

A group of children are running happily in a grassy field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. One child in the foreground is holding a large, colorful rainbow kite. The children are dressed in casual summer clothing. The overall scene is vibrant and joyful, representing outdoor recreation.

# Recreation Master Plan

MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH BRUCE

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TRACT

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## **Acknowledgments**

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# Executive Summary



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Recreation Master Plan (2022-2032) will strategically guide the provision of recreation services and facilities in the Municipality of South Bruce over the next ten years). The Plan identifies current level of service, community needs, a vision for recreation and cultural services and facilities, and strategies and actions to meet these needs.

The Recreation Master Plan reflects the value citizens place on their local culture and their strong sense of community. The Master Plan recognizes that South Bruce is a welcoming community that is growing and is actively planning to be a community of choice for existing and new residents. Strategies and recommendations reflect the internationally proven view that quality recreation facilities and programs are a key component of community sustainability.

## Current Investment in Recreation

Before COVID-19 restrictions impacted revenues, the Municipality of South Bruce invested a net value of \$572,507, or \$102.76 per capita to operate recreation services and facilities.

## Recreation Facilities Inventory, Assessment and Public Engagement

The consultants visited all recreation facilities in South Bruce and assessed each in terms of quality and capacity to meet current and future needs of South Bruce residents. We also facilitated a public engagement process so that a clear understanding of community issues and needs could be gained. The table below summarizes the engagement method and level of participation.

METHOD OF ENGAGEMENT	LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION
Residential Survey	100 Participants
Youth Survey	40 Participants
Stakeholder Interviews (held virtually via Zoom)	22 Organizations + 3 via Questionnaire Only
Virtual Public Meeting via Zoom	8 Participants
Meeting with Facility Manager	
Recreation Advisory Committee	
Meeting with Council and Senior Staff	

## Vision

*The Municipality of South Bruce will use recreation and cultural services and facilities to enhance the quality of life, build a strong and welcoming community, bring people together, and attract and retain residents.*

## Strategic Directions

Based on the findings in this study, the Municipality of South Bruce should commit to the following overarching Strategic Directions:

- Ensure the provision of support physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help to build strong, caring communities.
- Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect to nature through recreation.
- Increase inclusion and access to recreation for all residents.
- Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of recreation.



## Strategies and Recommendations

Strategies and recommendations respond to the strategic directions. All recommendations are prioritized, and an order of magnitude cost estimate is provided.

Recommendations assigned the highest priority – for implementation in Year 1-3 – are presented below (Maintenance and Operations recommendations are not included.)

### Indoor Facility Recommendations:

- Engage an architect to undertake an assessment of existing recreation and community centres to determine how best to transform existing spaces into attractive and multi-functional spaces.
- Strengthen partnerships with all organizations, businesses and not-for-profit organizations that provide arts and cultural programming in the Municipality.



### Outdoor Facility Recommendations:

#### **TRAILS**

- Complete a detailed concept for trail expansion and connectivity.
- Seek a grant of up to \$50K from the Canada Infrastructure Active Transportation Fund to develop the trail concept plan.

#### **PARKS**

- Develop a Park Master Plan for Mildmay Arena Park that reimagines the park spaces to improve connectivity to the Mildmay-Carrick Community Centre, and adds more fun amenities for children, teens, and families while accommodating the Mildmay -Carrick Fall Fair.
- Develop Park Plans to improve school grounds in partnership with the school boards if additional parkland is required within the next ten years.

#### **TENNIS AND MULTI-USE COURTS**

- Upgrade the tennis court at Mildmay Old Ball Park to a multi-use court and remove shuffleboard (or replace it if demand grows)
- Develop one multi-use court in Teeswater.
- Convert new multi-use court to volunteer- run outdoor rinks in the winter.
- Develop a multi-use court at Formosa Outdoor Rink as part of its restoration.

#### **PLAYGROUNDS**

- Decommission old playground equipment at Teeswater Lions Park and Pool Site. Add protective surfacing to all playgrounds.

#### **TEESWATER RIVER ACCESS**

- Explore the opportunity with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and local landowners to develop a Teeswater River paddle route and access points.



## **ATHLETIC FIELDS**

- Partner with existing ball leagues and organizations to grow the sport of softball and baseball in the Municipality.
- Upgrade the ball diamonds as identified in this *Recreation Master Plan* should demand warrant.
- Provide support to the volunteers that run the minor soccer program.
- Promote and support growth of the sport of soccer in the Municipality.
- Upgrade the entire soccer field surface and amenities as identified in this Recreation Master Plan.

## **SPLASH PADS**

- Develop at least one splash pad with qualities to attract families from all over the municipality.
- Develop a multi-use court at the Formosa Rink as part of its restoration.

## *Program Recommendations:*

- Hire a program coordinator to lead the expansion of recreation, arts and cultural programs and activities in South Bruce and to build and strengthen community partnerships.
- Eventually hire additional staff as required.

## *Partnership Recommendations:*

- Engage all volunteers on a regular basis to identify they support they need.
- Hold biannual networking sessions with volunteers.
- Host volunteer appreciation events, such as an annual banquet.
- Assign the responsibilities of developing and implementing a volunteer program to the new program coordinator and hire a program coordinator assistant if required.
- Partner where possible with other organizations, municipalities, and school authorities in the provision of recreation services, facilities, and spaces.



# 2

## Introduction

The Municipality of South Bruce is the gateway to Bruce County. It is comprised of the Village of Mildmay and surrounding Township of Carrick, the Village of Teeswater and surrounding Township of Culross, and the Village of Formosa. The population of South Bruce in 2021 was 6,250, and this is expected to increase to 7,420 by 2031.

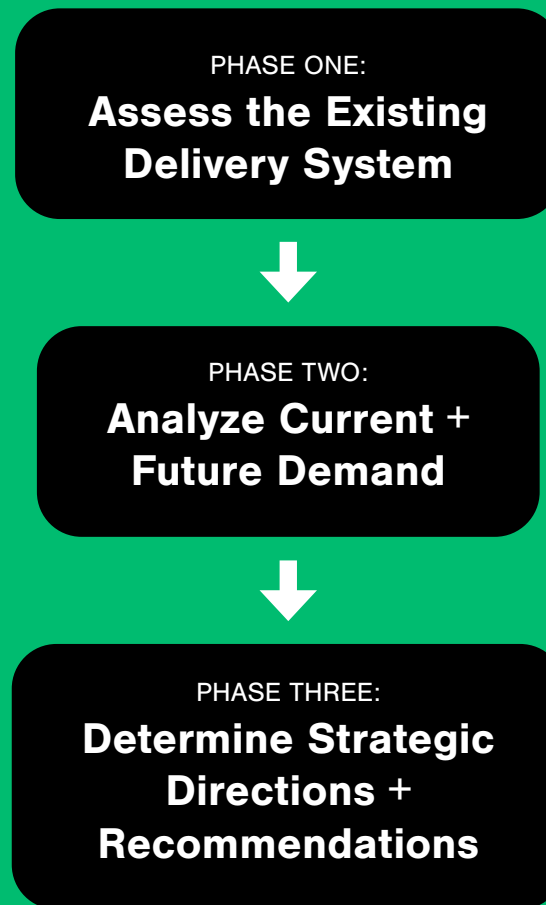
Recreation services and facilities in South Bruce are provided by the Municipality, a dedicated base of volunteers, and the private and not-for-profit sector. Engagement with citizens, volunteers, municipal staff, and other recreation providers was an essential component of this study: their insight and needs have guided the recommendations of this recreation master plan.

A goal of the Municipality of South Bruce is to attract new residents and retain young adults and seniors. Council recognizes that recreation is a key component of community growth. Indeed, the importance of recreation to community growth and attachment has been confirmed in many studies. High quality parks and recreation are important considerations when people are choosing a place to live. Recreation and cultural opportunities also influence people's attachment to place and involvement in the local culture and lifestyle.

The Recreation Master Plan presents a rationale for Council decision-making regarding provision and development of recreation services and facilities for the ten-year period from 2022-2032. The plan reflects the goals of South Bruce and the needs of its residents and strives to address these in the context of the fiscal realities of the Municipality.

## 1.1 Approach + Methodology:

The consulting team used a three-phase approach to develop the Recreation Plan. These phases are as follows:









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# Strategic Alignment

# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The *Recreation Master Plan* recommendations aligns with municipal, county, provincial and national strategies. The following documents were reviewed to identify current issues, priorities and leading practices. These documents and findings include:

## County:

- Bruce County Transportation Study (MTP Study).
- Workforce Development & Attraction STRATEGY 2021-2025.

## Provincial:

- Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), Everybody gets to play Ontario. Supplement ©2007, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- Investing in Healthy Ontarians through Recreation and Parks Infrastructure. Parks and Recreation Ontario. ©2007.
- Use and Benefits of Local Government Recreation and Parks Services: An Ontario Perspective – Research Summary. Parks and Recreation Ontario ©2009.
- Ontario Support for the Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015. Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

## National:

- A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Development.
- A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving 2018.
- Canadian Infrastructure Report Card 2019.



## Summary of Relevant Municipal Strategies.

Two studies completed for the Municipality of South Bruce feature goals, objectives, strategies, or actions that are especially relevant to the Recreation Master Plan. These are presented in the table below.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGY	RELEVANT GOAL, OBJECTIVE, STRATEGY, OR ACTION
<p>Municipality of South Bruce Economic Development Strategy Update: September 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide grants to community groups and citizens to revitalize spaces, reenergize community pride and unity, attract and retain youth and families, and rejuvenate quality of life and vitality in South Bruce villages.</li> <li>• Coordinate grants for South Bruce community groups aimed at activities and events that tangibly improve newcomers' feeling of welcoming and belonging.</li> </ul>
<p>Municipality of South Bruce Corporate Strategic Plan 2021-2025</p>	<p>Continue to foster partnerships and advocate for local priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuously engage with local community groups and volunteer organizations to ensure support and operate facilities and deliver programs and services.</li> </ul> <p>Invest in processes and innovative tools for efficient and effective service delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to advance accessibility practices.</li> <li>• Investigate the applicability of hiring a grant writer to access programs and complete funding applications.</li> <li>• Develop a Parks, Recreation &amp; Culture Master Plan to guide Council, staff and community stakeholders on leisure service delivery in South Bruce.</li> </ul> <p>Maintain and enhance infrastructure to meet existing and future resident and business needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster creativity through an arts/culture community hub that may include performing arts space, a makerspace for artisans, environmental education programming, and enhanced library services. A feasibility study should consider existing facilities. <i>(See <a href="http://www.artsbuildontario.ca/building/creative-hubs/">www.artsbuildontario.ca/building/creative-hubs/</a> for further rationale/examples)</i></li> </ul> <p>Promote and incorporate environmentally sustainable practices throughout the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand greenspace by creating new parks or engaging trusts to secure environmentally sensitive habitats.</li> </ul>

# 4

## Current Investment in Recreation

The Municipality provides both “direct” and “indirect” approaches to service delivery. Direct services are facilities and programs provided by the Municipality and run by recreation staff, such as community centres and swimming lessons. Indirect service delivery refers to those recreational opportunities supported by South Bruce but provided by others. Subsidized facility rentals to user groups, such as ice rinks and ball diamonds, or agreements with service groups (Rotary and Lions Club for example) to maintain parks, are examples of indirect service delivery.

Based on the 2019 Budget (2019 was selected since this was before COVID impacts on revenues) the Municipality currently invests a net value of \$572,507 (note this net cost does not include the Belmore donation) to operate arenas and community halls, parks and playgrounds, athletic facilities, outdoor swimming pools, libraries, and recreation programs. Given a 2019 population of 5571, as reported on the Municipal website, South Bruce invests \$102.76 per capita to operate recreation services and facilities.

The Table below provides a summary of community recreation investment for facilities and programs (2019). The recreation managers wages and benefits are averaged over the 11 categories listed in the table.



*Summary of Community Recreation Investment Per Service (2019):*

<b>RECREATION CATEGORIES</b>	<b>NET COST PER CATEGORY</b>	<b>INVESTMENT PER RESIDENT (\$)</b>
<b>2019 Actual Net Cost</b>		
1. Libraries	3,760	0.67
2. Mildmay Carrick Recreation Centre	168,388	30.23
3. Teeswater Culross Community Centre	128,926	23.14
4. Formosa Hall	35,263	6.33
5. Formosa Recreation Centre	15,383	2.76
6. Teeswater Town Hall	15,383	2.76
7. Parks	52,261	9.38
8. Ball Diamonds	24,979	4.48
9. Recreation Programs	11,218	2.01
10. Mildmay Pool	60,823	10.92
11. Teeswater Pool	56,104	10.07



# 5

## Recreation Facilities in South Bruce





# RECREATION FACILITIES IN SOUTH BRUCE

## Indoor Facilities + Spaces:

The following table lists the indoor facilities and spaces in South Bruce.

FACILITY TYPE	QUANTITY	LOCATION
Ice Arenas	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teeswater-Culross Community Centre Arena</li> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre</li> </ul>
Gymnasia  (Note: not all schools responded to our questionnaire: this number thus assumes all schools have a gymnasium and that public access is permitted)	5	Bluewater School District School Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Public School</li> <li>Hillcrest Central School, Teeswater</li> </ul> Bruce-Grey Catholic School District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecole Immaculee Conception, Formosa</li> <li>Mildmay Sacred Heart School</li> <li>Sacred Heart School, Teeswater</li> </ul>
Fitness Centres	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freezer Fitness, Mildmay (private)</li> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre (small amount of equipment)</li> </ul>
Pickleball Courts	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre</li> <li>Teeswater-Culross Community Centre</li> <li>Formosa Community Centre</li> </ul>
Libraries	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce County Library at Mildmay</li> <li>Bruce County Library at Teeswater</li> <li>Community Library at Formosa Recreation Centre</li> </ul>
Theatre/Performance Space	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teeswater Town Hall</li> </ul>
Kitchens	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formosa Recreation Centre (x1)</li> <li>Formosa Community Centre (x2)</li> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre (x1)</li> <li>Teeswater-Culross Community Centre (x1)</li> <li>Teeswater Town Hall (x1)</li> </ul>
Meeting Rooms	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre</li> <li>Teeswater-Culross Community Centre</li> </ul>
Halls/Public Event Space	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre</li> <li>Teeswater Community Centre Hall</li> </ul>

## Outdoor Facilities + Spaces:

The following table lists the outdoor facilities available in South Bruce.

FACILITY TYPE	QUANTITY	LOCATION
Soccer Pitches	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay- Carrick Public School</li> <li>Arena Park, Mildmay</li> <li>Teeswater Hillcrest Elementary</li> </ul>
Ball Diamonds	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formosa Ball Park (x1)</li> <li>Mildmay-Carrick Arena/ Ball Park (x1)</li> <li>Carneige Park, Mildmay (x1)</li> <li>Teeswater-Culross Fairgrounds /Park (x2)</li> </ul>
Walking Trails	Several Kilometers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay Rotary Park (approximately 2 km trail)</li> <li>Mildmay Lions Wilderness Park (a short (under 0.5km) trail section)</li> <li>Bruce County Rail Trail (approximately 20km of this multi-use trail passes through South Bruce)</li> <li>Carrick Tract Trail (a 6.5 km network of primarily mountain bike trail but is also open to walkers, cross country skiing and snowshoeing)</li> <li>Mildmay Carrick Managed Forest (managed by the SVCA) provides 3.5 km of multi-use trails (equestrian, biking, walking, skiing, and snowshoeing)</li> </ul>
Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Trails		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All trails listed above are open to winter use</li> </ul>
Snowmobile Trails		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally, snowmobile trails cross farm fields (with permission), and make use of some road sections and the Rail Trail.</li> <li>Managed by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs</li> </ul>
ATV Trails		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce County Rail Trail is open to ATV use.</li> <li>ATVS are permitted on almost all roads in the municipality</li> </ul>
Pavillions	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formosa Lions Park</li> <li>Lions Mildmay Carrick Pavilion, MC Arena Park</li> <li>Teeswater Culross Community Centre</li> </ul>
Fairgrounds	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay Fairgrounds</li> <li>Teeswater Fairgrounds</li> </ul>
Tennis Courts	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay Old Ball Park (x2)</li> </ul>
Pickleball Courts	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay Old Ball Park tennis court restoration will include Pickleball</li> </ul>



FACILITY TYPE	QUANTITY	LOCATION
Skateparks	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay Optimist Arena Park</li> </ul>
Playgrounds	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parks listed below have play structures</li> </ul>
Outdoor Gyms	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchased. Location TBD</li> </ul>
Outdoor Swimming Pools	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildmay Carrick Pool</li> <li>Teeswater Lions Park</li> </ul>
Parks	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formosa Lions Park</li> <li>Formosa Recreation Centre and Ball Park</li> <li>Mildmay Arena Park</li> <li>Mildmay Old Ball Park</li> <li>Mildmay Rotary Park</li> <li>Mildmay Water Tower Park</li> <li>Teeswater Arena and Ball Park</li> <li>Teeswater Lions Park and Pool Site</li> </ul>
Campgrounds	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formosa Lions Park (28 Sites)</li> <li>Teeswater – Culross Fairgrounds RV Park (46 sites)</li> </ul>







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## Maps of Recreation Facilities in South Bruce

