

# Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2025

Adaptable  
Sustainable  
Inclusive  
Connected



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Chatham-Kent's parks and recreation system is on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatomi, and Ojibwe. The Lunaapeew also inhabited these lands at the time of the written treaties. We also acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples who travelled these lands before the written treaties.

Today, Chatham-Kent neighbours the Lunaapeew at Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit, also called Delaware Nation at Moraviantown and the unceded territory of Bkejwanong, Walpole Island First Nation. Chatham-Kent continues to be home to diverse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

Chatham-Kent is covered by Treaty 2: The Detroit Treaty of 1790; Treaty 7: Sombra Township Treaty of 1796; and Treaty 25: Longwoods Treaty of 1822. We also recognize that this region is subject to earlier Wampum agreements like the Two Row Wampum and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum. As beneficiaries of these Treaties, our responsibilities including collective responsibilities to the land and water.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chatham-Kent Parks and Recreation Master Plan (“PRMP 2025”) is a strategic roadmap guiding how the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (“the Municipality”) will plan its parks, recreation facilities, and services over the next 10 years. It is a critical document aligned with overarching municipal direction to ensure resources are prioritized where they will have the greatest contribution towards a long-term vision; to keep pace with growth, emerging trends, and community expectations; and to enable residents access to safe, welcoming, and high-quality recreation opportunities aligned with their needs.

PRMP 2025 was developed in partnership with Stantec Consulting Limited using a comprehensive, evidence-based methodology. Recommendations were derived from several key drivers, including a detailed review of existing municipal policy, plans, and applicable legislation; analysis of Chatham-Kent’s community profile and growth forecasts; and robust public and stakeholder input gathered through surveys and open house sessions. The methodology also incorporated current industry trends and best practices in parks and recreation, comparator benchmarking with similar municipalities, and data and observations regarding current facility use.

The Municipality’s Asset Management Plan (“AMP”) will be directly informed by PRMP 2025 through its identification of priority parks and recreation acquisitions, renewals, and divestments over the next decade. PRMP 2025 is not a comprehensive list of all lifecycle requirements across Chatham-Kent’s estimated \$300 million portfolio of parks and recreation assets; rather, it focuses on the most impactful and strategic needs. Detailed lifecycle costing, risk and condition assessment, and long-range sustainability strategies for all assets will continue to be developed and refined through the AMP and may ultimately influence future iterations of this document.

The renewed vision of Chatham-Kent’s parks and recreation system – one that is adaptable, sustainable, inclusive, and connected – reflects the Municipality’s dedication to evolve with community needs, ensure long-term financial and environmental stewardship, foster equitable access for all residents, and strengthen connections between people and places. These strategic directions aim to reduce barriers to participation, optimize existing assets, build community capacity through partnerships, and enhance service delivery. Together, this forms a comprehensive framework to support a thriving, resilient, and inclusive parks and recreation system for current and future generations.



Within this framework, PRMP 2025 identifies priority initiatives requiring \$226.6 million in capital investment over ten years, with a \$2.6 million base budget impact by 2035. The most significant is the development of a Multi-Use Recreation Centre at a new 32-hectare property. This flagship complex will co-locate a minimum of two ice pads – enabling divestment of aging arenas – and include an indoor fieldhouse, pool, and gymnasium. Additional ice pads will be incorporated where justified through future business cases or to meet AMP objectives. This large site will also include four sport fields with amenities to host tournaments and large community events. Surplus lands will allow for future recreation expansion as priorities emerge. With an estimated cost of \$166 million and a target completion of 2035, this facility will become the cornerstone of Chatham-Kent recreation services.

Complementing this facility are several community-level parkland investments. The Wallaceburg South Side Parkland initiative will bring to life the vision of the Wallaceburg South Side Secondary Plan through a new waterfront community park and greenway system along the Sydenham River, integrating both passive recreation and active transportation opportunities (\$4.5 million, completion 2034). Phased build-out of the new 8-hectare St. Clair College Community Park will also continue along Bear Line Road, featuring a cricket pitch, multi-use field, basketball courts, inclusive playground, trails, and a 10-court pickleball hub (\$7.3 million, completion 2027).

Further enhancing local access to recreation, PRMP 2025 calls for the development of the Wheatley Downtown Park, transforming municipally owned downtown lands into a passive recreation and event space aligned with Wheatley's downtown revitalization strategy (\$2.7 million, completion 2031). In South Kent, a new Ball Diamond Complex on an 8-hectare site will establish a four-diamond facility to replace aging school-board-based fields and consolidate maintenance and programming at a single, purpose-built site (\$17 million, completion 2035).

Recommended investments across Chatham-Kent's 2,500 square kilometers include the development of priority vacant park parcels, establishing programs to convert granular trails and gravel parking lots to asphalt or concrete surfaces, increasing winter maintenance levels at strategic parks, new inclusive playgrounds in Chatham, Tilbury,



and Wallaceburg, and upgrades to fitness park infrastructure. To guide long-term reinvestment, a Park Site Planning Program will ensure each park has an updated concept plan on a set renewal cycle, prioritizing prominent parks such as Tecumseh Park, Laverne Kelly Memorial Park, and Mitchell's Bay Beach.

PRMP 2025 also advances several facility, sport, and aquatic infrastructure priorities to sustain and modernize Chatham-Kent's recreation network. Blenheim Memorial Arena, East Kent Memorial Arena, Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre, and Wheatley Area Arena are recommended for renovations to extend life and improve accessibility or capacity. Outdoor recreation enhancements include new youth soccer fields in Tilbury, an accessible baseball diamond, a renewal program for tennis and multi-use courts, and new basketball and pickleball courts. Chatham-Kent's seasonal outdoor pools are recommended to be reduced from seven to four to reflect demand and condition, while maintaining the year-round Gable Rees Rotary and Sydenham indoor pools and planning for new indoor pool capacity in Chatham.

Under PRMP 2025 public recreation services and programs will prioritize delivery by community-based organizations over direct municipal delivery. This will build local capacity and ensure services are sustainable and responsive to community demand. Dedicated staff resources will be redeployed to strengthen community engagement, identify and address gaps in programs, and maintain a transparent sport facility allocation policy which maximizes use and equitably allots playable time to meet wide-ranging community needs.

All projects and funding sources will be subject to Council approval as identified in future budget processes and the Long-Term Financial Plan to ensure recommendations remain relevant, manageable, and reflective of community priorities against emerging, competing municipal needs. Regular assessment of PRMP 2025, including a formal mid-term review, will also support accountability and measure progress. As a living document, PRMP 2025 will remain a relevant, flexible tool to guide municipal decision-making and ensure that Chatham-Kent's parks and recreation system continues to support and enhance the lives of residents.

## MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a strategic document that studies the existing parks and recreation system to identify and prioritize the delivery, upgrading, divestment, or new development of parks and recreation infrastructure, services, and programs reflecting the needs of residents.

It provides both a long-term vision for the Municipality's parks and recreation system, as well as policies and standards to direct day-to-day decisions. Such a framework allows the Municipality to respond to new opportunities as they arise while ensuring parks, facilities, and programs meet the demands of the community now and into the foreseeable future.

### PRMP 2025 Objectives

Identify priority needs based on data collected from Key Drivers

Engage the community in an inclusive and productive process that supports development of the Master Plan

Establish an overall vision for parks and recreation within the Municipality

Develop strategies to meet identified needs

Align municipal efforts, operations, and budgets through priority-setting.

### Methodology

Stantec Consulting Ltd. was engaged by the Municipality to perform a comprehensive update to the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to allow the Municipality to strategically manage the direction of parks and recreation assets and services for the next ten years (2025-2035).

PRMP 2025 provides a framework to guide future parks and recreation development by aligning with overarching strategy, addressing existing gaps, and exploring trends and

planning for future needs. It takes the unique needs of each of the Municipality's twenty-three (23) amalgamated communities into consideration. This includes seven (7) primary urban centers: Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, Ridgetown, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, and Wheatley; as well as secondary urban centers, hamlets and surrounding rural areas. With consideration of anticipated future growth, shifting trends in recreation, and changing community expectations, it is vital to understand existing and future needs for the parks and recreation system and have a plan in place to meet those needs.

## Key Drivers

Recommendations in PRMP 2025 are based on data collected from several key drivers. Key drivers are critical inputs resulting in the prioritization of community needs. Consideration of multiple drivers ensures recommendations are not directed by a single source but are derived according to multiple points of reference. Key drivers include:

- Existing Policy and Legislation
- Community Profile
- Public Input
- Industry Trends and Best Practices
- Comparator Benchmarking and Current Use

Sections within this document outline some of the important findings from the above key drivers ultimately informing the recommendations.

## Study Phases

PRMP 2025 was developed using a five (5) phase approach. Figure 1 below illustrates the Master Plan phase structure.

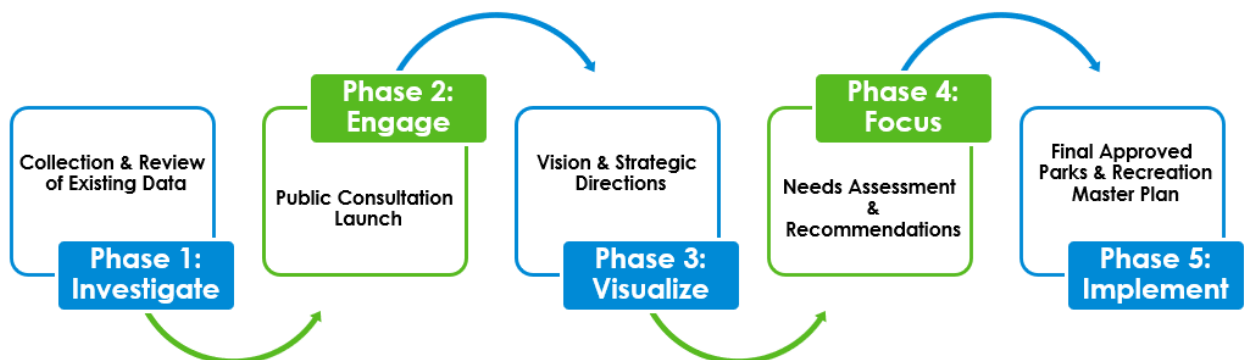


Figure 1: Project Phasing Overview

**Phase 1: Investigate**

Established a foundation for PRMP 2025, including inventory of recreation facilities (refer to Appendix A), policy and background document review, preparation of a Communication and Engagement Plan and launch of the project website.

**Phase 2: Engage**

Obtained crucial insight on the current parks and recreation system from the community and stakeholders. This included targeted online surveys, a Municipal Workshop and Public Engagement #1 Open House. Refer to Section 1.3 for a summary of engagement.

**Phase 3: Visualize**

Created an overall vision for the plan. The process included an emerging trends and best practices review, a review of funding and partnership models, and Public Engagement #2 Virtual Workshop. An overall Vision and Strategic Directions were developed to guide plan development.

**Phase 4: Focus**

Conducted a Needs and Gap analysis of the parks and recreation system with a focus on the input received in previous phases on community needs and a comparator analysis of similar municipalities. This analysis and the information gathered and developed to date guided the develop a series of recommendations for PRMP 2025.

**Phase 5: Implement**

Established an action plan for master plan implementation, delivery, and monitoring based on the recommendations. The final master plan reflects input from the community, stakeholders, staff and Municipal Council.

**Existing Policy and Legislation**

PRMP 2025 was developed within the context of existing provincial and municipal policies and legislation and is in alignment with the provisions set out in those. The applicable provincial and municipal legislation, policies, and plans that helped guide the process of developing PRMP 2025 for Chatham-Kent are listed below. These documents provided a framework assisting with the identification of PRMP 2025 recommendations. Of particular importance to PRMP 2025 is the AMP, which guides



the Municipality's in its long-term management of infrastructure at identified levels of service, while ensuring that service needs are the primary driver for decisions around the asset management lifecycle (acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal, and disposal).

Capital recommendations in the PRMP 2025 will directly inform the AMP. The most recent AMP for parks and recreation identifies an estimated annual funding gap of \$11 million to maintain, operate, and renew existing Chatham-Kent parks and recreation infrastructure. This represents the availability of only 55 cents for every dollar necessary to maintain assets at the desired level of service. This funding gap includes a forecasted need for \$110 million in asset replacements over the next ten years.

Relevant provincial and municipal plans, policies, and legislation are laid out below. An analysis was performed to ensure the PRMP 2025 conforms and/or aligns with these.

### **Provincial Plans and Legislation**

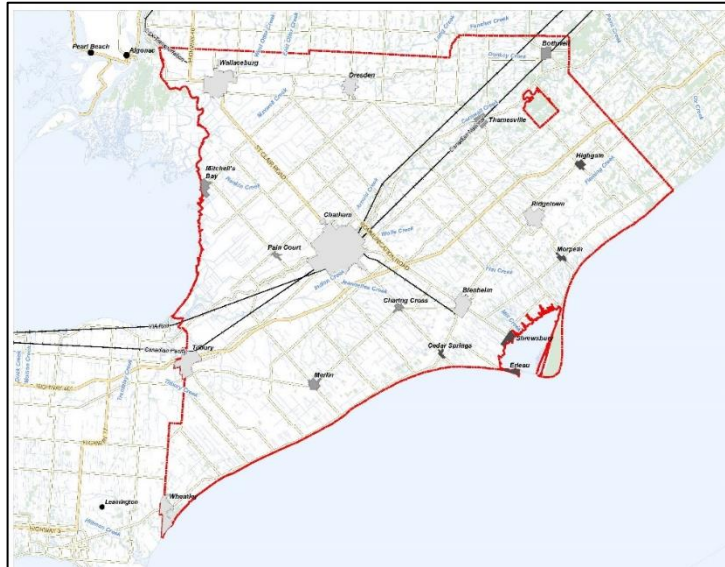
- More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022
- Planning Act
- Municipal Act
- Provincial Policy Statement, 2020

### **Municipality of Chatham-Kent Plans, Policies, and By-Laws**

- Strategic Asset Management Policy (2023) and Detailed Asset Management Plan (2024)
- Strategic Plan, (2022-2026)
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent Official Plan
- Transportation Master Plan Update (2020)
- Community Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Development Charges By-Law
- Tourism Destination Management Plan (2015)
- Trails Master Plan (2009)
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent Accessibility Policy (2021)
- Sustainability Shorelines Secondary Plan

## Community Profile

Chatham-Kent is a single-tier municipality in Southwestern Ontario, comprised of 23 amalgamated communities, with a large geographical footprint at approximately 2,500 sq. km. The Municipality is located between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair with waterfront access to both. Chatham-Kent is approximately 115 km from the City of London and 83 km from the City of Windsor, bordered by the municipalities of Lambton, Middlesex, Elgin, and Essex.



**Figure 2: Chatham-Kent Local Context Map**

The Municipality is also adjacent to Walpole Island First Nation and Delaware Nation. The Highway 401 passes through Chatham-Kent and the nearest United States border crossings are Sarnia (approximately 78 km) and Windsor (approximately 84 km). Nearby airports include the Windsor International Airport, the London International Airport, the Region of Waterloo International Airport, Detroit's Flint-Bishop International Airport, the Sarnia Chris-Hadfield Airport, and the Chatham-Kent Municipal Airport.

Chatham-Kent is in the Southwestern Ontario Tourism Region, with a variety of tourism and recreational opportunities that exist given proximity to the waterfronts of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. Several provincial parks are accessible from Chatham-Kent, including Rondeau Provincial Park, Wheatley Provincial Park, and John E. Pearce Provincial Park.

The Municipality provides a wide range of parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs, across a large, widely distributed Municipality. Centred around the Hwy 401 corridor in southwestern Ontario, with multiple water access points on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, provides the Chatham-Kent with unique sport and recreation opportunities as identified throughout this document.

## Current and Forecasted Population

According to the 2021 Census of Population, Chatham-Kent's population was 103,988, a 2.3 percent increase from the 2016 Census, or a population increase of 2,341 people. Over the same period, the number of occupied private dwellings increased by 1,002, or 2.3 percent.

Based on the 2022 Growth Forecast prepared for Chatham-Kent by Watson & Associates Economists, the Municipality is expected to reach a population of 115,400 by 2036, an 11 percent increase over the population reported in the 2021 Census.

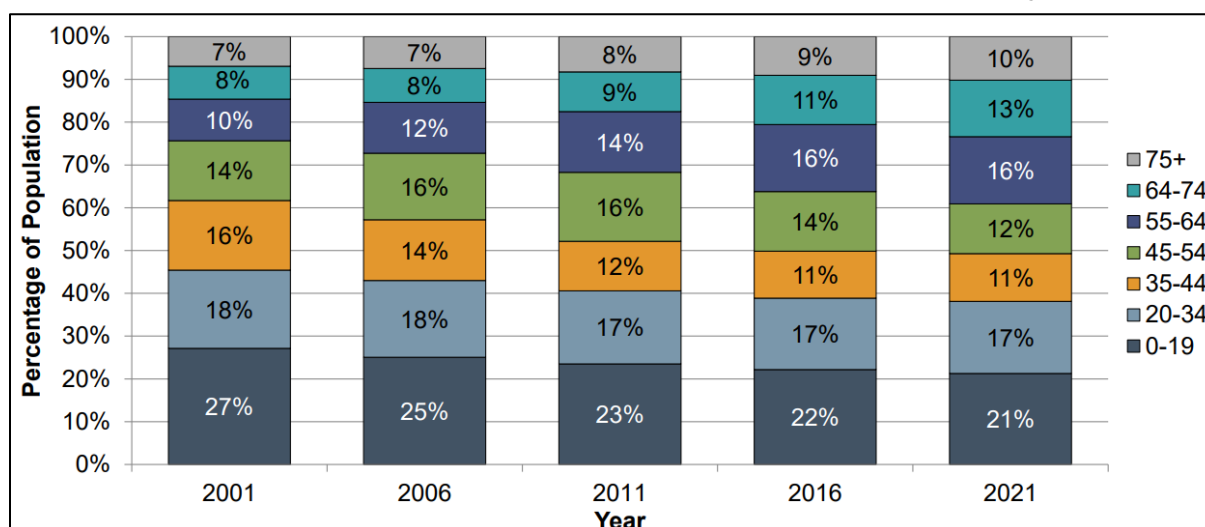
**Table 1: Chatham-Kent Population Projections 2016-2036**

Year	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Population (Actual or Projected)	101,647 (actual)	103,988 (actual)	109,600	112,800	115,400

Since a population count of 108,177 in 2006, Chatham-Kent has experienced a period of declining population (down to 101,647 by 2016) followed by a period of growth. The population is expected to grow modestly to 2036, with the older population expected to grow in proportion to children and youth (ages 0-19) categories.

Over the past two decades, the median age has also continued to increase, from 41.2 in 2006 to 46.4 in 2021. Growth for age cohorts 50+ is expected to drive an increasing share of older residents in the Municipality. This indicates that demand for parks and recreation types will grow, but demand for programs and facilities catering to seniors and older adults will see the stronger demand for new services.

