park. Given these considerations, an off-leash dog park is not recommended at this time.

### Recommendations – Off-Leash Dog Parks

An off-leash dog park is not recommended at this time.

## 5.13 Other Recreation Facilities

The Town may receive requests for additional indoor and outdoor facilities that are not currently provided. When these requests are brought forward, the Town must be prepared to respond appropriately and decisions that Council make should be based on demonstrated needs and evidence presented by proponents. To guide Council decisions, proponents should prepare supporting proposals and business plans demonstrating the rationale for their proposals for new levels of service, or notable changes to existing service levels, that should involve an examination into (but not limited to), the following:

- Local demand for the activity and/or facility (including the scope of residents that would benefit);
- Local, regional, and provincial trends pertaining to usage and popularity of the activity and/or facility;
- Examples of delivery models in similar municipalities;
- The ability for existing Town parks or facilities to accommodate the new level service;
- The feasibility for the Town to provide the service and/or facility as a core service, and be able to do so in a cost-effective manner;

- The willingness and ability of the requesting proponent to provide the service and/or facility if provided with appropriate municipal supports;
- The availability of Town resources (e.g., staffing) to deliver or assist with delivering the new service without impacting existing obligations or if additional resources will be required; and
- Potential funding sources, including financial contributions from the proponent.

### Recommendations – Other Recreation Facilities

**Rec 32.** Requests for new recreation facilities and services, or notable changes to existing levels of service, should be examined on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to a proponent-led proposals and business plan that details local demand, trends, examples in other municipalities, the feasibility of utilizing existing public space, the willingness of the proponent to partner in providing the facility or space, funding, Town resource requirements, and other factors.



# SERVICE DELIVERY



## 6. Service Delivery

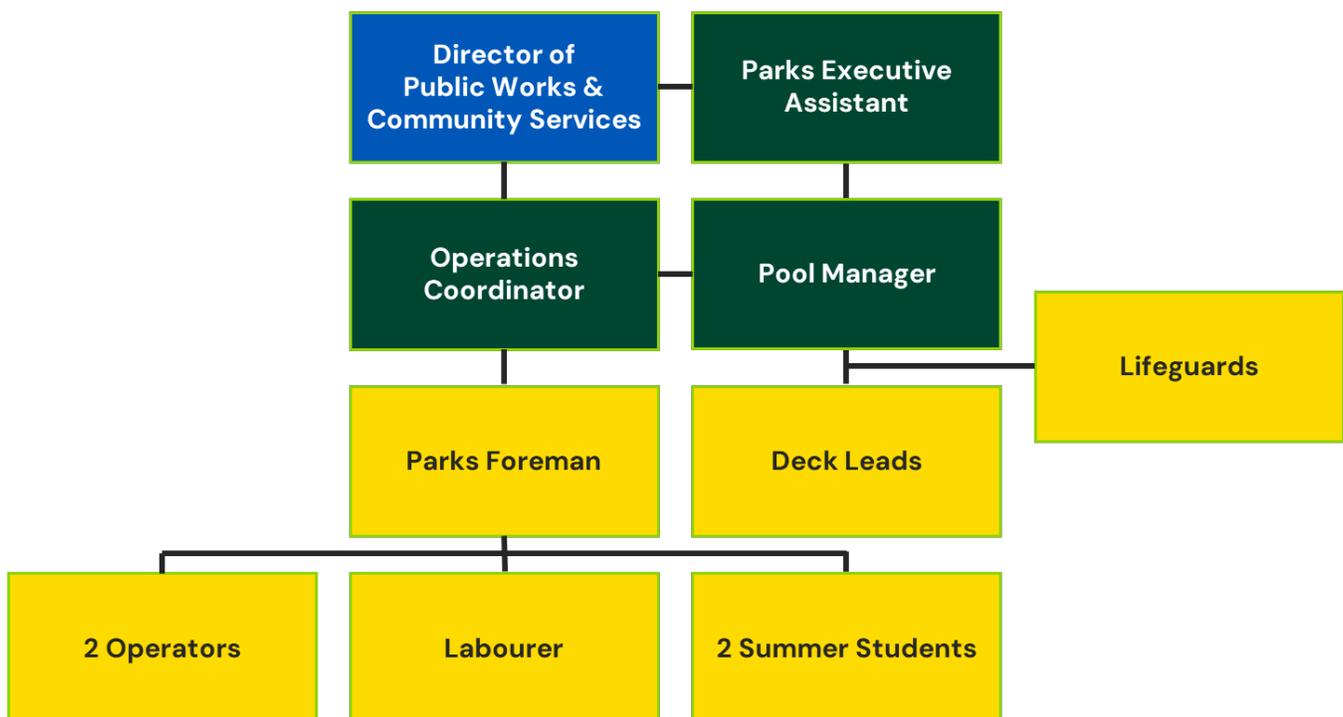
### 6.1 Staffing and Governance

#### Public Works Department

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining and operating the Town’s parks and recreation indoor and outdoor spaces. Plympton–Wyoming is responsible for providing space and more higher order activities (e.g., swimming), while community organizations and volunteers deliver other programs such as organized sports and health and wellness classes. This hybrid service delivery model is common in small and/or rural municipalities in Ontario that do not have dedicated community services departments or the resources to actively program its spaces.

Continuing this hybrid approach is recommended given that projected growth levels does not support the need to deviate from the Town’s current approach. This will ensure that the Town’s resources continue to be deployed efficiently, while relying on local community expertise and knowledge.

Figure 12: Plympton–Wyoming Organization Chart, Public Works Department



The Public Works Department is currently led by a Director who oversees various staff positions including an assistant, coordinator, foreman, facility operators and labourers, pool staff (including a manager), and summer students. As the Town's population increases and new parks and facilities are added (guided by this Master Plan), regularly reviewing staff needs will be required to ensure that existing levels of service are maintained. This may require expanding the roles and responsibilities of existing staff or adding additional staff.

Staff resourcing may need to be considered to implement the service delivery recommendations contained in this Master Plan, particularly in the areas of promotion, volunteerism, policy review and development, communication and coordination with community organizations, general promotion, and more. These responsibilities could potentially be incorporated within an existing position or consideration could be given to establishing a new staff position (e.g., community coordinator / liaison), which was identified in the Town's 2021 Service Delivery Review. This Master Plan also recommends increasing recreation programming, which is consistent with the Town's Corporate Strategic Plan. Should the Town move forward with this direction, staffing for program delivery would also need to be considered, such as a Recreation Programmer.

Other opportunities to strengthen the staff team is to develop an operational handbook. Much of the staff knowledge and expertise on carrying out day to day tasks and responsibilities is not documented. This will be an important exercise as existing staff depart, some of which have been employed by the Town for an extended period, and new staff join.

## Parks and Recreation Committee

The Parks and Recreation Committee is a Council-appointed committee, and they advise and assist Staff and Council on actions relating to community facilities, recreation programs, park maintenance, and initiatives to promote Plympton-Wyoming.

The Committee's key responsibilities include the following:

- Review and consider proposals related to recreational facilities and programs.
- Engage with residents, community groups, and Town staff.
- Report and make recommendations on park maintenance and equipment.
- Provide input on the Town's budgets and Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Develop and implement policies on parks, beautification, and tree management.

It is common practice for these types of committees to play a supporting role in implementing this Master Plan, which is already identified in their terms of reference. The Committee should provide general oversight and input on the Master Plan's implementation. This should include regularly reviewing the Master Plan as part of the annual capital budget process to identify short-term recommendations that should be implemented.

## Recommendations – Staffing and Governance

- Rec 33.** Conduct a review of internal staffing levels within the Public Works Department to ensure that the Town is positioned to respond to the growing population and desired service levels. This may involve expanding staff responsibilities or additional staff, adjustments to responsibilities, or other strategies to meet community needs.
- Rec 34.** Evaluate staff capacity to determine the ability for existing staff to implement the service delivery recommendations in the Master Plan or if a new staff position should be considered, such as a Community Liaison and Recreation Programmer.
- Rec 35.** Create a staff manual to document and standardize roles, responsibilities, expectations, operating procedures, and other relevant information to capture knowledge and expertise of staff.
- Rec 36.** Direct the Parks and Recreation Committee to provide input on the Master Plan’s implementation to identify and prioritize short-term recommendations.

## 6.2 Recreation Programming

Plympton-Wyoming’s recreational programming is seasonally relegated to public and drop-in swimming, and leadership courses, at its outdoor pool (refer to Section 5.6). The Town relies on local and regional community organizations to provide other recreation programs and activities including organized sports and low impact fitness.

The Town’s Corporate Strategic Plan identifies that introducing recreation programming is a Council priority. This direction aligns with broader trends as there is a growing demand for recreation programs as people are placing a greater emphasis on leading active and healthier lifestyles. There is also a desire for more community and social interaction, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Town continues to grow, it is anticipated that there will be greater expectations for municipally delivered community programs, particularly from young families, as well as newcomers from larger municipalities that offered recreation programs.

Some municipalities including smaller communities such as Petrolia and Warwick have benefitted from working with community partners such as the YMCA to deliver recreation programs. Other communities, including Plympton-Wyoming, provide directly delivered activities that are complemented by those offered by community organizations and volunteers. The efforts of other program providers are highly valued, but it is also recognized that they do not have the capacity to



deliver a full range of programs for a growing community. With no major alternative program provider in Plympton-Wyoming, it is recommended that the Town explore expanding its recreation program offering, which is consistent with its Corporate Strategic Plan.

Expanding the Town's role in recreation programs also aligns with findings from the consultation process. Suggested program areas included activities for different age groups (preschool children, youth, and older adults), camps, indoor pickleball, and opportunities centred around health and wellness such as aerobics, yoga, and fitness.

This Master Plan recommends undertaking enhancements to the Camlachie Community Centre to improve usage for rentals and programs. Once completed, the Town could explore introducing new recreation programs, potentially on a trial basis to test demand. One area that could be explored is drop-in indoor pickleball, which could be offered at the Camlachie Community Centre once it has been renovated. This activity continues to grow in popular and would respond to community requests heard through the consultation process. Participants in this activity tend to be self-organized and as a drop-in program, limited staffing would be required. Exploring other programs should also be explored, which should be informed by additional public consultation. As the Town continues to expand its program offerings, consideration should be given to staffing resources, such as a Recreation Programmer (as identified in Section 6.1).