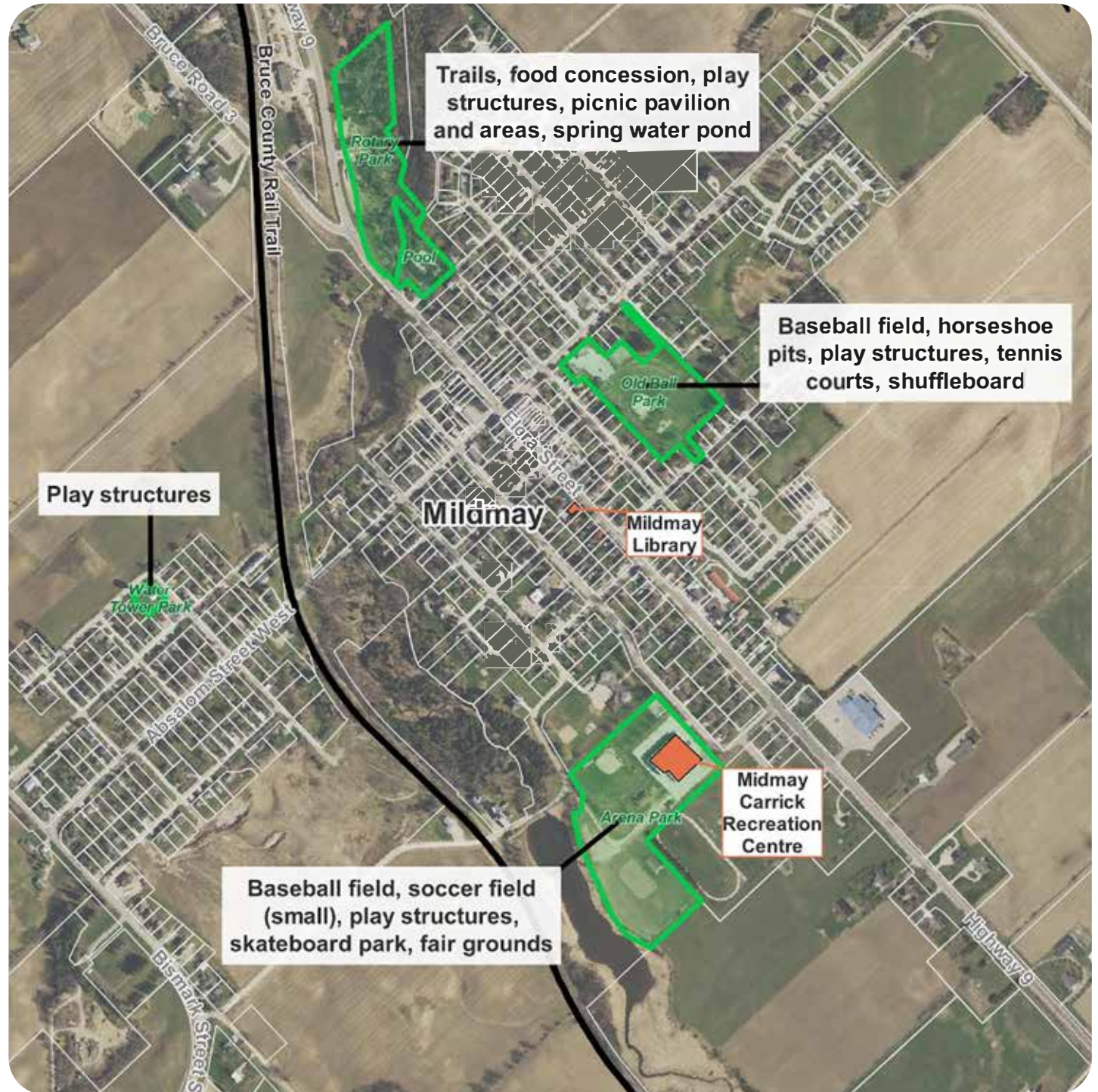


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*Formosa Existing  
Facilities Map*



Mildmay Existing  
Facilities Map







**Pool, play structures, picnic pavilion.**

Parkland Pool

Hillcrest Street East

Teeswater Library

Teeswater Town Hall

Teeswater

Arena and Ball Park

Teeswater Culross Community Centre

**Baseball fields, play structures, limited trails, concession, picnic pavilion, horse ring, horse track, agriculture exhibit facilities, RV sites, haunted house.**

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*Teeswater Existing Facilities Map*



- Secondary Highway
- ▬ Bruce County Rail Trail
- SVCA and County Trail Locations
- ▭ Bruce County Municipality Boundary

County Trails







7

Community Needs +  
Key Issues



# COMMUNITY NEEDS + KEY ISSUES



Public engagement is essential to identifying community needs and issues. The project team gathered information using surveys, questionnaires, and interviews. Two online surveys, one for residents and one for youth, were posted on the Municipality's website and Facebook page and was available from October 14<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The project team also facilitated online consultations with stakeholders from October 15<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021; stakeholders also provided written submissions via a questionnaire. A virtual public forum for residents was held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Additionally, the consultants met with senior Town staff involved in the delivery of recreation programs and parks services and toured indoor and outdoor facilities with the facility manager during the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

The results of this engagement process are summarized as follows:

## 7.1 Resident Survey Key Findings:

One hundred residents completed the resident survey, with some respondents choosing to skip some of the 19 questions. Respondents were asked questions regarding their opinions, use and perceived need for additional and/or enhanced facilities and programs.

A summary of select key resident survey responses is presented as follows:

### Outdoor Activities:

- The most popular recreational activities respondents participate in are outdoor activities.
- Walking is the most popular activity by far (82%), followed by visiting parks and open spaces, biking/cycling and hiking and outdoor swimming.
- Walking trails, splash pads, an outdoor walking/running track and parks should be a medium or high priority for the Municipality of South Bruce.

### Arts + Cultural Programs:

- Participation in arts and cultural activities is lower than participation in physical recreational activities.
- Visiting a library, craft and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making), theatre and social games, such as crokinole, cards, etc. are the most participated in arts and cultural activities.

### Program Priorities:

- Additional programming is needed for all groups.
- Programs for families, teens and children aged 5-12 are the most needed.
- A broader range of programs and services would motivate respondents to use programs and services in the Municipality of South Bruce, or to use them more often.

- More outdoor and/or nature-oriented activities and recreation level sports are needed in South Bruce.
- More general interest programs (e.g., cooking, gardening) and special events (festival, concert, performances) as well as fitness classes are also needed.
- Respondents would like to participate in dance, visiting a museum, craft and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making) and fine arts (painting, photography, etc.).

### Barriers to Participation:

- Barriers to participation in recreation, arts and cultural activities in the Municipality of South Bruce exist.
- The top three barriers are lack of facilities, lack of programs for adults, and inconvenient times /hours of operations.





### Participation Outside South Bruce:

- 65% of respondents travel outside of the Municipality of South Bruce for recreation, arts and cultural activities.
- The reason for travel is mostly to access walking and hiking trails.

### Facility Priorities:

- The top four indoor parks and recreation facilities respondents believe should be a medium or high priority for the Municipality of South Bruce are: spaces for children's programs and activities; a multi-purpose facility with gymnasium programs spaces, fitness rooms, etc.; youth centre or space for youth/teens; and spaces for family programs and activities.

### New Multi-Purpose Facility:

- 65% of respondents support the Municipality of South Bruce developing one new multi-purpose facility with a fitness centre, programs rooms, performance space and possibly arenas and curling rink to replace existing ageing infrastructure if it is economically feasible to do so.
- 43% are willing to drive 10 minutes to participate in activities at a new multi-purpose facility and 32% are willing to drive 20 minutes.
- In terms of willingness to pay an increase in property tax to enhance recreational facilities or offer new programs: 40% said no, 36% said yes and 24% didn't know.
- For those willing to pay, 44% had no comment/ didn't know how much they would be willing to pay; 18% indicated they are willing to pay \$26-\$50 per year and 15% would be willing to pay \$76-\$100 per year.

### Marketing + Promotion:

- Respondents would like to learn about recreation programs and services in the Municipality of South Bruce mostly through social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), but also through email, a recreation activity guide (printed), the Municipal website and Newspaper.

### Volunteerism:

- 47% of 88 respondents are willing to volunteer – this is the equivalent of 41 volunteers.
- 36 individual respondents provided the number of hours they would volunteer: 83% of these are willing to contribute at least three hours of their time per week.



### Additional Comments:

- 33 respondents entered comments. These are summarized below.

#### **Additional Comments Regarding Recreation and Cultural Services and Facilities in the Municipality of South Bruce:**

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- More facilities and programs for children
- More events and festivals to build a culture of community
- More support, recruitment, and engagement of volunteers
- Expand existing programs throughout the year to enable more participation
- More promotion; include non-digital opportunities - community calendar and newspapers
- More affordable programs and support for low income and families
- Offer various activities for all age groups, support both athletics and arts
- Ensure current facilities are multi-functional and attractive
- Optimize use of existing facilities
- Invest in part-time or full-time recreation staff for development and delivery of programs
- Invest in recreation to support community growth
- Become more bicycle-friendly, specifically for those who live outside the villages
- Need a dog park in Formosa
- Need access to indoor walking beyond 9am to 4pm weekdays
- Replace – revitalize Formosa outdoor rink
- Develop outdoor fitness opportunities in Formosa
- Continue Mildmay gymnastics program
- It would be great to have an indoor sport and multipurpose facility with areas for art classes, indoor basketball, gymnasium, etc.
- A new rec centre with an indoor pool would be fantastic
- Keep all facilities in each town so everyone has access in their own community
- Perhaps Teeswater gets a new theatre (arts, classes, vocal, instrumental, musicals, cultural event venue) and Mildmay gets the gymnasium (basketball/volleyball/pickle ball courts) as it has space to add on to the arena.
- Upgrade/enhance existing facilities: aging tennis courts, basketball courts, squash, public horseshoe access etc.
- Improve access to facilities rather than locking out patrons
- Improved pickleball and tennis courts
- Need a recreation coordinator at the municipal level to take over the responsibilities of the current volunteers for soccer, baseball etc. recreational programming. Current rec programs are being run by a small pool of volunteers who are also working full time jobs, raising children etc. It's not sustainable for the future of our recreational programs
- When a program is offered it needs to stay consistent i.e., day, time
- Maintaining and enhancing existing spaces should be priority before thinking of anything new
- The continued upkeep and enhancement of public pools is essential, along with arenas and park spaces

## 7.2 Summary of Youth Survey Responses:

Forty youth participated in the youth survey. Respondents were not required to answer all questions, and some chose to skip questions.

### What is Important to Youth:

- Like adult residents, youth respondents place a high value on outdoor activities.
- Spending time with family is very important to youth (87%).
- Reducing stress and a better life balance (more exercise, less screen time, etc.) are also very important to youth.

### Barriers to Participation:

- The main barriers to youth participation are cost or fees.



### The Top Activities Youth Participate in:

- Walking is the most popular activity followed by outdoor swimming, visiting parks and open spaces, hiking and biking/cycling, recreational skating, and snowmobiling.
- Participation in arts and culture activities is much lower than physical recreational activities.
- The most popular arts and culture activity is visiting a library.
- Youth also participate in theatre, craft, and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making) and social games, such as crokinole, cards, etc.

### Arts and Culture Activities Youth Would Like to Participate in:

- Horseback riding, paddle sports (canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding), soccer, snowshoeing and yoga.
- Craft and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making), visiting a museum, digital arts classes, fine arts (painting, photography, etc.), music, choir and dance.

### Participation Outside South Bruce:

- 55% of youth respondents travel outside of South Bruce for recreation, arts and cultural activities.
- Youth travel for broomball, hiking, concerts and theatre performances, swimming, skating, music and dance, sports, boating, riding lessons and more.



### ***Additional Comments – Youth would like:***

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- Open tennis courts in Mildmay for family/kid use
- More park benches / tables at parks
- Outdoor fitness equipment at arena park
- Formosa outdoor rink to be fixed and programmed (ex. Friday night roller blading)
- More promotion and advertising – in addition to Facebook
- Gym, classes and activities such as a YMCA
- More than hockey offered – dance and theatre are also important





## 7.3 Summary of Stakeholder Consultations:

The project team facilitated consultations with stakeholders representing 26 organizations from October 15<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Virtual meetings were held with 23 organizations while three groups provided written submissions via an online questionnaire. A virtual public forum for residents was held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Additionally, the consultants met with senior staff involved in the delivery of recreation services; and toured indoor and outdoor facilities with the facility manager during the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

This section provides a summary of the most significant needs identified from this engagement. Needs are categorized under the following categories: Indoor Facilities | Outdoor Facilities | Programs | Partnerships | Maintenance + Operations.

### Indoor Facility Concerns and Needs:

SUMMARY OF INDOOR FACILITY STAKEHOLDER NEEDS	
Formosa Community Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve washrooms</li> </ul>
Formosa Recreation Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open facility for walkers in the winter</li> </ul>
Mildmay Carrick Recreation Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No stakeholder issues identified</li> </ul>
Mildmay Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to move toward hub format in the future. (e.g., libraries near community centre or another hub)</li> </ul>
Teeswater Culross Community Centre (TCCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modernize arena washrooms, dressing rooms, and lighting</li> </ul>
Teeswater Curling Club (Note – not MSB owned facility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update curling club kitchen and make facility accessible</li> </ul>
Teeswater Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade the building to serve as Municipality’s official performance space</li> <li>• Improve basic housekeeping so that Town Hall is cleaner</li> </ul>
Other needs not specific to an existing facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a large meeting space with good sound qualities, internet and phone</li> <li>• Need greater multi-use of existing facilities</li> <li>• Need more storage for program supplies in venues where programs offered</li> </ul>

# Outdoor Facility Concerns and Needs:

SUMMARY OF OUTDOOR FACILITY STAKEHOLDER NEEDS					
Ball Diamonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of all diamonds acceptable but better regular maintenance is required</li> <li>• Formosa Ball Diamond</li> <li>• Better maintenance of infield (dragging, weeding) and mowing of outfield</li> <li>• Replace infield clay, level surface of outfield</li> <li>• Provide bases to user groups</li> </ul>				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Teeswater Ball Diamonds</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need better regular maintenance</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mildmay Ball Diamonds</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need better regular maintenance; drag infield more often</li> <li>• Upgrade electrical panel for lights so one switch activates all lights</li> <li>• Upgrade the outfields</li> <li>• Replace dugouts and improve the look of the batting cage</li> <li>• Replace the storage shed with a secure storage unit (for mag bags, etc.)</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	Teeswater Ball Diamonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need better regular maintenance</li> </ul>	Mildmay Ball Diamonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need better regular maintenance; drag infield more often</li> <li>• Upgrade electrical panel for lights so one switch activates all lights</li> <li>• Upgrade the outfields</li> <li>• Replace dugouts and improve the look of the batting cage</li> <li>• Replace the storage shed with a secure storage unit (for mag bags, etc.)</li> </ul>
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Soccer Fields					
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Teeswater Soccer Field</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need shelter /shade from the heat</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mildmay Soccer Field</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace benches, ideally covered, at Arena Park; consider popup tents for shade</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	Teeswater Soccer Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need shelter /shade from the heat</li> </ul>	Mildmay Soccer Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace benches, ideally covered, at Arena Park; consider popup tents for shade</li> </ul>
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Mildmay Soccer Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace benches, ideally covered, at Arena Park; consider popup tents for shade</li> </ul>				
Formosa Outdoor Rink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair or replace outdoor ice rink</li> </ul>				
Formosa Lions Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade electrical services and amenities at campsites</li> </ul>				
Teeswater Fair Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update washroom near ball diamond and improve access during Fall Fair</li> <li>• Update electrical capacity of RV sites at campground</li> </ul>				
Teeswater Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade electrical capacity</li> </ul>				
Mildmay Carrick Swimming Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve accessibility (2025 deadline)</li> <li>• Improve maintenance of pool and washrooms for tidiness and cleanliness and refresh pool signage paint (i.e., no diving) for aesthetics and safety</li> <li>• Add starting blocks</li> </ul>				
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create more parks to accommodate all ages</li> </ul>				
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve connectivity to parks, add workout stations along trails, and provide designated and groomed cross-country ski trails</li> </ul>				
Splash Pad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a splash pad</li> </ul>				
Signage and Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more signage to promote “what is available” (trails, nature, attractions, etc.)</li> </ul>				
Tennis Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need new or improved tennis courts</li> </ul>				
Teeswater River Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more opportunities for access to Teeswater River</li> </ul>				

## Community Program Needs:

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM NEEDS	
Children and Teens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More activities for children and teens</li> <li>• Offer programs on PD days</li> <li>• Restore Summer Day Camps</li> </ul>
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More programs / activities for families</li> </ul>
Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More exercise options for seniors</li> </ul>
More programs generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a variety of things to do</li> </ul>
Arts and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More support for arts and culture and an understanding of its importance, value and benefits</li> <li>• Need a vision</li> </ul>
Use programs and events to build a sense of community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer more programs and events to build a sense of community</li> <li>• Develop programs that differentiate South Bruce, programs that carve out a niche/attraction for the municipality</li> </ul>

## Partnership Issues and Opportunities:

SUMMARY OF PARTNERSHIP NEEDS	
More support for volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help with insurance cost</li> <li>• Help with volunteer recruitment</li> <li>• Create a culture of volunteerism</li> <li>• Take over the administration and running of programs</li> <li>• Reduce fees for all facilities for volunteer run programs</li> </ul>
Strengthen partnership opportunities with EarlyON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunity to provide additional program space and support program expansion</li> <li>• There would be an opportunity for Bruce County to support the offering of before and after school programs in community centres in South Bruce, however it is dependent on hiring staff and this has been difficult in Ontario in general. However, schools are the preferred venue</li> </ul>
Need to address drug issue/ vandalism – could be a regional effort (Hanover has a problem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to identify the role of recreation department and its partners in dealing with social issues</li> </ul>
Recognizing value and role of all partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to understand value of all existing partnerships</li> </ul>
Sponsorship Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need clear policy on naming of facilities and long-term obligations</li> </ul>