**Table 2: Chatham-Kent Population Share by Cohort, 2006-2021**



Source: Municipal Comprehensive Review, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2023

## Demographics Breakdown

The following section provides a summary of some of the Municipality's relevant statistics based on 2021 and 2016 Census data.

**Table 3: Demographic Trends in Chatham-Kent**

Between 2006 and 2021, Chatham-Kent's population declined by 4,189 people. However, populations began to increase again after a period of decline in 2021.

From 2016 to 2021, Chatham-Kent's population grew by 2.3%, while provincial and national averages were 5.8% and 5.2%, respectively.

In 2020, the median total household income was \$72,000, while the average total household income was \$88,000.

~32% of residents have a high school diploma and 46% have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to the provincial average of 27% and 58%, respectively.

The first language of Chatham-Kent residents is approximately 90% English, 2% French, and 8% other non-official languages.

Average household size of is 2.3 persons across 44,030 private CK households, as of 2021. In houses with children, there are approximately 1.8 children per household.

The primary mode of commuting is car, truck, or van (93%), while the remaining use public transit (0.4%), walk (4.2%), bicycle (0.8%), or other (1.5%).

## Demographic Analysis of Needs

The population structure is a critical metric for determining demand for most municipal services and especially important for estimating demand for recreation. In other words, recreation needs are strongly influenced by population structure. The age and gender of residents are also critical determinants of recreation interests and frequency of use.

While recreation providers strive to engage and serve all segments of the population, youth have traditionally been the largest consumers of recreation programs and users of recreation facilities. Group play and competitive intensity is at its highest during childhood and into young adulthood. Competitive recreation activity tends to fall off as people age, most turning to more informal and casual sports or passive recreational activities as they age.

Overall, expected population growth and anticipated demographic structure indicates that a shift in average population age will result in an increased market demand on existing facilities and services across the Municipality. Research shows that certain demographic groups, like older adults, encounter more barriers accessing resources like Parks and Recreation services. As a result of the projected increase in population and the estimated higher proportion of seniors, it is recommended that the Municipality adjust its delivery of existing services, facilities, and programs to accommodate such growth in older adult groups.

As growth in the older adults' age cohorts is expected to continue, Ontario municipalities, including Chatham-Kent, should adapt facilities and programming to meet the needs of this demographic.





## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with key stakeholders and the public throughout the five phases of PRMP 2025 was important to ensure recommendations were relevant to Chatham-Kent resident priorities.

The engagement strategy included a variety of activities at different stages to gather feedback from the public, stakeholders, and staff. Consolidation of all input received into a final master plan for Council consideration and approval was the final step in the plan's development. Table 4 provides an overview of the engagement activity.

**Table 4: PRMP 2025 Engagement Activities**

<b>Staff &amp; Operations Workshop:</b> During this workshop, Municipal Staff provided feedback on the Municipality's parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, and vision for the Master Plan.
<b>Virtual Public Surveys:</b> Three versions of the virtual public survey were developed for residents to provide feedback: a Virtual Public Survey intended for the public, a Virtual Older Adults Survey, and a Virtual Youth Survey.
<b>Virtual Stakeholder Survey:</b> The Virtual Stakeholder Survey was distributed to stakeholder groups across Chatham-Kent. Stakeholders answered questions related to their organization's satisfaction with the parks and recreation system and input on future wants and needs within the Municipality.
<b>Public Engagement #1 – In-Person Open House:</b> The first Open House was an opportunity for the public to learn about the project and provide insight into perception of parks and recreation in Chatham-Kent. Attendees provided information about the existing parks and recreation system, what the community finds valuable related to parks and recreation, and what they would like to see in the future.
<b>Public Engagement #2 – Virtual Public Engagement:</b> An interactive virtual public engagement session was held provide the public an opportunity to assist in the development of the overall vision and strategic directions for the parks and recreation system.

**Project Website Update – Vision and Strategic Directions:** The draft vision and strategic directions were posted to the Let's Talk Chatham-Kent to provide an opportunity for public comment.

**Public Engagement #3 – In-Person Open House:** The second in-person Open House provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft Master Plan recommendations

The engagement activities provided key insights that informed the drafting of PRMP 2025. These activities helped to focus efforts in the areas that the community values and to better understand what challenges exist and what the Municipality does well.

This project's community engagement principles included:

- **Open and Inclusive:** Ensuring a broad level of communication within the community;
- **Transparent:** Making certain that stakeholders and residents clearly understand the Master Plan process;
- **Frequent:** Occurring early and often to ensure the public is informed of important milestones in the project;
- **Honest:** Reliable open and honest communication;
- **Easy to Understand:** Technical details will be communicated clearly in plain language, and public information materials should be graphically focused; and
- **Consistent:** Communication material and messaging should be consistent with the information presented through other Municipality projects.

The two in-person open house sessions and one virtual session attracted a total of 280 participants. More than 450 surveys were submitted under the categories of stakeholder (user group), older adult, youth, and general public. Common themes were identified and are reported throughout this document. Such themes directly informed the recommendations in PRMP 2025, ensuring they reflect resident priorities.

## TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES



PRMP 2025 was developed with a lens for the external trends and best practices impacting parks and recreation across Canada. The following was considered within the context of the other key inputs used to develop this plan's recommendations.

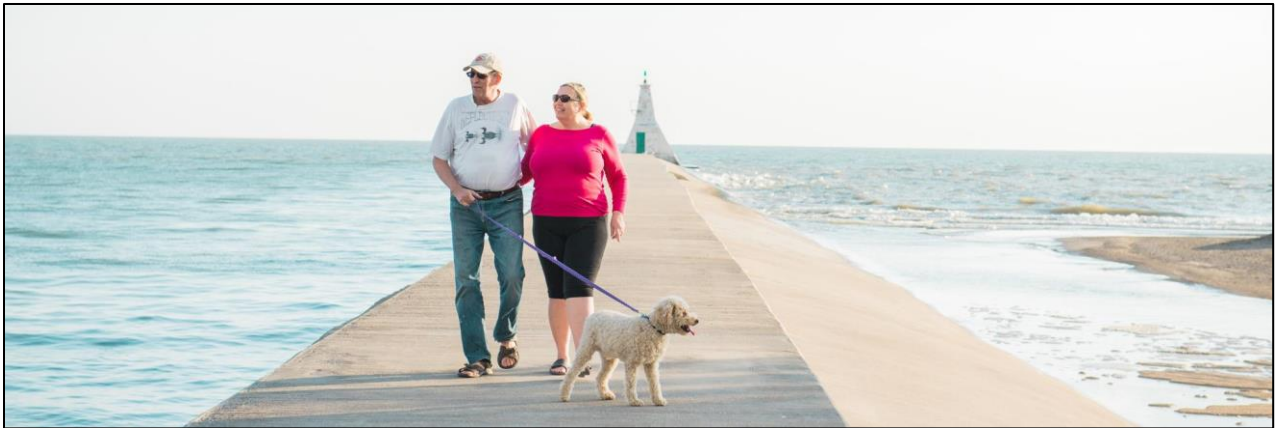
### Demographics

- Retirees will remain more active for much longer and will have the income, time, and health to frequently participate in activities and take advantage of facilities.
- A widening income gap will drive the need to ensure that parks and recreation opportunities remain affordable.
- Parks, facilities, and programs will need to evolve to meet the changing needs and interests of a diversifying population. In addition, efforts will be needed to connect a diversifying population to nature and outdoors.
- The provision of high-quality parks and recreation facilities is significant to a family and youth-retention strategy.
- Increasing need to design parks in an inclusive and accessible way, with features for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

### Behavioural

- Individuals continue to seek park features that support their daily life functions and activities, such as community (walking, biking), socializing, cooking, eating, and getting exercise.
- Opportunity to complement programmed parks and recreation services with more unstructured, spontaneous activities and informal spaces.

- Increase in people seeking connection to nature in a naturalized spaces that are close to home – typically within a 10-minute walking radius (Park People, 2022).
- During hot days and heatwaves, parks that feature abundant shade and water features (i.e. splash pads) experience large increases in usership.
- While volunteerism is declining, there are also trends indicating that people do not feel they have a voice or ability to influence decision-making in their local parks. There is an emerging opportunity to improve communication and collaboration in parks planning to expand meaningful avenues for public engagement (Park People, 2022).



## Environmental & Ecological

- A growing sense of stewardship for the preservation of natural areas.
- Growing desire for increased access to winter recreation activities in parks.
- The impacts of climate change present opportunities for integrating climate resiliency measures into parks planning (Park People, 2022). For example, enhancing tree cover and integrating storm water management facilities can limit the impacts of extreme rain events on the community.
- Growing interest in incorporating natural features in parks such as native plant gardens, naturalized spaces within parks, and adventure play (including nature playgrounds or loose parts play).

## Service Delivery

- With increased park use levels that emerged during the pandemic – a trend that is likely to continue – operating budgets will need to increase to meet the new demands of parks maintenance (Park People, 2022).
- Consideration of more participatory funding options for public spaces, which allows community members and private partners to actively collaborate and contribute to operating and capital costs.
- Taking a proactive and neighbourhood-based approach to consultation on parks and recreation to better align infrastructure and services with localized demand.

## Facilities & Infrastructure

- As assets near the end of their lifespans, identifying opportunities to co-locate sustainable designed facilities to attract multiple users to one area creating servicing and operational efficiencies.
- Delivering strong asset management and capital lifecycle planning.
- Flexible and accessible multi-purpose spaces which are gender neutral and able to accommodate a variety of activities are the next big thing.
- Synthetic turf is increased in popularity, particularly because these surfaces have improved dramatically. Artificial turf can offer a safer, more predictable playing surface than natural turf fields and can provide more hours of play to the communities they serve where a high level of play is required.
- Smaller towns and municipalities are seeing the value in sports and recreation as a cornerstone for development. A local hockey arena, soccer stadium, or recreation center built for competitive teams can help draw crowds, boost development, and promote active lifestyles in local neighbourhoods. A multi-function facility can build the critical mass needed for retail, residential, and other development to take a root. The result is a strategy between recreation and community that is likely to be an asset for years to come.



## VISION AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

A vision statement for the plan was crafted to incorporate input received from the public and stakeholders through the process, and which embodied the overall strategies identified below for moving the Chatham-Kent parks and recreation system forward.

### **The Chatham Kent Parks and Recreation System is Adaptable. Sustainable. Inclusive. Connected.**

#### **Adaptable**

Deliver an adaptable parks and recreation system that meets the evolving needs of a growing community.

#### **Sustainable**

Enhance parks and recreation system sustainability, both financial and environmental.

#### **Inclusive**

Build an inclusive and accessible parks and recreation system to provide quality opportunities for all community members.

#### **Connected**

Foster connections with people and places to strengthen parks and recreation system access and delivery.



# PARKLAND

## Overview

The Municipality maintains 405.3 hectares of parkland. The inventory of parks, including a summary of size, amenities, and key observations, is available in **Appendix A**.

## Classification System

The Municipality's parkland classification system was established in the 2010 Chatham-Kent Parks and Recreation Master Plan and adopted as planning policies of the Municipality through a 2011 amendment to the Official Plan.



The classification system categorizes parks according to intended use and helps guide decisions on planning, design, maintenance, budgeting, and programming.

The classification structure includes parkettes, neighbourhood parks, community parks, and municipal parks.

## Parkettes

Parkettes are small open space sites that provide venues for special commemorative events, passive rest areas and contribute to the community’s urban design. Parkettes will continue to have an important ceremonial function, commemorating and celebrating various community contributions to Chatham-Kent, Ontario and Canada. These small venues also contribute resting or gathering places for passive activities.

Table 5: Parkette Requirements

Basic Facility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Informal seating area</li><li>• Open turf area for play</li><li>• Park name and signage</li><li>• Waste receptacles</li><li>• Formal landscaped areas</li><li>• Native species plantings</li></ul>
Optional Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Playground equipment</li><li>• Stage</li><li>• Electrical service</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike racks</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Driving</li> </ul>
<b>Service Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban area; or community</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 hectares</li> <li>• May be part of larger venue</li> </ul>
<b>Service Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passive and commemorative venue / park space</li> <li>• High visibility</li> </ul>
<b>Identity and Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide urban design function</li> <li>• Highly visible to the community</li> <li>• Recognizes community contributions</li> </ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often historically related to community and/or donation of land to the community</li> <li>• May be operated by a local Legion or other community group</li> </ul>

## Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood Parks are the primary parks venues to satisfy the basic open space and recreation requirements of the Municipality. Neighbourhood parks traditionally serve one or two neighbourhoods with the recommended service radius of 600 metres to 800 metres for developed areas or walking distance of five to ten minutes. These parks accommodate both passive and active activities and serve all age groups within the neighbourhood. The preferred size of a neighbourhood park ranges 0.5 hectares to 2.0 hectares.

Programming within this classification is based on the Municipality's standard level of service but in certain cases may cater to specific neighbourhood and cultural needs and/or unique site characteristics. At a minimum, neighbourhood parks provide for passive activities, such as sitting, walking, socializing and quiet reflection. Play equipment and open for unstructured play are considered basic facilities. The neighbourhood park may also include play courts and / or playing fields for unprogrammed or programmed active recreation activities. The location of the park should be central to a neighbourhood and within a safe convenient walking distance of most residences without the need to cross major streets in the community. It is preferable to link neighbourhood parks through community trails, school yards and other open space features, where possible.

**Table 6: Neighbourhood Parks Requirements**

<b>Basic Facility Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground equipment</li> <li>• Informal seating area</li> <li>• Open turf area for active play</li> <li>• Provide shaded areas (with planting or shade structure) for passive recreation</li> <li>• Park name and signage</li> <li>• Waste receptacles</li> <li>• Bike racks</li> <li>• Native species plantings</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play courts</li> <li>• Play fields</li> <li>• Toboggan hills</li> <li>• Horseshoe pits, etc.</li> <li>• Trail linkages</li> <li>• May include onsite parking</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Trails</li> </ul>
<b>Service Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 600 m to 800 m radius or 5 to 10 minutes of walking, uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers.</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 to 2 hectares</li> </ul>
<b>Service Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A balance of active and passive park spaces</li> <li>• Minimum of two different street access locations</li> <li>• Preferred street frontage of 50 metres, but not less than 40 metres</li> <li>• Parking is on street for informal play fields</li> <li>• Parking onsite where the fields are programmed</li> </ul>
<b>Identity and Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined edges to distinguish from adjacent land use and provide extensive street frontage for safety and visibility</li> <li>• Location to be central to the neighbourhood / local area it serves in a way that the service area is not interrupted by major roads and other physical barriers</li> <li>• Park to be screened from negative adjacent land use impacts</li> </ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services one or two neighbourhoods / local areas</li> <li>• Location and facilities should be coordinated with elementary school where the possibility exists</li> </ul>

## Community Parks

Community Parks are larger park venues serving outdoor recreational needs of residents within a cluster of neighbourhoods. The preferred location is on major roads to provide easy access by walking, cycling, trails, cars and public transit and to reduce impacts on surrounding neighbourhoods. These parks are multi-purposed and offer and

offer both passive and active recreation areas for both programmed and non-programmed use. They offer year-round recreational opportunities and may include major sports fields, community and specialized facilities, outdoor swimming pools and splash pads. Community parks can also provide a neighbourhood park function to the immediate residential area.

The size of community parks varies depending on the nature of the proposed facilities but should be a minimum of 4 hectares to accommodate the array of recreational opportunities intended. The park should be well connected to the surrounding neighbourhoods in the form of walkways and community trails, connecting other destinations within the urban area.

**Table 7: Community Parks Requirements**

<b>Basic Facility Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major playgrounds</li> <li>• At least two competitive level play fields and one play court (basketball, ball hockey, tennis, or multi-purpose), with considerations for lighting</li> <li>• Seating area for viewing as appropriate</li> <li>• Parking and parking lot lighting</li> <li>• Provide shaded areas (with planting or shade structure) for passive recreation</li> <li>• Provision of bike racks</li> <li>• Park name and signage</li> <li>• Waste receptacles</li> <li>• Native species plantings</li> <li>• Washrooms</li> <li>• Fulfill requirements of a Neighbourhood Park</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional play fields or courts</li> <li>• Splash pads</li> <li>• Toboggan hills</li> <li>• Natural areas, horticultural displays</li> <li>• Informal activity areas, e.g. horseshoe pits, etc.</li> <li>• Informal seating areas</li> <li>• Open turf areas for play</li> <li>• Concession, change and storage facility / facilities</li> <li>• Trail connections and support facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Cars</li> <li>• Transit</li> </ul>
<b>Service Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.6 to 2.6 km radius in urban areas</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 4 hectares</li> </ul>



<b>Service Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily active park spaces with the provision of passive spaces to fulfill the requirements of a neighbourhood park where applicable</li> <li>More than two street access points</li> <li>Minimum street frontage of 50 metres</li> </ul>
<b>Identity and Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined edges to distinguish from adjacent land use and provide extensive street frontage for safety and visibility</li> <li>Location to be central to the community it serves and be accessible from a major road</li> <li>Park to be screened from negative adjacent impacts</li> <li>Neighbouring residences to be screened from negative park impacts (e.g. play court noise, lighting, etc.) where applicable</li> </ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serves identified communities</li> <li>Location and facilities should be coordinated with secondary schools where the possibility exists</li> <li>May attract visitors from other areas of the Municipality and outside the Municipality</li> </ul>

## Municipal Parks

Municipal Parks are important outdoor recreation venues and facilities that offer unique special purpose activities. They are normally located on arterial roads but may also be site specific or based on venue features or environmentally significant lands. Tecumseh Park at the joining of the Thames River and McGregor Creek is an example of a municipal park. The Tecumseh Park Master Plan provides an implementation strategy to enhance the municipal park setting. Municipal parks may also include sport tourism venues where several fields provide tournament venues for the municipality and attracts visitors from outside the municipality through sporting events. The size of municipal parks will vary depending on the function and purpose of the park and may include a range of indoor and outdoor facilities. The provisioning standard of 3.0 ha per 1000 population is comparable to other municipalities in Southern Ontario and is consistent with trends towards larger park sites that include both active and naturalized areas.