It is recognized that program delivery should continue to be a collaborative initiative. Over the long-term, this Master Plan recommends exploring the feasibility of reconstructing and expanding the Camlachie Community Centre, which could include space for the Camlachie Library and Plympton-Wyoming Museum. Consolidating these service providers within co-located space could offer cross-programming opportunities that benefit the community. Continuing to work with community organizations and volunteers is also encouraged to collectively meet the Town's recreation program demands.

### Recommendations – Recreation Programming

- Rec 37.** Evaluate opportunities to expand Town-delivered recreation programs that may include, but not be limited to, drop-in pickleball, activities for key age groups (preschool children, youth, and older adults), and health and wellness pursuits such as aerobics, yoga, and fitness. Activities could be offered on a trial basis to test demand. As the scope of recreation activities are expanded, consider staffing resources, such as adding a Recreation Programmer position.
- Rec 38.** Where opportunities exist, work with community organizations, volunteers, and other partners to increase program opportunities and bolster use of the Town's facilities. Program duplication should be avoided.

## 6.3 Policy Development

As Plympton–Wyoming’s population grows, it will naturally create higher expectations for quality services, particularly as the Town continues to attract new residents from larger urban centres. Having an up to date and current policy library will be important so that services are delivered in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner. The Town currently has a number of policies relevant to parks and recreation including an accessibility policy, fee waiver policy, grant policy, memorial tree and bench policy so that a standardized process is in place to respond to public requests and community needs. The following are two examples of policy gaps that were identified and should be considered, which is based on best practices and examples in other municipalities. Other policies may be developed on an as needed basis.

### **Donations, Sponsorships and Advertising Policy (proposed)**

This policy can be an effective revenue source to fund municipal facilities, programs, services, and operations. Creating this policy can help solicit and manage collaborative opportunities with businesses, community groups and others, while maintaining the Town’s strategic priorities, brand, values, image, policies, and community interests. This policy may outline general guiding principles, what types of donations, sponsorships, or advertisements are permitted (or not permitted), and guide the development of agreements that speak to details including duration, how funding is allocated, and other terms and conditions.

### **Special Event Policy (proposed)**

This policy provides guidance for special events and festivals that take place on Town-owned properties to ensure that municipal assets are used appropriately. This policy may speak to various matters related to events and festivals including, but not limited to, compliance with accessibility, alcohol, permits and fees, communications and promotions, sponsorships, health and safety, police and security, waste management, set up and take down, roles and responsibilities of the Town and event provider, insurance, etc. Input from the Special Events Committee should be considered as part of developing this policy.

### **Recommendations – Policy Development**

- Rec 39.** Undertake a review of the Town’s policies related to parks and recreation to ensure that they remain relevant and up to date.
- Rec 40.** Create new policies to ensure that consistent and transparent processes are in place to guide parks and recreation matters, including a donation, sponsorship and advertising policy, special event policy, and others to be identified by the Town.

## 6.4 Inclusion and Access

Providing inclusive and accessible parks and recreation opportunities is a priority for many municipalities across Ontario so that everyone can participate safely in the community, connect with others, and have a healthy and active lifestyle. This is encouraged in Plympton–Wyoming as it is important for the Town’s public spaces to be welcoming of residents and visitors regardless of their physical ability, financial constraints, beliefs, cultural background, and orientation.

### Barrier-Free Opportunities

The 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability found that 27% of Canadians over the age of 15 had one or more disability that impacted their daily lives. This was an increase from 22% recorded in 2017, which suggests that this segment of the community is growing. With a population of 9,300 residents, this finding suggests that approximately 2,500 residents are living with some form of disability.

Plympton–Wyoming strives to remove barriers and improve accessibility in the Town through its Accessibility Policy (2019), and Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2024–2029). Plympton–Wyoming has many accessible buildings, parks and trails such as:

#### Accessible Buildings

- Municipal Office
- Camlachie Community Centre
- Camlachie Cultural Library and Museum
- Wyoming Library

#### Accessible Parks and Trails

- Camlachie Cenotaph
- Wyoming Cenotaph
- McKay Park
- Wyoming to Reeces Corners Trail

The Town also has an accessible customer service policy that identifies its commitment to ensure that any interaction with people, or people using public spaces, is done respectfully. The policy speaks to a range of matters including the use of assistive devices, service animals, and other necessary supports that may be provided.

With respect to parks and facilities, the Camlachie Community Centre is barrier-free, as well as key parks and trails including McKay Park, Camlachie and Wyoming Cenotaphs, and Wyoming to Reece’s Corner Trail. Removal of physical barriers is guided by the Town’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Continued efforts to remove barriers from the Town’s parks and recreation system is recommended. In accordance with design standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, consideration should be given to accessible playgrounds and pathways of travel.

## Low Cost to No Cost Opportunities

In 2020, Plympton–Wyoming’s median household income was \$108,000, which was higher than the Province (\$91,000) and Lambton County (\$83,000). This suggests that the Town’s households may be more likely to participate in parks and recreation opportunities compared to their provincial and county counterparts as Plympton–Wyoming’s residents may have more disposable income.

However, it is recognized that not all households share the same income level. The 2021 Census found that approximately 5% of residents are considered to be low income. Continuing to provide a range of low to no cost parks and recreation opportunities will be important to minimize financial participation barriers and maximize participation, regardless of income level. Many no cost opportunities exist throughout Plympton–Wyoming in its parks such as unprogrammed open space, splash pad, sport courts, trails, beaches, and more. Third-party subsidy programs also exist to provide financial supports to individuals to participate in community programs (e.g., Canadian Tire Jumpstart). Continuing to offer a combination of low cost to no cost opportunities, together with promoting existing financial subsidy programs is encouraged to reflect the challenge that many households face with the increasing cost of living.

## Creating Safe and Welcoming Spaces for All

Between 4% and 10% of Canadians identify as a member of the LGBTQ2S+ community, which could represent up to 900 residents in Plympton–Wyoming. This segment of the community often experiences exclusion, resulting in mental health issues, homelessness, suicide, and harmful practices in the community. Additionally, 3% of the population are visible minorities and 1% identify as Indigenous Peoples. Parks and recreation can play a role in engaging these groups as studies have shown that they can result in positive outcomes. For example, there is a strong link between being outdoors in nature and improved mental health. Engaging in parks and recreation can also strengthen social ties and community connections.

The parks and recreation system should be welcoming, judgement-free zones where everyone feel safe and be welcomed. There are different strategies that the Town could consider strengthening this including having a diverse staff team and training staff to understand how to engage and interact with each other and members of the public. Ensuring that the public is aware that public spaces are safe and welcoming to everyone is also important, which can be achieved through the use of signage, posters, and imagery within parks and facilities.

## Recommendations – Inclusion and Access

- Rec 41.** As directed by the Town’s Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, remove physical barriers from public facilities and spaces to ensure that they are accessible for all residents, regardless of ability.
- Rec 42.** Expand the range of low cost to no-cost recreation opportunities in Plympton-Wyoming based on the recommendations in this Master Plan and promote existing third-party financial subsidy programs to minimize financial participation barriers.
- Rec 43.** Ensure all public spaces are safe and welcoming for staff and users through staff training and development, park and facility design, and public awareness.

## 6.5 Communications and Marketing

The Town uses a mix of traditional and digital media to communicate and connect with parks and facility users, residents and visitors. Traditional methods include printed posters and flyers, newspaper and newsletter messaging, radio advertisements, word of mouth, and communication through community groups and services clubs. The Town also connects with people online through social media, boasting more than 1,600 followers across its platforms on Facebook and YouTube. Most recently, Plympton-Wyoming introduced its new website that modernized how the Town disseminates information to its residents, including details on what recreation facilities are available, and contacts for community sports organizations, as well as community events.

Effective communication and marketing are critical to maximize use of and participation in the Town’s parks and recreation system. It is important that information is transmitted, received, and interpreted by residents, but it is recognized that there is an overwhelming amount of information being directed to people daily. As a result, promotion of parks and recreation opportunities can easily get lost.

Using a range of mediums to engage the community continues to be important as different forms of communication are favoured by different markets. For example, social media and the website tends to be more effective for younger generations and tech savvy individuals, while print media and signage may be more accessible for older adults and those without internet access or knowledge of using technology. It is a best practice for municipalities to use the main website as a central platform as it can be easily updated, which is recommended for the Town. However, continuing to use tradition methods (e.g., posters and newspapers) is also encouraged, recognizing the technology barriers that some residents may experience.

Other considerations to strengthen how the Town communicates and markets its parks and recreation opportunities include the following:

- Promote the location of local parks on the Town’s website, including a map of their locations and amenities found within them.
- Create a digital community guide to provide a resource for residents to find important information such as the location of parks and facilities, key dates and events, contact details, volunteer opportunities, and more. Providing a limited printed release could also be considered.
- Expand the Town’s social media presence to include Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. This could be implemented at the corporate level.
- Compile a detailed list of community organizations serving Plympton-Wyoming, including contact information. The Town currently has a webpage for this, although it currently directs traffic to another website where information may not be available.
- Regularly engage community organizations to strengthen relationships, understand challenges, identify solutions, and explore opportunities to work collaboratively to provide and enhance parks and recreation opportunities for residents.

### Recommendations – Communications and Marketing

**Rec 44.** Increase awareness of parks and recreation opportunities through various strategies, which may include, but not be limited to, promoting the location of parks on the Town’s website with details on locations and amenities, create a digital community guide, expand the Town’s social media presence, update the directory of community organizations, and engage local groups on a regular basis to discuss opportunities to work better together.

## 6.6 Volunteerism

The Town relies heavily on volunteers to deliver recreation sports and activities. These volunteers contribute to Plympton-Wyoming's quality of life, and these groups and individuals help create a sense of place, civic pride, and economic development. They learn and teach valuable life lessons and skills, give back to the community and for some, earn high school volunteer hours.

Consultation with community organizations found that many groups were challenged with the ability to recruit and retain volunteers, which many believed to be driven by increasingly busy lifestyles, competing interests, or those who may lack the knowledge on where to find volunteer opportunities.