## Maintenance and Operations – Most Significant Stakeholder Concerns:

SUMMARY OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS NEEDS	
Equitable funding throughout the municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More equitable funding in each town</li> </ul>
Ensure equitable and affordable fees charged for facilities to volunteers and service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer programs even if they are revenue neutral</li> <li>• Facility rental fees should be more equitable and affordable for all users to increase usage and support programming</li> </ul>
Use recreation to support tourism development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make South Bruce stand out from other places -need experiences to draw people – sell the experience</li> </ul>
Enhance staffing levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire a program coordinator</li> <li>• Hire a student to run programs</li> <li>• Hire a volunteer coordinator</li> </ul>
Better promotion of activities, facilities, and benefits of recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote benefits of all recreation and leisure activities</li> <li>• Encourage participation in programs including to youth</li> <li>• Develop and publish recreation guides twice annually</li> </ul>
Review role, structure, and efficacy of RAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace RAC with former recreation committee model</li> </ul>
Improve communications with Service Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more timely response from Municipality to support initiatives</li> </ul>
Provide department with adequate equipment and vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recreation department with vehicles and equipment</li> </ul>





8

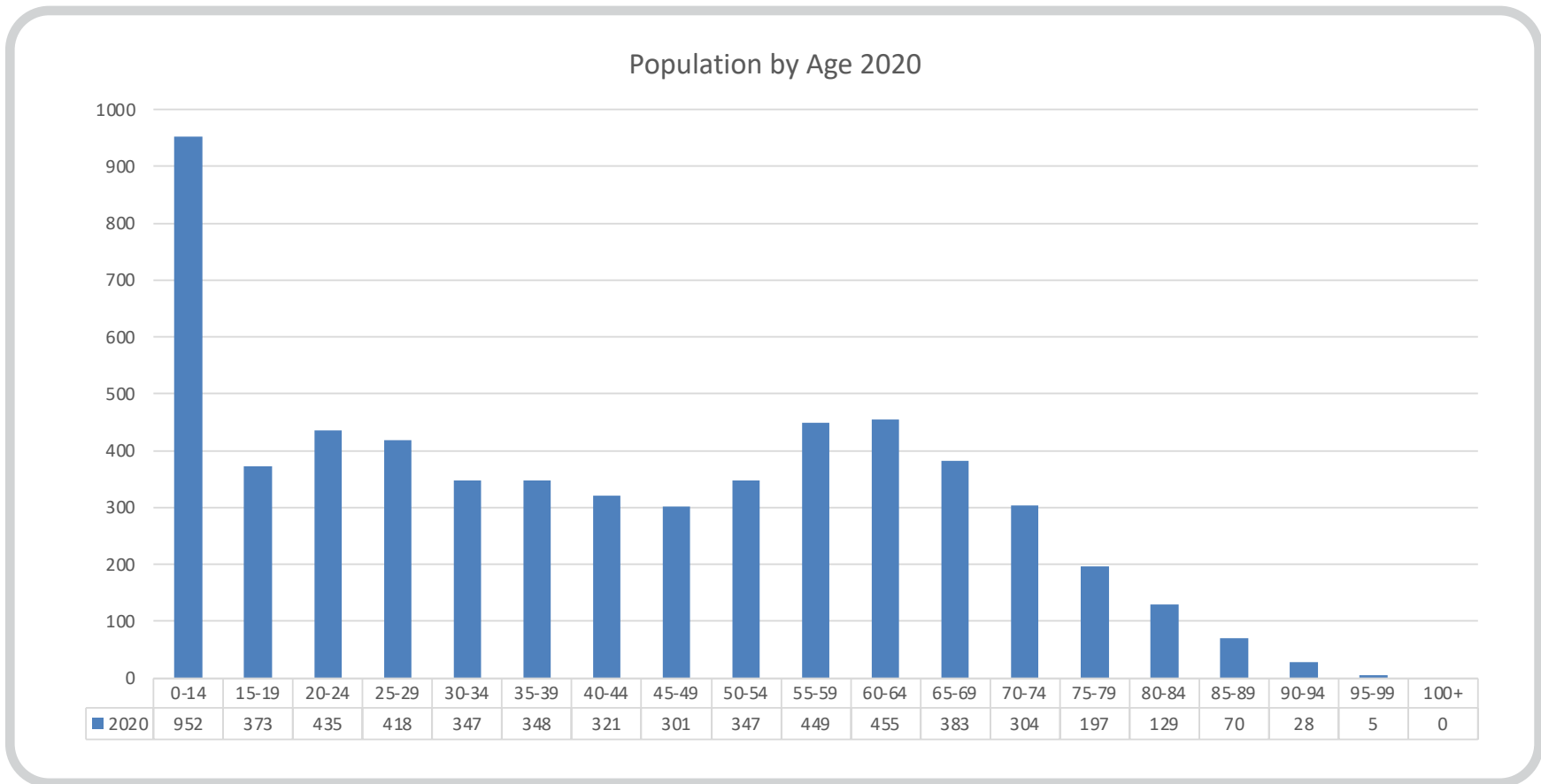
Demographics +  
Trends

# DEMOGRAPHICS + TRENDS

## 8.1 South Bruce Demographics:

Population of South Bruce and Area By Age, 2020 (by number):

The population of South Bruce in 2020 was 5,862. The population is comprised of the following ages:



Source:  
**Manifold Data Mining, 2020**



## Summary and Projected Growth 2021-2031:

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- In South Bruce, young seniors and elderly make up the largest group with 1,116 individuals or 19% of the population
- Children aged 0-14 years makeup the second highest group, at 952 individuals or 16% of the population
- The same trend can be seen across Bruce County, suggesting an opportunity to attract area children and seniors to quality programs
- In 2020 there were 2,974 males, representing 51% of the population and 2,888 females representing 49% of the population
- Metro economics predicts that the population in South Bruce will increase to 7,420 over the next 10 years (2021-2031), an increase of 1,170 (from 6,250 to 7,420)

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**Knowing this data is valuable for understanding program needs in the community.**

## Visual Minorities and Aboriginal Populations:

In 2020 there were 71 people in South Bruce belonging to a visible minority group. There were 83 peoples of Aboriginal origins in South Bruce. The largest aboriginal population in South Bruce are that of the Metis (46 people). The second largest Aboriginal population is the North American Indian (32 people) (Manifold Data Mining, 2020).

It will be important to ensure equitable partnerships and inclusive programs are provided for all, including visible minorities and people of Aboriginal status. The Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 recognizes IndigenACTION (2010) which aims to foster partnerships that will help ensure Indigenous peoples in Canada can enhance their lives and communities through recreation, sport, community fitness, and wellness. IndigenACTION was adopted by the Chief's Assembly.



## Household Total Income Group for Private Households, 2020:

INCOME GROUP	SOUTH BRUCE		BRUCE COUNTY		ONTARIO	
	VALUE	PERCENT	VALUE	PERCENT	VALUE	PERCENT
All private households with income	2,340		31,370		5,666,640	
Under \$5,000	23	1%	230	1%	74,115	1%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	33	1%	386	1%	79,115	1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	35	2%	654	2%	127,557	2%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	77	3%	1,007	3%	180,459	3%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	96	4%	1,255	4%	204,526	4%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	101	4%	1,240	4%	207,978	4%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	99	4%	1,326	4%	217,062	4%
\$35,000 to \$39,999	105	4%	1,412	5%	224,928	4%
\$40,000 to \$44,999	113	5%	1,342	4%	227,859	4%
\$45,000 to \$49,999	94	4%	1,279	4%	228,827	7%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	169	7%	1,923	6%	369,285	7%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	164	7%	2,210	7%	389,899	7%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	193	8%	2,189	7%	375,981	7%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	161	7%	1,988	6%	353,584	6%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	153	7%	1,703	5%	331,207	6%
\$100,000 to and over	724	31%	11,226	36%	2,074,230	37%

### Synopsis

The Median Household Income in 2020 in South Bruce is \$71,270  
(Manifold Data Mining, 2020)

Source:

**Manifold Data Mining, 2020**

## Low-Income (2016):

The following information was sourced from the County of Bruce website. Canada does not have an official poverty line. However, measures of low-income are often used to approximate poverty levels.

Low-Income Measures (LIMs) are widely used in Canada as approximations for poverty measures. LIMs are currently used by Statistics Canada and the Ontario government to measure low-income. (Statistics Canada, 2016; Government of Ontario, 2016).

### Low Income (LIM-AT):

Based on the LIM-AT, a household has low income if its after-tax income is less than half of the median after-tax income of all households in Canada.

The table below displays the prevalence of low-income households in South Bruce, Bruce County and Ontario based on the LIM-AT. The proportion of low-income households in 2015 was lower in Bruce County than Ontario.

	SOUTH BRUCE	BRUCE COUNTY	ONTARIO
<b>TOTAL POPULATION IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS TO WHOM LOW-INCOME CONCEPTS ARE APPLICABLE</b>	5,625	650,770	13,184,055
In Low Income	745	8,655	1,898,975
Men	370	4,090	886,530
Women	375	4,565	1,012,445
0-5 Years	65	845	165,140
0-17 Years	205	2,205	489,905
18-64 Years	395	4,740	1,155,315
65 Years and Over	145	1,705	253,755
Prevalence of Low Income (%)	13.2	13.3	14.4

### Synopsis:

- In 2015, 13.2 % of the population or 745 people in South Bruce were living in low-income households.
- 205 of these were under the age of 17 years
- 395 individuals were between the ages of 18-64
- 145 were seniors aged 65 and over
- This data highlights the need to ensure programs and facilities within the community are inclusive to people of low income.





9

Trends

# TRENDS

A review of trends can help identify leading practices and current issues in the delivery of recreation and cultural services. It can also identify evolving interests at the local, provincial, or national level that may be important to consider when identifying current and future facility and program needs.

The trends presented in this section are derived from a variety of publicly available sources.



## Toward Informal and Individual Activities:

- There has been a shift from formal and organized activities to more individualized and informal pursuits that can be done at a time of the individual's choosing.
- There is an increased interest in outdoor activities.
- New trail development consistently ranks at or near the top of public surveys as preferred new facilities, and this is true for South Bruce.
- Young families seek inexpensive, informal activities including community events and festivals.

## Changing Preferences and Expectations:

- There is a movement toward experiential activities that lead to personal growth and lifestyle skills.
- The two fastest growth areas in Canadian tourism are cultural learning and ecotourism / adventure recreation.
- People expect high quality service in terms of quality of instruction, customer service, and facility cleanliness and appearance.
- As people age, they seek more moderate activities such as walking, water fitness and yoga.
- Boomers have an increased interest in culture, in attending performances, visiting cultural and heritage venues, and participating in art activities.





### Volunteerism:

- The greatest drop-off in volunteerism rates is for the 35-49 age group who are juggling work and family obligations with volunteerism.
- Individuals are more likely to volunteer for shorter term projects and tasks, “termed episodic volunteering”.

### Wellness and Chronic Disease:

- Canadian adults are becoming more overweight: 26.1% of Ontario residents were classified as obese in 2018 (Health Fact Sheets, Stats Canada. Catalogue no. 82-625x).
- Total direct and indirect healthcare costs due to physical inactivity are estimated to be \$2.6 billion in Ontario (The Burden of Chronic Diseases in Ontario: Key Estimates to Support Efforts in Prevention (2019)).

### Children and Youth Inactivity:

- Multiple studies have found there has been a sharp and continuing decline in youth sports participation.
- The Ontario Medical Association estimates that Canadian children are 40% less active than 30 years ago.
- The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth (ages 5 to 17) recommends that youth ages 12 to 17 accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.
- The ParticipACTION Report Card (2020) gives children and youth a D+ for Overall Physical Activity and a D+ for Sedentary Behaviors.
- Inactivity and obesity levels in children and youth are resulting in the increasing early diagnosis of chronic diseases in the young, potentially resulting in a lower life expectancy than current levels.





### Nature Deficit:

- Fewer children are playing outside in natural settings for several reasons, including a trend toward increasing amounts of sedentary screen time by children and youth.
- Many children are losing their connection with nature and the creativity, imaginative play and physical activity that occurs in outdoor settings.

### Trending Leisure Activities:

Activities that continue to grow in popularity include:

- Walking and Cycling
- Pickleball
- Cultural Activities
- Outdoor Activities and Environmental Learning
- Cultural Learning and Ecotourism
- Youth Physical Activity and Healthy Living Opportunities
- Rehabilitation and Chronic Disease Management

### Staffing:

- Agencies are more challenged to recruit vital part-time staff including lifeguards, after-school programming, and childcare.
- Higher pay, better benefits and more flexible hours in other jobs impacts the services agencies can offer.
- Agencies are getting out of before-school and after-school programs, daycare, and summer camps due to a lack of qualified and available workers.

### Expanding Service Demands:

- Local recreation agencies are increasingly assuming an integral part of addressing social issues including homelessness, drug-use for youth and young adults, child-care needs.

### Partnering:

- Partnerships are expanding to include the health system, social services, the corporate sector, and community service agencies to reflect broader social issues mandate.
- Other partnerships include facility naming and sponsorship arrangements, lease/contract agreements, the contracted operation of facilities, or delivery of programs.





### Technology:

Greater use of technology includes bar-coded entry systems, web-based program registration systems, tracking systems, and enhanced communications using social media. These high-tech capacities will compliment, but never replace the need for human contact and personal attention.

GIS maps, including trails, are becoming more available to the public on interactive websites.

Commercial drones will be utilized to seed, apply herbicides, and inspect buildings; public safety missions and security are also recognized.

The \$105 billion commercial mowing machine market is rapidly evolving with implications for parks and recreation, including fully autonomous commercial mowers by Scythe Robotics of Boulder, Colorado. Other equipment manufacturers, like John Deere and Clean Scapes, are working on fully electric, zero emission mowers that will require less maintenance and last longer than internal combustion-powered mowers. (<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2022/january/top-trends-in-parks-and-recreation-for-2022/>)

### Broad Workplace Shifts:

- More people working remotely from home have increased weekday use of recreation facilities and open spaces, especially drop-in casual use.

### Aging Infrastructure and Funding:

- Many of Canada's recreation and park facilities are aging, many built as Centennial projects in 1967, while others were built in a second wave of facility construction in the 1980's.
- In Ontario, between 30% and 50% of the infrastructure is at, or approaching, its useful life.

### Expanded Facility Roles:

- Community leisure facilities are taking on a greater role in tourism and economic development including tournaments, cultural events, and heritage and agricultural activities.

### Environmental Trends:

#### **Interest in the Environment**

- There is heightened interest in environmental activities and learning.
- There is a growing trend towards shorter-term, but more intensive environmental experiences such as wilderness hiking.

#### **Green Buildings**

- New facilities and retrofitted buildings are designed and constructed to reduce energy and resource consumption.
- For existing buildings, an energy audit identifies opportunities and options for savings.
- Water conservation efforts are now standard practice with parking lots and landscape areas designed to reduce water use and run-off, and use of low flush toilets and faucet/shower cut-off valves.





# 10

## Vision + Strategic Directions

From the information gathered throughout the planning process, a Vision and Strategic Directions were devised. Strategies and recommendations were developed that respond to the Vision and Strategic Directions.

### **Vision**

*The Municipality of South Bruce will use recreation and cultural services and facilities to enhance quality of life, build a strong and welcoming community, bring people together and attract and retain residents.*







## Strategic Directions

Based on the findings in this study, the Municipality of South Bruce should commit to the following Strategic Directions:

- Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help to build strong, caring communities.
- Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect to nature through recreation.
- Increase inclusion and access to recreation for all residents.
- Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of recreation.



11

# Strategies + Recommendations

# STRATEGIES + RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on key findings from the engagement process, an assessment of existing facilities, current trends, and other data, the following list of recreation strategies was generated. A rationale for each strategy plus specific actions and recommendations follows.

## INDOOR FACILITY STRATEGIES

1. Develop a plan for future replacement of community centres and arenas once end of useful life is reached
2. Increase use of existing facility spaces (to improve program offerings, access, and revenue)
3. Transform Teeswater Town Hall to an arts, culture, and performance hub
4. Develop a youth centre space in each community

## OUTDOOR FACILITY RECREATION STRATEGIES

5. Develop more trails and improve connectivity
6. Expand recreation opportunities in parks
7. Create more access to the Teeswater River
8. Improve quality of athletic fields and amenities
9. Develop a new splash pad
10. Upgrade RV campgrounds to accommodate current needs
11. Continue to upgrade tennis and Pickleball courts & new multi-purpose courts

## PROGRAM STRATEGIES

12. Ensure a variety of programs are available in South Bruce:
  - a. More activities for children and teens
  - b. More programs / activities for families
  - c. More programs for adults
  - d. More exercise programs for seniors
  - e. More outdoor and nature-oriented activities
  - f. More arts and culture programs
  - g. Explore opportunity and spaces for more recreation level sports
  - h. Provide more festivals and events that build a sense of community



## PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

13. Improve engagement with and provide more support to volunteers
14. Expand partnership opportunities with new and existing organizations
15. Develop a Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy

## MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS STRATEGIES

16. Improve regular maintenance of indoor facilities and athletic facilities
17. Promote facilities and programs and educate residents on benefits of recreation and leisure
18. Recognize the value of arts, cultural and performance programs
19. Develop and implement inclusive policies
20. Review role and structure of Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)
21. Invest in a Recreation Data Collection and Analysis System

### 11.1 Indoor Recreation Facility Recommendations:

*Develop a Plan for Future Replacement of Community Centres and Arenas once End of Useful Life is Reached:*

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two facilities: Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre and Teeswater-Culross Community Centre.</li> <li>• The 2016 Asset Management Plan replacement cost for the arenas was estimated to be \$8.9M.</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% of respondents support the Municipality of South Bruce developing one new multi-purpose facility with a fitness centre, programs rooms, performance space and possibly arenas and curling rink to replace existing ageing infrastructure if it is economically feasible to do so.</li> <li>• 36% of respondents would be willing to pay an increase in property tax to help build or operate recreational facilities and offer new programs, while 40% would not, and 24% don't know.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation facilities include multi-functional spaces and have access to outdoor amenities such as parks and trails.</li> </ul>

The Mildmay and Teeswater Arena and Community Centers were built in the 1970s. The 2016 Asset Management Plan (AMP) for the Municipality of South Bruce reports that the arenas will reach the end of useful life 2026-2030. However, this is based solely on the age of the facility and not on a professional engineering or architectural assessment of either the structure or facility components.