**Table 8: Municipal Parks Requirements**

<b>Basic Facility Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic facility requirements to be determined on an individual use basis</li> <li>Park name and signage</li> <li>Waste receptacles</li> <li>Bike racks</li> <li>Native species plantings</li> <li>Parking</li> </ul>
<b>Optional Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking lot lighting as required</li> <li>Major sports fields with lighting</li> <li>Washrooms as required</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display information or guide to park facilities where applicable</li> <li>• Visitor support amenities</li> <li>• Trail connections and support facilities</li> <li>• Major recreation facility structure and / or support facilities</li> <li>• Seating / stadium seating</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Driving</li> <li>• Public transit</li> </ul>
<b>Service Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve the entire municipality and beyond</li> </ul>
<b>Preferred Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size varies depending on land features and base, facilities and venue purpose</li> </ul>
<b>Service Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than three street access points</li> <li>• Prominent street frontage greater than 50 metres</li> </ul>
<b>Identity and Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined edges to distinguish from adjacent land use</li> <li>• Location dependent on availability of lands and features these parks require</li> </ul>
<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational buildings, large and small</li> <li>• Trails</li> <li>• Cultural, civic and historical parks, memorials, monuments</li> <li>• Public gardens, arboreta</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> <li>• Conservation areas, wildlife, sanctuaries, natural areas</li> <li>• River corridors</li> <li>• Ecologically significant lands</li> <li>• Attracts visitors from outside the Municipality</li> </ul>

## Parkland Provisioning

The Municipality has a parkland provision target of 3.43 hectares per 1,000 residents. An analysis was conducted to compare the Municipality's parkland provision target to similar municipalities in Ontario. This falls within the range of 1.31 to 4.05 hectares per 1,000 residents compared to similar municipalities in Ontario and aligns with the average provision level of comparator municipalities of 3.39 hectares per 1,000 residents. Refer to Table 9 below which illustrates the comparison. The current inventory of parks within the Municipality results in an actual service level of 3.89 hectares per 1,000 population.

**Table 9: Parkland Provision Target and Actual, Chatham-Kent and Comparator Municipalities**

Municipality	2021 Population	Supply	Total Hectares	Parkland Provision Hectares/1,000 Population	Target Service Level/1,000 population
Chatham-Kent	104,300	164	405.3	3.89	3.43/1,000
Cambridge	138,479	119	280.0	2.02	Not Available
Guelph	143,740	113	438.0	3.05	3.30/1,000
Kingston	132,485	251	626.2	4.73	4.00/1,000
Brantford	104,688	114	424.0	4.05	1.13/1,000
Oshawa	175,383	137	485.0	2.77	3.83/1,000
Greater Sudbury	166,004	233	1217.0	7.33	4.00/1,000
Windsor	229,660	204	1035.0	4.51	4.05/1,000
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>613.8</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>3.39/1,000</b>

The Municipality's parkland provision of (3.89/1,000) is slightly above the average of comparator municipalities. The target service level (3.43/1,000) is also above several of the same comparators.

PRMP 2025 does not recommend changes to the existing parkland provision target (3.43/1,000). Due to the large geography of Chatham-Kent, a slightly higher provision target than denser jurisdictions is necessary to maintain adequate walkability to parkland and support equitable access to larger park amenities (i.e. sport fields, trails), particularly in smaller communities.

Future supply will need to account for forecasted growth to maintain service level. The population of Chatham-Kent is expected to increase by 11 per cent from 2021 to 2036. Table 10 illustrates parkland provision based on current population projections and assuming no increase in the supply of parkland. Based on population projections over the next decade the Municipality should only acquire parkland if necessary to meet strategic objectives outside the parkland provision target.

**Table 10: Current and Forecasted Parkland Provision**

Target Service Level/1,000 population	2021 Population	Current Provision Hectares/1,000 Population	2036 Projection Population	Forecasted Provision Hectares/1,000 Population (assuming no increase to parkland supply)
3.43/1,000	104,300	3.89/1,000	115,400	3.51/1,000

## Walkability Analysis

An analysis has been completed to assess walkability to parks within Chatham-Kent Primary Urban Centres (“PUCs”). This exercise shows portions of each community within a 5-minute walk / 600 m buffer of parkland. A 5-minute walk or 600 m buffer was applied as it is accepted industry standard for walkability to recreation amenities and aligns with the 600-800 m radius target for Neighbourhood Park’s in Chatham-Kent’s classification structure. Maps are provided in in **Appendix B**.

This analysis illustrated the relatively high level of walkability throughout each PUC. Most areas outside the walkability zone are generally less developed or less residential, while the residential neighbourhoods have high levels of walkability, meaning that most residents in PUCs could walk to a park if desired.

Walking distance gaps can be reduced through prioritization of new parkettes or neighbourhood parks where further residential development occurs in southeast Ridgetown, south Tilbury, south Wheatley, and south Wallaceburg.

## Classification

The current park classification system does not identify parks for four-season use. Parks in all classifications currently receive limited maintenance during the winter. Chatham-Kent's milder climate creates demand for higher levels of park service during the winter such as pathway clearing, access to washrooms, and assets supporting outdoor winter recreation. Community groups already host winter light festivals in several Chatham-Kent parks including Wallaceburg’s Civic Square Park and Tilbury’s Memorial Park. A sub-classification or designation applied to specific parks in any classification would identify limited but strategic locations where such higher levels of winter service can be planned.

The Chatham Kent Official Plan designates Open Space / Conservation land to be open green space that has a predominant use for conservation, public outdoor recreation and stormwater management purposes. However these lands are designated separately from the Parks Classification system. Including an open space or conservation land designation into a parks classification system creates long-term planning advantages and better defines the level of service provided by the Municipality. A significant benefit includes the creation of interconnected green/recreational corridors supporting leisure recreation or active transportation. A new classification recognizes the strategic value of these lands for public recreation, ensures ongoing management and protection, and

allows for intentional resource planning alongside traditional built parks to serve both residents and the environment.

## Assessment

Specific feedback and needs assessment on select park amenities are presented in subsequent sections. However the following themes capture broad observations and common issues identified across Chatham-Kent parks:

- Parkland is generally well used and valued features of neighbourhoods
- Demand for improved walkability to and within parks for safety and leisure (i.e. sidewalk connectedness, pathways)
- Need for improved upkeep of some park assets including shelters, courts, paths, and parking lots
- Varying levels of park maintenance depending on community
- Greater maintenance required during winter months, particularly in parks hosting winter events (i.e. holiday lights)
- Use of some municipal cemeteries as passive parkland
- Quicker response for damaged or vandalized amenities
- Parkland boundaries not always well delineated or marked with signage
- Insufficient washroom access or washroom standards
- Improved lighting required in some parks
- Limited parking at many locations
- Lack of shade/tree cover or poor drainage

## Playgrounds

### Supply and Use

The Municipality maintains 80 playgrounds across Chatham-Kent including Blenheim (8), Bothwell (2), Chatham (34), Clearville (1), Dealtown (1), Dresden (3), Erieau (2), Grande Pointe (1), Mitchell's Bay (2), Morpeth (1), Pain Court (1), Ridgetown (2), Thamesville (1), Tilbury (5), Wallaceburg (14) and Wheatley (2). Most playgrounds are designed for children between the ages of five and twelve.

There is no formal tracking of playground use. Residents and staff informally report strong use of playgrounds across Chatham-Kent with demand for specific amenities catering to evolving local neighbourhood demographics.

## Assessment

New playgrounds follow minimum accessible design standards however there are no playgrounds identified as universally inclusive or barrier-free. Kingston Park features the only playground with a rubberized safety base. New playgrounds are installed on a safety base of engineered wood fibre instead of traditional sand or gravel to improve safety and accessibility. There are no guidelines or service standards for the provision of inclusive playgrounds.

Themes identified through public feedback include:

- Playgrounds are valued as free amenities for families
- Lack of accessible features or accessible barriers in reaching the playground
- Lack of variety in playground design
- Demand for more seating options for parents
- Demand for more shaded spaces surrounding playgrounds
- Generally well maintained but may be outdated and in need of modern renewal

Chatham-Kent currently replaces 2-3 playgrounds per year. As assets age, there is a forecasted need to replace 6-7 playgrounds per year through 2035 to avoid closures. Priority funding within the Asset Management Plan should continue to be allocated towards playground renewals due to the value they provide to their neighbourhoods.



The provision of playgrounds in Chatham-Kent is slightly higher than the average of comparator Municipalities. PRMP 2025 has not identified a need for additional playgrounds based on existing demand. However, the Municipality should plan for an additional nine (9) playgrounds to maintain the existing service provision level through 2035, accounting for growth. New playgrounds should be prioritized at new undeveloped parkland and where new parkland opportunities emerge in identified locations to reduce walking distance. Specific recommendations are included in PRMP 2025.



Five (5) of seven (7) comparator Municipalities have at least one fully accessible playground. Features of a fully accessible playground include flush curbs and rubber surfacing barrier-free access, ramp structures and or transitions stations, proximity to accessible parking and a variety of accessible play features. Additionally, park and playground design should have consideration for multi-generational spaces for all age groups to enjoy activities in the same space. Activities for teens, adults and older adults to enjoy together with children is becoming a growing need, encouraging multi-generational interaction.

**Table 11: Service Level Comparison, Playgrounds**

Municipality	2021 Population	Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	80	1:1,304
Cambridge	138,479	61	1:2,270
Guelph	143,740	93	1:1,546
Kingston	132,485	104	1:1,274
Brantford	104,688	65.5	1:1,598
Oshawa	175,383	110	1:1,594
Greater Sudbury	166,004	179	1:927
Windsor	229,660	125	1:1,837
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>1:1,544</b>

## Skateboard Parks

### Supply and Use

The Municipality maintains ten (10) skateboard parks. There is one park each in Blenheim, Bothwell, Chatham, Dresden, Erieau, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, and Wheatley. Parks vary in size and available amenities. Most skateboard parks in Chatham-Kent were the result of local community fundraising initiatives aimed to address demand in their specific area.

Usage information is not tracked by the Municipality as skateparks are open outdoor spaces and not utilized for rental purposes.

### Assessment

The Municipality provides skateboard parks at a service level of 1:10,430 population ratio. Comparator municipalities provide skateboard parks at an average service level of 1:49,907.

**Table 12: Service Level Comparison, Skateboard Parks**

Municipality	2021 Population	Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	10	1:10,430
Cambridge	138,479	3	1:46,160
Guelph	143,740	2	1:71,870
Kingston	132,485	3	1:44,162
Brantford	104,688	3	1:34,896
Oshawa	175,383	3	1:58,461
Greater Sudbury	166,004	11	1:15,091
Windsor	229,660	2	1:114,830
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1:49,907</b>

Chatham-Kent currently has a high service level for skateboard parks relative to comparators, likely due to the large geography of the Municipality. An analysis of other key drivers in PRMP 2025 has not identified the need for further skateboard parks.

Resident feedback suggests the existing skateboard parks would benefit from improvements or greater maintenance service levels. Redevelopment of the skateboard park at Laverne Kelly Memorial Park has been specifically identified by the community.

## Dog Parks

### Supply and Use

Chatham-Kent features three (3) dog off-leash recreation areas, or dog parks, located in Chatham, Dresden, and Wallaceburg. Dog parks require specific designation from Municipal Council to ensure compliance with Parks By-Law. Volunteers are required to fundraise for capital infrastructure and participate in the ongoing management of dog parks as outlined in the Municipality's policy on dog park development.

Dog park use is not being tracked by the Municipality however field observations and resident feedback indicate strong ongoing use by dog owners.

### Assessment

The Municipality provides dog parks at a service level of 1:34,767. This is higher than the average of comparator municipalities.

**Table 13: Service Level Comparison, Dog Parks**

Municipality	2021 Population	Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	3	1:34,767
Cambridge	138,479	4	1:34,620
Guelph	143,740	10	1:14,374
Kingston	132,485	5	1:26,497
Brantford	104,688	2	1:52,344
Oshawa	175,383	2	1:87,692
Greater Sudbury	166,004	3	1:55,335
Windsor	229,660	6	1:38,277
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1:42,988</b>

Chatham-Kent has provisionally approved an additional dog park in Blenheim subject to fundraising. Resident demand for further dog parks has been reported in Tilbury and Ridgetown. PRMP 2025 has not identified further dog park development as a priority need for Chatham-Kent. However, due to the existing policy on dog park development, municipal resources to support volunteered-initiated dog park development in Primary Urban Centres could continue to be allocated where such volunteer groups have been formed and where sufficient demand from residents has been demonstrated.

## Fit Parks / Outdoor Exercise Equipment

### Supply and Use

There are ten (10) Chatham-Kent locations featuring outdoor exercise equipment – or Fit Parks. Parks are in Blenheim (1), Chatham (3), Dresden (1), Pain Court (1), Ridgetown (1), Tilbury (1), Wallaceburg (1), and Wheatley (1).

Like playground equipment, Fit Park use is not being tracked by the Municipality. However, unlike playground equipment – which is designed for children – fitness equipment provides residents of all ages an opportunity to engage in exercise and recreation at their featured locations.

### Assessment

Fitness equipment across Chatham-Kent is relatively new and in good condition. The Municipality has a high service level for outdoor exercise equipment amenities in comparison to other municipalities as shown in the table below.

**Table 14: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Exercise Equipment (Fit Parks)**

Municipality	2021 Population	Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	10	1:10,430
Cambridge	138,479	5	1:27,696
Guelph	143,740	3	1:47,913
Kingston	132,485	1	1:132,485
Brantford	104,688	4	1:26,172
Oshawa	175,383	0	N/A
Greater Sudbury	166,004	0	N/A
Windsor	229,660	2	1:114,830
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1:59,921</b>

Fitness equipment should be installed strategically in parks with demonstrated local demand. Such demand can be determined through park site planning exercises, ongoing consultation activities, or in coordination with local health partners using data to determine where these amenities would produce the greatest health outcomes. Priority should be given to locations with walking or running trails where equipment can complement existing fitness activities.

Municipal fitness equipment installed on Tecumseh Public School property should be considered for relocation both as an enhancement feature to other municipal parks and to align with PRMP 2025 direction to prioritize the development of assets only on property under Chatham-Kent ownership. The Municipality should aim to provide at least one fit park opportunity in all Primary and Secondary Urban Centres to promote equitable geographic access.

## ARENAS AND COMMUNITY SPACES

### Ice Pads

#### Supply and Use

The Municipality has a supply of ten (10) ice pads across ten (10) arenas in the communities of Chatham (3), Wallaceburg (1), Dresden (1), Bothwell (1), Ridgetown (1), Blenheim (1), Wheatley (1), and Tilbury (1).

Each arena serves as a key recreational venue for local user groups, including minor hockey associations, figure skating clubs, adult leagues, and competitive teams. The following outlines each facility and its primary users:



#### **Chatham Memorial Arena**

Primary Users: Chatham Maroons (Jr B), Kent Minor Hockey, CK Crush, CK Cyclones

#### **Thames Campus Arena (Chatham)**

Primary Users: Chatham Figure Skating, Kent Minor Hockey

#### **William K. Erickson Arena (Chatham)**

Primary Users: CK Crush, Chatham Ringette, Kent Minor Hockey, Chatham Ball Hockey

#### **Wallaceburg Memorial Arena**

Primary Users: Wallaceburg Minor Hockey, Wallaceburg Minor Lacrosse, Wallaceburg Figure Skating Club, Wallaceburg Red Devils (Lacrosse)

#### **Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre (Dresden)**

Primary Users: Dresden Kings (Jr C), Dresden Minor Hockey, Dresden Figure Skating

**Bothwell Area Sports and Community Centre**

Primary Users: Dresden Minor Hockey, Southwest Bullets, Bothwell Figure Skating

**East Kent Memorial Arena (Ridgetown)**

Primary Users: South Kent Minor Hockey, Ridgetown Figure Skating, Ridgetown Royals (Sr.)

**Blenheim Memorial Arena**

Primary Users: Blenheim Blades (Jr C), South Kent Minor Hockey, CK Cyclones, Blenheim Figure Skating

**Wheatley Area Arena**

Primary Users: Wheatley Sharks (Jr C), Skate Wheatley, Southpoint Minor Hockey

**Tilbury Memorial Community Centre**

Primary Users: Tilbury Figure Skating, Kent Minor Hockey, Tilbury Bluebirds (Sr.)

Since the previous Master Plan was published, Chatham-Kent experienced several years of declining ice usage, with some arenas booking only 40% of prime hours. In response, the Municipality launched a trial program in 2019 offering reduced hourly rates for ice pad rentals, aiming to improve financial viability by increasing bookings. This program ran until the end of the 2023–2024 season.

Despite the trial's conclusion, demand for prime ice time has rebounded significantly. In 2024–2025, bookings increased across the system, with minor associations reporting growth in both membership and ice demand by representative teams. By the 2025–2026 season, more than 90% of all prime hours at Chatham-Kent arenas are expected to be booked.

**Assessment**

Arenas are important community hubs that foster social connection, physical activity, and local pride. They serve as gathering places for youth sports, public skating, cultural events, and recreational programming, often acting as the heart of smaller communities. However, Chatham-Kent arenas are aging and require significant investment to remain safe, accessible, and functional for modern programming.

Themes identified through public feedback include:

- No year-round (i.e. summer) ice opportunities



- Lack of accessibility
- Lack of space in some lobbies and dressing rooms, particularly for larger events or larger programs
- Outdated or poor quality of some shower and washroom facilities
- Strong sense of ownership of local arenas, particularly in smaller communities
- Outdated bleacher seating or lack of heat for spectators
- Uneven or soft ice in some facilities
- Poor dehumidification
- Limited or inconvenient ice time availability
- Lack of time dedicated to affordable public programming

The direction that Council takes regarding municipal arenas will be among the most impactful decisions affecting the Parks and Recreation system—both in terms of visibility and financial sustainability. As arenas approach the end of their service life, the Municipality faces difficult decisions about renovation, replacement, or divestment, all while balancing community needs and budget constraints.

**Table 15: Service Level Comparison, Ice Pads**

Municipality	2021 Population	Ice Pads	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	10	1:10,430
Cambridge	138,479	7	1:19,783
Guelph	143,740	5	1:28,748
Kingston	132,485	8	1:16,561
Brantford	104,688	6	1:17,448
Oshawa	175,383	7	1:25,055
Greater Sudbury	166,004	15	1:11,067
Windsor	229,660	9	1:25,518
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>1:19,326</b>

Based on the comparator analysis, Chatham-Kent provides ice rinks at a high service level. To provide a comparatively moderate service level of 1 per 17,000, only seven (7) ice pads would be required within the Municipality by 2035. However, local demand for ice continues to grow post-pandemic and the availability of prime ice hours is limited across all arenas, justifying the current provision level.

Several facilities require major capital investments. Chatham Memorial Arena, William K Erickson Arena, Bothwell Arena, Wheatley Area Arena, and East Kent Memorial Arena require significant renovations and equipment replacement to maintain service levels.

Renovations to improve accessibility is both challenging and financially burdensome due to the age and layout of the arenas.

In Dresden, the dressing room capacity does not meet modern programming needs. In Blenheim, the refrigeration system must be replaced before 2030 due to environmental regulation.

These investments are necessary to maintain operations but may not address the community's growing demand for modernization, increased capacity, and improved accessibility.

PRMP 2025 recommends the current service provision level of ice pads be maintained through the closing of identified aging facilities and co-locating ice pad inventory in a single location. This approach supports financial sustainability and operational efficiency through shared mechanical systems, staffing, and energy use.