Some organizations expressed that there is a desire to expand their program offering to respond to growing demand, but future growth is constrained by the lack of volunteer capacity to help deliver the activity. Other volunteers raised concerns about the depleting supply of help as those currently leading the charge have been in their roles for some time with no one to take their place. As a result, if certain volunteers were to cease their duties, programs would stop running. In these situations, this may result in facilities and spaces becoming underutilized, or the community may look to the Town to fill this gap. The following measures should be considered to mitigate these measures:

- As part of regular discussions with organizations, seek input on where volunteer challenges exist to understand how the Town may assist.
- Leverage the Town's website and other resources to promote volunteer opportunities for organizations.
- Host volunteer fairs that bring together and showcase organizations. This could be combined with other community events to maximize community impact.
- Host volunteer recognition events and recognize volunteer(s) of the year. The Town currently has a Senior of the Year Award. Consideration could be given to introducing volunteer awards for different age groups.

### Recommendations – Volunteerism

**Rec 45.** Encourage volunteerism by promoting opportunities on the Town's webpage to connect the community with organizations looking to increase capacity to deliver programs and services. Other strategies include hosting volunteer fairs (potentially combined with other events), hosting volunteer recognition events, and creating volunteer awards for different age groups.

# IMPLEMENTATION



## 7. Implementation

### 7.1 Funding the Master Plan

Plympton-Wyoming has competing priorities that requires careful consideration by staff and Council when it comes to how resources are allocated. This Master Plan is intended to provide the Town with guidance on community needs and priorities. While the Town may experience challenges in providing the appropriate financial and human resources to implement all of the Master Plan's recommendations, it is expected that every effort is made through appropriate means. As part of the decision-making process on capitally related recommendations, operational impacts should also be considered.

Full implementation of the Master Plan will require the use of a range of funding sources including the following:

- Development charges
- Parkland cash-in-lieu reserves
- User fees and surcharges
- Municipal reserves
- Debt financing
- Donations and sponsorships
- Government grants and funding programs
- Partnerships
- Taxation

#### Recommendations – Funding the Master Plan

**Rec 46.** Where appropriate, investigate a range of funding and cost-sharing approaches to implement the Master Plan's recommendations, including (but not limited to) development charges, reserves, user fees and surcharges, donations, sponsorships, debenture financing, ongoing government and funding programs, one-time grants, and partnerships.

## 7.2 Monitoring and Updating the Master Plan

The Town should periodically review, assess, and revise the recommendations of the Master Plan to ensure that they continue to reflect community needs. This may require monitoring activity levels, utilization, demographics, and continued dialogue with community organizations. The development of annual work plans and regular reporting should be undertaken to track achievements and lessons learned to determine the success of the Master Plan. Through these mechanisms, or as a result of other internal or external factors, adjustment in resource allocation and priorities may be required. Working with the Town's Parks and Recreation Committee, the following steps should be undertaken as part of implementing the Master Plan, which should also inform a five-year update (around 2031) and a full update around 2035 (timing may be adjusted based on pace of implementation and other factors):

- Review past recommendations implemented, capital projects undertaken, lessons learned from new and existing initiatives, changes in participation levels, issues arising from the public and community groups, evolving population characteristics and growth, etc.
- Identification of issues impacting the coming year (e.g., anticipated financial and operational constraints, emerging opportunities, etc.).
- Prepare a staff report to identify short-term recommendations and prioritize projects that should be initiated in the coming year based on criteria established by staff (e.g., financial limitations, community input, partnership/funding potential, synergies with other capital initiatives, etc.).
- Communication to staff and Council regarding the status of implementing the Master Plan.
- Budget requests and revisions as necessary.

### Recommendations – Monitoring and Updating the Master Plan

- Rec 47.** Create annual work plans to identify recommendations to be initiated in the coming year. Recommendations should be prioritized based on criteria identified by staff and may include, but not be limited to, financial constraints, community input, partnership/funding potential, synergies with other capital initiatives, etc.).
- Rec 48.** Undertake a five-year update to the Master Plan around 2031 to ensure that short-term recommendations continue to reflect community needs.
- Rec 49.** Initiate a full review of the Master Plan around 2035. Timing may be adjusted based on pace of implementation and population growth, changes in trends, and other internal and external factors.

## 7.3 Summary of Recommendations

The following pages summarize the recommendations contained within this Master Plan in the order that they appeared. By approving the Master Plan, the Town is not bound to implement every recommendation or provide facilities/services in the order, amount, or timing indicated. Rather, this Master Plan is intended to provide staff and Council with guidance on community priorities and sets a general course of action to meet needs as they are presently defined.

At a high level, resource implications have been identified along with high level capital estimates for facility development. Detailed resource requirements will need to be understood as staff bring recommendations forward for implementation. Feasibility studies, business planning, and consultation with the public and stakeholders, should be conducted to further inform the undertaking of major capital projects prior to implementation to ensure that they are aligned with community needs, with consideration given to potential partnerships, financial capabilities, etc.

Timing for implementation should be used as a guide as some flexibility should be taken into consideration as this may be adjusted based on factors such as population growth, partnership opportunities, and funding availability. In some instances, recommendations may be initiated within the short-term, but they may not be fully implemented until the medium term depending on the complexity, such as new facility development. The timing of recommendations is organized into the following categories.

<b>Short Term</b>	2026 to 2028
<b>Medium Term</b>	2029 to 2031
<b>Long Term</b>	2033 to 2035

Parkland & Trails Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
1. Integrate the parkland classification system in this Master Plan, consisting of Waterfront Destination Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks and Parkettes, as part of a future Official Plan Update and use it to guide parks planning initiatives, including developing and redeveloping parks.	Staff time	Short
2. Target a parkland service level of 2.6 hectares per 1,000 residents, including: a. 1.7 hectares per 1,000 residents for Community Parks, and b. 0.9 hectares per 1,000 residents for Neighbourhood Parks and Parkettes.	Staff time	Best Practice
3. Acquire 7.7 hectares of parkland to achieve the recommended parkland service target, including: a. 4.7 hectares of Community Parks; and b. 3.0 hectares of Neighbourhood Parks and/or Parkettes.	Cost to acquire land  Staff time	Short  Best Practice
4. Opportunities to acquire or expand Waterfront Destination Parks should be pursued on a case-by-case basis to strengthen public access to the waterfront.	Cost to acquire land	Best Practice
5. Adopt a parkland first approach to prioritize the conveyance of physical parkland to address park needs in future growth areas and existing gaps. Alternative parkland acquisition strategies should also be considered including land purchase, exchanges or swaps, off-site conveyance, donations, partnerships, and reallocating surplus Town-owned land.	Staff time and cost to acquire land	Best Practice

Parkland & Trails Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
<p>6. Consider the park-specific development strategies identified in this Master Plan to maximize community impact and ensure that municipal resources are being used efficiently and effectively. This may result redevelopment and renewal of existing parks, expanding existing parks, repurposing underutilized parks, or eliminating park service duplication. Should there be no viable alternative use, consideration should be given to divesting surplus parkland, with funds raised being reinvested back into the park system. Public consultation should form part of the park planning process.</p>	<p>Cost for park redevelopment</p>	<p>Best Practice</p>
<p>7. As part of a future update to the Official Plan, review and update parkland policies to ensure that they align with changes to the Planning Act.</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>8. Establish a hierarchy to define trail types, permitted uses, design characteristics, and supporting amenities.</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>9. Create a strategy to strengthen the trail network, which may require working with others including Lambton County and other landowners. Consideration should be given to the recommendations in this Master Plan including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Expand the Wyoming to Reece’s Corner Community Trail to connect to Camlachie.</li> <li>b. Address gaps along existing trail routes along Lakeshore Road, Egremont Road, Mandaumin Road, Fleming Street, and Queen Street.</li> <li>c. Construct trails and sidewalks within future residential areas and connect them to the existing trail network. Where opportunities exist, acquire land for active transportation infrastructure through the subdivision approval process, as permitted in the Town’s Official Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Cost for trail development or land acquisition for trails</p>	<p>Best Practice</p>
<p>10. Continue to maintain the Town’s publicly owned road ends and lake access points and undertake strategic vegetation maintenance to ensure that walking pathways are clear and repair staircases, including at Delrymple Street and Devonshire Street.</p>	<p>Cost for maintenance</p>	<p>Best Practice</p>

Parkland & Trails Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
11. Expand existing road ends and lake access points as opportunities become available to increase public access to Lake Huron.	Cost to acquire land	Best Practice

Recreation Facilities Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
12. Undertake enhancements to the Camlachie Community Centre to create a more flexible and multi-use space for community programs and rentals. This includes renovating Napper Hall to replace the floor with a durable and hard surface (with sport lining), removing the mirrored walls, removing the stage (and consider replacing it with a portable and removable stage), and upgrading audio and visual equipment.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Short-Medium
<p>13. Prepare a facility fit design to re-imagine the Camlachie Community Centre to strengthen the site as a place for community gatherings and programming. Consultation with the public and community partners should be undertaken to establish a vision for this site. A feasibility study or update to this Master Plan should be completed to confirm site components. The re-imagined community centre may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A new large and flexible multi-use space with durable flooring and high ceilings and complementary spaces including a kitchen and storage space.</li> <li>b. A multi-purpose program room.</li> <li>c. Space for a library branch and museum to replace the existing, standalone building.</li> <li>d. Reconfiguration of existing outdoor recreation amenities and support spaces including park buildings and parking at Arnold Minielly Park.</li> </ul>	Project cost to be determined by staff	Short (Design) Medium (Reconfirm) Long (Construct)

Recreation Facilities Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
14. Monitor total ball diamond usage including games, practices and tournaments, as well as participation data and reassess ball diamond needs as part of a five-year update to the Master Plan. New ball diamonds should be directed to a future community park in Wyoming. To assist with monitoring and understanding usage, the Town should request or update its agreements with user groups to require annual reporting that includes schedules and participation data.	Staff time	Short
15. Relocate the ball diamond at Centennial Park to a new community park in Wyoming.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Short
16. Reconfigure the ball diamonds at Arnold Minielly Park to improve site functionality, which should be done as part of a broader park and community centre redevelopment.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Long
17. Work with user groups to identify and undertake enhancements to ball diamonds including hardball conversion, updating supporting amenities such as seating and washrooms, and accessibility retrofits. Installing fencing and safety netting at Lakeshore Community Park is recommended.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Short-Medium
18. Pursue opportunities to provide a full-size soccer field (11v11) at a new community park in Wyoming or at Centennial Park once the ball diamond has been relocated.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Medium-Long
19. Create a plan to rehabilitate the Wyoming Pool's support building, including undertaking cosmetic enhancements to interior and exterior finishes to the changerooms and staff spaces, accessibility retrofits, etc.	\$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000	Long
20. Construct a splash pad in the Camlachie area, preferably at Arnold Minielly Park. The placement of the splash pad should be identified as part of a broader site reconfiguration, as recommended in this Master Plan.	\$200,000 to \$400,000	Medium