Currently the Municipality is undertaking an assessment of its arenas and community centres to gain a clear understanding of future capital costs related to repairs, rehabilitation, and replacement. The assessment will enable the Municipality to determine the feasibility of continuing to operate the facilities in the near and long term, and will confirm the true timeline for facility replacement.

The Municipality has demonstrated a dedication to maintaining and improving arenas and community centres. Between 2016 and 2021 the recreation department has acquired over \$1M in Community Wellbeing grants to replace and update ageing facility components.

As part of long-term planning, the Municipality should also undertake a Feasibility Study and Operational Plan for new facility(s) to replace the existing community centres and arenas once end of useful life is reached. The Study will confirm community support for development of new facilities, will establish amenities and spaces that should be included, and confirm if such a facility is feasible. Additionally, the Study will give the Municipality a competitive advantage to secure funding should it decide to proceed.



A Feasibility Study and Operational Plan will confirm:

- Facility Amenities and Programming
- Site Selection and Site Development Criteria
- Capital Development Costs
- Operational and Staffing Needs and Costs
- Capital Funding Sources and Partnerships
- Revenue Sources (operations)
- Current provision in neighbouring municipalities
- Concept and Floor Plans

## Recommendation:

- Prepare a Feasibility Study and Operational Plan for the eventual replacement of arenas and community centres once the end of its useful life has been reached.

## Increase use of Existing Facilities:

CONTEXT	
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of facilities (34%) and lack of programs for adults (34%) are the main barriers to participation in recreation, arts and cultural activities.</li> <li>Improved quality of facilities would motivate residents to use recreation services more often (52%).</li> </ul>
Youth Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth would like to participate in programs that are currently not available.</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need greater multiuse of existing facilities.</li> <li>Kitchen facilities can support EarlyOn Discovery Chefs program.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New facilities are designed with multi-use spaces that can be reconfigured to attract a wide variety of users and increase revenue generating opportunities.</li> <li>There is a general movement towards using existing public spaces and assets in cultural programming.</li> </ul>

The need for better utilization of existing spaces was raised by stakeholders and residents. With three community centres, a recreation centre and a performance centre/theatre, the Municipality of South Bruce has no shortage of program space. While these spaces are used for some programming, they are not used to their full potential.

Modern recreation facilities are designed with multi-use spaces that can be reconfigured to support a variety of activities. While this section regards existing facilities, the principle of creating multi-use spaces should be considered so that more programs can be provided to residents, and potentially more revenue can be generated for recreation.

Consideration should be given to renovating and reconfiguring existing community halls to create multi-functionality, preferably with sound proofing, so a variety of activities can take place simultaneously. The Municipality should assess the opportunity

to create flexible program spaces by adding features such as retractable walls and other removable amenities (gaming equipment to support youth programs for instance).

Facilities have six well equipped kitchens that can support culinary programs for youth, health and well-being education workshop for adults and seniors, and special events (for example dinner theater). The kitchens can also support tourism product development. 2.5 million tourists visited Bruce County in 2018, spending \$326.7 million (Economic Impact of Tourism Report 2019. <https://www.brucecounty.on.ca/sites/default/files/file-upload/business/economic-impact-of-tourism-for-2019.pdf>). Culinary tourism is a growing segment of the global tourism industry including Canada and Ontario. Given the abundance of farms and fresh farm ingredients in South Bruce, culinary tourism, combined with agritourism, can also support the Municipality's economic development strategy.



## IMPROVED MEETING SPACES

An issue raised during stakeholder engagement is the need for better meeting spaces with good sound qualities, internet, and phone. Meeting rooms typically support community user groups, including in-person registration for sports, and are used as training and workshop venues. The Municipality should modernize its meeting spaces to improve sound quality and if possible technological capabilities.

Typically, modern technology systems for meeting rooms include:

- Wireless Internet
- Speakers and Microphones
- Large Television Screens
- Web Conferencing Camera
- Collaborative Displays (e.g., interactive whiteboards)
- Smart Analytics and Productivity Tools (These tools provide insight on the statistics of the room, such as how it is being used, how often it is being used, and when it is being used. This helps to indicate to management if adjustments need to be made.)

Recommendations for increasing multi-functionality of spaces will be impacted by the findings of the engineering assessment currently underway. It is assumed that at least one new replacement facility will be developed in the community once the arenas and community centres are at the end of their useful life. New arts and cultural program spaces will most likely be included in a new facility, thereby reducing the number of readapted spaces required.

## Recommendations:

- The Municipality engage an architect to undertake an assessment of existing recreation and community centres to determine how best to transform existing spaces into attractive and multi-functional spaces.
- The Municipality should soundproof and enhance technological capabilities (Wi-Fi) in meeting spaces.



Transform Teeswater Town Hall into an Arts, Cultural and Performance Hub:

CONTEXT	
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theatre is the one of the top arts and culture activities that respondents participate in (20%)</li> <li>• 17% of respondents that travel outside the Municipality of South Bruce travel for theatre.</li> </ul>
Youth Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% of youth respondents participate in theatre.</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital improvements are needed: a new floor in main hall (concrete floor is uneven) as well as a commercial dishwasher.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture leads to job creation, tourism growth, better health and wellbeing of individuals, and vibrant communities.</li> <li>• Bruce County and South Bruce recognize the importance of arts and culture to its economy and quality of life.</li> </ul>



Our heritage, culture, and artistic expressions are fundamental to the long-term economic health and quality of life of our communities.

(Bruce County Cultural Action Plan Core Value 5)

Arts and Culture has significant economic value in Ontario: Ontario’s arts and culture sector represents \$26.7 billion or 3.5% of the province’s GDP and almost 300,378 jobs, while arts and culture products represent \$25.0 billion or 3.3% of the province’s gross domestic product (GDP) and over 286,232 jobs (3.9% of total Ontario employment) (Statistics Canada as reported in Economic Contribution of Arts and Culture in Ontario. 2019. Ontario Arts Council (see <https://www.arts.on.ca/research-impact/research-publications/economic-contribution-of-arts-and-culture-in-ontario>).



Bruce County has recently released the *Bruce County Cultural Action Plan: Technical Final Report* (CAP) (September 2021). This plan recognizes the value and potential for growth of the cultural economy in Bruce County and Municipalities. Local festivals and events are identified as an important component of the County's cultural heritage product. The plan noted the public's interest in diversifying the types of events in the County to include more evening and off-season programming, arts competitions and workshops, Indigenous events and activities, and heritage tours and programming. The CAP also noted residents concern with sustainability and the need to balance development with preservation of heritage.

The Teeswater Town Hall is a key cultural asset in the Municipality. It provides a venue to showcase the stories, heritage, and talent of the people in the Municipality, contributes to a vibrant community as well as economic development. Given the Bruce County Cultural Action Plan and the recently adopted Municipality of South Bruce Corporate Strategic Plan 2021–2025, the Municipality should investigate the feasibility of dedicating the Teeswater Town Hall as a community arts/cultural and performance hub. The feasibility study should include further updating its theatre and creating art programming and activity spaces.

The Town Hall currently serves as a performance space. Studio410 leases and runs its performance program out of Teeswater Town Hall. This organization also once held its theatrical performances there, but the success of its shows led them to move to the larger Blyth Performing Arts Centre. If the building is designated as an arts/cultural hub potential conflict between existing and diverse uses will have to be considered. Part of the Town Hall is now leased long-term for meeting space, which impacts the buildings functionality as a performance space (i.e., removal of mirrors, loss of direct stairwell access to the stage, and lack of

storage space). To ensure the Town Hall can operate optimally as an arts, cultural and performance hub, activity spaces will have to be compatible.

Public engagement identified several capital improvements that are required in the short term. Council should proceed with the following improvements:

- Better air flow and air conditioning
- Replace or fix concrete floor in main hall
- Install a commercial dishwasher
- Improve basic housekeeping
- Better lighting (in performance space) ideally

Recent theatre expansion /improvement renovation projects elsewhere in Canada ranged in cost between \$900K to \$3M.

The Lester B. Pearson Memorial Theatre in the City of Brampton, ON for example, renovated its theatre spaces at a cost of \$3M, while the Cameco Capitol Arts Centre in Port Hope, ON renovations were costed at \$1.75M. (<https://www.bda.ca/experience/recreation/lester-pearson-memorial-theatre-renovation/>; <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/community-story/9658471-what-s-going-on-here-work-on-port-hope-s-1-75m-theatre-expansion-has-started/>)

## **Recommendation:**

- The Municipality should investigate the feasibility of designating Teeswater Town Hall as an arts, cultural and performance hub.

Develop a Youth Space in Each Community:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no dedicated youth space in the Municipality.</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 66% respondents think a youth centre or space for youth/teens should be a medium or high priority for the Municipality.</li> </ul>
Youth Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to socialize with peers is important to youth (58%).</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing issues of obesity, mental health, social issues, etc. are a concern.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues of youth inactivity, obesity, mental health of great concern provincially and nationally.</li> <li>• Youth centres are most successful when provided in a multi-purpose recreation environment</li> <li>• Supports long term strategy to retain youth and attract young families.</li> </ul>

An important part of adolescent life is socializing, and as the youth survey confirmed, this is true for youth in South Bruce. Adolescents with fuller social lives experience better health, can better cope with stress, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

Youth spaces provide an opportunity for this cohort to socialize outside of the school setting and are most successful when they are part of a multi-purpose facility with access to a gym and outdoor spaces that offer a variety of non-sport programs.

The Mildmay, Teeswater and Formosa community centres do not have gymnasias, but they do have spaces that can accommodate a variety of recreational activities. The centres are also connected to outdoor parks (which can be refreshed to better serve youth -e.g., multi-courts, pump tracks, trails, etc.).





To meet the need for youth spaces in South Bruce, it is recommended that community centre spaces be reserved and programmed for youth during set times each week – 2-3 hours a few times a week for instance, more if possible and if demand warrants. Youth spaces typically include:

- **Computer Room:**
  - Provides youth access to computers and internet for recreational and homework use. It should be ventilated and free of noise/distractions.
  - *Amenities:* Wi-Fi, computers, printer, soft-padded desk chairs, computer desk, table and chairs (a space to complete homework), white boards and tack board.
- **Activity Room:**
  - Typically, there are two activity rooms: one for arts and crafts-based activities and the other for physical activities.
  - *Physical activity amenities:* Ball equipment, etc.
  - *Arts/crafts activity amenities:* Tables and chairs, musical instruments, art supplies.
- **Gaming Room:**
  - *Amenities:* Pool, ping pong, air hockey, and foosball tables, gaming consoles, TV/projectors, board games, soft seating (couches and recliners), tables and chairs.
- **Snack Bar:**
  - Can be self-serve vending machines or a full-service hot bar with an instructional kitchen.
  - Should have an eating area where tables and chairs are present.
  - *Amenities:* Microwave, fridge/freezer, filtered water station, popcorn machine, vending machine, small appliances.
  - *Amenities for instructional kitchen:* Convection oven, dishwasher, dishware, sink, cupboards and counterspace.
- **Lobby:**
  - There should be a lobby that serves as an entrance to the facility where youth check-in and visitors can register.
  - A locker area may also be useful to safely store belongings.
  - *Amenities:* Check-in desk, lockers, coat rack, bench.

Like programs in other municipalities, youth can learn new skills (such as cooking, or employment development based on community need), or just hang out or play games in a safe environment. It is important to provide unstructured activities (socializing, gaming, watching TV, etc.) as these make youth feel independent, and eliminate the sense of the center resembling a school atmosphere.



## Youth Space Activities:

Types of activities that can be available in a youth space include:

- Sports (i.e., open gym)
- Fitness and dance classes
- Billiards
- Video games (Wii, Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo)
- Arts, crafts, and creative writing
- Music production and performance (including concerts)
- Field trips to local events, entertainment, and attractions
- Movie nights
- Guest presentations
- Homework assistance (i.e., tutoring program)
- Peer mentoring (ex: support/discussion groups)
- Education workshops (i.e., healthy life choices, first aid, babysitting training)

Should a youth centre/space be developed in South Bruce volunteers or staff will be required to supervise and assist with programming. Youth centers are typically staffed facilities where control and supervision are critical elements. Volunteers may also fill the role: it is most important that the people in this position are well-trained. Research has shown that the strongest youth center teams consist of full-time staff, youth interns and volunteers. Most develop guidelines including information about safety, expectations, and norms that are updated and assessed frequently.

Youth centers can be funded using local support, funding/organizational models, and town partnerships. Community partners that can provide funding and have skills to share should be identified and engaged.



## **Recommendations:**

- Reserve and adapt spaces in each community centre for youth.
- Identify community partners to provide programming, supervision, and funding.

## 11.2 Outdoor Recreation Facility Recommendations:

### Develop More Trails and Improve Connectivity:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Bruce has several kilometers of trails; however, walking trails within the community are mostly short sections; longer sections are multi-use and outside urban areas.</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking is the top recreational activity that respondents participate in (82%).</li> <li>Respondents think more walking trails is the top outdoor recreation need in the municipality.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76% of respondents think more walking trails should be either a medium (26.4%) or high priority (49.5%).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Outdoor walking/running tracks are also among the top four outdoor recreational facilities residents think should be a medium priority (62%).</li> <li>The reasons most respondents travel outside of South Bruce for recreation is to access walking and hiking trails.</li> </ul>
Youth Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking is the most popular activity youth participate in (62%) followed by hiking (43%) and biking/cycling (35%).</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parks need to be linked with trails</li> <li>Need workout stations along trails (ideally)</li> <li>Need designated and groomed cross-country ski trails.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking or jogging are the most common active leisure activities in Canada.</li> <li>Trails provide numerous health, social, environmental, and economic benefits.</li> <li>The Government of Canada supports and funds Active Transportation.</li> </ul>

The Government of Canada has recently (July 2021) released a *National Active Transportation Strategy 2021-2026*. The Strategy is supported by the Active Transportation Fund (ATF), which is the first dedicated fund for enhancement and expansion of active transportation infrastructure in Canada. The ATF will provide \$400M over five years to help communities build new and expanded networks of pathways, bike lanes, trails, and pedestrian bridges. Funding includes grants of up to \$50K to cover soft costs for planning and design, education, and outreach programs.

(See <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/trans/active-actif-eng.html>.)

Active transportation generates significant economic, health and environmental benefits for communities.



Active Transportation is the movement of people or goods powered by human activity. Active transportation includes walking, cycling and the use of human-powered or hybrid mobility aids such as wheelchairs, scooters, e-bikes, rollerblades, snowshoes and cross-country skis

(Source: National Active Transportation Strategy 2021-2026)



Active transportation generates significant economic, health and environmental benefits for communities. It provides safe, accessible, well planned, and designed infrastructure and as outlined in the Active Transportation Strategy, connects communities, and emphasizes social equity, including for persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.

The Conference Board of Canada *Issue Briefing, Trekking out Trails. The Benefits and Significance of Canada's Trail System (2021)* also recognizes and highlights the many benefits of trails, including:

- increased physical activity
- a decrease in chronic illnesses
- improved physical health, and
- improved quality of life
- direct and indirect economic benefits, including employment and spending impacts
- attracting domestic and international tourists
- providing needed mental health benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic
- acting as a catalyst for Canadian recovery from the COVID -19 pandemic
- many environmental benefits, including protecting green space and mitigating climate change effects.

As shown above and in earlier sections of this report, South Bruce residents place a high value on outdoor activities, with walking being the most participated in activity. Participation in other trail activities such as biking/cycling and hiking is also significant. Public engagement findings identified the need for more trails and better connectivity to parks.

Trails provide excellent value to communities as they provide tremendous public benefit – they serve the most people for the least cost and are free to everyone to use. Opportunities to expand trails and / or create better connectivity has been identified for each South Bruce community. An initial concept and description are presented below.

*Note: It is important to keep in mind that the trail concepts are preliminary. Further assessment and refinement are essential to refine the route and address land ownership and other issues.*





## Potential Trail Expansion and Connectivity Concepts:

**FORMOSA.** In Formosa there is the potential for an attractive off-street trail development along the Formosa Creek connecting the Lions Park in the south to the community park in the north, a distance of approximately 500 metres. The trail would need to extend through Valley View Terrace Apartments property and the adjacent properties at 1171 and 1189 Bruce Road 12.

The Formosa Community Park has very little land for expansion. However, the Bruce County Map site indicates a parcel of land to the west of the property, accessed from the end of Doris Drive that could be suitable for park and trail expansion. This may be an option for expansion should demand in the future warrant, and if the land becomes available.

**MILDMAY.** The community of Mildmay is fortunate to have the Bruce County rail trail run through the town. There is also the strong potential for off street trail expansion and increased community connectivity through the development of several new sections of trail. Trail connections between the planned Dent Subdivision and the existing Rotary Park trails should be encouraged. The Rotary Park trails could be extended along Otter Creek to connect with the rail trail, providing a trail connection directly to the Community Centre site. From here, pedestrians could make a short walk back to the future development area along sidewalks. Although access to private land would be required, there is great potential to create an additional walking loop from the community centre, along the west bank of Otter Creek to connect again with the rail trail.