Specifically, PRMP 2025 recommends divesting Chatham Memorial Arena and Erickson Arena and replacing them with two ice pads at a new Multi-Use Recreation Centre. While no other specific arena closures are currently proposed, future decisions should be guided by continual assessment of asset conditions and a business case that evaluates the feasibility of further co-location of ice pads at this identified site, while maintaining reasonable geographic distribution of ice pads to support equitable access to facilities across Chatham-Kent.



## Meeting / Multi-Purpose Rooms

### Supply and Use

Twelve (12) meeting/multi-purpose rooms and twelve (12) event halls are captured within the scope of PRMP 2025. Spaces are available for booking through the municipal website.

**Table 16: Inventory, Meeting / Multi-Purpose Rooms and Event Halls**

Location	Description
Chatham Memorial Arena	Meeting Room with Kitchen (1)
Thames Campus Arena	Meeting Room (1); Multi-Purpose Room with Kitchen (1)
Wallaceburg Memorial Arena	Multi-Purpose Room (1)
Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre	Meeting Room (1); Event Hall with Kitchen (1)
Brunner Centre	Meeting Room (1); Multi-Purpose Room with Kitchen (1)
Bothwell Scout Hut	Meeting Room (1)
Erieau Fire Hall	Meeting Room (1)
Ridgetown Arena	Meeting Room (1); Multi-Purpose Room with Kitchen (1)
Ridgetown Rotary Youth Centre	Meeting Room (1); Multi-Purpose Room (1)
Morpeth Community Hall*	Event Hall with Kitchen (1)
Highgate Community Hall	Event Hall with Kitchen (1)
Blenheim Memorial Arena	Meeting Room (1); Multi-Purpose Room (1)
Gable Rees Rotary Pool	Meeting Room (2)
Merlin Community Hall*	Event Hall (1)
Wheatley Arena	Multi-Purpose Room with Kitchen (1)
Tilbury Arena	Event Hall with Kitchen (1); Meeting Room (1)

\*Operations and bookings managed by third party

These spaces vary in setup and equipment, including tables, chairs, and audio-visual tools. The amount and type of use of the spaces vary. The Brunner Centre, Bothwell Scout Hut, Highgate Hall, and Rotary Youth Centre are standalone facilities rentable through the Municipality. The Brunner Centre attracts approximately 500 hours in rentals per year. The Bothwell Scout Hut receives very limited use by the public outside of the regular activities of the Bothwell Optimist Club. Highgate Hall attracts approximately 100 hours of rentals per year. The Rotary Youth Centre receives weekly use by the Ridgetown Scouts plus approximately 300 annual hours in other rentals.

Morpeth Community Hall and Merlin Community Hall are municipally owned buildings operated under agreement with local groups.

Rooms located within arenas generally have strong use, both through formal municipal bookings and access agreements with arena user groups. Some spaces also serve as accessible viewing areas for ice pads and may be unavailable during scheduled ice activities.

Event Halls in Tilbury (Ryder Hall) and Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre are popular for community events, receptions, expositions, and recreation programming. They receive more than 600 and 900 hours of annual rentals respectively.

## Assessment

The provision level for meeting / multi-purpose rooms and event halls in Chatham-Kent is in line with comparator municipalities. In general, these spaces are in good condition. Some meeting spaces within arenas, including Thames Campus Arena, Tilbury Memorial Community Centre, and Blenheim Memorial Arena, require rehabilitation to meet the needs of its users and attract new rentals.

**Table 17: Service Level Comparison, Meeting / Multi-Purposed Rooms and Event Halls**

Municipality	2021 Population	Meeting / Multi-Purposed Rooms and Event Halls	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	24	1:4,346
Cambridge	138,479	29	1:4,775
Guelph	143,740	21	1:6,845
Kingston	132,485	26	1:5,096
Brantford	104,688	33	1:3,172
Oshawa	175,383	31	1:5,658
Greater Sudbury	166,004	27	1:6,148
Windsor	229,660	49	1:4,687
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1:5,091</b>

Consideration for meeting and event spaces should be given in the future development of other indoor recreation facilities, including as identified in PRMP 2025, given their reported importance to the community.

## Indoor Fitness/Court Space

### Supply

The Municipality does not operate an indoor space for fitness activities or recreational sports (i.e. basketball, volleyball).

### Assessment

Greater opportunities for indoor recreation was a significant theme identified through PRMP 2025 feedback. Residents and organized groups reported significant demand for indoor recreation space for organized basketball, volleyball, badminton, or opportunities for general fitness.

Comparator municipalities provide these amenities at a service level of 1:40,953.

**Table 18: Service Level Comparison, Indoor Fitness Facilities**

Indoor Fitness Facilities	2021 Population	Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	0	N/A
Cambridge	138,479	3	1:46,160
Guelph	143,740	1	1:143,740
Kingston	132,485	3	1:44,162
Brantford	104,688	1	1:104,688
Oshawa	175,383	3	1:58,461
Greater Sudbury	166,004	5	1:33,201
Windsor	229,660	3	1:76,553
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1:40,953</b>

PRMP 2025 recommends the Municipality acquire a space for these activities during the planning horizon. Consideration for community need / desire for indoor fitness facilities should be given in conjunction with other indoor facilities improvements, expansions, or new facilities. Indoor fitness facilities are popular among older adults and would help the Municipality meet the needs of the population's changing demographics.

## SPORT FIELDS AND SPORT COURTS

### Overview

The table below illustrates the supply of sport fields and sport courts provided by the Municipality and the service level per 1,000 residents for each amenity. Municipal amenities are those that are owned and maintained by the Municipality. The summary does not account for the variety of size, maintenance, or operational availability. Detailed analysis is provided in the subsequent sections.

**Table 19: Service Level of Sport Fields and Sport Courts**

Sport Field / Sport Court	Supply	Municipal Population Provision
Baseball Diamonds	51	1:2,045
Cricket Pitch	1	1:104,300
Soccer/ Multi-Use Fields	44	1:2,370
Basketball Courts	11	1:9,482
Ball Hockey/ Lacrosse Courts	4	1:26,075
Tennis Courts	19	1:5,489
Pickleball Courts (dedicated only)	10	1:10,430

Comparator assessment is based on a standard population to amenity methodology. This methodology compares the service level to that of similar municipalities in Ontario.

For certain amenities, such as baseball diamonds, soccer fields, and basketball courts, the Chatham-Kent supply is expressed in 1) actual supply as well as 2) equivalent supply. Actual supply represents the actual number of the amenity with each instance of the amenity worth 1.0. Equivalent supply represents the equivalent number of the amenity considering size and lighting. Equivalent supply is an important parks and recreation planning metric as the size and lighting of the amenity impacts the use. For example, an unlit baseball diamond would not be used after sunset, while a lit baseball diamond can be used later into the evening for additional games. More information for how the equivalent supply is calculated can be found in each amenity-specific section.





## Ball Diamonds

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has an actual supply of fifty-one (51) diamonds, nineteen (19) of which are lit. Approximately half of the diamonds are in Chatham and Wallaceburg.

**Table 20: Chatham-Kent Baseball Diamond Supply**

Facility Type	Actual Supply	Equivalent Supply*
Municipal Owned Diamonds	51	56.5

\*Baseball diamonds are counted in the following way when calculating equivalent supply: Unmaintained OR passive recreation = 0.5; Competitive = 1; Lit Competitive = 1.5

The Municipality's ball diamonds are generally open from May to the end of September. Diamonds are highly utilized with limited availability during prime playing hours. There is expressed demand for extended seasons beginning in April for rep teams and into October for high schools. High demand is reported for both baseball and softball diamonds.

The Chatham Minor Baseball Association organizes representative and house league teams for youth and adults, utilizing six diamonds in Chatham, Wallaceburg, and Pain Court. The Chatham Minor Girls Softball Association utilizes diamonds both inside and outside Chatham due to high demand. There are smaller minor baseball associations in Wallaceburg, Dresden, and Blenheim while organized adult leagues are popular in Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, Wheatley, and Wallaceburg. The Chatham-Kent Barnstormers compete in the Intercounty Baseball League and play home games at Fergie Jenkins Field at Rotary Park. There are diamonds located on municipal property in Merlin, North Buxton, and Grande Pointe. However, they are maintained and operated by third parties.

The Municipality maintains four baseball diamonds with pitcher mounds, located in Chatham, Wallaceburg, Blenheim, and Dresden. Adding an outfield fence to the Memorial Park diamond in Tilbury would increase the number of game-ready hardball diamonds to five.

Blenheim hosts nine ball diamonds, which are heavily used by both local and Chatham-based teams. However, six of these diamonds are located on school board property. Should agreements with school boards change, the Municipality may need to consider relocating or developing additional diamonds on municipally owned land in Blenheim and Chatham.

The following organizations made bookings for the baseball diamonds in 2024 in addition to corporate and family bookings:

Awareness Athletics Inc.	Dresden Slo-Pitch
Blenheim Community Slo-Pitch	Ladies Slo-Pitch League
Blenheim Minor Baseball	Leamington Men's Church League
Blenheim Youth Centre	Maple City Slo-Pitch
Bothwell Optimist Club	Ridgetown/Highgate Men's Lob-Ball League
Chatham Co-Ed Slo-Pitch League	Southpoint Men's Softball League
Chatham Girls Minor Softball Association	Thamesville Ladies Slow Pitch
Chatham Minor Baseball	Ursuline College Collegiate Baseball
Chatham Sr. Diamonds Baseball Club	Wallaceburg Ladies Fastball
Chatham Sr. Diamonds Baseball Club	Wallaceburg Men's Slo-Pitch
Chatham-Kent Cubs	Wallaceburg Minor Baseball
Chatham-Kent IBL Baseball Club	Wheatley Ladies Slo-Pitch
Community Living	Youth Church League of Leamington
Dover Two-Pitch League	
Dresden Minor Baseball	

## Assessment

Chatham-Kent provides ball diamonds at a service level of 1 per 1,846 residents, significantly higher than the average of 1 per 3,014 residents observed in comparator municipalities (see Table 21: Service Level Comparison – Baseball Diamonds). Municipalities with populations over 100,000 typically aim for a provision ratio of approximately 1 per 3,000.

**Table 21: Service Level Comparison, Baseball Diamonds**

Municipality	2021 Population	Equivalent Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	56.5	1:1,846
Cambridge	138,479	61.75	1:2,243
Guelph	143,740	44	1:3,267
Kingston	132,485	43	1:3,081
Brantford	104,688	35	1:2,991
Oshawa	175,383	44.25	1:3,963
Greater Sudbury	166,004	61	1:2,721
Windsor	229,660	57.75	1:3,977
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>1:3,014</b>

This elevated service level is largely attributed to the amalgamation of multiple communities under the Chatham-Kent municipal structure. Despite this inventory, ball diamond location, size, and supporting amenities do not always accommodate the local groups seeking playing time. This leaves the same number of groups competing for time at fewer diamonds – primarily in Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, and Wallaceburg.

Organized minor and adult groups regularly report challenges related to the lack of diamond availability to accommodate their programs, particularly during peak evening and weekend times. Municipal booking practices for minor groups – who are not charged based on actual usage – make it difficult to verify actual usage as some diamonds appear booked but may not be used at all points in the season. Additionally, field maintenance responsibilities differ among groups and diamonds. Limited access to maintenance equipment or storage at lesser used diamonds make it difficult for groups to move programming to those locations, despite availability. This contributes to the perception of insufficient diamond supply across Chatham-Kent in totality.

Chatham-Kent should continue to invest in the development and renewal of ball diamonds in locations where there is clear and demonstrated demand from local user groups. Strategic investment should focus on both the quantity of fields and enhancing supporting amenities at current fields catering to the programming needs of its user groups – mounds, fences, dugouts, storage space, lights, etc. While enhancements and renewals should decrease the need for new developments, such developments are identified in the recommendations section to keep pace with forecasted demand. New

developments should prioritize the ability to co-locate fields in high demand locations, improve accessibility, and reduce reliance on schoolboard property.

## Soccer & Multi-Use Fields

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has an equivalent supply of twenty-five (25) soccer fields. Size of soccer fields vary, mostly attributable to the space that was available at the time of their development, and configurations can allow for multiple age-appropriate playing spaces within the same field. Field equivalents are in Chatham (13.5), Wallaceburg (4), Thamesville (1), Ridgetown (1), Blenheim (4), and Wheatley (1.5).

**Table 22: Soccer Field Supply**

Facility Type	Actual Supply	Equivalent Supply*
Municipality Owned – Soccer Fields	37	25

\*Soccer fields are counted in the following way when calculating equivalent supply: 60m end line to end line (mini fields) = 0.5; Above 60 m = 1.0; Lit full = 1.5

Fields are generally open from May to the end of September. Fields in Chatham, Blenheim, Wheatley, and Wallaceburg are highly utilized with limited availability during prime hours. In some of the Municipality's other communities, there is more availability, but the field time is reported to be less desirable because of the distance of travel.

### Assessment

Utilizing equivalent supply, the Municipality provides fields at a service level of 1 per 4,172 residents. Comparators listed in Table 23: Service Level Comparison, Soccer Fields provide fields at an average service level of 1 per 3,103 residents. However differences exist in the calculation of supply for comparator municipalities as not all comparator municipalities provided information on how they were counted or were explicit in their exclusion of schoolboard operated fields.

**Table 23: Service Level Comparison, Soccer Fields**

Municipality	2021 Population	Soccer/Multi-Use Fields	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	25	1:4,172
Cambridge	138,479	55.5	1:2,495
Guelph	143,740	56.5	1:2,544
Kingston	132,485	45	1:2,944

Brantford	104,688	31	1:3,377
Oshawa	175,383	42	1:3,508
Greater Sudbury	166,004	38	1:1,865
Windsor	229,660	58.5	1:3,926
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>1:3,103</b>

Despite differences in calculation methods among comparator municipalities, Chatham-Kent's relatively low provision of fields is consistent with feedback from user groups and the public. Community consultations and input from organized sports associations indicate that current field availability is insufficient to meet growing demand, particularly in Chatham. Groups in Tilbury also report the need for municipal fields in those communities to reduce or eliminate their reliance on schoolboards. There are no municipal soccer fields in the community.

Other themes identified include:

- Demand for early season access to fields for rep team tryouts
- Demand for access to an indoor soccer venue for year-round programming
- Lack of field availability or necessary amenities to support other field sports – rugby, football, ultimate etc.
- Lack of maintenance compared to ball diamonds
- Need for greater service levels in grass cutting

It is anticipated Chatham-Kent requires a minimum of three (3) additional full-size fields to meet existing demand plus an additional three (3) by 2035. This equates to four fields with lights. New developments should prioritize the ability to co-locate fields in high demand locations and reduce reliance on schoolboard property. The ability to develop an indoor location to support year-round soccer and other field sports should also be prioritized and would further reduce the field deficit measured against municipal comparators.

## Cricket Pitches

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has one (1) cricket pitch, located at Ferguson Park in Thamesville.

The cricket pitch is booked on most weekends by organized clubs competing in Southwestern Ontario leagues. The league regularly rotates play between pitches

located in Windsor, Maidstone and Thamesville. The increasing popularity and demand for cricket is a trend across Ontario.

## Assessment

The Municipality currently provides cricket pitches at a service level of 1 per 104,300 residents. The average comparators listed in Table 24 provide cricket pitches at an average service level of 1 per 106,310 residents, which is a slightly lower service level than Chatham Kent currently provides.

**Table 24: Service Level Comparison, Cricket Pitches**

Municipality	2021 Population	Cricket Pitches	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	1	1:104,300
Cambridge	138,479	2	1:69,240
Guelph	143,740	2	1:71,870
Kingston	132,485	3	1:44,162
Brantford	104,688	1	1:104,688
Oshawa	175,383	1	1:175,383
Greater Sudbury	166,004	1	1:166,004
Windsor	229,660	2	1:114,830
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1:106,310</b>

The addition of the St. Clair College Community Park cricket pitch in Chatham will improve the current service level to 1 per 52,150 residents, which will place the Municipality within the upper service level range based on comparators. In anticipation of growing organized demand for this sport, improvements to the existing pitch at Ferguson Park should be planned by 2035 including protective netting, benches, and other amenities required for safe competitive play.

## Basketball Courts

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has a basketball court at Campbell Park, Glassford Park, Lamarsh Park, Laverne Kelly Memorial Park, North Buxton Park, Taylor Park, William G. Bourdeau Park, and Wonderwoods Park.

Multi-use courts in Victoria Park (Bothwell), Ferguson Park, Memorial Park (Tilbury) and the Wheatley Area Recreation Complex also have amenities to support basketball.



Basketball court use is not formally tracked by the Municipality as they are open drop-in use spaces and not restricted through rentals.

### Assessment

Most basketball courts within the Municipality are smaller than regulation size, with many also not able to accommodate the growing popularity of Olympic-style 3x3 basketball, which only requires a half-court layout. Notable exceptions include courts located on multi-use surfaces and the newer full-size courts at North Buxton Park and Taylor Park.

Overall, existing courts are frequently reported to require significant maintenance or renewal to remain suitable even for casual play. Furthermore, the community has expressed concern about the limited availability of facilities for organized basketball—both outdoor and indoor—through public feedback and input from organizations such as the Chatham-Kent Wildcats.

Two new courts planned for St. Clair College Community Park will help address some of this demand. However, additional needs in Wallaceburg and Blenheim should also be evaluated. To meet these requirements, the Municipality should integrate court renewal projects into its AMP, prioritizing areas where localized demand is evident. This may include expanding capacity at multi-use courts and upgrading existing infrastructure to support diverse forms of play.

## Tennis and Pickleball Courts

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has a supply of eighteen (18) tennis courts across the communities of Bothwell (1), Chatham (8), Dresden (1), Pain Court (2), Ridgetown (2), Tilbury (2), Wallaceburg (5), and Wheatley (2). Only the Joe Carpenter Tennis Courts in Chatham are dedicated for tennis only. Other courts feature pickleball or other court lines to support multi-use.



The Municipality also has ten (10) dedicated pickleball courts. These are courts only for pickleball, excluding pickleball court lines painted on tennis courts. Dedicated courts are in Blenheim (2), Dresden (2), Erieau (2), Tilbury (2), and Wallaceburg (2).

Courts are available from April to the end of October. There is a high demand for tennis courts in Chatham and the pickleball courts in most other communities. Courts are typically occupied by clubs during prime playing hours and casual use during the days and weekends. All eight courts in Chatham are located on schoolboard property, making them unavailable for use by the public during school hours.

Chatham's tennis courts are bookable through the Municipality's website while tennis courts in other communities are available only for drop-in casual use. Beginning in 2025 the Municipality made all pickleball courts across Chatham-Kent available for booking on the website and identified dedicated time blocks for free drop-in public use.