Recreation Facilities Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
21. Construct a lit hard surface racquet court with one dedicated tennis court and two dedicated pickleball courts at Arnold Minielly Park. Site design and location may be considered as part of a future reconfiguration of the park, as recommended in this Master Plan.	\$200,000 to \$400,000	Medium
22. Undertake enhancements to the hard surface racquet sport courts at McKay Park including resurfacing and replacing and upgrading the lighting system.	\$150,000 to \$250,000	Medium
23. At the time of redeveloping the hard surface racquet sport court at Blue Point Park, explore opportunities to relocate the court to Sunset Acres Park (south side) and consider adding a second court over the long term.	\$150,000 to \$250,000	Medium
24. Engage local residents surrounding Mandaumin Park to determine the level of use of the hard surface racquet sport court to determine if reinvesting in this amenity is needed (including basketball), or it should be removed from the Town's supply.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Medium
25. Provide a multi-use court lined for basketball and ball hockey to address a service gap in the Camlachie area.	\$50,000 to \$100,000 per location	Medium
26. Prepare a plan to replace the basketball and ball hockey courts at McKay Park, which should include resurfacing, lining, and replacing lighting.	\$50,000 to \$100,000 per location	Medium
27. Construct a new skate park in the Camlachie area, potentially co-located with a new basketball court.	\$50,000 to \$100,000	Medium
28. Address playground gap areas through future park development opportunities to serve growth areas, particularly in Lakeshore, between Camlachie and Errol. Supporting playground amenities should be considered as part of future playground development including pathways, seating and shade.	\$100,000 to \$200,000 per location	Best Practice

Recreation Facilities Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
29. At the end of their lifespan, remove aging playgrounds at key parks to minimize service duplication or to address other needs including at Wilpstra Tot Park, Bowling Green Tot Park, and Point View Park.	\$5,000 to \$10,000	Best Practice
30. Create a playground replacement plan to renew aging playgrounds at Arnold Minielly Park, Lakeshore Community Park, Kings Square Park, Maples Park.	\$100,000 to \$200,000 per location	Short
31. Relocate the sand volleyball courts to the non-programmed soccer field at Lakeshore Community Park to accommodate a parking lot expansion. Consideration for additional sand volleyball courts could be considered at this time based on demand.	\$50,000 per court	Short-Medium
32. Requests for new recreation facilities and services, or notable changes to existing levels of service, should be examined on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to a proponent-led proposals and business plan that details local demand, trends, examples in other municipalities, the feasibility of utilizing existing public space, the willingness of the proponent to partner in providing the facility or space, funding, Town resource requirements, and other factors.	Project cost to be determined by staff	Best Practice

Service Delivery Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
33. Conduct a review of internal staffing levels within the Public Works Department to ensure that the Town is positioned to respond to the growing population and desired service levels. This may involve expanding staff responsibilities or additional staff, adjustments to responsibilities, or other strategies to meet community needs.	Staff time	Best Practice
34. Evaluate staff capacity to determine the ability for existing staff to implement the service delivery recommendations in the Master Plan or if a new staff position should be considered, such as a Community Liaison and Recreation Programmer.	Staff time	Short-Medium
35. Create a staff manual to document and standardize roles, responsibilities, expectations, operating procedures, and other relevant information to capture knowledge and expertise of staff.	Staff time	Short-Medium
36. Direct the Parks and Recreation Committee to provide input on the Master Plan’s implementation to identify and prioritize short-term recommendations.	Staff time	Short
37. Evaluate opportunities to expand Town-delivered recreation programs that may include, but not be limited to, drop-in pickleball, activities for key age groups (preschool children, youth, and older adults), and health and wellness pursuits such as aerobics, yoga, and fitness. Activities could be offered on a trial basis to test demand. As the scope of recreation activities are expanded, consider staffing resources, such as adding a Recreation Programmer position.	Staff time and costs for programs	Best Practice
38. Where opportunities exist, work with community organizations, volunteers, and other partners to increase program opportunities and bolster use of the Town’s facilities. Program duplication should be avoided.	Staff time	Best Practice
39. Undertake a review of the Town’s policies related to parks and recreation to ensure that they remain relevant and up to date.	Staff time	Short-Medium

Service Delivery Recommendations	Resource Implication	Timing
40. Create new policies to ensure that consistent and transparent processes are in place to guide parks and recreation matters, including a donation, sponsorship and advertising policy, special event policy, and others to be identified by the Town.	Staff time	Best Practice
41. As directed by the Town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, remove physical barriers from public facilities and spaces to ensure that they are accessible for all residents, regardless of ability.	Staff time	Best Practice
42. Expand the range of low cost to no-cost recreation opportunities in Plympton-Wyoming based on the recommendations in this Master Plan and promote existing third-party financial subsidy programs to minimize financial participation barriers.	Staff time	Best Practice
43. Ensure all public spaces are safe and welcoming for staff and users through staff training and development, park and facility design, and public awareness.	Staff time	Best Practice
44. Increase awareness of parks and recreation opportunities through various strategies, which may include, but not be limited to, promoting the location of parks on the Town's website with details on locations and amenities, create a digital community guide, expand the Town's social media presence, update the directory of community organizations, and engage local groups on a regular basis to discuss opportunities to work better together.	Staff time	Best Practice
45. Encourage volunteerism by promoting opportunities on the Town's webpage to connect the community with organizations looking to increase capacity to deliver programs and services. Other strategies include hosting volunteer fairs (potentially combined with other events), hosting volunteer recognition events, and creating volunteer awards for different age groups.	Staff time	Best Practice

Implementation	Resource Implication	Timing
46. Where appropriate, investigate a range of funding and cost-sharing approaches to implement the Master Plan’s recommendations, including (but not limited to) development charges, reserves, user fees and surcharges, donations, sponsorships, debenture financing, ongoing government and funding programs, one-time grants, and partnerships.	Staff time	Best Practice
47. Create annual work plans to identify recommendations to be initiated in the coming year. Recommendations should be prioritized based on criteria identified by staff and may include, but not be limited to, financial constraints, community input, partnership/funding potential, synergies with other capital initiatives, etc.).	Staff time	Best Practice
48. Undertake a five-year update to the Master Plan around 2031 to ensure that short-term recommendations continue to reflect community needs.	Staff time	Medium
49. Initiate a full review of the Master Plan around 2035. Timing may be adjusted based on pace of implementation and population growth, changes in trends, and other internal and external factors.	Staff time	Long

# Appendix A: Consultation Summary

## Public Information Centre Themes

### Infrastructure Improvements

The community has expressed a strong desire for refreshed playground equipment that is safe, modern, and engaging for all children of all ages. It was expressed that accessibility is important to the community to allow for everyone to play and participate fully. Additionally, the community is interested in natural features and sensory play elements to encourage imaginative play. Another unique addition to parks can include GaGa Ball to offer a fun and active opportunity for children.

### Appreciation of Plympton–Wyoming

Residents have a deep appreciation for its connection to Lake Huron, specifically Lamrecton Park and Highland Glen. Residents also value the abundance of parks located throughout the Town. Whether its spending time at the beach, exploring scenic trails, gathering with family and friends in a park, Plympton–Wyoming’s love for its recreational areas is central to its identity.

### Park Additions

Requests were made for more park amenities and facilities to be included in existing parks. Some ideas were dedicated pickleball courts, a splash pad, washrooms, boat launches, band shell, soccer fields, ball diamonds, and naturalized areas.

### Promotion & Events

Comments were received to increase the awareness and knowledge of parks, recreation facilities, and beach access points available throughout Plympton–Wyoming. There is a desire for better promotion, signage, and communication to help people discover and make full use of these community assets. In addition, residents expressed a strong appreciation for community events and highlighted a growing interest in seeing more events and activities offered.

## Community Survey

Community feedback was collected on residents uses and need of Town park and recreation services between June and July 2025. The survey was available in digital and hardcopy formats with a total of **220 responses** completed and the input received will be considered to help inform the recommendations emerging from this PRMP.

Residents were asked their participation in recreational activities, barriers they experience when participating, their satisfaction with Plympton–Wyoming services, and their requests for additional investment. The top answers are highlighted below.