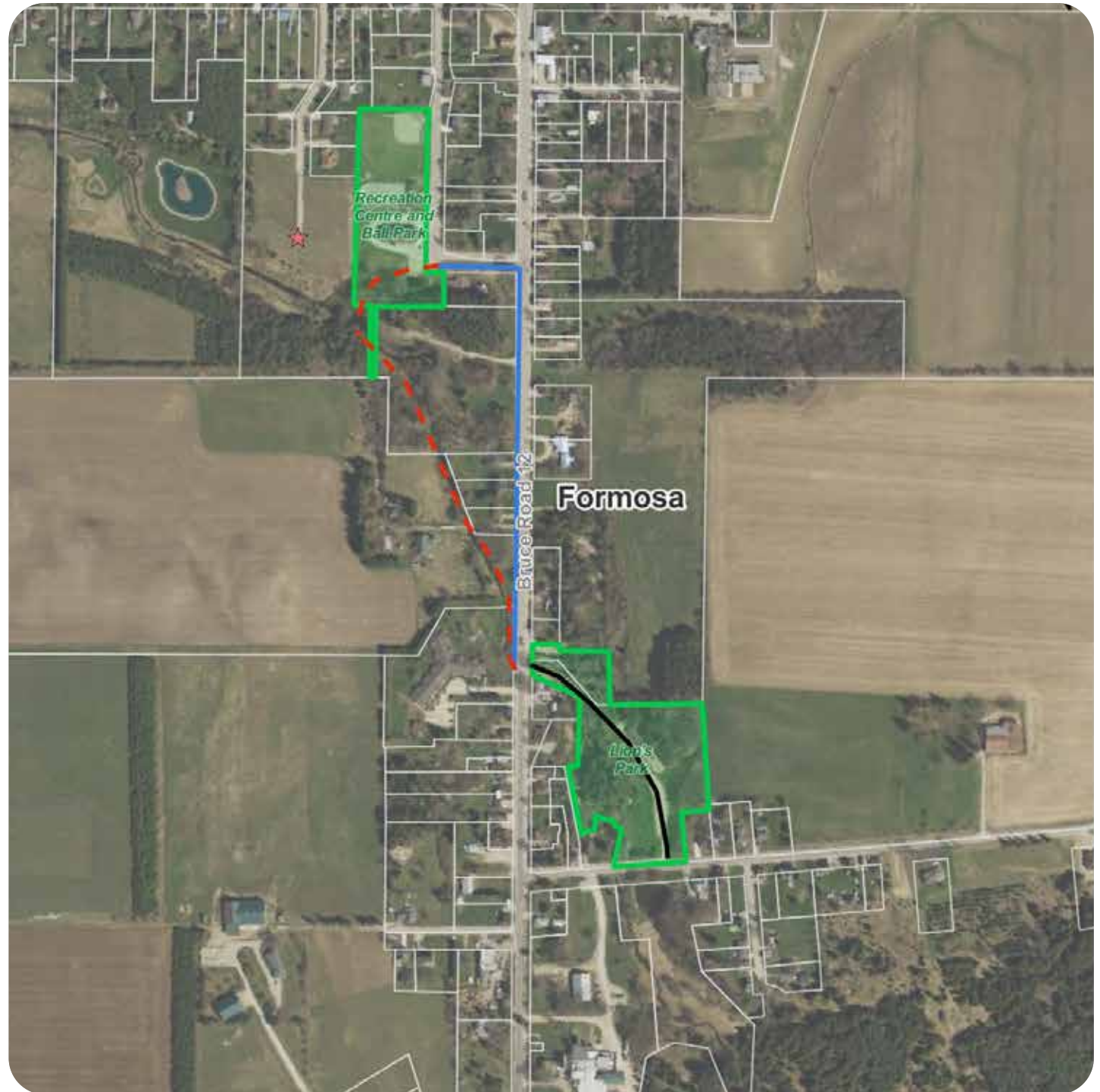
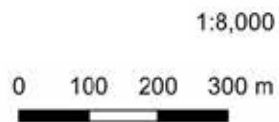
**TEESWATER.** The Teeswater-Culross Community Centre site and fairgrounds provide a considerable land resource for the introduction of new recreational facilities. The site is advantageously bordered by the Teeswater River to the north and this land has great potential to accommodate new walking trails along the river. Bruce County Maps indicate the land is part of the Huron Bay Coop Property (15 Hillcrest Street E.) and is zoned environmental protection allowing for trail development. A short 1.25-kilometer trail could be developed here and eventually extend upriver; this, however, will require the cooperation of landowners.

## **Recommendations:**

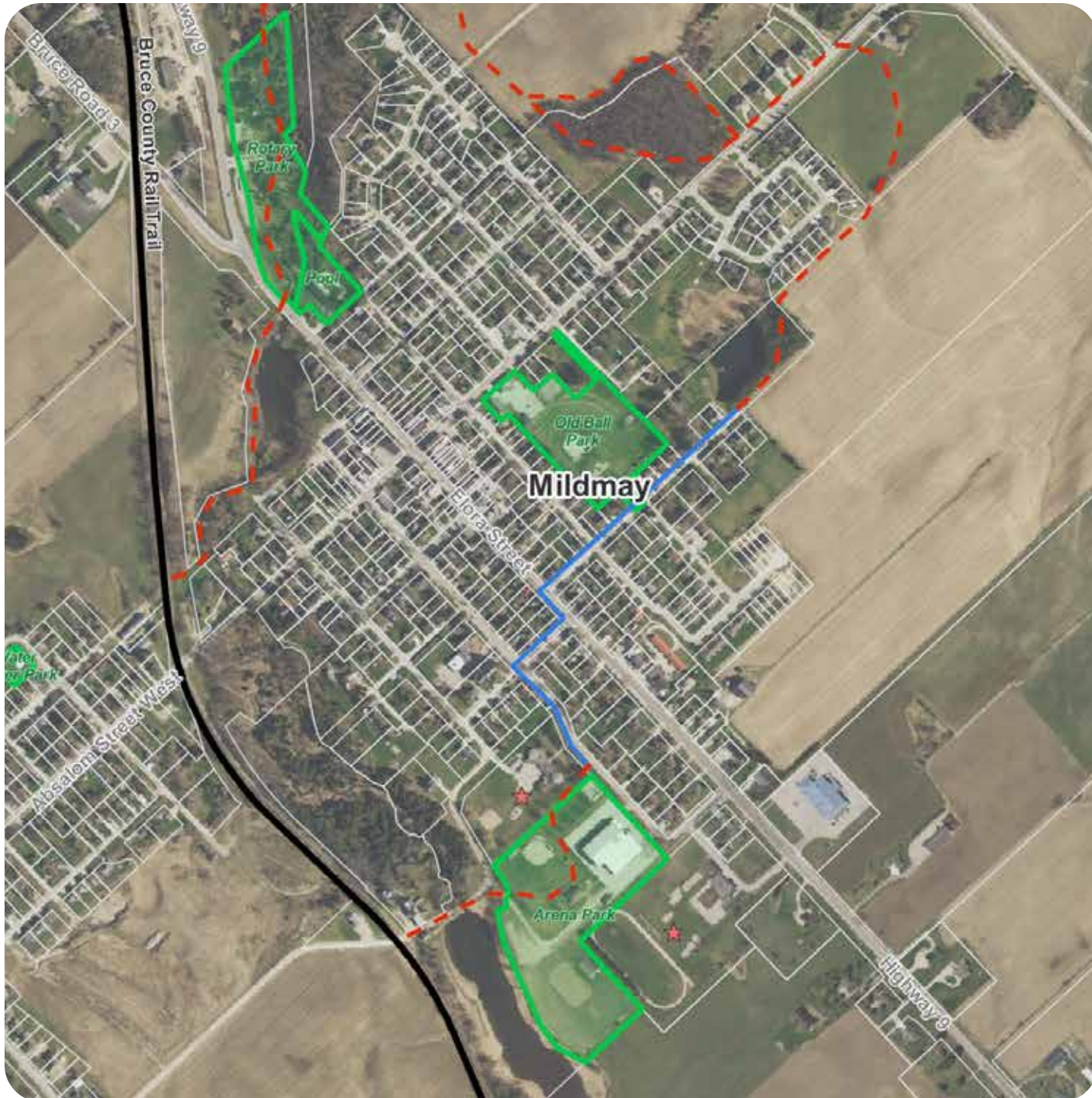
- That the Municipality complete a detailed concept for trail expansion and connectivity. The plan will include resolving land ownership issues or finalizing alternative routes for sections that cannot be accessed.
- The Municipality seek a grant of up to \$50K from the Active Transportation Fund to develop the trail concept plan.

Formosa  
Recommendations  
Map

- Property Parcel
- Major Park
- Municipal Facility Footprint







Mildmay  
Recommendations  
Map

- Proposed Sidewalk Link
- - - Proposed Trail
- Existing Trail
- ★ Proposed Park Land Expansion

1:8,000





Teeswater  
Recommendations  
Map

--- Proposed Trail

1:8,000

0 100 200 300 m



## Expand Recreation Opportunities in Parks:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 8 Parks: 2 parks in Formosa; 2 in Teeswater and 4 in Mildmay.</li> <li>• South Bruce has agreements with local service clubs to provide maintenance and upkeep of some municipal playgrounds and parks.</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting parks and open spaces is the second most participated in activity in South Bruce (67%)</li> <li>• 61% of respondents think more parks should be either a medium (27%) or high priority (34%) in South Bruce.</li> <li>• 84% of respondents think outdoor and/or nature-oriented activities are needed, activities which can be offered in parks.</li> </ul>
Youth Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more park benches / tables at parks.</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more parks for all ages</li> <li>• Activities visitors seek include visiting parks</li> <li>• The Rotary Park Spring garners a lot of attention.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement is toward High-Performance Public Spaces (HPPS) with a focus on social, economic, and ecological benefits.</li> <li>• Movement is toward integrating indoor recreational infrastructure with outdoor environments.</li> <li>• Parks support festival events (e.g., Teeswater Fall Fair) that celebrate what makes communities distinct.</li> </ul>

Parks not only serve the recreation needs of residents but are an attraction for new residents and tourists and can support the growth of new businesses and entrepreneurs. South Bruce is fortunate to have beautiful parks that are well used, well maintained, and well appreciated. However, gaps do exist in the park system, in amenities for teens for example. These gaps represent an opportunity to re-imagine and revitalize some of the parks.

Public parks offer many benefits including:

- Health and Wellness: Parks and recreation promotes improved physical and mental health.
- Conservation and Resiliency: Parks make communities more resilient to natural disasters, reducing disaster recovery and insurance costs.

- Property values: Economic research has demonstrated consistently that homes and properties located near parklands have higher values than those located farther away. Higher home values not only benefit the owners of these properties, but also add to the tax base of local governments.
- Economic development: Parks and recreation improves the quality of life in communities and benefits the local economic development of a region. More than 80 percent of corporate executives responding to a 2019 Area Development Survey rated quality-of-life features as an important factor when choosing a location for a headquarters, factory, or other company facility.
- Visitor spending: Many local park and recreation amenities spur tourism to their respective locales, generating significant economic activity, including (but not limited to) increased sales at local restaurants/bars and hotels.



A recent study by the *Knight Foundation, Community Ties. Understanding What Attaches People to The Place Where They Live, (May 2020)* found that easy access to recreational areas and safe places to work and play was linked to strong feelings of attachment and that these people identified more with the local culture and lifestyle and showed a stronger preference for staying.

Source: <https://knightfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Community-Ties-Final-pg.pdf>

Additionally, a recent NRPA research report, *2021 Engagement with Parks Report* found that proximity to great parks and quality recreation opportunities plays a significant role in determining where many people choose to live. In fact, four out of five U.S. adults seek high quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. Furthermore, easy access to high-quality parks, playgrounds, open spaces or recreation centers is of greatest importance to millennials (i.e. that demographic between 25-40 years of age, representing individuals of child bearing years or those with young families). <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/257fe28053c6420786927fcffc2f9996/2021engagementreport.pdf>

Inactivity is a serious problem in Canada, as demonstrated in the trends section of this report. ParticipACTION is calling on Canadian leaders, decision makers and citizens to embrace future-friendly, innovative ideas that will make physical activity fun, accessible and valued by all people living in Canada.

[https://participation.cdn.prismic.io/participation/e98e050d-90a2-43bd-a49d-e7c288071725\\_2021-ParticipACTION-Report-Card-on-Physical-Activity-for-Adults.pdf](https://participation.cdn.prismic.io/participation/e98e050d-90a2-43bd-a49d-e7c288071725_2021-ParticipACTION-Report-Card-on-Physical-Activity-for-Adults.pdf)





This Recreation Master Plan process included an assessment of all parks in the Municipality of South Bruce. Based on the assessment and consultants' findings from the public engagement process the following opportunities and recommendations are suggested:

### Formosa Lions Park:

- This is a beautiful park that hosts the annual Christmas in the Country Special Event.
- The horseshoe pitches are beautifully situated amongst bedrock outcrops and sheltered from the road by the park's service building. This is a great rental facility that deserves greater promotion.
- The playground structures are newer but require protective surfacing.



### Recommendations:

- Increase promotion of Formosa Lions Park as a key attraction in South Bruce.
- Upgrade the playground surface material to CSA Standards to improve safety and accessibility.

### Formosa Recreation Centre and Ball Park:

- This is a lovely park; facilities however are showing their age and are due for renovation.
- The outdoor rink will be replaced in 2022. Multi-use courts should be considered (also: outdoor pickleball courts, along with basketball and tennis may be appropriate). Ease of access and accessibility in redevelopment should also be considered.
- Ball field dugouts are well-built but should be rejuvenated if long term post-Covid viability of the diamond is determined.
- The park would benefit from a planting program that screen neighbouring homes and enhance the streetscape.

### Recommendation:

- Develop a refresh design plan for Formosa Recreation Centre and Ball Park that reimagines the park spaces to enhance multi-functionality, accessibility, and beautification.

## Mildmay Arena Park:

- The park is the site of the annual Mildmay-Carrick Fall Fair, hosted by the Mildmay Agricultural Society.
- This park is centrally located and advantageously situated between the community's two public schools and school lands.
- As a centrally located site that is well serviced, the Mildmay Arena Park would be an appropriate location to further expand recreational services, e.g., splash pad and walking trails, pumptrack, and other fun amenities to encourage children and youth activity, while still accommodating the Annual Mildmay-Carrick Fall Fair.
- Creating links to the Bruce County Rail Trail would be appropriate. Although the support of private land holders would be required, a trail to Rotary Park along Otter Creek would be a great community benefit.
- If additional parkland is required within the next ten years, consideration should be given to improving existing school grounds, in partnership with the appropriate school boards.

## Mildmay Old Ball Park:

- This is an attractive well-used and well-maintained park space.
- Its central location makes this park easily accessible for much of the community.
- Some improvements are required. The tennis court surfacing is in poor condition and should be resurfaced and ideally the court would be redesigned as a multi-use court. Pickleball and possibly basketball could be added.
- The shuffleboard play surface has deteriorated beyond repair and should be removed. Should the demand for shuffleboard grow new facilities should be developed in a more accessible location.

## **Recommendations:**

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- Develop a Park Master Plan for Mildmay Arena Park that reimagines the park spaces to improve connectivity to the Mildmay-Carrick Community Centre, and adds more fun amenities for children, teens, and families while accommodating the Mildmay-Carrick Fall Fair.
- Develop Park Plans to improve school grounds in partnership with the school boards if additional parkland is required within the next ten years

## **Recommendation:**

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- Upgrade the tennis court at Mildmay Old Ball Park to a multi-use court and remove shuffle board (or replace it if demand grows).

### Mildmay Water Tower Park:

- This small park is located at the edge of the southern portion of town, making this small park an unlikely destination for the general population.
- Play structures are dated and randomly situated on the site. No protective surface is provided.
- The expansion of Weiss Subdivision may increase the demand for tot-lots and play space; however, redevelopment of this park space should be modest. Updating and rearranging structures to improve maintenance efficiency and adding protective surfacing, along with seating and planting areas would be appropriate.

### **Recommendation:**

- Update and rearrange structures at Mildmay Water Tower Park to be closer together; add protective surfacing, seating, and planting

### Teeswater Arena and Ball Park:

- The park is the site of the annual Teeswater Fair, hosted by the Teeswater Agricultural Society.
- The park has several amenities including numerous agricultural exhibit buildings, concessions and picnic pavilions, large bleachers, horse ring, horse track, two baseball fields.
- The Teeswater Agricultural Society also owns and operates the Haunted House and RV sites.
- The park provides a great land resource for future redevelopment and expansion of recreational facilities for the community.

Several significant recreational opportunities exist here:

- Declining use of the agricultural buildings provides an opportunity for the redevelopment of the grounds. For example, in partnership with the Agricultural Society, the horse track could be redesigned to provide space for new park elements. Upgrading and removing other select buildings may be an option.
- A river access point and additional trails could be developed in connection with this park.
- Generally, this park is a great resource for a variety of future recreational uses. The creation of a Park Master Plan to guide further development is highly recommended for this space.

### **Recommendation:**

- Develop a Park Master Plan for Teeswater Arena and Ball Park that reimagines the park spaces to improve connectivity to the Teeswater-Culross Community Centre, and adds more fun amenities for children, teens, and families while accommodating the annual Teeswater Fair.



### Teeswater Lions Park and Pool Site:

- The park is the site of the outdoor pool, playground, and pavilion.
- Playground structures are mostly modern; some older equipment should be decommissioned, and protective surfacing is required.
- An additional pedestrian connection to the green space at the corner of Clinton and Hillcrest Street may be beneficial.

### Mildmay Rotary Park:

- Located along a busy highway, the Mildmay Rotary Park is a popular stop for cottage traffic heading toward the Bruce Peninsula.
- The park features an attractive freshwater pond and gazebo - a popular source of drinking water.
- The food concession is a popular tourist destination during the summer.
- While additional land to the north could be available for park expansion, the park's location along the busy highway makes other sites within Mildmay more attractive for recreational use.
- The park has newer play equipment; protective surfaces however need to be refreshed.
- There are no recommendations for this park.

### Recommendations:

- Decommission old playground equipment at Teeswater Lions Park and add protective surfacing.
- Add a pedestrian connection to the green space at the corner of Clinton and Hillcrest Street.



## Review of the Need for More Parkland:

The population of South Bruce area is projected to grow by 1,170 people over the next 10 years. If we assume a fairly even distribution of these residents within the municipality, although with a higher percentage moving to the larger communities of Teeswater and Mildmay, we conclude that with redesign and renewal, the existing in-Town outdoor recreation assets can accommodate the projected new residents. This also assumes that school grounds can be refreshed or redesigned, if required.