The Chatham Tennis Club primarily uses the Joe Carpenter Tennis Courts for their organized activities while the Chatham-Kent Pickleball Club – located in Chatham – uses the Doug Allin Tennis Courts for their programs. There are informal clubs or groups who use pickleball courts in other communities at regular times and are looking to formalize their use and grow their programming.

## Assessment

The Municipality provides tennis courts at a service level of 1 per 5,794 residents. As shown in Table 25, comparator municipalities provide tennis courts at an average service level of 1 per 12,063.

**Table 25: Service Level Comparison, Tennis Courts**

Municipality	2021 Population	Tennis Courts	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	18	1:5,794
Cambridge	138,479	5	1:27,696
Guelph	143,740	24	1:5,989
Kingston	132,485	24	1:5,520
Brantford	104,688	12	1:8,724
Oshawa	175,383	9	1:19,487
Greater Sudbury	166,004	11	1:15,091
Windsor	229,660	28	1:8,202
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>1:12,063</b>

Within Chatham, tennis courts are generally well-maintained. However, courts in other communities require restoration or maintenance. Courts at Steinhoff Park in Wallaceburg and Kinsmen Park in Dresden require new modern surfacing to extend their lives and improve safe play. Renewal strategies for tennis courts and multi-use courts should take precedence over new developments.

The Municipality provides pickleball courts at a service level of 1 per 10,430 residents. The average service level of comparator municipalities is 1 per 19,519 residents. Note that the comparator chart includes only dedicated pickleball courts.

**Table 26: Service Level Comparison, Pickleball Courts**

Pickleball Courts	2021 Population	Supply	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	10	1:10,430
Cambridge	138,479	3	1:46,160
Guelph	143,740	0	N/A
Kingston	132,485	8	1:16,561
Brantford	104,688	12	1:8,724
Oshawa	175,383	6	1:29,231
Greater Sudbury	166,004	11	1:15,091
Windsor	229,660	22	1:10,439
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>1:19,519</b>

Chatham-Kent has a high service level for dedicated pickleball courts compared to similar municipalities. This can be attributable to the deployment of courts across several communities for equitable access. There are no dedicated courts in Chatham where the largest and most organized Club conducts its activities. The planned 10-court pickleball hub at St. Clair Community Park will help address this need.

Dedicated pickleball courts are new and in very good condition. Residents in the communities of Tilbury and Wallaceburg have expressed a desire for more courts while Mitchell's Bay has expressed a need in their local park. The Municipality should prioritize further development of dedicated pickleball courts where localized demand exists, and where partnerships can be made to fundraise capital costs.

## Multi-Use Courts

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has multi-use courts in Kiwanis Park, Kinsmen Park (Dresden), Victoria Park (Bothwell), Ferguson Park, Steinhoff Park, and Memorial Park (Tilbury). There is also an outdoor court for lacrosse at Glen Mickle Park.

Courts generally include lines for activities such as tennis, pickleball, basketball, and ball hockey. Multi-use courts are available for free, and use is not formally tracked by the Municipality.



### Assessment

Multi-use courts are reported to require additional maintenance or renewal to ensure they remain safe, functional, and appealing to users. Victoria Park and Ferguson Park should be prioritized due to their existing conditions. Renewal projects should review the inclusion of lines and amenities that appeal local demand.

Adopting a multi-use approach to sport court development should be the preferred strategy for most sport courts, particularly in smaller communities with limited parkland opportunities. This approach maximizes utilization and community benefit while reducing the number of single-purpose facilities that may require additional parkland. A formal renewal strategy should be incorporated in the AMP to guide the timing of renewals, ensuring the courts continue to meet the needs of their local users over the long term.

## POOLS, SPLASH PADS, AND WATER ACCESS

### Overview

Chatham-Kent has a variety of water-based recreation amenities including swimming pools, splash pads, docks, and launches.

Pools and splash pads are assessed for their condition and compared against comparator municipalities, while water access features and waterfronts are evaluated for their condition and supporting amenities. The overall supply and municipal provision for pools and splash pads is provided in the table below.

**Table 27: Service Level Provision for Pools and Splashpads**

Feature	Total Municipality	Service Level (1:x)
Outdoor Pools	7	1:14,900
Indoor Pools	2	1:52,150
Splash Pads	9	1:11,589

### Indoor Pools

#### Supply and Use

The Municipality has two (2) indoor pools, the Wallaceburg Sydenham District Pool and the Gable Rees Rotary Pool in Blenheim.

The Gable Rees Rotary Pool and the Sydenham Pool are both at capacity for swimming lessons due to instructor availability. Sydenham Pool is used throughout the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays under agreement with Wallaceburg District Secondary School, in which the pool is adjoined. This facility also hosts high school swim meets. Gable Rees Rotary Pool hosts the Blenheim Blast swim club.

Indoor pools operate year-round except for two-week annual shutdowns to allow for maintenance. Both pools offer similar programming options. Gable Rees Rotary Pool experiences roughly 2.5 times the number of weekly swimmers as Sydenham. This can partially be attributed to the daytime use agreement with the high school; however the Blenheim location is reported to be preferred by residents due to its accessibility, larger viewing deck for parents, and hot tub.

The local YMCA operates an indoor pool in Chatham, where the Chatham Pool Sharks swim club practices. The Municipality does not operate an indoor pool in its largest community.

## Assessment

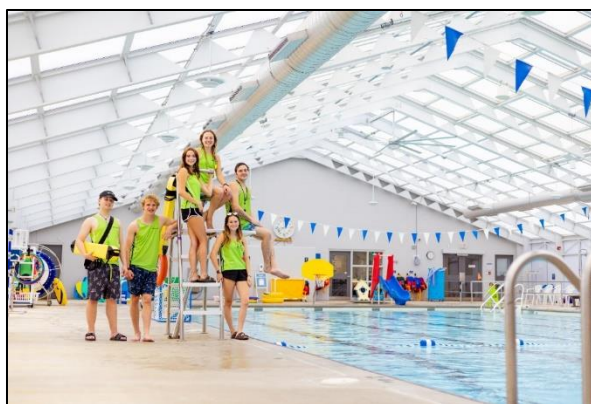
The Municipality provides indoor pools at a service level of 1 per 52,150 residents. The average service level of comparator municipalities is 1 per 43,540.

**Table 28: Service Level Comparison, Indoor Pools**

Municipality	2021 Population	Indoor Aquatics	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	2	1:52,150
Cambridge	138,479	2	1:69,240
Guelph	143,740	4	1:35,935
Kingston	132,485	4	1:33,121
Brantford	104,688	3	1:34,896
Oshawa	175,383	4	1:43,846
Greater Sudbury	166,004	5	1:33,201
Windsor	229,660	5	1:45,932
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1:43,540</b>

Both the Gable Rees Rotary Pool and the Sydenham Pool are aging facilities expected to require significant renewals over the next ten years to extend useful life and maintain their level of service.

Sydenham Pool is limited in its potential for upgrade due to its attachment to the high school. This is particularly problematic for upgrades to accessibility – one of the leading concerns with the facility. Both indoor pools are valued by their respective communities and regularly used. The Municipality should plan to make necessary investments to extend their service lives throughout the planning horizon of PRMP 2025 provided no major failures occur that would require additional funding beyond the capacity of the AMP.





A leading concern reported by residents regarding pools is the unavailability of a year-round municipal pool in Chatham. While the YMCA operates a pool in the community, residents report that the cost of membership and program fees are higher than Chatham-Kent-operated pools, making it inaccessible for a significant portion of the population.

The YMCA has partnered with other municipalities to provide community access to their facilities through designated public time or shared programming agreements. A similar arrangement in Chatham could serve as a solution in the short term to increase access to indoor swimming opportunities. However, the Municipality should continue to explore the development of a municipally owned and operated indoor pool in the community, ideally integrated with a larger multi-use recreation facility, to increase its supply of equitable and affordable year-round pools to both meet demand and more closely align with municipal comparators.

## Outdoor Pools

### Supply and Use

The Municipality has a total supply of seven (7) outdoor pools. Outdoor pools are currently located as follows:

- Jaycee Pool at Jaycee Park (Chatham)
- Walter Hawkins Pool at Ross Babcock Park (Chatham)
- Orville Wright Pool at Taylor Park (Chatham)
- Dresden Kinsmen Pool at Kinsmen Park (Dresden)
- Thamesville Community Pool at Ferguson Park (Thamesville)
- Howard Community Pool at Kiwanis Park (Ridgetown)
- Centennial Pool at Memorial Park (Tilbury) – with wading pool

Outdoor pools in Chatham-Kent are open from the first week of July to the second last week of August. This is a total of eight (8) weeks of operation, six (6) days per week. Daily schedules vary for each pool. Some pools operate from early morning to sunset – including lessons, aqua fit classes, and open swims – while others operate only for a few hours in the afternoon.

Pools in Tilbury, Dresden, and Ridgetown host organized swim teams – the Vikings, Stingrays, and Riptides.

## Assessment

The Municipality provides outdoor pools at a service level of 1 per 14,900 residents. The average service level among comparator municipalities is 1 per 50,305 residents.

**Table 29: Service Level Comparison, Outdoor Pools**

Municipality	2021 Population	Outdoor Pools	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	7	1:14,900
Cambridge	138,479	2	1:69,240
Guelph	143,740	3	1:47,913
Kingston	132,485	2	1:66,243
Brantford	104,688	2	1:52,344
Oshawa	175,383	2	1:87,692
Greater Sudbury	166,004	0	N/A
Windsor	229,660	8	1:28,708
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>1:50,305</b>

The Municipality has a comparatively high number of outdoor pools, all of which were constructed prior to amalgamation. Like most Chatham-Kent facilities, outdoor pools are aging and in need of significant repair including replacement of filtration systems, shell stabilization, drainage systems, decks, and support buildings. While several pools have adopted accessible features, they were not designed to meet modern accessible code and continue to present significant barriers – particularly within changerooms and washrooms.

The structured lessons and skill development that outdoor pools provide are valued by residents of the community. However, they pose a financial challenge for municipalities due to their high operating costs and limited season. Disruptions within the operating season are also common due to the ongoing lifeguard shortage and severe weather. Many municipalities now prioritize splash pads over outdoor pools as a lower cost solution for outdoor summertime recreation. They simultaneously focus saved resources on fewer, higher quality indoor pools which can provide residents with structured programming and water education year-round.

Comparator municipalities provide outdoor pools at an average service level of 1 per 50,305 residents. The Municipality's supply is over three times this average amount. If Chatham-Kent were to align with a relatively high service level of 1 per 28,708

residents, like the City of Windsor, the Municipality would only require four (4) outdoor pools by 2035.

A detailed condition assessment, budget analysis, and improvements or end of life strategy is needed for outdoor pools. Divestment consideration should include proximity of pools to population centres, distribution across the Municipality for community access, and quality of pool facilities for all ages and abilities. The ability to staff pool facilities and the cost of maintenance should also be considered.



## Splash Pads

### Supply and Use

The Municipality operates nine (9) splash pads. Locations are Colwell Park, Ferguson Park, Kingston Park, Kinsmen Park (Dresden), Kiwanis Park, Knights of Columbus Park, Mitchell's Bay Beach, Optimist Park (Bothwell), and the Wheatley Area Recreation Complex. There is also an additional small spray feature located at Jaycee Park in Wallaceburg.

Splash pads in Blenheim and Merlin are not operated by the Municipality.

Kingston Park is the only municipal splash pad with a water recirculating system. Functioning like a swimming pool, this system requires its own mechanical room, filtration equipment, chemical storage, and regular water testing. All other splash pads are flow-through systems requiring less maintenance but with much higher water use.

Use of splash pads is not formally tracked by the Municipality however they are regularly reported by residents to be top attractions in parks for children during summer months.

### Assessment

Splash pads are provided by Chatham-Kent at a service level of 1 per 11,589 residents. Comparator municipalities, as shown in Table 30, provide splash pads at an average service level of 1 per 14,631 residents.

**Table 30: Service Level Comparison, Splash Pads**

Municipality	2021 Population	Splashpads	Service Level (1:x)
Chatham-Kent	104,300	9	1:11,589
Cambridge	138,479	11	1:12,589
Guelph	143,740	7	1:20,534
Kingston	132,485	10	1:13,249
Brantford	104,688	7	1:14,955
Oshawa	175,383	13	1:13,491
Greater Sudbury	166,004	17	1:9,765
Windsor	229,660	11	1:20,878
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>149,342</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1:14,631</b>

Chatham-Kent has a higher service level for splash pads, potentially due to the Municipality's expansive geography. There is no more than one splash pad in any community, regardless of community size.

Splash pads are generally in good condition and residents are satisfied with them. Some parks where splash pads are located may require the addition of accessible connections from parking lots or pathways. The Mitchell's Bay Beach and Wheatley Area Recreation Complex splash pads are small for their high level of use and would benefit from expansion or replacement.

To continue providing a service level of 1 per 11,589 residents through 2035, one (1) additional splash pad will be required. This should be planned in conjunction with the divestment of an outdoor pool.

## Waterfront Parks and Water Access Points

The Municipality has significant waterfront recreation opportunities along Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and the Thames, Syne and Sydenham Rivers. Shoreline areas encompass over 170 km of the Thames, Sydenham, and Syne Rivers and 130 km of shoreline on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. Most of Chatham-Kent's communities have a relationship to the shoreline.

## Supply and Use

The Municipality maintains six (6) beaches along Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair:

- Clearville Park – Waterfront park and campground.
- Getty's Beach – Small beach and parkette adjacent to the Wheatley Harbour Authority and Boat Launch.
- Laverne Kelly Memorial Park & Erieau Public Beach – Municipal waterfront park located in Erieau.
- Mitchell's Bay Beach – Municipal waterfront park in Mitchell's Bay.
- Pier Road Beach – Small beach and parkette in Wheatley
- Terrace Beach – Beach along Lake Erie near Morpeth.

Additionally, the Municipality has access to Rondeau Provincial Park and Wheatley Provincial Park along the shore of Lake Erie. Burns Beach along Lake Erie was previously maintained by the Municipality however it was closed to the public in 2024.

Wallaceburg hosts the Sydenham Challenge Dragon Boat Festival for teams across North America. Kite surfing, wakeboarding and water skiing are popular summer

activities for the community and visitors of Erieau, Rondeau and Mitchell's Bay. Mitchell's Bay provides Canada's longest season for kite surfing. Canoeing, kayaking, standup boarding, and fishing are also popular activities.

There are three marina locations owned by the Municipality:

- Mitchell's Bay – This municipally-owned but privately operated marina has eight (8) boat launch ramps, shore power and water pump-out station, bait shop and gas bar (including shower and laundry facilities), and both transient and seasonal camping sites.
- Chatham – Overnight transient docks are available in Downtown Chatham. There is access to shower facilities by the Civic Centre from Monday to Friday between 8:30am to 4:30pm.
- Wallaceburg – In downtown Wallaceburg, free overnight, transient dock service is available on the Sydenham River. There are restrooms, showers, and electricity available from mid-May to Labour Day.

There are also seven (7) free public boat launches for motorized and non-motorized boats, the majority of which are open from mid-May to mid-October:

- Chatham Boat Launch, Thames Grove Conservation Area
- Dresden Boat Launch
- Clearville Park Boat Launch
- Shrewsbury Boat Launch
- Tilbury Government Dock, Jeanette's Creek
- Wallaceburg Dock / Huron Boat Launch
- Wallaceburg MacDonald Park Boat Launch

In addition to the above boat launches, kayaks and canoes can be launched from Crothers Park and Parry Landing Park.

## Assessment

Waterfront parks and water access points in the Municipality are in varied condition and states of need. In Mitchell's Bay, the beach requires maintenance and renewal to keep up with its popularity. This should be addressed through a Site-Specific Park Plan that considers the shoreline, aging infrastructure, and increased capacity to accommodate growing use.



In Erieau, Laverne Kelly Memorial Park infrastructure is aging and parking is an issue for this popular waterfront park. The smaller parking lot was recently paved and a new roped safe swim area was installed to improve safety and access. A Site-Specific Park Plan to address needed infrastructure upgrades, including alleviation of parking related issues. There are also plans to add barrier-free kayak launches in this community.

The Shrewsbury Boat Launch has no onsite parking and launch access conflicts with private property. A land acquisition and asset renewal strategy is essential to ensure long-term public access to this feature. All other municipal boat launches, popular with residents, should undergo a detailed evaluation to determine long-term financial requirements necessary to maintain their level of service.



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

### Overview

The Municipality directly delivers various recreational programming, such as skating programs, swimming lessons, leadership programs, inclusive programming, and more. Independent sports committees, organizations, groups, and teams also run programming throughout the Municipality within municipal spaces. Fees are collected for all the recreational programming per Chatham-Kent's User Fee By-Law.

Registration for municipally operated programs can be completed through the Municipality's website, which also allows for the renting of facilities. Program availability is published online with the dates, locations, other details, and costs to participate. An outline of current municipal recreation program is summarized below.



### Recreation Programs

#### Ice Programming

All ice programming occurs at Chatham-Kent arenas. Programs are outlined in Table 31 below.

**Table 31: Ice Programming Offerings**

Program	Description
Learn to Skate	Includes levels 1-5.
Public Skating	Available as scheduled and open to the public. Sponsored skates are free to the public, while unsponsored skates are \$3.25 per person or \$8.50 per family. Separate membership or adult-only skating sessions are also available.
Stick 'N Puck Skills	Specific sessions available on a drop-in or membership basis to work on hockey skill development. Some arenas have age specific time slots according to demand.
Shinny Hockey	Unstructured hockey games available on a drop-in or membership basis. Some arenas have age specific time slots according to demand.
Tiny Tot Skating	Free sessions for parents to bring their child under 6 to work on developing their skating skills.

## Aquatics Programming

The Municipality delivers programming for swimmers of all ages. Some of the existing recreational aquatics programs are outlined in the table below, including Little Tots, swimming lessons, various aquatics fitness classes, lifeguard training, rec swim (for various age groups), and lane swim.

The Wallaceburg Sydenham Pool offers open Rec Swims five (5) times per week during the winter, and Gable Rees Rotary pools offers open Rec Swims seven (7) times per week. Both outdoor pools offer summer aquatic programming for eight (8) weeks during the months of July and August. Other recreational swim programs can be found in the schedules posted on the Municipality's website.

A summary of recreational aquatics programming is also provided below in Table 32.

**Table 32: Aquatics Programming Offerings**

Program	Description
Little Tots 1-3, 3 (Unparented)	Includes Little Tots 1-3 and 3 (Unparented) and Preschool 1-5 lessons.
School-Age Swimming Lessons	Includes Junior Lifeguard Club, Ranger Patrol, Rookie Patrol, Star Patrol, Summer Swim Team, and Swimmer 1-6 lessons.
Aquatic Fitness	Programming includes Rec Swim, Adult Swim, Lane Swim, Parent & Tot, Aquafit, Deep End Aquafit, and special occasion swims (e.g. Free PA Day Swim).
Private Swimming Lessons	Options for preschool and school-age children.
Rec Swim*	Swimming for all ages with equipment and toys available for play.

