

City of Ottawa

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Preliminary Draft: May 2021

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Honour and Collaborate with Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nation and Urban Indigenous Communities

Ottawa is built on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe territory. The peoples of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation have lived on this territory for millennia. Their culture and presence have nurtured and continue to nurture this land. The City of Ottawa honours the peoples and land of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation. The City of Ottawa honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Ottawa, and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan commits to collaboration with the Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nation and the National Capital Commission on respectful inclusion and representation of Algonquin Anishinabe Host Nation. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan also commits to collaboration with Urban First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in Ottawa on respectful inclusion and representation of their diverse cultures in municipal plans and projects.

DRAFT

Executive Summary

Assumption and Analysis

Parks, open space and natural areas are some of the cornerstones and indicators of the quality of life of cities. They provide a distinctive identity to a city and distinguish one city from another. The residents of Ottawa value and use parks and open spaces as gathering places, places for relaxation or discovery and to engage in active organized sports. Where and how the City of Ottawa grows is expected to change substantially over the coming years. While the City may change and grow, all residents should have access to the benefits and services provided by the City's parks and recreation facilities.

This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (the Plan) looks at the City's current parks and recreation facilities and examines what parks and facilities will be required to serve the needs of the city's residents to 2031. This is the City's first combined Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The Plan is a supporting document to the City's 2020 Draft Official Plan. While the 2020 Draft Official Plan provides high level direction on parks and green spaces, this Plan provides more specific recommendations and policy direction on municipal parks and recreation facilities.

This Plan has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of a municipal parks plan under section 42 of the *Planning Act*. The *Planning Act* places limitations on the amount of parkland dedication that the municipality can require based on the proposed land use. A municipality can collect a higher alternative rate than outlined, but only if the city has a by-law which provides for this and a demonstrated need for parkland included in its Official Plan.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act*, introduced as *Bill 197*, received Royal Assent in July 2020. Key amendments to the *Planning Act and Development Charges Act* were proclaimed in September 2020 and came into force at that time. The Province concurrently released *Ontario Regulation 509/20, Community Benefits Charges and Parkland*, under the *Planning Act*. A new subsection requires that all current parkland dedication by-laws that calculate parkland dedication based on the alternative requirement to be re-enacted by September 2022, or they will expire on this date.

Once the Plan is approved by Committee and Council demonstrating the need for more parkland, it will be possible to continue to collect alternative parkland dedication funds.

Provision level targets and recommendations, both citywide and by geographic area (transect), are set within this Plan for active parkland and each of twenty-two facility types (such as recreation complexes, aquatic facilities and sports fields etc.) per 1,000 residents. Recommendations are based on public and stakeholder engagement, staff input, analysis of current inventory, population projections, priority neighbourhoods, recent usage and recreation trends and municipal benchmarking.

Key elements of the Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan include:

1. inventory of current parkland and recreation facilities citywide and by the geographic areas (transects) used by the 2020 Draft Official Plan
2. population, growth and demographic projections, and
3. recommendations by facility type for the number of new parkland and recreation facilities needed by 2031 This is the first draft for advisory and standing committees and City Council to give feedback before the second round of consultation with a final Plan for approval to committee and council in September 2021.

Financial Implications

There are three primary methods by which the City can fund the capital construction of new parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, the replacement of facilities that are at end-of-life, the redevelopment of existing parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and the addition of new amenities to parks and recreation buildings. These three methods are: a) the use of Development Charge funding; b) Cash-in-lieu of Parkland funding, and c) Tax / Rate Support. Each funding source has their own restrictions and main usage.

Development Charge (DC) funding is growth-related, meaning the funding is collected as a result of new development and the resultant population increase in an area. DC funding cannot be used to fund the replacement of park features or amenities that are at end-of-life. This is because replacement of existing features is not growth related. DC funding cannot be used for the acquisition of land for parks but, could be used for acquisition of land for enclosed year-round public recreation buildings/structures. With the extent of intensification planned for the city, the current individual park-based DC allocation model needs to be re-examined in favour of a program-based urban park allocation model.

A program-based DC park model would collect an urban park development charge from new residential units in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects, and these funds would be placed in an *Inside the Greenbelt Urban Park DC Reserve Fund*. It is anticipated that new urban parks would then be funded from this reserve fund on a dollars per square meter basis, through the annual City budget process.

In the suburban and rural transects, developers fund and build new parks based on the DC bylaw. However, with intensification also planned within the suburban areas, it is recommended that the 2022 update to the DC Bylaw consider the reintroduction of park DCs outside the Greenbelt.

Cash-in-lieu (CIL) can be used to fund land acquisition, the development of new parks and recreation buildings, and additions and refurbishments to existing parks and

recreation buildings. The current method of collection and allocating CIL funds does not adequately direct money to the areas and projects where the identified need is greatest. Recreation Cultural and Facility Services (RCFS) will reconsider the CIL of Policy to ensure that it most effectively supports the addition of projects identified in this Plan.

Continued or improved renewal funding via tax/rate support is required for RCFS infrastructure, such as sports courts, pathway lighting, park redevelopment and other infrastructure upgrades. RCFS will support an asset management plan for recreation facilities, that discusses the life cycle renewal or replacement of facilities identified in this plan; this includes community buildings, arenas, and wading pools.

Public Consultation/Input

The City began consultation specific to the Plan in January 2021. This included surveys, online consultation sessions and targeted meetings, run primarily from January to the end of March. The City also received, accepted and analyzed feedback via phone, fax, mail and email. There has been a high level of interest and engagement in the project.

The City heard from 1,820 residents via online surveys with more participation from downtown, inner and outer urban wards than citywide (all wards were represented). The City hosted six online facilitated consultation sessions open to all members of the public and all interested stakeholder groups. All sessions, including the presentation and breakout discussion, were offered in English and French. A session on February 24 was co-hosted by Ottawa Sport Council and focused on sports fields, outdoor and indoor sports courts, amenities and the needs of sport clubs and organizations. Two hundred and twelve people participated in these online sessions with citywide participation.

The City began targeted stakeholder sessions in March, focused on institutional partners such as the City's four school boards and the National Capital Commission to learn how each of these unique stakeholders currently use parks, indoor and outdoor municipal facilities, identify any issues, trends or opportunities for the term of the master plan to 2031. The City of Ottawa *Report on findings from women and gender equity strategy consultations* in 2019 highlighted the following priorities that have been considered during development of the Plan, including a gender inclusive city, representation, and resident engagement. The information from all the response types continues to be collated, analyzed and synthesized. This draft Plan includes an initial analysis of the responses.

Following presentation of the draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan at Committee and Council, the City will continue to analyze feedback from round one and engage in a second round of staff, public and stakeholder consultations in June 2021.

Section 1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Parks, open space and natural areas are some of the cornerstones and indicators of the quality of life of cities. They provide a distinctive identity to a city and distinguish one city from another. The residents of Ottawa value and use parks and open spaces as gathering places, places for relaxation or discovery and to engage in active organized sports.

The City's network of parks is a significant contributing factor to the City's green infrastructure. When parks are developed, a primary objective is to make attractive and accessible spaces that meet the needs of the people who use these public places. Less obvious, but equally important and as essential to the design considerations are the environmental contributions of this green infrastructure - as the City's lungs, climate cooling mechanism, and as the location of extensive permeable surfaces that assist to regenerate and improve ground water, surface water quality and air quality. The benefits of these vital green spaces are as essential to the sustainability of a city as the infrastructure of roads and utilities and contribute to its overall environmental quality and liveability.

As part of the city fabric, parks range in size, scale and location and over time reflect the character, history and transformation of communities. The changes in programming and renewal of amenities and recreational opportunities indicate the changing needs and priorities of residents. As important assets in all neighbourhoods, parks contribute to the vitality, energy, strength and dynamics of a city. Their value continues to appreciate over time and their contribution to the City and region can be measured in terms of human and environmental health, their ecological heritage and cultural land value contributions.

Where and how the City of Ottawa grows is expected to change substantially over the coming years. While the City may change and grow, all residents should have access to the benefits and services provided by the City's parks and recreation facilities.

This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (the Plan) looks at the City's current parks and recreation facilities and examines what parks and facilities will be required to serve the needs of the city's residents to 2031.

In the context of this Plan, parks are lands owned by the City and specifically dedicated or acquired as parkland. The Plan also includes lands the City has leased long-term and uses to provide recreational facilities such as Mooney's Bay Park. As these lands are under City stewardship and control, the City has the ability to upgrade, enhance

and/or use them to provide recreation programs to residents. There are other lands, such as National Capital Commission Greenbelt and school yards, which are green space, but over which the City has no control and no ability to guarantee continued public access and use. These lands do not form part of this Master Plan.

The Plan is a supporting document to the City's 2020 Draft Official Plan. While the 2020 Draft Official Plan provides high level direction on parks and green spaces, this Plan provides more subject specific recommendations and policy direction on municipal parks and recreation facilities.

There are several subjects that this Plan is not meant to address. This Plan does not include:

- Stand-alone cultural facilities that are not embedded within a recreation facility, such as theatres, museums and heritage facilities
- Privately-owned and operated recreation facilities, with the exception of facilities that have a Public Private Partnership (P3) agreement with the City of Ottawa
- Green spaces, sports fields and recreation facilities that are not owned, leased, or operated by the City of Ottawa
- Municipally owned green space, such as Urban Natural Features and ravine lands, that can't be actively programmed, or used for facilities and amenities.
- Issues related to operations and maintenance, such as garbage pick-up, grass mowing and facility conditions
- Recreational programming
- OC Transpo bus routes and schedules and LRT alignment
- Building condition assessments to determine whether facilities are at functional end of life
- Recommendations for decommissioning, renovation or redevelopment of specific existing facilities

This Plan has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of a municipal parks plan under section 42 of the *Planning Act*. Specifically, this Master Plan examines the need for parkland in the City in accordance with subsection 42 (4.1) of the *Planning Act* and complying with the consultation requirements specified in subsection 42 (4.2), to:

- allow the City to adopt specific policies dealing with the provision of lands for parks, or other public recreational facilities, and the use of the alternative parkland dedication requirement in the 2020 Draft Official Plan (this provision allows for increased parkland dedication in areas of higher density such as proposed by the new Official Plan)
- permit the current Parkland Dedication By-law to provide for the alternative parkland dedication requirement after the 2020 Draft Official Plan comes into effect, and

- permit the future Parkland Dedication By-law to provide for the alternative parkland dedication requirement after the current By-law is repealed or expires

1.2 Methodology

In preparing this plan, a literature review was undertaken of relevant provincial and municipal legislation with implications to parks and recreation. A draft outline was developed, and a body of work was generated based on the City's existing and proposed plans and policies relevant to this Plan. Through review and analysis, a baseline of existing and proposed city inventory was established using:

- the current data of population and development trends,
- the per capita data of existing parks and recreation facilities and most current plans for future parks and recreation facilities to 2031, and
- the per capita projected needs for parks and recreation facilities to 2031 based on population projections and provision level targets.

The data was also benchmarked against parks and recreation facility inventories from other municipalities. The City conducted surveys and held public and stakeholder meetings to include in the information, knowledge and data collection for this Plan.

1.3 The Sections of this Document

The sections of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan are structured as follows:

Section 2 provides a summary of the Provincial and Municipal policy context with a bearing on the delivery of parks and recreational facilities. This includes the City's Official Plan, 2020 Draft Official Plan, relevant Master Plans and key policies related to recreation.

Section 3 summarizes citywide growth projections to 2031, broken down by 'transect' to match the geographic planning transects identified in the 2020 Draft Official Plan. Section 3 also provides a summary of demographic information and trends in the city.

Section 4 discusses the impacts of growth, as projected by the City's 2020 Draft Official Plan, on the provision of city owned parkland.

Section 5 provides a summary of the needs assessment for 22 different recreation facility types. The full needs assessments, which analyze each of the 22 identified facility types at citywide and transect wide scales, are detailed in Appendix A.

Section 6 is a summary of the needs assessment for municipal parkland, with the full needs assessment presented in Appendix B.

Section 7 further discusses future parkland needs and details a parkland provision strategy. This is followed by Section 8 which outlines next steps and implementation. The final sections, 9 and 10, provide a list of references and a glossary of terms, respectively.

Appendix A provides the full needs assessment and recommendations for 22 different recreational facility types. The appendix includes a description of the facility types, existing and planned facilities to 2031, per capita provision rates, municipal benchmarking, as well as information on participation, utilization rates, and an initial analysis of public consultation input.

In a similar fashion, Appendix B provides a full needs assessment and recommendations related to the provision of parkland. The appendix includes a description of current park typologies, existing and planned parks to 2031, per capita provision rates, municipal benchmarking, as well as an initial analysis of information gathered through the public and stakeholder consultation process.

Appendix C provides a list of sports and facility types that are not covered by this Plan.

Appendix D provides information on the impacts of climate change on parkland and recreation facilities.

The final Appendix, E, summarizes the public and stakeholder consultation process that supported the creation of the draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

Section 2. Planning Context

2.1 Planning Act

The *Planning Act* (the Act) is provincial legislation that sets out the ground rules for land use planning in Ontario. It describes how land uses may be controlled, and who may control them (Government of Ontario: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Citizen's guide to land use planning: The Planning Act.

The Act gives the authority to municipalities to require land for parks and recreational purposes at the time of the development. This requires any land development application to transfer a predetermined amount of parkland to the City at no cost. The amount of parkland that can be requested is limited by the Act and varies depending upon the proposed uses. As an alternative to requiring a dedication of specific land, the City is permitted to require the payment of the cash value of the land, referred to as cash-in-lieu of parkland (CIL or CILP). Requiring CIL may be more efficient than the dedication of parkland in some cases, such as where land dedication on the site is impractical or where the City can make better use of the money to acquire parkland or improve the capacity of existing parks and recreation facilities elsewhere in the community. The CIL requirement is referred to in the Act and elsewhere in this Master Plan as the "alternative requirement"

Sections 42 and 51.1 of the Planning Act deal with matters related to parkland.

The Act places limitations on the amount of parkland dedication that the municipality can require based on the proposed land use, as follows:

- a maximum of two per cent (2%) of the land area to be developed or redeveloped for commercial or industrial purposes, and
- a maximum of five per cent (5%) of the land area for any other development or redevelopment including residential uses. However, in the case of the development or redevelopment of land for residential purposes, a municipality may choose to utilise an 'alternative rate' that provides up to one hectare of parkland for every 300 dwelling units proposed in the development or, a specified lesser rate if the municipality chooses. To use this 'alternative rate', the City must have a by-law which provides for it. It must also have specific policies dealing with the provision of lands for parks or other public recreational purposes and the use of the alternative requirement in its Official Plan, which policies must be based on a parks plan that examines the needs for parkland in the municipality.

When the municipality requires the payment of cash instead of land dedication, the cash value cannot exceed the value of the land that would otherwise be required to be conveyed to the municipality. One exception is in the case of land that would be

dedicated on the basis of the alternative rate: where cash is taken in lieu of such land, the maximum amount is calculated based on the rate of one hectare per 500 dwelling units (compared to a higher maximum rate of one hectare per 300 dwelling units in the case of parkland dedication).

Where cash is taken instead of land, the money can be spent only for the acquisition of land to be used for park or other public recreational purposes, including the erection, improvement, or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or other public recreational purposes.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act*, introduced as Bill 197, received Royal Assent on July 21, 2020. Key amendments to the *Planning Act* and *Development Charges Act* were proclaimed on September 18, 2020 and came into force at that time. The Province concurrently released *Ontario Regulation 509/20, Community Benefits Charges and Parkland*, under the *Planning Act*.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* introduced requirements for consultation prior to passing a parkland dedication by-law and the ability to appeal by-laws that provide for the alternative rate to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal.

A new subsection, 42 (4.26), requires that all current parkland dedication by-laws that calculate parkland dedication based on the alternative requirement to be re-enacted by September 18, 2022, or they will expire on this date.

The *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* amends section 37 of the *Planning Act* to authorize municipalities to impose community benefit charges against land to pay for the capital costs of facilities, services and matters required because of development or redevelopment in the area to which the by-law applies. The charges may be imposed on development that requires certain specified development applications and is limited to higher-density residential or mixed-use development (development or redevelopment involving a building of 5 or more storeys above ground and adding 10 or more residential units). The *Community Benefits Charges and Parkland* regulation sets out the requirements for a community benefits charge strategy which must be adopted prior to a municipality passing a community benefits charge by-law and sets the maximum for a community benefits charge at four per cent of the value of the land being developed.

2.2 Development Charges Act

The *Development Charges Act, 1997* (the “*Development Charges Act*”) permits municipalities to enact development charge by-laws. Subsection 2(1) of the Act allows the City to establish the by-law and impose development charges against land to pay for increased capital costs required because of increased needs for services arising from development of the area to which the by-law applies.

Development charges can be imposed on certain services designated in subsection 2 (4) of the *Development Charges Act*. As a result of the amendments in the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act* and related amendments which came into effect September 18, 2020, the list of permitted services includes “Parks and recreation services, but not the acquisition of land for parks”.

Regulation O. Reg. 82/98, issued under the *Development Charges Act*, states that “land for parks” includes “(a) land for woodlots and land that is acquired because it is environmentally sensitive;” and “(b) does not include land for an enclosed structure used throughout the year for public recreation and land that is necessary for the structure to be used for that purpose, including parking and access to the structure.”

A municipality is now able to fully recover the growth-related capital costs related to the provision of various services which were often referred to, informally, as “soft” services. Prior to the amendments which came into force with the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act*, the growth-related portion of capital costs of parks and recreation services were recoverable through development charges but would have been subject to a 10 per cent statutory reduction as they were one of the several “soft” services which were prescribed in the regulation.

2.3 Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development in Ontario. The 2020 version of the PPS (“PPS 2020”) was issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act* and came into effect on May 1, 2020. The PPS 2020 applies to all municipal planning matter decisions made or after May 1, 2020.

Section 3 of the *Planning Act* requires that decisions affecting planning matters “shall be consistent with” policy statements issued under the Act. Accordingly, the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a supporting document to the City’s Official Plan which must be consistent with the PPS and other applicable policy statements.

Part IV of the PPS describes the vision for Ontario’s land use planning system. The vision includes efficient development patterns that optimize the use of land, resources and public investment in infrastructure and public service facilities.

Section 1.0, Building Strong Healthy Communities, indicates that Ontario’s long-term prosperity, environmental health and social well-being depend on wisely managing change and promoting efficient land use and development patterns.

Subsection 1.1 contains policies for managing and directing land use to achieve efficient and resilient development and land use patterns. In particular, policy 1.1.1 g) states “*Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by ensuring that necessary infrastructure and public service facilities are or will be available to meet current and projected needs...*”.

Public service facilities are defined in the PPS as land, buildings and structures for the provision of programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other body. Recreation and cultural services form part of the programs and services provided in, or by, public service facilities addressed in this policy.

Policy 1.1.2 states, “*Sufficient land shall be made available to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of land uses to meet projected needs for a time horizon of up to 25 years, informed by provincial guidelines...*”.

To be consistent with the PPS, the City shall ensure that parks and recreation facilities are or will be available to meet the current and projected needs and that sufficient land is made available through the Official Plan to meet the projected needs for a time horizon of up to 25 years. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan focuses on the provision of parks and recreation facilities for a time horizon from 2021 to 2031.

Subsection 1.1.3, Settlement Areas, indicates that growth and development shall be focused in settlement areas. The policies in subsubsections 1.1.3.2 to 1.1.3.8 promote the efficient use and timely provision of public service facilities to meet current and projected needs.

Subsection 1.1.4 includes policies for rural areas in municipalities. Policies 1.1.4.1 to 1.1.4.3 speak to ensuring the long-term health, integration, and viability of rural areas by using existing infrastructure and public service facilities efficiently and by ensuring appropriate provision of such services as development occurs.

Subsection 1.2 of the PPS addresses the coordination of planning matters, including the planning of public service facilities. Relevant policies for parks and recreation facilities include policies 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. These are:

- 1.2.1 *A coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach should be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities, across lower, single and/or upper-tier municipal boundaries, and with other orders of government, agencies and boards including:*
 - d) *infrastructure, multimodal transportation systems, public service facilities and waste management systems;*
- 1.2.2 *Planning authorities shall engage with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters.*

Housing policies are described in Subsection 1.4 of the PPS. Policy 1.4.3 directs that new housing will be located where public service facilities are, or will be available, and that such housing will be provided at densities which use such facilities efficiently.

Subsection 1.5 of the PPS contains policies for public spaces, recreation, parks, trails and open space as described below:

1.5.1 *Healthy, active communities should be promoted by:*

- a) *planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;*
- b) *planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources;*
- c) *providing opportunities for public access to shorelines; and*
- d) *recognizing provincial parks, conservation reserves, and other protected areas, and minimizing negative impacts on these areas.*

Further to Policy 1.5.1b), recreation is defined in the PPS Glossary as leisure time activity undertaken in built or natural settings for purposes of physical activity, health benefits, sport participation and skill development, personal enjoyment, positive social interaction and the achievement of human potential.

Subsection 1.6 contains policies for infrastructure and public service facilities. Policies 1.6.1 to 1.6.5 speak to providing public service facilities in an efficient and financially sustainable manner, that prepares for the impacts of a changing climate. The policies speak to green infrastructure, adaptive reuse, and the creation of community hubs and co-locating facilities to promote cost-effectiveness and facilitate service integration, access to transit and active transportation.

Subsection 1.7 of the PPS contains policies for long-term economic prosperity and addresses parks and recreation facilities under policy 1.7.1. Subsection 1.8 includes policies for energy conservation, air quality and climate change; most relevant to parks and recreation facilities are the policies under 1.8.1.

2.4 City of Official Plan (2003)

Official Plans are legal documents adopted under the authority of the Ontario *Planning Act*. The City of Ottawa's Official Plan (originally enacted in 2003, amendments consolidated in 2013, 2016 and 2019) speaks to the City's strategy for parks and leisure areas. Section 2.5.4 states that "municipal parks are lands specifically dedicated or acquired as parkland by the City and designed for active and passive recreation uses". Key elements of Section 2.5.4 policies of the Official Plan include:

- Parks and leisure areas will be linked to the Greenspace Network
- Council will pursue a target for parks and leisure areas of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people in the urban areas and villages

- New parks will be distributed equitably, accessible by foot or bicycle, visible within the community, and designed for a wide spectrum of users
- The City will determine the park requirements based upon the maximum potential for development anticipated

Parkland dedication policies in Section 4.10 of the Plan note that the City will acquire parkland through the provisions of the Planning Act. In general, the policies direct that parkland dedications amounts are to be 2 per cent of the area of land that is developed or redeveloped for industrial or commercial purposes and 5 per cent (or the alternative dedication under the Act) of the area of land that is developed or redeveloped for all other purposes. Section 4.10 also speaks to the possibility of payment-in-lieu of parkland. Policy 4.10.3 reads:

“The City shall require the dedication of land for parks in an amount not exceeding 5% of the area of land that is developed or redeveloped for all other purposes except that the City will calculate the park dedication for residential development or redevelopment at densities that exceed 18 units per net hectare using the ‘alternative requirement’ of 1 hectare for every 300 dwelling units as provided in the *Planning Act* or some lesser amount based upon this requirement. The Parkland Dedication By-law will identify circumstances when a lesser amount will be considered”.

The provision of parkland will follow the direction and policies of the Official Plan until such time as a new Official Plan is in full force and effect.

2.5 City of Ottawa 2020 Draft Official Plan

In 2019, the City of Ottawa began a multi-year process to develop a new Official Plan (OP). In November 2020, a Draft Official Plan was released for review to the public, stakeholders, technical agencies and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). A full Final Official Plan is expected to go before City Council in the Fall of 2021. Following adoption by Council, the Plan will be sent to the MMAH for review and approval. Ministry approval is expected in 2022.

The City’s 2020 Draft Official Plan contains the City’s goals, objectives, and policies to guide growth and manage physical change to 2046. The vision of the 2020 Draft Official Plan is to make Ottawa the most liveable mid-sized city in North America. To achieve this goal, the draft Plan proposed ‘Five Big Moves’ to frame the policy direction; these fall under the headings of Growth, Mobility, Urban Design, Resiliency and Economy.

The Strategic Directions of Section 2.2 globally point to the importance of parks in creating a liveable city for all. Section 2.2.1 projects that the City of Ottawa “will grow by 402,000 people between 2018 and 2046” and states that half of urban residential

growth will occur within the existing built up area. This section introduces the concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods and the need to ensure that the availability of “services, parks, recreational facilities, public spaces, and other elements of a complete neighbourhood” keeps pace with the increasing population density. The Plan ties the concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods to quality of life and well-being, long-term health, gender equity and culture¹. Many sections of the 2020 Draft Official Plan note the importance of parks and recreational facilities, and the document states the desire to “improve public amenities and services within 15-minute neighbourhoods” which would encompass local parks and recreational facilities.

Section 2.2.3 contains direction and policies related to energy and climate change. The section speaks to the need for resilience and sustainability planning in the face of a changing climate with more extreme weather. It notes the role of parks in mitigating the urban heat island effect and providing reprieve from the heat, including through trees, cooling amenities and spaces; which are often located at public facilities.

Section 3, Growth Management Framework, identifies minimum residential density requirements in different geographic areas and land use designations of the city. Areas identified as Hubs and Corridors and neighbourhoods within a 15-minute walk of a Hub or Corridor are projected to see significant intensification through the application of minimum density requirements. These minimum density requirements, and the resultant population increases, have implications for the provision of parks and recreational facilities, as discussed in Section 4 of this document.

Section 4 of the 2020 Draft OP addresses citywide policies and Section 4.4 deals with Parks and Recreation Facilities. The 2020 Draft OP emphasizes that parks make cities liveable. Parks and recreation facilities are safe places for people of all ages to build community, play, exercise, connect and gather. As the city grows, it is critical for the provision of parks and facilities to keep pace with that growth and changes in neighbourhood context. Section 4.4 also notes that the design of parks and facilities must also respond to our changing climate.

Section 4.4 directs the provision of a variety of park types through the city. Section 4.4.1 identifies park priorities within Ottawa’s growth areas. The policies of the 4.4.1 subsections speak generally to the mechanisms by which parks can be provided, criteria for parkland and what shall not be considered as parkland dedication, addressing parkland gaps and community needs, and the rate of parkland acquisition.

¹ See sections 2.2.4, 2.2.5 and 2.2.6

The subsections also indicate how parkland typologies will be set and suggest methods and locations for acquiring parks. The subsection policies further provide new direction to prioritize land dedication, instead of money for parks, given the importance of parks in neighbourhoods.

The 2020 Draft OP differentiates park policies by context, from the downtown to suburban and rural areas. Section 4.4.3 includes policies suggesting how to provide new parks in the downtown core and inner urban areas of the city. The section recognizes that parks are central pieces of infrastructure and equitable access to parkland is crucial to support urban life, particularly in high-growth, high-density areas. The section recognizes the need for parks of all sizes in these parts of the city. Section 4.4.4 policies also speak to providing a range of parks sizes in the Outer Urban and Suburban Transects but emphasizes the provision of larger parks. Within the rural portions of the city, Section 4.4.5 speaks to locating new parks within villages.

Section 4.4.6 outlines how park design contributes to quality of life for users of all ages and responds to climate change. Parks should have a preferred tree canopy target of 40 per cent. Shaded outdoor recreation spaces and cooling amenities such as splash pads encourage safe, continued use in much warmer temperatures and provide reprieve from the heat, especially for vulnerable populations. The implications of a changing climate on the provision of parks and recreation facilities are discussed in Appendix D.

2.6 Greenspace Master Plan

Ottawa City Council approved the *Greenspace Master Plan (GMP) - Strategies for Ottawa's Urban Greenspaces* in 2006 to express its vision for green space in urban Ottawa and establish policies to achieve that vision in the future.

The GMP considers green space to be land that serves one of two purposes:

- a. "Provision of recreation and leisure opportunities for the use and benefit of the public, or
- b. Preservation of the natural environment and environmental systems"² (Section 1.3).

Since these lands can be either publicly or privately owned, the GMP speaks to a broad spectrum of lands such as waterways and remnant woodlands, stormwater management ponds, school grounds, corridor lands, parks and private campuses.

² City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 1.3

The Greenspace Master Plan identifies five broad objectives for green spaces: adequate supply, accessibility, connectivity, quality and sustainability. The City is to ensure an adequate supply of green spaces to meet growing community need while maintaining natural systems. Green spaces are to be accessible, connected to each other and the community, of high quality and sustainable³.

Recreation land, such as public parks, sports fields and multi-use pathways are addressed in Section 2.3, Ottawa's Open Space and Leisure Lands. "Mapping all the land that contributes to open space and leisure use reveals the pattern that they form and the relationships among them...the distribution of public parks in different communities is more evident and standards of delivery for new communities and older communities are more readily monitored"⁴. Section 2.3.1 states that "public parks, sports fields, and multi-use pathways are the primary and most important lands that provide for the recreational needs of the community. The City owns most of these lands and compared with other public bodies, has the most direct mandate for open space, active recreation and leisure. New public parks, sports fields, and multi-use pathways are provided through public acquisition and through parkland dedication required under the Planning Act at the time of development"⁵.

The City has begun the process to update the original Greenspace Master Plan, which will be released as the new Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and the Greenspace Master Plan

Both master plans are supporting documents to the City's 2020 Draft Official Plan and aim to make green spaces accessible to all residents to improve quality of life.

The Greenspace Master Plan mapped the City's Urban Greenspace Network - of which parks were a part.

Through the creation of the new Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and Urban Forest and Greenspace Master Plan, a distinction is being made between built and natural green spaces.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan provides strategies for parkland acquisition and focuses on meeting residents' needs for recreation.

The Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan will provide direction for preserving and managing natural green spaces and the urban forest for biodiversity, climate change adaptation, and public well-being.

³ City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 1.4.2

⁴ City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 2.3

⁵ City of Ottawa, 2006, Greenspace Master Plan, Section 2.3.1

2.7 Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan

The City is updating the Greenspace Master Plan and anticipates that public consultation, on the draft of a new document, the *Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan*, will occur in mid-2021. The Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan is expected to be presented for Council approval by the end of 2021.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and the Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan, together, aim to provide all residents within Ottawa's urban boundary with equitable access to a connected network of natural areas, green open spaces, pathways, and parks supporting a healthy, diverse urban forest. The City, in collaboration with the National Capital Commission and local Conservation Authorities, manages this green space system to sustain its vital ecosystem services such as biodiversity, shade and urban heat mitigation, recreational uses, and human health benefits. Ottawa's urban green space varies in form and character from rugged, near pristine forested valleys to landscaped parks and event spaces.

It is the position of the Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan that parks play a particularly important role in Ottawa's green space network as formally dedicated and maintained public lands. They support a range of recreational and cultural uses, both active and passive. The role and benefit of formally dedicated, public parks in the urban green space network is that their form and character can evolve over time to meet the needs of the surrounding community and the City. In that way, they are the most flexible component of the City's green space network. The flexibility of parks to evolve in response to the needs of Ottawa's citizens is critical to the continued provision of equitable access to green space.

2.8 Climate Change Master Plan

In January 2020, Ottawa's City Council approved the Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP), the City's overarching framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the current and future effects of climate change. The CCMP's vision is to take unprecedented collective action to transition Ottawa into a clean, renewable and resilient city by 2050 and identifies eight priority actions to be undertaken by 2025. Priority actions include:

- Implement Energy Evolution: Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy
- Undertake a climate vulnerability assessment and develop a Climate Resiliency Strategy
- Apply a climate lens to the new Official Plan and its supporting documents
- Apply a climate lens to asset management and capital projects

In October 2020, Ottawa City Council approved Energy Evolution, the framework for how Ottawa will meet its targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the

community by 100 per cent by 2050 and from City operations by 100 per cent by 2040. A total of 20 projects were identified to be undertaken by 2025 to help accelerate action and investment towards achieving these targets in five sectors: land use, buildings, transportation, waste and renewable natural gas, and electricity.

In late 2020, the City initiated work on a climate vulnerability assessment which will feed into the development of a Climate Resiliency Strategy and Action Plan (to be completed in 2023). The purpose of the vulnerability assessment and strategy is to assess how Ottawa is vulnerable to climate change and identify strategies to adapt to changing climate conditions and mitigate the greatest risks. The final Strategy and Action Plan will identify priority actions to build resiliency to climate change in the community, infrastructure, natural environment and economy. This work will include identifying actions to build resiliency into City parks and recreation facilities.

While work in both Energy Evolution and the Climate Resiliency Strategy is ongoing, the Master Plan considers a climate lens in the following ways:

- Section 2.5 outlines relevant policy directions from the Official Plan related to climate change and parks and recreation facilities;
- Section 3.2 includes a summary of climate change trends.
- Appendix D outlines the impacts of climate change on parklands and recreation facilities

2.9 City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards and Strategy

The City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards and Strategy (2019) provides a written description of recreation sites and facility types. Some examples of City of Ottawa recreational facility types are multi-sport complexes, community centres, field houses and arenas. Within these facility types, there are individual elements that may be included at these sites. For example, an element may be a parking area, pool, fitness facility, storage, canteen, arena, gymnasium, or multi- purpose room. The Standards set minimum expectations for recreation facility infrastructure and its critical requirements for each defined space, considering multifunctional elements to optimize client use, complying with legislation and regulations, while incorporating municipal and industry best practices. These standards are a blueprint in a new build or renovation for a recreation facility, to inform design development from concept through tender drawings and construction.

2.10 Partners in the Provision of Sport and Recreation

The City has several collaborative partnerships with both private and public recreational facility operators. These partnerships open a tremendous amount of opportunities to

offer additional space for programs, as well as a direct option for residents to book these private sports and recreation facilities. These partnerships bring innovative solutions by providing several additional facilities for recreational sport and community programs. For example, the City has agreements with local colleges and universities, and private operators to rent ice, gym and field time for City programs.

The City also shares a reciprocal use agreement with the four Ottawa school boards. As part of this agreement the City and school boards exchange their space in order to offer optimal use of our facilities and parks for students and residents.

Local colleges and universities, and organizations such as the YMCA and RA Centre, also provide a wide range of publicly accessible facilities including pools, arenas, gymnasiums and sports programs. The public can buy gym memberships, register in aquatic programs and join sports clubs.

The programs and facilities offered by a range of partners, greatly expand and supplement what the City has on offer.

Section 3. Population, Residential Growth and Trends

3.1 Population and Residential Growth

The City of Ottawa continues to grow year over year. In 2020, the City's estimated population was 1,018,000 people. As per the 2020 Draft Official Plan, the mid-2021 population is projected to be 1,064,000 people. Ottawa's population is projected to grow by 155,000 people, or 15 per cent, during the ten-year period from 2021 to 2031, reaching an estimated population of 1,219,000. The City's population is projected to increase to 1,410,000 by 2046, representing growth of 346,000, or 33 per cent, over the 25-year period⁶.

Section 2.2.1 of the 2020 Draft Official Plan states that half of urban residential growth will occur within the existing built up area. Many older neighbourhoods are seeing growth through infill development. Other neighbourhoods have remained relatively unchanged since their initial development. In both cases, the neighbourhood populations have been considered relatively stable. Given the 2020 Draft Official Plan's proposed Transect population projections, this consideration is expected to change. The expected population growth will put more demand on local parks and recreational facilities and challenge park planning to find new ways to meet the demand.

What is a Transect?

A Transect is a term used in the 2020 Draft Official Plan. The document divides the City into six concentric geographic policy areas called Transects. Schedule A of the 2020 Draft OP shows these six Transect areas.

For parks and recreation facility analysis and planning, this Master Plan further divides the Suburban transect into three sub-areas; Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East.

⁶ City of Ottawa, 2019, New Official Plan: Preliminary Draft, Table 1.

Figure 1: Schedule A – Transects, 2020 Draft Official Plan

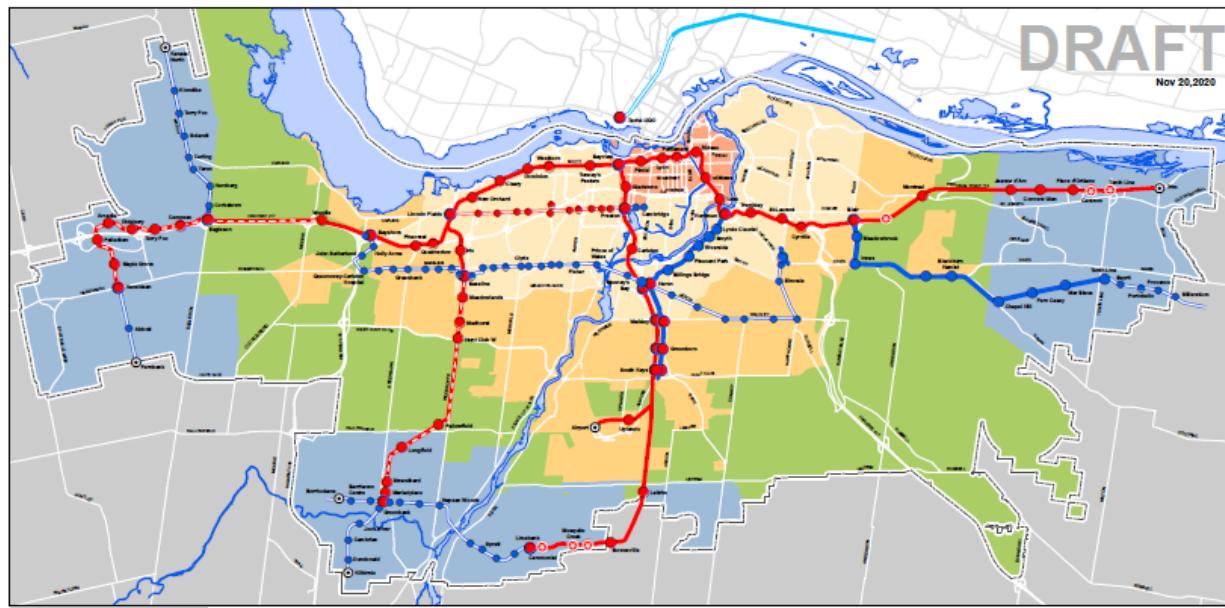


Table 1 breaks down the projected population increases by the transects identified in the 2020 Draft Official Plan.

Table 1: City of Ottawa Projected Population by Transect

Transect	2021 Population Projection	2031 Population Projection
Downtown Core	80,290	91,688
Inner Urban	247,578	267,773
Outer Urban	223,346	240,899
Suburban West	130,909	143,960
Suburban East	125,842	142,478
Suburban South	134,709	152,412
Rural	99,000	114,000
Greenbelt	2,824	3,949
Total	1,064,000	1,219,000

Note: At the time of translation and publishing of this draft document, accurate transect-based population projections, reflective of the 2020 Draft Official Plan direction, were not available. The transect based population projections in Table 1 are based on Environics Analytics data. The table will be updated, for the final Parks and Recreation

Facilities Master Plan, to reflect the available 2020 Draft Official Plan projections to 2031 and 2046.

3.2 Demographic and Population Trends

Demographics

Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) report *State of Ottawa's Health, 2018* provides demographic information for Ottawa. The report notes that "the median age of Ottawa residents is 40 years. An estimated 15% of the population is 65 years of age and older, up from 12% in 2006. As the population ages, it is estimated that older adults (65+ years) will account for over 22% of the population by 2035"⁷.

State of Ottawa's Health, 2018 indicates that "over one quarter (26%) of Ottawa residents identified themselves as a visible minority in 2016, an increase from 20% ten years earlier" and that "a quarter (24%) of Ottawa's population was not born in Canada"⁸. Immigration is a major reason Ottawa's population continues to grow faster than that of Ontario or Canada.

The report also notes that "two and a half percent of Ottawa's population identify as Indigenous (e.g., First Nations, Métis, Inuit), an increase from 1.5% in 2006. This is considered an underestimate of the actual Indigenous population in the city"⁹.

Ottawa's changing demographics will influence the types of parks, recreation amenities and activities that are provided into the future.

Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour

State of Ottawa's Health, 2018 "provides an overview of the health of Ottawa's population, including information about the demographic characteristics of Ottawa residents; key measures of general health...; and behaviours that affect health"¹⁰.

The report includes data on the physical activity and sedentary behaviour of Ottawa residents. The report states that "regular physical activity helps protect against obesity, promotes well-being and self-esteem, and protects against symptoms of mental illness"¹¹.

⁷ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 7

⁸ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 7 and 8

⁹ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 7

¹⁰ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 6

¹¹ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 14

For youth, the report states that “In 2017, one in five (22%) of Ottawa youth reported being active more than 60 minutes every day, which is the level recommended by the Canadian 24–Hour Movement Guidelines” and boys were more likely than girls to meet the guidelines (27% vs 16%), and students in grades 7 to 8 were more likely to meet the guidelines (36%) than those in grades 9 to 12 (14%). Students who perceived themselves to be in lower socioeconomic status families (14%) were less likely to meet the guidelines than students at higher perceived socioeconomic levels (25%)”¹².

The report indicates that “in 2017, 59% of Ottawa youth reported spending more than the recommended two hours per day in sedentary “screen time” activities such as playing video games, watching TV, and surfing the Internet. Students in grades 7 to 8 (50%) were less likely than those in grades 9 to 12 (63%) to spend more than two hours a day on screen-time activities”¹³.

The Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines recommend that adults spend at least 150 minutes per week in physical activity. For adults, the report notes that about two-thirds (65 per cent) of Ottawa residents aged 18 and over met this guideline, and that “adults aged 65 years and older were less likely (49%) to report meeting the physical activity guidelines than younger adults (20 to 44 years of age: 69%; 45 to 64 years of age: 60%)”¹⁴.

As evidenced by the numbers, most youth do not meet the recommended levels of daily activity. The report does not identify the reasons why certain age or population groups are less likely to meet the recommended targets.

A Healthier City

The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa: New Official Plan Discussion Paper explores how we can ensure the places we build enable all people to be healthy, thrive, and live to their fullest potential. The paper notes that “natural environments and greenspaces are an important feature in promoting health”¹⁵.

The paper describes many ways that green spaces provide health benefits including stress reduction and mental health promotion, heat and humidity regulation, air pollution filtration, as well as protection from ultraviolet radiation, wind, noise and storm water runoff¹⁶. An additional health benefit is increased physical activity. The paper states that

¹² Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 14

¹³ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 15

¹⁴ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 15

¹⁵ City of Ottawa, 2019, *The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa*, 15

¹⁶ City of Ottawa, 2019, *The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa*, 15

“Children with a park playground located within 1 kilometre of their home were five times more likely to have healthy weights. Low income neighbourhoods with lots of greenspace had fewer deaths associated with circulatory diseases, and children had healthier weights”¹⁷. The paper goes on to note that “greenspaces are under-utilized public health resources that offer potential to address the growing burden to mental health and disease in Ottawa”¹⁸.

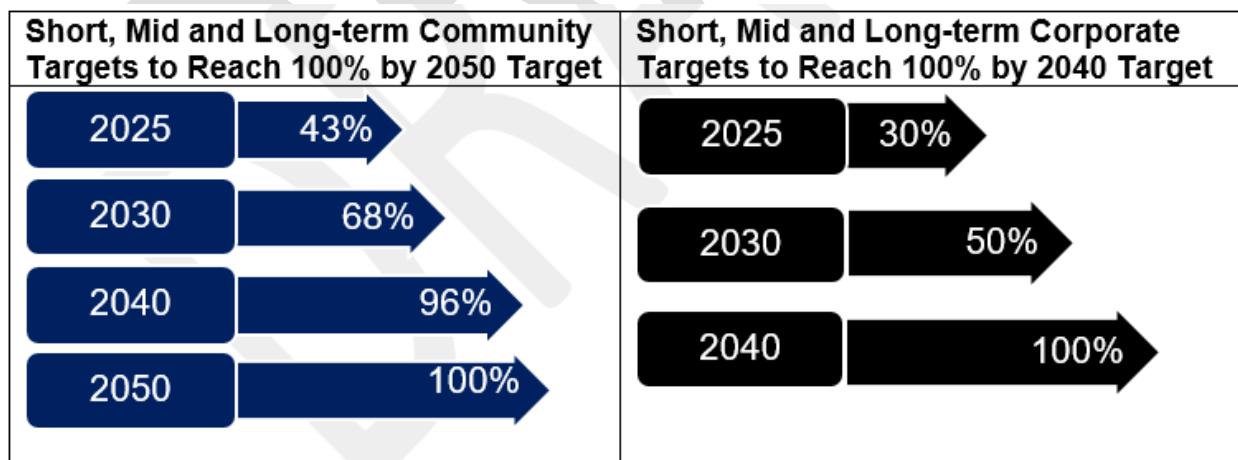
The paper also connects neighbourhood design to health. The paper states that “people with a strong sense of community belonging are more likely to have better physical and mental health. Neighbourhood design promotes health when communities are complete, compact, and connected” and “Complete communities have a diverse mix of land uses which include...parks and open spaces”¹⁹.