### Profile of Respondents

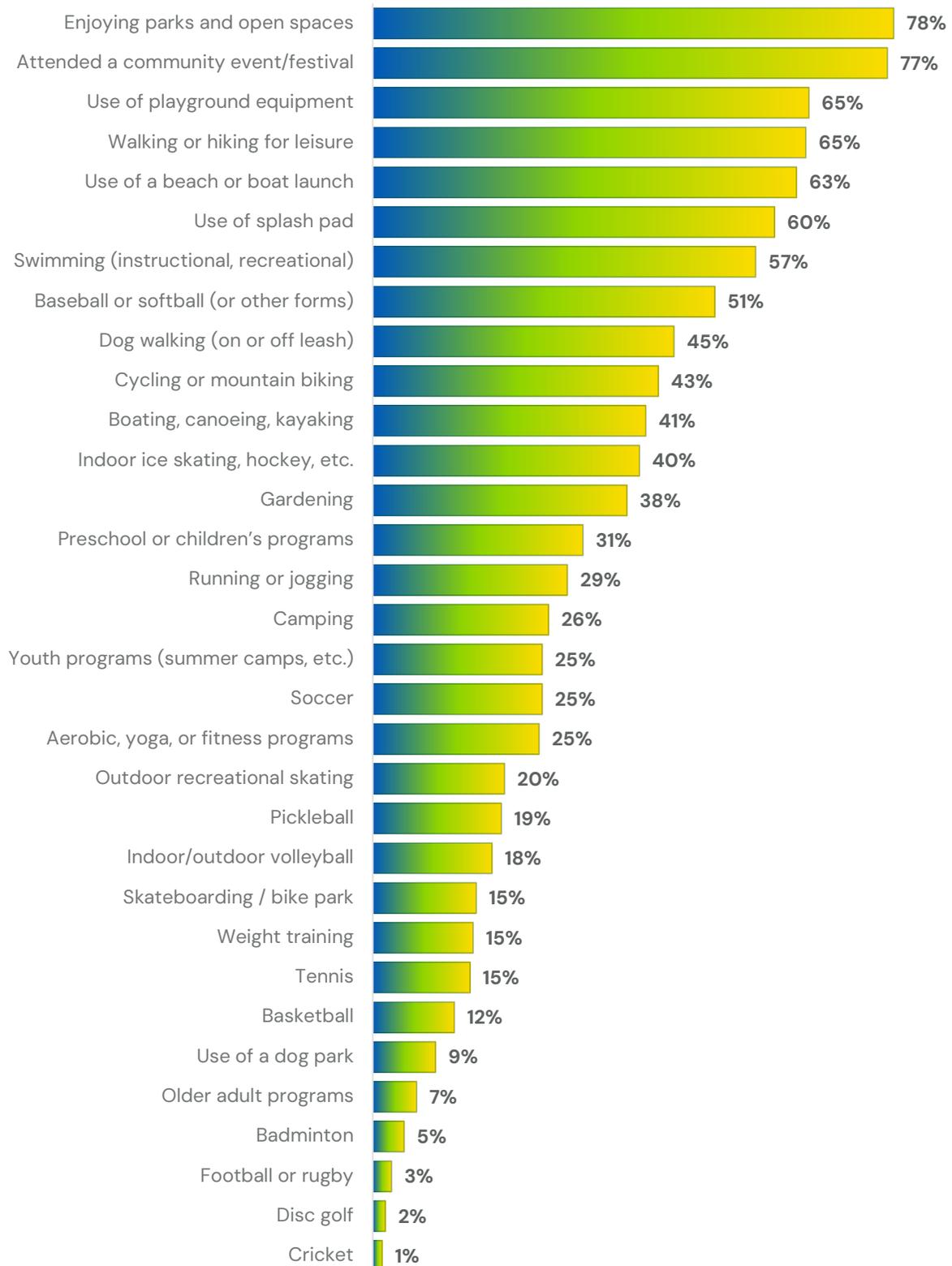
Selected characteristics of individuals submitting a survey are as follows.

- 92% of responses were received from residents of the Town of Plympton–Wyoming, 8% were from surrounding municipalities.
- Among respondents that reside in Plympton–Wyoming, 49% live in or closest to Wyoming, 29% in Camlachie, 13% in Errol, 11% in Blue Point, 7% in rural areas, 2% in Reece’s Corners and 1% in Wanstead.
- The majority of respondents (53%) have lived in Plympton–Wyoming for more than 20 years. Newer residents living in the Town for less than 5 years accounted for 22% of the survey responses.
- Over half of the survey responses (63%) were received from residents aged 34 years or younger.

### Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

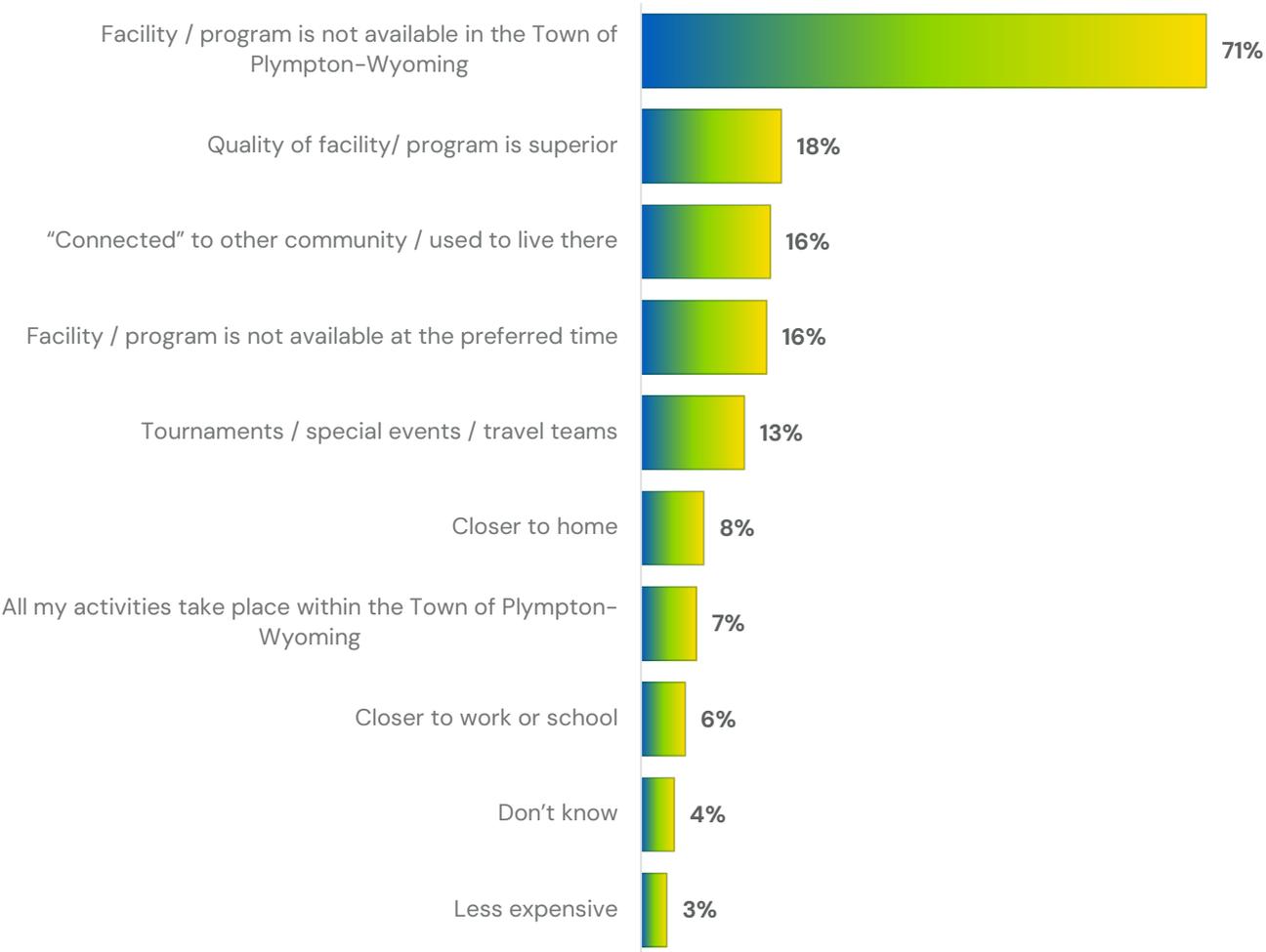
Residents were asked to identify what parks and recreation activities their household has participated in over the past 12 months. The findings are summarized in the following figure.

**Figure 13: Participation in Parks & Recreation Activities in the Past 12 Months**



Almost all respondents (93%) acknowledged that they participate in parks and recreation activities outside of Plympton-Wyoming (Chart 2). The most common reason is due to a facility or program is not available in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming (71%), with other reasons being the quality of the facility/program is superior to that of the Town (18%), they are connected to the other community or used to live there (16%), and the facility or program is not available at the preferred time (16%).

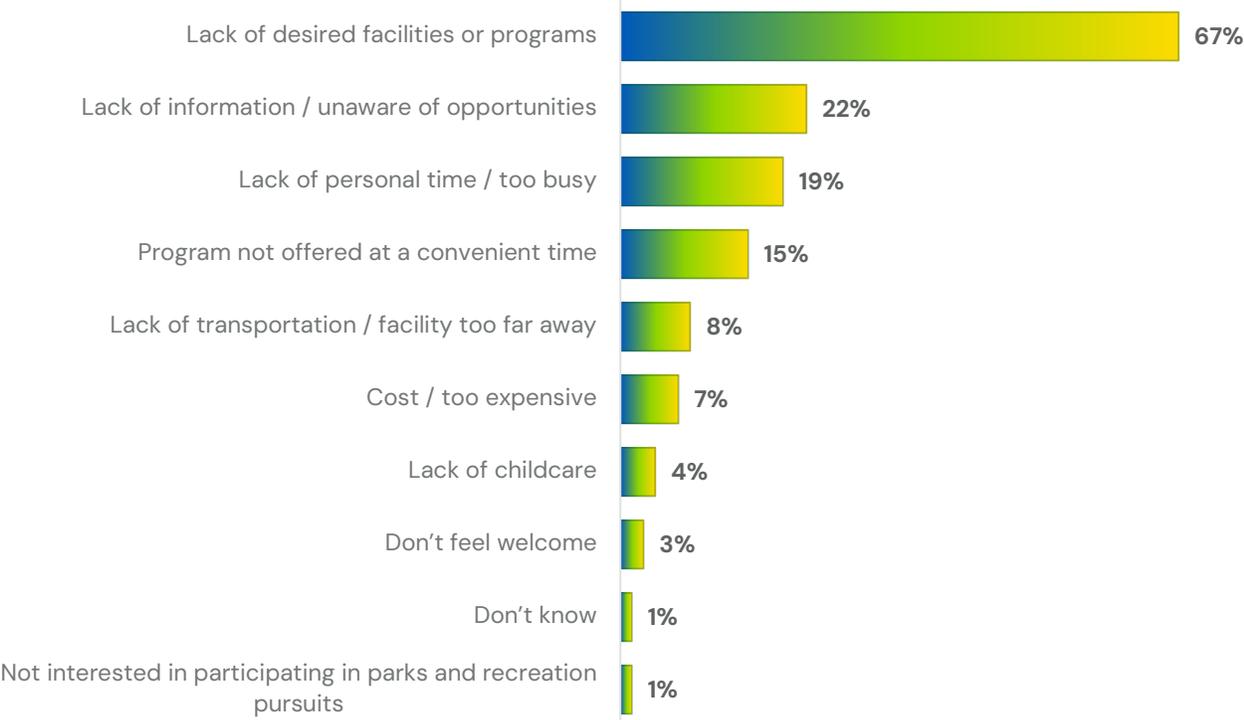
**Figure 14: Participation in Parks & Recreation Activities Outside of Plympton-Wyoming**



## Barriers to Participation in Parks and Recreation Activities

More than one-quarter of respondents (34%) were not able to participate in parks and recreation activities as often as they would like (Chart 2). The lack of desired facilities or programs was identified as the most common barrier (67%). Other common barriers included the lack of information or being unaware of opportunities (22%), lack of personal time (19%), and program not offered at a convenient time (15%).