### Rationale:

1. Currently all residents are within a 10-20 minute walk of all outdoor recreation assets.
2. All three communities have fairly large recreation areas.
3. The larger communities of Teeswater and Mildmay (where we expect the large portion of the new residents to settle) have large festival grounds that, with adjustments, can accommodate the need for additional parkland and amenities resulting from an increased population.
4. We propose that each of these fair grounds have redevelopment Master Plans prepared, that respond to the identified recreation needs of the community.
5. Additionally, future subdivisions should be required to:
  - a. at a minimum, include one sidewalk on each new street;
  - b. ensure that the land developer includes neighbourhood level parks and trails in the subdivision design; and,
  - c. both sidewalks and trails should provide connectivity to other recreation assets thereby creating more, and longer, walking opportunities that residents.



Improve Access to the Teeswater River:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal access available</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33% of respondents think boat launches should be a medium (15%) or high priority (18%).</li> </ul>
Youth Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddlesports (i.e., canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding) is among the top activities youth (35%) would like to participate in.</li> <li>• 32% of youth currently participate in paddlesports.</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more opportunities for access to Teeswater River – leisure paddling – protect opportunities – need decent lands at bridges for access.</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tremendous interest in paddlesports occurred during the pandemic.</li> </ul>

The popularity of paddling the Saugeen River has grown exponentially over the past few years. Fifteen improved launch points and numerous other road-river intersections provide access to the main section of the 102-kilometre river.

While only a fraction of the size of the Saugeen River, sections of the Teeswater River can also provide enjoyable kayaking experiences, particularly after heavy rainfall events and in the spring and fall season when water levels are high. Sections both upriver downriver from the community of Teeswater could be developed as paddling routes. Enhancing access points and clearing fallen trees and debris from the river would greatly improve the river corridor for recreational use.

It is recommended that the Municipality explore the opportunity to develop a Teeswater River paddle route with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and local landowners. One possible option may be to create a demonstration project for access at Bruce Road 6 at Sideroad 20 and another down river at Concession 8 or 10.

It is noteworthy that the *Bruce County Cultural Action Plan* recommends that the County coordinate with municipalities, parks, and conservation authorities on improving heritage-related trail systems and water access (e.g., historic portage routes), including through integrated cultural interpretation programming (such as wayfinding and

**Recommendation:**

- The Municipality explore the opportunity with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and local landowners to develop a Teeswater River paddle route and access points.



Improve Quality of Athletic Fields and Amenities:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Soccer Pitches</li> <li>• 5 Ball Diamonds</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% of respondents play softball   18% play baseball</li> <li>• 8% of respondents play soccer   15% would like to play soccer</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<p><b>Soccer Fields:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need shelter /shade from the heat at Teeswater</li> <li>• New benches, ideally covered, at Mildmay Arena Park and pop-up tents for shade at Mildmay Soccer Field</li> </ul> <p><b>Formosa Diamond:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field is not currently used due to movement away from baseball</li> <li>• Provide better regular maintenance</li> <li>• Replace infield with proper clay</li> <li>• Level outfield</li> <li>• Provide bases to women’s league</li> </ul> <p><b>Mildmay Diamonds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade electrical for lights to a solo power switch at Mildmay</li> <li>• Infield needs to be dragged more often</li> <li>• Level the outfields</li> <li>• Replace the dugouts</li> <li>• Refresh the Batting cage</li> <li>• Replace the storage shed with a secure storage unit (for mag bags, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Teeswater Baseball Diamonds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide better regular maintenance</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soccer is the most played sport by Canadian children aged 5-14 years and attracts twice as many kids as the second and third most popular sports - swimming and ice hockey. (Canadian Heritage. Sport Participation 2010. Research Paper).</li> <li>• Baseball and soccer are among the 2nd most played sport in Canada in adults 18 years and older. (2019, Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, Bulletin 9 Frequently Reported Sports)</li> <li>• Baseball: Participation in baseball is declining with minor players from Teeswater and Mildmay coming together to form teams.</li> <li>• Soccer: Numbers dwindle as kids get older- U12 and U15 players usually play in Walkertown or Wingham.</li> </ul>

## Ball Diamonds

South Bruce has five ball diamonds. While ball diamonds are reported to be heavily used by some stakeholders, the recreation departments 2019 Ball Schedule shows that Teeswater and Formosa ball diamonds are both underutilized: records show the diamonds are typically booked at less than 15% capacity.

Minor baseball is declining overall in South Bruce. Formosa has seen a drastic decline: there is no longer a minor league and adult teams have dwindled to two adult teams. Minor players from Teeswater and Mildmay will come together if enough players are needed to form a team. Numbers were further reduced due to the impact of COVID on participation: during the 2021 season, Mildmay ball diamonds were the only ones used.

Since the municipality has the infrastructure in place, it should work to ensure these facilities are sustainable. The Municipality should therefore meet with all softball and baseball leagues, teams, and minor program providers to determine how to revitalize and grow the sport. The Municipality can, for example, provide more support to volunteers, increase promotion of the program to residents, and upgrade the facilities as identified above.

When COVID-19 restrictions are over the Municipality should monitor participation and field usage. If participation does not warrant the provision of five ball diamonds, the number of ball diamonds should be reduced, with those experiencing the lowest usage decommissioned. Decommissioned ball diamonds should be replaced with amenities that will encourage spontaneous physical activity, especially among youth (pumptracks for example). Fields remaining in the system should be upgraded to meet user needs, as outlined above.

## **Recommendations:**

- Partner with existing ball leagues and organizations to grow the sport of softball and baseball in the Municipality.
- Upgrade the ball diamonds as identified in this Recreation Master Plan should demand warrant.
- Monitor ball diamond usage post COVID and if participation in baseball or softball continues to decline, consider reducing the quantity of ball diamonds and replacing decommissioned diamonds with youth amenities.



## Soccer Fields

Only one field, located at Mildmay Park Arena, is owned by the Municipality. The other fields are located on school grounds. The Municipality has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bruce Grey County Roman Catholic School Board and the Bruce County Board of Education for joint use of the field at Mildmay- Carrick Public School.

In 2019, pre-COVID, there were 100 participants in minor soccer in Mildmay, and 50 players in Teeswater in 2021 (2019 numbers were not available). Players range from ages 4-10 years. Both organizations reported that numbers dwindle as kids get older:



typically, older kids in the U12-U15 category travel to another municipality to play as there are not enough interested players in South Bruce. Based on the youth and adult surveys, it appears there is additional demand for soccer.

The Municipality should meet with all volunteers providing soccer to identify how it can partner to support and grow the soccer program. Soccer is a growing sport nationally and locally, and participation can be much higher than it is. Assistance may include providing more support to volunteers, promoting the program to residents, and upgrading facilities. Besides providing shelter for players as identified above, the soccer fields should eventually be upgraded to athletic field standards. Field surfaces should be level, without ruts.

### **Recommendations:**

- Provide support to the volunteers who run the minor soccer program.
- Promote and support growth of the sport of soccer in the Municipality.
- Upgrade the soccer field surface and amenities as identified in this Recreation Master Plan.
- Monitor soccer usage post COVID and if participation in soccer declines, consider designating the fields for multi-use free play space.



## Develop a New Splash Pad:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	There are no splash pads in South Bruce.
Resident Survey	Visiting a splash pad is the top activity respondents would like to participate in. 63% respondents think splash pads should be a medium of high priority for the Municipality.
Youth Survey	24% of youth respondents visit splash pads.
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholders have stated the need for a splash pad, ideally located next to a pool. Potential sites suggested were the Teeswater Fairgrounds or at the Teeswater pool site.
Trends	Splash pads are among the most sought-after recreation amenities.

Splash pads provide a lot of fun, are an interactive and social experience, and offer respite from summer heat. Since these aquatic play areas are zero-depth, they have reduced risk and staffing needs. Splash pads often become a destination for families and thus should accommodate all ages. Splash pads are typically found in park settings, and work best when located near other youth facilities, soccer fields for instance, as kids can cool off after a game. Facilities should be inclusive and have equipment of various heights with adequate space to allow wheelchairs to turn around and maneuver around equipment. Washrooms and change rooms must be considered in the design of splash pads (locating splash pads next to pool facilities is therefore cost efficient).



### Recommendations:

- In the short term the Municipality should develop at least one splash pad with qualities to attract families from all over the municipality.
- It should also seek to develop splash pads in the other communities in the medium term as the community continues to grow.

## **Upgrade RV Campgrounds to Accommodate Current Electrical Needs:**

The Teeswater & Culross Agricultural Society (the Agriculture Society) has a MOU with the Municipality regarding the Society's buildings and occasional use of the park, effective until December 2099. During the Fall Fair, 46 campsites are occupied. The Society has stated that electrical capacity at the campsites is an issue for RV users, whose requirements include power to run refrigerators, air conditioners, ovens, etc. Electrical upgrades are also required at Formosa Lions Park Campground.

Typically, RV campgrounds are equipped with 30- or 50-amp service and will have an independent metered breaker at each site. Campers pay for the electricity they use as part of their camping fee. The Municipality should meet with the Society to determine the level of upgrades required and proceed if upgrades are feasible.

**Recommendation:** Upgrade the RV electrical capacity at Teeswater Fairgrounds and Formosa Lions Park.



Continue to Upgrade Tennis and Pickleball Courts + Add New Multi-Use Courts:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	2 tennis courts at Mildmay Old Park
Resident Survey	4% of respondents play tennis   14% would like to play 14% play pickleball   15% would like to play 60% think multi-purpose courts should be a medium or high priority
Youth Survey	2% play tennis   24% would like to play 2% play pickleball   27% would like to play
Stakeholder Engagement	Need new or refurbished tennis courts
Trends	Spontaneous use amenities are a leading trend and very much in demand

The Municipality is currently refurbishing its tennis courts which will include pickleball features. It should also consider adding multi-use courts. Multi-use courts offer a greater variety of activities such as basketball, ball hockey, futsal, volleyball, pickleball, and dodgeball. Multi-use courts also serves a larger demographic, including youth, adults, and families.

Multi-use courts can be converted to natural ice rinks in the winter. 53% of survey respondents think outdoor ice rinks should be a medium or high priority. The reconstruction of the outdoor rink in Formosa will provide a facility serving the entire municipality of South Bruce. A smaller rink, operated by volunteers, in Mildmay and Teeswater will allow more participation especially for youth who will be able to walk to an outdoor rink after school. Conversely, the Municipality should ensure the Formosa outdoor rink can double as a multi-use court in the off season.

## Recommendations:

- That the Municipality develop one multi-use court in Mildmay and one in Teeswater. Convert these to volunteer- run outdoor rinks in the winter.
- That the Municipality develop a multi-use court at the Formosa Outdoor Rink as part of its restoration.





## 11.3 Program Needs

### Ensure a Variety of Programs are Available in South Bruce:

This section addresses the need for more programs, expressed throughout the public engagement process, and provides a list of potential programs that respond to current trends as well as existing capacity and facilities in South Bruce.

<b>CONTEXT</b>	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Led Programs: Kickboxing Fitness   Hockey Skills Camp   Youth Kickboxing   Wellness Programs   Canada Day Festival   Seniors Program (cards, crokinole)   Swimming Lessons   Pickleball and Tennis </li> <li>• Volunteer Led Sport Programs: Minor and Adult Hockey   Minor Soccer  Minor and Adult Baseball  Swimming Team   Lawn Bowling  Junior Broomball   Curling </li> <li>• Volunteer Leisure Programs: Quilters Guild   Red Hat Ladies   Highland Pipe Band </li> <li>• County Led Programs: EarlyON Child and Family Programs   Library Programs (all ages) </li> <li>• Private Fitness Centres: Freezer Fitness - Fitness classes </li> <li>• Private and Not for Profit Arts and Cultural Programs: Studio410 - music classes, dance classes/ musical theatre - performance program </li> <li>• Service Clubs and Volunteer Organizations: 16 Clubs develop and operate parks and facilities  improve environment  fundraise  host community events </li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce Events: Shopping Night   Stout and Krout  Hanging of the Green </li> <li>• MSB Tourism: South Bruce Vintage Tractor Tour   Flavours of South Bruce   Concerts   Geocaching</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor activities are the most important to respondents. 82% walk, 67% visit parks and open spaces, 59% bike/cycle and 48% hike and swim.</li> <li>• Participation in arts and cultural programs is lower, possibly due to lower availability.</li> <li>• Respondents would like to participate in fitness class (25%)   Yoga class (23%). Dance (27%), visiting a museum (22%)  craft and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making) and fine arts (painting, photography, etc.) (21%) each.</li> <li>• Respondents think additional programming is needed for all groups.</li> <li>• Programs for families, teens and children aged 5-12 are needed.</li> <li>• A broader range of programs and services would motivate 78% of respondents to use programs and services in the Municipality of South Bruce, or to use them more often.</li> <li>• Respondents think more outdoor and/or nature-oriented activities and recreation level sports are needed in South Bruce.</li> <li>• More general interest programs (e.g., cooking, gardening) and Special Events (festival, concerts, performances) are also needed.</li> </ul>

Ensure a Variety of Programs are Available in South Bruce: (CONTINUED)

CONTEXT	
Youth Survey	<p>The top activities that youth would like to participate in are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horseback riding, paddle sports (i.e., canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding), soccer and snowshoeing and yoga</li> <li>• Participation in arts and culture activities is much lower than physical recreational activities</li> <li>• The most popular arts and culture activity is visiting a library (52%)</li> <li>• Participation in other activities is 20% or less and include theatre, craft and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making) and social games, such as crokinole, cards, etc.</li> <li>• Arts and culture activities youth respondents would like to participate in are:</li> <li>• Craft and textiles (quilting, pottery, jewelry-making)   visiting a museum   digital arts classes and fine arts (painting, photography, etc.)   music   choirs   dance</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More programs / activities for families</li> <li>• Open Formosa Recreation Centre for walkers in the winter</li> <li>• Provide exercise options for seniors</li> <li>• Build a sense of community in Municipality so that all towns are appreciated by residents – “keep community spirit alive”</li> <li>• Need more children activities - nothing for kids outside of baseball and hockey</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement toward experiential experiences that lead to personal growth and lifestyle skills</li> </ul>

The benefits of recreation programming to a community and the individuals within it are many. Recreation and leisure programs provide residents with the opportunity to socialize and gain new skills. Programs, including events and festivals are essential to social cohesion, and to creating a sense of community and pride. This is just to name a few.

The people of South Bruce want a variety of programs to be offered in their community.

They want:

- More activities for children and teens
- More programs / activities for families
- More programs for adults
- More exercise programs for seniors
- More outdoor and nature-oriented activities
- More arts and culture programs
- More opportunity and spaces for more recreation level sports
- Festivals and events that build a sense of community
- More opportunities for indoor walking in Formosa

The following table lists potential programs to meet the need for more recreational, arts and cultural programs. Suggested programs are based on activities that are trending in 2022 and that match existing and recommended capacity and facilities. Some programs are already available, and should continue. As with all programs, the Municipality and its partners will monitor programs to confirm if they are a good fit and of interest to residents.

<b>LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS</b>	
<b>Recommended Programs</b>	<p><b>Children and Teen Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor Recreation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding</li> <li>– Camps that provide youth instruction, training, and practice in trending watersports</li> <li>– Rentals and guided tours that create an opportunity to explore nature and socialize</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Snowshoeing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clubs that are beginner friendly and promote exploration and socialization</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fitness               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Outdoor fitness equipment in the park, yoga in the park, and hiking groups</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outdoor Rink               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– During the winter there can be scheduled times for recreational skating and pick-up ice sport games</li> <li>– During the summer it can operate on a schedule with specific times for roller blading, pick-up hockey, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Archery               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Beginner friendly classes where participants learn about archery basics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Horseback Riding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Guided horseback rides: Offers scenic and relaxing rides</li> <li>– Horseback riding lessons: Students learn about horse care, horsemanship, and horseback riding techniques</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Soccer               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A conjoined Teeswater-Mildmay Soccer Association</li> <li>– Summer camps where youth can improve technique and develop social skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Indoor Recreation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Structured Indoor Classes: Yoga, dance, fitness, cycling and Zumba</li> <li>– Unstructured Sports: Free drop-in pick-up games such as badminton, basketball, pickleball, and volleyball</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Arts and Culture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Instructional clubs that teach youth about knitting, quilting, pottery, jewelry-making, painting, and photography</li> <li>– Music and choir groups where students can practice vocal and instrumental skill</li> <li>– Performance theatre and dance clubs where youth develop character</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

### Recommended Programs

#### Family Programs

- Splash Pad
  - Stay active and refreshed in the heat while interacting with others
  - Respect water conservation, low injury incidents, and accessible to everyone including the elderly and disabled
- Outdoor Recreation
  - Toboggan Hills
  - Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing
    - Snowshoe and ski rentals suitable for all ages available to use on ungroomed walking trails during the winter
  - Outdoor Rink
    - Times reserved for family skates
  - Cycling
    - Planned events where participants take a family friendly, accessible and car-free route
    - Learn-to-ride events where youth can safely learn how to ride a bike
    - Family-friendly clubs
- Outdoor Family Nature Program
  - Includes activities such as scavenger hunts, bird feeder making, hiking challenges, tree planting, and more
- Disc Golf
  - A low maintenance and family fun activity that promotes outdoor exercise
  - Disc rental available
- Picnics
  - Additional picnic facilities to provide families a place to eat while using parks and trails



## LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Recommended Programs

### Adult Programs

- Recreation
  - Scheduled times for pick-up games of basketball, volleyball, pickleball, soccer, softball, tennis
  - Fitness classes: Yoga, boot camp, barre, indoor cycle, Tai Chi and Zumba
- Educational Workshops
  - Adults can learn new skills and interact with each other through various types of educational sessions
  - Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing
    - Dance: Tap, Line, Ballroom, Salsa and Square
    - Computer and Technology: Learn about how to use your device, connect to Wifi, pair your device to your vehicle, practice using software applications and more
    - Arts and Crafts: Painting, Photography, Card-making, Drawing, Jewelry Making, Knitting, Crocheting, Quilting, etc.
    - Lifestyle: Gardening, Language, Mixology, and Cooking
- Entertainment
  - Scheduled nights including activities: Bingo, Trivia, Billiards, Card/Board Games, Tea Socials, and Darts
- Clubs
  - Virtual or in-person clubs that allow people to mingle and find new hobbies and interests
  - Popular clubs include Book Club, Crochet and Knitting Clubs, Walking Club, Cycling Club, and Running Club

### Exercise Programs for Seniors

- Co-ed Recreation Drop-In Leagues
  - Pickleball
  - Table Tennis
  - Badminton
  - Tennis
- Clubs
  - Walking, Cycling
    - Indoor club at a walking track with extended hours
  - Cycling club
    - Indoor cycling or outdoor biking club
- Classes
  - Tai Chi, Pilates and Yoga
  - Chair Exercise
  - Zumba
  - Circuit Training
  - Resistance Band Workouts

## LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Recommended Programs

### Outdoor and Nature-oriented Programs

- Themed Weekends at Campgrounds
  - Themed weekends at campgrounds are a new way for families to begin new and exciting outdoor traditions.
  - These themes may include Christmas in July, Come to the Carnival Weekend, 80's themed weekend, Zoo in the Campground, Tiki Beach Party, and Hallo-Weekend
- Gardening
  - Instructional classes about vegetable and flower gardening basics (ie. soil, fertilizer, pests, and diseases), open to all members of the community
- Picnic Facilities
  - Sheltered and accessible areas at the head of trails, outdoor pool facilities, and at parks with picnic tables and firepits
  - Facilities at trails have potential to be used year-round by walkers, cyclists, ATV users, and snowmobiles
  - A place to snack, socialize, and relax while outdoors
- Paddle Sports
  - Rentals and guided tours allow members of the community to explore nature by water, while socializing and exercising.
  - Popular paddle sport activity includes kayaking, canoeing, and stand-up paddle boarding

### Arts and Cultural Programs

- Dance
  - Various types of dance classes offered for all ages including line, hip hop, ballet, Acro, and tap
- Music
  - Beginner friendly instrumental and vocal classes for all ages
    - Guitar, drum, keyboard, piano, ukulele, recorder, and saxophone
  - Music clubs open to all members of the community including choir and guitar
- Arts and Crafts
  - Instructional classes for residents of all ages including painting, photography, quilting, calligraphy, printmaking, and jewelry making
- Performance Theatre
  - Offers programs such as musical theatre, stage makeup, acting, auditioning, and improv
- Cultural
  - Cooking classes that introduce participants to how food is prepared and enjoyed by other cultures
  - Language classes allow community members to learn new words and expressions while meeting new peers



## LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Recommended Programs	<p><b>Opportunity and Spaces for Recreation Level Sports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Tennis League             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Outdoor Facility: Mildmay Old Ball Park Tennis Courts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recreational Volleyball League             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Indoor Facility: Hillcrest Central School</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recreational Basketball League             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Indoor Facility: Hillcrest Central School</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recreational Lacrosse League             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Outdoor Facility: Mildmay-Carrick Public School, Mildmay Arena Park, and Hillcrest Elementary School</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Festivals and Events that Build a Sense of Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer’s Market             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A space where all members of the community can come together to socialize, shop, and sell local product.</li> <li>– May feature special pop-up events to further engage the community. (ie.face painting)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Walk-A-Thon             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A marathon would bring the community and their commonly shared interest of walking together</li> <li>– Possibility of vendors present for participants and spectators to purchase snacks and refreshments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Musical Festival             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Local musicians performing music of various genres that are of interest to all ages</li> <li>– Food and beverage vendors on site</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Food and Beverage Tasting Festivals             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Provides local restaurants an opportunity to create revenue and members of the community an opportunity to sample, socialize and get outside</li> <li>– Beer and wine festival are a chance for local distilleries, vineyards, and breweries to show off their product while bringing the community together</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The Municipality should find an appropriate balance between a direct and indirect approach to delivering programs and opportunities. It is not necessary that the recreation department provide all the programs; it will however fall to the department to ensure more programs are available in South Bruce. Currently the department does not have the capacity to do this. The Municipality will therefore have to enhance its staffing. At least one program coordinator will have to be hired, as a starting point. The role of the program coordinator will be to ensure that programs are offered in the community; some will be offered directly while others will require community partners.



The department of recreation is sometimes challenged to fill all its summer positions. The consultants contacted colleges in Southern Ontario that have recreation programs to learn what students and graduates are seeking in work terms and full-time employment. The results from one college are as follows:

- Internships of 250 hours are required in some programs.
- Students are looking for experience in traditional recreation/ community settings (e.g., aquatics, recreation supervisor, recreation manager, etc.).
- Graduates could be enticed to a small town by the quality of life, opportunity to build skills, lower cost of living, and opportunities for growth/promotion.
- Opportunities for full time work / job security is critically important to students.
- Salaries and benefits competitive to those of city centers are expected.

## Recommendations:

- Hire a program coordinator to lead the expansion of recreation, arts and cultural programs and activities in South Bruce and to build and strengthen community partnerships.
- Eventually hire additional staffing as required.

## 11.4 Partnership Recommendations

### *Improve Engagement with and Provide More Support to Volunteers*

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers in South Bruce are vital to the provision of recreation services</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>47% of respondents are willing to volunteer</li> <li>36 individual respondents provided the number of hours they would volunteer: 83% of these are willing to contribute at least three hours of their time per week</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers in South Bruce need support (see text below)</li> </ul>
Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2018, 79% of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported volunteering</li> <li>Volunteers dedicate 105 hours per year to sports and recreation and 104 hours to arts and culture</li> <li>Older volunteers are less likely to volunteer but contribute more hours</li> <li>Source: (Volunteering Counts: Formal and informal contributions of Canadians in 2018” Insights on Canadian Society (Catalogue number75-006-X) available at <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210423/dq210423a-eng.htm">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210423/dq210423a-eng.htm</a>.</li> </ul>





Volunteers are the heart of recreation. Quality recreation sports and leisure programs, new facility development, community events and festivals in South Bruce depend to a large degree on individual volunteers and volunteer service groups. Volunteers in South Bruce are dedicated; they are motivated by the desire to improve their community and to ensure programs are available for their families.

Globally, nationally, and locally, volunteer organizations are faced with the challenge of sustaining their volunteer base. Seniors are a significant source of volunteers, but as they retire, organizations are challenged to replace them. Adding to this challenge is the difficulty in recruiting young adults, many of whom are working and raising families.

Many volunteers in South Bruce are facing burn-out and have stated the need for support from the Municipality. Volunteers interviewed for this study have suggested that reliance on volunteers to provide recreation programs is an issue that Council will need to address.

Volunteers need the Municipality of South Bruce to:

- Help with insurance costs
- Help with volunteer recruitment
- Take over administration of programs, including organizing programs and looking after use of fields
- Take over fulfilling requirements of regional and provincial organizations...paperwork, club membership renewal, financial statements, volunteer registration, etc.
- Run the programs
- Help recreation groups get organized pre-season
- Take care of registration

- Organize renting athletic fields and make the facility available for free
- Reduce fees for all facilities
- Take over fulfilling requirements of regional and provincial organizations including paperwork, club membership renewal, financial statements, volunteer registration, etc.
- Take over the responsibilities for soccer, baseball etc.
- Address potential negative impacts of COVID on return participation to activities and volunteerism if necessary
- Help service clubs recover from impacts of COVID on fundraising initiatives
- Hire a recreation coordinator to take over the responsibilities of the current volunteers for soccer, baseball etc.

## Recommendations:

- Engage with all volunteers on a regular basis to identify the support they need.
- Hold biannual networking sessions with volunteers.
- Consider hosting volunteer appreciation events, such as an annual banquet.
- Assign the responsibilities of developing and implementing a volunteer program to the new program coordinator and hire a program coordinator assistant if required.

### Expand Partnership Opportunities:

The Municipality has several successful partnerships in place, most notably with not-for-profit service organizations, school authorities and sport groups.

Bruce County EarlyON program provides programs to young children and families in South Bruce and represents an opportunity for the Municipality to address program gaps for young children and families, including families with low incomes. Provision of program space, storage, and minimum staff time is all that is required. The Municipality should thus begin discussions with the Bruce County Early Years Supervisor as soon as possible to determine how the two organizations can work together to expand program opportunities in South Bruce.

The Municipality has at least one agreement with school authorities regarding joint use and maintenance of outdoor athletic facilities on school grounds. The Municipality should update existing agreements. MOUs could also include school building access if spaces within schools can meet recreational program needs – arts and culture program spaces and gymnasiums for community programs, like indoor walking for example.

Recreation departments are called on more and more to play a greater role in social issues. New partnerships can also include health and social service organizations to address issues such as health and wellbeing issues (e.g., adult and child obesity, drug and substance misuse). The department should meet periodically with organizations responsible for vulnerable populations to determine its role in relevant issues. If a new recreation facility is built in the future, space could be leased to organizations (private, government, or not for profit) whose mandate aligns with health and wellbeing.

The Municipality could also consider forming partnerships with neighbouring municipalities in future program delivery and/or infrastructure development. Municipalities could partner for example in hosting arts and culture festivals and events. Municipalities could also partner in building, owning, and operating new recreation infrastructure. Such arrangements reduce capital and operating costs for all partners and enables residents to have state of the art facilities that would not be feasible on its own.

### **Recommendations:**

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- Meet with EarlyON to determine how the recreation department can support the provision of child and family programs in South Bruce.
- Partner where possible with other organizations, municipalities, and school authorities in the provision of recreation services, facilities, and spaces.

### Sponsorship and Naming Rights:

Sponsorship and Naming Rights provides an alternative revenue generating option for the provision of recreation services and thus has an economic benefit. More and more municipalities earn revenue to support recreation through sponsorships and advertisements. Many municipalities have adopted guidelines and policies regarding sponsorships and naming rights.

These policies and guidelines ensure the values and vision of potential sponsors align with the Municipality while a formal application process prevents potential conflicts.

While South Bruce has named several of its recreation amenities in recognition of a community organization that has contributed to its development, it does not have a naming policy or guidelines.

Municipalities may enter into Sponsorship or Naming Rights contractual agreements for a defined period of time, although some municipalities prefer not to rename facilities once named. Agreements can also abide by municipal bylaws and follow a standardized approach and consistent evaluation framework. Typically, there is not an ongoing obligation of the organization for which the facility is named.

Policies and guidelines clarify the process and expectations around sponsorship and naming rights. The Municipality should therefore develop policies and guidelines around sponsorships and naming rights.



### **Recommendation:**

- That the Municipality develop a Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy and Guidelines.



## 11.5 Maintenance and Operations Recommendations

### Improve Regular Maintenance of Indoor Facilities and Athletic Facilities:

With its many parks and amenities, athletic facilities, flowers, and trails, buildings and more, the department of recreation has a lot to maintain. Overall, facilities are maintained to a very high standard. Facility user groups however have identified a few areas for improvement. These are listed in previous sections of this report and include for example the need for better regular maintenance of ball diamonds and amenities, better cleaning of Teeswater Town Hall and the Teeswater Community Centre, and better maintenance of the pool building and signage. Regular engagement with user groups and volunteers will help ensure issues are identified and can be dealt with in a timely manner.

To streamline outside maintenance activities, the Municipality could also consider developing a maintenance manual with standards and task calendar. Maintenance standards describe tasks and activities that improve efficiencies and consistency in maintenance quality across all facilities and ensure the safe operation of athletic facilities. (Note: the standards are a tool to help staff and in no way implies their work is substandard). The department can develop a maintenance manual that describes step-by-step procedures, frequency, and schedule for each task; it will identify labour and equipment requirements/specifications, materials, hazard assessments and safety equipment. The manual is a procedural guide and therefore should be presented in a manner that is easily followed.

### Recommendations:

- Engage facility user groups regularly to ensure their facility maintenance needs are met.
- Consider developing a maintenance manual with standards, and a task and activity calendar, to guide maintenance of all outside facilities.



More Promotion of Facilities and Programs and Educate Residents on the Benefits of Recreation:

CONTEXT	
Current Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality promotes recreation through social media, its website, and community newsletter</li> </ul>
Resident Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents would like to learn about recreation programs and services through social media (69%), email (57%), recreation activity guide (printed) (56%), Municipal website (55%) and newspaper (44%)</li> <li>• Need more promotion; include non-digital opportunities – e.g., community calendar and newspapers</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to promote benefits of activities that are not hockey and organized sports</li> <li>• Need promotion to encourage participation in programs, including young members</li> <li>• Develop and publish recreation guides twice annually</li> </ul>

The Municipality is dedicated to keeping residents apprised on what is happening in the community. The public engagement process for this study however identified a need for better communication of all recreational opportunities available in the community, not just those offered by the Town. User groups and residents would also like the Municipality to take a lead role in encouraging more participation, and to educate residents on the benefits of recreation and leisure activities generally – arts, and cultural activities as well as sports programs.

All promotional material, online and printed, should include all sport programs, arts and cultural activities, dance, music, and performance and fitness programs, etc. offered by businesses as well as the Municipality and not for profit groups. It should also promote all amenities, parks and trails, opening hours and booking information.

The Municipality should develop electronic and printed activity guides. The activity guide should be in full colour and professionally designed. The guide should be printed and distributed in the Spring / Summer and Fall /Winter. Updates can be provided on the Municipal website and Facebook page.

### Recommendations:

- Develop an electronic and printed activity guide to promote all facilities and programs in South Bruce.
- Continue to promote all programs and services on the Municipal website and social media sites.

## Recognize and Celebrate the Value of Arts, Cultural and Performance Programs in the Community:

The importance of arts and culture to the community of South Bruce has been identified in previous sections of this report. This section emphasizes the value and benefits of arts and culture and provides a rationale to the Municipality to adopt procedures that ensure the growth of arts and culture, and the social and economic opportunities it brings.

As identified earlier in this report, in Ontario arts and culture sector is worth \$26.7 billion and employs almost 300,378 people. Additionally, Bruce County has recently released its Cultural Action Plan to ensure that opportunities can be realized throughout the region.

A 2016 report by the Department of Canadian Heritage: *Social Impacts and Benefits of Arts and Culture: A Literature Review: Final Version*, reports on the broad range of economic and social benefits to individuals and society (available at: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2018/pch/CH4-187-2016-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/pch/CH4-187-2016-eng.pdf))

Economic and Social Benefits include:

- improved economic performance
- enhanced opportunities for creativity and innovation
- enriched quality of life, health and well-being
- urban revitalization
- greater community cohesion and civic participation
- a deeper appreciation for diversity
- improved community safety and social behaviour in youth at risk
- opportunities for cognitive growth, learning and skills development, and
- more reflective and engaged citizens, to name only a few

The literature review quotes other studies that show participation in structured arts activities, and in some cases attendance at arts-based events, improves:

- secondary school academic attainment
- early literacy skills
- young people's cognitive abilities.

A 2012 report, produced by The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA), *Arts Impact Alberta: Ripple Effects from the Arts Sector* found that communities with a strong arts presence contribute to thriving, livelier neighbourhoods and attracts both new residents and tourists.



The literature review also quoted studies that found:

- life satisfaction, quality of life or happiness indicators positively correlate with participating in arts and culture activities
- regular visits to museums, participating in the arts or being an audience in the arts community positively correlated with an increase in mental well-being or life satisfaction rates
- culture plays an important role in increasing physiological well-being, including among the elderly



The Knight Foundation Study, *Community Ties. Understanding What Attaches People to The Place Where They Live*, (May 2020) found that people with access to arts and cultural activities are more attached to their communities. The study reported that access to arts and cultural activities has the potential to boost feelings of satisfaction and lifestyle fit and correlates with greater investment of time and resources in the community.

(Source: <https://knightfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Community-Ties-Final-pg.pdf>)



There is a perception in the community of South Bruce that arts and culture is not valued as highly as sports by Municipal leaders. South Bruce is incredibly fortunate to have an organization such as Studio410 offering dance, music, and performance programs in the community. Other organizations such as the Quilters Guild also offer arts programs. Providing a welcoming culture to such organizations, optimizing facilities utilized as cultural spaces (see Teeswater Town), and ensuring spaces are available, affordable, and equitable, will ensure sustainability and growth of arts and culture in the Municipality and the realization of all the social and economic benefits listed above.

## Recommendations:

- Establish an Advisory Committee comprised of members of the arts and culture industry to guide the development of a cultural community in South Bruce.
- Engage with Bruce County in the implementation of its Cultural Action Plan.

### Develop and Implement Inclusive Policies to Ensure All Members of the Community Have Access to Recreation:

Breaking down barriers for populations that face constraints to participation is recognized as a key function of public recreation service providers. The *Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015, Pathways to Wellbeing* identifies inequities as one of the most significant challenges to building pathways to wellbeing.

The Framework's Goal #2 for inclusion and equitable access ensures all representations of Canada's diverse populations have the same access to recreation opportunities. Equitable access for all includes socioeconomic status, age, culture, race, Aboriginal status, gender, ability, sexual orientation, or geographic location.

## INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES OF LOW INCOME

Individuals and families with lower incomes typically face fewer opportunities for recreational experiences. While the median household income in South Bruce in 2020 is \$71, 270, there are nonetheless households with incomes of less than \$20,000: 77 households or 3% of the population are in this category. Bruce County reports that, based on 2016 Low Income Measures, 13.2% of the population or 765 individuals in private households in South Bruce live with low income - 205 are children and youth between the ages of 0-17 years; 145 are seniors aged 65 years; and over; while 65 individuals are adults between the ages of 18-64 years. <https://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/Portals/1/Documents/Who%20We%20Are/Census%20Release%20IV%20Income.pdf>

Fees to participate in municipal activities are quite low: \$2 to participate in public and senior skating, \$3 for seniors to play cards and crokinole, for example. There are also sponsored events that are free to participants. It is nonetheless important to recognize that even at these low fees, low-income families and youth will still face barriers to participation.