Climate Change

In April 2019, Ottawa City Council declared a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from climate change.

The City has set short, mid and long-term targets to reduce GHG emissions for the community and the corporation.

Figure 2: Short, Mid and Long-range Targets



The City tracks GHG emissions on an annual basis. Between 2012 and 2019, community emissions decreased by 12 per cent and emissions from City operations

¹⁷ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 15

¹⁸ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 17

¹⁹ City of Ottawa, 2019, The Building Blocks for a Healthy Ottawa, 18

decreased by 34 per cent. Forty-five per cent of emissions came from Ottawa's building stock in 2019. The rate and extent of climate change will depend on our collective ability to accelerate action and investment to reduce GHG emissions over the coming years.

Ottawa is experiencing warmer, wetter and more unpredictable weather. On average, summers are getting hotter and winters less cold. While average total annual precipitation (rain and snow) has increased, it varies greatly both in terms of where and when it falls. Overall, Ottawa's weather is becoming more variable and unpredictable, and more extreme heat, wind, rain and snow events have been experienced in recent years.

A 2020 study of Climate Projections in the National Capital Region found that Ottawa will continue to become increasingly warmer and wetter over the coming decades, with more intense rainfall and more extreme events projected to occur. These changes are expected to have significant consequences to our health and safety, infrastructure, economy and the environment.

3.3. Equity

The new Official Plan's goal is to create places where everyone can reach daily needs, including parks, within a 15-minute walk of home. This goal is meant to help address gender barriers, equity barriers and to support older adults. Parks and recreation facilities provide places for health that are affordable and accessible by persons of all ages and abilities. They are also seen as important to support caregiving.

State of Ottawa's Health, 2018 indicates that "in 2015, Ottawa's median after-tax individual income was \$37,136" and "thirteen percent of Ottawans were considered low income, with the highest rate (16%) in those under 18 years of age"²⁰. The City of Ottawa views households at, or below, the 30th income percentile as lower income. In 2019, in the City of Ottawa, the 30th income percentile for all households was \$59,136 and for renter households was \$31,147²¹. The City of Ottawa offers fee support to ensure that all residents have access to municipally offered recreation and culture programs and activities regardless of their ability to pay.

The City of Ottawa has identified neighbourhoods or areas experiencing higher rates of social inequity as defined by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index. Section 4

²⁰ Ottawa Public Health, 2018, 8

²¹ 2019 figures for 30th income percentile were projected using the Consumer Price Index, and 2015 household incomes taken from the 2016 Census.

discusses, and Maps 2 and 4 show, neighbourhoods identified as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

Gender Equity

Despite increased labour force participation, women are the predominant providers of informal (i.e., unpaid) care to children. Allocating space and resources for parks and recreation facilities provides essential support to those who frequently handle household and care tasks. Planning processes that recognize intersectionality, or the way that people's identities can overlap, creating compounding experiences of discrimination, can help address inequities.

The City of Ottawa *Report on findings from the women and gender equity strategy consultations* in 2019 highlighted the following priorities that have been considered during development of the Master Plan, including:

- a gender inclusive city,
- representation, and
- resident engagement.

Girls 'n Women & Sport (GWS), is a City of Ottawa initiative, endorsed by City Council and initiated in 1985. GWS advocates and encourage females of all skill levels to participate in sport and physical activity as a player, coach or official. With the slogan 'everybody gets to play' GWS continues to offer quality, fun and safe opportunities for the girls and women of Ottawa to participate in sport and physical activity.

The City's Municipal Sports Strategy 2017-2022 committed to an action to "Design and apply a "sport inclusion lens" to all sport programming, policy development, and facility design/development considerations."

The City of Ottawa refreshed its allocation policy in 2016 to distribute ice time in a way that better reflects the needs of Ottawa residents. The 2016 policy was established to ensure our Allocation Unit could respond quickly to new emerging trends, shifts in demographics and ensure priority access based on actual use and demand, as compared to previous guiding principle based on historical access. The policy has a set guideline that determines the number of hours each user or association receives and allocates time based on new guiding principles and the number of registered residents each applicant has. This change has resulted in more priority ice time for women's and girls' ringette and hockey teams, recognizing increasing female participation and the growth in the sports.

Section 4. Impacts of Growth on Parkland

In the next 25 years, the City will encourage the development of denser, walkable 15-minute neighbourhoods, in both developing and existing areas of the city.

Transect policies (Section 5) and Overlay policies (Section 5.6) in the 2020 Draft OP direct the significant transformation of many neighbourhoods. The 2020 Draft OP Plan B-Series Schedules illustrate the Transect and Overlay areas, and the 2020 Draft OP identifies minimum density requirements. As stated in Section 5.6.1.1.1 [where an Overlay applies], “the zoning by-law shall include minimum density requirements as identified in Table 3”.

Table 2: 2020 Draft Official Plan, Section 5, Table 3 – Minimum Residential Density and Large Dwelling Requirements

Transect Area	Designation	Minimum Density Requirement ²²	Minimum Large Dwelling Proportion Requirement
All	Hub	100 to 200 units per hectare depending on Hub	5%
All	Corridor (Mainstreet and Minor)	80 to 160 units per hectare depending on Corridor	Elevator buildings: 5% Non-elevator buildings: 25%
Downtown Core	Neighbourhood within a 15-minute walk to a Hub or Corridor	80 units per hectare	25% for lots that are approximately 15m or wider
Inner Urban	Neighbourhood within a 15-minute walk to a Hub or Corridor	80 units per hectare	50% for lots that are approximately 15m frontage or wider
Outer Urban	Neighbourhood within a 15-minute walk to a Hub or Corridor	40 units per hectare	50%

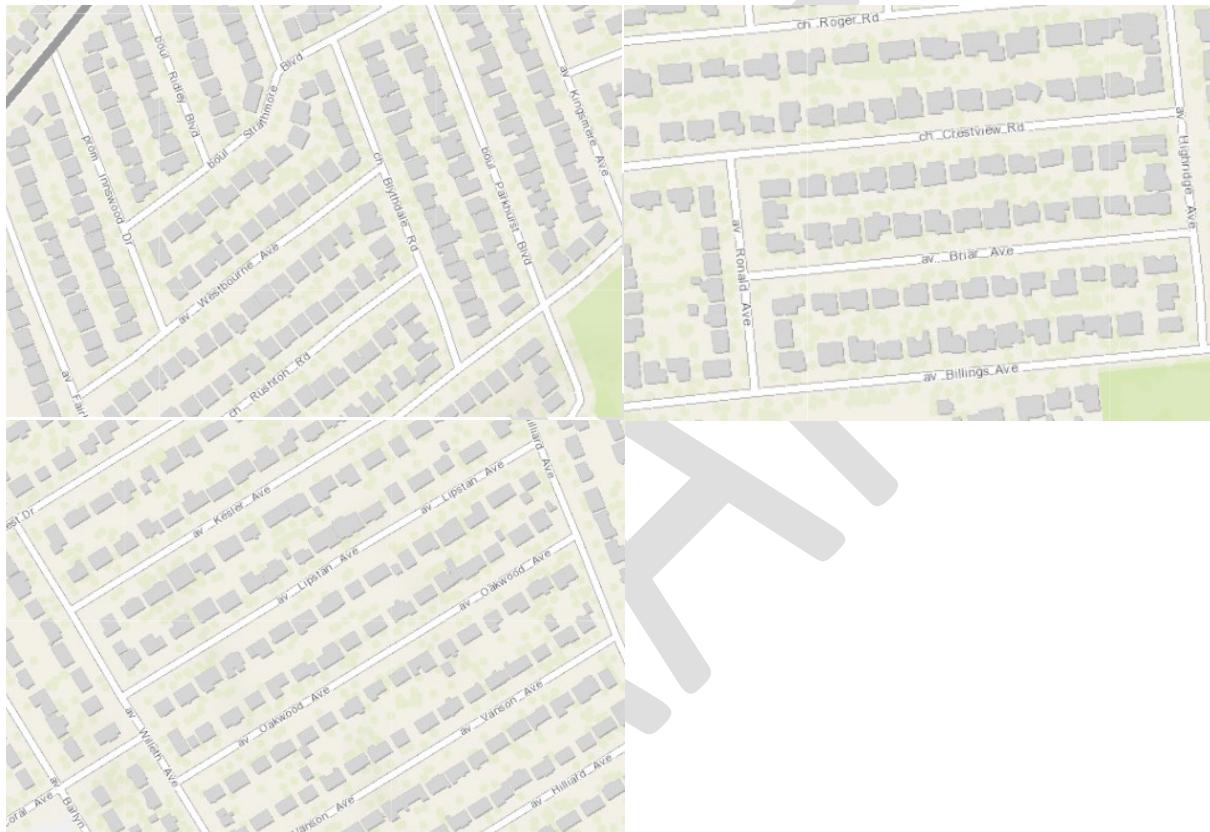
Given the 2020 Draft OP direction, certain neighbourhoods are projected to see significant intensification and accompanying population increases. For example, neighbourhoods in Bay, Knoxdale-Merivale and Alta-Vista Wards, such as those shown

²² Dwelling units per net hectare, excluding public rights-of-way and private road areas that provide the same function

in Figures 3-5, have existing average densities between 14 and 22 units per net hectare.

With Official Plan minimum target densities of 80 units per net hectare, these neighbourhoods are projected to see the density of dwelling units increase between 3.5 to over 6 times. These projected increases have impacts on the per capita provision levels of parks and recreation facilities.

Figures 3 – 5: Examples of Neighbourhood Fabric in the Bay, Knoxdale-Merivale and Alta-Vista Wards



The overlay policies of Section 5.6.1.2.2 and 5.6.1.3.2 of the 2020 Draft OP strongly encourage and require built form described as 'urban' with "zero or shallow front yard setbacks, smaller lots and higher lot coverage, small areas of formal landscaping that often include hard landscaping" (Table 6, Section 5).

"Zoning By-law development-standards and development on lands with an Evolving Overlay should generally include built form and site design attributes that meet most of the urban characteristics described in Table 6 in Section 5" (Section 5.6.1.2.2).

"Areas identified with a Transforming Overlay shall require Zoning By-law development standards that meet all of the following: a) Requirement for urban

built forms of building typologies as described in Table 6 of Section 5" (Section 5.6.1.3.2).

Table 3: 2020 Draft Official Plan, Section 5, Table 6 – General Characteristics of Urban Built Form and Suburban Built Form and Site Design

Urban	Suburban
Zero or shallow front yard setbacks	Moderate to deep front yard setbacks
Principal entrances at grade with direct relationship to public realm	Principal entrances oriented to the public realm but set back from the street
Smaller lots, higher lot coverage & floor area	Larger lots, lower lot coverage & floor area ratios
Minimum of two functional storeys	Variety of building forms including single storey
Building attached or with minimal functional side yard setbacks	Generous spacing between buildings
Small areas of formal landscape that often includes hard surfacing	Informal and natural landscape that often includes expansive grassed areas
No automobile parking, or limited parking that is concealed from the street	Private automobile parking that may be prominent and visible from the street

The level and form of intensification is illustrated in Figure 16 of the Residential Growth Management Strategy for the New Official Plan, March 2020. The figure shows the conversion of a lot with a single dwelling into one with between 4 and 6 new units.

What the 2020 Draft OP level and form of intensification functionally means is that redevelopment will be accompanied by a general loss of front and backyard green space. The City can expect more people living in areas served by much less yard space. These people will need somewhere to go for recreation. This suggests the increased importance of and demand on the recreational opportunities provided by City-owned parks and recreation facilities. Acquiring parkland and investing in City-owned parks and recreation facilities will make neighbourhoods more livable and support the 2020 Draft OP's concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods.

Maps 1 and 2 illustrate the provision of City-owned parkland per 1,000 people, by Transect, in 2021. Map 1 shows the Transect-wide parkland averages, while Map 2 provides more detail by showing parkland per 1,000 people at a neighbourhood scale.

Map 2 also shows neighbourhoods identified by the *Ottawa Neighbourhood Equity Index (NEI)*²³ as having disparities resulting in strong equity concerns.

For the purposes of this Plan, 30 priority neighbourhoods are identified based on their scores on four of the NEI domains: economic opportunity; social and human development; health; and community and belonging. Indicators in the physical environment domain are excluded because this Plan focuses on one aspect of the physical environment – municipal parks – and provides a comprehensive view of their geographic distribution. Additional parks investments are not relevant to addressing the other equity issues highlighted by the indicators of the NEI physical environment domain (transit scores, commute times and community places for meetings). Index scores were recalculated without the physical environment indicators and a cut-off was identified based on a breakpoint in the scores and slopes at neighbourhood #30. All index scores are based on 2016 Census data; certain neighbourhood scores are likely to change following the next census.

Maps 3 and 4 illustrate the provision of City-owned parkland per 1,000 people in 2031. The maps show future pressures on existing parks and recreation facilities to 2031. On the maps, the areas of darkest colour are those that are most deficient in parkland. Where a neighbourhood or portion of a neighbourhood with strong equity concerns falls within those areas of darkest colour, the parkland need is greatest. The areas of darkest colour and those with strong equity concerns should be top priorities for the acquisition of new City-owned parkland. Recreation facilities are built within City-owned parkland; without the acquisition of new land for parks, new City recreation facilities and amenities cannot be added.

²³ The Ottawa NEI is a tool to assess and compare inequities at a neighbourhood level across multiple domains. It provides a deeper understanding of neighbourhoods, so that planners and policymakers can consider the community's needs and how to address them – as well as the community's assets and how to use them. The NEI identified 49 of Ottawa's 195 census tracts as areas of "strong equity concern" based on the composite Neighbourhood Equity Index Score. The Index Score captures 17 indicators across five "domains": economic opportunity; social and human development; physical environment; health; and community and belonging. The NEI also provides scores within each individual domain to help planners better understand the nature of the equity concerns in each neighbourhood.

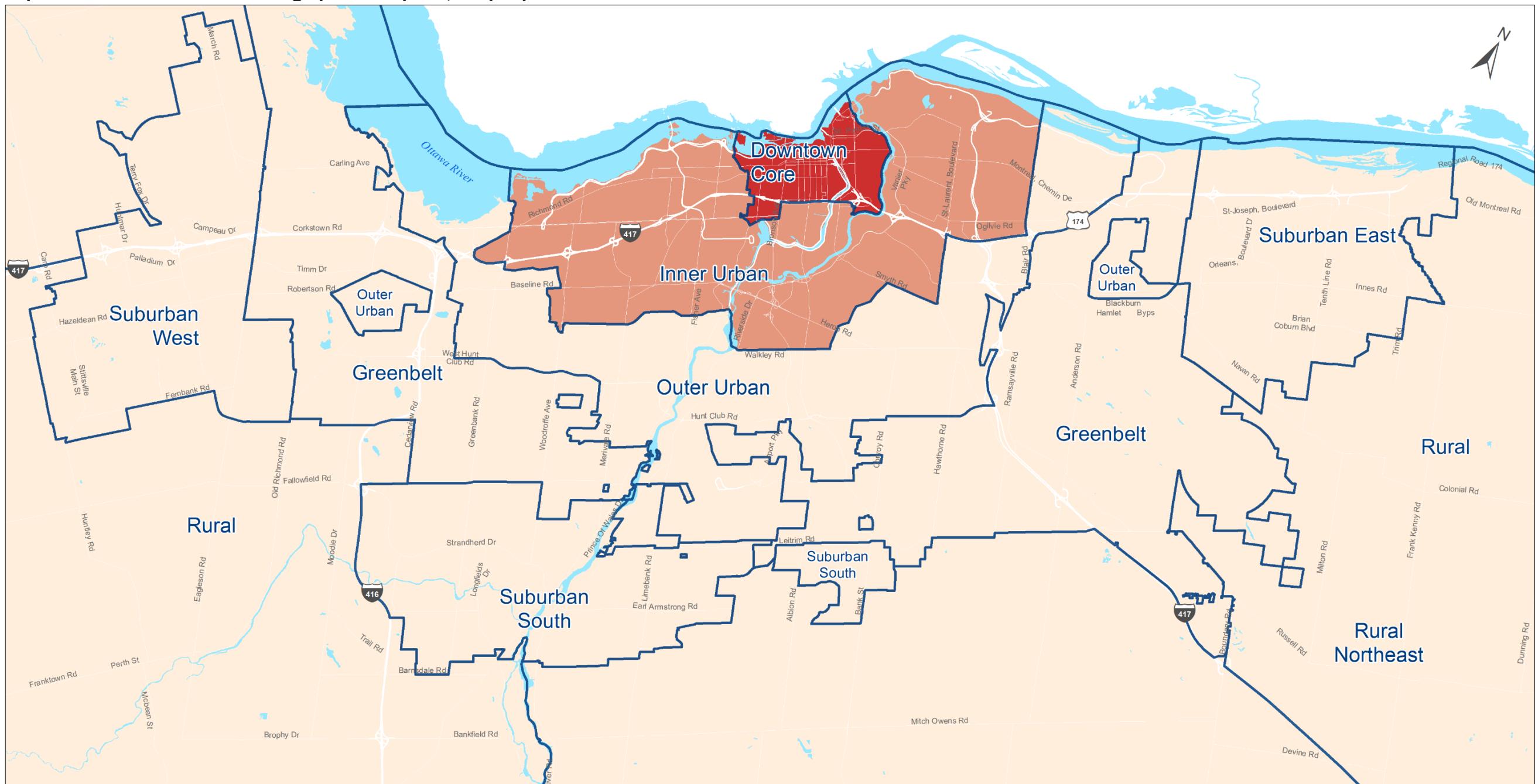
Note: *Maps 1 and 2: 2021 parkland per 1,000 people* and were created using the City's Traffic Zone mapping (2011) and 2022 Traffic Zone projections as available on Ottawa.ca.

The City is divided into Traffic Zones, that are used primarily for transportation planning purposes; however, the Traffic Zones were recently also used for the ward boundary review study. Because each Traffic Zone has an identified population, and because the location of city parks is known, the information can be used together to map parkland per 1,000 residents at a scale finer than a transect or ward boundary.

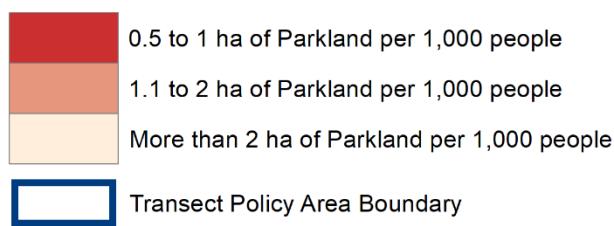
The Traffic Zone mapping and the population projections are in the process of being updated to reflect 2020 Draft Official Plan growth projections. The data available at the time of publishing this draft is considered adequate, at this time for initial, mapping. Maps 1 and 2 will be revised, in the final document, to reflect the updated data.

Maps 3 and 4: 2031 parkland per 1,000 people are not included in this draft document, as the currently available traffic zone population projections do not account for 2020 Draft Official Plan projected population growth to 2031. Maps 3 and 4 will be included in the final document. Based on the direction of the 2020 Draft Official Plan, it is expected that the maps will show a drop in parkland per 1,000 people in some areas, for the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects.

Map 1: 2021 Transect-wide average parkland per 1,000 people



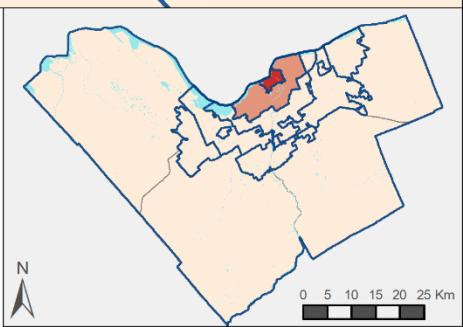
2021 Transect-wide average parkland in hectares per 1,000 people



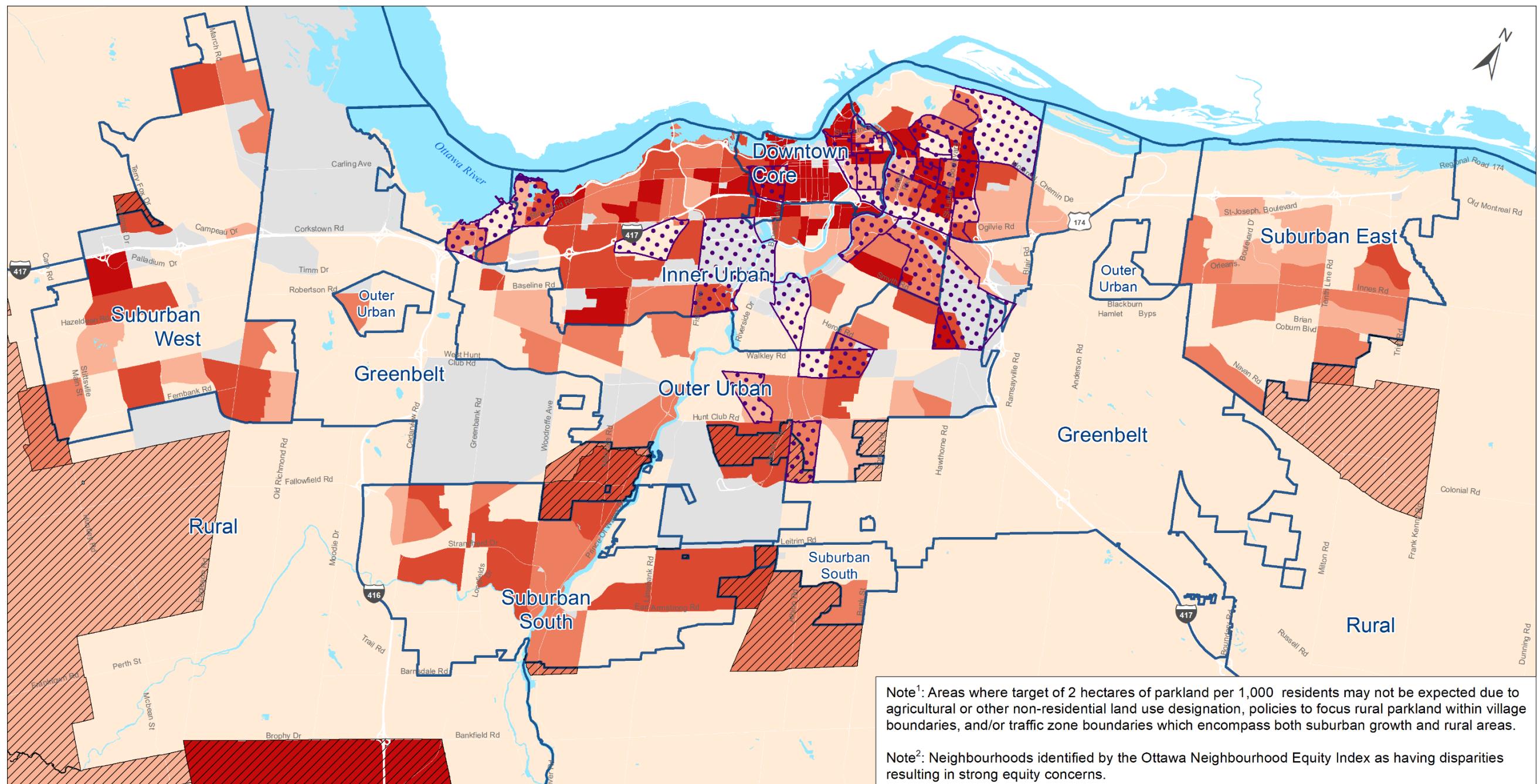
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



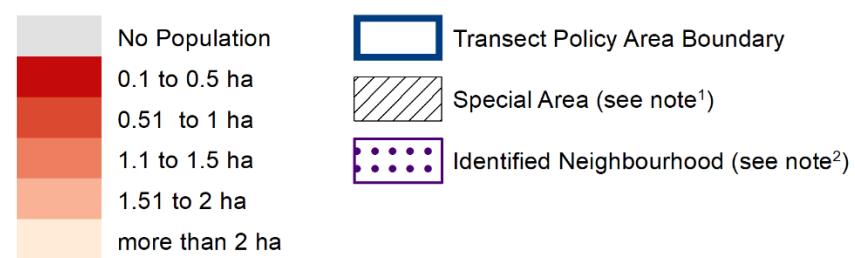
Published: 2021-Apr-19
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



Map 2: 2021 parkland per 1,000 people with neighbourhood detail



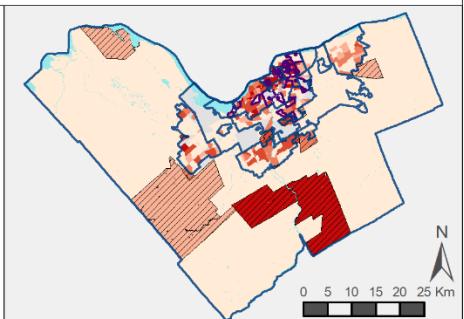
2021 Parkland in hectares per 1,000 people with neighbourhood detail



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Published: 2021-Apr-19
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



Map 3: 2031 Transect-wide average parkland per 1,000 people

Map 3: 2031 Transect-wide average parkland per 1,000 people and Map 4: 2031 parkland per 1,000 people with neighbourhood detail are not included in this draft document, as the currently available traffic zone population projections do not account for population growth to 2031. Maps 3 and 4 will be included in the final document.

Based on the direction of the 2020 Draft Official Plan, it is expected that the maps will show a drop in parkland per 1,000 people, in some areas, in particular for the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects.

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Map 4: 2031 parkland per 1,000 people with neighbourhood detail

Map 3: 2031 Transect-wide average parkland per 1,000 people and Map 4: 2031 parkland per 1,000 people with neighbourhood detail are not included in this draft document, as the currently available traffic zone population projections do not account for population growth to 2031. Maps 3 and 4 will be included in the final document.

Based on the direction of the 2020 Draft Official Plan, it is expected that the maps will show a drop in parkland per 1,000 people, in some areas, in particular for the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects.

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Section 5. Summary of Recreation Facilities Needs Assessments

This section summarizes the recommendations related to 22 different classes of recreational amenities. Appendix A provides the full needs assessment and detailed recommendations for each of the recreational facilities.

Each needs assessment in Appendix A includes a description of the facility type, the number of existing and planned facilities to 2031, as well as the current and 2031 per capita provision rates. Where data is available, the City's provision rates are benchmarked against other municipalities. The needs assessment for each facility type also includes information on participation, utilization rates, and public consultation.

The facility types are listed in this section, in the order in which they appear in Appendix A²⁴. This section establishes provision levels for recreation services, which will be further reviewed through a lifecycle and affordability lens in the upcoming Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) by Q3 2024.

1. Recreation Complexes and Centres

Current citywide provision level: 1:44,300 residents.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of recreation complexes at 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 1 new facility.
- c. Consider the development of 1 new, additional facility.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan that identifies which recreation complexes could be replaced / consolidated into new City-standard facilities serving larger catchment areas.

2. Community Centres and Buildings

Current citywide provision level: 1:18,700 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of community centres and buildings at 1:19,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 4 new community centres.

²⁴ The final Plan may include a table summary of the recommendations.

- c. Consider the development of 2 new, additional community buildings.

Strategy Statements:

- d. When considering the addition of a new community centre or community building, evaluate the total square footage of available community indoor space, in all facility types, within the neighbourhood and transect.
- e. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan that identifies which community centres and buildings could be replaced / consolidated into new City-standard facilities serving larger catchment areas.

3. Indoor Aquatic Facilities

Current citywide provision level: 1:50,700 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set a standard, 25-meter indoor aquatic facility target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 1 new standard indoor aquatic facility.
- c. Proceed with the planning and development of 1 new 50-meter aquatic facility.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Maintain the practice for the development of new indoor aquatic facilities, over outdoor pools, due to their longer operating seasons and greater number and range of programming opportunities.
- e. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) that identifies which indoor aquatic facilities could be replaced when they reach end of life.

4. Outdoor Deep-Water Pools

Current citywide provision level: 1:118,200 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current provision of 9 outdoor deep-water pools.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) that identifies which outdoor deep-water pools could be replaced when they reach end of life.

5. Beaches

Current citywide provision level: 1:266,000 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current number of supervised beaches.

6. *Splash Pads and Wading Pools*

Current citywide provision level: 1:7,300 residents for splash pads and 1:19,000 residents for wading pools

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of splash pads at 1:7,500 residents.
- b. Maintain the City's current provision of 56 wading pools.
- c. Proceed with the planning and development of the 35 new splash pads.
- d. Consider the development of 19 new, additional, splash pads.

Strategy Statements:

- e. As existing splash pads reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low provision rates.
- f. Support the development of wading pool life-cycle strategies through the RAMP to update and replace existing wading pools.

7. *Arenas*

Current citywide provision level: 1:20,100 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ice surfaces at 1:20,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 2 new ice surfaces.
- c. Consider the redevelopment or expansion of 6 indoor arenas in the Inner Urban and Suburban East transects.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Maximize efficiencies through infrastructure upgrades and expansions to existing single-pad arenas where possible.
- e. Identify end-of-life arenas in all transects for potential redevelopment. Plan for the replacement/consolidation of these facilities into new City-standard arenas that serve wider catchment areas.
- f. Investigate opportunities to replace a minimum of four single-pad arenas, in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects, with new twin-pad sites within the same transects.
- g. Support the development of ice surface life-cycle strategies through the RAMP to update and replace existing ice surfaces.

8. Outdoor Ice Rinks

Current citywide provision level: 1:3,800 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor ice rinks at 1:4,000 residents.
- b. Set a new citywide target for the provision of outdoor refrigerated rinks at 1:200,000.
- c. Proceed with the planning and development of 36 new outdoor ice rinks.
- d. Consider the development of 3 new, additional outdoor refrigerated rinks.

9. Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields

Current citywide provision level: 1:133,000 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the Citywide target for the provision of Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields at 1:120,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 3 outdoor artificial turf fields
- c. Consider the development of 1 new, additional, outdoor artificial turf fields

Strategy Statements:

- d. Investigate possible conversion of Downtown Core and Inner Urban natural grass fields to artificial turf fields

10. Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields

Current citywide provision level: 1:2,800 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the citywide target for the provision of grass sports fields at 1:2,800 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 44 new grass sports fields
- c. Consider the development of new grass fields or redevelopment of existing grass fields to artificial turf fields

Strategy Statements:

- d. Review potential site and funding opportunities to:
 - i. prioritize opportunities for parkland acquisition in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects for new sports field development
 - ii. upgrade infrastructure to promote and support higher usage of the existing sports fields within the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transect
 - iii. assess the potential need and opportunity(s) to develop additional regional and/or tournament sports field sites in strategic locations

11. Ball Diamonds

Current citywide provision level: 1:4,200 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ball diamonds at 1:4,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 6 new ball diamonds
- c. Consider the development of 10 new, additional, ball diamonds

Strategy Statements:

- d. Identify opportunities for more senior, competitive lit fields, including adult softball diamonds and higher-level baseball play
- e. Undertake upgrades to existing fields to promote higher usage

12. Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Current citywide provision level: 1:3,300 residents for tennis and 1:5,700 residents for pickleball

Recommendations:

- a. Set a Citywide target provision level of 1:3,500 residents for both tennis courts and pickleball courts including shared courts
- b. Develop 24 tennis courts and 39 pickleball courts, including shared courts
- c. Add new pickleball court line painting to additional existing public courts
- d. Consider the development of up to 22 new, additional, outdoor tennis / pickleball courts
- e. Develop a Tennis and Pickleball Strategy

Strategy Statements:

- f. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new public courts to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization

13. Outdoor Basketball Courts

Current citywide provision level: 1:5,700 residents

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of full-size basketball courts at 1:5,500 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 29 new full-size basketball courts
- c. Consider the development of up to 3 new, additional, full-size basketball

Strategy Statements:

- d. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new courts to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization

14. Outdoor Volleyball Courts

Current citywide provision level: 1:9,000 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor volleyball courts at 1:10,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 5 new outdoor volleyball courts
- c. Consider the development of up to 32 new, additional, outdoor volleyball courts

Strategy Statements:

- d. Prioritize new outdoor volleyball courts within parks that are also occupied by a recreation complex, recreation or community centre

15. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Current citywide provision level: 1:29,600 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment at 1:25,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 20 new facilities
- c. Consider the development of 10 new, additional, facilities.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Explore opportunities to develop outdoor dynamic fitness equipment areas (similar to indoor fitness equipment) at recreation complexes and facilities, where supervision of activities by City staff can be assured.

16. Cricket Pitches

Current citywide provision level: 1:212,800 residents

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of cricket pitches at 1:200,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 2 new cricket pitches.
- c. Consider the development of 1 new, additional, cricket pitch

Strategy Statements:

- d. Reassess the need for additional cricket pitches during the first review of the Master Plan

17. Lawn Bowling Greens

Current citywide provision level: 1:266,000 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current supply of 4 lawn bowling greens.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Reassess the need for lawn bowling greens, during the first review of the Master Plan

18. Recreational Boat Docking Facilities

Current citywide provision level: 1:76,000 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current citywide supply of 14 recreational boat launches and docks.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 1 new facility
- c. Consider the development of new seasonal, recreational boat launches and docks along the City's major rivers and tributaries.

19. BMX and Mountain Biking Parks

Current citywide provision level: 1: 212,800 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the BMX and Mountain Bike Parks at 1:150,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 4 new facilities
- c. Consider the development of 1 multi-use, all wheel park facility and a formal Mountain Biking Park

20. Fenced Dog Off-Leash Parks

Current citywide provision level: 1:96,7000 residents. When all off-leash dog areas are considered, the provision level is 1:3,440 residents.

Recommendations

- a. Proceed with the planning and development of 5 new off-leash dog parks

- b. Develop fenced off-leash dog parks where warranted, rather than ensuring usual citywide equity per area, as the needs vary greatly depending on the area being served.

21. Skateboard Parks

Current citywide provision level: 1:50,700 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set a citywide target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 6 skateboard parks
- c. Investigate the opportunity to redirect funds collected from 2004 Facility Needs Study, for the development of indoor skate parks, towards new outdoor skate park facilities

Strategy Statements:

- d. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or skate parks to expand the hours of use and to increase
- e. Update and replace the 2012 Interim Skateboard Park Strategy

22. Playgrounds

Current citywide provision level: 1:1,400 residents

Recommendations:

- a. Set a target provision level of one playground per 1,400 residents.
- b. Set a geographic provision target of one playground within a 5- to 10-minute walk of most homes located within the Urban Area Boundary or a village.
- c. Proceed with the planning and development of 111 new playgrounds
- d. Consider the development of up to 3 new, additional, playgrounds in the Downtown Core.

Section 6. Summary of Parkland Needs Assessment

This section summarizes the recommendations related to actual land area needed for parks and recreation facilities. *Appendix B – Parkland Needs Assessment* provides the supporting needs assessment, which includes a description of the City's parks classification system and seven park typologies, the number of existing and planned municipal parks to 2031 by transect, as well as the current and 2031 per capita provision rates for parkland by transect. Appendix B collates the needed parkland, generated by the individual facility needs assessments in Appendix A, to identify the total additional parkland required to provide new facilities beyond those which are planned to 2031.

Appendix B also provides a summary of the citywide distribution of small and large parks, benchmarks the City's provision rate for parkland against 12 other Ontario municipalities, and presents information gathered through the public and stakeholder consultation process.

Together, the information in Appendix B, generates the following recommendations related to parkland:

The current citywide provision level for municipal active parkland is 2.31 hectares per 1,000 residents.

1. Set the citywide provision rate for municipal active parkland at 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents and apply this provision rate to each transect.
2. Prioritize the acquisition of new parkland in transects and neighbourhoods that do not meet the 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people target.
3. Set a transect level ratio of large to small parks at 1:5.
4. Prioritize the acquisition of large parks in transects where the ratio of large to small parks is higher than 1:5.

Section 7. Future Parkland Needs and Parkland Provision Strategy

7.1 Future Parkland Needs

Maps 1 - 4 and the Needs Assessment in Appendix B illustrate that acquiring additional parkland will be required to meet the needs and desires of a growing population in increasingly dense neighbourhoods. The City will need to develop additional strategies for parkland acquisition in order to meet the projected need.

When redevelopment occurs, the City currently requests land for parks when the lot in question is a minimum of 4,000m² in size. The City can request that 10 per cent of the redevelopment site become dedicated parkland. A lot of 4,000m² generates a 400m² park; this is essentially a small urban plaza and the smallest park size in the City.

The future park at St. Charles Street and Beechwood Avenue is one example of such a park. Parks of this size can support park benches and trees and a small park amenity such as small basketball courts or small playgrounds. Larger parks are required for amenities such as pickleball and full court basketball, or if there is a desire to have more than one amenity per park.

Figure 6: Concept Plan for Park at St. Charles Street



Where the lot is less than 4,000m², the City takes cash-in-lieu of parkland. Much residential intensification, in particular in the Evolving Neighbourhood and Transforming

Neighbourhood overlay areas, will occur on a lot-by-lot basis. These are areas such as the examples from the Bay, Knoxdale-Merivale, and Alta Vista Wards shown in Section 3.4. Residential lots in such areas typically range from 465 – 930m² (5,000 – 10,000 sq. ft).

Thus, such redevelopment will not generate parkland, only cash-in-lieu of parkland (CILP) and only if its collection is captured by the Parkland Dedication By-law. If collected, CILP can result in a gradually increasing pot of funding that can be used to acquire new parkland. If it is not collected, there are few sources of funding with which to acquire new parkland. For development that does not require a Site Plan Control application, the City has not collected CILP since 2010; lot-by-lot infill development most typically does not require a Site Plan Control application.

Without new strategies, it is anticipated that in some areas there will be limited opportunities to acquire land parcels large enough to support a variety of recreational facilities. This is particularly true for facilities that require more space, such as community centres, arenas, pools, sports fields, ball diamonds, court surfaces and skateparks. If the provision of new parkland and recreation facilities is to keep pace with population increases across the city, new parkland policies and strategies are required.

7.2 Parkland Provision Strategy

The need for additional parkland to meet the needs and expectations of residents is outlined in Sections 4 and 5. Without parkland, the indoor and outdoor recreational facilities that residents expect and would like to see in their neighbourhoods cannot be provided. Through the use of existing policies and tools, as well as through the development of new ones, the City's parkland provision strategy focusses on retention, optimization and acquisition.

Retention of Existing City-owned Parkland

Given the need for future parkland and recreational facilities, as detailed in Appendices A and B of this document, the City must protect the investments that it has made into existing parkland. Existing parkland shall retain active recreation as its primary function and shall not be sold or built upon with the exception of facilities that serve a parks and recreation function. Uses such as stormwater management, commercial purposes and

commuter parking will not be considered as serving a parks and recreation function²⁵. This land is required to help meet the provision level targets for both parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. To address a growing population, the quality, accessibility and sustainability of existing parkland is to be enhanced where a need is identified and where space and funds are available.

Land First Policy

Through the development review process, in transects where the provision rate of parkland is lower than 2 hectares per 1,000 people, request as a first priority the dedication of land to increase transect wide parkland provision rates.

The assigned Parks Planner will determine whether the resultant parcel meets the minimum criteria for municipal parkland and may, at their discretion, modify the request to request Cash-in-lieu of Parkland (CILP) or a combination of land and CILP. Or, in some circumstances, Recreation Culture and Facility Services may consider accepting land of equal real market value, off-site, and preferably within the same transect, when appropriate.

Parkland Dedication By-law

As noted in Section 2.1, the Planning Act gives the City the authority to require land, or cash-in-lieu of parkland (CIL or CILP), for parks and recreational purposes at the time of the development. This is, and will continue to be, the City's primary method of acquiring new parks and recreational amenities into the future. Each municipality's Parkland Dedication By-law details specifically how the municipality will collect parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland. The City's Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy directs how these funds can be spent.

The City of Ottawa's 2020 Draft Official Plan will increase development intensity by transect, as described and illustrated in Section 4. The population growth associated with these changes will generate increased parkland demand, as described in Section 4.

The City's current Parkland Dedication By-law (By-law No. 2009-95) was adopted in 2009. Left unchanged, the By-law would see growth pay for a diminishing share of the

²⁵ When land is acquired through the parkland dedication by-law or planning act, it is expected that it will be transparently zoned for the purposes of active or passive park uses, as per the Recreation Cultural and Facilities Services (RCFS) mandate. Where parkland is proposed to be used for purposes outside of the RCFS mandate, the explicit concurrence of the General Manager of Recreation Cultural and Facilities Services is required.

cost to meet the needs generated by higher density development; many park needs would be unmet. This is inconsistent with the 15-minute neighbourhoods approach outlined in the Official Plan or with Council-approved targets in this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Changes are required to the Parkland Dedication By-law to align with all of the following principles:

- a) Alignment of expansion and enhancement with growth to ensure that necessary parkland and recreation infrastructure can be economically provided;
- b) Maximize the parkland dedication as part of the review and approval of new or modifications to existing development; and
- d) Increased equity and access to parkland to support regeneration and 15-minute neighbourhoods.

The City has the legislative requirement to update its Parkland Dedication By-law to reflect parkland needs between 2021 and 2046, the 2020 Draft OP's planning horizon.

The City plans to update the Parkland Dedication By-law in 2022. To this end, beginning in 2021, the City will initiate a review of its Parkland Dedication By-law. The by-law review and update will include an examination of:

- Ottawa's Parkland Dedication By-law in comparison to those of other large and mid-sized Ontario municipalities
- Residential and mixed-use rates and methods of parkland dedication calculation. Ottawa's parkland dedication rates must reflect the parks needs generated by new development, growth and regeneration.
- The current 10 per cent Parkland dedication cap on high density sites
- Parkland dedication exemptions
- The timing of collection of cash-in-lieu of parkland
- How cash-in-lieu of parkland funds are allocated to a Ward or Transect, to a citywide fund, and to an acquisition fund
- Forms of parkland that will be accepted as parkland dedication. They should be specified and reflect the parks typology in the City's Parks Development Manual, 2017.

The goal of this review and update to the Parkland Dedication By-law and Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds policy is to ensure that, as the city develops and intensifies, the available tools are used to their fullest potential to meet the parks and recreational needs identified through this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and to support the 2020 Draft Official Plan's direction related to 15-minute neighbourhoods.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy

The Cash-in-lieu of Parkland (CILP) Funds Policy was approved by Council in 2011 and updated in 2015. The Policy “is designed to ensure the consistent and wise use of funds collected for park and recreation purposes by defining the purposes for which these funds may be used, how the funds are allocated, and how the spending is accounted for both internally and publicly” (Report to Committee, [ACS2015-PAI-DCM-0001](#) – August 2015, Cash in lieu of Parkland Policy Amendments)

The Policy states: “Cash-in-lieu funds collected through the development review will be allocated as follows:

- a. Sixty percent (60 per cent) of the funds paid will be allocated to use in the Ward in which the development is located and forty percent (40 per cent) of the funds paid will be allocated for citywide purposes.
- b. in a special administrative area identified in the Parkland Dedication By-law, one hundred per cent (100 per cent) of the funds paid will be allocated to use in the special administrative area where the development is located.”

Given current levels of infill construction in certain wards, the intensification projected by the 2020 Draft Official Plan, the sharp differences in transect level rates of parkland provision per 1,000 residents, the age of facilities in certain parks and the costs of real estate, both the 60/40 split and the conditions under which a special administrative area can be identified should be re-examined in order to ensure that the City can make the best use of available tools to address parkland and facility deficiencies.

Development Charges

The City collects Development Charges (DCs) for a range of designated services to pay for the increased capital costs resulting from increased needs for services arising from development. Amongst the designated services are parks development and recreation facilities.

Only those specific capital projects included in the current Development Charges Background Study are eligible for funding. Recreation, Culture and Facility Services is reviewing the process to generate urban park funding on a program approach rather than identified via individual development sites. This would allow the City to update the DC urban park list on an annual basis to fund urban park opportunities arising from new development applications and future land acquisitions.

Given that the 2020 Draft OP directs significant new growth to existing neighbourhoods through intensification, the City should seek to expand the use of Development Charges to fund growth-related parks and recreation facilities. The background study and detailed analysis to support this should follow from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan so that changes may be included in the 2022 Development Charge update.

Community Benefits Charge

The Government of Ontario's [COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020](#) replaced density bonusing under the former Section 37 of the *Planning Act* with a new Community Benefits Charge (CBC). On February 10, 2021 Ottawa City Council approved the recommendations of staff report *Framework for adopting a Community Benefits Charge By-law to replace current Section 37 Policies* (ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001), which proposed a framework for consulting on and preparing a new Community Benefits Charge strategy and by-law for the City.