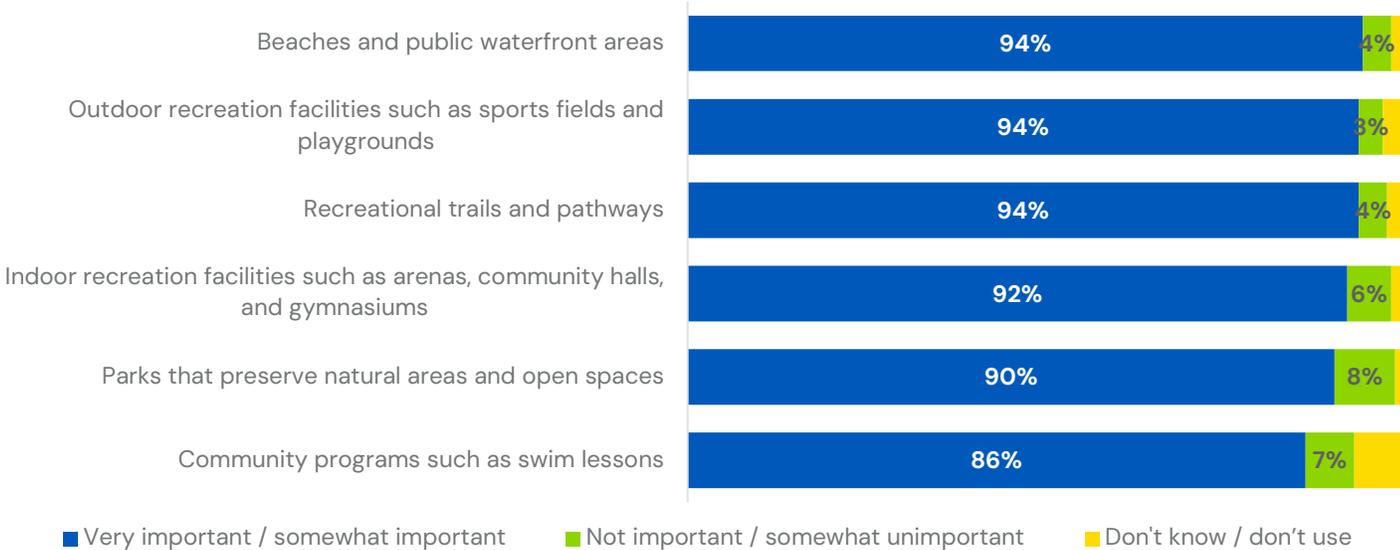
Figure 15: Barriers to Participation in Parks & Recreation Activities



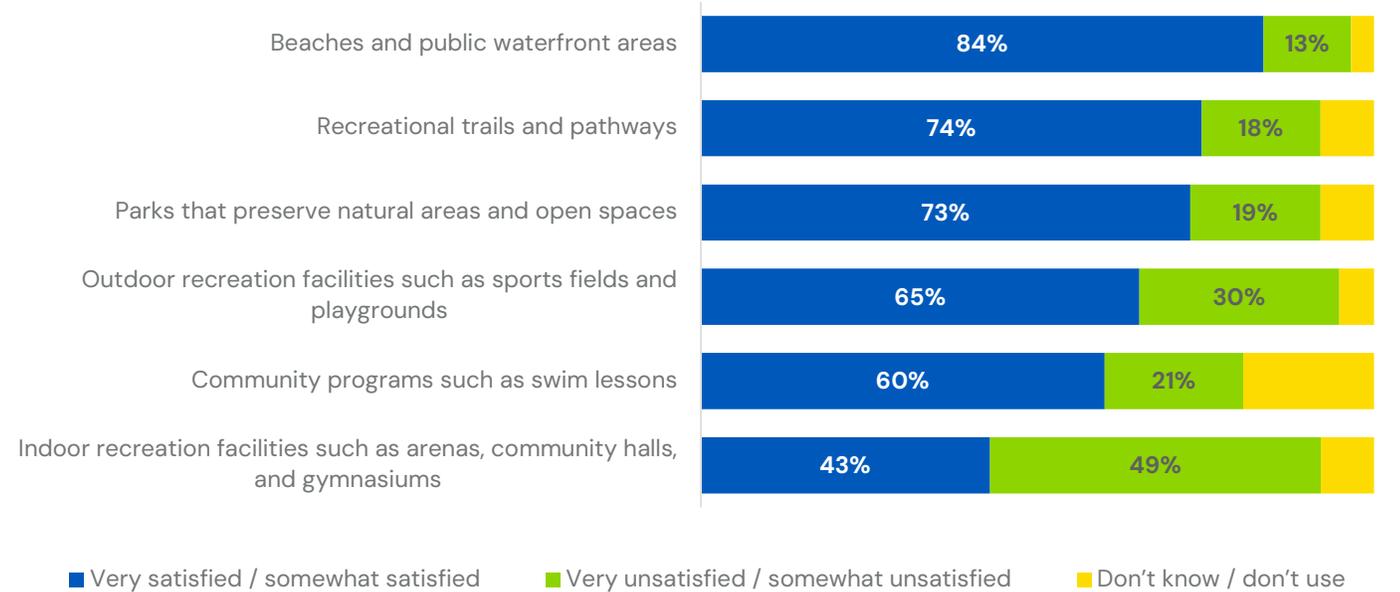
## Importance and Satisfaction of Parks and Recreation Services

Respondents level of importance and satisfaction with respect to parks and recreation opportunities in Plympton–Wyoming is illustrated in the figures below. Importance and satisfaction levels by age group are on the following page. Generally speaking, high levels of importance paired with high levels of satisfaction indicated that expectations are being met. Expectations are not being met in all areas.

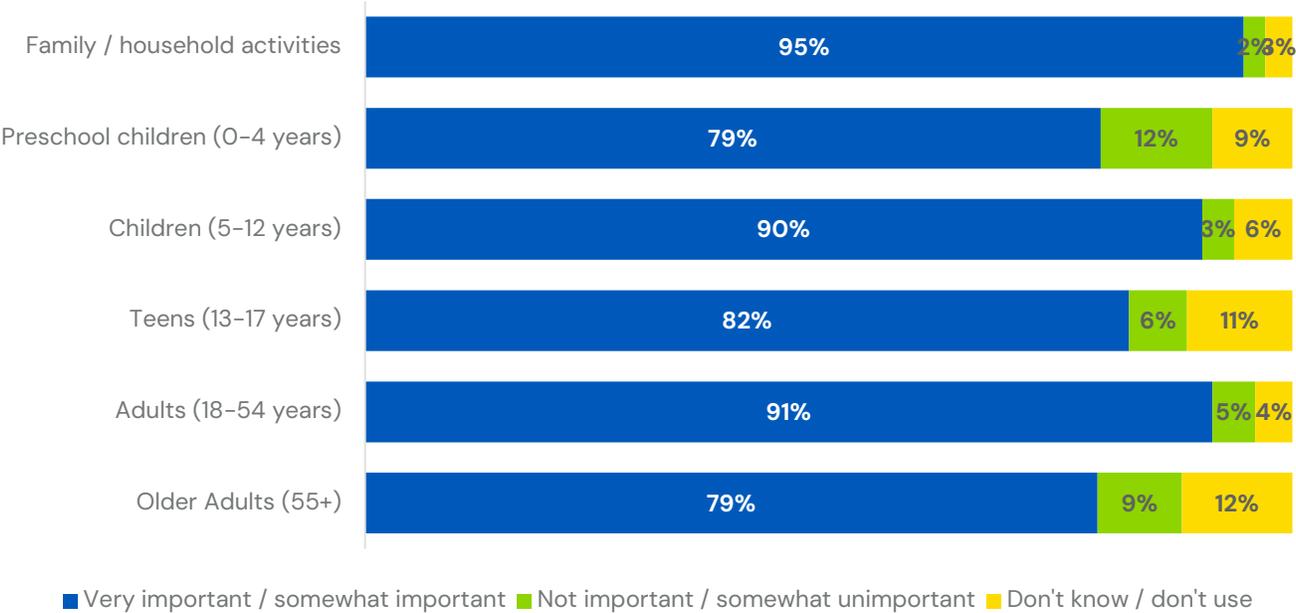
**Figure 16: Importance of Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Plympton–Wyoming**



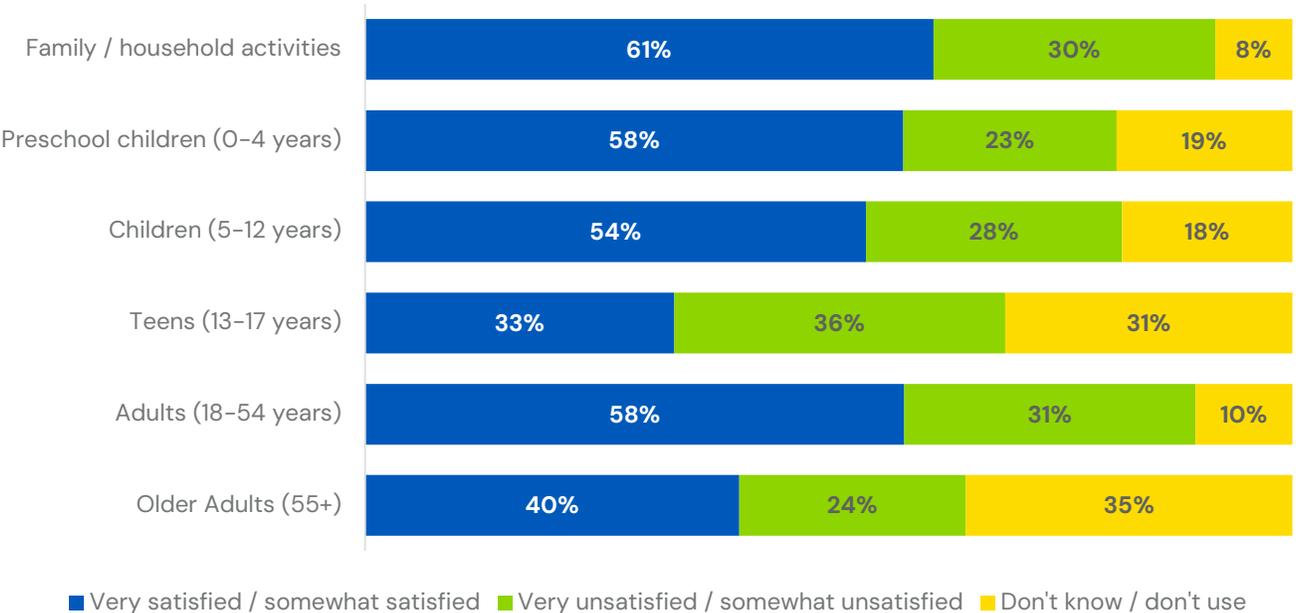
**Figure 17: Satisfaction of Parks and Recreation Opportunities in Plympton–Wyoming**