Parent and Tot Swim*	Swimming for preschool children (age 0-6) and parents/caregivers. Equipment and toys available for play.
Adult Swim*	Leisure swim for adults.
Lane Swim*	Lane swim using land ropes, open to all ages.

## Preschool Programming

Outside of ice and aquatics programming, the Municipality offers two preschool-specific programs: Learn to Play Baseball and Learn to Play Soccer.

**Table 33: Preschool Programming Offerings**

Program	Description
Learn to Play Baseball	A six-week instructional program that teaches children the basics of baseball.
Learn to Play Soccer	A six-week instructional program that teaches children 3-5 years old the basics of soccer.

## School-Age Programming

The Municipality offers several school age-specific programs. These include a Multi Sport program, Shotokan Karate, Tennis, leadership courses (e.g. Babysitting Course), and camps. See Table 34 for a description of school age programs.

**Table 34: School-Age Programming Offerings**

Program	Description
Multi Sport	This 6-week program includes playing a variety of sports such as basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, soccer, and dodgeball.
Shotokan Karate	Includes program levels: Kids, Level 1, Level 2. This program teaches the fundamental techniques and history of traditional Japanese karate.
Tennis	Includes program levels: Family, Level 1 (age 5-7), and Level 2 (age-13).
Babysitting Course	Designed for 11–15-year-olds, to teach school age children and teens how to interview for a babysitting job, choose safe and age-appropriate toys and games, perform basic first aid, learn diapering and feeding techniques, and handle bedtime issues.
Home Alone Safety Course	Provides children aged 9 and up with the necessary skills and knowledge to be safe and responsible when home alone.
Standard First Aid / Standard First Aid Recert	Comprehensive First Aid and CPR techniques for those who need training for work requirements or who want more knowledge to respond to emergencies in the workplace.

March Break Extravaganza	March Break programming facilitated by the CK Recreation March Break Crew.
Play Rangers	Mobile truck bringing unique toys and games to the community.
Summer Camp	The CK Summer Squad offers two summer camps: 1) Stay 'n' Play: a day-camp program that provides care and fun activities such as arts and crafts, games, and swimming for children ages 4-12. 2) Kidventure: a day program that provides care and fun activities along with a weekly field trip and daily swimming for children ages 4-12/.

## Adult & Senior Programming

The Municipality also offers adult and senior specific sports leagues.

**Table 35: Adult & Senior Programming Offerings**

Program	Description
Adult Leagues	Adult sports leagues including badminton, basketball, pickleball, soccer, table tennis, and volleyball.

## Inclusive Recreation Programming

The Municipality offers a variety of Inclusive Recreation Programming. These programs range from sports and fitness to music to social activities. See

Table 36 for a description of available Inclusive Recreation Programming.

**Table 36: Inclusive Recreation Programming Offerings**

Program	Description
Bowling	This program offers the opportunity to participate in bowling for anyone with a physical, intellectual, or cognitive disability.
Sports and Fitness	This programming includes skating, Zumba, Rec Room, Action Zone Sports, Just Beat It (DrumFit), and Martial Arts for anyone with a physical, intellectual, or cognitive disability.
Special Events	The special events and trips offered through this programming is for anyone with a physical, intellectual, or cognitive disability.
Music	Music programming offered to give an opportunity for anyone with a physical, intellectual, or cognitive disability to participate.
Social	This programming includes Coffee n' Colour; Tea; Read and Write; and Make & Take activities.
Summer Camp and March Break Camp	Programming includes Wacky Sports and Move to the Music.



## Assessment

The Municipality should prioritize a community-based delivery model for recreation programming rather than direct municipal delivery. This approach leverages the strengths of local organizations, builds volunteer capacity, and utilizes existing expertise within the community. It also helps avoid duplication of similar programs, ensuring resources are used efficiently and effectively.

Through a partner-delivery model, municipal resources can be focused on identifying program needs within local communities, developing strategies to address service gaps or specific user group needs, and ensuring municipal facilities are well utilized with programs that provide the greatest benefit to residents. These resources can also be applied to manage a fair and equitable allocation policy across all sport facilities to support balanced access and foster inclusivity in recreational opportunities.

A key concern identified is the cost of accessing programming. To address this, the Municipality should undertake a comprehensive review of user fees across all parks and recreation services to ensure alignment with best practices. This review should prioritize the highest subsidies for programs with broad community reach, while applying lower subsidies to programs that primarily benefit individuals. User fee recovery should be closely aligned with the AMP to ensure fees remain grounded in actual costs and not perceived as arbitrary or opportunistic.

Additionally, the fee review should explore opportunities for sponsorships—like those used for public skates and open swims—to help offset user costs or reduce overall facility operating expenses. This approach will promote affordability, equity, and sustainability in program delivery.





## RECOMMENDATIONS

PRMP 2025 recommendations are the result of a comprehensive process combining data from the needs assessment, industry best practices, and forecasted sustainability. Guided by a vision for the Chatham-Kent Parks and Recreation system to be adaptable, sustainable, inclusive, and connected, the recommendations considered the strengths, gaps, and areas of opportunity for municipal parks, sport fields and courts, recreation facilities, pools, splash pads, water access points, and recreation programs.

Identified projects have been screened in the needs assessment for Development Charge (DC) eligibility by evaluating their connection to growth-related demand, their contribution to expanding system capacity, and their alignment with legislated level of service requirements. Growth-related capital projects will be included in the upcoming Development Charge Background Study, providing an additional funding stream.

Completion dates are based on the recommended capacity enhancements. Acceleration of project timelines are likely to require reprioritization of projects or the addition of further resources. The recommendations consider priority needs for Chatham-Kent at the time of this document's publishing and should be subject to ongoing review and budgetary planning.



## Large Capital

### Multi-Use Recreation Centre

Acquire 32-hectare property near Chatham for the development of a multi-use recreation complex co-locating a minimum of two ice pads, an indoor fieldhouse, pool, and gymnasium. Opportunity for additional ice pads according to future business cases.

Development to include four (4) full sized multi-use fields to accommodate large programming and events as well as event-supporting amenities such as lights, concession/washrooms, and bleacher seating.

Surplus lands to accommodate future recreational facilities identified outside the planning horizon of this report or through other Council strategic priorities.

**Capital Cost:** \$166 M  
**DC Category:** Growth with Non-Growth Components

**Completion:** 2035  
**Source:** New Capital

### Wallaceburg South Side Parkland

Design and develop new parkland network identified in Wallaceburg South Side Secondary Plan, a comprehensive framework to guide future development and revitalization on the south side of the Sydenham River.

Proposal includes a waterfront Community Park to support year-round passive recreation and programmed activity and parkland along the railway corridor to support active transportation.

**Capital Cost:** \$4.5 M  
**DC Category:** Growth

**Completion:** 2034  
**Source:** New Capital

### St. Clair College Community Park

Continue development of the new 7.7-hectare St. Clair College Community Park along Bear Line Road including new cricket pitch, multi-use field, basketball courts, trails, inclusive playground, and 10-court pickleball facility.

**Capital Cost:** \$7.3 M  
**DC Category:** Growth

**Completion:** 2027  
**Source:** Capital / Hydro  
One Benefit

## Wheatley Downtown Park

Develop new passive recreation and event-supporting parkland on properties owned by the Municipality in Wheatley's downtown core. Include the relocation or replication of unique assets currently available at Ivan Coulter Park prior to its divestment. New parkland is intended to be aligned with the revitalization strategy for Wheatley.

**Capital Cost:** \$2.7 M  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal

**Completion:** 2031  
**Source:** Provincial / New Capital

## South Kent Ball Diamond Complex

Acquire 8-hectare property in South Kent for the development of a quad baseball/softball diamond complex. New diamonds to replace municipally maintained ball diamonds on schoolboard property within Blenheim.

**Capital Cost:** \$17 M  
**DC Category:** Growth

**Completion:** 2035  
**Source:** New Capital

## Blenheim Memorial Arena Renovation

Convert the synthetic refrigerant-based ice plant at Blenheim Memorial Arena to a natural (ammonia)-based refrigerant system to comply with environmental regulations and decrease carbon footprint, replace aging refrigerated floor to extend lifespan of facility, and install an elevator to improve building accessibility and better activate second floor event space.

**Capital Cost:** \$3.6 M  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal / Service Enhancement

**Completion:** 2029  
**Source:** Lifecycle Reserve / New Capital

## Parkland

### Parkland Service Provision

Maintain a service level provision of between 3.40 and 3.89 hectares of parkland per 1,000 population, subject to a maximum 600 metre walking distance to the closest park from a residential area within a Primary or Secondary Urban Centre. Reduce walking distance gaps through prioritization of new parkettes or neighbourhood parks where new residential development occurs in southeast Ridgetown, south Tilbury, south Wheatley, and south Wallaceburg.

## Classification

Revise existing parkland classification system to incorporate the addition of Open Space/Conservation classification and subclassification for specific parks within the classification structure identified and maintained for four-season use.

---

## Parkland Review

Conduct a detailed review of park amenities and levels of service according to classification status. Identify opportunities to reduce the parks and recreation infrastructure funding gap by identifying cost savings through parkland reclassification – e.g. active to passive or naturalized – without impacting the parkland provision target.

Recommendations shall be included for consideration in the 2028-2031 Municipal Budget.

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## Park Operators

Establish dedicated Operator capacity to service parks and outdoor spaces year-round. Capacity should be determined by the defined levels of service of each park classification, as may vary seasonally. Recommendations shall be included for consideration in the 2028-2031 Municipal Budget, subject to ongoing assessment of staffing capabilities against identified efficiencies.

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## Vacant Parkland Development

Design and develop parkland infrastructure at vacant or undeveloped park parcels, prioritizing Bloomfield Meadows (Arrowhead) Park, Briar Hill Park, Bridal Path Park, Bruinsma Park, and Summerset Place Park.

**Capital Cost:** \$1.8 M  
**DC Category:** Growth

**Completion:** 2035  
**Source:** Parkland Development Reserve

## Active Transportation Network Integration

Identify new opportunities to connect transportation networks for pedestrians and cyclists via parkland in the forthcoming Mobility Master Plan. Opportunities could include Wanless Park, Meadowbrooke Park, Rotary Park/Kiwanis Stadium, McGregor Kinsmen Park, Kiwanis Park, and Thames Grove Conservation Area.

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## Park Trail Surface Conversion and Renewal Program

Establish a funding program for the upgrade of identified granular walking trails within parks to asphalt or concrete. Priority locations include Tony Stranak Conservation Area / McVeen Park, Ferguson Park, and Crothers Park. Prioritize the renewal of the Henry Smyth Park pathway.

**Capital Cost:** \$3.2 M **Completion:** 2033  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

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## Parking Lot Conversion Program

Establish a funding program for the upgrade of parking lots at parks from gravel to asphalt. Priority locations include Memorial Park (Blenheim), Laverne Kelly Memorial Park, Ferguson Park, and Crothers Park.

**Capital Cost:** \$2.2 M **Completion:** 2035  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

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## Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation

Identify specific opportunities within parkland contributing to the Municipality's goal of 40% canopy cover in urban areas by 2050, consistent with the Tree Canopy & Natural Vegetation Enhancement Policy.

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## Cemeteries as Passive Parkland

Adapt to emerging recreational use of cemeteries by incorporating passive recreational amenities at in-demand sites such as Maple Leaf Cemetery and Shrewsbury Methodist Cemetery.

## Playgrounds and Inclusive Playgrounds

Maintain a service level provision of 1 playground per 1,500 population with a minimum of one playground per settlement area.

Build an inclusive playground in Chatham, Tilbury, and Wallaceburg and identify a long-term capital plan to develop a service level provision of 1 inclusive playground per 10,000 population with a minimum of one in each Primary and Secondary Urban Centre.

**Capital Cost:** \$1.1 M      **Completion:** 2031  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement      **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

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## Fitness Parks

Upgrade fitness park equipment safety base at Kiwanis Park and build new fitness equipment at Optimist Park in Bothwell.

**Capital Cost:** \$175 K      **Completion:** 2028  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement      **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve  
/ Partnership

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## Skateboard Parks

Maintain existing number of skateboard park locations. Direct available resources toward the lifecycle renewal of existing locations including a priority emphasis on the redevelopment of the current facility at Laverne Kelly Memorial Park.

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## Horticulture Partnerships

Formalize existing partnerships with horticulture societies and beautification committees currently maintaining specific horticulture displays on municipal property. Build capacity to sustain further development of displays by identifying new location opportunities and developing educational tools to empower volunteers.

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## Woodland Stewardship

Implement a woodlot stewardship strategy with the goal of outsourcing the management of non-parkland municipal woodland with a focus on preservation and education through passive recreational use and eco-tourism.



## Park Site Planning Program

Develop a Parkland Site Planning Program for the site-specific planning of new or renewed capital infrastructure at each park location. Renewal frequency to be dependent on park classification with a maximum 35-year renewal cycle.

Prioritize the following: Erieau Boulevard, Ferguson Park, Knights of Columbus Park, Laverne Kelly Memorial Park, Memorial Park (Blenheim) / Kyle Park, Mitchell's Bay Beach / Community Park, Paul Belanger Park, Crothers Park, Tecumseh Park, Victoria Park (Bothwell), and Chatham & Wallaceburg Downtown Docks.

**Capital Cost:** \$4 M **Completion:** 2035  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

## Arenas and Community Spaces

### Ice Pad Service Provision

Maintain a service level provision of 10 total ice pads across Chatham-Kent. Replace Chatham Memorial and Erickson with proposed Multi-Use Recreation Centre featuring a minimum of two ice pads with opportunity for future inclusion of additional pads.

Maintain all arenas at defined levels of service within the capacity of the asset management plan until divestment decisions are made.

Develop a business plan to justify all future capital projects at existing arenas above \$2 Million. Business plans to include options for divesting the facility while maintaining the 10-ice pad service provision level. Replacement ice pads for divested arenas, where determined, should be co-located at the Multi-Use Recreation Centre or other complementary recreation and community facilities as supported by the business plan.

Long-term planning for geographic distribution of ice pads shall include maintaining a minimum of one each in Wallaceburg, West Kent, and Southeast Kent.

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### Year-Round Ice

Adjust summer ice policy to guarantee ice year-round at a one arena location. Current options are limited to Thames Campus Arena and Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre due to the required infrastructure. Future floor replacements anticipated over the PRMP planning horizon which could accommodate extended seasons include Blenheim

Memorial Arena and Wallaceburg Memorial Arena. Include budget impacts of year-round ice in the 2028-2031 Multi-Year Budget.

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### Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre Dressing Rooms

Expand the quantity of dressing rooms available at Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre to accommodate programming needs and align with modern industry standards.

**Capital Cost:** \$450 K **Completion:** 2031  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve / Partnership

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### Barrier-Free Improvements

Conduct an accessibility audit at Chatham-Kent indoor recreation facilities and identify priority solutions to reduce barriers. Priority projects should include installation of elevator and accessible washroom at Wheatley Area Arena.

**Capital Cost:** \$1 M **Completion:** 2030  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve / New Capital

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### Public WIFI

Implement free public WIFI at arenas and Gable Rees Rotary Pool.

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### Community Space Rehabilitation

Rehabilitate community meeting spaces to improve aesthetics and functionality with the goal of increasing use and financial recovery. Identified locations include Blenheim Arena Blue Line Room, Ridgetown Rotary Youth Centre, Ryder Hall, and Thames Campus Arena Red Line Room.

**Capital Cost:** \$250 K **Completion:** 2029  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

## East Kent Memorial Arena

Increase the lifespan and improve the user environment of East Kent Memorial Arena by replacing the roofing system to address recurring humidification issues and re-pave the parking lot.

**Capital Cost:** \$2.1 M **Completion:** 2027  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

## Sport Fields and Sport Courts

### Sport Field Classification

Adopt a classification structure to guide decisions on development, upgrades, and maintenance of Chatham-Kent sport fields. Classification to include provision standards for field quality, amenities, and maintenance.

Conduct a gap analysis of sport field amenities and levels of service according to classification status. Location-specific gaps may include new or upgraded fencing, safety netting, goal posts, benches, dugouts, spectator seating, lighting, sport-specific maintenance needs including grass cutting, grooming, and lining.

Identify solutions to address the gaps for Council consideration in the 2028-2031 and 2032-2035 Municipal Budgets.

**Capital Cost:** \$400 K **Completion:** 2035  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal / Service Enhancement **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

### Ball Diamond Service Provision

Maintain a service level provision of 1 ball diamond (maintained) per 2,400 population with regularly serviced ball diamonds concentrated within Primary Urban Centres. Prioritize the upgrade of existing diamonds as determined by the sport field classification analysis.

Implement specific ball diamond capital projects identified in this PRMP to maintain the service provision. Prioritize future new ball diamonds in locations with active minor associations including Blenheim, Chatham, Dresden, and Wallaceburg, where necessary.

Identify assets unnecessary to the provision level for divestment in the asset management plan.

## Accessible Premier Ball Diamond

Develop a fully accessible premier ball diamond with artificial turf in Chatham capable of supporting growth in programming for those with a physical disability and competitive high-level minor baseball games. Location should be co-located with similar facilities for maintenance efficiencies and to support tournaments.

**Capital Cost:** \$4.1 M  
**DC Category:** Growth and Non-Growth Components

**Completion:** 2030  
**Source:** Partnership

---

## Soccer and Multi-Use Field Service Provision

Maintain a service level provision of 1 soccer field per 2,900 population with maintained fields concentrated within Primary Urban Centres. Prioritize the upgrade of existing – as determined by the sport field gap analysis – or development of new fields in locations with active minor associations.

Implement specific multi-use field capital projects identified in this PRMP to maintain the service provision.

Ensure a minimum of two full-sized fields in Chatham and one full-sized field in other Primary Urban Centres, where applicable, have infrastructure and turf quality suitable for football and rugby. Refer assets exceeding the provision level to the corporate divestment strategy.

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## Tilbury Youth Soccer Fields

Build two youth-size soccer fields resulting from the Knights of Columbus Park site plan to support the growth of youth soccer in the community.

**Capital Cost:** \$200 K  
**DC Category:** Growth

**Completion:** 2030  
**Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

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## Tennis Court Capital Renewal Program

Establish a funding program for the capital renewal of existing tennis courts in Chatham, Dresden, Pain Court, Ridgetown, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, and Wheatley. Standard specifications for renewal projects to include surface conversion to concrete in Steinhoff Park and Kinsmen Park. Tennis courts to be lined for pickleball or other appropriate

uses according to localized demand. Joe Carpenter Tennis Courts to remain excluded from multi-purpose use.

**Capital Cost:** \$1 M **Completion:** 2032  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

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### Pickleball Court Expansion

Construct new dedicated outdoor pickleball courts in Mitchell's Bay and expand quantity of courts in Tilbury's Memorial Park through local fundraising partnerships.