A new CBC By-law can be used to pay for “the capital costs of facilities, services and matters required because of development or redevelopment in the area to which the by-law applies.” There are no overlaps permitted with other mechanisms such as the conveyance of parkland dedication and development charges.

A municipality may only charge a CBC against residential or mixed-use development or re-development containing ten or more residential units and being five or more storeys in height. Certain types of development are exempt from a CBC. Additionally, the CBC cannot exceed 4 per cent of the value of the land. Given these requirements, it is unclear how much revenue a new CBC will generate to fund required growth-related capital projects.

Staff report [ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001](#) notes that based on building permits issued from January 2015 to October 2020, only 49 of 10,000 entries met the CBC application criteria with respect to residential apartment buildings. The report also notes that this means that the City would have less than ten CBC eligible projects a year based on current construction patterns and that while this number seems low, it is higher than the number of projects that were subject to Section 37 in the past three years (between one and six).

Staff report ACS2021-PIE-GEN-0001 notes that given the Official Plan's intensification goals, the number of developments eligible for a CBC should grow in time. However, most new development would not be subject to the new CBC because the Official Plan's growth management strategy envisions most intensification to take the form of ground-oriented, multi-family development rather than towers.

At the time of writing of this Master Plan, the scope of community benefits is still being determined, and may include community-oriented projects such as cultural facilities, affordable housing, and intersection improvements. Given the limited number of projects that are likely to be subject to the CBC By-law, and the range of community-oriented projects that may be supported, the resulting funds may be small and unreliable supplements to other methods of meeting public needs.

Disposal of City-owned Land

On occasion, the City owns land that is deemed surplus and is proposed for disposal. It is recommended that the Recreation, Culture and Facility Services Department (RCFS) and the City's Corporate Real Estate Office (CREO) develop a policy that would benefit the creation of new municipally owned parks. Where surplus City-owned land is considered for disposal in areas where the parkland provision rate is less than 2 hectares per 1,000 people, the policy should direct that some or all of that land be made available to RCFS for new parkland. In cases where municipally-owned parkland is not provided through the sale of surplus lands, the policy should direct that a percent of the City's net proceeds from the sale of City owned lands be transferred to the citywide Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Fund to fund the acquisition of new parkland and / or to increase the function of existing parks.

Targeted Land Acquisition

Given the difficulties of acquiring new parkland through the land use planning process and redevelopment²⁶ in existing neighbourhoods, targeted real estate acquisitions will be essential to address projected parkland deficiencies. It is recommended that the development of a real estate acquisition strategy follow the adoption of this Master Plan. A targeted acquisition strategy would focus on the transect and neighbourhoods in greatest need as well as opportunities that are presented to enlarge existing parks and create new ones. Any land acquisition strategy would need to identify sources of available funding for land purchases.

Maximizing new Acquisitions

As described in Appendix B, park sizes in new developments have been shrinking, indicative of a trend of acquiring more smaller parks and fewer larger ones. This trend is

²⁶ In existing neighbourhoods, redevelopment is expected via small scale lot-by-lot redevelopment that will not generate parkland, only cash-in-lieu of parkland. Redevelopment may also occur on larger sites such as malls, strip plazas and institutional sites via Site Plan Control application. Depending on the size of such sites, parkland may be generated but not in the amounts that would meet the identified deficiencies.

also seen in the redevelopment of large urban parcels, such as shopping centre sites and parking lots, where proposed future parkland can be ‘remnant’ pieces of the site.

Larger park parcels allow more flexibility for the evolution of the park use and function over time as the community demographics and needs change. Whereas a larger park can accommodate multiple changing functions over the years, smaller spaces have much less ability to evolve.

Going forward, where Site Plan Control applications generate parkland, smaller park parcels will be consolidated. If a site generates parkland:

- of 400m² to 1,800m², the parkland is required to be consolidated into a single park
- greater than 1,800m² but less than 2,200m², then the parkland may be divided into two parks, with no park smaller than 400m².

7.3 Future Funding

There are primary methods by which the City can fund the capital construction of new parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, the replacement of facilities that are at end-of-life, the redevelopment of existing parks, and the addition of new amenities to parks and recreation buildings. These methods include the use of Development Charge funding; Cash-in-lieu of Parkland funding, tax / rate support and third-party funding (such as P3 partnerships, Federal or Provincial grants). Each funding source has their own restrictions and main usage.

Development Charges (DC)

Development Charge (DC) funding is growth-related, meaning the funding is collected as a result of new development and the resultant population increase in an area. DC funding cannot be used to fund the replacement of park features or amenities that are at end-of-life. This is because replacement of existing features is not growth related. DC funding cannot be used for the acquisition of land for parks but, could be used for acquisition of land for enclosed year-round public recreation buildings/structures.

i) Inside the Greenbelt

Inside the Greenbelt (Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects), Urban Park DC funding is used to develop new parks. Considering the extent of intensification planned for the city, the current individual park-based DC allocation model needs to be re-examined in favour of a program-based urban park allocation model.

Under the current individual park-based DC model, a set number of urban parks, anticipated to be acquired and developed over a 10-year development forecast, are listed in the DC By-law. Inevitably, new development projects arise that were not forecast (or arrive sooner than forecast) in the DC bylaw and the development of their associated new parks cannot be funded until the DC Bylaw is updated (typically every 5 years). This results in a funding gap for the development of new urban parks and delays their implementation, to the detriment of a growing population through intensification.

A program-based DC park model would collect an urban park development charge from new residential units in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects, and these funds would be placed in an *Inside the Greenbelt Urban Park DC Reserve Fund*. It is anticipated that new urban parks would then be funded from the *Inside the Greenbelt Urban Park DC Reserve Fund*, on a dollars per square meter basis, through the annual City budget process.

A program-based DC park model would not generate additional growth-related funding; however, it would ensure that new urban parks will be funded for development when they are needed to serve the growing population.

ii) Outside the Greenbelt

The City has not collected parkland DCs for suburban areas outside the Greenbelt since 2014. In the suburban and rural transects, developers are responsible for funding and building new parks in accordance with an indexed park development rate established in the DC bylaw. The Developer-Build (DB) model was implemented with some success and continues to be the prime method of delivery for new parks in suburban areas. However, with intensification also planned within the suburban areas, it is recommended that the 2022 update to the DC Bylaw consider the reintroduction of park DCs outside the Greenbelt.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland

Cash-in-lieu (CIL) of parkland can be used to fund land acquisition, the development of new parks and recreation buildings, and additions and refurbishments to existing parks and recreation buildings. The current method of collection and allocating CIL funds does not adequately direct money to the areas and projects where the identified need is greatest. RCFS will reconsider the Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy to ensure that the policy most effectively supports the addition of projects identified in this Plan.

Rate / Tax Support

Rate / tax support is the primary method for funding all life cycle renewal and replacement projects. If a recreation building, pool or park structure is at end of life, its full renewal or replacement is only possible when there is sufficient funding available. This Plan proposes new recreation facilities based on anticipated growth. The growth of facilities to meet service level targets is dependant on a stable foundation of existing facilities. Currently, there are not sufficient funds through rate / tax support to pay for the full renewal or replacement of park amenities and recreation buildings that are at end of life. Continued or improved renewal funding for RCFS infrastructure, such as sports courts, pathway lighting, minor park improvements, park redevelopment and other RCFS infrastructure upgrades, is required. RCFS will support an asset management plan for recreation facilities, that sees the full life cycle renewal or replacement of facilities identified in this plan; this includes community buildings, arenas, and wading pools.

DRAFT

Section 8. Next Steps and Implementation

Following the adoption of this Plan, there are a number of initiatives that the City must undertake for the Plan's implementation. These are identified in Sections 5 and 7 and presented in brief below.

Section 5 summarizes the recommendations from Appendix A - Recreation Facility Needs Assessment. These recommendations include updating or creating the following strategies:

- Tennis and Pickleball strategy
- Skateboard Park strategy.

These strategies will be completed by staff in advance of the mandated five-year Official Plan review.

Section 5 and Appendix A also recommend identifying end-of-life facilities Recreation Complexes, Community Centres/ Buildings, and Arenas for replacement or consolidation. The studies to identify these facilities will be commenced by staff by 2023.

Section 7 identifies existing, and new, policies and tools, that the City must revise or create, in order to meet parkland needs. These include:

- a. A *Retention of Existing City-owned Parkland* policy statement
- b. A *Land First Policy* policy statement to address parkland need
- c. Revision of the City's *Parkland Dedication By-law*
- d. Revision of the City's *Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funds Policy*
- e. Preparation of a Background Study and detailed analysis to support an expansion of the use Development Charges to fund growth-related park and recreation facility capital costs (to be prepared for 2022 Development Charge update).
- f. Preparation of a Community Benefits Charge strategy to consider the need for the use of a *Community Benefits Charge* by-law to collect growth-related capital costs, which may include capital costs related to parkland needs and growth-related park and recreation facility needs provided it does not duplicate other existing sources of finding for those costs
- g. A *Disposal of City-owned Land* policy to address parkland need
- h. A *Real Estate Acquisition* strategy to address parkland need
- i. A *Maximizing new Acquisitions* policy statement
- j. An *Urban Parks* strategy, as recommended by the 2020 Draft Official Plan, to be completed in advance of the mandated five-year Official Plan review.

Section 9. References

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Municipal Open Data Sources:

Calgary: <https://data.calgary.ca>

Halifax: <https://catalogue-hrm.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Winnipeg: <https://data.winnipeg.ca/browse>,

Hamilton: <https://open.hamilton.ca/search?sort=name>,

London: <https://opendata.london.ca>,

Edmonton: <https://data.edmonton.ca/browse>,

Toronto: <https://open.toronto.ca>,

Mississauga: <https://data.mississauga.ca/>,

Brampton: <https://geohub.brampton.ca/search>,

Montreal: <https://donnees.montreal.ca/>,

Kingston: <https://cityofkingston.ca/explore/data-catalogue>,

Vancouver: <https://opendata.vancouver.ca/explore>

Section 10. Glossary

Active Parks: An active park is a park containing any features or facilities that encourage use by the public. These parks may include active facilities such as pathways, play structures, water play and sports fields, among others.

Amenities: Refers to the facilities within a park, such as pathways, play equipment, splash pads, sports fields, ball courts, tennis courts, rinks, shade structures, site furniture, etc.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland – means the payment of funds equivalent to the value of the amount of land that the City would otherwise have been entitled to require to be conveyed for park purposes as part of a development. The payment of cash-in-lieu is usually required as a condition of development approval and is assessed as the value of the land the day before the City grants approval for the development, as specified in the Planning Act.

Citywide: means something having relevance to or providing services for the population of the City as a whole or a part of the City that is larger than a single ward.

Community centre: Large, single storey, 20,000+ ft² multi-purpose community building, composed of the following program spaces: Customer Service/Reception and Lobby, Gymnasium, Fitness-Cardio, Fitness-Weight, Multi- Purpose Room(s), Meeting Room(s) and Kitchenette. The community centre will also include the following support spaces: Washrooms, Dry Change Rooms, Recreation Administration

Community building: Small, single storey 3,500 ft² multi-purpose building intended to serve as a small community centre and to support the facilities in the park in which it is located. A Community Building is composed of the following program spaces: two (2) Multi-Purpose Rooms, Meeting Room and Kitchenette, Washrooms.

Green space: land that provides recreation and leisure opportunities for the use and benefit of the public and /or that preserves the natural environment and environmental systems.

Park: A City-owned property that includes land to be acquired through the development review process under the provisions set out in the Parkland Dedication By-law, expropriated or purchased by the City for park or recreation purposes. Parks are also land that the City has leased long-term and uses to provide recreational facilities. Parks may include soft and hard surfaces and active recreational facilities such as play structures, water play and sports fields, among others. They are characterized by

designed landscape with trees, turf and other vegetation along with recreation amenities and community buildings.

Transect: a term used in the City of Ottawa's 2020 Draft Official Plan. The Official Plan divides the City into six concentric geographic policy areas called Transects. Each Transect represents a different gradation in the type and evolution of built environment and planned function of the lands within it, from most urban (the Downtown Core) to least urban (Rural).

Service Area Radius: The service area radius refers to the general area expressed as a distance or walking time) from which a park draws the majority of its users.

Urban heat island effect: Describes built-up urban areas that are hotter than nearby rural areas or green space because buildings and paved surfaces amplify and trap heat. The average air temperature of a city with 1 million people or more can be 1–3°C warmer than its surroundings. In the evening, the difference can be as high as 12°C. Heat islands can exacerbate the impact of an extreme heat event, putting additional stress on the health of vulnerable people.

Appendix A: Recreation Facility Needs Assessment

Appendix A provides detailed needs assessments for 22 recreation facility types in the City of Ottawa. For each facility type, the needs assessment provides a general description of the facility and discusses the City's existing and planned inventory. The inventory speaks to actual facility numbers by transect and describes per capita provision levels for each of the facility types. This is expressed as a figure, such as 1:50,000 which means that there is one of that facility for every 50,000 residents.

Where enough data is available and the validity of the comparison is high, the provision rate for a facility is benchmarked against the rates of other municipalities²⁷. Where a municipality's open data site provided no information on a facility type, that municipality is not listed in the benchmark tables. The assessments go on to discuss information on participation, utilizations and public consultation. Each assessment ends with a discussion of target provision levels and recommendations. Each assessment is also supported by a map showing the location of existing facilities.

The data on existing facilities is sourced from the City of Ottawa Recreation Geodatabase. City of Ottawa facility projections are based on staff records of anticipated parkland acquisition to 2031 and the

Why describe per capita provision levels?

A per capita provision level is a tool used by the City to quickly assess the availability of parks and recreation facilities to residents of each transect.

Combined with maps and other data, it helps to identify current inequities in distribution and plan for more equitable access to meet future community needs.

²⁷ Population data for other municipalities is derived from Environics Data²⁷ based on their 2021 population projections. Source: Environics Analytics - Trends - Environics Analytics | Statistics Canada | Oxford Economics | CMHC - ©2020 Environics Analytics.

https://downloads.esri.com/esri_content_doc/dbl/int/canada_prizm/DemostatsTrends2020-ReleaseNotes.pdf

The facility data is sourced from each municipalities' open data sources, as downloaded in December 2020. Calgary: <https://data.calgary.ca> Halifax: <https://catalogue-hrm.opendata.arcgis.com/> Winnipeg: <https://data.winnipeg.ca/browse> Hamilton: <https://open.hamilton.ca/search?sort=name> London: <https://opendata.london.ca> Edmonton: <https://data.edmonton.ca/browse> Toronto: <https://open.toronto.ca> Mississauga: <https://data.mississauga.ca/> Brampton: <https://geohub.brampton.ca/search> Montreal: <https://donnees.montreal.ca> Kingston: <https://cityofkingston.ca/explore/data-catalogue> Vancouver: <https://opendata.vancouver.ca/explore>

expected amenities in these new parks²⁸. Over the next 10 years, most of the new facilities are planned for growth areas in the suburban transects. These are areas where the City can anticipate future parkland acquisition based on the land development process. New parks and acquisitions are also possible in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects but are much harder to predict²⁹.

For parks and recreation facility analysis and planning, this Master Plan further uses the transects policy areas established by the 2020 Draft OP. These are the Downtown Core, Inner Urban, Outer Urban, Greenbelt, Suburban and Rural transects. However, the Suburban transect is further divided into three sub-areas; Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East.

There are few existing recreational facilities in the Greenbelt transect and no new facilities are anticipated in this transect. For this Master Plan, some existing facilities in the Greenbelt transect have been tabulated as serving a different transect. For example, the Nepean Sportsplex, which technically lies just inside the Greenbelt transect boundary, is counted as serving the Outer Urban transect and included in the Outer Urban transect supply.

Note: At the time of translation and publishing of this draft document, accurate transect-based population projections, reflective of the 2020 Draft Official Plan direction, were not available. Therefore, for all calculations in this draft, the 2021 and 2031 population figures for the City of Ottawa are based on Environics population data and projections; these do not reflect the Official Plan growth direction.

The needs assessment tables will be revised, in the final Master Plan, to reflect that 2020 Draft Official Plan transect-based population projections. The transect based provision levels for each facility type are expected to change from the numbers presented in this draft. In transects where the 2020 Draft Official Plan is directing new growth, the provision levels are expected to become poorer.

Based on revised provisions levels, the recommendations in this draft may be adjusted in the final Master Plan.

²⁸ The projections are based on the number of expected parks and facilities as known in 2021 as noted in area master plans, long range planning documents, and by currently proposed parks and facilities. Over a 10-year period to 2031, rates of growth across the city and in particular areas may change. As such, the projected parks and facilities needs may also change. The figures and projections in this document are subject to change over time.

²⁹ The provision level tables project only new facilities and do not deal with life-cycle renewal, as this only replaces an existing facility and does not add to the City's overall inventory.

1. Recreation Complexes

1.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes a Recreation Complex (or Recreation Centre) as a large-scale, multi-purpose recreation building, composed of two (2) or more of the following recreation facilities: Community Centre, Indoor Aquatic Facility (Natatorium), Single or Multi-Pad Arena and one or more Gyms.

Recreation complexes have been traditionally planned and developed or, have evolved to serve large district level catchment areas and to offer a wide range of recreation programs for all ages and abilities. A recreation complex is intended to function as “one-stop shopping” for recreation activities serving a large district of the City.

1.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 4, there are currently 24 recreation complexes serving the City, with the majority (15) located in the Outer Urban, Inner Urban and Downtown Core transects. This reflects the higher population densities of these inner-City transects. The Greenbelt, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects, have a total of 9 recreation complexes.

The current citywide provision level for recreation complexes is 1:44,300 residents. The Downtown Core has the highest provision level at 1:20,100 residents. The Rural and Greenbelt transects do not contain recreation complexes; however, these transects are served by several recreation complexes/centres in abutting areas. The Suburban South transect has the next lowest provision level at 1:62,900 residents.

Table 4: Recreational Complex Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	4	1: 20,100	0	4	1: 22,900
Inner Urban	6	1: 41,300	0	6	1: 44,600
Outer Urban	5	1: 44,700	0	5	1: 48,200
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	4	1: 32,700	0	4	1: 36,000
Suburban South	2	1: 62,900	1	3	1: 47,500
Suburban East	3	1: 44,900	0	3	1: 50,800
Rural	0	0	0	0	0
City Total	24	1: 44,300	1	25	1: 48,800

One new recreation complex is planned to be constructed by 2031. This will increase the overall citywide supply to 25 facilities and will result in a citywide provision level of 1:48,800 residents. The new recreation complex is planned to be in the Riverside South community to serve the Suburban South transect and surrounding area. This new facility will increase the transect provision level to 1:47,500 residents. This will leave the Suburban East transect as the only population projected to have a recreation complex provision level below the target level in 2031.

1.3 *Benchmarking*

Due to wide differences in the ways that municipalities describe and classify buildings used for recreational purposes, benchmarking of recreational complexes and centres has not been included.

1.4 *Participation and Utilization*

In 2019, 190,761 residents registered for recreation programs (aquatic programs not included) in recreation complexes. Available programs were oversubscribed at 109.69%. Staff have identified that space within complexes is programmed to current capacity.

The City ran an online *Indoor Recreation Facility Survey* in support of this Master Plan. A very high percentage of residents answered yes to the question: “Do you or your household visit the City's indoor facilities in a typical year?” In response to the follow-up question “how frequently do you visit”, large recreation complexes were the most popular for people to visit, followed by large community centres.

1.5 *Public Consultation*

From the *Indoor Recreation Facility Survey*:

- 16 residents (3 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the City's indoor facilities in a typical year (community and rec complexes, aquatics, arenas etc.).
- 567 residents (94 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits the City's indoor facilities in a typical year. Of the 529 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 65 per cent visited recreation complexes 11 or more times per year

- Residents were asked “if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community”. Many residents felt there were too few recreation facilities in their community.
- Despite the fact that the school boards are the predominant provider of gymnasium space in the city, many comments included a need for more gyms, or activities played in gyms like indoor pickleball, badminton, volleyball, and basketball, which are all components of larger recreation complexes.
- Some residents indicated there were enough, just right or adequate indoor recreation facilities in their community. Of those, several qualified their answer, with paraphrased sentiments, such as: “enough complexes if older facilities are renovated or replaced and facility numbers keep pace with population growth”.
- Another common theme was the need for multi-purpose facilities. This was indicated by specifically stating “multi-purpose” or by the resident listing a variety of activities that their household engaged in. These activities ranged from art, dance, leisure activities, and recreation to competitive sport.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were many comments related to recreation complexes. The main themes were:

- older buildings are in need of upgrades, renovations and /or additions, to deal with existing use and recognizing the added pressures that intensification will bring
- numerous individuals and sport organizations said there were not, or not enough, recreation complexes in their area to meet the needs and interests of diverse participants
- numerous individuals state that multi-use ‘one stop shop’ recreation complexes are important
- recreation complexes are a finite resource and many groups compete for a limited amount of space and time. For example, pickleball, basketball, ball hockey and futsal may all compete for gym time during, particularly during prime hours when children are out of school and adults are off work

1.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

Without the benefit of benchmarking the recreation complexes provision levels of other Canadian municipalities, it is recommended that the target provision level for recreation complexes mirror the provision level of indoor aquatic facilities of 1:50,000 residents. The rationale is that recreation complexes have a similar district-wide catchment area as indoor aquatic facilities and, in practice, future new recreation complexes will generally include indoor aquatic facilities as a major component. This recreation complex target provision level is lower than both the 2021 and 2031 provision levels shown in Table 4, however greater service equity can be achieved through the balancing of recreation complex provision levels across the City.

Several recreation complexes do not meet current recreation facility infrastructure standards and are approaching end-of-life. These facilities are candidates for replacement/consolidation into new recreation complexes with larger catchment areas. While transect provision levels may be reduced, this will be more than offset by the increased quality and range of recreation services and programs offered by new, state-of-the-art recreation complexes.

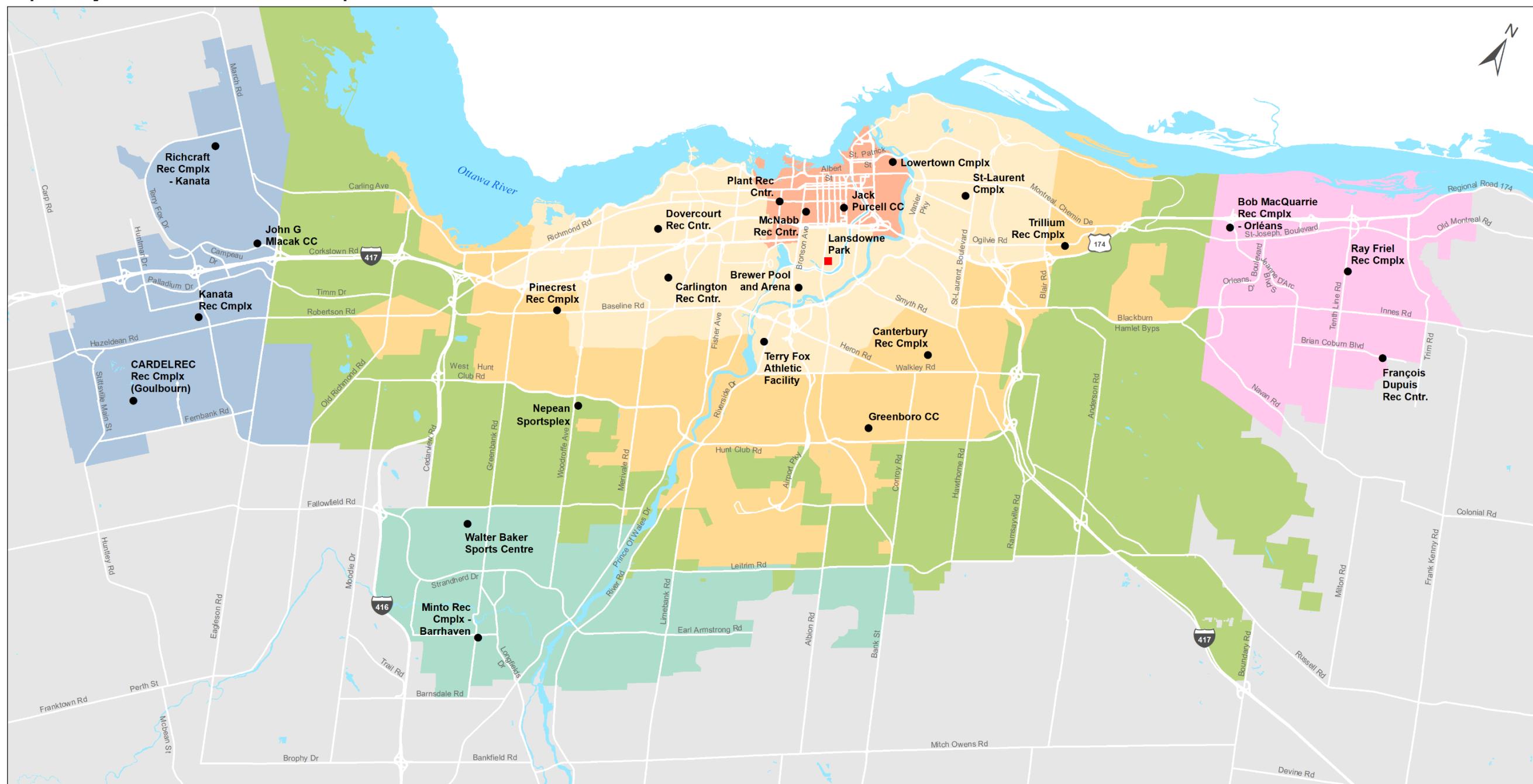
Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of recreation complexes recreation complex target provision level at 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 1 new facility, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban South transect.
- c. Consider the development of 1 new, additional facility in the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban East transect, to improve the transect-wide provision level and to serve the adjacent rural east area.

Strategy Statements:

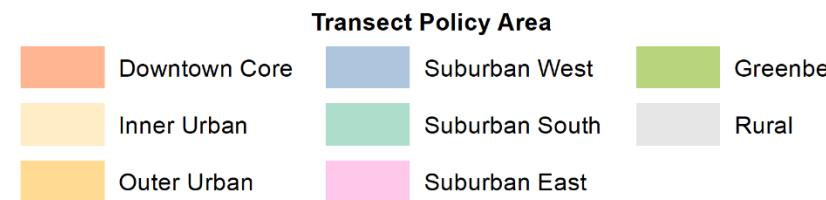
- d. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan that identifies which recreation complexes could be replaced / consolidated into new City-standard facilities serving larger catchment areas.

Map 5: City of Ottawa Recreation Complexes and Recreation Centres



City of Ottawa Recreation Complexes & Recreation Centres

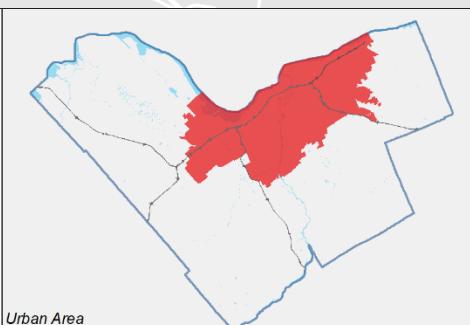
- Recreation Complex
- P3 Recreation Complex



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-19
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



2. Community Centres and Community Buildings

2.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes a Community Centre as a single storey, multi-purpose community building. Community centres are categorized by size. Larger facilities are referred to as Community Centres, which range between 1,000 m² and 2,000 m² or larger. They are composed of two or more of the following program spaces: Customer Service/Reception, Gymnasium, Fitness Room(s), Multi-Purpose Room(s), Meeting Room(s) and Kitchenettes. Community centres are public buildings where members of a community gather for group or individual recreation activities, social support, public information, and other purposes. Community centres provide indoor recreation programs serving a specific community in the City.

Smaller facilities are commonly referred to as Community Buildings, which range between 280m² and 325m² and generally consist of two multipurpose program spaces or a community hall, a kitchenette, washrooms and storage spaces. Community buildings provide indoor recreation programs serving a specific neighborhood in the City.

2.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 5, there are currently 57 community centres and buildings serving the City, with 32 facilities located in the Outer Urban, Inner Urban and Downtown Core transects. The Greenbelt, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects have a total of 25 community centres and buildings. Overall, the provision of community centres and buildings is generally evenly distributed across the City, with the exception of the Suburban South transect.

The current citywide provision level for community centres and/ buildings is 1:18,700 residents. The Rural transect has the highest provision level at 1:9,000. The Suburban South transect has the lowest provision level at 1:62,900 residents.

Table 5: Community Centre and Community Building Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	6	1: 13,400	0	6	1: 15,300
Inner Urban	15	1: 16,500	0	15	1: 17,900
Outer Urban	11	1: 20,300	0	11	1: 21,900
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban West	6	1: 21,800	0	6	1: 24,000
Suburban South	2	1: 62,900	1	3	1: 47,500
Suburban East	6	1: 22,500	2	8	1: 19,100
Rural	11	1: 9,000	1	12	1: 9,500
City Total	57	1: 18,700	4	61	1: 20,000

Four new community centres are planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 61 facilities. This will result in a provision level of 1:20,000 residents. Two new community centres are planned to be located in the Suburban East transect. These two new facilities will increase the provision level in the Suburban East transect from 1:22,500 residents to 1:19,100 residents.

One new community centre is planned for the Suburban South transect, which will increase the provision level from 1:62,900 to 1:47,500 residents. Another new community centre is planned for the Rural transect, which will lower the provision level from 1:9,000 residents in 2021 to 1:9,500 residents in 2031.

2.3 *Benchmarking*

Due to wide differences in the ways that municipalities describe and classify buildings used for recreational purposes, benchmarking of community centres has not been included.

2.4 *Participation and Utilization*

In 2019, 186,453 residents registered for recreation programs (aquatic programs not included) in community centres. Available programs were oversubscribed at 111.79%. There is limited space to offer additional programs and staff are exploring options to make additions where feasible.

2.5 *Public Consultation*

Like recreation complexes, resident feedback was considered to apply to both major building types, recreation complexes and community centres as the planning definitions can have some cross-over. From the *Indoor Recreation Facility Survey*:

- 16 residents (3 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the City’s indoor facilities in a typical year (community and rec complexes, aquatics, arenas etc.).

- 567 residents (94 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits the City's indoor facilities in a typical year. Of the 491 residents responding to the follow-up question "how frequently do your visit", 49 per cent visited large community centres 11 or more times per year. Thirty-two per cent of residents reported visiting small community buildings 11 or more times per year (out of 466 responses).
- community centres were the second most frequently visited indoor facility after to recreation complexes

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were many comments related to community centres and community buildings. The main themes were:

- older community centres and buildings are in need to upgrades, renovations and /or additions, to deal with existing use and recognizing the added pressures that intensification will bring
- local neighbourhood community centres and buildings are appreciated and just as important as large recreation complexes; smaller buildings should not be closed.
- local buildings have an important sense of community
- participants appreciate being able to walk to local buildings. Bike and transit access are important
- some community centres and buildings are small already and will not be enough given proposed intensification
- like recreation complexes, many groups compete for a limited amount of available space and time (i.e. gym use) particularly during prime hours when children are out of school and adults are off work

2.6 *Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations*

Without the benefit of benchmarking of community centre provision levels of other Canadian municipalities, it is recommended that the citywide target provision level for community centres and buildings be set at 1:19,000 residents which is in keeping with the existing 2021 and projected 2031 provision levels. This is an appropriate citywide service level for facilities serving an immediate and identifiable community or neighborhood catchment area.

The target is to achieve greater equity in provision levels between population areas of the City. This is to be achieved by addressing the very low provision level in the Suburban South transect and through the replacement and potential consolidation of end-of-life community centres and buildings, into new City-standard community centres and buildings with larger catchment areas serving broader wider areas.

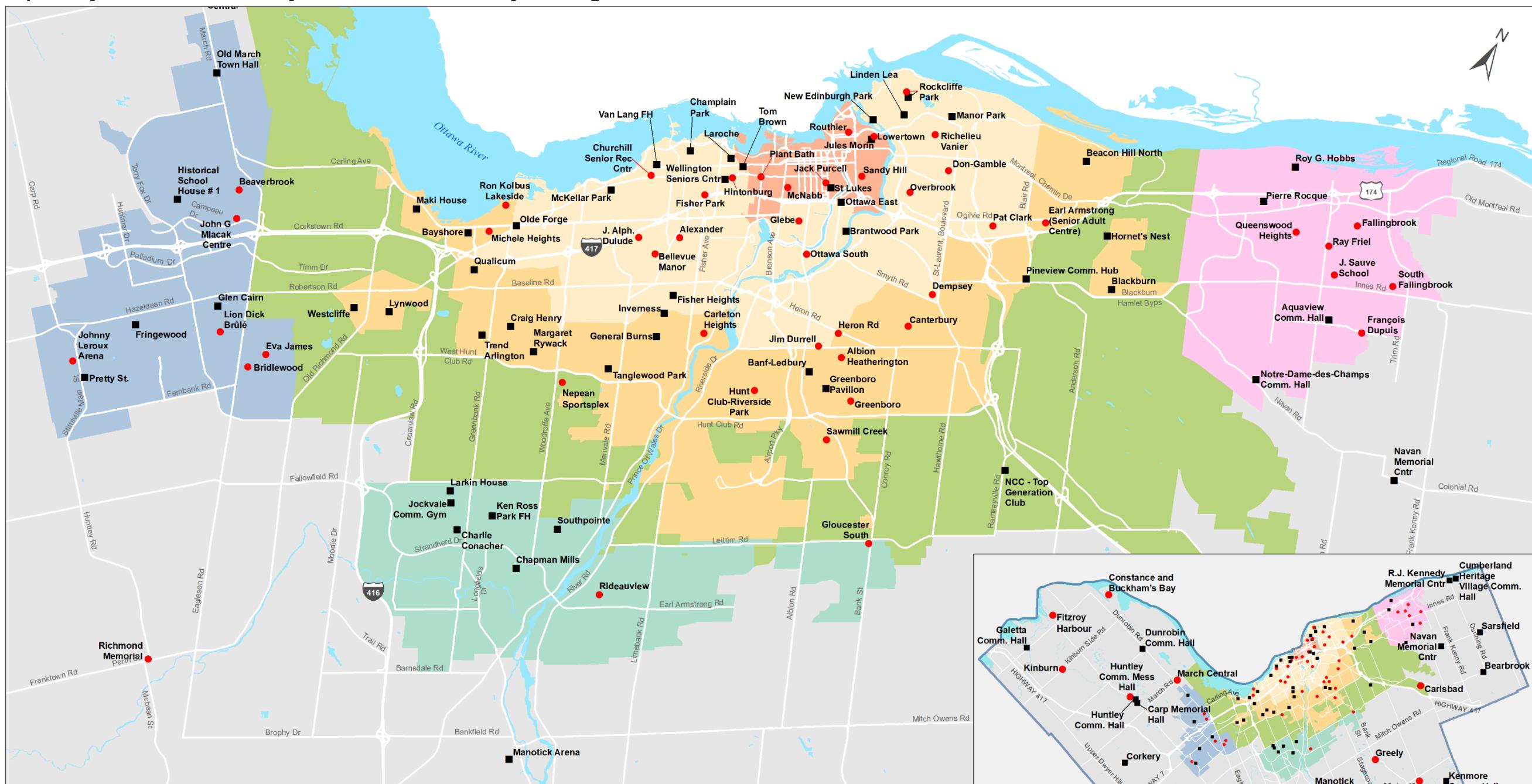
Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of community centres and buildings at 1:19,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 4 new community centres, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- c. Consider the development of 2 additional new community buildings, to serve the Suburban South transect, in order to improve the transect-wide provision level.

Strategy Statements:

- d. When considering the addition of a new community centre or community building, evaluate the total square footage of available community indoor space, in all facility types, within the neighbourhood and transect.
- e. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan that identifies which community centres and buildings could be replaced / consolidated during the 2021-2031 period into new City-standard facilities serving larger catchment areas.

Map 6: City of Ottawa Community Centres and Community Buildings



City of Ottawa Community Centres & Community Buildings

● Community Centre

■ Community Building

Downtown Core

Inner Urban

Outer Urban

Suburban West

Suburban South

Suburban East

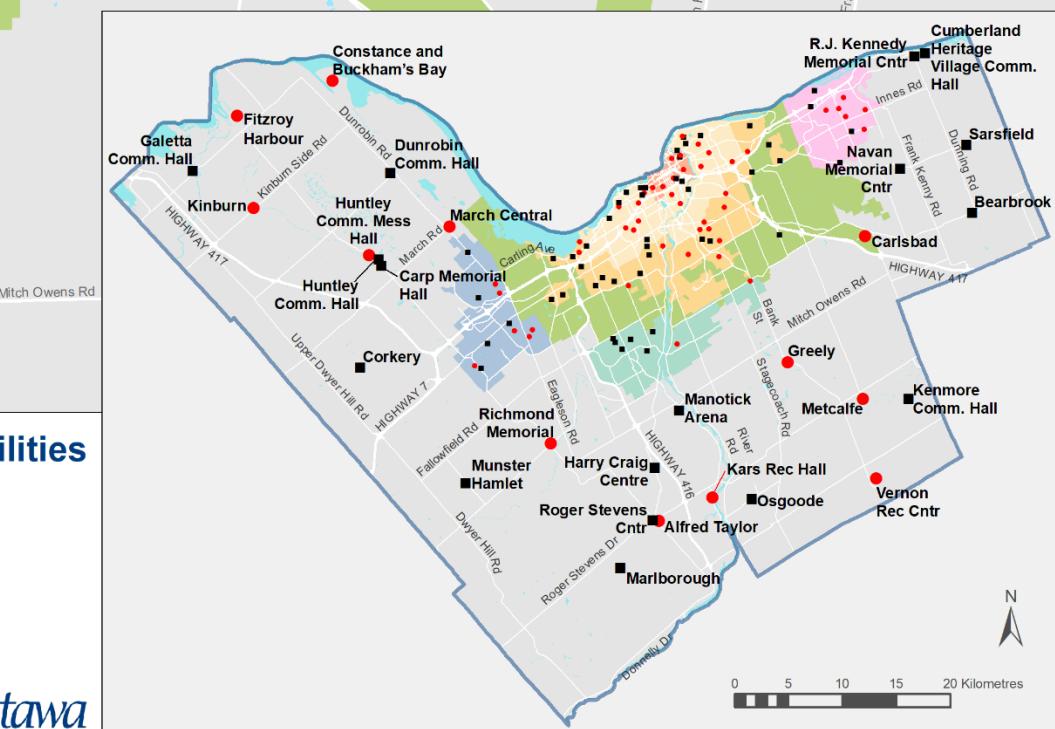
Greenbelt

Rural

Parks and Recreation Facilities
Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-19
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation,
Cultural and Facility Services



3. Indoor Aquatic Facilities

3.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes two types of Indoor Aquatic Facilities. The standard indoor facility is described as a large building containing a natatorium with a minimum 6-lane, 25-metre Lap Pool and a secondary Leisure Pool, along with support spaces such as Change Rooms and Pool Instruction rooms. There are some minor variations as, some pools are 25 yards and not 25 metres. The second indoor aquatic facility is described as a 10 lane, 50-meter lap pool with infrastructure associated to support aquatic sports such as diving (dive platforms) and competitive swimming (bulkheads and timing system).

Standard indoor aquatic facilities have been traditionally planned and developed to serve a large district level catchment area and to offer a wide range of aquatic programs for all ages and abilities. The City's 50-meter indoor aquatic facility, at the Nepean Sportsplex, was constructed to support community based aquatic sports as well as leisure based aquatic programs, such as learn to swim and public swimming.

3.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 6, there are currently 20 standard indoor aquatic facilities, with the majority (12) located in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects. This reflects the higher population densities of these areas. One 50-meter indoor aquatic facility is located in the Outer Urban transect.

The Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East transects, have a total of 8 standard indoor aquatic facilities. There are no indoor aquatic facilities serving the Rural transect.

The current citywide provision level for indoor aquatic facilities is 1:50,700 residents. The Downtown Core has the highest provision level at 1:20,100 residents. The Inner Urban transect has the next lowest provision level at 1:82,500 residents.

Table 6: Indoor Aquatic Facility Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	4	1: 20,100	0	4	1: 22,900
Inner Urban	3	1: 82,500	0	3	1: 89,300
Outer Urban	6	1: 37,200	0	6	1: 40,100
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban West	3	1: 43,600	0	3	1: 48,000
Suburban South	2	1: 62,900	1	3	1: 47,500
Suburban East	3	1: 44,900	0	3	1: 50,800
Rural	0	0	0	0	0
City Total	21	1: 50,700	1	22	1: 55,400

Overall, standard indoor aquatic facilities are relatively evenly distributed across the City, however the provision levels are the lowest in the Inner Urban and Suburban South transects.

One new standard indoor aquatic facility is planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 22 facilities. This will result in a provision level of 1:55,400 residents. The new standard indoor aquatic facility is planned to be in the Riverside South community to serve the Suburban South transect. This new facility will increase the provision level of indoor aquatic facilities in the Suburban South transect from 1:62,900 residents to 1:47,500 residents.

The Recreation Culture and Facilities Services department has identified a need to construct one 50-meter indoor aquatic facility, in the 2021-2031 period. This is in order to address needs, related to community based aquatic sports, that are no longer achieved at the existing 50-meter indoor aquatic facility. The existing facility was constructed in 1974 and no longer meets standards for training and competition for: age group swimming, masters swimming, diving, artistic swimming and water polo. In addition, population growth in the city warrants the addition of a second 50-meter indoor aquatic facility.

3.3 *Benchmarking*

In comparing the provision levels of indoor aquatic facilities in Ottawa to the municipalities listed in Table 7, Ottawa's provision level of 1:50,700 residents is ranked 3rd. The average indoor aquatic facility provision level for the municipalities listed is 1:87,100 residents.

Table 7: Municipal Benchmarking of City-owned Indoor Aquatic Facility Provision Rates

City Name	City Indoor Pools	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Hamilton	17	1 : 34,400
Toronto	65	1 : 47,600
Ottawa	21	1 : 50,700
Winnipeg	13	1 : 61,000
Montreal	35	1 : 61,100
Mississauga	11	1 : 69,900
Vancouver	9	1 : 76,600
Edmonton	13	1 : 83,800
Brampton	7	1 : 103,300
Calgary	12	1 : 118,200
Kingston	1	1 : 133,700
London	3	1 : 141,600
Halifax	3	1 : 150,500

3.4 Participation and Utilization

A review of 2019 registered aquatic programs at indoor aquatic facilities and outdoor pools shows that registered courses at indoor aquatic facilities were on average 80 per cent full, compared to 66 per cent capacity for registered courses at outdoor pools. This higher participation and utilisation rate for indoor aquatic facilities is due to the longer annual operating season (11 months) for indoor aquatic facilities (versus 2 months for outdoor pools) and their consistent regulated interior environments. Although only a snapshot of the utilisation of indoor aquatic facilities versus outdoor pools, it is indicative of the user's preference for indoor aquatic programming over outdoor pools. It also underlines Ottawa's aquatic recreation strategy of investing in indoor pools over outdoor pools.

A review of aquatic rental programs at indoor aquatic facilities shows that rentals at these facilities were 100 per cent full over a five-year period from 2015-2019, with waiting lists for additional rental time. Rental programs are utilized by community based aquatic sport groups.

3.5 Public Consultation

From the online *Indoor Recreation Facility Survey*:

- 16 residents (3 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the City’s indoor facilities in a typical year (community and rec complexes, aquatics, arenas etc.).
- 567 residents (94 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits the City’s indoor facilities in a typical year. Of the 459 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do you visit”, 35 per cent visited aquatic facilities 11 or more times per year
- Residents were asked “if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular community centres or recreation facilities in your community”. Resident free text responses stated that there were too few indoor aquatic facilities. This was the second most frequently identified need next to gymnasium activities.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, a very frequent request by participants was for an indoor pool in their area. Such requests were made by participants from across the City. There were also a handful of requests for high-performance aquatic facilities to support diving and competitive swimming.

3.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A rounded level of 1:50,000 residents is the recommended target provision level for indoor aquatic. The 80 per cent aquatic program participation and utilization level in current indoor aquatic facilities suggests that these facilities are being well used, with some room for growth. However, there is a need to better balance indoor aquatic facility provision levels across the City. There is also a need to construct a new 50-meter aquatic facility to address the existing gaps relating to community based aquatic sports and demand for long course leisure swimming opportunities by residents and given population growth.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a standard, 25-meter indoor aquatic facility target provision level of 1:50,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 1 new standard indoor aquatic facility, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban South transect.
- c. Proceed with the planning and development of 1 new 50-meter aquatic facility, targeted for the 2021-2031 period, where it can be strategically co-located with a 25m pool, to meet competitive swimming standards (location to be determined).