**Figure 18: Importance of Parks and Recreation Opportunities by Age Group**



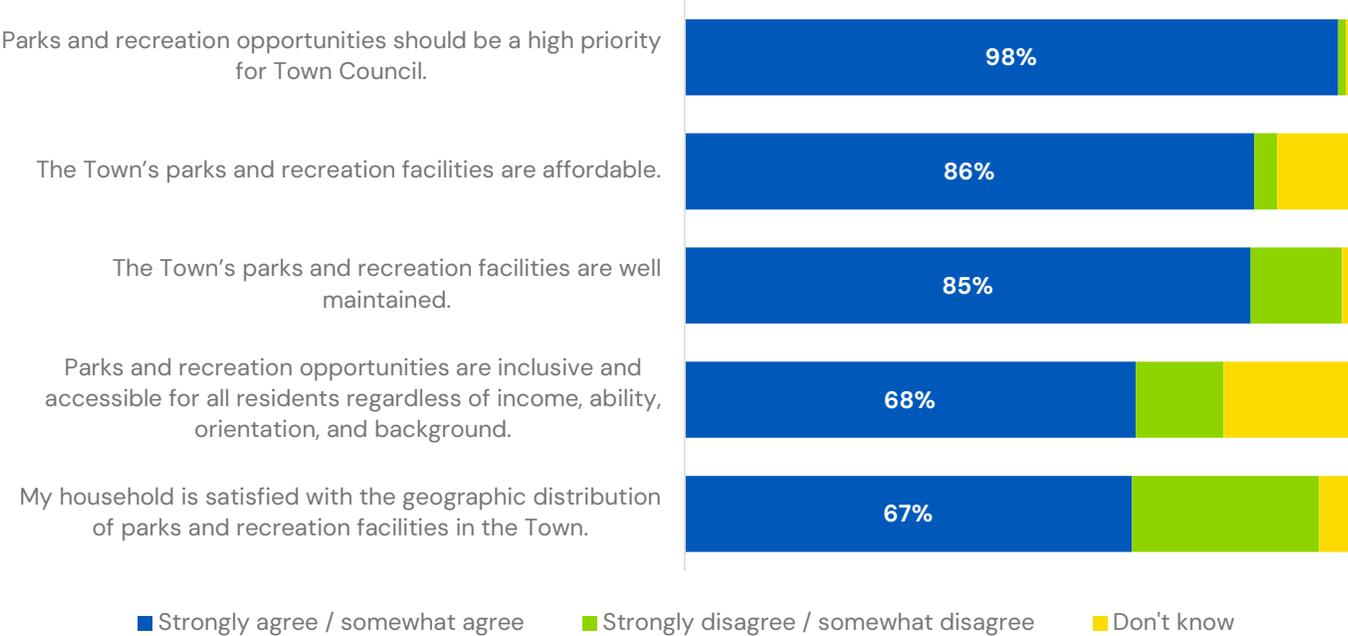
**Figure 19: Satisfaction of Parks and Recreation Opportunities by Age Group**



## Level of Agreement

The following figure summarizes respondents' level of agreement with various statements.

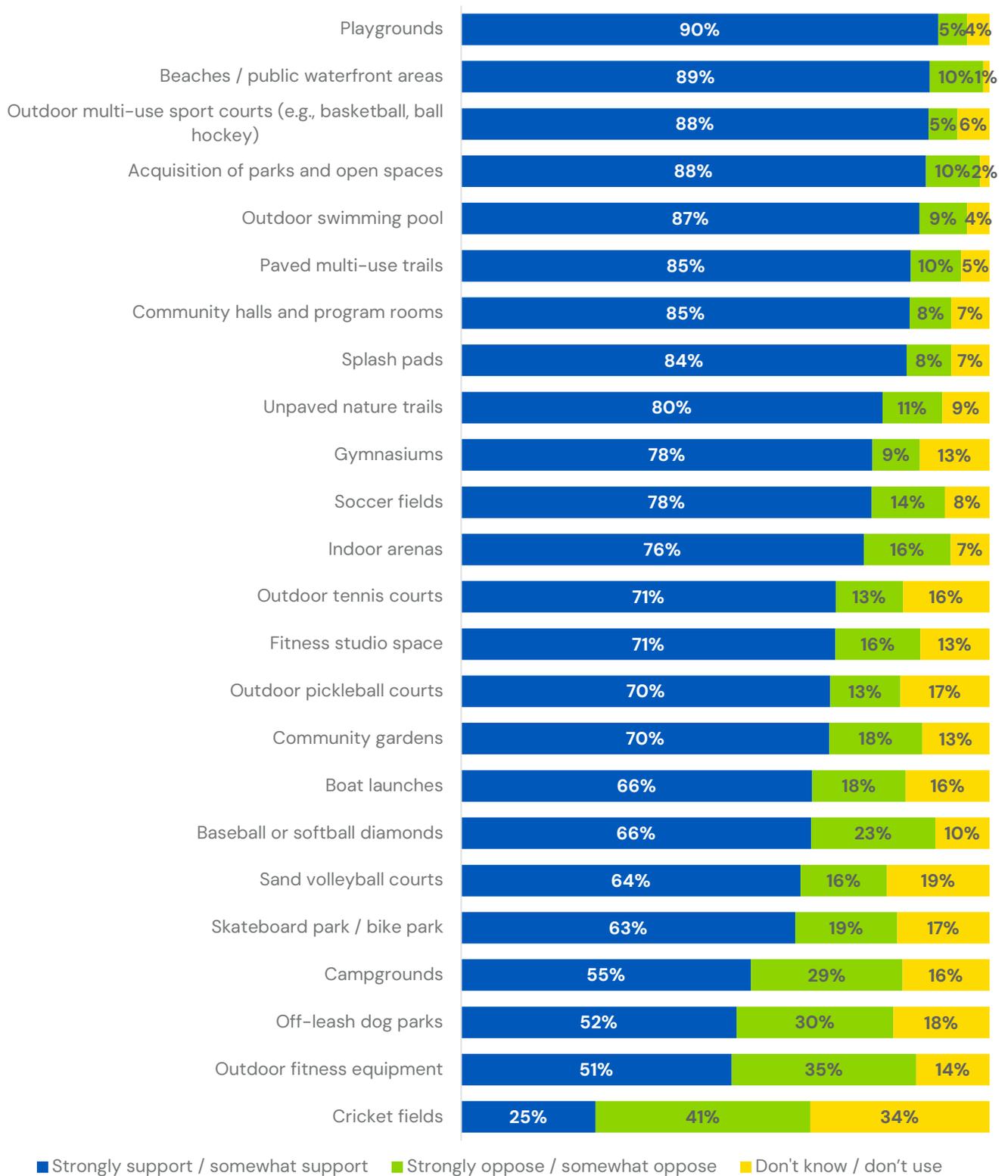
Figure 20: Agreement with the Following Statements



## Support for Additional Public Investment

Survey respondents' top priorities for additional public spending on enhancing or providing new parks and recreation facilities is highlighted on the following page. The top priorities were playgrounds, beaches / public waterfront areas, outdoor multi-use sport courts, acquiring park space, and outdoor pools (Figure 10).

Figure 21: Support for Spending Additional Public Funds



## Community & User Groups Interviews

Interviews with representatives of community service organizations and recreation groups were carried out in July 2025. Groups that participated in the interviews included:

- Camlachie Athletic Association
- Lambton County Library
- North Lambton Community Health Centre
- Panthera Pardus Athletic Club
- Wyoming & District Soccer Club
- Wyoming Ball Hockey League
- Wyoming Minor Ball Association

Notable themes arising out of the interviews are summarized below.

- **Strong Community Engagement & Volunteer Support:** The success of the recreational programs offered to the community are heavily relied upon dedicated volunteers. Community organizations are driven by passionate individuals who organize, maintain programs, fundraise, and even take care of facility upkeep. These groups would benefit from more support and recognition from the Town, and volunteer recruitment.
- **Aging & Insufficient Facilities:** Many recreational amenities including ball diamonds, tennis courts, playgrounds, washrooms, storage buildings, and bleachers are aging or inadequate for current needs. Recreational amenities in high-use facilities like McKay Park and Arnold Minielly Park need updates to support programming growth. Facility limitations, such as lack of accessible washrooms or outdated batting cages, are impacting participant experience and safety.
- **Lack of Field & Diamond Availability:** Demand for sports fields and diamonds is exceeding the current capacity. Minor ball programs, in particular, are short on youth diamonds and forced to outsource to surrounding municipalities. Soccer groups lack a full-sized field, limiting their ability to serve older and adult players. Multi-team scheduling challenges are common, and groups are turning away participants or limiting practice time.
- **Need for Centralized & Multi-use Spaces:** There is a strong interest in developing centralized multi-use spaces where recreational amenities are located on one site. This would improve scheduling, reduce travel and better serve larger events. Multi-use recreational spaces in Camlachie and Wyoming are seen as vital to the community.
- **Communication & Collaboration:** Many groups feel there is a disconnect in communication with the Town regarding promotion, planning, and overall support. Organizations note a lack of visibility for their programs and events, and are often not aware of what other groups are offering in the community. Local accomplishments also tend to go unnoticed with calls for the Town to provide more consistent promotion through newsletters, social media, and other communication means.

- **Expanding Programming for All Ages:** There's growing demand for more inclusive and flexible programming, especially for seniors and young families. There are emerging interest for pickleball, yoga, line dancing, and more. Residents using the Camlachie Community Centre acknowledge this as a valuable asset for the community but note that the indoor space could be improved to better serve the community by improving the flooring, better storage, removal of the stage, and specialized equipment (e.g., a headset linking up to the sound system). With minor upgrades to this facility, groups could expand and diversify the programming offered.