**Capital Cost:** \$600 K **Completion:** 2029  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement **Source:** Partnership

---

### Multi-Use Courts

Design sport courts as multi-use specific to localized demand (i.e. ball hockey, lacrosse, racquet sports, basketball) for new developments or renewal projects located in Neighbourhood Parks of Primary Urban Centres or in any active parkland outside Primary Urban Centres. Exclusions for dedicated single sport use are denoted within the PRMP.

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### Multi-Use Court Rehabilitation

Rehabilitate multi-use courts in Victoria Park (Bothwell) and Ferguson Park.

**Capital Cost:** \$500 K **Completion:** 2030  
**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve

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### Basketball Courts

Construct new basketball courts with multi-use accommodations at McGregor Kinsmen Park and a location in Wallaceburg to accommodate growth. Rehabilitate or reconstruct the court at Laverne Kelly Memorial Park to include basketball and other uses.

**Capital Cost:** \$350 K **Completion:** 2031  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement **Source:** Lifecycle Reserve / Partnership

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### Cricket Pitches

Operate two municipal cricket pitches over the planning horizon of the PRMP including the new development planned at St. Clair College Community Park suitable for high

level organized competition. Establish partnerships for the provision of supporting amenities at the Ferguson Park pitch such as safety netting, benches, and bleachers according to demand.

**Capital Cost:** \$150 K  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement

**Completion:** 2031  
**Source:** Partnership

## Pools, Splash Pads, and Water Access

### Pool Service Provision

Maintain year-round indoor pool access at the Gable Rees Rotary Pool and Sydenham Pool. Establish a new service level provision of indoor pool access within Chatham. Prioritize community access partnerships with existing indoor pool operators such as the YMCA to meet the service level provision.

Maintain a service level provision of four (4) outdoor pools across Chatham-Kent with a minimum geographic distribution of one (1) pool each in Chatham, Tilbury, North Kent, and Southeast Kent. Implement a strategy to divest Jaycee Pool (Chatham), Walter Hawkins Pool (Chatham), one (1) additional outdoor pool, and the wading pool at Memorial Park (Tilbury). Maintain all pools at defined levels of service within the capacity of the asset management plan until divestment decisions are made.

An option for divestment should be presented where a location requires a capital project above \$750K, cannot be consistently staffed during an operating season, or its user fee recovery target cannot be reasonably achieved. Divestment options should only be presented where the service level provision can be maintained.

Should indoor pool capacity not be acquired in Chatham then the outdoor pool service level provision should be increased to two (2) in that community for a total of five (5) across Chatham-Kent.

Consider as part of any divestment business plan the replacement of the outdoor pool or wading pool with a splash pad.

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### Splash Pads

Upgrade or expand current splash pads at Mitchell's Bay Beach and Wheatley Area Recreation Complex to accommodate high use. Identify a location in South Chatham to construct a new splash pad within the context of future outdoor pool divestment.



Evaluate location of the Colwell Park splash pad according to future park site plans in Wallaceburg and consider alternative locations at the end of the asset's useful life.

**Capital Cost:** \$1 M  
**DC Category:** Growth and Non-Growth Components

**Completion:** 2034  
**Source:** New Capital / Lifecycle Reserve

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### Indoor Pool Maintenance Response

Establish an indoor pool maintenance response time of one (1) hour. Determine dedicated capacity and resources necessary to achieve this response time with recommendations included in the 2028-2031 Municipal Budget.

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### Recreation Waterfront Destinations

Recognize Erieau and Mitchell's Bay beaches as important recreational waterfront destinations for residents and visitors. Such designation should consider special consideration for levels of service or recreation amenity development outside the parks classification structure as well as targeted investment in public recreation program delivery or special events during the summer.

Maintain Terrace Beach, Pier 1 Road Beach, and Getty's Beach as passive recreation spaces.

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### Shrewsbury Boat Launch

Secure dedicated public parking space to accommodate high use of the Shrewsbury Boat Launch. Should space not be secured develop a business case for relocation or divestment according to the infrastructure's expected end of useful life.

**Capital Cost:** \$185 K  
**DC Category:** Service Enhancement

**Completion:** 2030  
**Source:** New Capital

## Kayak Launches

Maintain and expand opportunities to launch canoes and kayaks along rivers and bays in Chatham-Kent. Priority opportunities include Thames Grove Conservation Area, Sydenham River in Dresden, Mitchell's Bay, and Rondeau Bay in Erieau. Priority projects to improve the accessibility of existing launches include Parry Landing Park and Crothers Park.

**DC Category:** Infrastructure Renewal / Service Enhancement

**Capital Cost:** \$700 K

**Completion:** 2032  
**Source:** New Capital /  
Lifecycle Reserve

## Program and Service Delivery

### Service Delivery

Adopt a hierarchical approach to recreation service delivery that prioritizes the delivery of programs by community-based organizations over direct municipal delivery.

Strategies shall include:

- (1) **Facilitation:** Develop systems of support that build community capacity to independently deliver programs and encourage resident uptake. Systems can include venue access, governance resources, marketing, technical expertise, trends identification, engaging volunteers, or access to financial support.
- (2) **Partnerships:** Enter into partnerships or joint ventures with community-based organizations to fill identified recreation program gaps where the facilitation approach is not sustainable, yet some community-based capacity is available.
- (3) **Direct Delivery:** Undertake the direct delivery of a recreation service where there is an established need and where facilitation and partnership delivery strategies are not viable or available.

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### Community Engagement

Dedicate staffing capacity to regularly engage with seasonal user groups of recreation facilities and other relevant recreation stakeholders. Such dedicated support shall: (1) Promote the service delivery hierarchy; (2) Review program participation data to make informed decisions to address gaps in parks and recreation services; (3) Identify recreational opportunities that enable and support unstructured, self-structured, and

low/no cost activities for all genres, in addition to local sports and other organized activities.

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### **Allocation Policy**

Maintain a comprehensive Allocation Policy for the distribution of playing time at arenas, sports fields and other appropriate recreation facilities. Policy to be based on a consultation process leading to guiding principles, prioritization criteria, fairness, and the maximization of facility use.

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### **Payment Systems**

Implement modernized payment systems at arena canteens and indoor pools to increase security, simplify process, and enhance customer satisfaction.

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### **Online Facility Booking**

Implement an online system allowing user groups to book time at recreational facilities.

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### **User Fee Review**

Review and establish a comprehensive user fee policy for parks and recreation programming and facility rentals based on the following:

- Subsidy (tax base or other) provided to fund a service/program is directly proportional to the degree in which the service/program provides community benefit
- Services primarily benefiting individuals to be mostly or fully funded through user fees
- Services primarily benefiting the community/open access to receive the greatest cost subsidy.
- Policy shall consider the full cost of service (direct and indirect).

New fee structure to be recommended for inclusion in the 2028-2031 Municipal Budget.

## Partnership Development

Lead and broaden the use and range of partnerships, joint ventures, and related initiatives – including equipment provision, subsidization, and other support services – as a strategy to sustainably implement gaps in recreation infrastructure and services.

## Policy and Sustainability

### Strategic Alignment

Incorporate Parks and Recreation Master Plan direction into future municipal plans, policies including but not limited to Official Plan amendment, secondary plans, asset management plans, financial plans, mobility plans, environment and sustainability plans.

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### Prioritization Framework

Prioritize resources for infrastructure development and service delivery according to the following hierarchy:

- 1: Support for Council Strategic Directions: Recreation services that are primarily intended to support the strategic directions of the Municipality as identified by Council and as updated from time to time.
  - 2: Broad-based Participation: Recreation services that facilitate and encourage broad-based participation for all municipal residents at the recreational participation levels, and at regional and provincial competitive levels for children and youth.
  - 3: Inclusion: Recreation services that support accessibility linked to the recreation interests of specific groups, including those with disabilities, seniors, young children, youth, new Canadians and other identified groups.
  - 4: Competitive Participation and Events: Recreation services that support competitive, high-performance participation, tournaments, events and related activities.
- 

### Development Standards

Develop technical specifications for asset types and sub-classes (i.e. playgrounds, ball diamonds, sport courts etc.) for the purpose of consistency and capital forecasting.

### **Level of Service (LOS)**

Increase confidence in the long-term financial plan of the parks and recreation system through continued review of the operational LOS within the Parks & Recreation Asset Management Plan. Identify the corresponding resources necessary to maintain assets at the desired LOS of Municipal Council and the customer. Provide updated LOS options to Council for consideration in the 2028-2031 Municipal Budget consistent with the Asset Renewal Funding Ratio target of 90-100%. Fully fund the lifecycle of all new capital assets at the identified LOS.

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### **Development Charges**

Review and adjust Development Charges for parks and recreation consistent with future capital developments identified in this plan.

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### **Municipal Property Development**

Prioritize parks and recreation infrastructure development on municipally owned property. Divest municipal infrastructure located off municipal property where opportunities for replacement are available, redundancies are identified, or long-term certainty cannot be achieved.

Future property acquired for recreational development should be under ownership and control of the Municipality.

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### **Co-Location and Multi-Use**

Co-locate multiple recreation facilities of the same type – i.e. ice pads, soccer fields, ball diamonds – together on one site for significant developments to reduce maintenance costs, share amenities, and increase opportunities for programming and large events.

Implement multi-use approaches in the development of services, facilities and parks.

## Community Parkland Management

Reduce the parks and recreation infrastructure funding gap by extending or pursuing community partnerships to maintain and operate parkland in North Buxton, Merlin, Dealtown, Grande Pointe, Morpeth, and Tupperville.

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## Data Driven Decision-Making

Incorporate socio-demographic data into capital asset decision-making – including play equipment and other park amenities – to identify disparities and promote equity across different groups in Chatham-Kent.

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## Design Drivers

Incorporate best practice accessible design principles into new and renewed developments to better ensure public spaces cater to individuals of all abilities, including those with physical, sensory, or cognitive impairments.

Follow Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the design of public facilities and spaces including the prioritization of natural surveillance through increasing visual permeability, enhanced lighting, and building amenities that encourage high public use. Where applicable, collaborate with Chatham-Kent Police Service on the implementation of monitored surveillance in parks to deter vandalism.

Prioritize elements in the design of active spaces and grounds that accommodate the hosting of organized public programming. This may include adequate shelter, amenities, storage and flexible spaces utilized for camps, meetings, and other activities with a particular focus on programming for youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations.

Encourage an increase in quantity and capacity of special events hosted on parkland by exploring feasibility of implementing special event-supporting amenities or enhancements such electrical connections, park lighting, WIFI, shelters, and onsite storage. Priority locations include Victoria Park (Bothwell), Tecumseh Park, Larne Kelly Memorial Park, Ferguson Park, Mitchell's Bay Beach, and Memorial Park (Tilbury).



### **Sponsorship and Advertising Leadership**

Implement a new staff position to maximize opportunities to grow revenues through sponsorship, advertising, grants, and community funding partnerships for priority capital projects outlined in this Plan. New revenues are intended to fund this position and reduce the parks and recreation infrastructure funding gap.

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### **Project Management Capacity**

Increase dedicated parks and recreation project management capacity necessary to deliver capital projects outlined in PRMP 2025, and other lifecycle needs identified in the AMP, through the addition of up to two Project Managers, subject to ongoing assessment of staffing capabilities against identified efficiencies. Additional capacity to prioritize both the execution of projects and the advanced planning and design of projects to improve financial forecasting and leverage grant and other third-party funding opportunities as become available.

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### **Monitoring and Renewal**

Monitor implementation progress of PRMP 2025 benchmarked against recommended timelines. Consult with the public on five (5) year intervals and recommend changes and new priorities based on evolving community needs. Maintain a planning horizon of at least ten (10) years for each iteration.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of PRMP 2025 will enhance the adaptiveness, inclusiveness, sustainability, and connectedness of Chatham-Kent's parks and recreation system. Implementation is intended to be flexible, recognizing the evolving nature of community priorities, funding availability, and changing condition of assets over time. Annual reviews are to be conducted along with the recommended mid-term solicitation of public feedback and benchmarking to ensure PRMP 2025 remains current and responsive to unexpected opportunities.

Applicable policy direction shall be incorporated into the planning policies of the Official Plan during the next review. Upcoming development or review of complimentary municipal plans shall also be guided by PRMP 2025 including those impacting mobility, accessibility, public health, growth, and environment.

While PRMP 2025 identifies capital projects and improvements to support service levels and community needs, it is not a comprehensive inventory of all asset impacts. It is intended to inform and complement the AMP by identifying priority infrastructure renewals, acquisitions, and divestment opportunities. The recommendations in PRMP 2025 shall be reviewed and integrated into future updates of the AMP to ensure alignment between service level objectives and financial sustainability.

### Cost Phasing

Costs to deliver recommendations, outlined in Table 37, are forecasted as order-of-magnitude estimates informed by recent municipal data, provincial comparators, and industry standards adjusted for inflation by year. \$226.6 million in capital investment is forecasted, including \$25.5 million in existing funding, \$5.4 million in committed third-party funding, and \$191.7 million in new capital.

Phasing for large capital projects is assumed; however this will be better determined through detailed feasibility studies. All projects and funding sources will be subject to Council approval as identified in future budget processes and the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The LTFP will consider expectations for upper-level grants, new growth revenue from expiring Community Improvement Plan taxation deferrals, new revenue from expected investments, and spreading the cost of large new projects over decades by using responsible debt to provide generational equity.

PRMP 2025 recommendations are expected to have a \$2.6 million base budget impact by 2035. Operating cost impacts are presented net of anticipated revenues, divestments, and any maintenance savings expected from upgrades or service changes. Impacts are included in the year in which the asset is expected to begin operation, which may differ from construction year. Operating impacts include an additional 13.5 full-time equivalent staff to deliver recommended projects or levels of service. Workforce requirements will continue to be evaluated over the planning horizon, accounting for identified efficiencies or emerging service pressures, to ensure parks and recreation maintains an appropriately scaled workforce.

Finally, increases to lifecycle funding for new acquisitions are captured in operating budget impacts. When new assets are acquired, it is critical the appropriate lifecycle funding is allocated to the budget to ensure these assets meet their service level expectations. This includes planned activities such as:

- Inspections
- Cleaning
- Routine and preventative maintenance
- Compliance with legislative requirements
- Planning for future renewal costs and timing

These costs are estimated based on lifecycle requirements for comparable municipal assets. While this provides a realistic picture of the funding required to sustain service levels in the near term, it does not fully resolve long-range funding pressures associated with eventual major replacements or end-of-life decisions. Those longer-term pressures and any associated funding gaps will be addressed more comprehensively through the Municipality's broader asset management planning processes, which will consider full lifecycle costing, risk, and levels of service across all municipal infrastructure.

Actual financial implications to the Municipality resulting from PRMP 2025 are to be confirmed through the municipal budget process.

**Table 37: PRMP Cost Impacts by Year**

Year	PRMP Recommendation	Capital Impact (Total)	Net Operating Budget Impact (Annual)
2025	St. Clair College Community Park (Phase II Development) East Kent Memorial Arena Upgrades Arena WIFI New Kayak Launch (1)	\$3.0 M	\$88,000

	Accessible Playground Upgrade (1)		
2026	St. Clair College Community Park (Phase III Development) Wheatley Downtown Park (Detailed Design) Multi-Use Court Rehabilitation (1) New Basketball Court (1) Accessible Ball Diamond (Detailed Design) New Kayak Launch (2) Sponsorship & Advertising Coordinator Project Manager	\$5.1 M	\$200,000
2027	Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Concept & Feasibility) South Kent Ball Diamond Complex (Concept & Feasibility) Park Trail Renewal (1) Sport Court Renewal (1) Fit Park, New or Upgrade (1)	\$4.9 M	\$140,000
2028	Land Acquisition, Strategic Projects Community Space Rehabilitations (4) Parking Lot Conversion (1) Outdoor Pool Divestment (1) and Indoor Pool Partnership Sport Court Renewal (1) Facility Operators (3 FTE) (Winter Parks & Indoor Pool Service Levels, New Assets)	\$7.2 M	\$375,000
2029	Wheatley Downtown Park (Phase I Development) Blenheim Memorial Arena Renovation Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Design) Park Trail Renewal (1) New Inclusive Playground (1) Vacant Parkland Development (1) Accessible Ball Diamond (Phase I Development) New Pickleball Courts (2) Splash Pad Renewal (1) Project Manager	\$12.3 M	\$180,000
2030	Wheatley Downtown Park (Phase II Development) South Kent Ball Diamond Complex (Design) Wheatley Arena Accessibility Upgrades Accessible Ball Diamond (Phase II Development) Sport Court Rehabilitation (1) Tilbury Youth Soccer Fields Vacant Parkland Development (1)	\$6.1 M	\$85,000

	Shrewsbury Boat Launch		
2031	Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Phase I Development) Wallaceburg South Side Parkland (Design) Dressing Room Addition (1) Park Trail Renewal (1) New Inclusive Playground (1) Parking Lot Conversion (1) New Basketball Court (1)	\$33.2 M	\$100,000
2032	Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Phase II Development) Wallaceburg South Side Parkland (Phase I Development) Sport Court Renewal (1) New Kayak Launch (1) Facility Operators (2.5 FTE) (New Assets)	\$80.9 M	\$420,000
2033	Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Phase III Development) Wallaceburg South Side Parkland (Phase II Development) South Kent Ball Diamond Complex (Phase I Development) Park Trail Renewal (1) Vacant Parkland Development (1) Splash Pad Renewal (1) Facility Operators (2.5 FTE) (New Assets)	\$15.6 M	\$530,000
2034	Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Phase IV Development) Wallaceburg South Side Parkland (Phase III Development) South Kent Ball Diamond Complex (Phase II Development) Parking Lot Conversion (1) Vacant Parkland Development (1) New Splash Pad (1) Facility Operators (1.0 FTE) (New Assets)	\$21.2 M	\$260,000
2035	Multi-Use Recreation Centre (Phase V Development) South Kent Ball Diamond Complex (Phase III Development) Parking Lot Conversion (1) Vacant Parkland Development (1) Facility Operators, Lifeguards (1.5 FTE) (New Assets)	\$33.8 M	\$220,000

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## **APPENDIX A      PARKS INVENTORY**