Strategy Statements:

- d. Maintain the City of Ottawa practice for the development of new indoor aquatic facilities, over outdoor pools, due to their longer operating seasons and greater number and range of programming opportunities.
- e. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) that identifies which indoor aquatic facilities could be replaced when they reach end of life in the Inner Urban transects. When pools are to be replaced, consider relocating the replacement to a transect that is underserved.

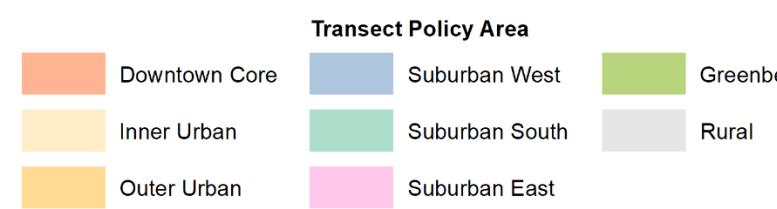
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Map 7: City of Ottawa Indoor Aquatic Facilities



City of Ottawa Indoor Aquatic Facilities

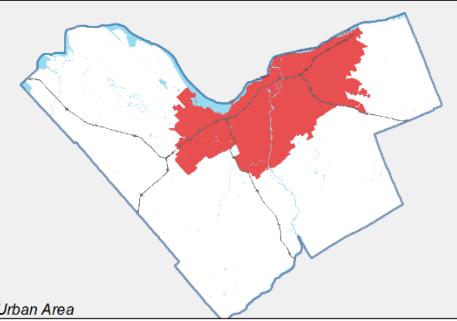
● Indoor Aquatic Facility



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



4. Outdoor Deep-Water Pools

4.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes an Outdoor Deep-Water Pool as a seasonal exterior aquatic facility with a 6-lane, 25-metre lap pool basin with shallow and deep ends, an accessible ramp entry, diving board and a seasonal pool change building.

Outdoor deep-water pools have been traditionally planned and developed to serve a large district level catchment area and to offer a wide range of seasonal aquatic programs for all ages and abilities.

4.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 8, there are currently 9 outdoor deep-water pools serving the City, with the majority (5) located in the Outer Urban transect. There are no outdoor deep-water pools serving the Downtown Core, Greenbelt, Suburban South, Suburban East or Rural transects. There are 3 outdoor deep-water pools serving the Suburban West transect and 1 outdoor deep-water pool serving the Inner Urban transect.

The current citywide provision level for outdoor deep-water pools is 1:118,200 residents. The Suburban West transect has the highest provision level at 1:43,600 residents, followed closely by the Outer Urban transect with a provision level of 1:44,700 residents. Apart from the transects that have no outdoor deep-water pools, the Inner Urban transect has the lowest provision level at 1: 247,600 residents.

Table 8: Outdoor Deep-Water Pool Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Urban	1	1: 247,600	0	1	1: 267,800
Outer Urban	5	1: 44,700	0	5	1: 48,200
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	3	1: 43,600	0	3	1: 48,000
Suburban South	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban East	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	0	0	0	0	0
City Total	9	1: 118,200	0	9	1: 135,400

The distribution of outdoor deep-water pools in Ottawa reflects the historic aquatic recreation strategies of the former municipalities prior to amalgamation in 2001. The former City of Ottawa chose to invest in indoor aquatic facilities due to their longer season and greater programming opportunities. The former City of Ottawa also operated 3 beaches as seasonal aquatic alternatives to outdoor deep-water pools. Existing outdoor deep-water pools were closed when they reached end of life. As a result, together, the Downtown Core and the Inner Urban transects feature only 1 outdoor deep-water pool (Genest), which is located in the former City of Vanier.

The aquatic recreation strategies of the former municipalities of Nepean, Kanata and Gloucester included the development of outdoor deep-water pools, as evidenced by the 8 outdoor deep-water pools located in the Outer Urban and Suburban West transects. As these former municipalities expanded, the development of outdoor deep-water pools declined as, they too, chose to invest in indoor aquatic facilities due to their longer seasons and greater programming opportunities. The former rural municipalities did not invest in public outdoor deep-water pools.

No new outdoor deep-water pools are planned to be built between 2021 and 2031. The current City of Ottawa aquatic recreation strategy is to continue to plan and invest in indoor aquatic facilities, to meet the aquatic recreation needs of the community, while maintaining the existing inventory of outdoor pools. Investment is limited to the lifecycle replacement of existing outdoor deep-water pools when they reach end of life, as has already occurred with the full replacement of Crestview Pool.

4.3 *Benchmarking*

In comparing the provision levels of outdoor deep-water pools in Ottawa to the municipalities listed in Table 9, Ottawa's provision level of 1:118,200 residents is ranked 8th. The average outdoor deep-water pool provision level for all municipalities listed is 1:161,200 residents.

Table 9: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Deep-Water Pools

City Name	Outdoor Pools	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Montreal	77	1 : 27,800
London	11	1 : 38,600
Toronto	57	1 : 54,300
Winnipeg	10	1 : 79,300
Hamilton	6	1 : 97,500
Mississauga	7	1 : 109,900
Halifax	4	1 : 112,800

City Name	Outdoor Pools	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Ottawa	9	1 : 118,200
Kingston	1	1 : 133,700
Vancouver	4	1 : 172,300
Calgary	8	1 : 177,300
Edmonton	4	1 : 272,300
Brampton	1	1 : 723,200

4.4 *Participation and Utilization*

A review of 2019 registered aquatic programs performance for outdoor deep-water pools shows that registered courses were at 66 per cent capacity. This lower participation and utilisation level for outdoor deep-water pools, as compared to indoor facilities, is due to the shorter annual operating season (2 months) and the unpredictability of weather.

4.5 *Public Consultation*

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 224 residents (16 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: beaches, outdoor pool, wading pool or splash pads in a typical year.
- 1,037 residents (76 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these outdoor facilities. Of the 987 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 12 per cent visited outdoor pools 11 or more times per year
- Residents were asked “if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community”. A small percentage of residents stated a desire to have an outdoor pool in their community

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few comments related to outdoor pools. In general, people who have outdoor pools in their neighbourhood appreciate them. Others wonder why there aren't any in their own neighbourhood.

4.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

With the City of Ottawa's current strategy of maintaining the existing inventory of outdoor deep-water pools, outdoor deep-water pool provision levels will decline in concert with population increases. Even with this decline, this will keep Ottawa's deep-water pool provision level within the median range of the municipalities listed in Table 9.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current provision of 9 outdoor deep-water pools.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Support the development of life-cycle strategies through the Recreation Asset Management Plan (RAMP) that identifies which outdoor deep-water pools could be replaced when they reach end of life..

5. Supervised Beaches

5.1 General Description

A beach is a landform alongside a body of water which consists of loose particles from rock, such as sand, gravel, and pebbles. Beaches can be naturally occurring or developed. Ottawa's beaches provide seasonal supervised swimming and water-front animation.

5.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa has four³⁰ supervised beaches along two of its rivers, the Ottawa and the Rideau rivers. The Ottawa River runs east-west along the Ontario-Québec border and the Rideau River generally runs north-south, emptying into the Ottawa River at Rideau Falls.

There are three beaches along the Ottawa River: Britannia, Westboro, and the Petrie Island Beaches - 'East Bay' and 'Island River'. Britannia and Westboro are west of downtown within the Inner and Outer Urban transects and the Petrie Island Beach is east of downtown within the Suburban East transect. Mooney's Bay is Ottawa's fourth beach and the only one located on the Rideau River. The beach is southwest of

³⁰ There are two beaches at Petrie Island. For the purposes of this Master Plan, they are counted as a single beach.

downtown in the Inner Urban transect. The citywide provision level of supervised beaches is 1:266,000 residents.

No new supervised beaches are planned to be built between 2021 and 2031. As such, the citywide provision level will drop to 1:304,800 residents.

Table 10: Supervised Beach Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Urban	2	1: 123,800	0	2	1: 133,900
Outer Urban	1	1: 223,300	0	1	1: 240,900
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban South	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban East	1	1: 134,700	0	1	1: 152,400
Rural	0	0	0	0	0
City Total	4	1: 266,000	0	4	1: 304,800

5.3 Benchmarking

In comparing the provision rates of beaches in Ottawa to the municipalities listed in Table 11, it is important to note the geographic context in which they are found. Halifax and Vancouver are coastal municipalities with extensive shorelines along the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Hamilton, Kingston and Toronto abut Lake Ontario. Both Ottawa and Montreal have beaches along their shores of the rivers that run through them.

Within this context, Ottawa's provision rate of 1:266,000 residents is essentially equivalent to Montréal's provision rate of 1:267,100 residents.

Table 11: Municipal Benchmarking of Beaches Provision Rates

City Name	Beaches	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Kingston	10	1 : 13,400
Halifax	19	1 : 23,800
Vancouver	11	1 : 62,600
Hamilton	8	1 : 73,100
Ottawa	4	1 : 266,000

City Name	Beaches	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Montreal	8	1 : 267,100
Toronto	11	1 : 281,500

5.4 Participation and Utilization

The City of Ottawa's supervised beach season has an approved operational budget of 72 days. The 72 days is calculated by counting backwards from the last Sunday in August, before the Labour Day weekend. During the supervised swimming season, Lifeguards are on duty Monday-Sunday from noon to 7pm. Park washrooms that are located at City beaches are open from the Saturday of the Victoria Day weekend to Labour Day.

2019 attendance numbers, for swimmers, at the City's beach locations were approximately:

- Mooney's Bay: 211,000
- Westboro: 48,000
- Britannia: 100,500
- Petrie: 79,000

5.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities survey*:

- 224 residents (16 per cent) answered "no, do not visit due to lack of interest" to the question if their household visits any of the following: beaches, outdoor pool, wading pool or splash pads in a typical year.
- 1,037 residents (76 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these outdoor facilities. Of the 1024 residents responding to the follow-up question "how frequently do your visit", 31 per cent visited beaches 11 or more times per year
- Residents were asked "if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community". A small percentage of residents answered the question stated a desire to have more beaches

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were almost no comments related to beaches. There was a single comment noting that beaches that had closed should be considered for reopening; these beaches were not named.

5.6 Target Provision Level and Additional Recommendations

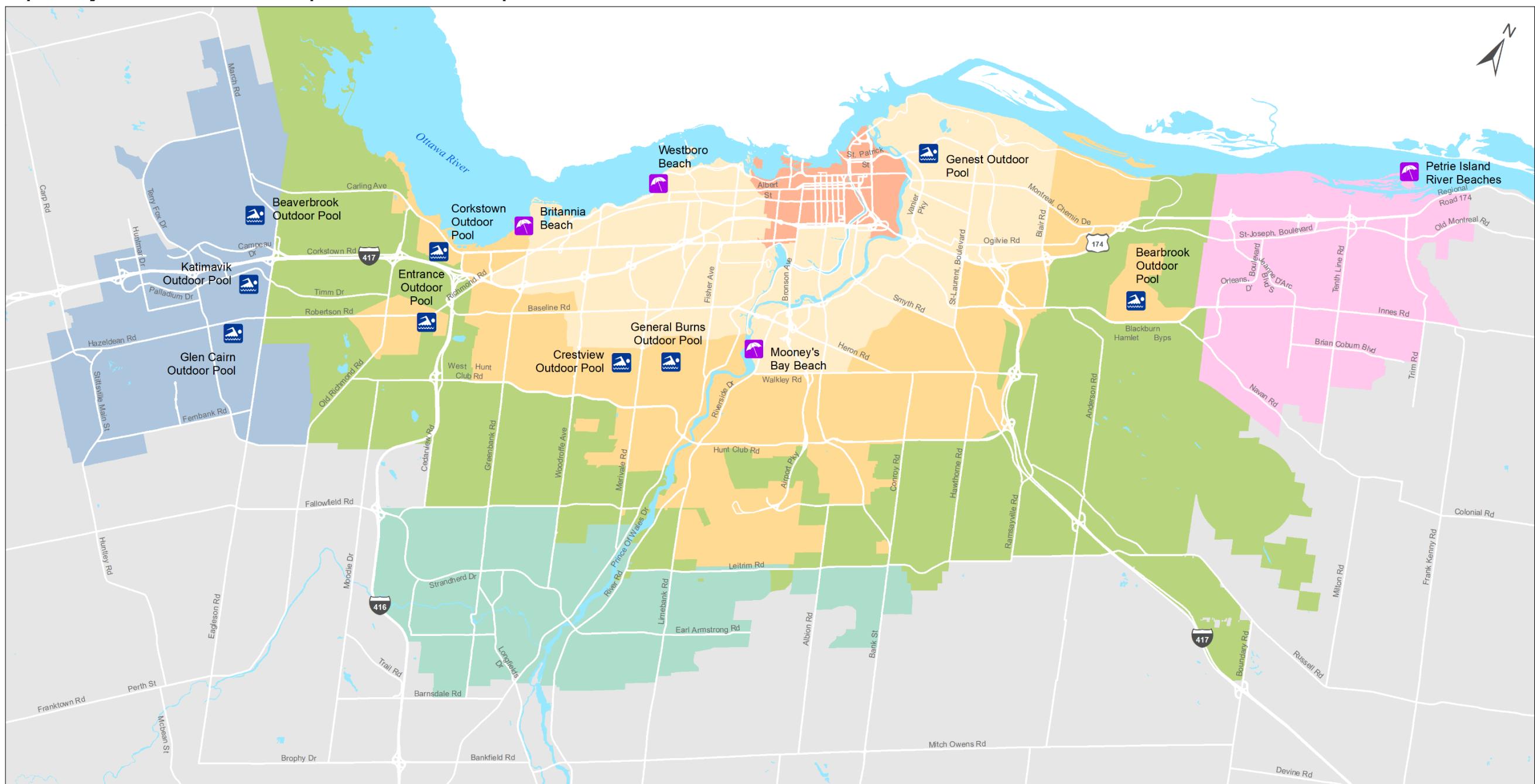
The number of supervised beaches within the City of Ottawa will remain constant over the next ten years. As the city's population grows, the number of residents using each beach is expected to increase. The citywide provision level is expected to be 1:304,800 residents by 2031.

Recommendations:

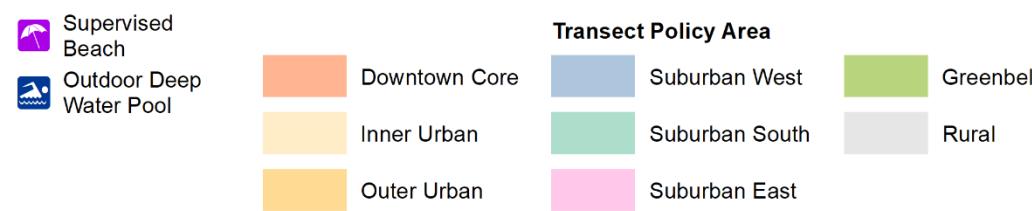
- a. Maintain the current number of supervised beaches

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Map 8: City of Ottawa Outdoor Deep Water Pools and Supervised Beaches



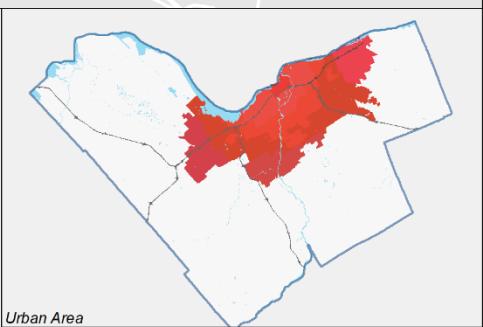
City of Ottawa Outdoor Deep Water Pools & Supervised Beaches



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



6. Splash Pads and Wading Pools

6.1 General Description

Splash Pads are recreation facilities located in public parks, that provide water play with no standing water. Participants push a button to activate water spray features. Splash pads are primarily intended for use by families and young children. They are best located in residential areas where they are visible and accessible on foot. In Ottawa's case, splash pads are connected to the municipal water main to meet Provincial regulations to guarantee the safety of the water for drinking purposes. Further, Provincial regulations require that the splash pad immediately drain the body contact water into local sewers. This eliminates the need for a recirculation system, water testing and staffing. Splash pads have a longer operating season and longer daily operating hours than wading pools.

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describe wading pools as permanent seasonal supervised multiple depth, accessible outdoor pools for children, predominantly located in community and neighbourhood parks. Wading pool park features include but are not limited to two separate basins (deep and shallow), shaded areas and a comfort station. Wading pools are primarily intended for recreation use by families and young children. Wading pools are best located in residential areas to support community needs, aquatic safety and affordable access. In comparison to splash pads, wading pools are staffed.

6.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 12, the City of Ottawa currently has 145 outdoor splash pads, which include a variety of sizes, structure types and spray features. These are located in all transects of the city. At 1:49,500 residents, the Rural transect has the lowest provision rate. This is followed by the Downtown Core with a provision rate of 1:16,100 residents. At 1:4,500 residents, the Suburban East transect has the highest provision rate.

As shown in Table 13, the City currently has 56 outdoor wading pools which include 1-2 basins, shaded areas and washroom/first aid support. Wading pools are located in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects as they were constructed by the pre-amalgamation cities of Ottawa and Vanier. Other former municipalities did not construct wading pools. The current provision level of wading pools is 1:19,000.

Table 12: Splashpad Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	5	1: 16,100	4	9	1: 10,200
Inner Urban	28	1: 8,800	2	30	1: 8,900
Outer Urban	40	1: 5,600	0	40	1: 6,000
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	16	1: 8,200	8	24	1: 6,000
Suburban South	24	1: 5,200	11	35	1: 4,100
Suburban East	30	1: 4,500	8	38	1: 4,000
Rural	2	1: 49,500	2	4	1: 28,500
City Total	145	1: 7,300	35	180	1: 6,800

Table 13: Wading Pool Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	9	1: 8,900	0	9	1: 10,200
Inner Urban	35	1: 7,100	0	35	1: 7,700
Outer Urban	12	1: 18,600	0	12	1: 20,100
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban South	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban East	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	0	0	0	0	0
City Total	56	1: 19,000	0	56	1: 21,800

There are 35 new splash pads planned for the 2021 – 2031 period. The majority of these are planned for the Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East transects. Two new splash pads planned for the Rural transect, where they can be connected to City services, and will improve the rural provision level standard from 1:49,500 residents to 1:28,500 residents. Four new splash pads in the Downtown Core will improve the provision level there from 1:16,000 residents to 1:10,200 residents. The citywide provision level for splash pads in 2031 is expected to be 1:6,800 residents.

There are no new wading pools planned between 2021 – 2031. In comparison to splash pads, wading pools have a significantly shorter operating season and are open for set hours each day. Of the city's 56 wading pools, 54 are at end of life and require full replacement.

6.3 *Benchmarking*

In comparing the provision levels of splash pads in Ottawa to the Canadian municipalities listed in Table 14, Ottawa's provision level of 1:7,300 residents is ranked 1st. As shown in Table 15, Ottawa's provision level for wading pools of 1:19,000 residents is ranked 2nd.

Table 14: Municipal Benchmarking of Splashpad Provision Rates

City Name	Splash pads	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Ottawa	145	1 : 7,300
Hamilton	56	1 : 10,400
Montreal	154	1 : 13,900
Kingston	9	1 : 14,900
Edmonton	72	1 : 15,100
Toronto	142	1 : 21,800
London	16	1 : 26,500
Mississauga	26	1 : 29,600
Vancouver	15	1 : 45,900
Brampton	14	1 : 51,700
Winnipeg	13	1 : 61,000
Halifax	6	1 : 75,200
Calgary	4	1 : 354,500

Table 15: Municipal Benchmarking of Wading Pool Provision Rates

City Name	Wading Pools	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Winnipeg	89	1 : 8,900
Ottawa	56	1 : 19,000
Montreal	93	1 : 23,000
Toronto	93	1 : 33,300
Hamilton	17	1 : 34,400
Vancouver	20	1 : 34,500

City Name	Wading Pools	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
London	11	1 : 38,600
Kingston	1	1 : 133,700
Halifax	3	1 : 150,500
Calgary	4	1 : 354,500
Brampton	2	1 : 361,600
Edmonton	1	1 : 1,089,400

6.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation at splash pads and wading pools includes families and children and is not gender specific. Splash pads are not staffed amenities, therefore attendance is not collected nor monitored. Total annual attendance at City wading pools was 171,100 people in 2018, 156,300 people in 2019 and 85,000 people in 2020³¹.

6.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities survey*:

- 224 residents (16 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: beaches, outdoor pool, wading pool or splash pads in a typical year.
- 1,037 residents (76 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these outdoor facilities. More than 970 residents responded to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit” for wading pools (972) and splash pads (976). Thirteen per cent visited a wading pool 11 or more times per year with 26 per cent reporting visits to a splash pad 11 or more times per year.
- Residents were asked “if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community”. More comments were received about splash pads than wading pools. Wading pool comments varied from too many, right amount, to a preference for splash pads, operational issues/hours, to this is where kids first learn to swim. A small percentage of residents stated a desire to have a wading pool in their community. Most of the text comments about splash pads included that they are great for families and

³¹ Reduced capacity due to COVID-19

children and should be in every neighbourhood, should be large enough to meet demand and have variety of play structures with shade available.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, comments related to splash pads matched the text comments from the online survey. There were a small number of comments related to wading pools, these centered around participants not wanting to lose access to wading pools in their neighbourhoods.

6.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The City of Ottawa does not have a strategy that identifies a provision level target for wading pools. The City plans to replace existing wading pools as they reach end-of-life and to continue to construct new splash pads.

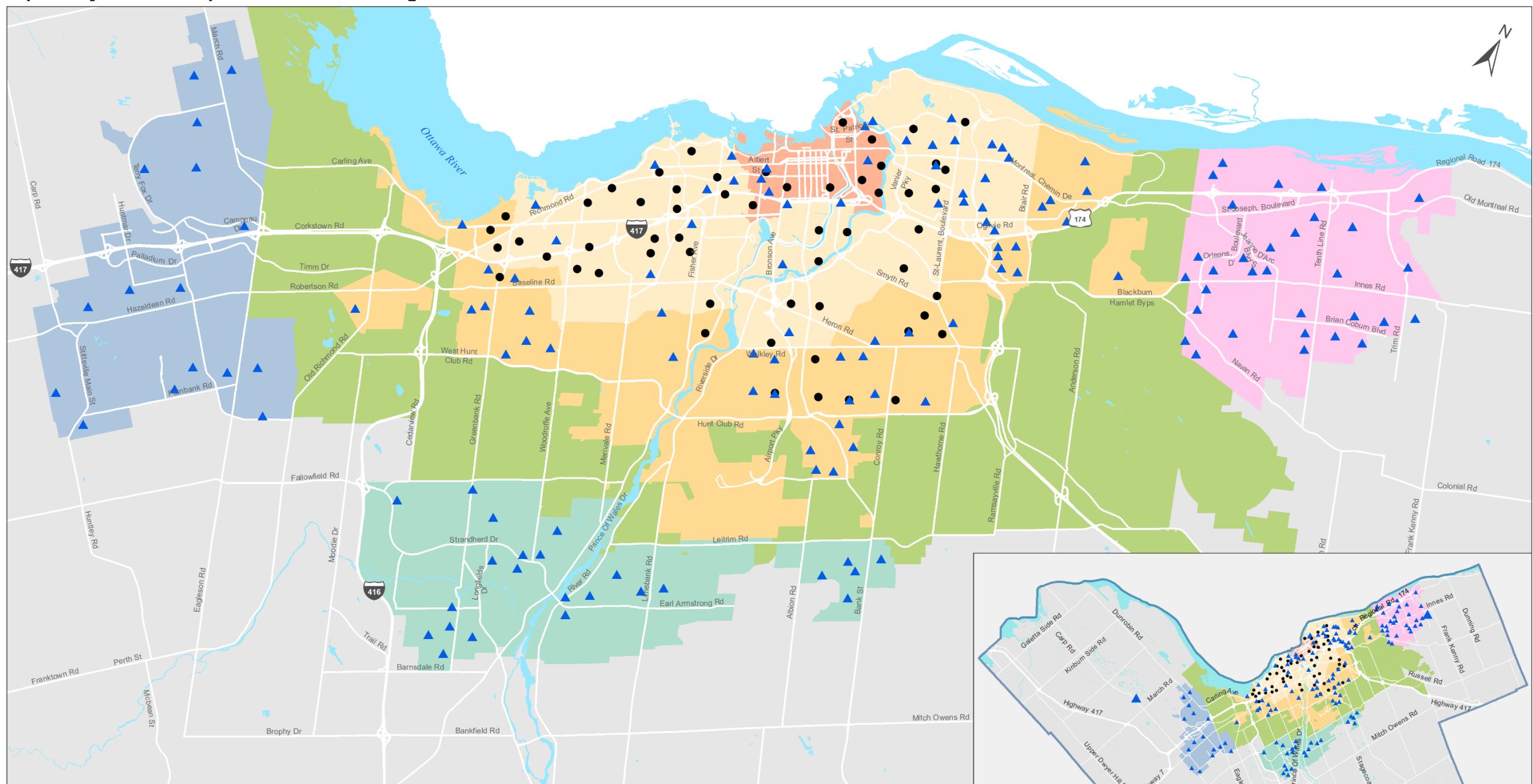
Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of splash pads at 1:7,500 residents.
- b. Maintain the City's current provision of 56 wading pools.
- c. Proceed with the planning and development of the 35 new splash pads, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- d. Consider the development of 19 new, additional, splash pads, in the 2021 – 2031 period, for the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Rural transects. Splash pads in the Rural area can only be developed where municipally treated water and access to city sewers are available.

Strategy Statements:

- e. As existing splash pads reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low provision rates.
- f. Support the development of wading pool life-cycle strategies through the RAMP to update and replace existing wading pools. As existing wading pools reach end of life, consider rebuilding these facilities in transects that have low / no service level provision.

Map 9: City of Ottawa Splash Pads and Wading Pools



City of Ottawa Splash Pads and Wading Pools

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

▲ Splash Pad

● Wading Pool

Transect Policy Area

Downtown Core

Inner Urban

Outer Urban

Suburban West

Suburban South

Suburban East

Greenbelt

Rural

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres

7. Arenas

7.1 General Description

An Arena is an indoor ice facility that can be used for skating and other ice sports such as hockey and ringette. The arena ice surface is installed in a purposely built space, which includes a refrigerated concrete base and complementary infrastructure and support spaces for ice based activities. Aside from the ice use, an arena facility can also be used without ice for non-skating sports-related activities, as well as for special events and community gatherings, if facility infrastructure permits. Use of arena facilities provides opportunities for all ages, all genders and abilities.

7.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa owns and operates 24 single-pad and 9 multi-pad arenas (7 twin-pad and 2 three-pad) for a total of 44 indoor ice surfaces. The City also books ice at 9 P3 (partnership) and privately owned facilities. In total, the City currently books ice at 53 indoor ice surfaces.

The average age of many of the City owned arenas is within the threshold of typical economic and operational lifespan consideration of requiring major reinvestment.

The condition of the aging infrastructure was identified in the 2017 State of the Asset Report (SOAR), where the physical condition of indoor arenas was categorized to rate priority maintenance requirements.

The citywide provision level is 1:20,100 ice surfaces per residents in 2021. There are 23 ice surfaces located in the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban transects, and a total of 30 in the Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects. This reflects a geographically balanced distribution of ice surfaces across the City, however there are inequities by population across transects.

Table 16: Indoor Ice Surface Provision Levels City-owned and P3, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	3	1: 26,800	0	3	1: 30,600
Inner Urban	6	1: 41,300	0	6	1: 44,600
Outer Urban	14	1: 16,000	0	14	1: 17,200
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	11	1: 11,900	0	11	1: 13,100
Suburban South	6	1: 20,974	2	8	1: 17,810
Suburban East	5	1: 26,942	0	5	1: 30,482
Rural	8	1: 12,400	0	8	1: 14,300

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
City Total	53	1: 20,100	2	55	1: 22,200

7.3 *Benchmarking*

In comparing the provision levels of municipally owned ice surfaces in Ottawa to the 12 municipalities listed in Table 17, Ottawa's provision level of 1:20,100 residents is ranked 2nd.

Table 17: Municipal Benchmarking of City-owned Ice Surface Provision Rates³²

	Number of city-owned ice pads (Indoor)	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Kingston	8	1 : 16,700
Ottawa	53³³	1 : 20,100
Halifax	21	1 : 21,500
London	17	1 : 25,000
Hamilton	23	1 : 25,400
Mississauga	23	1 : 33,400
Edmonton	32	1 : 34,000
Brampton	15	1 : 48,200
Toronto	61	1 : 50,800
Montreal	40	1 : 53,400
Winnipeg	12	1 : 66,100
Calgary	19	1 : 74,600
Vancouver	8	1 : 86,100

7.4 *Participation and Utilization*

Use of indoor ice surfaces at arenas remains steady. There is continuous demand across the city to book ice time during priority times (5 – 9 pm on weekdays). There is demand for more ice time in the west end of the City.

Many of the City's single pad arenas are over 40 years old and have design features that no longer meet current needs; these include a limited ability to accommodate

³² Data sources for arenas were gathered for an earlier City initiative and are therefore different than those the data sources used for the other benchmark tables. For municipal arenas, numbers were gathered from each municipality's website. For arena benchmarking, the census subdivision population and boundaries were used, rather than census metropolitan transects.

³³ 53 ice surfaces includes 44 that are municipally-owned and nine P3 ice surfaces that the City books.

mixed-gender teams, inadequate changerooms, poor energy efficiencies and barriers to universally accessibility. The outdated design features can make it difficult to attract users to certain City facilities as, amenities at private arenas are often more modern and better support hosting of sporting events.

7.5 *Public Consultation*

From the online *Indoor Recreation Facility Survey*:

- 16 residents (3 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the City’s indoor facilities in a typical year (community and rec complexes, aquatics, arenas etc.).
- 567 residents (94 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits the City’s indoor facilities in a typical year. Of the 436 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do you visit”, 34 per cent visited single or multi-pad arenas 11 or more times per year
- Residents were asked “if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community”. There was an interest in slab activities, updating aging arenas, and reducing barriers to use like accessibility and small change rooms. Several comments from urban residents and community associations requested to not close local small [single pad] arenas and rebuild these far from community, forcing people to drive out to the suburbs. There was interest in continuing to retain enough ice pads in the downtown core and inner/outer urban transect, where possible expand to a twin pad arena. There was interest in repurposing to support activities like roller skating.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, comments related to arenas were primarily focussed on:

- a concern over the potential closure of downtown and inner urban arenas. Stakeholder do not want to see a reduction in local arenas and do not want to drive far distances to reach arenas.
- the condition of downtown and inner urban arenas which were often described as old and in need of upgrades

Via email, following the announcement that the privately owned Minto Arena would close in 2021, several residents expressed over the loss of arenas and the added demand for ice time this would put on existing facilities.

7.6 *Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations*

The City's current ice surface provision level of 1:20,100 residents is one of the highest listed in Table 17. As the demand for the use of ice surfaces in Ottawa remains steady, it is recommended that the target provision level be set at 1:20,000 residents.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ice surfaces at 1:20,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 2 new ice surfaces, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban South transect.
- c. Consider the redevelopment or expansion of 6 indoor arenas in the Inner Urban and Suburban East transects, in the 2021-2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Maximize efficiencies through infrastructure upgrades and expansions to existing single-pad arenas where possible. Infrastructure upgrades should include consideration of off-season use.
- e. Identify end-of-life arenas in all transects for potential redevelopment during the 2021-2031 period. Plan for the replacement/consolidation of these facilities into new City-standard arenas that serve wider catchment areas.
- f. Investigate opportunities to replace a minimum of 4 single-pad arenas, in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects, with new twin-pad sites within the same transects.
- g. Support the development of ice surface life-cycle strategies through the RAMP to update and replace existing ice surfaces, particularly in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects.

Map 10: City of Ottawa Arenas



Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

8. Outdoor Ice Rinks

8.1 General Description

An Outdoor Ice Rink can be described as a level, ground surface and supporting infrastructure that allows for a natural or refrigerated ice surface to be installed and maintained. The ice surface may be enclosed by boards and is used for recreational skating or sport purposes.

Outdoor ice rinks, or outdoor rinks are guided by the City of Ottawa Outdoor Rink Policy (2002). The policy identifies and implements the community rink grant program, whereby funding is provided to support community volunteers with the ongoing rink operations and maintenance. The policy defines and classifies outdoor rinks into community-based board rinks, puddle rinks (no boards) or a combination of the two types of rinks.

8.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 18, the City currently has 282 outdoor rinks. The 2021 citywide provision level of outdoor rinks is 1:3,800 residents.

The majority of outdoor rinks are located in the Inner and Outer Urban transects. The Downtown Core has the fewest outdoor rinks and the lowest provision level at 1:10,000 residents. The planned inventory to 2031 includes an additional 36 outdoor rinks. The Suburban West transect will add 17 rinks, to provide the highest projected 2031 provision level of 1:2,700 residents. The projected citywide provision level is expected to remain steady to 2031.

Table 18: Outdoor Ice Rink Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	8	1: 10,000	1	9	1: 10,200
Inner Urban	64	1: 3,900	4	68	1: 3,900
Outer Urban	68	1: 3,300	0	68	1: 3,500
Greenbelt	1	1: 2,800	0	1	1: 3,900
Suburban West	36	1: 3,600	17	53	1: 2,700
Suburban South	27	1: 4,700	5	32	1: 4,500
Suburban East	45	1: 3,000	5	50	1: 3,000
Rural	33	1: 3,000	4	37	1: 3,100
City Total	282	1: 3,800	36	318	1: 3,800

8.3 *Benchmarking*

Table 19 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor natural ice rinks. Ottawa's provision level of 1:3,800 residents is ranked first out of the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 19: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Natural Ice Rink Provision Rates

City Name	Outdoor Natural Ice Rinks	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Ottawa	282	1 : 3,800
Winnipeg	175	1 : 4,500
Kingston	17	1 : 7,900
Hamilton	59	1 : 9,900
Montreal	212	1 : 10,100
Mississauga	59	1 : 13,000
Toronto	65	1 : 47,600
London	6	1 : 70,800
Vancouver	7	1 : 98,400
Halifax	3	1 : 150,500
Edmonton	7	1 : 155,600
Brampton	4	1 : 180,800
Calgary	6	1 : 236,400

Table 20 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor refrigerated ice rinks. The table shows that Ottawa's provision level of 1:266,000 residents is ranked second out of the 4 municipalities listed.

Table 20: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rinks Provision Rates

City Name	Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rinks	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Toronto	52	1 : 59,500
Ottawa	4	1 : 266,000
Montreal	8	1 : 267,100
Mississauga	2	1 : 384,600

8.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation at outdoor rinks includes families, young children, teens and adults and is not gender specific. Most outdoor rinks are not staffed amenities, therefore attendance is not collected nor monitored. The City's Seasonal Recreation Outdoor Rink grant program provides funding to community associations to maintain outdoor ice surfaces over the winter season. The ability to establish a rink surface, including ongoing winter maintenance, is contingent on weather, which fluctuates yearly. Winters are expected to become both warmer and shorter over the coming decades. Given the warmer and shorter winters that are expected as a result of climate change, the City's approach to the provision of outdoor rinks will need to be reassessed on a regular basis.

8.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 87 residents (6 per cent) answered "no, do not visit due to lack of interest" to the question if their household visits any of the following outdoor recreational parks (Children's play area, fitness equipment, Off-leash dog area, open field for unstructured play, picnic / shade shelter / seating area, rink, running / walking track in a typical year).
- 1261 residents (92 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 1197 residents responding to the follow-up question "how frequently do your visit", 32 per cent visited outdoor rinks 11 or more times per year

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few comments related to outdoor rinks, noting a desire to see more outdoor rinks across the city.

8.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

It is recommended that the target provision level for outdoor rinks be rounded to 1:4,000 residents. This provision level will serve the current and future demand in Ottawa. In order to offset the loss of outdoor natural rinks from warming temperatures due to climate change, it is recommended that the City increase the supply of outdoor refrigerated rinks over the 2021 to 2031 period and beyond.

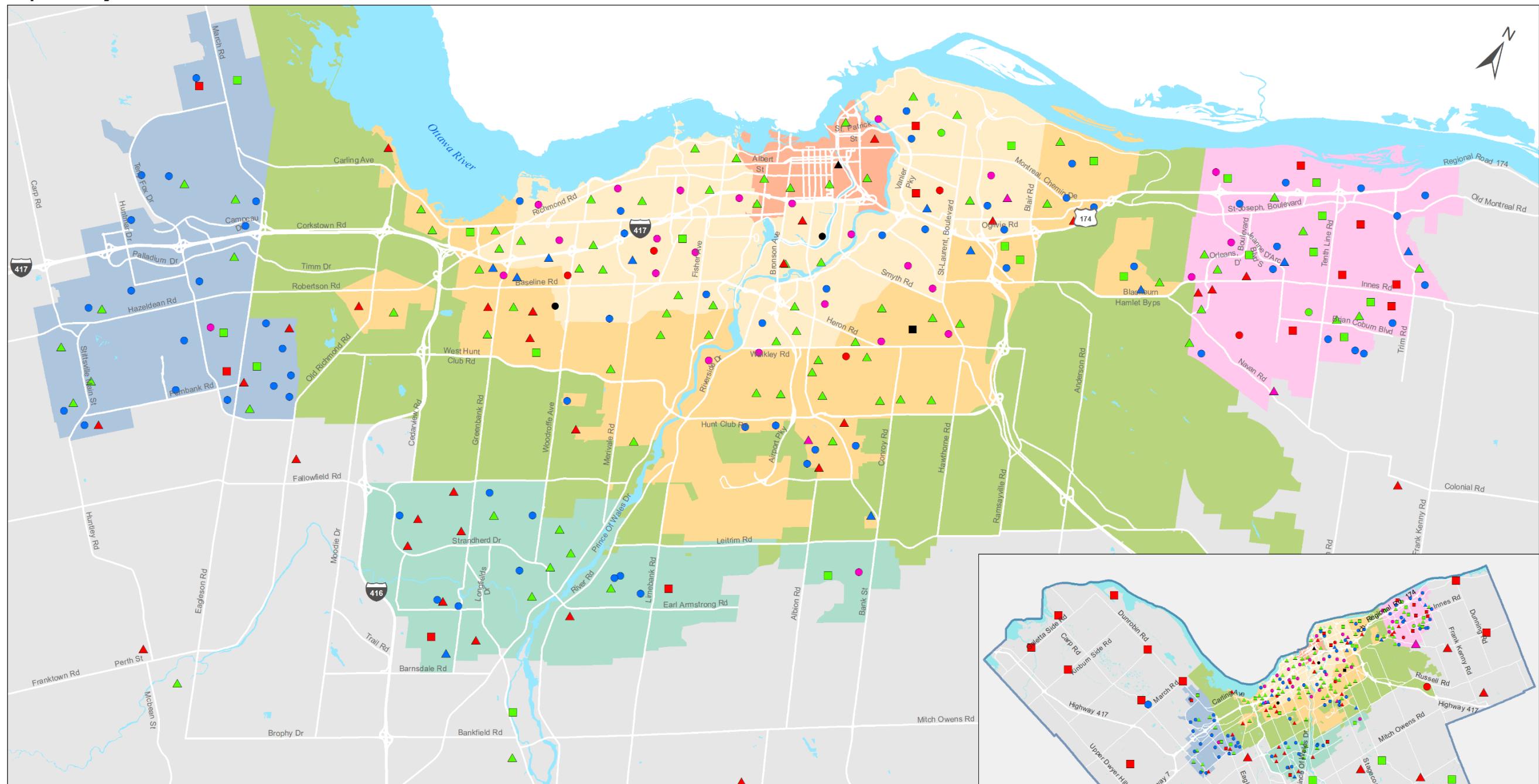
Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor ice rinks at 1:4,000 residents.
- b. Set a new citywide target for the provision of outdoor refrigerated rinks at 1:200,000.

- c. Proceed with the planning and development of 36 new outdoor ice rinks, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in all transects except the Greenbelt.
- d. Consider the development of 3 new, additional outdoor refrigerated rinks, in the 2021-2031 period, for the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects.

DRAFT

Map 11: City of Ottawa Outdoor Ice Rinks



City of Ottawa Outdoor Ice Rinks

Type of Board
(Symbol)

None

Permanent

Seasonal

Type of Rink
(Symbol Colour)

Rink

Puddle

Rink with Puddle

Refrigerated Ice Surface

Double Surface

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Transect Policy Area

Downtown Core

Inner Urban

Outer Urban

Suburban West

Suburban South

Suburban East

Greenbelt

Rural

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres



Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres

9. Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields

9.1 General Description

An outdoor artificial turf field is a field surface that is comprised of synthetic fibers that resemble natural grass. The primary reason for the use of artificial turf fields is the durability of the surface, as artificial turf stands up to constant heavy use and can extend the operating season in Ottawa's northern climate conditions. Unlike natural grass fields, outdoor artificial turf fields do not require a period of rest and recovery between games/bookings or for seasonal regeneration periods. Outdoor artificial turf fields are also not subject to closure during periods of heavy saturation.

This information below pertains to municipally owned fields and does not include fields on school board, college and university properties.

9.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City currently has 5 municipally owned outdoor artificial turf fields and books time at 3 P3 (partnership) fields, for a total of 8 artificial turf fields. The 2021 citywide provision level is 1:133,000 residents and will improve to 1:110,800 residents by 2031 with the addition of 3 new fields.

There are no existing or planned facilities within the Inner Urban and Suburban East transects. Minto Field at the Nepean Sportsplex, technically lies within the Greenbelt transect but, is counted as serving the Outer Urban transect and is included in the Outer Urban transect supply. Although listed in the Rural transect, the Millennium Sports Park artificial turf field services the Suburban East transect.

Three new outdoor artificial turf fields are planned between 2021-2031, one each in the Downtown Core, Suburban West and Suburban South transects. With these new facilities, the provision levels in those transects will improve to 1:45,800, 1:72,000 residents and 1:71,200 residents respectively by 2031.

Table 21: Outdoor Artificial Turf Field Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	1	1: 80,300	1	2	1: 45,800
Inner Urban	0	0	0	0	0
Outer Urban	2	1: 111,700	0	2	1: 120,400
Greenbelt	1	1: 2,800	0	1	1: 3,900
Suburban West	1	1: 130,900	1	2	1: 72,000

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban South	1	1: 125,800	1	2	1: 71,200
Suburban East	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	2	1: 49,500	0	2	1: 57,000
City Total	8	1: 133,000	3	11	1: 110,800

9.3 *Benchmarking*

Table 22 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor artificial turf fields with other municipalities. Ottawa's provision level of 1:133,000³⁴ residents is ranked second.

Table 22: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Artificial Turf Field Provision Rates

City Name	Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Vancouver	11	1 : 62,600
Ottawa	8	1 : 133,000
Kingston	1	1 : 133,700
Mississauga	4	1 : 192,300
Edmonton	5	1 : 217,900

9.4 *Participation and Utilization*

Use and participation on outdoor artificial turf fields includes youth to adults, beginner to competitive levels, and is not gender specific. With the increased cost of booking artificial turf facilities, competitive groups and associations are the primary users. Such groups often request priority bookings of existing facilities and sometimes express interest in partnering with the City to develop and construct new facilities.

Although the City promotes and mandates multi-use of outdoor artificial turf fields, sport specific specifications and requirements for turf have made it difficult to adhere to the best practices benefits of considering multi-use synthetic turf systems. As an example, field hockey use requires a shorter synthetic fibre pile while football requires a longer/higher pile, with associated needs/wants for differing infill material requirements.

³⁴ Ottawa's provision rate includes municipally owned fields and P3 fields where the City books time for municipal use.

Depending on level of play, soccer prefers or requires “soccer only” lines on the field making multiuse fields less desirable for competitive matches and tournaments.

9.5 *Public Consultation*

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 646 residents (47 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor ball diamonds and/or sports fields (artificial and natural turfs) in a typical year
- 614 residents (45 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 585 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 24 per cent visited artificial turf sports fields 11 or more times per year

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few comments related to outdoor artificial turf fields. The interest in outdoor artificial turf fields centered around their potential to extend the playing season.

9.6 *Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations*

It is recommended that the target provision level for the development of new outdoor artificial turf field be set at 1:120,000 residents. This provision target level will serve to meet the current and future demand for outdoor artificial turf fields in Ottawa.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the Citywide target for the provision of Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields at 1:120,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 3 outdoor artificial turf fields, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core, Suburban West and Suburban South transects.
- c. Consider the development of 1 new, additional, outdoor artificial turf fields, in the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Inner Urban transects.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Investigate possible conversion of Downtown Core and Inner Urban natural grass fields to artificial turf fields, to allow for intensified use and more competitive level lit facilities.

10. Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields

10.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes natural grass sports fields as areas within City parks, having structures and surfaces for grass sports field uses. Sports field facilities can be used by multi-sports, regardless of sport specific field dimensions and field markings. City sports field facilities are primarily intended for recreation use by all ages and abilities, with graduating level of play field consideration. Those sports fields that are lit or are contemplated for lighting should have consideration to minimize proximity to residential areas, when possible.

Sports field development has been guided by the City of Ottawa Sportsfield Strategy (2004). The strategy identifies service levels for provisions of fields and provides a framework for addressing current and future sports field needs. The strategy gives precedence to the conversion of and upgrading of under-used fields, and development of multi-field complexes, which provide supporting amenities more cost-effectively and provide tournament site opportunities. The strategy also provides sport-specific requirements for field development and supports more local ease of access to fields to promote recreational and introductory level participation. The strategy also prioritizes the need for more sports fields in the Urban Core where the service level is lowest.

This information below pertains to municipally owned fields and does not include fields on school board, college and university properties.

10.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 23, the City of Ottawa has 384³⁵ existing outdoor natural grass sports fields. The 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:2,800 residents. The Outer Urban and Rural transects have the highest supply, with 91 and 73 sports fields respectively. With only 5 sports fields, the Downtown Core transect has the lowest provision level, with a rate of 1:16,100 residents. The Inner Urban transect, at 36 sports fields, has the second lowest rate with 1:6,900 residents.

³⁵ 45 sports fields were removed from the total field count as they are not the minimum dimension according to City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Standards. 59 sports fields were removed as they overlap a larger field (e.g. where 2 mini soccer fields overlap a full field, the mini fields were not counted).

Table 23: Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Field Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	5	1: 16,100	0	5	1: 18,300
Inner Urban	36	1: 6,900	1	37	1: 7,200
Outer Urban	91	1: 2,500	0	91	1: 2,600
Greenbelt	17	1: 200	0	17	1: 200
Suburban West	69	1: 1,900	22	91	1: 1,600
Suburban South	49	1: 2,600	10	59	1: 2,400
Suburban East	44	1: 3,100	6	50	1: 3,000
Rural	73	1: 1,400	5	78	1: 1,500
City Total	384	1: 2,800	44	428	1: 2,800

Forty-four new sports fields are planned for development, over the 10-year period to 2031. The addition of the 44 sports fields will maintain the citywide provision level at 1:2,800 residents in 2031.

The provision levels in the Suburban transects will increase or remain static from the current rates to 2031. The projected provision levels for the Downtown Core, Inner and Outer Urban, and Rural transects will get lower.

The potential to develop additional or upgrade existing sports fields in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects should be considered a priority to improve provision levels.

10.4 Benchmarking³⁶

Table 24 compares the supply and provision rate³⁷ of outdoor natural grass fields with other municipalities. Ottawa's provision level of 1:2,800 residents is ranked 3rd out of the 8 municipalities listed.

³⁶ The benchmarking data for rectangular grass sports fields was gathered through direct communication with staff from the municipalities listed in the benchmarking table. If more data is received, it will be added to the final version of the Master Plan.

Table 24: Municipal Benchmarking of Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Field Provision Rates

City Name	Total Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Halifax	258	1 : 1,700
Vancouver	350	1 : 2,000
Ottawa	384	1 : 2,800
Brampton	181	1 : 4,000
Hamilton	148	1 : 4,000
Kingston	31	1 : 4,300
Winnipeg	169	1 : 4,700
London	88	1 : 4,800

10.5 Participation and Utilization

Use of sports fields includes youth to adults, beginner to competitive and is not gender specific. Natural grass sports fields are used by a range of sports such as ultimate frisbee, North American football, soccer, rugby, and field hockey.

10.6 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 646 residents (47 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor ball diamonds and/or sports fields (artificial and natural turfs) in a typical year
- 614 residents (45 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 603 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 50 per cent visited natural grass sports fields 11 or more times per year

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a number of comments related to grass sports fields. Most of these comments were centered around field conditions. There were a few comments that more fields were needed downtown and that multi-use fields were valuable.

Supplemental to the Parks Master Plan consultation process, the City’s Allocations and Business Support Services groups continually correspond and consult with the community user groups and associations that book, permit and use sports fields. This is consistent with the City of Ottawa Sports field Strategy (2004) which recommends to

actively consult with these groups in order to reflect and incorporate new/emerging trends in sports as well as changes to specifications and standards that modify sports field development and use. This frequent involvement and feedback from the users provides valuable input on how the City can improve and enhance sports field users participation.

10.7 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

It is recommended that the target provision level for grass sports fields be maintained at 1:2,800 residents.

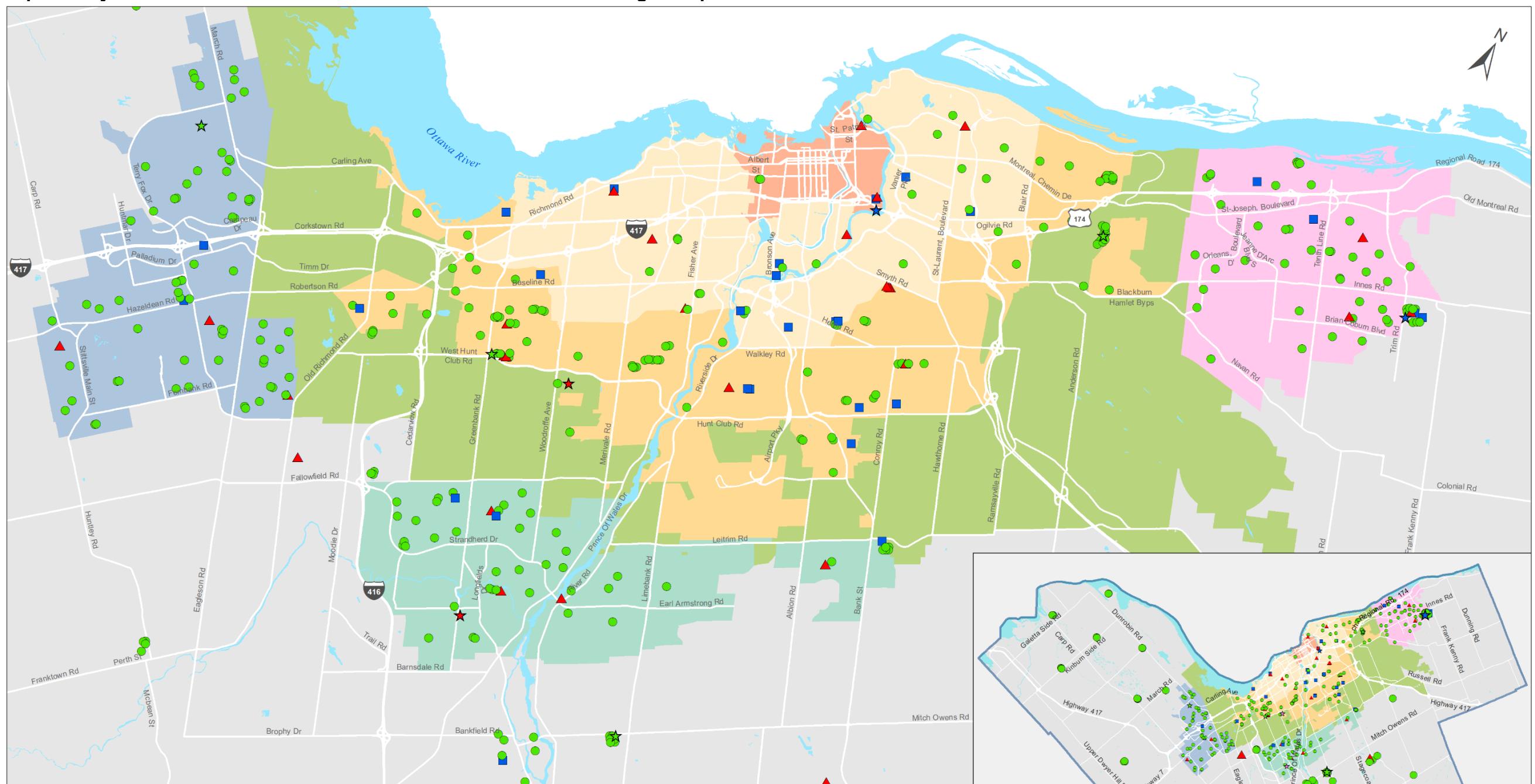
Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the citywide target for the provision of grass sports fields at 1:2,800 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 44 new grass sports fields, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Inner Urban, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- c. Consider the development of new grass fields or redevelopment of existing grass fields to artificial turf fields, in the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Review potential site and funding opportunities to:
 - i. prioritize opportunities for parkland acquisition in the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects for new sports field development;
 - ii. upgrade infrastructure to promote and support higher usage of the existing sports fields within the Downtown Core and Inner Urban transect (i.e. addition of irrigation and lighting and (per above) conversion to artificial turf surface);
 - iii. assess the potential need and opportunity(s) to develop additional regional and/or tournament sports field sites in strategic locations

Map 12: City of Ottawa Outdoor Artificial Turf and Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields



City of Ottawa Artificial Turf Field and Outdoor Natural Grass Rectangular Sports Fields

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Transect Policy Area	
Football	Football
Soccer	Soccer
Multi-use	Other Type
Downtown Core	Suburban West
Inner Urban	Greenbelt
Outer Urban	Suburban South
	Rural
	Suburban East

Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



11. Ball Diamonds

11.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes Ball Diamonds (Baseball Field, Softball Field and T-Ball Field) as fields on which Baseball, Softball and T-Ball games are played. All fields generally consist of an infield, outfield, dug out(s) or players' benches, and backstop fencing. Some fields also have line and outfield fencing, a warning track and lighting. Ball Diamonds are primarily intended for recreation use by all ages and abilities, are not gender specific.

Baseball fields provide field requirements for Senior, Intermediate and Junior levels of play, including competitive Baseball Ontario Regulation Field specifications. Infield surfacing is standard baseball infield mix, or custom clay mix, with a pitcher's mound.

Softball fields provide field requirements for Senior and Junior levels of play, including Canadian Slo-Pitch Softball requirements and Ottawa junior softball standards suitable for junior softball competition and adult non-competitive play. Infield surfacing is standard granular/sand sports field mix with no pitcher's mound.

T-Ball fields provide field requirements suitable for introductory local level competition. Infield surfacing is standard granular/sand sports field mix with no pitcher's mound, and generally does not include outfield fencing.

This section pertains to municipal ball diamonds and does not include diamonds on school sites.

11.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 25, the City has 256 existing ball diamonds. Of these, 34 are baseball fields used for higher level play. The 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:4,200 residents. The Outer Urban and Inner Urban transects have the highest supply of ball diamonds, with 73 and 55 respectively. The Rural transect has the highest provision rate in the City with 1:1,200 residents, and the Outer Urban transect the second highest rate with 1:3,100 residents. The Downtown Core, which has 3 ball diamonds has the lowest provision level with a rate of 1:26,800 residents. The Suburban South transect, with 17 ball diamonds, has the second lowest rate at 1:7,400 residents.

Table 25: Ball Diamond Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	3	1: 26,800	0	3	1: 30,600
Inner Urban	55	1: 4,500	0	55	1: 4,900
Outer Urban	73	1: 3,100	0	73	1: 3,300
Greenbelt	6	1: 500	0	6	1: 700
Suburban West	25	1: 5,200	1	26	1: 5,500
Suburban South	17	1: 7,400	3	20	1: 7,100
Suburban East	27	1: 5,000	2	29	1: 5,300
Rural	50	1: 2,000	0	50	1: 2,300
City Total	256	1: 4,200	6	262	1: 4,700

Six new ball diamonds are planned for development over the 10-year period to 2031. With the addition of 3 ball diamonds, the provision level will improve in the Suburban South transect. However, even with new facilities, the provision levels in the Suburban West and Suburban East transects will be lower in 2031 due to projected population increases. By 2031, the citywide provision level is expected to decrease to 1:4,700 residents.

11.3 Benchmarking

Table 26 compares the supply and provision rate of ball diamonds with other municipalities. Ottawa's provision level of 1:4,200 residents is ranked 7th out of the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 26: Municipal Benchmarking of Ball Diamond Provision Rates

City Name	City Ball Diamonds	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Kingston	85	1 : 1,600
Edmonton	520	1 : 2,100
Halifax	183	1 : 2,500
Calgary	479	1 : 3,000
Hamilton	193	1 : 3,000
Winnipeg	265	1 : 3,000
Ottawa	256	1 : 4,200
London	74	1 : 5,700
Vancouver	109	1 : 6,300

City Name	City Ball Diamonds	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Mississauga	113	1 : 6,800
Toronto	311	1 : 10,000
Montreal	159	1 : 13,400
Brampton	47	1 : 15,400

11.4 Participation and Utilization

According to local organizations, registration in ball leagues and programs has increased since 2017. Participation in local programs includes men, women and children. Growth in the sport is due, in part, to its inclusiveness, affordability and increasing opportunities for girls and women. Local organizations note increased demand in growing suburban areas where, they feel, that there is a lack of new fields to meet demand, and specifically lit fields. This has reportedly limited registrations.

11.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 646 residents (47 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor ball diamonds and/or sports fields (artificial and natural turfs) in a typical year
- 614 residents (45 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 592 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 24 per cent visited ball diamonds 11 or more times per year

Seven not-for-profit baseball organizations³⁸, representing all parts of the city, have made a joint submission to the City, requesting long-term improvements to baseball facilities. The organizations feel that city facilities have fallen into a state of disrepair over the last 10 – 15 years, and that the quality of amenities is poor and particularly inadequate for tournaments. While individual leagues have applied for outside funding to improve facilities, including through the Jays Care Foundation³⁹, the organizations

³⁸ South Ottawa Little League, Ottawa West Little League, East Nepean Little League, Glebe Little League, Kanata Baseball Association, St. Anthony’s Baseball Academy and the National Capital Baseball Association

³⁹ Since 2014, the Jays Care Foundation has invested over \$400,000 in the Ottawa area.

feel that a more strategic and citywide approach is needed in order to support youth baseball in the City of Ottawa over the long-term. The organizations have requested that the City increase funding for baseball fields over the long-term. They believe that this would result in:

1. A coordinated approach that will see diamonds improve on a scheduled basis with an overarching plan.
2. Cost savings as the Ottawa can exercise its professional, supply chain and purchasing organization to achieve the best value and results; and
3. Assist leagues with smaller volunteer bases in upgrading their baseball facilities.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there was a significant amount of input related to ball diamonds. Baseball and softball organizations that participated in the sessions generally echoed the comments and concerns made in the joint submission noted above. Other participants had mixed comments ranging from concerns about field conditions, the desire for more diamonds and, in some cases, the desire to see diamonds put to other uses.

11.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

Ottawa's current ball diamond provision level of 1:4,200 residents is in the mid-range of municipal ball diamond provision levels of municipalities listed in Table 26. It is recommended that the target provision level be rounded up to 1:4,000 residents. This higher provision target level will serve the future demand for ball diamonds in Ottawa.

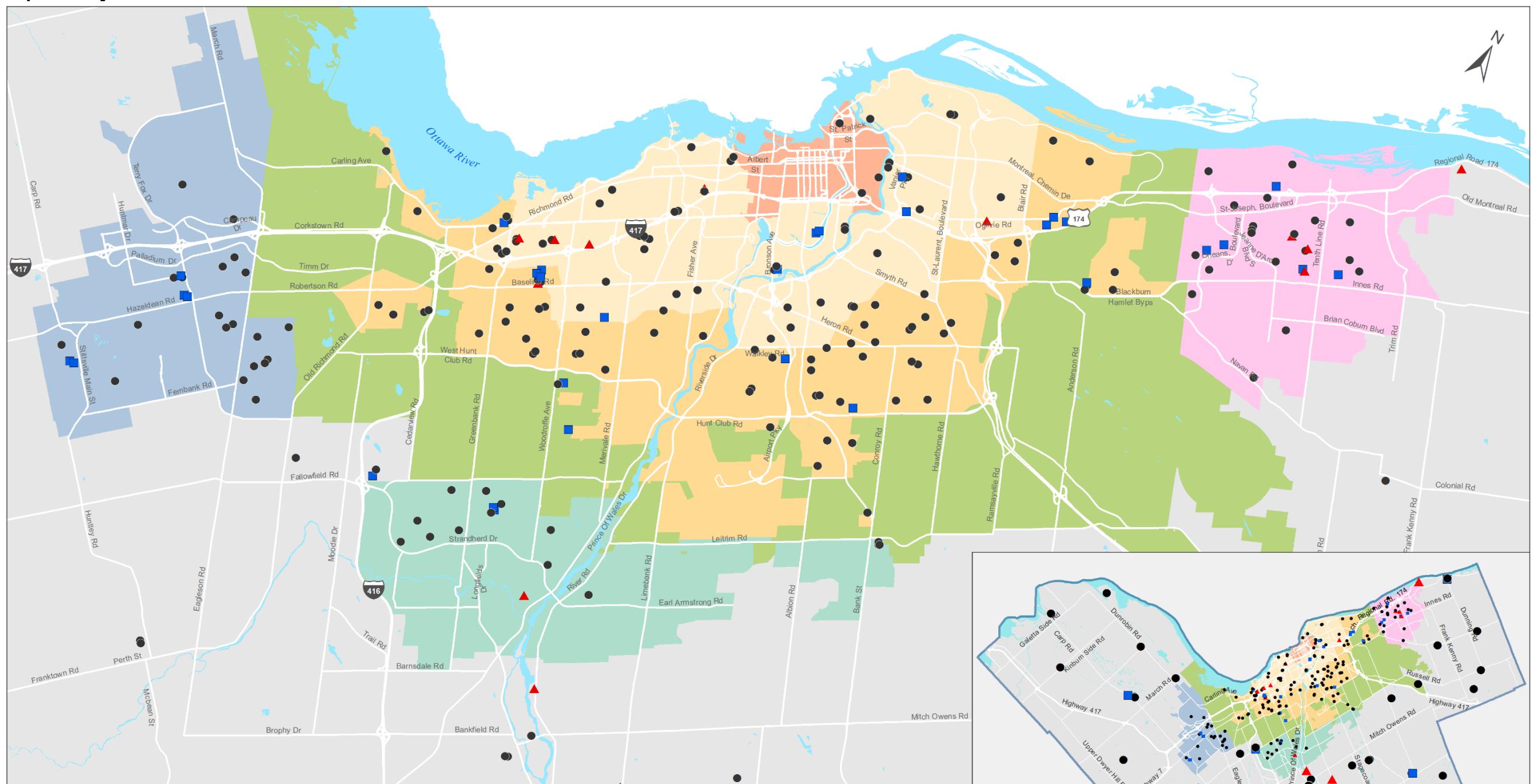
Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of ball diamonds at 1:4,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 6 new ball diamonds, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban East transects.
- c. Consider the development of 10 new, additional, ball diamonds, in the 2021 – 2031 period, for the Downtown Core, Suburban South, Suburban East and Suburban West transects.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Identify opportunities for more senior, competitive lit fields, including adult softball diamonds and higher-level baseball play
- e. Undertake upgrades to existing fields to promote higher usage

Map 13: City of Ottawa Ball Diamonds



City of Ottawa Ball Diamonds

Type of Ball Diamond

- ▲ T-Ball
- Softball
- Baseball

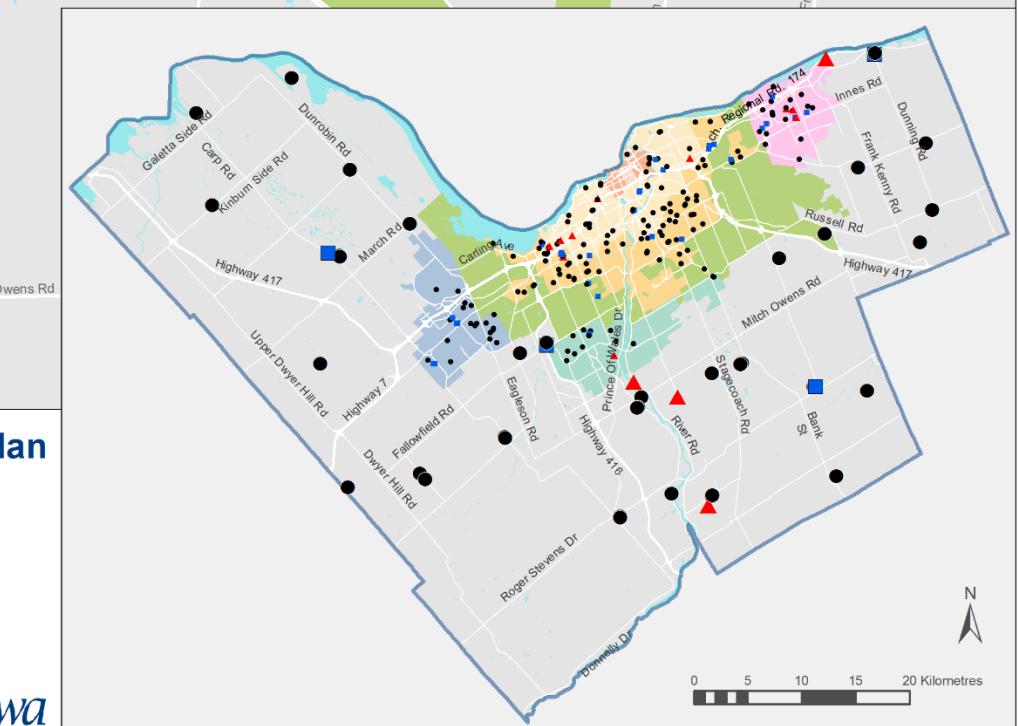
Transect Policy Area

Downtown Core	Suburban West	Greenbelt
Inner Urban	Suburban South	Rural
Outer Urban	Outer Urban	Suburban East

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-20
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



12. Tennis and Pickleball Courts

12.1 General Description

Pickleball is a sport that combines the elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. The game is played with two or four players on a court the size of a doubles badminton court. Players use a paddle to hit a whiffle-type ball over a low net, similar to tennis. Pickleball is played both indoors and outdoors.

As described in the City's Recreation Facilities Infrastructure Standards, tennis courts and pickleball courts typically consist of a firm rectangular asphalt surface with a low net stretched across the centre and fencing around the court. While not covered in the Recreation Facilities Infrastructure Standards, tennis court surfaces may also consist of clay or an acrylic surface material. The court surface can be lined to play singles tennis, doubles tennis, progressive tennis or pickleball. Progressive tennis uses modified tennis balls, racquets, nets and courts for young players. The net height for pickleball and progressive tennis is lower than for tennis. The City of Ottawa standard is suitable for community level play.

Indoor pickleball programming is offered at many of the City's indoor recreation facilities, such as gymnasiums, using the badminton court line painting. Surfacing materials for indoor pickleball include sprung hardwood flooring and concrete slabs.

The dimensions and facility requirements for outdoor public tennis and pickleball courts are described in the City of Ottawa Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards. The City prefers new construction to have a minimum of a double court layout. Other public court facility types such as single court facilities or multicourt facilities may be developed depending on the site-specific needs and considerations.

12.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City's supply of tennis and pickleball courts is comprised of public courts and municipal membership club courts. Public courts are outdoor courts that are free and available to all residents. Public courts may also be rented to individuals and groups on a limited basis. Municipal membership clubs operate tennis and pickleball courts at City parks on behalf of the City through recreation service delivery agreements. Tennis or pickleball players pay a fee to use courts at a membership club. In 2021, there were 25 membership clubs with a total of 117 courts. 17 of the clubs offer tennis facilities only, seven provide both tennis and pickleball courts, and one has pickleball courts only. Private tennis and pickleball clubs are not included in the City's inventory.

Tennis Courts

The City has an existing supply of 321 tennis courts including public courts and municipal membership club courts. The inventory consists of 315 outdoor courts and 6 indoor courts. The area distribution and provision levels of tennis courts are shown in Table 27, and the location of the courts are shown on Map 14. The current citywide provision level is 1:3,300 residents. Other than the Greenbelt transect, the Outer Urban transect had the highest provision level with 1:1,900 residents and a total of 118 courts. The Downtown Core had the lowest provision level with 1:8,900 residents and a total of 9 courts. Suburban South had the second lowest provision level with 1:5,700 residents and a total of 22 courts.

24 new tennis courts are planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the total supply to 345 courts. This will result in a provision level of 1:3,500 residents based on the projected 2031 population, representing a small decrease in the provision level compared to 2021. There are no planned courts for the Downtown Core, which lowers the 2031 provision level to 1:10,200 residents.

Table 27: Tennis Court Provision Levels - Public Courts and Membership Club Courts, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	9	1: 8,900	0	9	1: 10,200
Inner Urban	78	1: 3,200	2	80	1: 3,300
Outer Urban	118	1: 1,900	0	118	1: 2,000
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	29	1: 4,500	6	35	1: 4,100
Suburban South	22	1: 5,700	8	30	1: 4,700
Suburban East	33	1: 4,100	8	41	1: 3,700
Rural	32	1: 3,100	0	32	1: 3,600
City Total	321	1: 3,300	24	345	1: 3,500

Pickleball Courts

There is a current supply of 176 pickleball courts comprised of 115 outdoor courts and 61 indoor courts. The inventory includes outdoor public courts that have both pickleball and tennis lines, outdoor public courts with pickleball lines only, indoor courts that are used for both pickleball and badminton, and municipal membership club courts.

Map 14 shows the location of the City's existing pickleball courts in 2021. The current citywide provision level is 1:5,700 residents. Suburban West had the highest provision level with 1:3,600 residents, while the Downtown Core had the lowest level with 1:40,100 residents.

39 new pickleball courts are currently planned for development over the next ten years, which will increase the total supply to 215 courts. The planned facilities include 31 new outdoor courts, three new indoor pickleball / badminton courts, and five existing tennis courts that will have new pickleball line painting added when the courts are resurfaced through lifecycle renewal have. The addition of the planned facilities will improve the provision level to 1:5,400 residents in 2031.

Table 28: Pickleball Court Provision Levels - Public Courts, Membership Club Courts and Indoor Courts, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	2	1: 40,100	0	2	1: 45,800
Inner Urban	30	1: 8,300	7	37	1: 7,200
Outer Urban	49	1: 4,600	2	51	1: 4,700
Greenbelt	14	1: 200	0	14	1: 300
Suburban West	36	1: 3,600	7	43	1: 3,300
Suburban South	11	1: 11,400	13	24	1: 5,900
Suburban East	23	1: 5,900	10	33	1: 4,600
Rural	23	1: 4,300	0	23	1: 5,000
City Total	188	1: 5,700	39	227	1: 5,400

12.3 Benchmarking

Benchmarking of tennis court and pickleball provisions levels with other municipalities is presented in Tables 29 and 30, respectively. Ottawa had the highest provision rates for tennis courts and pickleball courts amongst the municipalities with data available for the benchmarking review.

Table 29: Municipal Benchmarking of Tennis Court Provision Rates

City Name	Tennis Courts	Actual Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)	Target Provision Rate
Ottawa	321	1:3,300	1:3,500
Toronto ⁴⁰ (2019) (provision rate is for tennis & pickleball courts)	602	1:4,800	2 km radius
Mississauga ⁴¹ (2019)	146	1:5,600	1:5,000 population
London ⁴² (2019)	59	1:6,900	1:7,000 population
Brampton ⁴³ (2017)	52	1:11,800	1:10,000 population in new growth transects

Table 30: Municipal Benchmarking of Pickleball Court Provision Rates

City Name	Pickleball Courts	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Ottawa	188	1 : 5,700
Kingston	8	1 : 16,700
Winnipeg	45	1 : 17,600
London	6	1 : 70,800
Halifax	6	1 : 75,200
Vancouver	5	1 : 137,800

12.4 Participation and Utilization

There were 5,294 registered members at the City's tennis and pickleball membership clubs in 2020.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in Canada. Part of its appeal comes from the fact that just about anybody can participate and be competent enough to play

⁴⁰ Toronto (2019 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan)

⁴¹ Data is from Mississauga's 2019 Parks & Forestry Master Plan and includes club courts.

⁴² London (2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan)

⁴³ Brampton (2017 Parks and Recreation Master Plan)

games right from the very first experience. Ottawa has developed one of the largest and most active pickleball communities in Ontario. A large portion of these players are seniors, many who have transitioned from playing tennis.

The Ottawa Pickleball Coalition notes that indicators that pickleball is seeing an explosion in popularity in Canada and around the world include:

- in Ottawa, it is estimated that there are about 4,000 players today and this will double in three years
- membership in the Pickleball Association of Ontario averaged growth of 26 per cent per year from 2016 to 2020
- the Ottawa Pickleball Association also shows an average growth in membership of 26 per cent per year, despite having to cap membership due to demand exceeding playing capacity
- obtaining space in community centres and recreation complexes for drop-in play is challenging at times due to high demand for limited space.

12.5 *Public Consultation*

From the *Indoor Recreation Facility Survey*:

- Residents were asked “if your household feels there are too many or too few of any particular outdoor recreation facilities in your community”. Many residents felt there were too few recreation facilities in their community.
- Residents commented regularly on activities played in gyms, several highlighted a need for multi court facilities. Of the mentioned gymnasium activities, there was the highest frequency of requests for more indoor pickleball courts than all other activities combined.

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 554 residents (40 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor sports courts: basketball, beach volleyball, horseshoe pit, lawn bowling, pickleball or tennis courts in a typical year
- 635 residents (46 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 577 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 9 per cent visited pickleball courts 11 or more times per year. Six hundred residents answered the same question regarding tennis courts, 25 per cent visited tennis courts 11 or more times per year.

- As both pickleball and tennis can be adapted recreationally to be played on either court type it is unclear which activity was played on which court type.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, of all the sports, pickleball received the most comments. The growth of pickleball and the lack of facilities was the primary theme. There is a desire purpose built, indoor and outdoor, pickleball facilities to meet the growing demand. It was noted that the current practice of painting lines on tennis courts is fine but, only creates a single pickleball court per tennis court and is therefore land consumptive as compared to building four pickleball courts in the same footprint of a single tennis court.

There were also a number of comments related to tennis. These centered around a desire to see more tennis courts and more indoor options.

12.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A provision level target of 1:3,500 residents is recommended for both tennis courts and pickleball courts. The target reflects the current supply of tennis courts and responds to the growing demand for pickleball courts.

Recommendations:

- a. Set a Citywide target provision level of 1:3,500 residents for both tennis courts and pickleball courts including shared courts⁴⁴.
- b. Develop 24 tennis courts and 39 pickleball courts including shared courts between 2021 and 2031 including adding new pickleball line painting at existing public courts (note that shared tennis and pickleball courts are counted as one tennis court and one pickleball court; shared badminton and pickleball courts are counted as one pickleball court)
- c. Add new pickleball court line painting to additional existing public courts without pickleball court lines to increase the provision of pickleball courts to 1:3,500 residents by 2031 including:
 - i. Painting pickleball and tennis court lines at all existing public courts that are resurfaced through lifecycle renewal projects
 - ii. Adding pickleball line painting at other existing public courts, subject to funding availability
- d. Consider the development of up to 22 new, additional, outdoor tennis / pickleball courts, in the 2021 – 2031 period, for the Downtown Core, Suburban South and Suburban West transects. If park space is limited, pickleball only courts may be considered. In the event that sufficient land is not available to add new courts to

⁴⁴ Pickleball provision levels will be achieved through line painting as per proposed strategy.

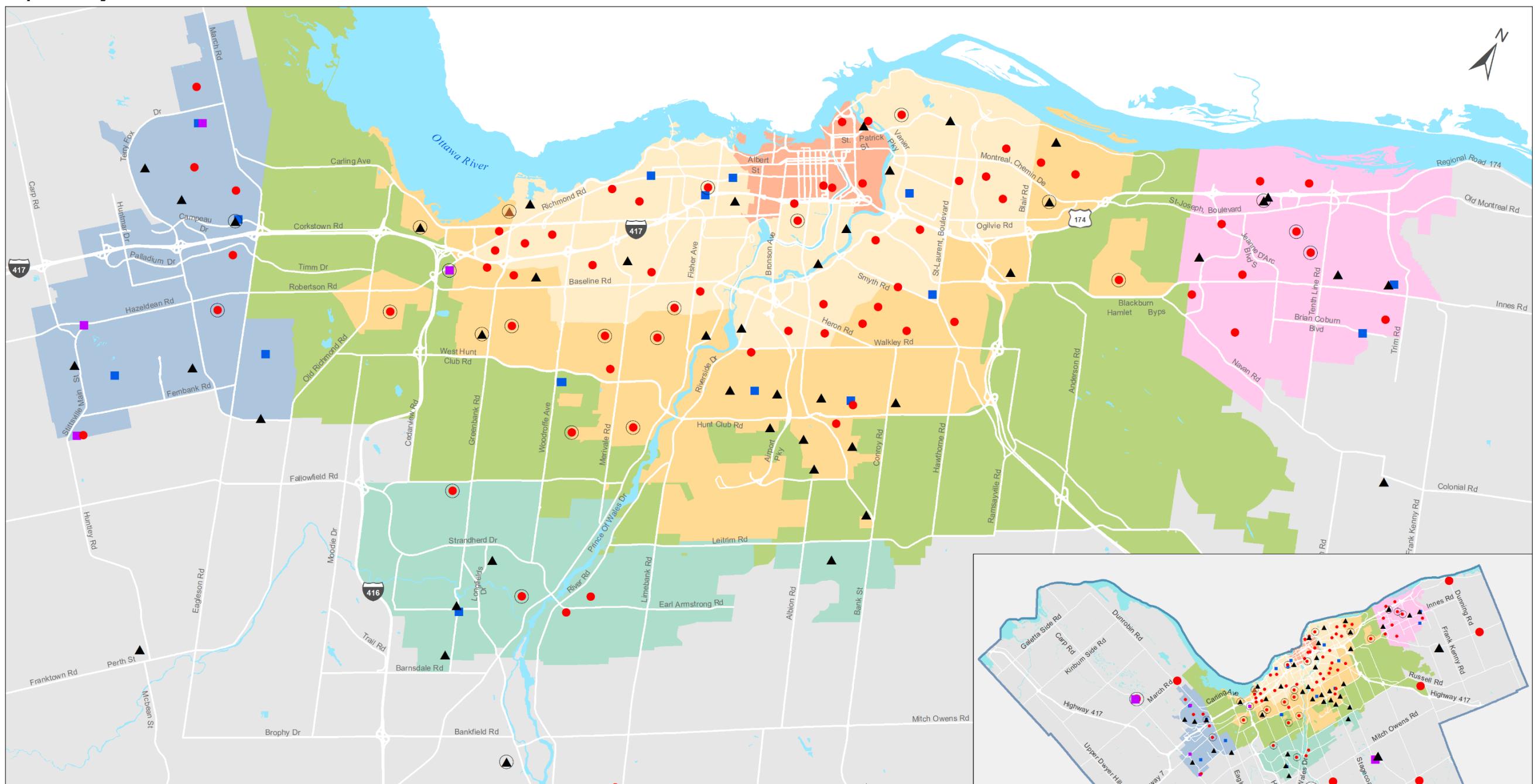
the Downtown Core, the courts may be located in an adjacent part of the Inner Urban transect.

- e. Develop a Tennis and Pickleball Strategy including, but not limited to:
 - i. Identifying locations for future tennis and pickleball courts focusing on transects with low provision level ratios such as the Downtown Core and gaps in the geographic distribution of courts.
 - ii. Assessing the future need for and feasibility of potentially developing new indoor public tennis courts to increase opportunities for year-round play
 - iii. Identifying the demand for separate pickleball courts with nets at pickleball height, and reviewing opportunities to accommodate the demand through the construction of new pickleball courts with pickleball height nets and retrofitting existing public courts
 - iv. Evaluating the conditions of existing courts and identifying facilities for lifecycle renewal funding and implementation within the 2021-2031 period

Strategy Statements:

- f. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new public courts to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization in transects with low provision levels and limited parkland availability (e.g. Downtown Core)

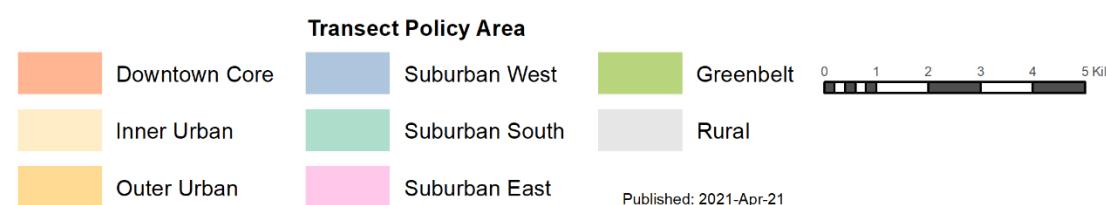
Map 14: City of Ottawa Tennis and Pickleball Courts



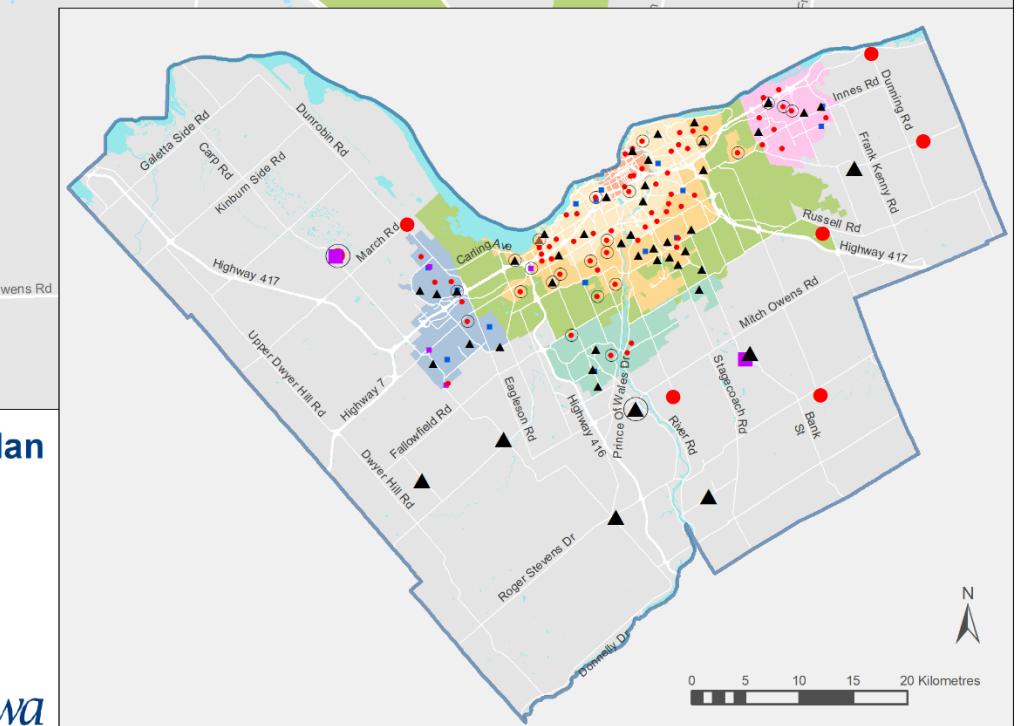
City of Ottawa Tennis and Pickleball Courts

- Indoor Pickleball Court
- Outdoor Pickleball Court
- Outdoor Tennis Court
- ▲ Outdoor Tennis and Pickleball Court
- ▲ Indoor Tennis and Pickleball Court
- Membership Club

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Published: 2021-Apr-21
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



13. Outdoor Basketball Courts

13.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Standards describe Basketball Courts as exterior facilities which generally consist of a lined asphalt surface with basketball poles/hoops and nets. The types of basketball courts include full size, small court, half court and basketball key. Outdoor basketball facilities are intended to service local, community, recreational play. Court markings, including 3-point line and half-court are painted as per FIBA standards, where possible.

This section pertains to outdoor basketball courts only. Local schools are the primary provider of indoor facilities for both instructional and league play. Basketball is also played indoors at community centres, recreation complexes and recreation centres that include a gymnasium.

13.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City's supply of basketball facilities is comprised of publicly available courts, of various sizes, including multi-use hard surface small courts within a defined outdoor rink area. All basketball courts are available and free for public use.

Table 31 represents the City's supply of full-sized outdoor courts. The 2021 Citywide provision rate for full-sized courts is 1:5,700 residents. The Outer Urban and Inner Urban transects have the highest number of full-sized courts, with 53 and 43 respectively. The Downtown Core has 6 courts and the lowest provision levels.

Twenty-nine full-sized basketball courts are planned to be developed over the next 10 years. In all areas except the Downtown Core and Outer Urban transects, the projected provision levels will remain the same or improve by 2031.

Table 31: Outdoor Basketball Court Provision Levels (full court), City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	6	1: 13,400	0	6	1: 15,300
Inner Urban	43	1: 5,800	4	47	1: 5,700
Outer Urban	53	1: 4,200	1	54	1: 4,500
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	18	1: 7,300	8	26	1: 5,500
Suburban South	17	1: 7,400	8	25	1: 5,700

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban East	30	1: 4,500	5	35	1: 4,400
Rural	19	1: 5,200	3	22	1: 5,200
City Total	186	1: 5,700	29	215	1: 5,700

13.3 Benchmarking

Table 32 compares the supply and provision rate of full basketball courts with other municipalities. Of the municipalities listed, Ottawa's provision rate ranks 4th.

Table 32: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Basketball Provision Rates (full court)

City Name	City Outdoor Basketball Courts-Outdoor	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Edmonton	485	1 : 2,200
Halifax	162	1 : 2,800
Kingston	48	1 : 2,800
Ottawa	186	1 : 5,700
Hamilton	80	1 : 7,300
London	51	1 : 8,300
Winnipeg	76	1 : 10,400
Mississauga	62	1 : 12,400
Montreal	141	1 : 15,200
Calgary	81	1 : 17,500
Vancouver	38	1 : 18,100

13.4 Participation and Utilization

Participation and utilization of outdoor basketball courts has increased over the years and the trend appears as though it will continue. While basketball courts are generally intended for recreational use, with increased participation, local associations are looking to have more regulation full-sized facilities developed.

13.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 554 residents (40 per cent) answered "no, do not visit due to lack of interest" to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor sports courts:

basketball, beach volleyball, horseshoe pit, lawn bowling, pickleball or tennis courts in a typical year

- 635 residents (46 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 593 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 22 per cent visited outdoor basketball courts 11 or more times per year.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a handful of comments related to basketball. These related to a desire to see more courts in the city.

13.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A provision level target of one full-size court per 5,500 residents is recommended. The target reflects the current supply of full-size courts and responds to the growing demand for basketball courts. While the trend is to promote development of full-size courts, inclusion of basketball keys is important to continue to grow the sport in all areas and situations where space is not available for a full-size court.

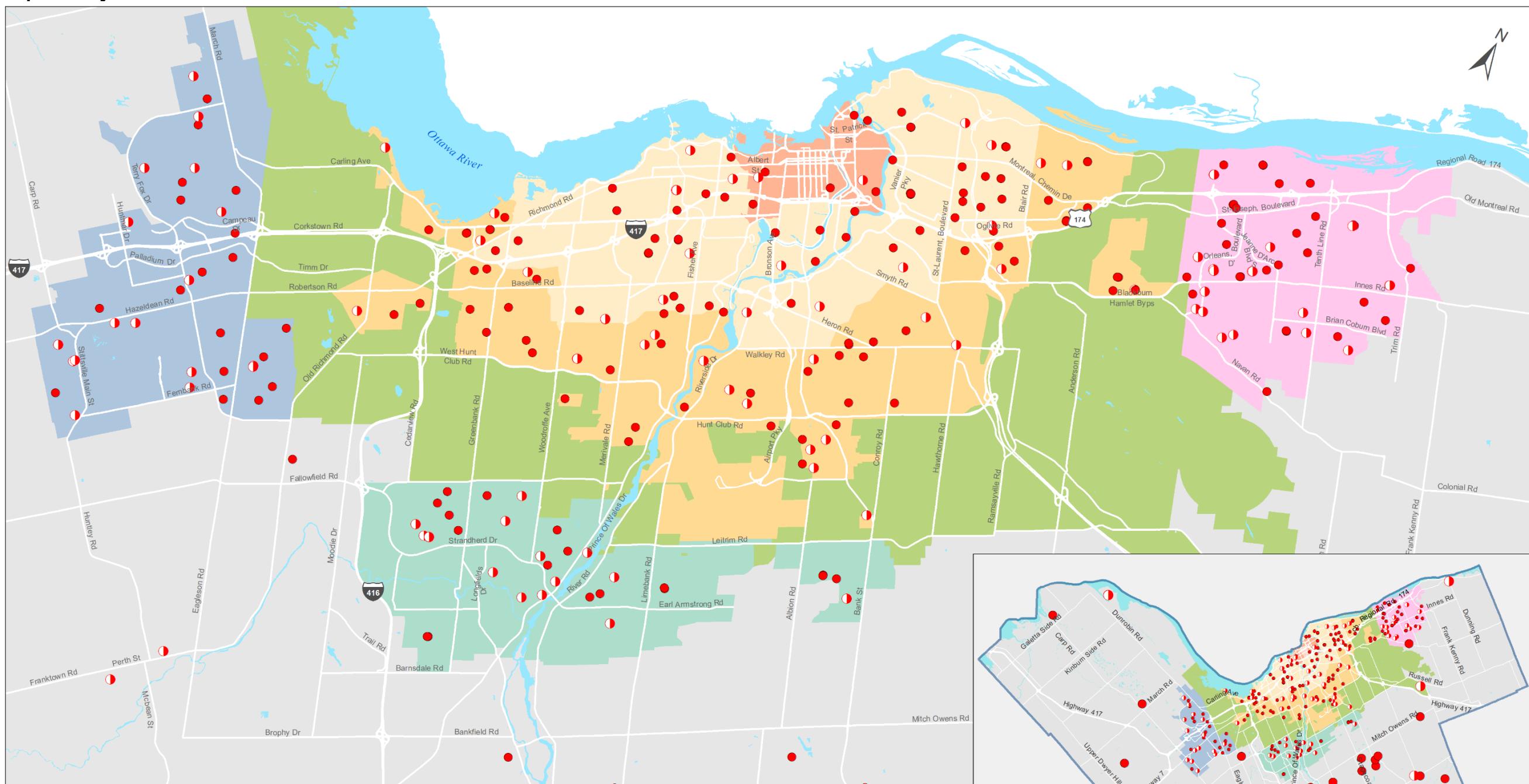
Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of full-size basketball courts at 1:5,500 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 29 new full-size basketball courts, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Inner Urban, Outer Urban, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- c. Consider the development of up to 3 new, additional, full-size basketball courts in the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core transect. If park space is limited, half-courts or basketball keys should be explored, or the basketball courts may be situated within the Inner Urban transect close to the Downtown Core.