Access to recreational programs and service for low-income families has been shown to have several beneficial outcomes for both the individual, family, and the community such as improved health and physiological benefits and the potential to break the poverty cycle. When considering inclusive programs for families of low income, it is important to recognize that single parent families, young families starting out in life or those in lower paying occupations quite often face financial barriers. As do families and persons of disabilities, and lower income seniors.

The Municipality should ensure recreation service provision is inclusive to all. It is therefore recommended that the Municipality develop policies and strategies to ensure no family or individual in the community facing barriers to participation is denied access to recreation opportunities.

*An Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians Policy Development and Implementation Guide for Communities* is available online at the Parks and Recreation Ontario website, [www.prontario.org](http://www.prontario.org). The Guide assists municipalities in developing a Community Action Plan for affordable access to recreation.



## VISIBLE MINORITIES

Statistics Canada defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in color”. In 2020 there were 71 people in South Bruce belonging to a visible minority group. The Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 highlights the importance of ensuring that service delivery strives to include people from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. The Municipality should ensure that visible minorities are engaged and participating in programs and activities. Visible minorities may represent an opportunity to expand events in the community that showcase the community’s diverse culture (food festivals for instance can feature food from different cultures). As the community grows it will become more diverse and inclusion will become more essential to service delivery.

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada and the Conference Board of Canada reports that Indigenous tourism sector in Canada is growing at a rapid rate and is outpacing Canadian tourism activity overall. <https://indigenoustourism.ca/indigenous-tourism-sector-in-canada-exceeding-all-growth-targets/#>

The direct economic benefits (GDP) attributed to the Indigenous tourism sector in Canada increased by 23.2 per cent between 2014 and 2017, going from \$1.4 billion to \$1.7 billion. Ontario employs the largest amount of people in the Indigenous tourism sector, providing 12,924 jobs. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210423/dq210423a-eng.htm>

Cultural experiences, such as Indigenous culinary experiences, are a significant part of the Indigenous growth tourism product (see <https://indigenoustourism.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/18-10-Accelerating-Tourism-Growth-Booklet-v5-WEB-1.pdf>), indicating that local Indigenous Peoples potentially represent an opportunity for South Bruce

to diversify its cultural programming. Concerning how the recreation department can benefit Indigenous Peoples, research has shown that Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately impacted by chronic disease in Ontario (The Burden of Chronic Diseases in Ontario, 2019). This suggests a need to promote physical activity programs and other health and wellbeing programs to Indigenous Peoples.



## Recommendations:

- Implement policies, procedures, and programs to support low-income youth and families. Continually evaluate and monitor the success of the programs.
- Adopt policies and processes to increase inclusion and access to recreation for all populations in South Bruce.
- Engage with Indigenous Peoples and visible minorities to expand cultural programming and ensure programming is inclusive to these groups.



### Review the Role of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council:

There is a perception among some recreation stakeholders, that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) is not effective specifically as it relates to improving facilities and parks within the municipality to meet the needs of the community.

Unlike typical advisory committee roles, the South Bruce Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference entails more than solely providing advice and recommendations to Council.

#### **The Mandate states:**



The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to Council on recreation-related issues and policies, to promote and provide a variety of opportunities for physical activity to all residents and to continuously improve all facilities and parks within the municipality to meet the needs of the community.

The mandate includes obligations that are operational in nature. Promoting and providing physical activities and improving facilities are operational responsibilities of municipal recreation departments, and typically beyond the capacity of a volunteer group of Council. It is suggested that Council revisit the mandate and responsibilities of RAC to include roles that are purely advisory. It is also suggested that regular updates on RAC be provided to the community.

This will not only serve to highlight the contributions of RAC, but will demonstrate that the advisory committee is an effective entity of recreation service delivery in the community.



### **Recommendation:**

- Revise the mandate of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee so that it is solely an advisory entity and provide the community with regular updates of their accomplishments.

### Invest in a Recreation Data Collection and Analysis System:

The Municipality currently uses Keystone Computer Resources as their recreation data collection and analysis system software. However, this system does not have a lot of capability and is quite inefficient to use. An upgraded system will ease operations and allow the collection of more data and allow better decision-making regarding program and facility use and participation.

Options were analyzed and based on our findings we are recommending a recreation software program. The program should be cost efficient, cloud-based and should simplify the way recreation organizations operate. The best software program provides membership management software, rental management, contract/license management, registration management, facility management software, event management software, billing and invoicing, and league/team management.

The software program should also offer a variety of reports such as revenue by period, revenue by general ledger account, revenue by program, payment detail by period, attendance sheets, and facility usage by period. This will allow management to view summarized and

detailed data, so that they can efficiently determine whether a program or event should continue or not. A good software system can eliminate all paper-based forms. The anticipated yearly cost of such software is \$8,500 USD. See [pro@prontario.org](mailto:pro@prontario.org) for more software options.

### **Recommendation:**

- Purchase Recreation Data Management Software



Register for  
Winter programs  
today!



## RECOMMENDATIONS, PRIORITIES, TIMELINES + COSTING

### Indoor Facility Needs

Need	Recommendation	Priority	Estimate Costing (Class D)
Replacement Plan for End of Useful Life of Community Centres and Arenas	Prepare A Feasibility Study and Operational Plan for eventual replacement of Arenas and Community Centres once the end of its useful life has been reached.	Medium Year 7-9	\$75,000-\$100,000 ea.
Increased Use of Existing Facilities	Engage an architect to undertake an assessment of its existing recreation and community centres to determine how best to transform existing spaces into attractive and multi-functional spaces.	Highest Year 1-3	\$34,500
Improved Meeting Spaces	Soundproof and enhance technological capabilities (Wi-Fi) in meeting spaces.	Medium Year 7-9	\$41,250
Transform Teeswater Town Hall into an Arts and Cultural and Performance Hub	Investigate the feasibility of designating Teeswater Town Hall as an arts/cultural and performance hub.	High Year 4-6	\$8,750
	Strengthen partnerships with all organizations, businesses and not for profit organizations, that provide arts and cultural programming in the Municipality.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house
	Develop an Arts and Cultural Action Plan.	High Year 4-6	\$50,000
Youth Spaces	Reserve and adapt spaces in each community centre for youth.	High Year 4-6	In-house + Equipment
	Identify community partners to provide programming, supervision and funding.	High Year 4-6	In-house + Program Costs



## RECOMMENDATIONS, PRIORITIES, TIMELINES + COSTING (CONTINUED)

### Outdoor Facility Needs

Need	Recommendation	Priority	Estimate Costing (Class D)
More Trails and Improved Connectivity	<p>Complete a detailed concept for trail expansion and connectivity. The will include resolving land ownership issues or finalizing alternative routes for sections that cannot be accessed.</p> <p>The Municipality seek a grant of up to \$50K from the Active Transportation Fund to develop a trail concept plan.</p>	Highest Year 1-3	\$50,000
Expanded Recreation Opportunities in Parks	<p><b>Formosa Lions Park</b> Increase promotion of Formosa Lions Park as a key attraction in South Bruce.</p> <p>Upgrade the playground surface material to CSA standards to improve safety and accessibility.</p>	<p>High Year 4-6</p> <p>Highest Year 1-3</p>	Engineered Wood Fibre @ \$80/M2
	<p><b>Formosa Recreation Centre and Ball Park</b> Develop a refresh design plan for Formosa Recreation Centre and Ball Park that reimagines the park spaces to enhance multi-functionality, accessibility, and beautification.</p>	High Year 4-6	\$17,500
	<p><b>Mildmay Arena Park</b> Develop a Park Master Plan for Mildmay Arena Park that reimagines the park spaces to improve connectivity to the Mildmay-Carrick Community Centre, and adds more fun amenities for children, teens, and families while accommodating the Mildmay -Carrick Fall Fair.</p> <p>Develop Park Plans to improve school grounds in partnership with the school boards if additional parkland is required within the next ten years.</p>	Highest Year 1-3	\$17,500

## RECOMMENDATIONS, PRIORITIES, TIMELINES + COSTING (CONTINUED)

### Outdoor Facility Needs

Need	Recommendation	Priority	Estimate Costing (Class D)
Expanded Recreation Opportunities in Parks	<b>Mildmay Old Ball Park</b> Upgrade the tennis court to a multi-use court and remove shuffleboard (or replace if demand grows).	Highest Year 1-3	\$50-75,000 (basic)
	<b>Mildmay Water Tower Park</b> Update and rearrange structures to be closer together; add protective surfacing, seating, and planting areas.	Medium Year 7-9	Engineered Wood Fibre @ \$80/M2  Benches/Plants \$8500
	<b>Teeswater Arena and Ball Park</b> Develop a Park Master Plan for Teeswater Arena and Ball Park that reimagines the park spaces to improve connectivity to the Teeswater-Culross Community Centre, and adds more fun amenities for children, teens, and families while also accommodating the annual Teeswater Fair.	High Year 4-6	\$17,500
	<b>Teeswater Lions Park and Pool Site</b> Decommission old playground equipment on site and add protective surfacing.	Highest Year 1-3	Engineered Wood Fibre @ \$80/M2  \$15,000
	Add a pedestrian connection to the green space at the corner of Clinton and Hillcrest Street.	Low	\$3,900
Improve Access to the Teeswater River	Explore the opportunity with the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and local landowners to develop a Teeswater River paddle route including access points.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house
Improve quality of Athletic Fields and Amenities	<b>Ball Diamonds</b> Partner with existing ball leagues and organizations to grow the sport of softball and baseball in the Municipality.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house
	Upgrade the ball diamonds as identified in this Recreation Master Plan should demand warrant.	Highest Year 1-3	\$15,000/site
	Monitor ball diamond usage post COVID and if participation in baseball or softball continues to decline, consider reducing the quantity of ball diamonds and replacing it with engaging amenities for youth.	High Year 4-6	In-house

## RECOMMENDATIONS, PRIORITIES, TIMELINES + COSTING (CONTINUED)

### Outdoor Facility Needs

Need	Recommendation	Priority	Estimate Costing (Class D)
Improve quality of Athletic Fields and Amenities	<p><b>Soccer Fields</b> Provide support to the volunteers that run the minor soccer program.</p> <p>Promote and support growth of the sport of soccer in the Municipality.</p> <p>Upgrade the entire soccer field surface and amenities as identified in this Recreation Master Plan.</p> <p>Monitor ball diamond usage post COVID and if participation in soccer declines, consider designating the fields for multi-use free play space.</p>	Highest Year 1-3	\$150,000-175,000
Develop a New Splash Pad	<p>In the short term the Municipality should develop at least one splash pad with qualities to attract families from all over the municipality.</p> <p>Develop splash pads in the other communities in the medium term.</p>	Highest Year 1-3	\$175,000-500,000
Upgrade RV Campgrounds to accommodate current electrical needs	Upgrade the electrical capacity at Teeswater Fairgrounds and Formosa Lions Park.	Medium Year 7-9	\$50,000-\$150,000
Continue to upgrade tennis and pickleball courts & add new Multi-Use Courts	<p>Develop one multi-use court in Mildmay and one in Teeswater. Convert these to volunteer-run outdoor rinks in the winter.</p> <p>Develop a multi-use court at the Formosa Outdoor Rink as part of its restoration.</p>	Highest Year 1-3	\$65,000 each

## RECOMMENDATIONS, PRIORITIES, TIMELINES + COSTING (CONTINUED)

### Program Needs

Need	Recommendation	Priority	Estimate Costing (Class D)
Provide a broader of range of programs and activities in South Bruce	Hire a program coordinator to lead the expansion of recreation, arts and cultural programs and activities in South Bruce and to build and strengthen community partnerships.  Eventually hire additional staffing as required.	Highest Year 1-3	\$55,000-\$75,000 for Program Coordinator

### Partnership Needs

Improve Engagement with and Provide More Support to Volunteers	Engage with all volunteers on a regular basis to identify the support they need.  Hold biannual networking sessions with volunteers.  Host volunteer appreciation events, such as an annual banquet.  Assign the responsibilities of developing and implementing a volunteer program to the new program coordinator and hire a program coordinator assistant if required.	Highest Year 1	\$55,000-\$75,000 for Program Coordinator Assistant
Expand Partnership Opportunities	Meet with EarlyON to determine how the recreation department can support the provision of child and family programs in South Bruce.	High Year 4-6	In-house
	Partner where possible with other organizations, municipalities, and school authorities in the provision of recreation services, facilities, and spaces.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house
Sponsorship and Naming Rights	Develop a Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy and Guidelines.	High-Medium Year 4-9	In-house



## RECOMMENDATIONS, PRIORITIES, TIMELINES + COSTING (CONTINUED)

### Maintenance and Operations Strategies

Need	Recommendation	Priority	Estimate Costing (Class D)
Improve Regular Maintenance of Indoor Facilities and Athletic Facilities	Engage facility user groups regularly to ensure their facility maintenance needs are met.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house
	Consider developing a maintenance manual with standards, and a task and activity calendar, to guide maintenance of all outside facilities.	High-Medium Year 4-9	In-house
More Promotion of Facilities and Programs and Educate Residents on the Benefits of Recreation.	Develop an electronic and printed activity guide to promote all facilities and programs in South Bruce.  Continue to promote all programs and services on the Municipal website and social media sites.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house + printed activity guides
Recognize and Celebrate the value of Arts, Cultural and Performance Programs in the Community	Establish an Advisory Committee comprised of members of the arts and culture industry to guide the development of a cultural community in South Bruce.  Engage with Bruce County in the implementation of its Cultural Action Plan.	Highest Year 1-3	In-house
Develop and Implement Inclusive Policies to Ensure all Members of the Community have Access to Recreation	Implement policies, procedures, programs to support low-income youth and families. Continually evaluate and monitor the success of the programs.  Adopt policies and processes to increase inclusion and access to recreation for all populations in South Bruce.  Engage with Indigenous Peoples and visible minorities to expand cultural programming and ensure programming is inclusive to these groups.	High-Medium Year 1-3	In-house
Review the Role of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council	Revise the mandate of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee so that it is solely an advisory entity and provide the community with regular updates of their accomplishments.	Highest Year 1-3	\$8,300 USD annually
Invest in a Recreation Data Collection and Analysis System	Purchase Recreation Data Management Software	Highest Year 1-3	\$8,500 USD annually

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## Potential Sources of Funding

The following table lists potential sources of funding that the Municipality can access to assist with implementing recommendations proposed in the Recreation Master Plan.

SOURCE	CONTACT	AVAILABLE FOR	AMOUNT	LINK
<b>FCM – Green Municipal Fund</b> (several different initiatives to apply for)	info@fcm.ca	Sustainability Active Transit Restoring Land	Loan with up to 15% grant	<a href="https://fcm.ca/en/programs/green-municipal-fund">https://fcm.ca/en/programs/green-municipal-fund</a>
<b>Ontario Trillium Foundation</b>	otf@otf.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation</li> <li>• Community Meeting Areas</li> <li>• Arts &amp; Entertainment</li> <li>• Children and Youth Development</li> <li>• Economic Stability/ Opportunity</li> </ul>	\$5000-\$150,000	<a href="https://otf.ca/apply-grant/eligibility">https://otf.ca/apply-grant/eligibility</a>

SOURCE	CONTACT	AVAILABLE FOR	AMOUNT	LINK
<b>FCC AgriSpirit Fund</b>	AgriSpirit- AgriEsprit @fcc-fac.ca	Recreation Sustainability	\$5,000-\$25,000	<a href="https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/community/giving-back/agrispirit-fund.html">https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/community/giving-back/agrispirit-fund.html</a>
<b>Canada Enabling Accessibility Fund</b>	NC-HIP-PIP-EAF_ODI- GD@hrsdc- rhdcc.gc.ca	Accessibility	\$0-\$100,000	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/enabling-accessibility-fund-small-projects.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/enabling-accessibility-fund-small-projects.html</a>
<b>Tree Canada – Community Tree Grants</b>	613-567-5545 Toll-Free: 1-877-666-1444	Tree/Landscaping Projects	By Request	<a href="https://treecanada.ca/greening-communities/community-tree-grants/">https://treecanada.ca/greening-communities/community-tree-grants/</a>
<b>TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant</b>	tdfef@td.com	Community Gardens Tree/Landscaping projects Environmental Learning	\$2,000-\$8,000	<a href="https://www.td.com/ca/en/about-td/ready-commitment/funding/fef-grant/">https://www.td.com/ca/en/about-td/ready-commitment/funding/fef-grant/</a>
<b>CDA – Shade Structure Grand Program</b>	nlawrence@ dermatology.ca	Shaded Structures	~\$34 000 split between 1-10 recipients	<a href="https://dermatology.ca/public-patients/sun-protection/shade-structure-grant-program/">https://dermatology.ca/public-patients/sun-protection/shade-structure-grant-program/</a>
<b>Infrastructure Canada</b>	ATF-FTA@infcc.gc.ca	Active Transportation Fund	Grants up to \$50,000	<a href="https://infrastructure.gc.ca">https://infrastructure.gc.ca</a>
<b>Canada Post Community Foundation</b>	1-866-607-6301	Children and Youth Development	\$0-5000 and opportunities for \$25000 and 3 grants of \$50,000	<a href="https://www.canadapost.ca/cpc/en/our-company/giving-back-to-our-communities/canada-post-community-foundation.page">https://www.canadapost.ca/cpc/en/our-company/giving-back-to-our-communities/canada-post-community-foundation.page</a>
<b>Richardson Foundation</b>	905-829-2942	Recreational Facilities	By Request	<a href="https://www.otf.ca">https://www.otf.ca</a>

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