## Workshops with Town Staff & the Parks and Recreation Committee

Workshops were conducted with Town Staff and the Parks and Recreation Committee to discuss needs, priorities, and opportunities. Key themes that emerged from the workshops are outlined below.

### Town Staff

- **Community Growth and Changing Expectation:** Community growth and changing expectations are shaping demand, as new residents from urban centres and newcomers expect higher standards of parks and recreation facilities. Many feel that the current facilities do not meet their needs and there is a growing call for both infrastructure improvements and expanded programming, such as the return of summer camps.
- **Recreation Facilities and Parks:** Recreation facilities and parks are under pressure from aging infrastructure and growing demand. The Wyoming Pool is a valued but aging asset needing maintenance, while baseball fields are overused and lack shade. There is strong demand for dedicated pickleball courts, and many playgrounds are outdated and not accessible, prompting calls for upgrades at McKay Park and equipment for older youth. McKay Park serves as the central hub, while Lakeshore Community Park requires parking and diamond improvements, and Camlachie lacks key recreation opportunities. Some underutilized parks may be better suited for naturalization or repurposing, highlighting the need for strategic reinvestment and balanced planning.
- **Trails and Connectivity:** Trails and connectivity are an ongoing community priority, with strong interest in expanding routes, especially toward Petrolia, and addressing safety concerns around existing gaps. Trails are well-used year-round, though winter maintenance is inconsistent. Funding remains a barrier, with the Town responsible for costs and upkeep.
- **Operating and Staffing:** Operational and staffing challenges also emerged as a recurring theme. Current staffing levels are not sufficient to meet growth and expectations, with heavy reliance on contractors who often deliver inconsistent quality. Staff expressed a preference

for expanding in-house capacity, including hiring at least one dedicated recreation staff member to handle programming. The lack of an operations manual means much of the knowledge resides informally with current staff.

- **Community Gaps and Priorities:** Finally, several gaps and priorities were noted across the community. Youth have few recreation options beyond the library and skate park, highlighting the need for drop-in spaces and programming. Seniors rely on limited facilities like the Legion and fairgrounds. Seasonal residents mostly use beaches and engage less with municipal facilities. Accessibility and inclusivity are lacking in playgrounds and washrooms, while shade at sports fields and pools was raised as a consistent concern.

## Parks and Recreation Committee

The key themes discussed by Committee members were:

- **Strengths:** The Committee identified several strengths of the Town's parks and recreation system including, a good number of parks and ball diamonds throughout the Town, knowledgeable staff that are familiar with each community's unique needs, and valued waterfront spaces.
- **Challenges:** However, challenges remain, particularly in keeping up with the growing demand for indoor and outdoor recreation as the community expands. Some outdoor facilities need attention while some newer neighbourhoods lack adequate park amenities.
- **Recreation Growth:** Soccer participation is increasing but field space is insufficient, and pickleball is gaining popularity in the Town while tennis is decreasing. Beach access remains a key desire for the community as well as visitors. There were suggestions for opportunities to better utilize underused spaces, like Sunset Acres Park, as there is a growing interest in expanding trail routes, cycling routes, and adding amenities such as dog parks.
- **Service Delivery:** The Committee discussed the need for creating a separate parks department to better support the growing system, as discussed in the Service Delivery Review (2020). As well as leveraging the Town's strong volunteer base and community partnership for programming as staff capacity is limited.
- **Priorities:** The Committee's main priorities for the next two to three years include resolving the pool issues, adding ball diamond lighting, expanding outdoor recreation in Camlachie, enhancing trails, and addressing budget limitations.

## Municipal Leaders Interviews

Interviews with Councillors, Deputy Mayor, Mayor and CAO were carried out in July 2025. Key themes that emerged from the interviews included:

- Park & Facility Distribution:** The Councillors recognize the Town is upgrading recreational facilities as investment allows but certain areas are seen as underserved. These areas are seeing demographic shifts, such as Camlachie, with more young families moving in, but existing parks lack sufficient playground equipment or spaces to suit current demand. There is an emphasized need to better balance municipal investment to ensure equitable access to quality parks and recreation across the Town.
- Limited Indoor & Multi-use Recreation Spaces:** The Camlachie Community Centre is viewed as a valuable but underutilized asset. Councillors agreed that the space needs upgrades, such as improving flooring, modernizing the kitchen, and better storage to support year-round recreational uses. There is strong interest in offering indoor programming such as pickleball, fitness classes, floor hockey, and more. Community-led programming is seen as the preferred delivery model, but there is also a recognized need for clearer Town staff leadership to support coordination and maximize facility usage.
- Growing Demand for Trails & Connectivity:** Expanding and connecting trail system is a top priority across the Town. Councillors noted broken links in the trail network, particularly around the Howard Watson Trail and Lakeshore Road, which limits walkability and cycling opportunities. Despite local support, there are ongoing challenges to invest in trail connectivity, even though public demand is high.
- Facility Gaps & Maintenance Needs:** Soccer is significantly under supported in the Town, with limited options to accommodate programming with Town-owned fields. Ball diamonds are highly valued but require improvements such as playing surface upgrades and lighting. High-potential parks such as McEwen Park and McKay Park are underutilized and need investment to meet the community's needs. There is also strong support for the development of a second splash pad – particularly in Camlachie – as they provide accessible recreation for families and are seen as cost effective.
- Strategic Planning:** A lack of long-term strategic direction for parks, recreation, and waterfront properties was consistently highlighted. Councillors pointed to a disconnect between community needs and how recreation is managed, with service delivery fragmented across departments. There is an agreement that the Town would benefit with a dedicated staff member to coordinated recreation initiatives, oversee partnerships, and act as a clear point of contact for local recreation organizations. Strengthening these internal structures would better support collaboration with service clubs and how they deliver recreation programs.

## Draft Master Plan Feedback

Prior to finalizing the Master Plan, a draft was made available for the public to review and provide feedback to ensure that the recommendations align with community expectations. The draft was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and following this, the full document and a summary was available on the Town's website. An in-person public open house was also held, and virtual presentations were made to community stakeholders and the general public. The following is a summary of feedback that was received, which was considered as part of finalizing the Master Plan and has been reflected through adjustments, where appropriate. It is noted that the opinions expressed below may not be supported by all participants.

- It was felt that there is a need for more recreation opportunities in Camlachie.
- A suggestion was made to ensure that consideration is given to park amenities such as seating, particularly when planning playgrounds.
- There is support for exploring ways to make better use of the Camlachie Community Centre including programs and rentals, with suggestions for replacing the permanent stage with a portable stage, having staff coordinate activities and events at the community centre to increase use and generate revenue, and keeping the boardroom for meetings instead of converting it into a storage room.
- There is support for a future community park that could accommodate new ball diamonds. It was suggested that the ball diamond at Centennial Park could be relocated to this park, but there is a desire to keep the ball diamond at Canton Park given the recent investments at the park and the historical connection.
- It was expressed that the Town should encourage the use of major waterfront parks including Lamrecton Park, McEwan Park and Highland Glen Park to redirect traffic away from road ends.
- There is a desire for more trail connections and suggestions were made for donations to help contribute to its development (e.g., sponsoring benches, trees, gardens, etc.).

## Appendix B: Official Plan Policies

### Parkland Policies

The following is a summary of parkland dedication policies contained in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Official Plan.

- Section 8.7 Public open space will generally be acquired through the dedication of lands or the payment of funds pursuant to the provisions of the Planning Act, and will be provided in accordance with the following policies that will be applied throughout the entire Town:
- a. As a condition of residential development or redevelopment conveyance of land to the Town for park purposes will be required at a rate of 5 per cent of the land proposed for development or 1 hectare for each 300 dwelling units proposed or, cash in lieu to the value of the land otherwise required to be conveyed or calculated by using a rate of 1 hectare for each 500 dwelling units proposed.
  - b. As a condition of industrial and commercial development or redevelopment, the conveyance of land to the Town for park purposes will be required at a rate of 2 per cent of the land proposed for the development to the Town for park purposes, or cash in lieu thereof.
- Section 8.8 Cash in lieu of dedicated parkland will be based on the appraised value of any lands required to be conveyed for park purposes in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Planning Act. Cash in lieu will be accepted if the parcel proposed is not appropriate for parkland.
- Section 8.9 Combinations of cash-in-lieu and parkland dedication may be accepted in some instances. For example, when partial dedication would achieve the desired parkland standard for the area or where private recreational facilities are being constructed.
- Section 8.10 The Town will not accept as part of the minimum parkland conveyance lands that are required for drainage purposes, lands susceptible to flooding, steep valley slopes, hazard lands, connecting walkways and other lands unsuitable for development. Furthermore, all lands conveyed to the Town will be in a physical condition satisfactory to the Town considering the anticipated park use. The Town may accept some lands that contribute to linkages between existing parks in the system as part of the dedication at their discretion.

Section 8.11 The Town may, from time to time, wish to acquire from developers, lands that are of particular value because of their physical quality or because they provide the opportunity to link other parts of the open space system. Where these lands exceed the 2 per cent dedication required for commercial and industrial development or the 5 per cent dedication required for other purposes, the Town will attempt to acquire such lands through purchase from the developer.

## Trail Policies

The following is a summary of trail policies contained in the Town of Plympton–Wyoming Official Plan.

Section 14.4.2 1) Hard-surfaced walkways/paths may be used instead of sidewalks in certain parts of the Wyoming Urban Settlement Area, Serviced Hamlet Areas and Lakeshore Residential Areas where determined to be more appropriate by the Town. Such walkways/paths may also be required in other areas to link residential areas and to provide non-motorized access to public facilities and services.

2) During most times of the year, the bicycle is a viable alternative to other modes of transportation, is environmentally sound, and supports active, healthy lifestyles. Wherever feasible, the Town will promote and initiate improvements to enhance bicycling as a means of transportation.

3) Where possible and appropriate, the Town will pave road shoulders and install multi use trails. This will promote active transportation such as bicycle and pedestrian networks. The Town will promote the use of appropriate signage, symbols or distinct surface treatments to distinguish the different networks.

Section 14.5 The Town supports the development of an integrated trail system through the following means:

- a. Working with Lambton County to review the potential of connecting natural heritage features where appropriate and more broadly links within settlement areas.
- b. Reviewing development proposals in partnership with Lambton County to identify opportunities for trail development. Land dedication for trail purposes may be a requirement of development approval.