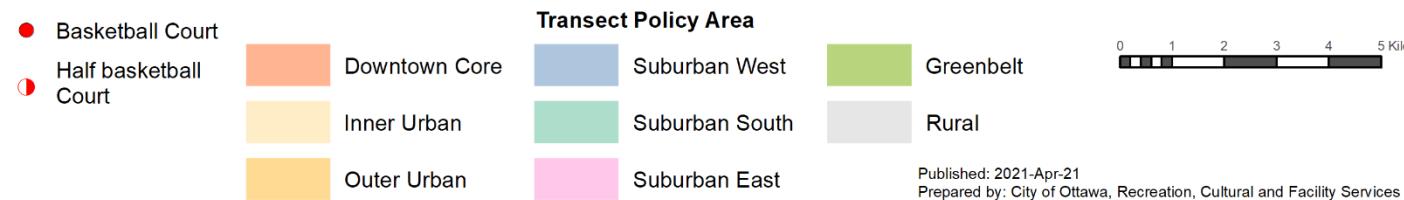
Strategy Statements:

- d. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or new courts to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization in transects with low provision levels and limited parkland availability (e.g. Downtown Core)

Map 15: City of Ottawa Basketball Courts

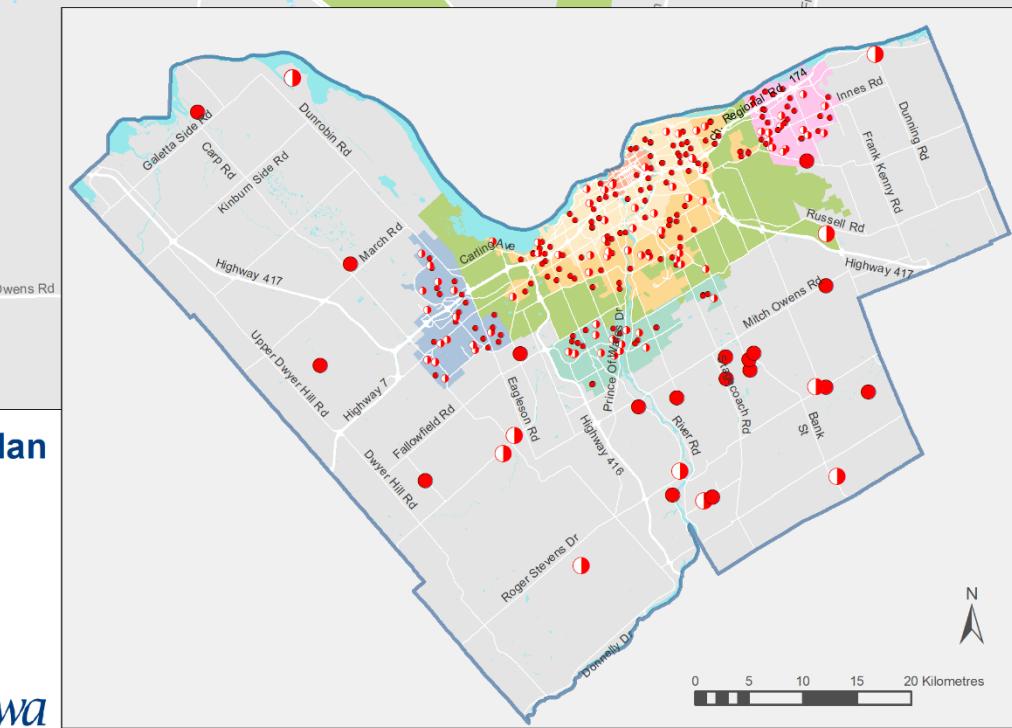


City of Ottawa Basketball Courts



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Published: 2021-Apr-21
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



14. Outdoor Volleyball Courts

14.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Standards describes Beach Volleyball as a sport played by two teams each on a sand court divided by a net. The playing area includes the court, service zone, area behind the end line, and the free zone surrounding the court on all sides. Courts can be provided as a single court within a park or part of a complex of courts. The City of Ottawa standard is suitable for local competition game play with options for competition level that are above standard. The City also has grass surfaced volleyball courts for casual play.

This section pertains to outdoor volleyball courts only. Volleyball is also played indoors at community centres, recreation complexes and recreation centres that include a gymnasium.

14.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 33, the City has 118 outdoor volleyball courts. While the Inner Urban, Outer Urban and Suburban East transects have a high number of volleyball courts when compared to the other transects, the volleyball courts are mostly located together at the City beaches found in those areas. Individual courts with both sand and grass surfaces are found in parks across the city as displayed on Map 16.

The 2021 citywide provision level is 1:9,000 residents. Outer Urban, Suburban East and Inner Urban have the highest provision levels of outdoor volleyball courts. There are no outdoor volleyball courts available in the Suburban South and Greenbelt transects. The Downtown Core and Suburban West transects also have low provision levels.

Five new courts are planned for development by 2031 including one court in each of the Downtown Core, Suburban West and Rural transects, and two courts in the Suburban East transect. The 2031 provision level is projected to be 1:9,900 residents. The Suburban West and the Greenbelt transects will remain without any volleyball courts.

Table 33: Outdoor Volleyball Court Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	1	1: 80,300	1	2	1: 45,800
Inner Urban	24	1: 10,300	0	24	1: 11,200
Outer Urban	52	1: 4,300	0	52	1: 4,600
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban West	2	1: 65,500	1	3	1: 48,000
Suburban South	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban East	30	1: 4,500	2	32	1: 4,800
Rural	9	1: 11,000	1	10	1: 11,400
City Total	118	1: 9,000	5	123	1: 9,900

14.3 Benchmarking

Table 34 compares the supply and provision rate of volleyball courts with other municipalities. At 1:9,000 residents, the City's provision rate is highest amongst the municipalities listed in the table.

Table 34: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Volleyball Court Provision Rates

City Name	Outdoor Volleyball Courts	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Ottawa	118	1 : 9,000
Kingston	11	1 : 12,200
Vancouver	34	1 : 20,300
Winnipeg	34	1 : 23,300
London	13	1 : 32,700
Montreal	63	1 : 33,900
Halifax	12	1 : 37,600
Mississauga	8	1 : 96,100
Calgary	6	1 : 236,400

14.4 Participation and Utilization

The number of hours of registered volleyball programs and rental bookings at the City's outdoor volleyball courts from 2016 to 2019 are presented in Table 35. The total number of hours for programs and bookings ranged from 1,788 to 2,102 hours.

Table 35: Outdoor Volleyball Courts – Number of Hours of Registered Volleyball Programs and Rental Bookings, 2016-2019

Volleyball at Outdoor Sites	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Hours - Registered Volleyball Programs	799	810	624	702
Number of Hours - Booked as Rentals	1,303	1,289	1,312	1,086
Total	2,102	2,099	1,936	1,788

14.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 554 residents (40 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor sports courts: basketball, beach volleyball, horseshoe pit, lawn bowling, pickleball or tennis courts in a typical year
- 635 residents (46 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 579 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 12 per cent visited outdoor beach volleyball courts 11 or more times per year.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a couple of comments related to volleyball but, these related to indoor volleyball and not outdoor courts.

14.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A rounded provision level of 1:10,000 residents is recommended for outdoor volleyball courts, which is in keeping with the 2021 and 2031 provision rates.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor volleyball courts at 1:10,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 5 new outdoor volleyball courts targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban West, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- c. Consider the development of up to 32 new, additional, outdoor volleyball courts in the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core, Suburban South and Suburban West transects.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Prioritize new outdoor volleyball courts within parks that are also occupied by a recreation complex, recreation or community centre, to facilitate programming opportunities, oversight and maintenance of the courts.

15. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

15.1 General Description

Outdoor fitness equipment includes fixed-in-place elements such as push-up bars, parallel bars, rope climbing, monkey bars, pull-up bars, dip stations, balance beams, vault bars, hurdles, step benches, and long benches. Outdoor fitness equipment can be used by older adults, wheelchair users, beginners, groups, teenagers and both men and women. Outdoor fitness equipment can allow for both individual and group use.

15.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 36, the City has 36 outdoor fitness equipment areas: one in the Downtown Core, six in the Inner Urban, six in the Outer Urban, five in the Suburban West, six in the Suburban South, seven in the Suburban East, and five in the Rural transects. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:29,600 residents.

Twenty new outdoor fitness equipment areas are planned between the 2021 and 2031 period. As a result, the provision levels will increase to 1:21,800 residents. This will improve the provision level in the Downtown Core, which currently only has one outdoor fitness equipment area and where the population is the most underserved currently.

The Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects are projected to have the lowest provision levels in 2031. If any additional outdoor fitness equipment is provided, the Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects should be considered. However, the provision level of this type of equipment (current and planned) is already very good when compared with the provision in other municipalities.

Table 36: Outdoor Fitness Equipment Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	1	1: 80,300	5	6	1: 15,300
Inner Urban	6	1: 41,300	0	6	1: 44,600
Outer Urban	6	1: 37,200	0	6	1: 40,100
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban West	5	1: 26,200	3	8	1: 18,000
Suburban South	6	1: 21,000	3	9	1: 15,800
Suburban East	7	1: 19,200	7	14	1: 10,900
Rural	5	1: 19,800	2	7	1: 16,300
City Total	36	1: 29,600	20	56	1: 21,800

15.3 Benchmarking

Table 37 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor fitness equipment with other municipalities. The provision rate of 1:29,600 residents in Ottawa is the second highest.

Table 37: Municipal Benchmarking of Outdoor Fitness Equipment Provision Rates

City Name	Outdoor Fitness Equipment Locations	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Winnipeg	93	1 : 8,500
Ottawa	36	1 : 29,600
Montreal	63	1 : 33,900
Hamilton	10	1 : 58,500
Mississauga	11	1 : 69,900
Halifax	5	1 : 90,300
Toronto	33	1 : 93,800
London	3	1 : 141,600
Vancouver	2	1 : 344,500
Brampton	1	1 : 723,200

15.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation of outdoor fitness equipment generally includes adolescents to adults. Equipment can be used by both women and men. The equipment components are designed to be adaptable, by exercising different muscle groups, and accessible for many fitness levels and abilities.

15.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 87 residents (6 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following outdoor recreational parks (Children’s play area, fitness equipment, Off-leash dog area, open field for unstructured play, picnic / shade shelter / seating area, rink, running / walking track in a typical year).
- 1261 residents (92 percent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 1179 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 12 per cent visited outdoor fitness equipment 11 or more times per year

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a handful of comments related to outdoor fitness equipment, all expressing an interest in more equipment.

15.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A target provision level of 1:25,000 residents is recommended for outdoor fitness equipment. This is a rounded provision level that lies between the City’s current and 2031 outdoor fitness equipment provision rates.

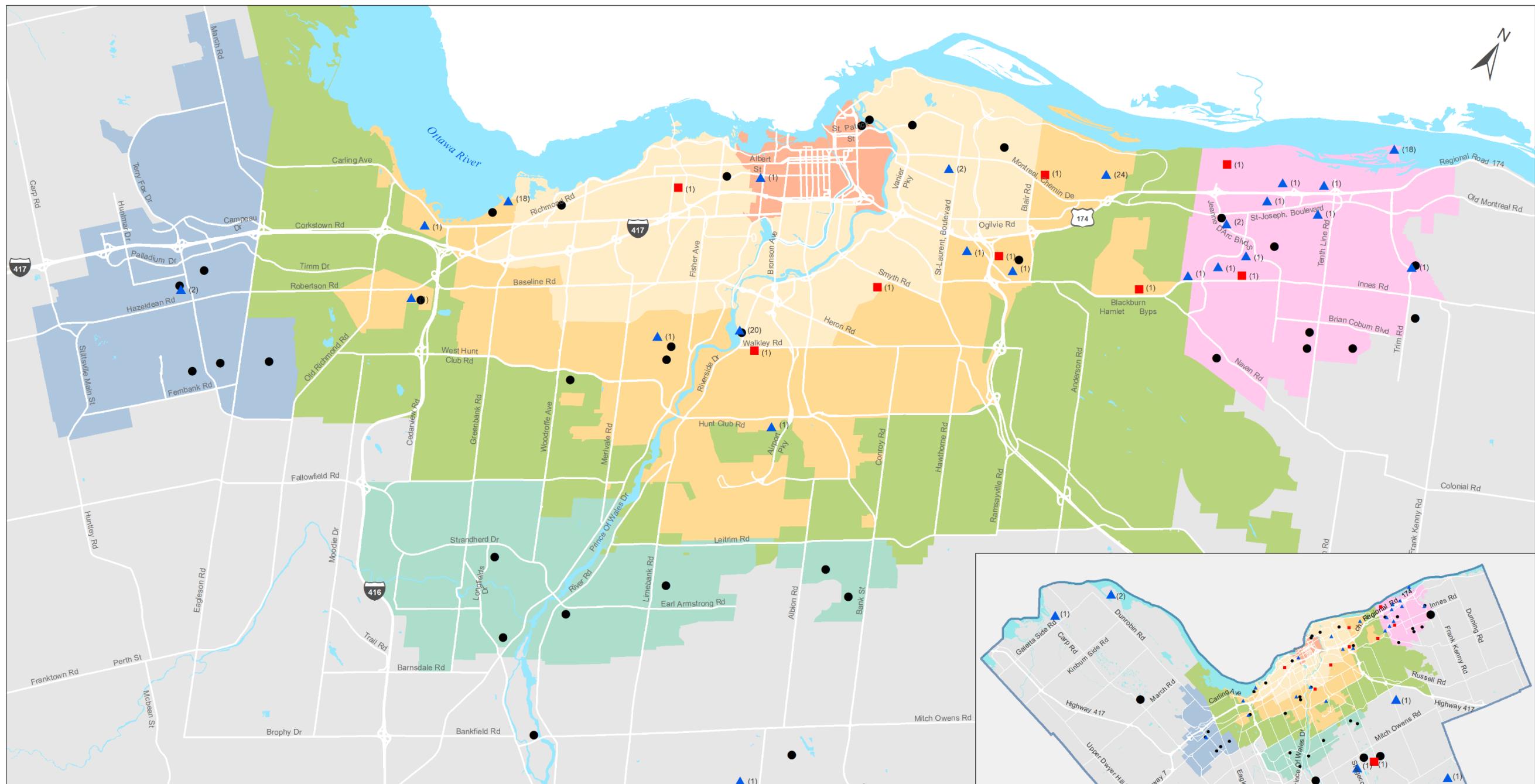
Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment at 1:25,000 residents.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 20 new facilities targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- c. Consider the development of 10 new, additional, facilities in the 2021 – 2031 period in the Inner Urban and Outer Urban Transects.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Explore opportunities to develop outdoor dynamic fitness equipment areas (similar to indoor fitness equipment) at recreation complexes and facilities, where supervision of activities by City staff can be assured.

Map 16: City of Ottawa Outdoor Volleyball Courts and Outdoor Fitness Equipment



City of Ottawa Outdoor Volleyball Courts and
Outdoor Fitness Equipments

● Outdoor Fitness Equipment

▲ (x) Volleyball Sand Court

■ (x) Volleyball Grass Court

(x) Number of court in the location



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-21
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres

16. Cricket Pitches

16.1 General Description

A cricket pitch is an oval field of flat grass, bounded by an obvious fence or other marker. In the centre of the field, and usually aligned along the long axis of the ellipse, is the pitch, a carefully prepared rectangle of closely mown and rolled grass over hard packed earth or artificial turf. It is marked with white lines. The City of Ottawa standard service level is a cricket pitch for recreational, community play generally multi-purpose with other field amenities.

16.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 38, the City has five cricket pitches: two in the Outer Urban transect, one in the Suburban East transect, one in Suburban South and one in the Rural transect. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:212,800 residents.

Two new cricket pitches are planned to be built for the 2021 and 2031 period in Suburban West. As a result, the provision levels will increase to 1:174,100 residents.

The Downtown and Inner Urban Transects are projected to continue to have the lowest provision levels in 2031 and, will remain below the citywide provision level.

Table 38: Cricket Pitch Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Urban	0	0	0	0	0
Outer Urban	2	1: 111,700	0	2	1: 120,400
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	2	2	1: 72,000
Suburban South	1	1: 125,800	0	1	1: 142,500
Suburban East	1	1: 134,700	0	1	1: 152,400
Rural	1	1: 99,000	0	1	1: 114,000
City Total	5	1: 212,800	2	7	1: 174,100

16.3 Benchmarking

The number of existing cricket pitches in Ottawa is lower than most of the other municipalities listed in Table 39. The provision rate of 1:212,800 residents in Ottawa is the eighth lowest.

Table 39: Municipal Benchmarking of Cricket Pitch Provision Rates

City Name	Cricket Pitches	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Brampton	9	1 : 80,400
Vancouver	7	1 : 98,400
Mississauga	7	1 : 109,900
Winnipeg	7	1 : 113,200
Toronto	23	1 : 134,600
Calgary	10	1 : 141,800
Hamilton	3	1 : 194,900
Ottawa	5	1 : 212,800
Halifax	2	1 : 225,700
Edmonton	4	1 : 272,300
London	1	1 : 424,800
Montreal	4	1 : 534,200

16.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation of cricket pitches includes youth to adults. It can be played by both men and women but is more popular with men. According to Cricket Canada, participation in cricket is growing as Canadian society is becoming more multi-cultural. It is most popular in Canada's most multi-cultural cities, Toronto and Vancouver. The City of Toronto's web site states that "Cricket is popular in Toronto and is one of the fastest-growing sports across the region. City staff are in the process of developing a Cricket Strategy to better meet this growing demand."

16.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 646 residents (47 percent) answered "no, do not visit due to lack of interest" to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor ball diamonds and/or sports fields (artificial and natural turfs) in a typical year

- 614 residents (45 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 573 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 2 residents visited cricket pitches 11 or more times per year.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there was a single comment related to cricket, noting that there was no local cricket pitch.

16.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A target level of 1 cricket pitch per 200,000 residents is recommended. The demand for additional facilities should be monitored. If additional demand is anticipated, the target level may need to be updated.

Recommendations

- a. Set the citywide target for the provision of cricket pitches at 1:200,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 2 new cricket pitch, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban West transect.
- c. Consider the development of one new, additional, cricket pitch in the 2021 – 2031 period.

Strategy Statements:

- d. Reassess the need for additional cricket pitches during the first review of the Master Plan, to determine if changes to demographic and migration patterns, within the city, will impact the demand for cricket pitches in the future.

17. Lawn Bowling Greens

17.1 General Description

Traditionally, a lawn bowling green is a close-mown stretch of natural turf for playing the game of bowls. A bowling green can also have an artificial turf surface. The length of a bowling green in the direction of play is generally between 31 metres and 40 metres and, most bowling greens are built at approximately 40m x 40m.

17.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 40, the City has four lawn bowling greens: one in the Inner Urban transect, one in the Outer Urban transect and two in the Rural transect. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:266,000 residents.

No new lawn bowling greens are planned to be built for the 2021 and 2031 period. As a result, the provision levels will decrease to 1:304,800 residents, as a result of population growth.

Table 40: Lawn Bowling Green Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Urban	1	1: 247,600	0	1	1: 267,800
Outer Urban	1	1: 223,300	0	1	1: 240,900
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban South	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban East	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	2	1: 49,500	0	2	1: 57,000
City Total	4	1: 266,000	0	4	1: 304,800

17.3 Benchmarking

Table 41 compares the provision rate of lawn bowling greens across 10 municipalities. The provision rate of 1:266,000 residents in Ottawa is the third lowest after Montréal and Brampton.

Table 41: Municipal Benchmarking of Lawn Bowling Greens Provision Rates

City Name	Number of Existing Lawn Bowling Greens	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Vancouver	11	1 : 62,600
Winnipeg	11	1 : 72,100
Halifax	4	1 : 112,800
Kingston	1	1 : 133,700
Hamilton	4	1 : 146,200
Mississauga	4	1 : 192,300
Calgary	6	1 : 236,400
Ottawa	4	1 : 266,000
Brampton	1	1 : 723,200
Montreal	2	1 : 1,068,400

17.4 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 554 residents (40 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: outdoor sports courts: basketball, beach volleyball, horseshoe pit, lawn bowling, pickleball or tennis courts in a typical year
- 635 residents (46 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 560 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, four residents visited lawn bowling greens 11 or more times per year.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few comments related to lawn bowling. One expressed a need for indoor facilities, the other few noted a desire to see additional lawn bowling greens.

17.5 Target Provision Level and Additional Recommendations

Based on declining participation in lawn bowling, there are no recommended actions to take to address the current use of lawn bowling greens.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current supply of 4 lawn bowling greens.

Strategy Statements:

- b. Reassess the need for lawn bowling greens, during the first review of the Master Plan, to determine if changes to demographic and migration patterns, within the city, will impact the demand for these facilities in the future.

18. Recreational Boat Launches and Docks

18.1 General Description

Recreational boat launches and docks include boat launches and docks that can be used by the general public. Boat launches are aimed at motorized watercraft. Docks are primarily aimed at self-propelled watercraft, are seasonal and are taken out of the water every fall. The inventory in this section does not include facilities that are for the exclusive use of a club.

18.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

There are 14 municipal recreational boat launches and docks in Ottawa, the majority of which are along the Rideau River within the Rural transect. This results in a citywide provision level of 1:76,000 residents. One new recreational boat dock in Riverain Park is planned within the next ten years. Given population growth, the citywide provision level will decrease to 1:81,300 residents.

Table 42: Recreational Boat Launches and Docks Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Urban	2	1: 123,800	1	3	1: 89,300
Outer Urban	3	1: 74,400	0	3	1: 80,300
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban South	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban East	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	9	1: 11,000	0	9	1: 12,700
City Total	14	1: 76,000	1	15	1: 81,300

18.3 Benchmarking

Table 43 benchmarks recreational boating facilities, including marinas and boat ramps; this is slightly different than the provision of recreational boat launches and docks. However, based on the data available, Ottawa's has a provision rate of 1:76,000 residents is 4th highest of the municipalities listed.

Table 43: Municipal Benchmarking of Recreational Boating Facility Provision Rates

City Name	Recreation Boating Facilities (Marina, Boat Ramps)	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Halifax	64	1 : 7,100
Kingston	18	1 : 7,400
Winnipeg	12	1 : 66,100
Ottawa	14	1 : 76,000

City Name	Recreation Boating Facilities (Marina, Boat Ramps)	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Montreal	21	1 : 101,800
London	3	1 : 141,600
Hamilton	1	1 : 584,700
Calgary	2	1 : 709,100
Brampton	1	1 : 723,200
Toronto	1	1 : 3,096,400

18.4 Participation and Utilization

Recreational boat launches and docks are available seasonally for use by the general public. The City does not monitor the number of people that use the recreational boat launches and docks.

18.5 Public Consultation

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, a few residents proposed improved dock access to the City's rivers. They noted a growth in water-based activities and water sports and a desire for more locations where people can access the water.

18.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

The provision level of recreational boat launches and docks citywide will increase between 2021 to 2031 due to the creation of one new facility within the Inner Urban transect.

Recommendations:

- a. Maintain the current citywide supply of 14 recreational boat launches and docks.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 1 new facility, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Inner Urban transect.
- c. Consider the development of new seasonal, recreational boat launches and docks along the City's major rivers and tributaries. Site selection should be based on the locations of existing and proposed parks adjacent to these watercourses, availability of parking lots and the concurrence from the responsible regulatory authorities (Parks Canada, National Capital Commission, Conservation Authorities).

19. BMX and Mountain Biking Parks

19.1 General Description

The City of Ottawa defines a BMX and Mountain Biking Park as a facility that provides non-motorized bikes a specially prepared dirt track to use for both recreational and competitive opportunities. The sport of BMX is versatile whereas Mountain Biking is more specific, both in track types and equipment used. BMX dirt track runs are usually 300-400 metres long and consist of a series of jumps and bumps with banked corners known as berms. Competitive, or race sites have a starting gate area and berms that are preferred to be asphalt for performance and maintenance purposes. A Mountain Bike Park is a series of nature trails that are groomed and use the natural topographic to define the level of difficulty each trail provides the user.

BMX and Mountain Biking is a sport that is for all ages, all abilities and is not gender specific

19.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 44, the City has 5 existing BMX and mountain biking parks, with the South March Highlands Mountain Biking trails park in the Rural transect, being the only formal mountain biking park within the city. The area requirements and specific natural and topographic conditions limit the ability to develop a formalized mountain biking park in many of the areas of the city. The current provision level for BMX and mountain biking parks is 1:212,800 residents.

Four new BMX and/or mountain biking parks are planned for the 2021-2031 period with two proposed in the Suburban West Transect and two in the Suburban East Transect. These are dependent on a managing partner where required. The addition of the new facilities will improve the citywide provision level to 1:135,400 residents.

Table 44: BMX and Mountain Biking Park Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Urban	1	1: 247,600	0	1	1: 267,800
Outer Urban	1	1: 223,300	0	1	1: 240,900
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	2	2	1: 72,000

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban South	1	1: 125,800	0	1	1: 142,500
Suburban East	0	0	2	2	1: 76,200
Rural	2	1: 49,500	0	2	1: 57,000
City Total	5	1: 212,800	4	9	1: 135,400

19.3 *Benchmarking*

Table 45 compares the supply and provision rate of BMX and mountain bike parks with other municipalities. Of the five municipalities listed, Ottawa's provision rate is in the middle.

Table 45: Municipal Benchmarking of BMX and Mountain Bike Park Provision Rates

City Name	BMX and Mountain Biking Parks	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Halifax	17	1 : 26,600
Kingston	1	1 : 133,700
Ottawa	5	1 : 212,800
Mississauga	2	1 : 384,600
Montreal	2	1 : 1,068,400

19.4 *Participation and Utilization*

Use of the City of Ottawa BMX and mountain biking parks can be quantified by identifying membership numbers of the associations that partner with the City of Ottawa for the use, operating and maintenance of the parks. Nepean BMX (Clarke Fields) and Ottawa BMX (Dragon Canyon) and Ottawa Mountain Bike Association (South March Highlands) are managing partners, however the parks are open for public use.

There are 3 generally accepted types of BMX bikes (racing, freestyle or trick riding and street) and manufacturers offer a hybrid model(s) as well. Any BMX bike type can be used at the City park facilities, however as the user advances in skill level and enters competitive levels of participation, the material specifications and style of bike becomes an important aspect of the sport.

19.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 840 residents (61 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: bicycle park (BMX/pump track/mountain bike trails), or skateboard park in a typical year
- 410 residents (30 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 404 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 41 per cent visited bicycle parks (BMX/pump tracks/mountain bike trails) 11 or more times per year.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few comments related to BMX and mountain bike facilities. Some noted that the Kanata mountain biking facilities were far to travel for certain parts of the city, one noted a desire for cycle cross facilities.

19.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A rounded target level of 1:150,000 residents is recommended for BMX and Mountain Bike Parks.

Recommendations:

- a. Set the citywide target for the BMX and Mountain Bike Parks at 1:150,000 residents
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of the 4 new facilities, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Suburban West and Suburban East transects.
- c. Consider the development of 1 multi-use, all wheel park facility and a formal Mountain Biking Park, in the 2021 – 2031 period for the Rural (east) transect where a managing partner can be found. The facility should:
 - i. contemplate design specifications and standards to allow for Adaptive Mountain Biking (for riders who typically cannot ride a standard mountain bike and require technologically adapted bike/equipment to suit their physical, intellectual, neurological and sensory abilities).

20. Fenced Off-leash Dog Parks

20.1 General Description

Fenced off-leash dog parks vary in size but, in general are fully enclosed and gated with an entry/exit vestibule area which is also that is gated. In general, smaller facilities (less than 1ha) should have specialized surfacing and larger facilities (greater than 1ha) can have grass surface. Some facilities have specialized waste containers and a separate area for small dogs. Fenced off-leash dog parks are intended to serve the wider community.

The City's off-leashed fenced dog parks are complemented by 175 parks where dogs are allowed off-leash in a non-fenced environment, and 61 mixed use parks where dogs can be on leash in a portion of the park or at specific times.

20.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa has 11 existing fenced off-leash dog parks that range from a simple small enclosure to larger parks with surfacing and inground waste receptacles.

As shown in Table 46, the 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:96,700 residents. The Suburban East transect has the highest provision rate with 4 fenced off-leash dog parks which translates to 1:33,700 residents. The Suburban South transect has 2 fenced off-leash dog parks, the Inner Urban transect has three and the Outer Urban transect has 1 fenced off-leash dog park. There are currently no fenced off-leash dog parks in the Greenbelt, Suburban West and Rural transects.

Table 46: Fenced Off-leash Dog Park Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	1	1: 80,300	0	1	1: 91,700
Inner Urban	3	1: 82,500	3	6	1: 44,600
Outer Urban	1	1: 223,300	0	1	1: 240,900
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban South	2	1: 62,900	1	3	1: 47,500
Suburban East	4	1: 33,700	0	4	1: 38,100
Rural	0	0	0	0	0
City Total	11	1: 96,700	4	15	1: 81,300

An additional four fenced off-leash dog parks are planned over the next 10 years. One in the Downtown Core, two in the Inner Urban Transect and two in the Suburban South Transect. This will bring the citywide provision level of fenced off-leash dog parks to 1:81,300 residents.

20.3 Benchmarking

Table 47 compares the supply and provision rate of fenced dog off-leash parks with other municipalities. The City of Ottawa's provision rate is 6th of the municipalities listed.

Table 47: Municipal Benchmarking of Fenced Off-leash Dog Park Provision Rates

City Name	Fenced Off-leash Dog Areas	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Kingston	5	1 : 26,700
Montreal	58	1 : 36,800
Toronto	49	1 : 63,200
Vancouver	10	1 : 68,900
Hamilton	8	1 : 73,100
Ottawa	11	1 : 96,700
Calgary	8	1 : 177,300
Brampton	4	1 : 180,800
Winnipeg	3	1 : 264,200
Edmonton	4	1 : 272,300
Halifax	1	1 : 451,400

While it appears that the City of Ottawa is lagging in the provision of off-leash dog areas as compared to other municipalities, when one considers the parks where dogs are allowed off-leash in a non-fenced environment and those mixed use parks where dogs can be on leash in a portion of the park or at specific times, it is easier to see how the City is meeting the demand for off-leash dog areas. Considering all of these areas, the City's provision of off-leash dog areas is 1:3,400 residents.

20.4 Participation and Utilization

The City does not track participation and utilization rates of fenced off-leash dog parks.

20.5 Public Consultation

Requests to construct new fenced off-leash dog parks have been received through many individual park project consultations.

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 840 residents (61 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: bicycle park (BMX/pump track/mountain bike trails), or skateboard park in a typical year

- 410 residents (30 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 404 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 41 per cent visited bicycle parks (BMX/pump tracks/mountain bike trails) 11 or more times per year.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few comments related to BMX and mountain bike facilities. Some noted that the Kanata mountain biking facilities were far to travel for certain parts of the city, one noted a desire for cycle cross facilities.

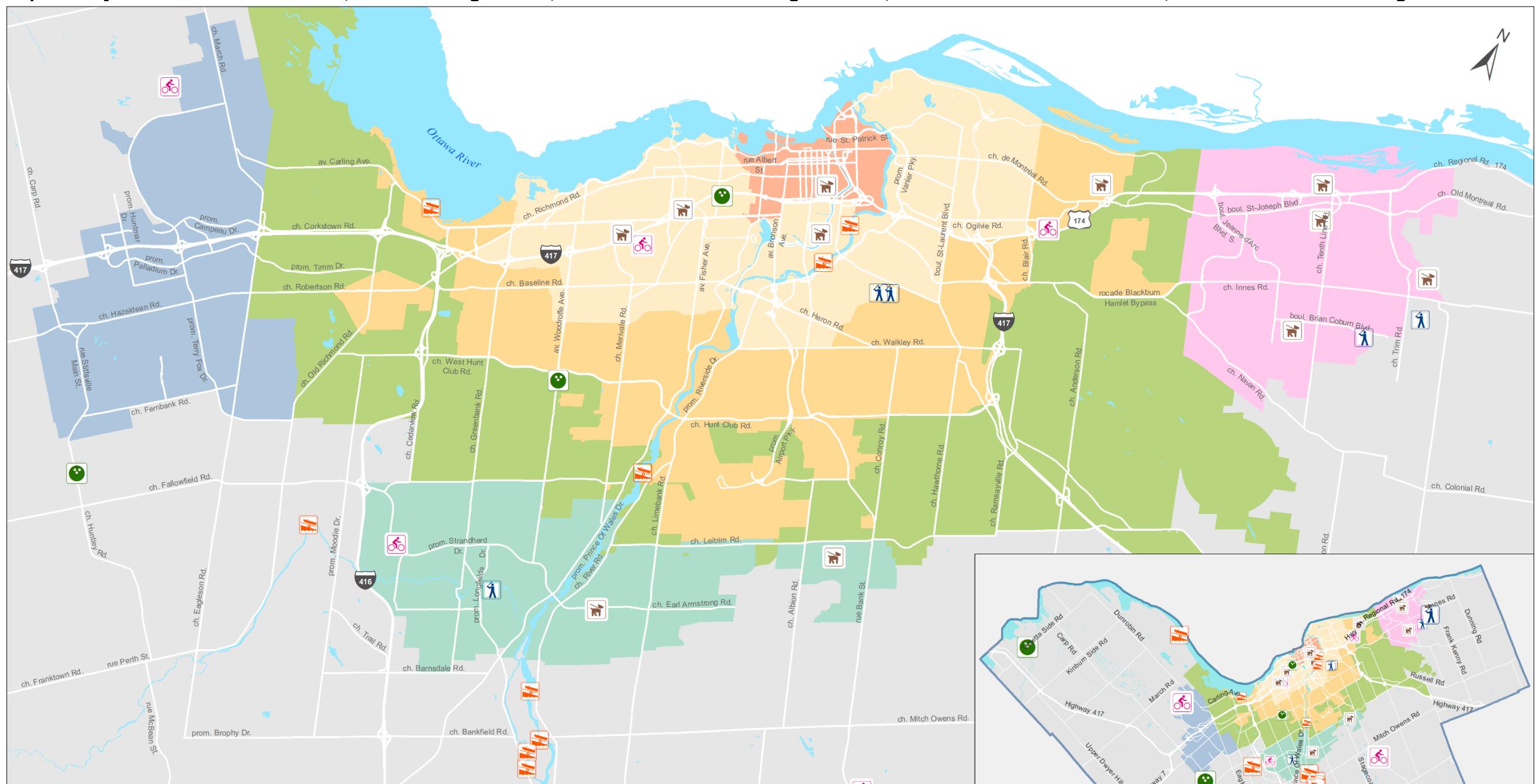
20.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A target provision level is not proposed for fenced-off leash dog parks. Additional fenced off-leash facilities may be provided at appropriate sites where warranted.

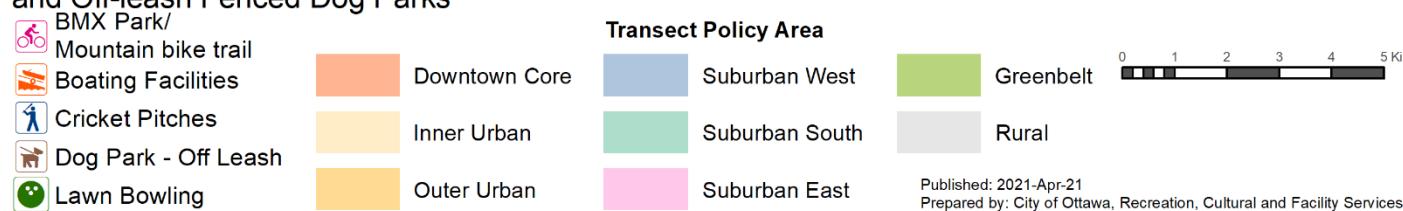
Recommendations

- a. Proceed with the planning and development of the five new off-leash dog parks, targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Suburban South transects.
- b. Develop fenced off-leash dog parks where warranted, rather than ensuring usual citywide equity per area, as the needs vary greatly depending on the area being served. Available unfenced off-leash dog areas should be considered when reviewing the needs for additional fenced off-leash areas. Appropriate dog waste receptacles should be included in off-leash dog areas where warranted.

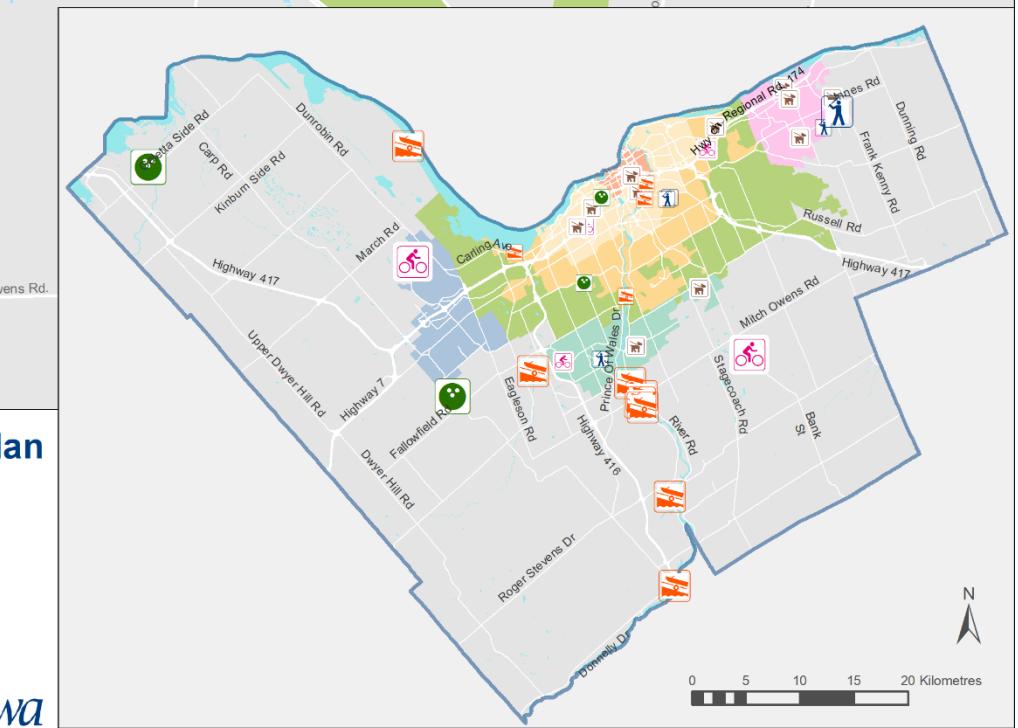
Map 17: City of Ottawa Cricket Pitches, Lawn Bowling Greens, Recreational Boat-Docking Facilities, Mountain Bike and BMX Parks, and Off-leash Fenced Dog Parks



City of Ottawa Cricket Pitches, Lawn Bowling Greens, Recreational **Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan**
Boat-Docking Facilities, Mountain Bike and BMX Parks,
and Off-leash Fenced Dog Parks



Published: 2021-Apr-21
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



21. Skateboard Parks

21.1 General Description

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards describes skateboard parks as outdoor areas having structures and surfaces for skateboarding and inline skating. Skateboard parks can also be used by scooter users. Surfaces should consist of a smooth, non-jointed material, if possible. Skateboard park features may include, but not limited to freestyle areas (DYI), slalom runs, snake runs, bowls, manual pads, half pipes and quarter pipes. City skateboard parks are primarily intended for recreation use by all ages and abilities. Skateboard parks are best located near active recreational facilities for supervision and safety and should be situated away from residential areas when possible.

The Recreation Facility Infrastructure Standards provide for three types of skateboard parks; skate spots, neighbourhood or community skateboard parks, and regional skateboard parks.

21.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

The City of Ottawa has 21 existing outdoor skateparks, which includes full custom designed skateparks and dedicated skatepark elements and amenities within a broader community park design layout.

As shown in Table 48, the 2021 citywide provision rate is 1:50,700 residents. The Rural transect and the Suburban West transects have the highest supply of skateboard parks. The Rural transect also has the highest provision rate in the City with 1:19,800 residents, and the Suburban West has the second highest rate with 1:32,700 residents. The Downtown Core, which has one skateboard park, has the second lowest provision level with a rate of 1:80,300 residents. The Outer Urban transect has three skateboard parks and the third lowest rate with 1:74,400 residents.

Table 48: Skateboard Park Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	1	1: 80,300	0	1	1: 91,700
Inner Urban	3	1: 82,500	3	6	1: 44,600
Outer Urban	3	1: 74,400	0	3	1: 80,300
Greenbelt	0	0	0	0	0
Suburban West	4	1: 32,700	1	5	1: 28,800

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Suburban South	3	1: 41,900	2	5	1: 28,500
Suburban East	2	1: 67,400	1	3	1: 50,800
Rural	5	1: 19,800	1	6	1: 19,000
City Total	21	1: 50,700	8	29	1: 42,000

Eight new skateboard parks are currently planned for development over the 10-year period, including the redevelopment of Bob MacQuarrie Skateboard Park as a regional skateboard park. The addition of the eight planned skateboard parks will improve the citywide skateboard park provision level to a rate of 1:42,000 residents in 2031, which exceeds the target of 1:50,000 residents.

The provision level in the Inner Urban transect will increase from the current rate of 1:61,900 residents to 1:44,600 residents in 2031 due to the proposed skateboard park at Riverain Park. The addition of two proposed skateboard parks in Riverside South will improve the skateboard park provision level in the Suburban South transect to 1:28,500 residents. The provision level in the Suburban East will increase to 1:50,800 residents. The 2031 provision levels in the Rural transect and the Suburban West transect will remain above the citywide provision level.

The Downtown Core and Outer Urban transects are projected to have the lowest and second lowest provision rates, respectively, in 2031, other than the Greenbelt transect. The potential to develop additional skateboard parks in the Downtown Core and the Outer Urban transect should be considered.

Skateboard park development has been guided by the Skateboard and BMX Parks – Interim Strategy since 2012. The strategy involves identifying suitable and appropriate parcels of City land in close proximity to rapid-transit corridors, major bus transit lines and large recreation complexes for the development of regional skateboard parks. The strategy prioritizes the development of regional skateboard parks for the Central Core, South end and East end of the City. The strategy also promotes designing the layout and components of new skateboard parks in consultation with the Ottawa Skateboard Association, local host community associations and skateboard park users.