Park	Location	Size (ha)	Classification	Features
Bell Park/Lee Family Park	720 James Street, Wallaceburg	0.03	Parkette	Memorial gardens
Birkshire Park	9 Cambridge Crescent, Chatham	0.17	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Blenheim B-Fit Park	232 Chatham Street South, Blenheim	7.21	Community Park	Outdoor fitness equipment, pathway, gravel lot
Blythe Park	389 Tweedsmuir Avenue West, Chatham	2.13	Community Park	Playground, two ball diamonds, small shelter, storage building, gravel lot
BME Park	197 Wellington Street East, Chatham	0.08	Parkette	Memorial gardens, monument
Briar Hill Greenspace	10 Briar Hill Road, Chatham	0.76	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Bridal Path Park	123 Paddock Road, Wallaceburg	0.25	Parkette	Open space
Brown Wright Park	61 Little Street North, Wheatley	0.33	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Bruinsma Park	West Court Boulevard, Wallaceburg	1.77	Community Park	Open space
Campbell Park	24 Argyle Crescent, Chatham	1.00	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, half basketball court, community gardens, pathway
Carrick's Corners	33 Queen Street North, Tilbury	0.05	Parkette	Small shelter, gardens
Cenotaph Park	815 Dufferin Avenue, Wallaceburg	0.17	Parkette	Monuments
Centennial Park	19955 Pook Road, Blenheim	5.49	Community Park	Ball diamond (lit), two soccer fields, four youth fields, playground, small shelter, washroom building, gravel lot, two pickleball courts
Christian Park	89 Tissiman Drive, Chatham	0.72	Parkette	Open space
Civic Square Park	779 James Street, Wallaceburg	0.35	Parkette	Fountain, pathway
CK Centre for Community Services	421 Grand Avenue West, Chatham	7.95	Community Park	Skateboard Park, six mini (4-6yrs) soccer fields, five mini (7-8yrs) soccer fields, four mini (9-10yrs) soccer fields, large shelter w. canteen, washroom & storage, pathway
Claire Taylor Optimist Park	5 Bombardier Place/64 Ford Crescent, Blenheim	0.23	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, pathway
Colwell Park	300 Running Creek Drive, Wallaceburg	0.35	Neighbourhood Park	Splash pad, playground, small shelter, gravel lot
Crawford Park	58 Crawford Avenue, Tilbury	0.13	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Creekview Place Greenspace	211 Taylor Trail, Chatham	0.23	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Crothers Conservation Area	261 Forhan Street, Wallaceburg	8.59	Community Park	Large shelter, washroom building, playground, pathway, kayak launch, gravel lot

Dauw Park	1401 Beth Street, Wallaceburg	0.05	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Dealtown Park	34 Francis Avenue, Dealtown	0.61	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Don Mahon Park	37 Wedgewood Avenue, Chatham	0.32	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, small shelter
Doug Allin Tennis Courts	300 Faubert Drive, Chatham	0.34	Neighbourhood Park	Four tennis courts (lit)
Dresden Rotary Children's Park	488 Isaac Street, Dresden	0.16	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Dresden Rotary Memorial Gardens	153 Centre Street, Dresden	0.49	Neighbourhood Park	Small stage, gardens, paved lot
Eddie Turner Park	89 Mary Street, Thamesville	0.05	Parkette	Small shelter, gardens
Ellis Park	73 Ellis Street, Chatham	1.33	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Felix & Bertha Dauw Park	1218 Elgin Street, Wallaceburg	3.33	Neighbourhood Park	Two ball diamonds, three mini soccer fields, paved lot
Ferguson Park	32 Wallace Street, Thamesville	8.38	Municipal Park	Outdoor pool, skateboard park, splash pad, playground, ball diamond (lit), cricket pitch, mini soccer field, multi-use court, large shelter, pathway, gravel lots
Forsyth Park	24 Garry Avenue, Blenheim	0.21	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Francis Moore Park	69 Lorne Ave, Chatham	0.15	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Fred Collins Park	98 Thames Street, Chatham	0.12	Parkette	Gardens, seating
Getty's Beach	22 Kay Avenue, Wheatley	0.66	Parkette	Beachfront space
Glassford Park	66 King Street, Wallaceburg	0.16	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, small basketball court
Glen Mickle Park	2 Henry Street, Wallaceburg	6.16	Community Park	Two ball diamonds (lit), soccer field, outdoor fitness equipment, playground, washroom building, lacrosse court, skateboard park, paved parking
Gordon Park	507 Gillard Street, Wallaceburg	0.55	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, small ball diamond
Grande Pointe Park	7192 St Phillippe Line, Grande Pointe	2.37	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond (lit), small soccer field, playground, shelter, gravel lot
Happy Tails Dog Park	181 Baldoon Road, Wallaceburg	0.90	Neighbourhood Park	Dog park, gravel lot
Heatherington Park	Talbot Road East, Wheatley	0.66	Open Space / Conservation	Grant Bowman Trail
Henry Smyth Park	375 Mercer Street, Chatham	3.37	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, pathway
Henry Weaver Park	91 Duke Street, Chatham	0.89	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Hudson Pathway	77 Landings Pass, Chatham	0.35	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Huron Street Boat Launch	Huron Street, Wallaceburg	0.29	Open Space / Conservation	Boat launch, gravel lot

Idlewild Trail	Idlewild Drive, Chatham	1.27	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Indian Crest Park	611 Lacroix Street, Chatham	4.88	Neighbourhood Park	Pathway
IODE Memorial Park	61 Main Street East, Ridgetown	0.16	Parkette	Memorial, gardens
Ivan Coulter Memorial Community Park	34 Erie Street North, Wheatley	0.09	Parkette	Small bandshell
Jackson Park	250 Robinson Street, Dresden	0.75	Community Park	Ball diamond, two pickleball courts, playground, washroom building
Jaycee Park	101 Larkwood Street, Wallaceburg	1.54	Neighbourhood Park	Outdoor pool, three small ball diamonds, playground, washrooms w. concession
Jaycee Park	5 Phillip Street, Chatham	1.24	Community Park	Playground, splash pad (toy), small shelter
Jaycee Riverview Park	630 Grand Avenue West, Chatham	0.47	Parkette	Gardens, seating
Jaycette Park	50 Burton Avenue, Chatham	0.73	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Joe Carpenter Tennis Courts	287 McNaughton Avenue West, Chatham	0.72	Neighbourhood Park	Four tennis courts (lit), clubhouse building, fitness equipment
John Waddell Park	59 Water Street, Chatham	2.05	Neighbourhood Park	Dog park, paved lot
JR Smith Park	12582 Durham Street, Morpeth	1.58	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond (lit), playground, large shelter, gravel lot
Keil Drive Soccer Fields	525 Keil Drive South, Chatham	3.25	Community Park	Two soccer fields (lit), paved lot
Kent Centre Women's Institute Park	9228 Maynard Line, Chatham	0.42	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Kinette Park	1 Jasper Avenue, Chatham	0.05	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Kinette Park	1 Wellington Street, Wallaceburg	0.24	Parkette	Gardens, pathway, gravel lot
King George Park	673 Nelson Street, Wallaceburg	0.73	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond (lit), washroom building, playground
Kingston Park	91 Paxton Drive, Chatham	7.06	Municipal Park	Three playgrounds, three shelters, washroom building w. storage, splash pad, outdoor fitness equipment, pathway, paved lot
Kinsmen Park	207 Argyle Avenue, Wallaceburg	3.90	Community Park	Ball diamond (lit), soccer field, washroom building w. storage, playground, gravel lot
Kinsmen Park	720 Tecumseh Street, Dresden	2.49	Community Park	Outdoor pool, ball diamond, splash pad, lawn bowling club, multi-use court, playground, small shelter, washroom building w. concession
Kinsmen Park	98 Glenwood Drive, Chatham	1.62	Neighbourhood Park	Two ball diamonds, playground, washroom building w. storage
Kirkham Park	92 Lyon Avenue North, Tilbury	0.73	Neighbourhood Park	Small ball diamond, playground
Kiwanis Park	5 George Street, Ridgetown	2.01	Community Park	Outdoor pool, splash pad, playground, two tennis courts (lit), multi-use court, skateboard park, outdoor fitness equipment, shelter, pathway, paved lot

Kiwanis Stadium	50 Tweedmuir Avenue, Chatham	1.52	Neighbourhood Park	Soccer field, walkway
Knights of Columbus Park	10 Elizabeth Street, Tilbury	0.85	Community Park	Splash pad, playground, small ball diamond, shelter, washroom building
Lamarsh Park	60 Lamarsh Street, Wheatley	1.19	Neighbourhood Park	Soccer field, playground, small basketball court
Landings Pass Park	64 Landings Pass, Chatham	2.81	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, pathway
Lark Park	53 Lark Street, Chatham	2.87	Neighbourhood Park	Soccer field, pathway
Larry O'Rourke Park	6 Hillcrest Avenue, Chatham	9.61	Neighbourhood Park	Pathway
Laverne Kelly Memorial Park	1315 Mariners Road, Erieau	6.72	Municipal Park	Two washroom buildings, two shelters, small ball diamond, two pickleball courts, skateboard park, basketball court, beach volleyball court, two playgrounds (1 accessible), paved and gravel lots, walking trail
Library Park	205 James Street, Wallaceburg	0.19	Parkette	Pathway
Library Park	334 Main Street North, Bothwell	0.06	Parkette	Gardens, pathway
Lioness Park	101 Sylvester Drive, Chatham	3.83	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Lions Park	82 Stewart Street, Chatham	1.56	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond, playground, gravel lot
London Drive Park	95 London Drive, Chatham	0.43	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
MacDonald Park	29860 St Clair Parkway, Wallaceburg	11.59	Community Park	Boat launch, large shelter, pathway, gravel lot
McDougall Park	1109 Elizabeth Street, Wallaceburg	0.20	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, pathway
McFadden Park	310 Blake Street, Wallaceburg	0.20	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
McGregor Kinsmen Park	437 Talbot Street West, Blenheim	2.32	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, large shelter, washroom building w. shelter, gravel lot
McKeough Park	27 Grand Avenue West, Chatham	0.76	Parkette	Landscaped features
Meadowbrook Park	239 Michener Road, Chatham	2.47	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, small shelter
Memorial Park	200 Chatham Street South, Blenheim	3.45	Community Park	Ball diamond (lit), memorial gardens, playground, skateboard park, gravel lot
Memorial Park	24 Stewart Avenue, Tilbury	5.58	Municipal Park	Outdoor pool, wading pool, tennis court, multi-use court, two pickleball courts, playground (inclusive), washroom building, lawn bowling club, skateboard park, pathways, large shelter, Odette Seniors Gardens, gravel lot
Merlin Park	154 Aberdeen Street, Merlin	3.08	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond (lit), washroom building, gravel lot
Mickle Park	61 Main Street West, Ridgetown	0.31	Parkette	Gardens, pathway
Midwood Oxley Park	223 Oxley Drive, Chatham	9.82	Neighbourhood Park	Nature preserve and trail, playground, gravel lot



Mitchell's Bay Beach	2 Main Street, Mitchells Bay	2.57	Municipal Park	Splash pad, washroom building, playground, kayak launch, outdoor BBQs, paved parking
Mitchells Bay Community Park	5 Main Street, Mitchells Bay	5.03	Community Park	Playground, washroom building, two large shelters, pathway, gravel lot
Moore Street Park	141 Moore Street, Wheatley	0.32	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Mud Creek Trail North	471 Keil Drive S, Chatham	3.57	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Mud Creek Trail South	98 Sylvester Drive, Chatham	3.82	Open Space / Conservation	Outdoor exercise equipment, gardens, pathway
Murdock Park	749 Dufferin Avenue, Wallaceburg	0.02	Parkette	Monument
Nichols Park	6 Nichols Drive, Blenheim	0.83	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond, playground
Nicholson Park	2 Mango Lane, Blenheim	1.47	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
North Buxton Park	21979 A.D. Shadd Road, North Buxton	2.49	Community Park	Playground, large shelter, ball diamond, basketball court
Northpointe Park	443 Keil Trail North, Chatham	2.83	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Northside Park	151 Queen Street North, Tilbury	11.04	Community Park	Trails
Oak Ridge Park	27 Maple Street, Ridgetown	1.59	Neighbourhood Park	Two soccer fields, gravel lot
Optimist Park	1545 Elgin Street, Wallaceburg	0.49	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Optimist Park	356 Oak Street East/325 Elm Street East, Bothwell	1.07	Neighbourhood Park	Splash pad, playground, pathway
Oriole Park	30 Oriole Parkway, Chatham	0.21	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Parc Centenaire	16 Notre Dame Street, Pain Court	1.90	Neighbourhood Park	Two tennis courts, playground, two large shelters, gravel lot
Park Crescent Park	142 Erie Street, Wheatley	0.16	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Park in the Gardens	115 Garden Path, Chatham	0.45	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Parry Landing	7068 Grande River Line, Dover	0.95	Parkette	Kayak launch, gravel lot
Paul Belanger Park	16 Notre Dame Street, Pain Court	9.31	Community Park	Ball diamond, pathway, outdoor fitness equipment, tractor pull facility
Percy Park	10 Churchill Street, Chatham	0.84	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond
Phil Carney Park	6 Turquoise Court, Chatham	2.75	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, Maple City Walkway
Pier Road Beach	Pier Road, Wheatley	0.30	Parkette	Beachfront
Pioneer Park	68 Water Street, Wallaceburg	0.16	Parkette	Open space
Richardson Parkette	315 James Street, Wallaceburg	0.08	Parkette	Pathway
Ross Babcock Park	341 Delaware Avenue, Chatham	2.14	Community Park	Outdoor pool, playground, small shelter

Rotary Memorial Park	105 Margaret Avenue, Wallaceburg	0.18	Parkette	Monument
Rotary Park	30 Tweedsmuir Avenue, Chatham	2.45	Community Park	Premier baseball diamond (lit), grandstands, canteen, and field house
Rotary Park Downtown	12 Thames Street, Chatham	0.29	Parkette	Pathway
Sage Close Park	546 St. Clair Street, Chatham	2.37	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Sertoma Park	79 Highland Drive, Chatham	0.19	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Shanks Picnic Rest Area	3009 Talbot Trail, Wheatley	2.66	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Sitting Park	905 James Street, Wallaceburg	0.15	Parkette	Pathway
Smoke Reynolds Park	74 Northern Pine Place, Chatham	0.16	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Southpointe Park	443 Keil Trail North, Chatham	2.62	Parkette	Pathway
Southside Docks	253 King Street West, Chatham	0.75	Parkette	Pathway
St. Joseph's Park	16 St Bernadette Street, Pain Court	0.38	Parkette	Mini soccer field, pathway
Steele Park	49 Orchard Heights Drive, Chatham	2.06	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, pathway
Steinhoff Park	220 Park Street/220 Mary Street, Wallaceburg	2.99	Community Park	Ball diamond (lit), two soccer fields, washroom building, five tennis courts, two pickleball courts, playground
Stirling Park	236 Park Street, Chatham	1.08	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond, playground
Superior Marine Park	579 Wallace Street, Wallaceburg	0.16	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
T.R.E.E.S. Park	53 Marsh Street, Ridgetown	16.65	Open Space / Conservation	Pathways
Tanser Park	15 Tanser Court, Chatham	0.22	Open Space / Conservation	Open space
Taylor Park	178 King Street East, Chatham	0.41	Community Park	Outdoor pool, playground, small shelter, basketball court
Tecumseh Park	50 William Street North, Chatham	3.47	Municipal Park	Bandshell, playground, pathway, monuments, lawn bowling club
Tecumseh Parkway #1 / Trudell Farm	5425 Tecumseh Line, Tilbury	0.22	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway #10 / Tecumseh Monument	14376 Longwoods Road, Thamesville	3.64	Open Space / Conservation	Monument
Tecumseh Parkway #2 / Drake Farm	6272 Riverview Line, Chatham	0.04	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway #3 / McCrae House	7391 River View Line, Chatham	0.09	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway #4 / River Crossing	695 River View Line, Chatham	0.08	Open Space / Conservation	Marker

Tecumseh Parkway #6 / McGregor's Mill	300 Colburne St, Chatham	0.00	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway #7 / Traxler Farm	9759 River Line, Chatham	0.06	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway #8 / Arnold's Mill	11939 River Line, Kent Bridge	0.03	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway #9 / Sherman Farm	19 Victoria St S, Thamesville	0.47	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway East Gateway	15895 Longwoods Road, Bothwell	0.01	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Tecumseh Parkway West Gateway	4075 Tecumseh Line, Tilbury	0.01	Open Space / Conservation	Marker
Terrace Beach	12102 Rose Beach Line, Ridgetown	1.21	Parkette	Beachfront, gravel lot
Thames Campus Sports Complex	999 Grand Avenue West, Chatham	7.17	Community Park	Three ball diamonds (lit), two soccer fields, washroom building, large shelter, playground
Thames Grove Conservation Area	34 Kingsway Drive, Chatham	10.49	Community Park	Boat launch, disc golf course, shelter, washroom building, gravel lots
The Maples Trail	829 Bloomfield Road, Chatham	2.89	Open Space / Conservation	Pathway
Thompson Park	8 Ash Street, Wallaceburg	2.36	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Thornhill Park	114 Thornhill Crescent, Chatham	0.16	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Tilbury Government Dock	Jeannettes Creek Road, Jeannettes Creek	0.34	Parkette	Boat launch, gravel lot
Tony Stranak Conservation Area/McVean	800 Fuller Street, Dresden	5.42	Community Park	Ball diamond (lit), skateboard park, playground, two washroom buildings, two shelters, dog park, pathway, gravel lot
Tupperville Park	17 Centre Side Road, Tupperville	1.62	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond, soccer field, basketball court
Turner Park	140 Tweedsmuir Avenue, Chatham	1.18	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond (lit), playground, small shelter
Vander Avenue Park	24 Vander Avenue, Blenheim	0.21	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Veteran's Tribute Garden	58 Thames Street, Chatham	0.46	Parkette	Memorial gardens, pathway
Victoria Park	498 Elm Street West, Bothwell	8.90	Community Park	Multi-use court, large track, skateboard park, playground, large shelter, ball diamond (lit)
Victoria Park	60 Erie Street North, Ridgetown	1.82	Neighbourhood Park	Ball diamond (lit), playground, gravel lot
Wanless Park	140 Lacroix Street, Chatham	0.48	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Water Tower Park	507 King Street, Wallaceburg	0.20	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
Watson Park	27 York Street West, Ridgetown	3.40	Neighbourhood Park	Shelter
West End Docks	155 Riverview Drive, Chatham	0.39	Parkette	Docks
Westpointe Park	15 Dale Drive, Chatham	0.40	Parkette	Pathway

Wheatley Area Recreation Complex	196 Erie Street North, Wheatley	14.22	Municipal Park	Five ball diamonds, soccer field, walking track, splash pad, skateboard park, two tennis courts, multi-use court, large shelter, outdoor fitness equipment, pathway
Willcox Park	10 Willcox Street, Chatham	0.44	Neighbourhood Park	Playground
William G. Bourdeau Park	18 Fancy Court, Tilbury	0.29	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, small basketball court
Wonderwoods Park	15 Spencer Avenue/76 Patteson Avenue, Chatham	0.33	Neighbourhood Park	Playground, small basketball court
Zonta Park	9 King Street West, Chatham	0.23	Parkette	Gardens, fountain

## **APPENDIX B      PARK MAPPING AND WALKABILITY**

### **Primary Urban Centres**