21.3 Benchmarking

Table 49 compares the supply and provision rate of outdoor skateboard parks with other municipalities. Ottawa had the 5th highest provision level of skateboard parks amongst the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 49: Municipal Benchmarking of Skateboard Park Provision Rates

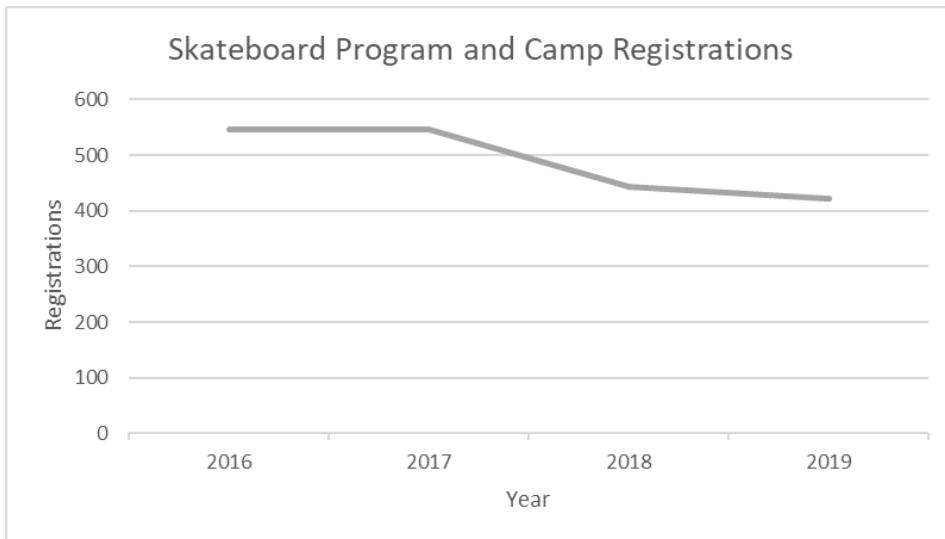
City Name	Skateparks	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
London	13	1 : 32,700
Kingston	3	1 : 44,600
Mississauga	16	1 : 48,100
Winnipeg	16	1 : 49,500
Ottawa	21	1 : 50,700
Halifax	8	1 : 56,400
Montreal	30	1 : 71,200
Hamilton	7	1 : 83,500
Vancouver	8	1 : 86,100
Brampton	8	1 : 90,400
Calgary	12	1 : 118,200
Toronto	20	1 : 154,800
Edmonton	6	1 : 181,600

21.4 Participation and Utilization

Use of and participation at skateboard parks includes youth to adults and is not gender specific. According to the City of Toronto Skateboard Strategy, participation in skateboarding often extends into adulthood. In the City of Toronto's 2015 Skatepark Survey, over 48 per cent of respondents were over the age of 25.

Registrations in the City's skateboard park programs and camps are illustrated in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Skateboard Program and Camp Registrations, City of Ottawa, 2016-2019



Based on observations from City staff and feedback from the skateboard community, the skateboard parks with the highest usage are the regional/district skateboard parks such as Charlie Bowens Skateboard Park and Innovation Skateboard Park, which are poured-in-place custom designed concrete skateboard parks. Neighbourhood and community skateboard parks tend to be used less, which coincides with the surface for the skateboard parks. Concrete surface is much preferred over a park that has an asphalt surface.

21.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*,

- 840 residents (61 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following: bicycle park (BMX/pump track/mountain bike trails), or skateboard park in a typical year
- 410 residents (30 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 387 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 27 per cent visited skateboard parks 11 or more times per year.

Requests to construct new skateboard parks have been received through many individual park project consultations. For example, residents in Riverside South, which does not currently have a skateboard park, have been requesting the development of a skateboard park to provide more park amenities that can be used by teenagers. The addition of a skateboard park at Brewer Park was one of the suggestions made by residents as part of the Brewer Park Reimagined public consultation in 2017.

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, there were a few requests to create more skate parks.

21.6 Target Provision Level and Additional Recommendations

A target provision level of 1 skateboard park per 50,000 residents is recommended, which generally reflects the current provision level and the large geographic area of the City⁴⁵.

Recommendations:

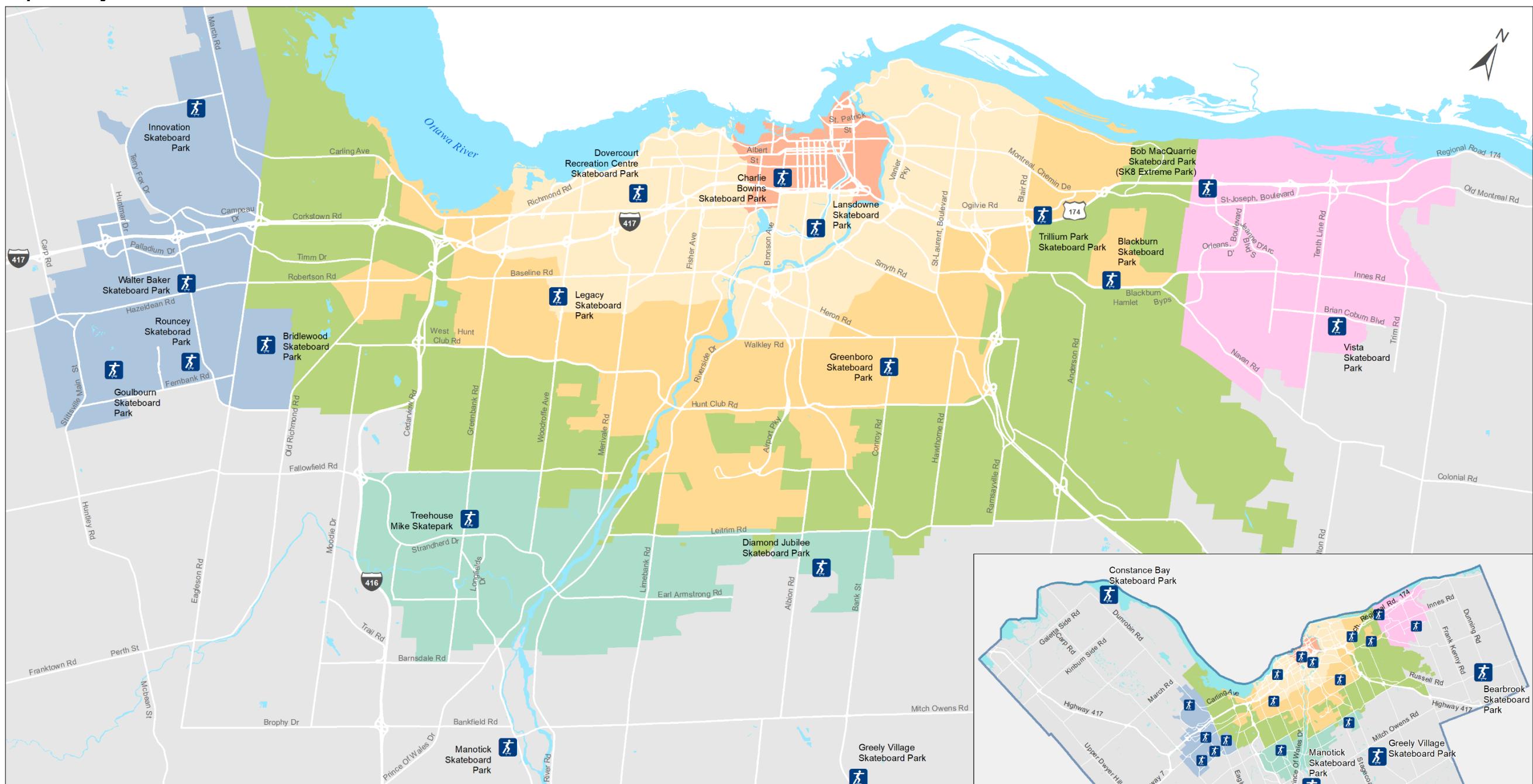
- a. Set a citywide target provision level of 1:50,000 residents. The provision target may be updated as a component of the recommended future Skateboard Park Strategy.
- b. Proceed with the planning and development of 6 skateboard parks between 2021 and 2031 as currently planned, in the Inner Urban Suburban West, Suburban South and Suburban South transects.
- c. Investigate the opportunity to redirect funds collected from 2004 Facility Needs Study, for the development of indoor skate parks, towards new outdoor skate park facilities

Strategy Statements:

- d. In appropriate locations, review the feasibility of adding lighting to existing and/or skate parks to expand the hours of use and to increase utilization in transects with low provision levels and limited parkland availability (e.g. Downtown Core)
- e. Update and replace the 2012 Interim Skateboard Park Strategy including the following:
 - i. Reviewing potential sites and funding opportunities to develop the following:
 - one new skateboard park in the Downtown Core and one new skateboard park in the Outer Urban transect to improve provision levels;
 - new skate spots as part of new park development and park redevelopment to provide more local opportunities to access basic, beginner-level skateboard park facilities;
 - ii. Assessing the potential need and opportunity to develop additional regional and/or community skateboard parks in strategic locations; and
 - iii. Updating the provision level target for skateboard parks as appropriate.

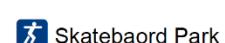
⁴⁵ The City of Ottawa 2012 Interim Skateboard Park Strategy did not identify a provision level target for skateboard parks.

Map 18: City of Ottawa Skateboard Parks



City of Ottawa Skateboard Parks

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



Skateboard Park

Transect Policy Area

Downtown Core

Suburban West

Greenbelt

Inner Urban

Suburban South

Rural

Outer Urban

Suburban East

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

Published: 2021-Apr-21
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres

22. Playgrounds

22.1 General Description

The city offers a variety of playgrounds that include play structures such as swings, slides and climbing equipment. These structures provide recreation opportunities to children of various age groups and abilities. Playgrounds in parks offer unstructured play to support children's physical and emotional well-being while promoting a healthy, active lifestyle for families.

Play structures are categorized into different age groups to provide safe and challenging play opportunities. Junior play structures are geared to ages 2-5, while the more challenging senior play structures are developed to focus on ages 5-12. There are also integrated play structures that are developed for ages 2-12. Playgrounds provide a variety of recreation opportunities for various age groups and abilities.

All new playgrounds are designed to adhere to accessibility design standards (AODA) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, CAN/CSA Z164:20, Children's Playground Equipment and Surfacing Standard, Annex H. In addition to accessible play components, site development includes accessible safety surfacing, access into the playground and accessible seating.

Playground size, style and types of equipment will vary based on park classifications, available resources and developed in consultation with communities.

Through community partnerships, the City and school boards work together to add play structures in school yards. These play structures were not counted as part of this needs assessment.

22.2 Existing and Planned Inventory

As shown in Table 50, there are currently 775 playgrounds serving the city. The current citywide provision level for playgrounds is 1:1,400 residents. The Suburban West and Rural transects have the highest provision levels at 1:1,000 residents. The Downtown Core has the lowest provision level at 1:3,500 residents.

Table 50: Playground Provision Levels, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Downtown Core	23	1: 3,500	3	26	1: 3,500
Inner Urban	138	1: 1,800	10	148	1: 1,800
Outer Urban	179	1: 1,200	0	179	1: 1,300

Area	2021 Supply	2021 Provision Level	Planned Facilities 2021-2031	2031 Supply	2031 Provision Level
Greenbelt	2	1: 1,400	0	2	1: 2,000
Suburban West	134	1: 1,000	35	169	1: 900
Suburban South	87	1: 1,400	28	115	1: 1,200
Suburban East	112	1: 1,200	21	133	1: 1,100
Rural	100	1: 1,000	14	114	1: 1,000
City Total	775	1: 1,400	111	886	1: 1,400

One hundred and eleven (111) new playgrounds are planned to be constructed by 2031, which will increase the overall citywide supply to 886 playgrounds. This will maintain the provision rate at 1:4,000 residents. The majority (84) of the new playgrounds are planned for the Suburban West, South and East transects.

22.3 *Benchmarking*

Table 51 compares the supply and provision rate of playgrounds with other municipalities. Ottawa has the fourth highest provision rate of the 13 municipalities listed.

Table 51: Municipal Benchmarking of Playground Provision Rates

City Name	Playgrounds	Provision Rate (Residents per Facility)
Kingston	143	1 : 900
Halifax	403	1 : 1,100
Calgary	1073	1 : 1,300
Ottawa	775	1 : 1,400
Brampton	319	1 : 2,300
Winnipeg	301	1 : 2,600
Edmonton	401	1 : 2,700
Hamilton	217	1 : 2,700
London	146	1 : 2,900
Mississauga	232	1 : 3,300
Toronto	794	1 : 3,900
Montreal	538	1 : 4,000
Vancouver	113	1 : 6,100

22.4 Participation and Utilization

The City does not track participation and utilization rates for playgrounds.

22.5 Public Consultation

From the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey*:

- 87 residents (6 per cent) answered “no, do not visit due to lack of interest” to the question if their household visits any of the following outdoor recreational parks (Children’s play area, fitness equipment, Off-leash dog area, open field for unstructured play, picnic / shade shelter / seating area, rink, running / walking track in a typical year).
- 1261 residents (92 per cent) answered yes to the question if their household visits any of these types of outdoor facilities. Of the 1203 residents responding to the follow-up question “how frequently do your visit”, 43 per cent visited children’s play areas 11 or more times per year

At the virtual stakeholder consultation sessions, feedback related to playgrounds was generally related to comments on the design of parks. Participants noted the importance of playgrounds within parks and the importance of playgrounds for children of all ages and abilities.

22.6 Target Provision Levels and Additional Recommendations

A target provision level of 1 playground per 1,400 residents is proposed.

A geographic service level target is also recommended to supplement the provision level target. The recommended service level target is to provide access to a park containing a playground within a 5- to 10-minute walk of most homes located in the Urban Area Boundary or in a village. This translates into a target to provide a park with a playground within a 400m to 800m radius of homes situated within the Urban Area Boundary or in a village. The target radius may be adjusted to account for any pedestrian barriers such as highways, rivers or rail corridors with the intent of providing a park with a playground within a 5- to 10-minute walking distance.

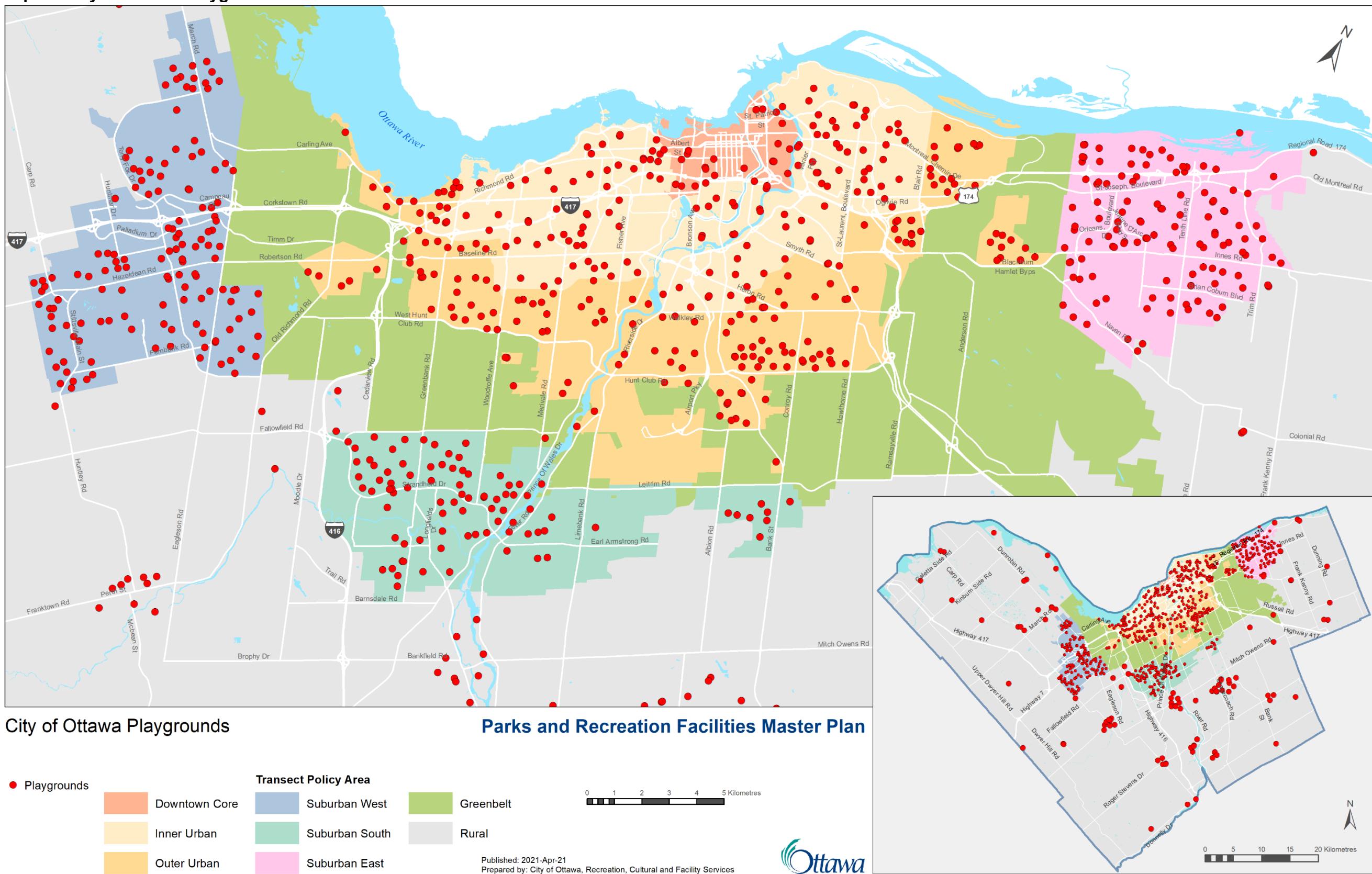
Recommendations:

- a. Set a target provision level of one playground per 1,400 residents.
- b. Set a geographic provision target of 1 playground within a 5- to 10-minute walk (400m to 800m radius) of most homes located within the Urban Area Boundary or a village.

- c. Proceed with the planning and development of the 111 new playgrounds targeted for the 2021 – 2031 period, in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban, Suburban West, Suburban South, Suburban East and Rural transects.
- d. Consider the development of up to 3 new, additional, playgrounds in the 2021 – 2031 period in the Downtown Core. Expansion of existing playgrounds may also be considered as an alternative to developing a new playground to increase the capacity of the playground to serve a greater number of residents.

DRAFT

Map 19: City of Ottawa Playgrounds



Appendix B: Parkland Needs Assessment

1. Parkland Classification

The City of Ottawa has a classification system, which defines park typologies designed to meet the social, recreational and environmental needs of its residents (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 4). “The Park Classification establishes park typologies and outlines standards related to parkland size, location, service area radius, configuration, and amenities in order to inform the selection and subsequent design of park blocks” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 4).

The Park Classification currently establishes seven park typologies: District Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Parkettes, Woodland Parks, Urban Parkettes/Plazas and Linear Parks, and may be subject to change from time to time.

District Parks

“District Parks are destination parks with a very large or citywide service radius, that service groups of communities, entire districts, and can be used for citywide functions. They are designed as major destinations for residents and visitors and may have a tourism focus. District Parks may [also] have a competitive recreational focus” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 15). District parks are typically a minimum of 10 hectares in size.

Community Parks

“Community Parks service a specific community or group of neighbourhoods, providing a range of recreational opportunities, and should be well connected to the larger community. They...serve as a focal point within the community, [and host] active and passive recreational opportunities” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 17). Community parks range from a minimum of 3.2 hectares to a maximum of 10 hectares in size.

Neighbourhood Parks

“Neighbourhood Parks serve as the focal point of a neighbourhood, provide active and passive recreation opportunities, and offer a local gathering space within walking distance of local residents” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 19). Neighbourhood parks range from 1.2 to 3.2 hectares in size.

Parkettes

“Parkettes are small parks that are located within walking distance of residents. They provide central green space and social gathering places within neighbourhoods and offer predominantly passive recreation and minor active recreation opportunities within a local residential or mixed-use neighbourhood” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 21). Parkettes range from 0.4 hectares to 1.2 hectares in size. Parkettes supplement a neighbourhood’s park network and are not meant to be the only park typology in a community (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 21).

Urban Parkettes / Urban Plazas

Urban Parkettes and Urban Plazas are small parks associated with the urban fabric and are often acquired through intensification and redevelopment of inner-urban areas. Urban Plazas are a minimum of 400m² in size⁴⁶. Urban Parkettes range from 0.2 to 0.4 hectares in size.

“In highly intensified inner-urban areas, [this park typology] is often characterized by small size, predominantly hard surface with shade trees and other vegetation” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 23). The park may also include elements such as seating, lighting, shade structures and artistic elements. “In moderately intensified outer-urban areas, the size may be larger due to more available space and there may be room for additional plantings, grassy areas and specific recreational components such as basketball, water play, tennis court, adult fitness and feature playground components” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 23).

What are POPS?

POPS are Privately Owned Public Spaces. These are open spaces that the public may use but, which are owned and maintained by a private party rather than by the City.

Typically, POPS are part of high-density developments and are created through negotiations with private developers when a development application is submitted to the City for review and approval.

POPS do not meet the Parkland Dedication By-law requirements for public parkland and are not a substitute for public parks. Where a POPS is created, the City still requires the dedication of parkland or cash equivalent.

POPS are not described in the City’s Park Development Manual because they are not municipally owned.

⁴⁶ Land taken for urban plazas may be less than 400m² where the land taken is adjacent to an existing City park and can be used to expand the size and functions in that park.

Woodland Parks

“Woodland Parks are a unique classification where an established woodland is preserved within a development areas and integrated into the park network as a recreational amenity...The development of a woodland park involves more protection than intervention...Woodland parks [are] only considered as a dedicated parkland where the community is already adequately served with other recreational amenities such as sports fields and playgrounds” (City of Ottawa: *Park Development Manual, Second Edition*. 2017, 25). Woodland parks range from 1.2 to 3.2 hectares in size and are not classified as environmentally protected zones or urban natural features.

Linear Parks

Linear Parks became a new City park typology in 2021 and, as such, are not described in the 2017 Park Development Manual. A complete description of Linear Parks, including their size and configuration, amenity requirements, vegetation criteria and frontage requirements, will be added to subsequent editions of the Manual. Until that time, proposals for Linear Parks will be examined on an individual basis to determine if they address community recreational needs.

2. Existing and Planned Inventory of City-owned Parkland

In 2021, the City has 2.31 hectares of City-owned and leased active parkland per 1,000 people (see Table 52 and Map 20). Across the city, parkland and recreation amenities in each neighbourhood vary based on when the neighbourhoods were developed and the type of parkland requirements that were in place at that time.

As explained in the 2019 report to Committee and Council *City of Ottawa – New Official Plan Preliminary Policy Directions*, Document 2 (ACS2019-PIE-EDP-0046), past planning decisions and incentives to encourage growth have had an effect on the availability of City-owned parkland. In inner urban wards, Development Charges are used to construct parks if parkland is secured through a development application agreement. Development charges and parkland dedication/cash-in-lieu of parkland were waived for residential developments in the downtown area from 1994 to 2011, to encourage development in the downtown. In 2011, the City began collecting cash-in-lieu of parkland in inner urban wards, but the practice to not acquire public land for parks remained until 2015, when it was determined that it was important to begin acquiring parkland in these wards. These policies resulted in a 21-year period where no new parks were developed, despite increasing development and redevelopment and the resultant population growth in these areas.

As illustrated in Table 52, these areas currently have parkland provision rates that are lower than other areas. While the City is now acquiring parkland in these areas, the ability to acquire land for larger parks to serve local residents can be challenging⁴⁷.

The report *City of Ottawa – New Official Plan Preliminary Policy Directions*, Document 2 additionally explains that “the context is different in suburban areas and rural villages. In recent years, the practice of accepting a combination of both land and cash-in-lieu of parkland has challenged the City’s ability to acquire larger parks. Over the last 5 years, it has demonstrated that individual park sizes have been shrinking overall. On average, 11 new parks per year have been created citywide, at an average size of 1.3 hectares. This trend has led to a demonstrable shortage of active recreation opportunities that require larger parcels. For example, because of smaller parcel sizes, the City typically can only develop intermediate or mini soccer fields instead of full-size ones. In general, soccer leagues switch to full-size fields when children are 12 years old. A trend towards smaller parks restricts the selection of amenities that can be provided to a local community”. By accepting smaller parks sizes, it has become a challenge to meet many community recreation needs and provide facility types that need larger spaces. Compounding this, many new school sites no longer include sports fields, for school or after-hours community use.

As shown in Table 52, in 2021 some transects are more park rich and some are park deficient. The Downtown Core is the most park deficient at 0.5 hectares per 1,000 residents. The Inner Urban transect is the second most park deficient at 1.35 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Note: At the time of translation and publishing of this draft document, accurate transect-based population projections, reflective of the 2020 Draft Official Plan direction, were not available. Therefore, for all calculations in this draft, the 2021 and 2031 City of Ottawa population figures are based on Environics population data and projections; these do not reflect the Official Plan growth direction.

The tables will be revised in the final Master Plan to reflect that 2020 Draft Official Plan transect-based population projections. The transect based parkland provision levels are expected to change from the numbers presented in this draft. In transects where the 2020 Draft Official Plan is directing new growth, the 2031 provision levels are expected to become poorer.

⁴⁷Acquiring land for larger parks can be challenging for a number of reasons including, perceptions that existing parkland meets residents needs, that federal lands provide sufficient recreation opportunities and that parkland acquisition will compromise development targets, as well as past precedents of accepting a combination of both land and cash-on-lieu of parkland as opposed to land only.

Based on known active parkland acquisition, by 2031 the total City-owned and leased active parkland is expected to be 2.18 hectares per 1,000 people. The Downtown Core and Inner Urban transects will continue to be the most park deficient, while the Greenbelt and Rural transects will remain the most park rich.

Table 52: Municipally owned and Leased Active Parkland Provision Level, City of Ottawa, 2021-2031

Area	Dedicated active Parkland 2021 (hectares)	2021 active parkland per 1,000 people (hectares)	New active parkland acquisition 2021-2031 (hectares)	Total dedicated active parkland in 2031 (hectares)	2031 active parkland per 1,000 people (hectares)
Downtown Core	40.07	0.50	3.86	43.93	0.48
Inner Urban	334.99	1.35	18.10	353.12	1.32
Outer Urban	512.78	2.30	3.19	515.97	2.14
Greenbelt	55.35	19.60	0	55.35	14.02
Suburban West	347.92	2.66	78.06	425.98	2.96
Suburban South	274.22	2.18	51.06	325.28	2.28
Suburban East	275.56	2.05	35.27	310.83	2.04
Rural	614.10	6.20	21.43	635.53	5.57
City-Wide	2454.99	2.31	201.54	2666.00	2.19

Estimate of Additional Future Parkland

New development to 2031 will generate additional parkland and cash-in-lieu of parkland. The final Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan may include an estimate of this parkland and cash-in-lieu of parkland. This would be estimated using the 2020 Draft Official Plan transect-level population and unit projections (once available) and the current Parkland Dedication By-law.

Parkland Need Generated by Facility Needs Assessments

In addition to planned facilities, the facility needs assessments note where additional new facilities are recommended. These needs and land requirements are summarized in the Table 53.

Table 53: Recommended Additional Facilities and Land Requirements

Facility Type	Number recommended	Land requirement per facility	Total land requirement
Recreation Complex	1	5.5 ha	5.5 ha
Community Building	2	0.5 ha	1 ha
50m Indoor Aquatic Facility	1	4.7 ha	4.7 ha
Splash Pads	19	250 m ²	4,750m ²
Arenas	1	2.8 – 3.2 ha	2.8 – 3.2 ha
Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rinks	3	1,800 m ²	5,400 m ²
Outdoor Artificial Turf Fields	1	11,000 m ²	11,000 m ²
Ball Diamonds	10	15,000 m ²	15 ha
Tennis / Pickleball	22	1,154 m ² (doubles tennis court)	2.54 ha
Outdoor Basketball Courts	3	608 m ²	1,824 m ²
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	32	360 - 684 m ²	1.15 – 2.19 ha
Fitness Equipment	10	250 - 350 m ²	2,500 – 3,500m ²
Cricket Pitches	1	2.2 ha	2.2 ha
BMX & Mountain Biking Parks	1	0.32 ha	0.32 ha
Playgrounds	3	500 – 1,000 m ²	1,500 – 3,000 m ²

The land requirements identified for Recreation Complexes and Community Buildings take into account the building footprint and all other required land.

For the other facilities, the table only identifies the land area to meet the dimension of the facility itself. Because these facilities exist within a larger park, additional land area may be needed to address all supporting park elements such as parking, pathways, servicing bunkers, field safety zones, and the 2020 Draft Official Plan tree canopy requirements.

The estimated amount of parkland to be repurposed or newly acquired, to 2031, will be upwards of 39.60 hectares. Part of this land requirement will come via Parkland Dedication and the use of the alternative dedication rate under the Planning Act. The City can also purchase land for recreation buildings using Development Charges (DC) funds⁴⁸. However, the alternative Parkland Dedication rate and DC funding will not be sufficient

⁴⁸ Funds from Development Charges may not be used to purchase land for parks.

to secure all of the required land. Therefore, the City may need to develop other means of land acquisition in order to meet projected parks and facilities needs.

Citywide Distribution of Large and Small Parks

Existing parks can be divided into ‘larger’ and ‘smaller’ parks. Larger parks include the Community and District park typologies and are 3.2 hectares in size or greater. Smaller parks include all smaller typologies and are less than 3.2 hectares in size. Larger park parcels allow more flexibility for the evolution of the park use over time, as the community demographics and needs change. Where a larger park can accommodate multiple changing functions over the years, smaller park spaces have much less ability to evolve.

As noted above, in recent years, the City’s ability to acquire larger parks has been led to a demonstratable shortage of active recreation opportunities that require larger parcels. Table 54 identifies the total number of large and small parks in each transect and provides a large to small park ratio. The citywide average ratio of large to small parks is 1:5. The Downtown Core has the fewest large parks (2) and the largest ratio of large to small parks at 1:20. By 2031, this ratio is projected to be 1:25. All other transects have a current large to small part ratio of 1:7 or less, which is projected to remain the case in 2031.

Table 54: Large and Small Parks by Transect 2021-2031⁴⁹

Area	2021 large parks (#)	2021 small parks (#)	2021 ratio of large to small parks	Total 2031 large parks (#)	Total 2031 small parks (#)	2031 ratio of large to small parks
Downtown Core	2	39	1:20	2	49	1:25
Inner Urban	26	177	1:7	27	197	1:7
Outer Urban	38	165	1:4	38	170	1:4
Greenbelt	5	3	1:1	5	3	1:1
Suburban West	26	161	1:6	34	190	1:6

⁴⁹ The 2031 ratios are based on known parkland acquisition to 2031.

Area	2021 large parks (#)	2021 small parks (#)	2021 ratio of large to small parks	Total 2031 large parks (#)	Total 2031 small parks (#)	2031 ratio of large to small parks
Suburban South	19	110	1:6	24	134	1:6
Suburban East	34	89	1:3	37	110	1:3
Rural	40	155	1:4	45	160	1:4
City-Wide	190	899	1:5	212	1013	1:5

3. Benchmarking

Table 55 provides a comparison of municipal provision⁵⁰ of parkland per 1,000 people. At 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people, Ottawa's Official Plan target for parks and leisure areas falls within the middle range of parkland provision.

Table 55: Municipal provision of parkland per 1,000 people

Municipality	Municipal Parkland per 1,000 people (hectares)	Notes
Guelph	3.3	Target for active parkland
Burlington	3.19	Includes woodlots, trails, general open space etc.
St. Catherine's	3.0	Includes woodlots, general open space etc.
Barrie	2.2	Target for active parkland
Milton	2.15	Actual provision rate of active parkland
Whitby	2.0	Target for Municipal Parkland
Ottawa	2.0	Target for municipal parks and leisure areas (OP)
Richmond Hill	1.37	
Mississauga	1.2	Target for active parkland

⁵⁰ Figures come from direct correspondence with municipal staff and represent municipally owned parkland.

Municipality	Municipal Parkland per 1,000 people (hectares)	Notes
London	1.15	Current provision rate for active parkland; no set target
Brampton	1.6	Represents land suitable for active parks and is the minimum recommended provision rate
Hamilton	0.7	Target for urban active parkland
Toronto	-	Toronto uses four criteria to identify parkland priority transects for acquisition / dedication of parkland. The four criteria are: parkland provision (in 2033), existing low park supply, impact of growth (to 2033) and low-income residents (%) ⁵¹ .

4. Public and Stakeholder Consultation

In support of the 2020 Draft Official Plan, the City conducted a 15-minute Neighbourhood Survey. This survey was accessible to the public from August 6th to September 16th, 2020 and received approximately 4,500 responses. The survey results indicated that parks were the second highest priority neighbourhood amenity, after grocery stores. The results indicated that most respondents walk to parks and that respondents from the Downtown Core and Rural transects were the most likely to identify parks as missing from their neighbourhoods.

Through the two Engage Ottawa online surveys and virtual stakeholder consultation sessions in support of this Master Plan, as well as through numerous individual emails, the City received significant public input related to parkland. This draft incorporates the initial analysis of the feedback, which will be detailed in the final master plan.

Engage Ottawa surveys

The Engage Ottawa *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey* was open to all residents over a six-week period. The survey asked a number of questions related to facilities described in Appendix A. It also asked general questions regarding use of

⁵¹ More information can be found in Toronto's Parkland Strategy

municipal parkland in a typical year. The results reveal that more survey participants visit the City's larger park types, and do so more often, than the smaller park types.

- 90 per cent of survey participants said that their household visits district parks. Of these 90 per cent, 58.6 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.
- 91 per cent of participants said that their household visits community parks. Of these 91 per cent, 70.6 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.
- 93 per cent of participants said that their household visits neighborhood parks. Of these 93 per cent, 77.8 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.
- 79 per cent of participants said that their household visits parkettes. Of these 79 per cent, 59.7 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.
- 68 per cent of participants said that their household visits linear parks. Of these 68 per cent, 53.5 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.
- 63 per cent of participants said that their household visits urban parkettes / plazas. Of these 63 per cent, 37.9 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.
- 91 per cent of participants said that their household visits woodland parks. Of these 91 per cent, 60.1 per cent visit 11 or more times per year.

For participants who did not visit a certain park type, the survey asked why.

- For those 10 per cent of participants who don't visit district parks, the top three reasons for not visiting were: Too far to travel (54 per cent), Lack of information / don't know what is offered (23 per cent) and Lack of time / too busy (20 per cent)
- For those 9 per cent who don't visit community parks, the top three reasons were: The park does not have any activities or features that I am interested in (54 per cent), Too far to travel (30 per cent), Lack of information / don't know what is offered (19 per cent)
- For those 7 per cent who don't visit neighborhood parks, the top three reasons were: The park does not have any activities or features that I am interested in (55 per cent), Too far to travel (32 per cent), Lack of amenities (16 per cent)
- For those 21 per cent who don't visit parkettes, the top three reasons were: The park does not have any activities or features that I am interested in (48 per cent), Too far to travel (22 per cent), Lack of amenities (15 per cent)
- For those 32 per cent who don't visit linear parks, the top three reasons were: Too far to travel (36 per cent), The park does not have any activities or features that I am interested in (26 per cent), Lack of information / don't know what is offered (20 per cent)
- For those 37 per cent who don't visit urban parkettes/plazas, the top three reasons were: The park does not have any activities or features that I am interested in (39 per cent), Too far to travel (33 per cent), Lack of amenities (16

per cent)

- For those 9 per cent who don't visit woodland parks, the top three reasons were: Too far to travel (35 per cent), Lack of information / don't know what is offered (20 per cent), The park does not have any activities or features that I am interested in (19 per cent)

Virtual Stakeholder Consultations

The six virtual stakeholder consultation sessions in February were structured as a conversation between participants and facilitators. Because of this, participants were able to detail their particular interests and concerns. The main themes related to parkland are summarized below.

1. A significant and frequently expressed concern was the 2020 Draft Official Plan direction and the impacts of intensification. This concern was noted primarily by participants living in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects. Public, stakeholders, and community associations noted that the 2020 Draft Official Plan intensification will result in more demand for and pressure on existing park spaces and facilities (e.g. demand for tennis court time, access to swim lessons). In a number of neighbourhoods, stakeholders stated that there was already too much demand on parks and recreation facilities and that it was already difficult to get playing time at a local court or register for an instructional program. Stakeholders also noted that the areas targeted for intensification have some of the oldest facilities in the City and that these are in need of expansion or repair. They asked where the land for expanded or new parks and facilities will come from. While stakeholders living in the Downtown Core, Inner Urban and Outer Urban transects were the most concerned about intensification, stakeholders from the other transects also noted that the provision of parks and facilities must keep pace with population growth in their areas.
2. Participants expressed an interest in local parks and facilities that they can walk to, as well as larger multi-sport parks and facilities that provide many options in one place. Participants noted that parks and facilities, both indoor and outdoor, with many options provide interest for family members of all ages.
3. Participants noted an absence of larger parks downtown. They expressed the need to retain existing large open and green spaces in the downtown area. They also stressed that downtown recreation and community centres should not be closed down. It is important to note that the public's perception of downtown does not necessarily match the transect boundaries of the

Downtown Core in the 2020 Draft Official Plan and is generally larger than the transect area.

4. A significant number of participants stated that there should be 'more to do' at the City's parks and facilities. They want more options, and more options for all age groups. Children, tweens, teens, young adults, adults and older adults were all mentioned as groups looking for more to do. Creating more activity options in parks and recreational facilities requires a combination of more programming, more space and more land in which to create new offerings.
5. Participants noted that parking at parks and recreational facilities remains important in a number of cases. This includes for people with mobility impairments who need to drive to parks and facilities, for certain older participants, for people transporting equipment (e.g. hockey bags and soccer nets) and for people transporting lots of kids or carpooling (with or without equipment). Participants also noted that when programs, such as swimming lessons, were full at their local facility, they would register for a program outside their neighbourhood, in which case the availability of parking was also important.

Local School Boards

In March, an initial meeting was held with the Ottawa's four School Boards. Discussions centered around the long-range planning and the School Boards' use of municipal parks.

School Board participants noted that some schools, in particular within the Greenbelt, are small and seeing demands to accommodate more pupils and additional parking. In some cases, a building addition is possible, in others, portables are added; in all cases, additions are dependent on funds from the Ministry of Education and the need must be proven to be sustained. Where parking, portables or horizontal additions are made, there is a reduction in the school's yard area.

While the City's 2020 Draft Official Plan is projecting significant intensification, the School Boards noted that it can be very difficult to do long-range forecasting of student population numbers. However, with intensification, it is possible that school yard areas will need to be reduced in size, if a school's enrollment necessitates additions. The School Boards also noted that smaller school sites and the need for additions that fill up school yards may mean that the Boards would look to City lands to meet the needs for parking or portables.

Where school yard areas are small, the School Boards look to partnership agreements with the City to allow for student use of municipal parkland and, in some cases, for

shared parking. The School Boards' preference is for schools to be adjacent to or across the street from municipal parks. If existing school yards shrink, there will be greater demand for the use of municipal parkland. On a community level, there will also be less overall outdoor green space and recreation area.

National Capital Commission

The City operates a number of recreational facilities on lands leased from the National Capital Commission (NCC). Valley Stream Park, Westboro Beach and Mooney's Bay park and beach are examples of this long-term lease arrangement.

In March, the City and NCC held an initial meeting to discuss existing leases and future land development. The NCC indicated that it has no current plans for changes to the City's existing long-term leases, but that any future change would proceed according to the terms of the applicable lease. This is important as the City can continue to count the facilities provided on NCC lands towards the per capita provision levels.

The NCC also indicated that there are federally owned lands where there will be future development subject to the Parkland Dedication By-law such as at LeBreton Flats or near Hurdman Station, and that these may create opportunities for additional municipal parkland.

The NCC noted that any changes to Federal Lands must go through the Federal Lands approval process. The City and NCC will continue to discuss partnerships, pilots and new parks as opportunities emerge.

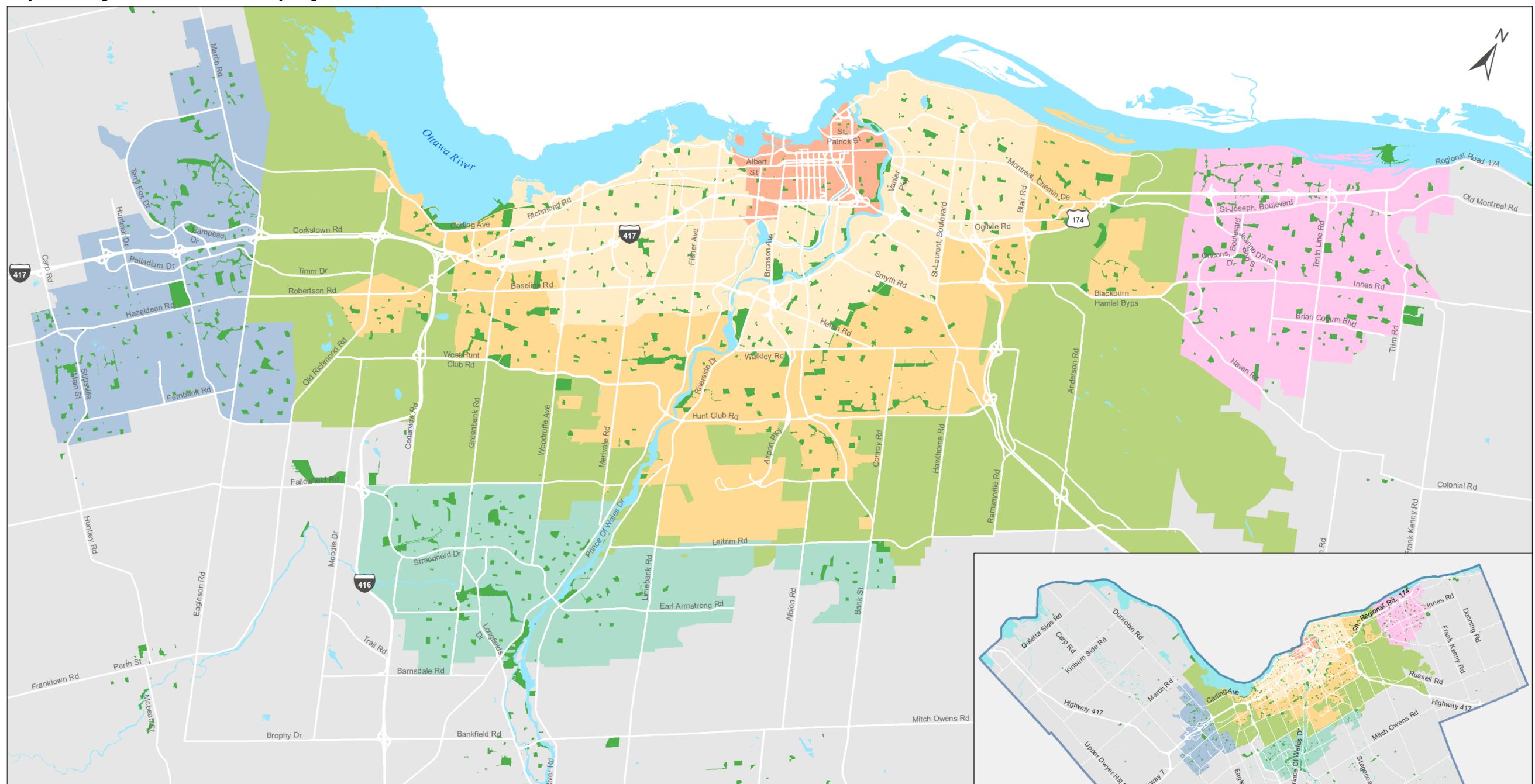
5. Provision Level Targets and Recommendations

1. Set the citywide provision rate for active parkland at 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents and apply this provision rate to each transect. 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents is recommended as:
 - a. This is consistent with the Official Plan target of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people for parks and leisure areas.
 - b. This is required to meet the land requirements to provide the additional new facilities as recommended in the recreation facility needs assessments.
 - c. As measured against other Ontario municipalities, Ottawa's provision level will remain close to the average
 - d. This recognizes the maximum amounts of land that can be acquired through the Planning Act and Parkland Dedication By-law
 - e. Input received through the public consultations identified that importance of both maintaining existing parks and adding new facilities for residents
 - f. The City's current parkland provision rate is 2.58 hectares per 1,000 people. Dropping the rate significantly below the recommendation would reduce the service level that residents have come to expect and enjoy.

2. Prioritize the acquisition of new parkland in transects and neighbourhoods that do not meet the 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people target, as shown in Tables 52 and Maps 1 – 4.
3. Set a transect level ratio of large to small parks at 1:5. This recommendation does not supersede the Land First policy of Section 7.2 meaning, where development would only generate a small park, land will still be taken rather than cash-in-lieu of parkland.
4. Prioritize the acquisition of large parks in transects where the ratio is higher than 15.

DRAFT

Map 20: City of Ottawa - Municipally Owned Active Parkland



City of Ottawa - Municipally Owned Active Parkland

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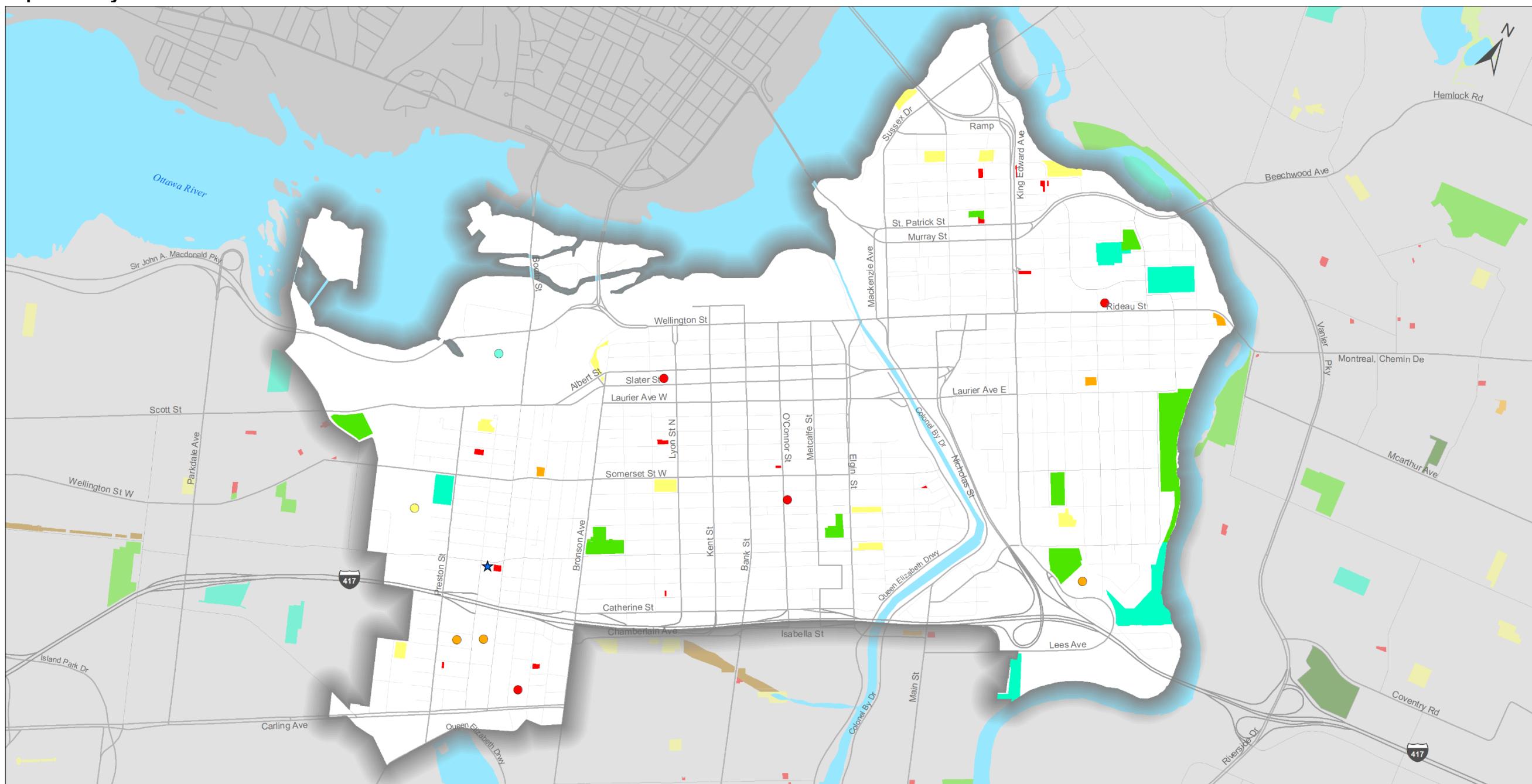


Published: 2021-Apr-22
Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

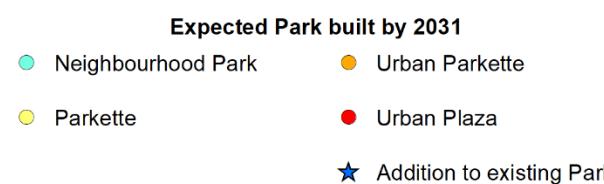


0 5 10 15 20 Kilometres

Maps 21: City of Ottawa Parkland - Downtown Core Transect



City of Ottawa Parkland - Downtown Core Transect



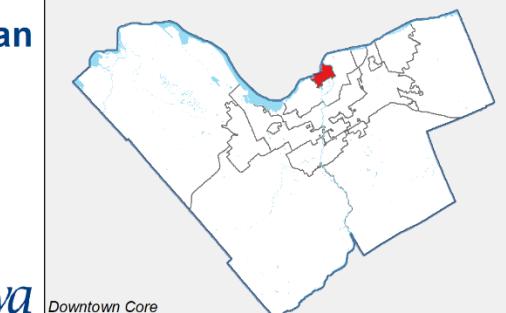
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Metres

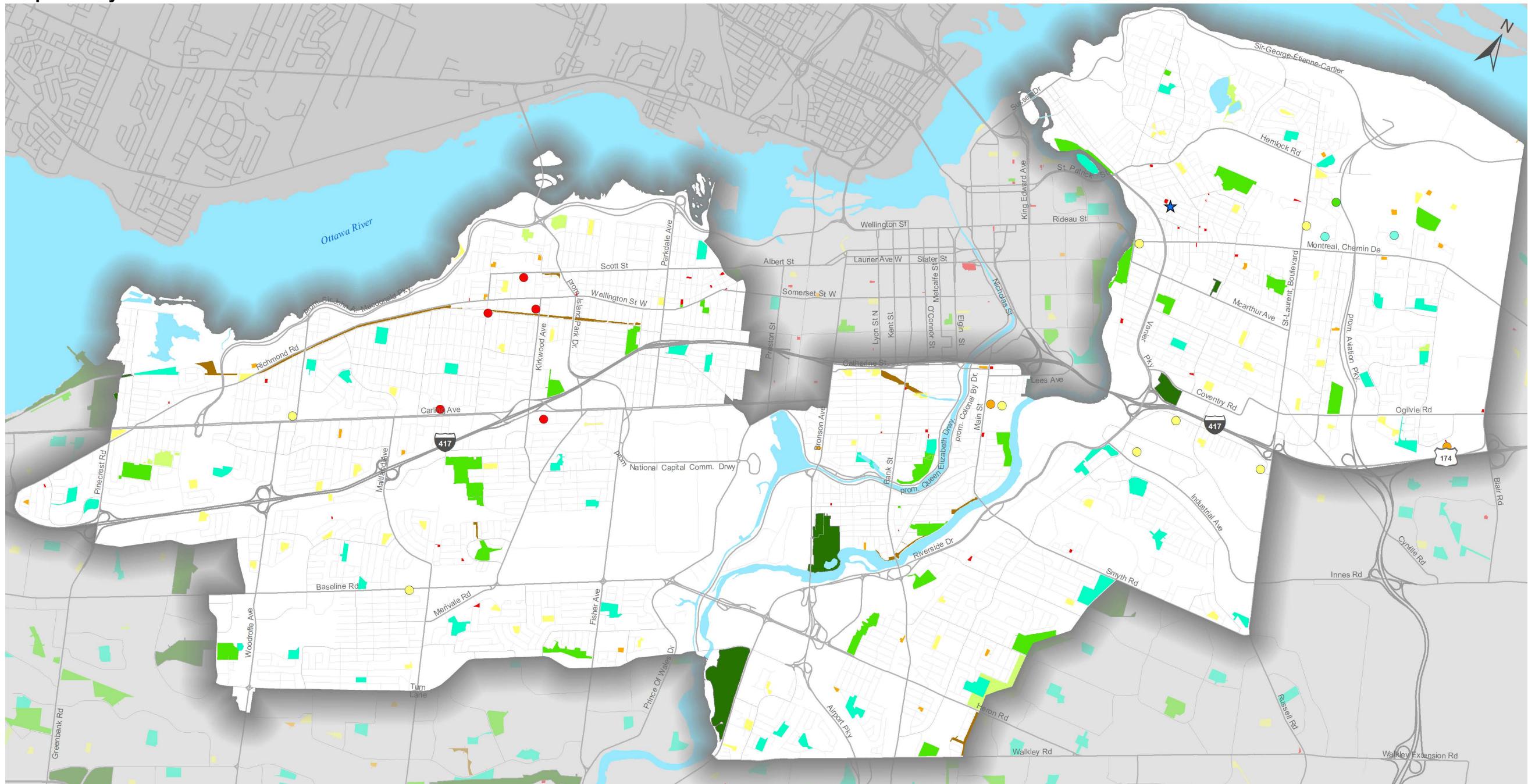
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Downtown Core



Map 22: City of Ottawa Parkland – Inner Urban Transect



City of Ottawa Parkland - Inner Urban Transect



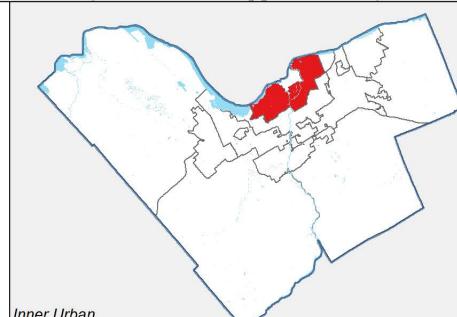
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 Metres

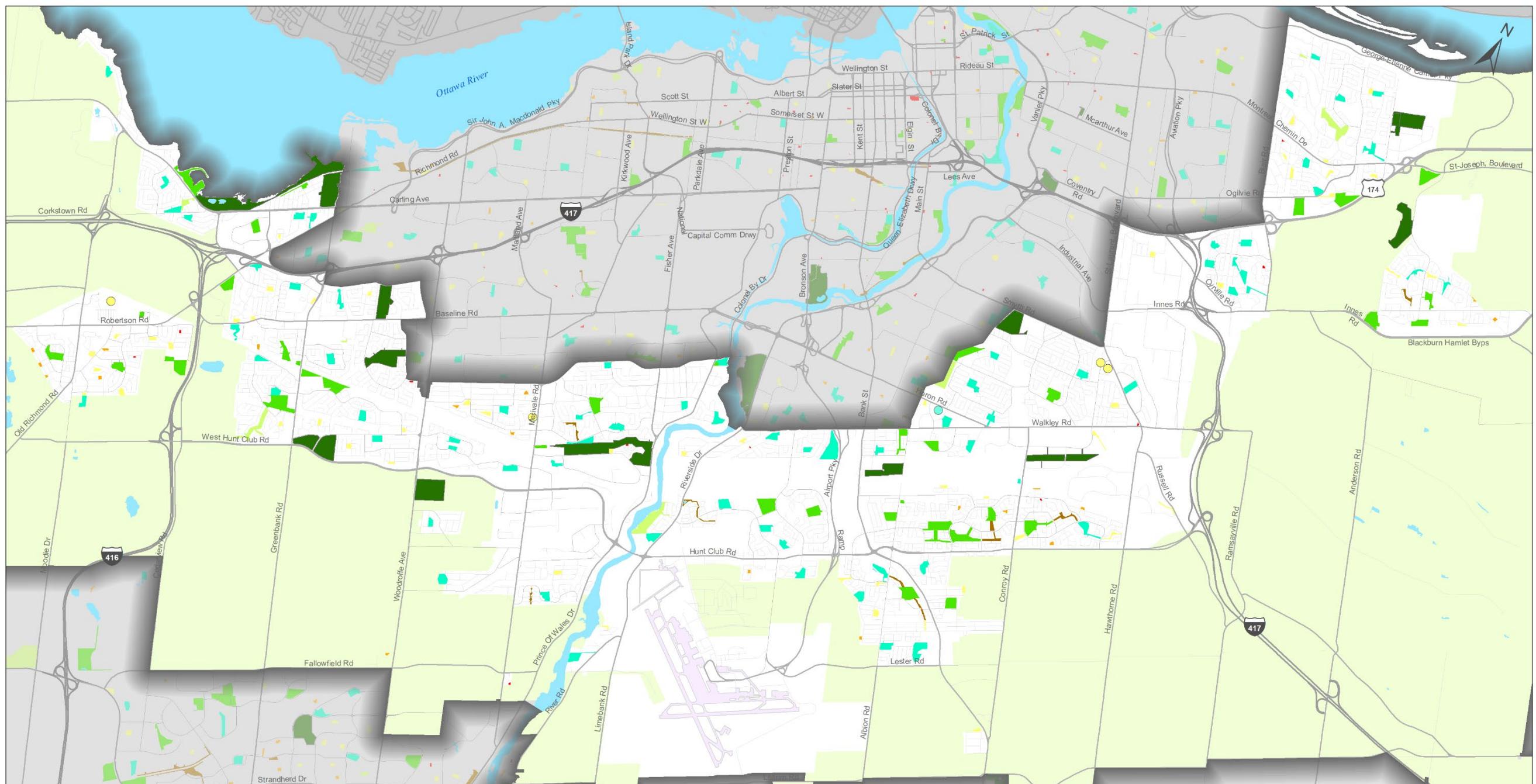
Published: 2021-May-03
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Inner Urban



Map 23: City of Ottawa Parkland – Outer Urban and Greenbelt Transects



City of Ottawa Parkland - Outer Urban & Greenbelt Transects



Expected Park built by 2031

- Neighbourhood Park
- Parkette

- Outer Urban
- Greenbelt

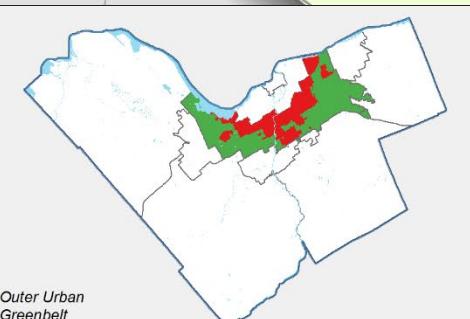
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 Metres

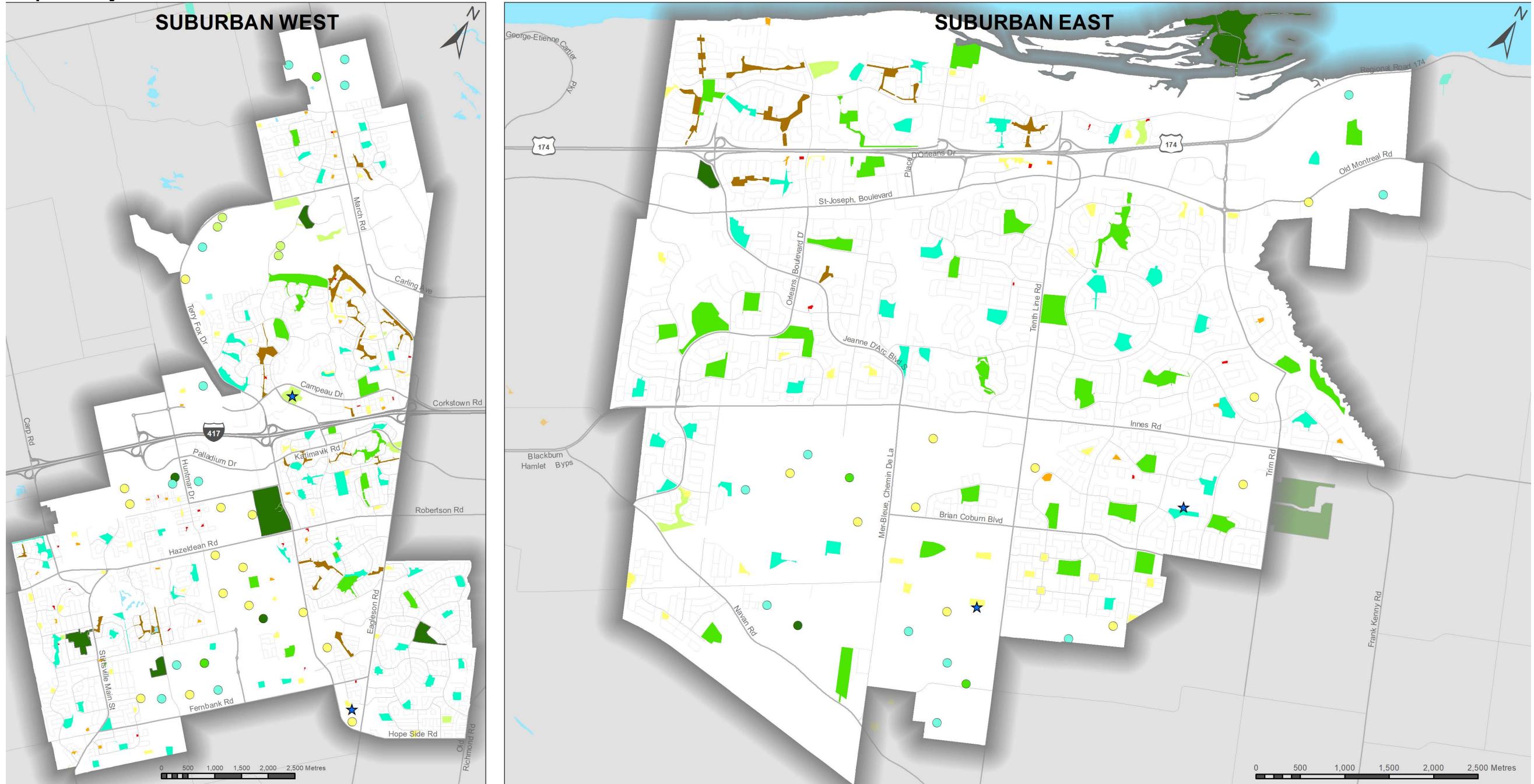
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Outer Urban
Greenbelt



Map 24: City of Ottawa Parkland – Suburban West and Suburban East Transects



City of Ottawa Parkland - Suburban West and Suburban East Transects

Existing Park

- [Dark Green Box] District Park
- [Light Green Box] Community Park
- [Cyan Box] Neighbourhood Park
- [Yellow Box] Parkette
- [Orange Box] Urban Parkette
- [Red Box] Urban Plaza
- [Brown Box] Linear Park
- [Light Green Box] Woodland Park

Expected Park built by 2031

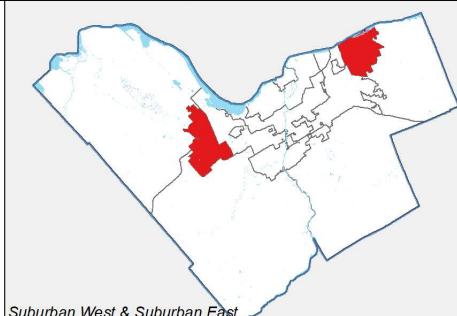
- [Dark Green Circle] District Park
- [Light Green Circle] Community Park
- [Cyan Circle] Neighbourhood Park
- [Yellow Circle] Parkette
- [Brown Circle] Linear Park
- [Light Green Circle] Woodland Park

Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

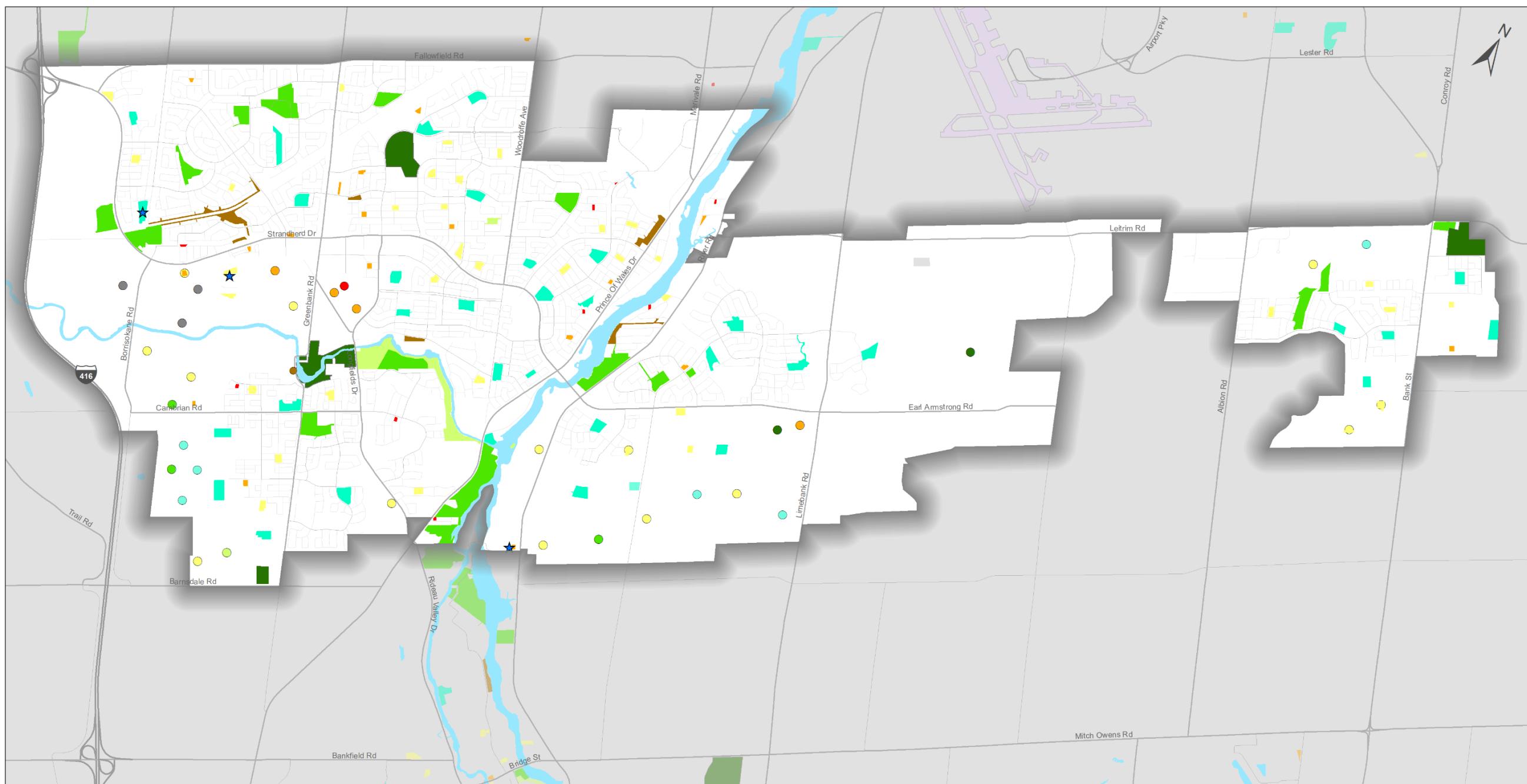
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Suburban West & Suburban East



Map 25: City of Ottawa Parkland – Suburban South Transect



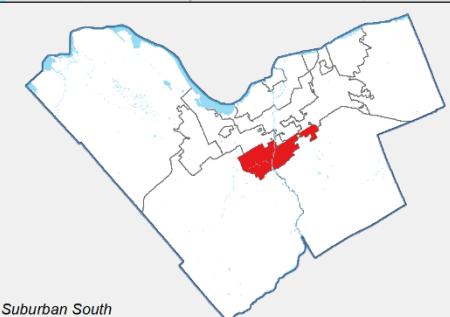
City of Ottawa Parkland - Suburban South Transect



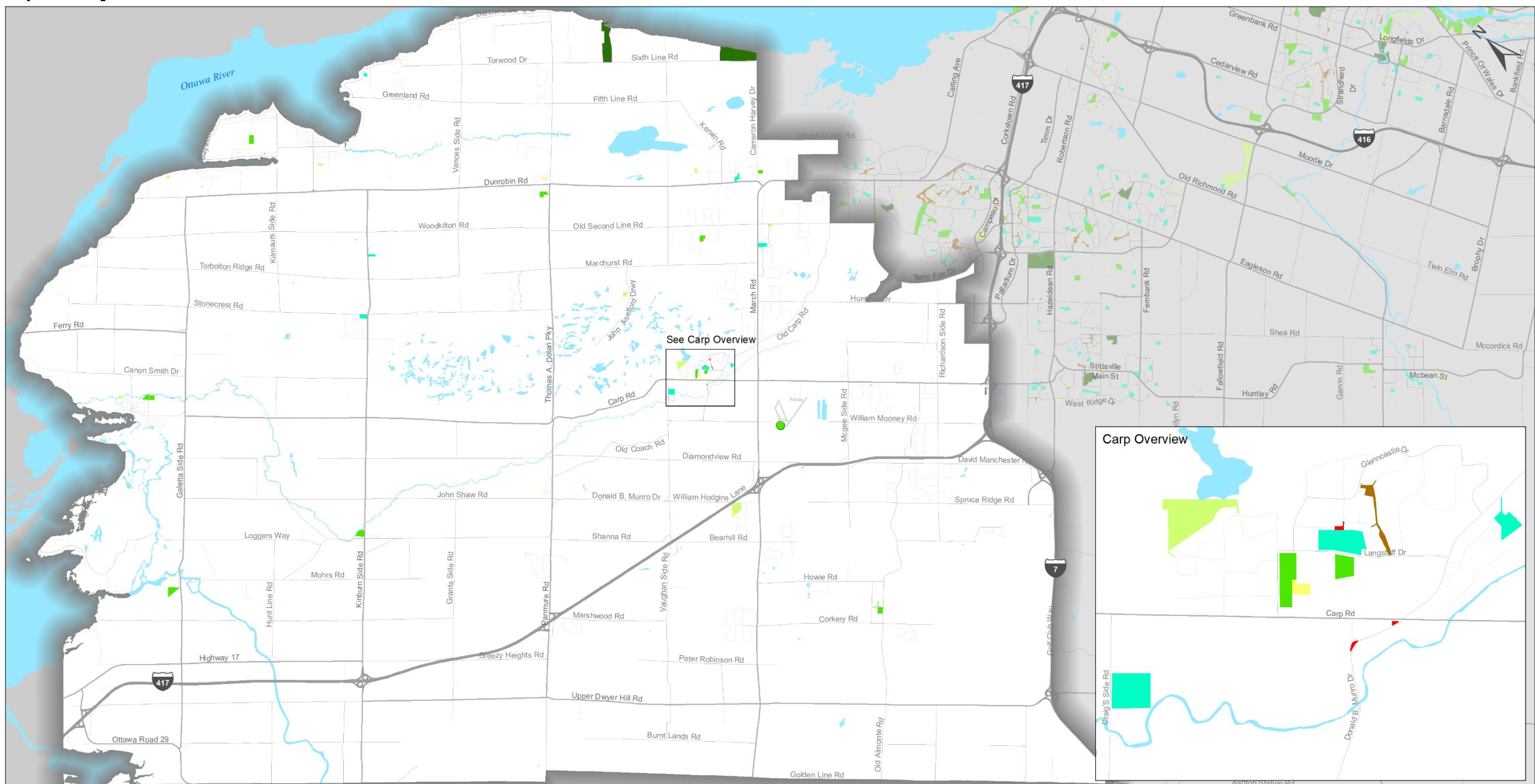
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Map 26: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Northwest



City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Northwest



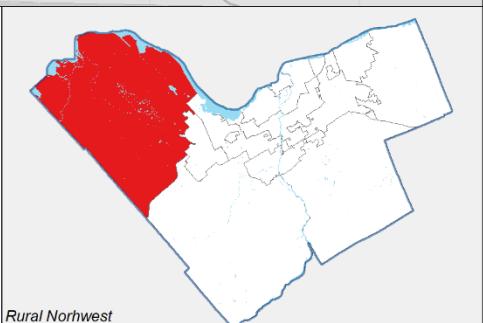
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0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

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Rural Northwest



Map 27: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Northeast



City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Northeast



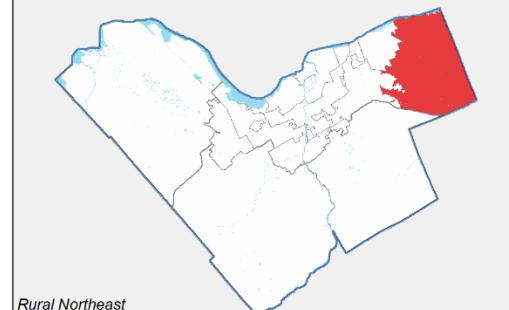
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

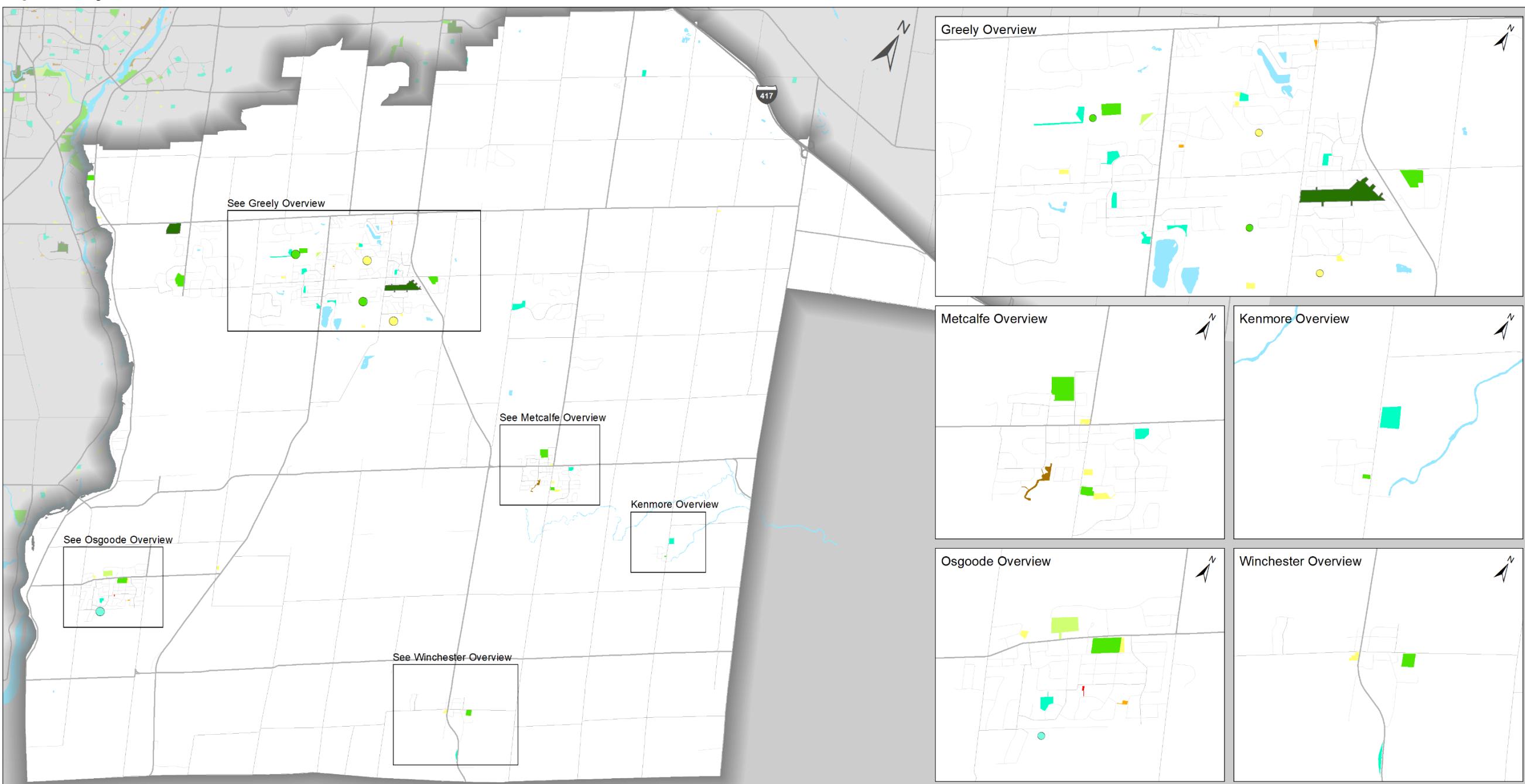
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Prepared by: City of Ottawa, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services



Rural Northeast



Map 28: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Southeast



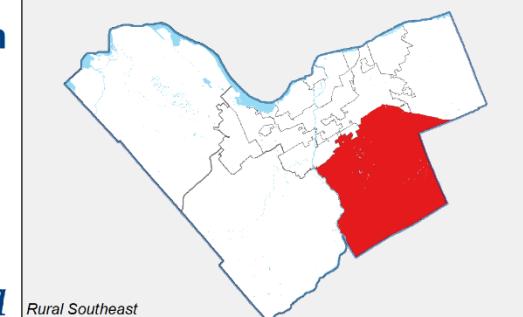
City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Southeast



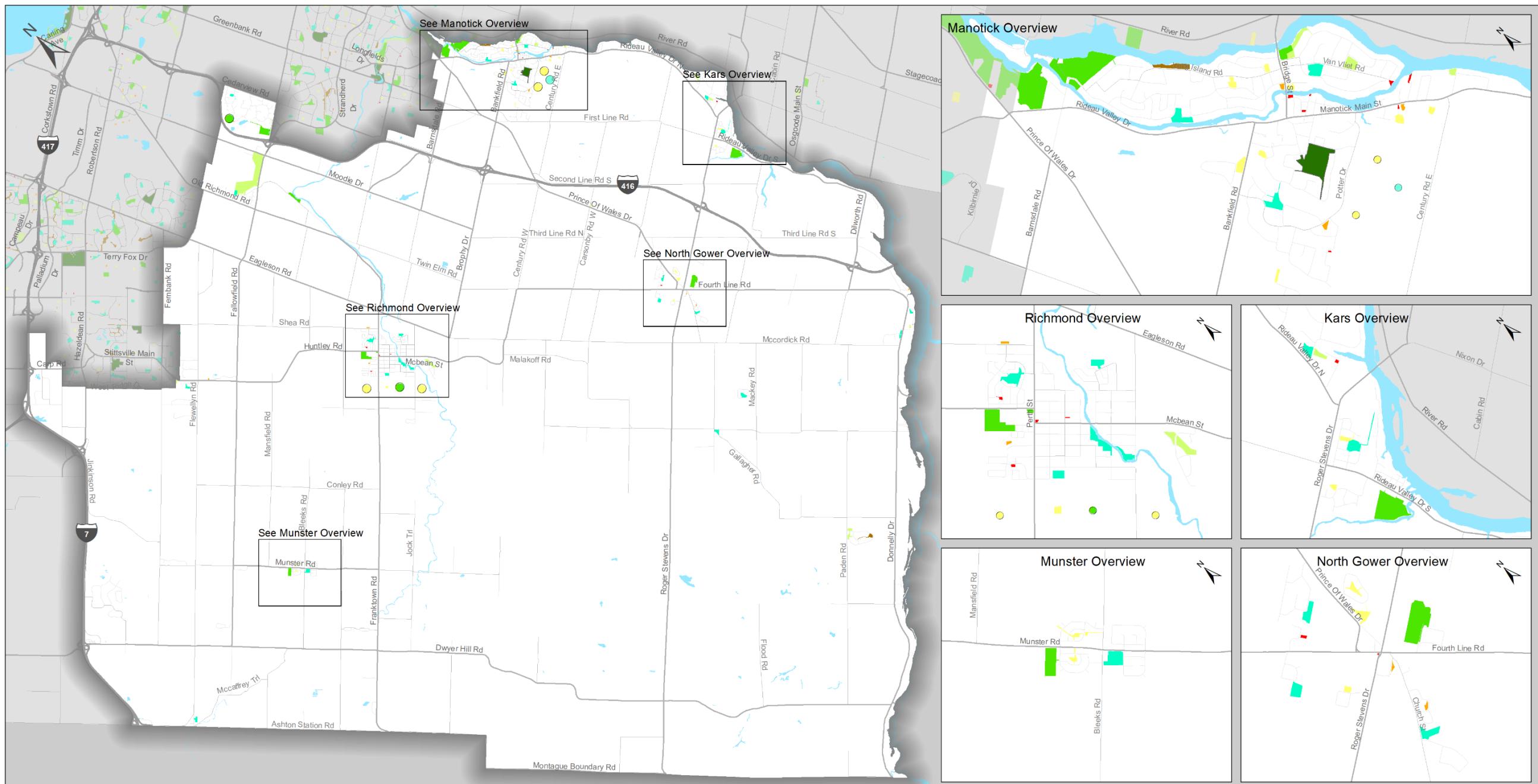
Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

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Map 29: City of Ottawa Parkland – Rural Southwest



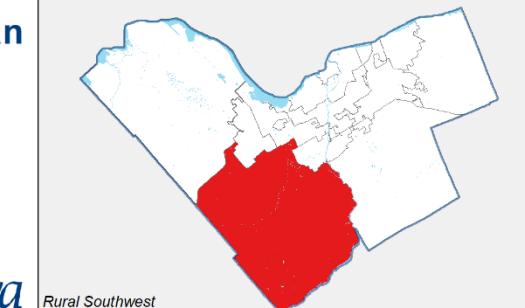
City of Ottawa Parkland - Rural Southwest



Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometres

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Appendix C: Sports and Facilities not subject of this Master Plan

Appendix A provides needs assessments for 22 recreational facility types. These are recreational facilities that are provided on municipally owned or leased parkland, are addressed by the City of Ottawa's Recreation Infrastructure Standards and / or are considered by the City to be essential for a citywide base level of service.

There are a number of specialized sports and facility installations that are not included in this document, as they are unique opportunities and / or outside of the Recreation Culture and Facility Services mandate. These include:

- Bike polo
- Bocce
- Community gardens
- Cross-country trails
- Curling
- Disk Golf
- Equestrian
- Horseshoe pits
- Golf
- Paddling
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Sports Domes
- Track and Field
- Stand-alone washrooms buildings

Appendix D: Impacts of Climate Change on Parkland and Recreation Facilities

The provision of parks and recreation facilities contributes both to Ottawa's ability to meet its greenhouse gas emission (GHG) targets (the city's contribution to climate change) and our ability to be a healthy, liveable city in future climate conditions. While actions taken to address climate change mitigation and adaptation may be dealt with in separate plans, policies, or programs (including the Parks Development Manual, relevant Asset Management Plan or maintenance and operation plans), this section outlines the key climate implications.

In order to achieve the long-term targets to reduce GHG emissions, the City must reduce energy consumption and emissions citywide, including within recreational facilities. Recreational facilities will be required to be designed and built to fulfill the energy efficiency targets as identified in Energy Evolution. Requirements will be met through such policies as the Green Building Policy for the Construction of Corporate Buildings. Policies within the Draft Official Plan support and encourage the innovative design practice and technologies in parks and recreational facilities site planning and building design.

While the impacts of climate change will be looked at in further detail as a part of the climate vulnerability assessment and Climate Resiliency Strategy, projected changes in temperature, precipitation and extreme weather will have broad impacts on our parks and recreation facilities. Anticipated impacts include:

1. Higher temperatures year-round will lead to extended recreational opportunities in spring and fall yet, reduce winter recreational opportunities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and outdoor skating.
2. Higher temperatures and extreme heat will increase the need for cool passive recreational areas to protect at-risk populations such as the very young, older adults, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness who don't have good access to air conditioning. This includes access to green spaces that have tree canopy and shaded structures. Warmer summer seasons and extreme heat will also increase the need for shaded active recreational areas and cooling amenities where people can seek reprieve from the heat. This will be particularly important in neighbourhoods with residents who have poor access to air conditioning and/or with limited green space or tree canopy. Shaded recreation areas will permit people to safely recreate.
3. Extreme heat events and extended summer seasons may increase the need for recreational programs, such as indoor and outdoor pools, splash pads and

beaches. This will be particularly important in neighbourhoods with vulnerable populations or with limited green space or tree canopy.

4. Extreme heat contributes to increased health risks (sunburn, fainting, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke) and injuries, especially for:
 - a. people playing sports with protective gear (e.g. football);
 - b. children encountering hot metal surfaces in playgrounds;
 - c. people with pre-existing health conditions or who are vulnerable due to age (i.e. the very young and older adults); and
 - d. people participating in activities on artificial turf surfaces as these materials heat up faster and retain the heat longer into the day.
5. Sports and recreation fields can be impacted by wetter springs (delaying openings) and warmer, drier summers (impacting turf regeneration).
6. Warmer temperatures and extended spring, summer and fall seasons may require different plant species which are more heat or drought tolerant. Conditions may be more favourable for invasive species and pests such as ticks or tree diseases.
7. An increase in extreme events, including high winds, freezing rain or heavy snow, can damage or kill trees and other vegetation, and require increased maintenance to clear branches and trees.
8. Warmer temperatures will reduce heating requirements in the winter months and increase cooling demands during the summer months affecting heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems in facilities.

Appendix E: Consultation Summary

The City began consultation specific to the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan in January 2021. This included surveys, online consultation sessions and targeted meetings, run primarily from January to the end of March. Throughout the period, the City also received, accepted and analyzed feedback via phone, fax, mail and email. There has been a high level of interest and engagement in the project, as summarized below.

Engage Ottawa Surveys

In January, two bilingual surveys were posted on Engage Ottawa for six weeks each. These surveys were the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Survey* and the *Indoor Recreation Facilities Survey*. The surveys asked respondents how their households used the parks, outdoor and indoor recreation facilities in their community, how satisfied they were with existing facilities and what they would like to see in the future.

The City received 1,384 responses to the outdoor & parks survey and 608 to the indoor survey, totalling to 1820 contributors (some residents completed both surveys). Based on postal code information, there was more participation from downtown, inner and outer urban wards citywide. The information from the responses continues to be collated, analysed and synthesized; this draft includes an initial analysis of the responses. The initial findings are incorporated into the *participation*, *utilization* and *public consultation* sections of appendices A and B and were used to inform the section recommendations. In some cases, the survey responses included feedback that was beyond the scope of this Master Plan and is therefore not included in the needs assessments. This additional feedback will be included in a Consultation Summary report, that will form part of the final Parks and Recreation Facilities Master plan.

Online Consultation Sessions

Between February 17 and 25, 2021, the City hosted six online facilitated consultation sessions. These sessions were open to all members of the public and all interested stakeholder groups. All sessions, including the presentation and breakout discussion, were offered in English and French. A session on February 24th was co-hosted by Ottawa Sport Council and focussed on sports fields and the wide range of outdoor and indoor sports courts and amenities and the needs of sport clubs and organizations.

A total of 212 people participated in these six online consultation sessions. Based on postal code information, participation was citywide. Feedback collected from these sessions continues to be analysed, grouped by theme or subject. The initial analysis of this information is incorporated into this draft document, particularly in the sections on

participation, utilization and public consultation. It was also used to inform the recommendations.

A significant amount of the feedback received was directly relevant to parks and recreation facilities but, beyond the scope of this Master Plan. For example, participants frequently commented on issues of maintenance, operations, programming, costs and transportation access to parks and facilities. Feedback of this nature is not included in this Master Plan but, will form part of a 'Consultation Summary report in the final Parks and Recreation Facilities Master plan.

Targeted Stakeholder Sessions

The City began targeted stakeholder sessions in March, focused on institutional partners such as the City's four school boards and the National Capital Commission. The focus of these sessions was to learn how each of these unique stakeholders currently use parks, indoor and outdoor municipal facilities, identify any issues, trends or opportunities for the term of the master plan to 2031. Feedback and information from these sessions has been used to inform the draft Master Plan.

Gender and equity seeking groups

The City of Ottawa *Report on findings from women and gender equity strategy consultations* in 2019 highlighted the following priorities that have been considered during development of the Master Plan, including:

- a gender inclusive city,
- representation, and
- resident engagement.

Related to gender inclusive theme, city images in the final master plan will include a range of gender identities, family types and intersections to contribute to persons of all genders and families to feel a part of the city's parks and recreation facilities.

As part of the commitment to engage with women and gender diverse residents during the development of the Master Plan, more than binary gender options and equity seeking group data was captured to ensure that a cross section of residents was heard. Due to the pandemic engagement was done online via survey and six virtual sessions were included in mornings, afternoons and evenings to allow for childcare or flexibility around work to participate. To address exclusion of women that may not be fluent in English or French, or do not have access to technology additional outreach for round two consultations will include organizations that work with women and 2SLGBTQ+ that may face these barriers to participation.

The women and gender equity specialist assisted with engagement development and will review the draft master plan with a gender lens. Engagement feedback analysis focussed on qualitative analysis to improve the level of knowledge gained from equity seeking groups

Future Consultation

Following presentation of the draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan at Committee and Council, the City will continue to analyze feedback from round one and engage in a second round of staff, public and stakeholder consultations. This is targeted for June 2021 and will focus on the recommendations and data presented in the draft Master Plan. A Consultation Summary report will be presented with the final Master Plan.

Focussed Surveys

Additional surveys may be sent to interest groups, sports organizations and community organizations. These surveys would seek to understand how the groups use city parks and recreation facilities, membership composition and levels of participation. The findings will form part of the final Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.